

Tug-of-War Develops In Cost-of Living Sub-Indices

OTTAWA, (CP)—There's a tug-of-war developing in the cost-of-living sub-indices.

On one side the commodity gang, such as foods and clothing, is trying to pull living costs down. But hostlier prices for services, including rents are struggling to keep costs from slipping.

Lately commodities have had the edge in the struggle. November's figures showed a decline in food prices overcoming higher rents to lower the consumer price index, yardstick for measuring living costs, by two-fifths of a point.

The drop to 115.8 from 116.2 in the index, which is based in 1949 prices equalling 100, was the second consecutive monthly decline and left the index 2.4 points below the all-time high of 118.2 in December, 1951.

tables, lamb, bread, butter, cheese shortening and coffee.

A few scattered declines for apparel and footwear shaved one-tenth of a point from the clothing group, which slipped to 110.2, lowest in seven months.

Shelter Sets Record

But the shelter group, including rents and home-ownership costs, rose by a fifth of a point to 125.2, an all-time high.

Other service groups also kept up resistance. The household operations column remained steady at 117.4, just a tenth of a point below the all-time high.

The column entitled other commodities and services, which reflects personal and health-care costs, recreation and transportation, remained at 116.3, highest in 10 months.

Survey Out Thursday

Latest results of the commodities-services tug-of-war will be announced Thursday when December's survey of living costs is published.

The food column, which scrambled to high ground in 1951, slipped by 1.3 points during November to 112.1, lowest in six months.

Declines for eggs, beef, pork, potatoes, lettuce, sugar, grapefruit and some canned vegetables outweighed rises for most fresh vegetables.

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Dorothy Dix's Column

Continued from page 2

always wish Jerry was taking me out. Naturally, we see each other often, and though he's pleasant to me, he's never asked for another date. Is there any possible way for me to get him back?

L. M.

FLIGHTY LADS

ANSWER: Boys of Jerry's age are not dependable creatures. It takes a boy longer, as a rule, to make his final choice, than it does a girl. While you, at 17, may be quite ready to go steady and be serious, a young man of 18 is still looking around. Perhaps Jerry just isn't the one for you; in that case, a bit of looking around is the prescription for you, too. Keep going with the other boys you date and quite likely you'll find one you like. Crying definitely isn't the solution. If you're old enough to be seriously interested in a boy, you're old enough to reasonize that one can't have everything one wants. What we want frequently is not good for us. In a few years, when you're settled down with someone else, you may look back on your present frustration and probably be very thankful that you did not get your own way.

There's absolutely no sure way to get a boy back once his attention has strayed. You aren't neglected belle, by any means. After a year's separation, you're seeing Jerry largely through rose-colored glasses. I'm sure if you recall all Jerry's characteristics, you'll remember some that weren't all glamor. Getting over a broken romance takes a bit of philosophizing and an acceptance of reality.

DEAR MISS DIX: I am a divorcee of 20. My two children and I live now with my mother. Two years ago I met a man, 24, who was married at the time, but has since separated from his wife. He and my brother, as well as myself, are quite musical and often get together for a song fest. This man tells me the reason he hasn't obtained a divorce as yet is because he hasn't met a girl he liked, but that he is consulting a lawyer now. My brother thinks I shouldn't go out with him until the divorce is granted.

RUTH

ANSWER: Your brother is quite right. A divorcee, especially if she has children, is vulnerable to gossip. If your ex-husband wanted custody of his children, he'd have a fair chance of getting them, should your conduct give him cause. Going out with a married man surely will cause you to be a target for gossip. Furthermore, in view of your youth, and the fact that you have already gone through one marital failure, I think you should postpone all thoughts of remarriage for some time.

Miss Nissen cannot reply personally to readers but will answer problems of interest through this column.



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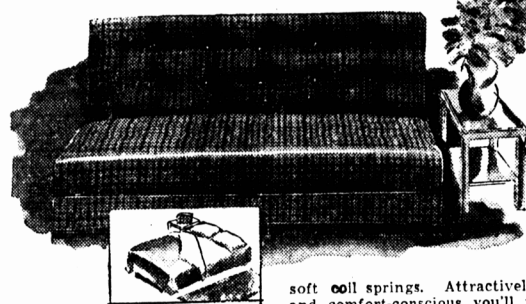
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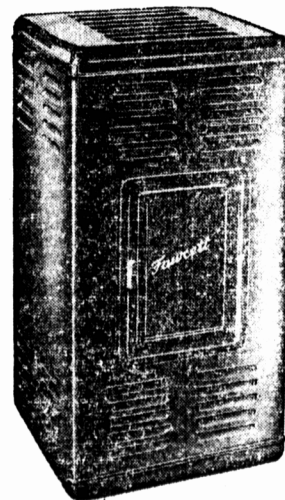
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