

Housewives Assured That Food Prices Will Not Rise Forever

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Nixon administration Tuesday sought in a variety of ways to assure American housewives that food prices will not keep going up indefinitely.

It even issued an index which showed that food costs have been going up faster in six other industrialized countries than in the United States.

But there were conflicting statements on whether food prices actually would go down by the end of the year.

Deputy Director James McLane of the Cost of Living Council said in a statement that government actions to increase the food supply "will result in lower prices during the latter half of this year." However, at a news conference McLane and Gary Seevers, special assistant to the Council of Economic Advisers, said the rate of increase in food prices would decline by the end of the year but the over-all retail price of most foods could

still be higher than at present. Seevers said housewives "could be paying more at the end of the year than now" for food, but predicted prices would decrease on some food items, particularly pork and fresh fruit.

The administration took these steps Tuesday to show it was not ignoring the housewives.

—The White House produced figures that showed food costs increased at a faster rate last year in Canada, Japan, France,

Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom.

—Herbert Stein, chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisers, said in a speech that the increase in food prices is near its end.

—The Cost of Living Council's Committee on Food issued a food price report that said "the federal government is now doing everything within its power to bring this thing under control." McLane did not rule out the

possibility of controls if prices continued going up in the second half of this year.

"We're not going to close the door on any type of flexibility necessary to reach the goal of 2½ per cent inflation by the end of the year," he said.

Seevers said he thought a 6.5 per cent average increase in food costs is still a reasonable target for this year.

Speaking to a group of executives at a conference, Stein said:

"The rise in food prices is near its end." He said that farm prices should be no higher at the end of this year than they were at the end of 1972.

Stein also said a drop in the price of hogs and cattle is encouraging. "It's a comfort to see something decline if it's only for a day," he said.

The figures given out by the White House were prepared by the Council of Economic Advisers. The report said that con-

sumer food prices in the United States increased by 4.8 per cent last year. They increased in Japan by 4.9 per cent, it said, in France, Germany and Italy by 8 per cent or more. Increases in Canada and Britain were most at the 8 per cent level, added.

McLane said he thought the "high point" for food prices may be at hand. He said whole prices were down Monday for cattle, soybeans and grains.

Programming Contest Set For March 24

The annual A&M programming competition has been scheduled by Upsilon Pi Epsilon Computing Science Honorary for March 24.

Entering teams, which may consist of from one to four persons, will be competing for a \$25 stipend to cover travel expenses to the Association for Computing Machinery competition in Dallas later this year.

Each team must consist of from one to four persons, all of whom must be currently registered for no fewer than nine credit hours of course work.

Three problems for computer solution will be posed. One problem will require no special mathematical background. Programs must be written in WATFIV language. There are a few minor differences between FORTRAN IV and WATFIV, and these will be thoroughly explained before the competition begins. Scoring will be based on the basis of elapsed time and the number of runs.

Competition will be held in the Remote Computing Center, Room 226 in the Cushing Library Building. The contest will begin at 8 a.m. and will run until noon.

Entry blanks and rules may be obtained from Susan Arseven at the Data Processing Center, 845-4211. Each team must complete a registration form and forward it to the contest headquarters. Deadline for entries is March 21.

More than 10 teams are expected in this year's contest.

Lacrosse Team To Play Benefit Game

The Texas A&M Lacrosse Association will play Houston on the Memorial Student Center Drill Field Sunday, with all proceeds going to the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

The Aggie stickmen will donate \$5 for each goal they score and 10 cents for every save made by their goalie. The Houston team will also make a pledge and a minimum donation of 50 cents will be accepted from spectators. Alpha Phi Omega, A&M service fraternity, will provide soda concessions at the game.

The Aggies lost March 4 to the Dallas Lacrosse team, last year's state champions. Player-coach Dave Gruber says he hopes for a big turnout to spur the Ags on. It will be the last home game for the Aggie club.

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