MEAT

1974 — 1976

OUTPUT OF BEEF DOWN 27pc

STAR 20/6/74

Agric

S/Ex 20/6/74

Pretoria Bureau

BEEF production so far this year has dropped by more than one-quarter, the chairman and managing director of the Imperial Cold Storage and Supply Company in Pretoria, Mr I J D Wentzel, revealed yesterday.

Speaking at the company's annual meeting, Mr Wentzel attributed the drop — 27 percent compared with the first five months of 1973 — to poor grazing.

He was confident that the keen interest displayed by many cattle farmers in beef breeding would, in time, result in a larger domestic beef supply.

"Meanwhile, the Meat Board has taken steps to augment our present low output by importing more chilled beef from ranching countries adjoining South Africa and shortly, it is believed, by restricted imports of frozen factory beef from Australia."

QUOTAS CUT

Earlier, the Government had reduced the permissible beef export quotas to a minimum while actual shipments had ceased.

Introducing his annual report, Mr Wentzel announced his company's turnover, with that of its subsidiaries, had reached a record of R232-million last year — an increase of R28-million over 1972.

The taxed profit for 1973, exclusive of capital items, attributable to shareholders of the company themselves, was R5 566 000 compared with ~~545 000~~ for 1972.

R4 545 000

HANSARD 7. Q. columns 528–29.

18 March 1975.

1. Agric - meat
2. ~~365~~

Transportation of livestock

*27. Mr. H J. VAN ECK asked the Minister of Transport:†

(1) How many (a) head of cattle, (b) head of sheep, (c) goats and (d) pigs were transported (i) to (aa) controlled markets and (bb) other destinations and (ii) died in transit during 1972, 1973 and 1974, respectively;

(2) how many trucks were required for this transportation during each of these years.

†The MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS (for the Minister of Transport) (Reply laid upon Table with leave of House)

(1) Separate details of the type of animals transported to controlled markets and other destinations or which died in transit, are not readily available Details of the number and type of animals transported are, however, as follows:

Cattle—

1972	2 685 229
1973	2 513 900
1974	1 969 572

Sheep and goats—

1972	6 248 721
1973	4 896 219
1974	4 736 667

Pigs—

1972	665 727
1973	760 744
1974	735 731

Details of the number and type of animals in respect of which claim-disbursements for deaths and delays were made, are as follows:

Cattle—

1972	724
1973	828
1974	884

Sheep and goats—

1972	2 007
1973	1 882
1974	1 101

(2)

1972	405 889
1973	347 298
1974	298 613

Hansard 7 Q Columns 55~~7~~ - 58
21 March 1975

Agri - Meat

Responsibility for stock at abattoirs

*20. Dr. F. L. FISHER (for Mr. C. J. S. Wainwright) asked the Minister of Agriculture:

Whether (a) stock losses and damage to stock and (b) general security at abattoirs is the responsibility of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Marketing; if not, which body bears the responsibility.

†The DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

(a) and (b) No. The livestock agent is responsible for losses while the livestock is under his control and the slaughtering contractor for damage to carcases during the flaying process. General security is the responsibility of the owner of the abattoir.

Question.....
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Hansard 8 @ Columns 595
25 March 1975

(1) Bantu - Great
(2) ~~101~~

Livestock in Republic

*11. Mr. R. J. LORIMER (for Mrs. H. Suzman) asked the Minister of Statistics:

(1) (a) What was the number of livestock in the Republic in the latest year for which figures are available and (b) what percentage of this number was owned by Bantu;

(2) in respect of what year are the figures given

The MINISTER OF STATISTICS:

(1) (a) Cattle: 11 194 764.
Sheep: 29 821 969.
Goats: 5 147 925.
Pigs: 1 216 330.
Horses, mules and donkeys: 634 466.

(b) The percentages of these numbers of livestock in the Republic owned by Bantu, excluding livestock owned by Bantu employees on farms of Whites, Coloureds and Asians, are as follows:
Cattle: 31.
Sheep: 13.
Goats: 61.
Pigs: 27.
Horses, mules and donkeys: 57.

(2) Cattle, sheep and goats: 1973.
Pigs, horses, mules and donkeys: 1971.

Note:
The number of livestock owned by employees on farms of Whites, Coloureds and Asians is available in total but not for White, Coloured, Asian and Bantu employees separately. The number of livestock of these employees amounted to the following percentages of the total number of livestock in the Republic:
Cattle: 5.
Sheep: 1.
Goats: 4.
Pigs: 10.
Horses, mules and donkeys: 18.

HANSARD 11 Q. 811

25 April 1975.

Agri - Meat

Members of Livestock and Meat Industries Control Board

*14. Dr. F. VAN Z. SLABBERT asked the Minister of Agriculture:

(1) Whether any members have been appointed to the Livestock and Meat Industries Control Board since 30 June 1974; if so, (a) what are their names and (b) what are the names of the members who were replaced by them;

(2) whether the Board has appointed any persons or firms as its agents; if so, what persons or firms.

†The DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

(1) Yes.

(a) and (b)

Mr. C. L. White—re-appointed.
Mr. J. T. Nel—re-appointed.
Mr. P. R. du Toit—re-appointed.
Mr. P. J. Pretorius—re-appointed.
Capt. A. Sol—re-appointed.
Mr. H G. Braak—re-appointed.
Mr. R. W. D Steward—re-appointed.
Mrs. A. C. Meyer—re-appointed.
Dr. F. J. van Biljon—re-appointed.
Mr. S. J. J. van Rensburg—re-appointed.
Mr. A. M. Wessels—appointed in the place of Mr. H. F. Prinsloo who resigned.

(2) No.

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HANSARD. 13. 0. columns. 897-98
6 May 1975.

(1) Agric-Meat
(2) ~~784~~

Export quotas for meat

*16. Dr. F. VAN Z. SLABBERT asked the Minister of Agriculture:

(1) To what firms were export quotas for meat allocated in 1973 and 1974, respectively;

(2) in respect of what quantity of meat were export quotas allocated to each firm in each of these years.

†The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Reply laid upon Table with leave of House):

(1)	(2)	
	1973 (tonne)	1974 (tonne)
South African Meat Producers Central (Co-op.) Ltd.	2 988	1 117
Spekenam Koöp. Bpk.	228	180
Karoo Vleisbeurs Bpk.	595	143
Springbok Canneries (Pty.) Ltd.	201	41
Rand Cold Storage and Supply Co. Ltd.	3 420	1 083
Federated S.A. Meat Industries Ltd.	228	180
Orchid Foods (Pty.) Ltd.	3 582	1 416
Siege Meat Industries (Pty.) Ltd.	5 190	2 056
Brixton Wholesale Meat Supply (Pty.) Ltd.	2 488	776
Imperial Cold Storage and Supply Co. Ltd.	243	180
W. L. Ochse Vleiskorporasie (Edms.) Bpk.	—	180
Braam's Meat Purveyors and Ship Chandlers (Pty) Ltd.	—	180

(3) Meat

Market exceeds 'wildest dreams'

RDM 3/5/75

By JANE KLEIN
Municipal Reporter

JOHANNESBURG's National Fresh Produce Market acts as a national price barometer, the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, said at the official opening of the new City Deep Market yesterday.

Mr Schoeman said: "In the event of this market being disturbed at all, other markets in the country are likely to be affected.

"There are over 70 municipal markets in the country. Last year the total turnover of the 14 large markets was R32,2-million. This City Deep market contributed 26 per cent of this amount."

Mr Schoeman said the market was a result of a close relationship between the Government and the Johannesburg Municipality. He congratulated the local authority for the market — "a revolutionary development in design and layout".

The Minister commented on the friendships that grew up between farmers and people working at the market, regardless of their colour.

The City Deep Market is the largest wholesale fresh produce market in the southern hemisphere, the Mayor of Johannesburg, Mr Max Neppe, said.

"Our turnover for this year is already estimated at more than R42 000 000, something we did not expect in our wildest dreams, and a figure we had hoped to reach in three years' time."

HANSARD 14 Q. 940-3

13 May 1975.

Agric - meat

Members of Livestock and Meat Industries Control Board

*7. Dr. F. VAN Z. SLABBERT asked the Minister of Agriculture:

(1) What are the names of the organizations which recommended the appointment of each of the members of the Livestock and Meat Industries Control Board;

(2) which members of the Board (a) are *bona fide* farmers representing producers of slaughter animals and (b) represent consumers.

†The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Reply laid upon Table with leave of House):

(1)

Member	Representing	Nominated by
Mr. S. J. v. N. du Toit	Department of Agricultural Economics and Marketing	Minister
Mr. C. L. White	Producers	South African Agricu tura Union
Mr. J. T. Nel	Producers	South African Agricultural Union
Mr. P. R. du Toit	Producers	South African Agricultural Union
Dr. J. W. V. van Niekerk	Producers	South African Agricultural Union
Mr. A. M. Wessels	Producers	South African Agricultural Union
Mr. P. J. Pretorius	Producers	South African Agricultural Union
Mr. A. E. Hambly	Producers	South African Agricultural Union
Capt. A. Sol	Producers	South African Agricultural Union
Mr. J. F. Vercueil	Producers	South African Agricultural Union
Mr. G. H. Braak	Pig producers	South African Agricultural Union in consultation with the Pig Development Association and the Pig Breeders' Association of South Africa
Mr. W. D. Stewart	Pig producers	"
Mr. J. P. van der Walt	Producers of slaughter stock in South West Africa	South West Africa Agricultural Union
Mr. A. P. Pretorius	"	South West Africa Agricultural Union
Mr. R. J. Theunissen Jr.	Stud Breeders	South African Stud Breeders' Association
Mrs. A. C. Meyer	Consumers	Consumers' Advisory Committee
Mrs. O. Smit	Consumers	Consumers' Advisory Committee
Mr. J. J. C. de Kock	Consumers	Consumers' Advisory Committee
Mr. D. C. J. Joubert	Retail butchers in controlled areas	South African Federation of Meat Traders
Dr. F. J. van Biljon	Wholesale butchers and manufacturers of meat products	(1) Witwatersrand—Pretoria Wholesale Butchers' Association (2) Cape Wholesale Butchers' Association (3) South African Meat Packers Association
Dr. C. J. Roelofse	Butchers outside the controlled areas	Federation of South African Country Butchers
Mr. L. D. J. Erasmus	Local authorities	United Municipal Executive of South Africa
Mr. G. M. Gluckman	Auctioneers	Federation of Livestock Auctioneers of South Africa
Mr. S. J. J. van Rensburg	Curers of hides and skins	Minister in consultation with 33 different curers of hides and skins

(2)

(a) Mr. C. L. White
Mr. J. T. Nel
Mr. P. R. du Toit
Dr. J. W. V. van Niekerk
Mr. A. M. Wessels
Mr. A. J. Pretorius
Mr. A. E. Hambly
Capt. A. Sol
Mr. J. F. Vercueil
Mr. G. H. Braak
Mr. W. D. Stewart
Mr. J. P. van der Walt
Mr. A. P. Pretorius

(b) Mrs. A. C. Meyer
Mrs. O. Smit
Mr. J. J. C. de Kock

HANSARD 14 Q. 944-5
13 May 1975.

Members of Livestock and Meat Industries Control Board

*11. Dr. F. VAN Z. SLABBERT asked the Minister of Agriculture:

Whether the members of the Livestock and Meat Industries Control Board who are also members of commercial meat marketing organizations recuse themselves when the applications by their organizations for export quotas are considered by the Board; if not, why not.

†The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

Yes.

Agric – Meat

HANSARD 16 Q. col. 1046-7
27 May 1975.

Agri - Meat

Oxen/cows/heifers slaughtered for meat

*8. Dr. F. VAN Z. SLABBERT asked the Minister of Agriculture:

How many oxen, cows and heifers, respectively, were slaughtered for meat in (a) 1973 and (b) 1974.

†The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

	(a)	(b)
Oxen	1 260 574	1 047 054
Cows	523 952	370 302
Heifers	153 855	65 380

(3)

Sheepless diets

Mercury Reporter 27/5/75

PIETERMARITZBURG — South Africa will experience a shortage of 2 million slaughter sheep by 1980 according to Dr. P. Hildyard, Natal's regional director of Agricultural Technical Services.

Speaking at Dundee yesterday, Dr. Hildyard said that these were disturbing figures as they reflected a general world tendency.

"According to projections of food demand and food production to 1985 the demand in the developing countries will increase at the rate of 3,4 percent a year, whereas production will rise by only 2,6 percent.

Dr. Hildyard said that not only was there a great demand for meat throughout the world but there was an ever-increasing demand for grain which was the main source of food.

During the past ten years there had been a marked increase in mealie production in Northern Natal, "so much so that it is today the most important cash crop in the area in terms of tonnage."

He said he did not mean to imply there would be any great reduction in beef, cattle or sheep.

"Stock farming has always played an important role in this area with beef, dairy and wool-sheep, in that order.

The most important enterprise on the agronomic side, ground nuts and mielies as cash crops, contributed most to the farm economy."

F.M. 6/6/75

MEAT

Quit beefing!

Agric - Meat

There's been slight improvement on the meat front.

Prices for beef, mutton, lamb and pork at Johannesburg's Newtown market, with the exception of super grade beef and pork, were lower on average this May than last May.

Most retailers say these price decreases have been passed on to the consumer. Mark-ups are unchanged since last May, and retail prices have fluctuated with abattoir prices.

NEWTOWN PRICES

	May 1975	May 1974
	—cents/kg—	
Super beef	104,5	100,0
Grade 1A beef	95,5	96,8
Super lamb	137,7	152,0
Grade 1A lamb	118,9	133,9
Super mutton	113,9	128,4
Grade 1A mutton	108,9	125,1
Super pork	96,2	71,0
Grade 1A pork	n/a	n/a

The cattle population on White farms has been increasing steadily from August 1972's 8m to last November's 8,9m.

A spokesman for the Meat Board warns, however, that now is the season when farmers supply heavily to get animals off the veld before winter, so present prices may not last.

HANSARD 18 Q. 1127

10 June 1975.

Agri - Meat

Livestock agents/meat wholesalers at Newton, Johannesburg/Maitland, Cape Town

*20 Mr. L. G. MURRAY asked the Minister of Agriculture:

How many (a) livestock agents and (b) meat wholesalers carry on business at the abattoirs at (i) Newton, Johannesburg, and (ii) Maitland, Cape Town.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

	(a)	(b)
(i)	26	50
(ii)	12	16

HANSARD 18 Q. 1127

10 June 1975

Agric - Meat

Livestock agents/meat wholesalers at Newton, Johannesburg/Maitland, Cape Town, exempt from income tax

*21. Mr. L. G. MURRAY asked the Minister of Finance:

How many of the (a) livestock agents and (b) meat wholesalers carrying on business at the abattoirs at (i) Newton, Johannesburg, and (ii) Maitland, Cape Town, are exempt from payment of income tax.

†The MINISTER OF LABOUR (for the Minister of Finance):

This information is not available.

However, the Income Tax Act contains no provisions whereunder exemption from the payment of income tax is conferred upon livestock agents and meat wholesalers as a class of taxpayers.

HANSARD 18 Q .1147

13 June 1975.

Agric - Meat

Campaigns on publicizing beef/mutton/pork

*18. Mr. R J. LORIMER asked the Minister of Agriculture:

Whether the Livestock and Meat Industries Control Board conducted campaigns during 1973, 1974 and the first five months of 1975, respectively, on publicizing (a) beef, (b) mutton and (c) pork; if so, what amount was spent in each of these years on each of these products.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

Yes.

	(a)	(b)	(c)
1972-73 (July/June)	—	—	R99 099
1973-74 (July/June)	R89 207	—	R98 797
1974-75 (July/April)	R22 866	—	R55 476

In addition the following amounts were spent in equal shares for the promotion of beef, mutton and pork:

1972-73 (July/June)	R117 295
1973-74 (July/June)	R117 957
1974-75 (July/April)	R91 878

Co-op skewers Govt meat policies

3 Meat)

Sun Times (Bus Times) 22/6/75

By RALPH HELLER

CLIVE WHITE, chairman of Vleissentraal, South Africa's largest livestock auctioneering co-operative, yesterday launched a slashing attack on the Government for its lack of long-term planning in the meat industry.

Writing in his annual review, Mr White points out that South Africa has an over-supply of expensive slaughtering facilities which is pushing up costs.

"Abattoir planning in South Africa appears to be undertaken on an ad hoc basis per abattoir, without any regard to total requirements or to the production potential of the country.

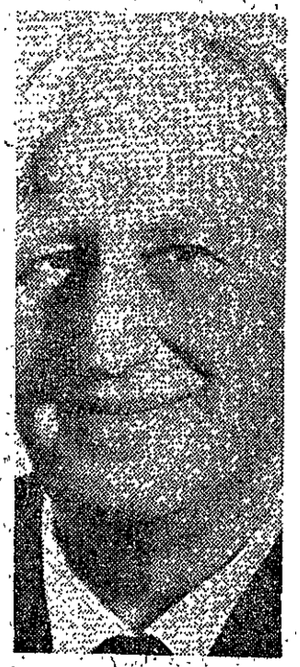
"No provision appears to have been made for the urgent need for long-term planning in the livestock and meat industry."

Mr White adds that measured against the country's total cattle and sheep populations and average slaughterings over a number of years, there is already an oversupply of expensive slaughtering facilities. These will place a tremendous and unwarranted financial burden on producers who, in the long run, will have to pay for them.

This situation, he says, can largely be ascribed to the tendency of the Abattoir Commission to act unilaterally and, in the process, to overlap with the functions of the Meat Board.

"This dual control is still causing confusion and uncertainty in the abattoir industry, which is contrary to the interest of the entire meat industry," Mr White says.

During 1974, a total of 1 113 598 cattle, 3 903 429 sheep, 802 283 pigs and 65 158 calves were marketed in the nine controlled areas. With the exception of pigs, total slaughterings were fewer than in 1973, with the result that the total amount of meat available decreased by 56 000 tons, compared with the previous year.



Clive White . . . Seeing red.

Mr White stresses the urgent need for increased meat production in the country, and says increased meat prices during the past two years have resulted in some growth in livestock population.

He says that, owing to the increase in meat prices, Vleissentraal was able to increase its total turnover for fiscal 1974 to a record of R370-million from R322-million in the year ended December, 1973.

Though increased operating costs naturally had a significant effect on the co-operative's results, it was, nevertheless, able to pay back an amount of R2,07-million from its earnings to member co-operatives and producers.

The report says the sharp increases in meat prices during 1974 apparently led to increasing buyers' resistance. This was reflected in a changed consumption pattern in which the per capita consumption of beef and mutton declined in favour of pork and chicken.

It points out, however, that producers received little benefit from the increased prices, because production costs have increased drastically during the past two years.

Mr White also pleads for a realistic floor price policy as a prerequisite for encouraging increased meat production.

"The cost of producing one kilogram of meat can be determined accurately by the cost of intensive finishing of cattle in feedlots, and the determining of floor prices to protect the producers against production losses," he says.

The report adds that uncertainty in Western money markets in 1974 had an adverse effect on Vleissentraal's factory activities.

The collapse of the European meat market forced the Common Market countries to impose a total import ban on meat in May, 1974. This meant that only 1 600 tons of meat could be exported as opposed to 15 000 tons the previous year. Present indications are that meat exports are not expected to return to normal levels until 1978.

The position of skins and hides also deteriorated in the second half of the year.

(1) 3 (3) Meat.

Govt is blamed for milk price

Cape Times 31/7/75

MEAT, the meat industry's monthly journal, says South Africa will surpass Japan as the country with the world's highest-priced milk if regulations governing milk production are not soon simplified.

The blame for this would justifiably fall on the Department of Agriculture, the leading article says.

The journal criticizes the quota system whereby the farmer who produces more is penalized and extra milk sold for industrial purposes at a lower rate.

"Milk is a basic necessity, yet it has become a luxury in many households. And when such an essential is suddenly increased 21 percent then the public — already dazed from the knocks daily received from inflation is certainly entitled to know why."

The price of milk in South Africa has doubled within five years, bringing the Republic to the point where it is second only to Japan as the world's most expensive milk producer, the article says.

The article adds that the farmer must bear some of the blame as milk yields are low.

Bureaucratic interference has forced producers to remain close to larger complexes such as the Rand where costs are high. For those further away it is not profitable to produce milk.

STAR
22/7/75

(3)

Farming Editor

A call for butchers to reduce retail prices of red meat to fit the 10 percent drop in auction prices was made today on behalf of the cattle and sheep farmers of the country.

But butchers say their profit margin has been cut to the bone.

Mr David Coetzee, public relations officer of the South African Agricultural Union, said today:

"The time has come for the distribution trade to make lower price adjustments. They owe it to the consumer as well as the producer who is also affected by it."

He pointed out that there had been "an alarming slump in market prices of cattle and sheep" since the beginning of the year. The stimulus high prices had given to cattle and sheep farmers since the middle of 1974 was in danger of weakening "which the country cannot afford."

Accepted

Speaking in a radio programme to farmers, Mr Coetsee said farmers accepted that the distribution trade went through difficult times during the time of high prices. Butchers did not pass on the full price increases to the consumer but had absorbed some of it themselves.

But, in the past six months, since market prices came down, they had been able to make up those losses.

While the auction prices to the farmers fell by about 10 percent since December 1974, the price to the consumer remained about the same.

Giving the point of view of meat distributors, Mr Fred Lategan, general manager of the Asokor group, after quoting figures said: "If anybody says he can do it (meat distribution) cheaper, he must come and show us how to do it."

Mr Lategan said the wholesale trade charged five percent on auction prices to the retailer. For that he must finance the retailer for 60 days, pay salaries, delivery to the retailers, rental for coldstorage "which leaves him with a net profit of 0,9 percent before tax."

STAR 23/7/75

Farming Editor

A Meat Board survey has said the average retail butcher is "definitely not" making excessive profits. The Agricultural Union maintains, however, that retail beef prices have not gone down in sympathy with the lower auction prices.

Mr J C G Wink, assistant general manager of the Meat Board, today gave the breakdown of the average cost and profit margins of retail butchers.

But this profit is the retail butcher's gross margin 34c/kg, offset by losses in cutting up the carcasses, and by the fact that fat and bone are sold at very low prices.

If the butcher paid 96c/kg for a carcass, the less popular cuts (off the forequarter) amount to 55 percent which can be sold at about R1,30/kg.

The popular cuts (34 percent) will have to be sold for an average of R2,10/kg to make up the R1,43c/kg he needs to make a reasonable profit.

Some of these cuts like the thick flank cannot be sold for that price and consequently the more popular cuts like the sirloin must be increased still further, the Meat Board said.

Mr Fred Lategan, general manager of the Asokor Group (a large meat distribution group) says smaller butchers make only about two percent net profit and butchers with a bigger turnover make four percent to five percent net profit.

RETAIL

Commenting on the Meat Board's figure Mr Jan van der Walt, meat official of the South African Agricultural Union, said his organisation based its case for a downward adjustment of retail prices on the official index figures.

The auction prices of beef dropped by almost 10 percent in the first five months of this year while the consumer index for beef remained virtually static, "in fact it increased slightly," indicating that the retailers have failed to give the consumer the benefit of the lower auction prices.

(1) 3
(2) 3
(3) 28
(4) 251

(3 MEAT)

Agric - Meat

BUSINESS MERCURY

S.A's livestock production levels out

Mercury 29/8/75

Financial Editor

LIVESTOCK production in South Africa is levelling out, according to Mr. E. O. Jones, general manager of the Stock Owners' Co-operative Co. Ltd., Durban.

Mr. Jones says that there was an upsurge in production when the market was moving in favour of producers. Since the economic climate had cooled there had been an easing in demand but the prices of stock feeds had advanced.

"The result is that there is less incentive for the rounding off of cattle in feedlots and breeders are finding it more difficult to sell the animals from their increased production."

On the other hand, the average carcass prices have remained firm as the following figures show:

Average prices for all grades of beef:

Year/Month	Per kg
1971	45c
1972	49c
1973	69c
1974	92c
1975 Jan	93c
Feb	89c
March	87c
April	86c
May	84½c
June	84c
July	85c

Prime hint for cutting meat price

PRETORIA—The S.A. Co-ordinating Consumer Council has a positive hint for consumers to bring down the price of meat by changing their buying habits.

In a statement released at a Press conference here yesterday, the council says the hint stems from the recent conference held by the council with representatives of the S.A. Agricultural Union and the meat industry.

It also ties in with the concept of staggered pay-days mentioned in the anti-inflation manifesto which was signed last week by representatives of the Government and the private sector in Pretoria.

At the conference it was revealed that by and large South Africa consumers do their meat purchases on Fridays and Saturdays or at month-end because it ties in with pay-day. This leads to a greater demand for meat by butchers at the auctions on those days and a resultant increase in price. The butcher has no choice but to pass this increase to the consumer because of his various expenses and overheads.

If consumers spread their meat purchases over the whole week and gradually over the month this increased demand at weekend would fall and the butcher would find himself consistently busy. — (Sapa.)

Price of chicken could drop

Mercury Reporter.

MAJOR POULTRY producers in South Africa yesterday predicted a Christmas chicken shortage — but, at the same time, Mr. Stanley Methven, chairman of Rainbow Chickens, anticipated a drop in prices before the end of the year.

Mr. Methven told a meeting of the Natal Consumer Association in Durban that chicken stocks in the country had dropped to an extremely low level. At the same time demand had risen to the stage where production only just managed to keep up.

This fact was later confirmed by two other big chicken producers in the country, Sunnyside Poultry Farms, in Johannesburg, and Montford Poulty Farm, in the Cape.

Mr. Peter Wrighton, chairman of Sunnyside Chickens, said the chicken industry was battling against great odds to equate supply with demand. Some producers had probably miscalculated and this would create a growing scarcity of chickens over the next few months.

"I can only say if you want to be sure of a chicken for Christmas — buy early."

Mr. Methven explained the potential chicken shortage as follows: "Every year chicken prices are lowered between January and July when demand falls away. I cannot explain why this happens. From July demand starts to increase and it continues to build up until later in the year.

"To get rid of surplus chickens we reduce the prices, sometimes to below cost. Then, when demand gets up we recoup our losses by increasing the prices."

He said increased consumer demand also coincided with the time of year when large cold storage companies and butchers started buying up stocks and putting them away for the Christmas season.

"One of the reasons we increase prices is to put a brake on sales so cold storage stocks can be built up," he said.

Mr. Methven said he had access to figures showing the stock of chickens in storage throughout the country and these had dropped to about 500 000 — about one day's supply — compared with a normal stock of two million.

"At this moment the demand has caught up with the supply and chickens frozen yesterday are being sold today. To make matters worse a producer in the Cape has an outbreak of Newcastle disease."

He fully expected, however, that there would be a price decrease in December.

When the Mercury telephoned the State Veterinarian in charge of poultry diseases in the Cape, Dr. E. Masters, he said he was unaware of any Newcastle outbreaks in the area.

"Chicken producers are virtually free of disease in the province at the moment. I have not heard of any recent outbreaks of Newcastle disease."

A survey of chicken prices in Natal, the Transvaal and the Cape, showed that Natal housewives were paying less than housewives in the other provinces.

The comparison is as follows (fresh chicken prices given first, then those for frozen chickens): Natal 90c to 98c a kg, 85c to 88c a kg; Transvaal 94c to 98c a kg, 89c to 94c a kg; Cape Province 94c to 98c a kg, 88c to 98c a kg.

See also Page 16

Agri - Meat

Propaganda against meat price 'unfair'

Cape Times 21/10/75

Cape Times Chief Reporter

MR F J LATEGAN, president of the South African Federation of Livestock Auctioneers, said in Cape Town yesterday that unfair propaganda was being waged against the price of meat.

"The enemies of red meat prices have no valid arguments," he claimed — "but I believe it is the ancient question of the pen being mightier than the sword."

Mr Lategan disclosed that since 1959 the *per capita* use of red meat in the Republic had dropped from 42 kg to 34 kg — a decrease of 24 percent. In the same period — 1959 to 1974 — the consumption of chicken had risen from 3 kg a head to 8.4 kg — an increase of 180 percent.

"The large-scale South African mutton-eater has been dethroned," he added. "Today we eat more chicken *per capita* than mutton — 8.4 kg to 6 kg."



Mr Lategan

CONSUMPTION

"In 1974 we consumed 97 000 tons of pork and 141 000 tons of mutton, but we also consumed 174 000 tons of chicken — the equivalent of 870 000 head of cattle or 34 percent of our annual beef consumption.

"Why did it happen, and why is this tendency continuing? Some people say our red meat has become too expensive. They mention the increase of 124 percent over the past nine years, and that is quite correct.

"But then we also have to ask: Does this only concern red meat? What about fish, which increased by 122 percent? And vegetables, up 135 percent? And what about our income: our White and non-White wages? They increased by 116 and 147 percent respectively."

Mr Lategan said the Federation of Livestock Auctioneers was concerned about the tremendous and unhealthy fluctuation of auction prices in controlled areas. This was unhealthy for the producer, the trader and the consumer, he added, and it could rank among the main reasons for the decrease in red meat consumption.

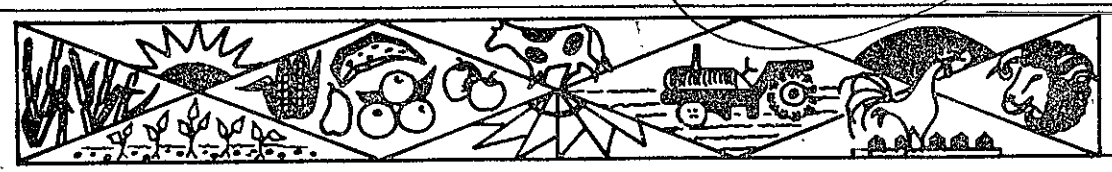
He felt that serious consideration should be given to a combination of a realistic floor price, auction price and private price negotiation between agent and producer.

'We may stop eating meat'

Cape Times Chief Reporter

MRS E HIRZEL, chairman of the National Consumer Union, warned representatives of South Africa's meat trade yesterday: "Put your prices up too high and people will change their eating habits. And perhaps they will never go back to eating meat in the quantity they do now."

Agric - Meat



Agriculture

Supply big worry

IN VIEW of the fact that South Africa is among the 11 top meat eating countries in the world, an issue of increasing concern is the future supply and price of beef.

Main reason is that beef prices have risen by well over 70 per cent since 1972.

The net result is that in spite of a relatively constant supply situation, total consumer expenditure on red meat jumped from R610-million in 1971 to R1,05-billion last year.

Beef makes up nearly 80 per cent of the country's red meat production. Present national consumption varies between 500 000 and 600 000 tons a year.

However, consumer resistance is rapidly gaining ground. The public is increasingly switching to poultry, fish and processed meats.

What are the factors behind the sharp price spiral?

● Demand is increasing at an annual rate of 6 per cent; against this, the White-owned cattle count is remaining static at between 8 and 8,5-million.

The General Manager of the Meat Board, Mr Gerrie Marais, says that the population growth is outstripping the increase in the population of red meat.

"In the past 15 years, the volume of meat produced in the Republic increased by only 32 per cent, whilst the population increased by 47 per cent. In 1973, 17 per cent of the meat available was imported from adjoining territories".

Mr S. W. Bosman, Government animal breeding officer of the Eastern Cape, gives the picture over a slightly longer period: "The population of the Republic increased by 73 per cent between 1950 and 1972, while red meat production increased by only 40 per cent over the same period."

● About 600 000 cows and heifers are being slaughtered annually, thus hitting breeding potential. Of this figure, some 20 000 are calves of three weeks and less. If they were reared to five months, they could produce an additional 800 tons of meat.

● Poor herd management. Professor Jan C. Bonsma says "no single factor has a greater influence on our red meat shortage than low calving percentages."

Calving percentages in South Africa are ruinously low: 55 per cent (and only 47 per cent reared) which compares with 82 per cent in the US.

As there are about 3,7-million female cattle on White farms, an improvement of the calving percentage to 75 per cent would mean an extra 750 000 carcasses annually.

● Disease is still a major bugbear. The Secretary of Agricultural Technical Services, Dr Wim Verbeek, for example, points out that "measles among the country's slaughter stock causes an annual loss of R1,3-million and 1,3-million kg of beef".

● Compared with some countries in Europe, the density of cattle in South Africa is low: between 15 and 20 units per sq km. In Britain, there are 70 head per sq km and in Denmark the figure is higher than 120.

Main reasons for the marked differences are the lower local carrying capacity of the natural grazing and the lower productivity of South Africa's soil.

● Blame for the shortages of meat in recent years should also be placed on the shoulders of the Meat Board, Government and municipal authorities. Farmers were simply discouraged from producing beef and mutton because marketing facilities were woefully lacking.

However, in a scathing attack on would-be boycotters, the Editor of the trade publication Meat, Mr Danie Scholtz, asks: "What is the good of low prices today if tomorrow there is nothing to buy?"

He argues that red meat will only be abundantly available on the market so long as there is adequate incentive for the farmer to produce it. Short of this, the farmer will turn to more lucrative lines of production or switch to the export market.

Mr Marais agrees. He says: "It is the responsibility of the consumer not to injure the industry by confusing reasonable profit with exploitation. The trade as well as the producer must necessarily make a profit to render continuous service to the consumer."

Of course the public strongly suspect, that the trade takes more than its fair share. However, Mr Scholtz denies this. He points out that the local trade takes on average 26 per cent of the consumer price, which compares with 42 per cent in the USand 41 per cent in France.

Big Dutchman

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3-meat

Shearing crisis: Farmers switch to mutton

24/11/76

The Argus Correspondent

BEAUFORT WEST. — Reliable shearers are becoming so difficult to find that some Beaufort West farmers are switching to mutton sheep farming.

A shearing service started by the Beaufort West Agricultural Co-operative has been discontinued and Mr Theo Burger, the co-op manager described the venture as a failure.

'There are more than enough sheep to shear in the district for a shearer to make a living,' he said. 'But the local shearers are too unreliable and fond of drink. Many have money advanced to them and then disappear before arriving to do the shearing.'

He said the co-op hoped to introduce a new system next year using contract labourers from Lesotho.

The co-op's plan to import Sotho shearers is the latest move in the shearing problem, which has reached crisis proportions in some areas.



GOOD SHEARERS are becoming increasingly difficult to find in parts of the Beaufort West district. Here Mr Jan Faro shears a merino on Mr Eddie Bezuidenhout's farm, Rooiwal.

MERINOS

Mr Chris Mocke of the farm Paardefontein used to farm entirely with merinos. 'Today half my flock is dorpers, which are not shorn. I switched to mutton sheep so I would have fewer sheep to shear.

'The local shearers demand a 'voorskot' payment before shearing. They spend it becoming drunk and arrive in an appalling state. They're getting worse each year.'

The present rate of payment is 15 cents a sheep shorn, plus a slaughter sheep for every 1 000 shorn. Hand shearers can manage up to 30 sheep a day.

STRUGGLE

Not all farmers struggle for shearers, though. On the Aberdeen flats an enterprising African, Mr Willem Vaster, controls four or five teams of efficient shearers, which he delivers to farmers on a lorry they bought for him. His rate is 16 cents a sheep of which he receives one cent. He also charges 15 cents a kilometre for delivering the shearers.

'They're not cheap,' farmers say, 'but it is worth paying the extra for the relief of knowing they're reliable.'

Abattoir lease attempt

P.D. 25/11/71

EAST LONDON — The East London abattoir, which has an accumulated loss of R76 000, is to be offered to the new Abattoir Management Corporation, the council decided at its meeting last night.

Cllr R. Belonsky told the meeting that at least R800 000 would have to be spent on the abattoir to reach the hygiene standards required.

The council agreed to give the Abattoir Commission six months' notice of its intention to hand over the abattoir to the new corporation and to enter into a leasing agreement which would give the council an income of R60 000.

Cllr P. Opperman said there was no assurance that the new corporation would continue the abattoir. They could close it down and force East London to draw its meat from Port Elizabeth or Durban.

"We must leave a door open so that the East London Abattoir will continue to run if the corporation wants to close it down. We should offer it to them on condition they keep it running."

Cllr J. Orpen said it was unlikely the abattoir would make a profit this year and the amount of money that would have to be spent made it unattractive for East London to keep on running the facility.

Cllr Belonsky said the corporation had led her to believe they would like to take the abattoir over and there were too many areas reliant on the abattoir for them to close it down. — DDR.

1. ~~262~~ Cape
2. Agric - Meat.

Agric – Meat

New trends in Eastern Cape stock farming

ARGUS 25/11/75

CHANGES in the stock-farming pattern in the sweetveld areas as well as the more arid parts of the Eastern Cape region have occurred recently.

Beef production is gaining ground at the expense of wool farming, while the number of Boer goats and Angoras is also increasing. This phenomenon has led to the ratio between sheep and cattle becoming more favourable.

CROSS BREEDING

As regards wool sheep farming, the favourable mutton prices have led to more emphasis on breeding, and the number of ewes is increasing.

There is also a strong trend towards the earlier marketing of sheep, including wool sheep. Many farmers finish sheep in kraals.

Although these trends are regarded as favourable to the wool sheep industry, animal scientists of the Eastern Cape region point to the large extent of crossbreeding that has already taken place there, particularly in the drier parts.

* * *

THE Horticultural Research Institute at Roodeplaat points out that snails can do a lot of damage in gardens during summer.

The institute says there are various preparations available for the control of snails.

Bait must be placed in small heaps on a dry place in the garden during the afternoon. Repeated inspections are necessary as all the snails are not necessarily killed by the bait, and it can happen that some snails that are poisoned can recover.

Snails found in a passive condition can be thrown into salt water. There is also a preparation that can be sprayed on to the ground.

PS 23.9.1975

Agric - Meat

Abattoir battles to clear backlog

STAR 27/11/75

Farming Editor

The Johannesburg abattoir has been snowed under with large numbers of sheep waiting to be slaughtered. Thousands cannot be accommodated in the available lairage and have to remain in railway trucks.

The quality of sheep on the other hand was low. Relatively small numbers were graded super and prime.

Abattoir personnel are afraid that they will remain snowed under for the next two weeks.

The Meat Board said in Pretoria yesterday that quotas will be introduced from December 1 to maintain a balance between available slaughter stock and abattoir capacities.

Meatmen in Newtown blame the board and the drought for the rush of sheep. The board should have introduced quotas from this Monday to stem the tide, a spokesman said.

"Farmers are now rushing to get their animals in before the quota system stops them," he added.

On the other hand they may try to get their stock off the farms while still in a reasonable condition before the drought becomes too serious and they lose too much condition.

Prices came down slightly but were still considerably higher than this time last year.

For the first time in many months slaughtermen will be working overtime.

Yesterday the available space in the lairage was filled to capacity and there were more than 30 railway trucks waiting to be offloaded.

Slaughtermen at Newtown expected to be able to slaughter the 20 000 animals in lairage by tomorrow night but all the sheep still in trucks and on rail will have to stand over until next week.

Cattle slaughterings will also be below par as the floor broke down early today. To catch up with the backlog overtime will also be worked tomorrow night on the cattle floor.

Beef prices remained at a high level and the quality remained high. "There is a high percentage of stall-fed animals," a spokesman at the abattoir said.

Prices of low quality second grade animals were in some cases higher today than that for prime quality. "There are not many low grade animals available," the spokesman said.

JUNE 1976 ?!!

(3) - Meat -

HANSARD NO. 20

Commission of Inquiry into the Poultry Industry

†9. Mr. W. T. WEBBER asked the Minister of Agriculture:

(1) Whether he will lay upon the Table or publish the Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Poultry Industry; if so, when; if not, why not;

(2) whether he will make copies of the Report available to interested parties.

†The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

(1) Yes. The Report is being printed at present and will be tabled during the next session of Parliament.

(2) After tabling the Report will be generally available.

Agric - Meat

Population boom hits beef supply

28/4/76

Mercury Correspondent.

JOHANNESBURG—The sharp population increase in South Africa together with the explosive rise in the buying power of Blacks has placed a sudden strain on the beef cattle industry, the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Hendrik Schoeman, said yesterday.

The Minister was opening the first world Charolais congress to be held in South Africa, and over 80 delegates from Japan, Mexico and the United States are attending.

Mr. Schoeman said the sudden strain on beef resources had called for a keen reassessment of the cattle industry.

"We have had to lay down quite firmly that no new cattle breed shall be introduced until such time as my department has investigated and demonstrated its benefit to the country," he said.

3-Meat

Cape Times 13/7/76

Meat industry probe ordered

Own Correspondent

PRETORIA. — The Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, announced in Pretoria yesterday that he has given the National Marketing Council instructions to investigate the meat industry.

There had been speculation in the press that Mr Schoeman would appoint a commission of inquiry to go into the whole matter but it is clear now that it will not be taken further than the Marketing Council.

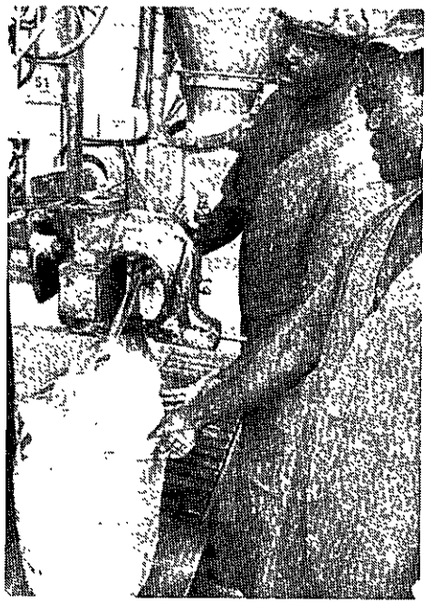
The council has been ordered to inquire into "matters affecting the marketing and slaughter of stock and meat".

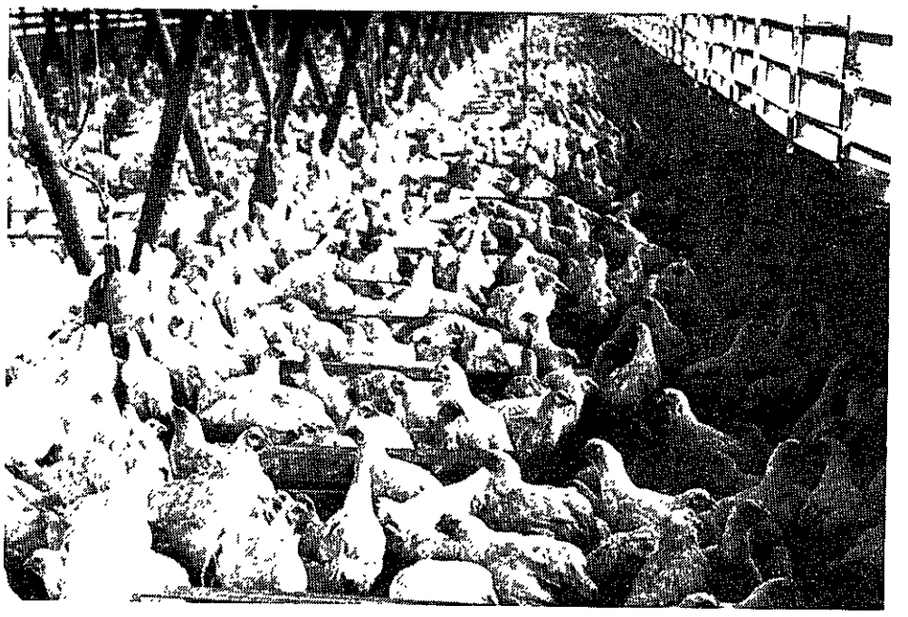
The Marketing Council is ordered to consider "a freer, less complicated and less expensive marketing system" for meat. The council is to pay special attention to the powers and actions of the Livestock and Meat Industries Control Board.

The possibility of simplifying the control measures which apply to the meat industry at present is also to be investigated. The Marketing Council has been told to pay particular attention to the number of control points, selling methods at abattoirs, price stabilization measures and the determination of marketing and export quotas, as well as the disposal of hides, skins and offal.

The council is also to look into the price margins of wholesalers and retailers in a controlled area of the Meat Control Board.

3-Meat





Bags of (higher priced) poultry feed . . . and tongues a-clucking

INSIDE INDUSTRY

Proteins — all at sea

F.M. 3/9/76

The anchovies stayed away this year — and the ripples are likely to spread to the consumer. Here's why

Prices of poultry products (notably broilers) and meat products will rise substantially in the next few months unless government subsidises imports of protein feeds to overcome shortfalls in domestic production.

According to Boris Kaplan, chairman of the SA Balanced Feed Manufacturers Association, it may be necessary to import as much as 45 000 t of oilcake this year to meet the animal feed industry's domestic requirements. This is due to lower crops of groundnut, sunflower seed and cottonseed, as well as an expected shortfall of at least 20 000 t in fishmeal production in SWA. Here producers were forced by government to reduce their intake of pilchard in the interests of conservation.

Import allocations

Feed compounders have been allocated R4m in foreign exchange to import about 20 000 t of oilcake. Additional allocations may have to be made later.

Fortunately, it will not be necessary to import fishmeal to the full extent of the shortfall because feed manufacturers say they can make do with available stocks simply by reformulating their compound formulae. However, at least one compounder, Meadow Feed Mills (a Tiger Oats subsidiary in Natal) has found it nexcessary to do so and is expecting a shipment of 2 500 t of fishmeal from Agadir (Morocco) to land in Durban in mid-September. The landed cost is estimated at more than R300/t.

According to Kaplan, feed manufacturers have made strong representations to government to reduce the cost-raising effect of oilcake imports. This they can do either by exempting imports from the 20% deposit scheme, which will add an estimated R2/t to the landed cost of oilcake, or by allowing importers to draw on accumulated balances in the industry's protein pool. This will probably stand at R910 000 by the end of the season next April.

Or, if government is unwilling to allow this fund to be run down (part of it is intended for protein research), it could subsidise such imports direct.

Or it could opt for a combination of all three alternatives. Government's ruling is expected soon.

The weighted average of the cost of acquiring oilcake on the domestic market (groundnut, sunflower and cottonseed) is about R114/t. Imports will cost twice as much on average. However, the Balanced Feed Association estimates that the overall cost of imported and domestically available oilcake will be around R154/t, which means that animal feed consumers will soon have to pay R40/t more for oilcake, which must lead to steep feed price hikes. According to Desmond Lurie, MD of County Fair Chickens, feed constitutes more than 70% of the production cost of broilers and layers.

Hardly chickenfeed

Lurie says South Africans will consume about 160m broilers this year, with Blacks accounting for 60% of consumption. Chicken is therefore the main source of meat for the majority of South Africans.

It may not be for long, however, unless government encourages increased protein production. At the current rate of animal feed consumption (2 mt/year), balanced feed manufacturers say they will have to raise production to 3 mt/year by 1980 to cope with demand. This means that SA and SWA's entire production of fishmeal at current rates (about 250 000t/year) will be absorbed by the domestic market. It also means that farmers will have to raise production of groundnuts, sunflower and cottonseeds if SA is not to become a chronic importer of oilcake.

Feeding planned by computer

11/3/76, NM

Agric - meat

A METHOD of forecasting the economic outcome of growing and fattening any particular parcel of beef cattle has been developed by Mr. R. Jones, a pasture scientist and other research workers at Cedara.

Known as NSBFT, short for Natal Simulator of Beef Feeding Trials, the different growth patterns of various cattle breeds can be described mathematically. Using a computer, the animal scientists have developed a method whereby a farmer can work out his proposed feeding programme.

The computer indicates the materials required to meet an animal's needs for a certain growth rate in terms of total food intake and takes the guesswork out of providing a balanced ration. With the information provided, a farmer can plan his feeding according to what he has available.

The Department of Agricultural Technical Services in Natal is offering the service free of charge to farmers, particularly those who keep records of cattle mass.

Details such as the quality of veld grazing and other feedstuffs, the amounts to be fed, the period of feeding, labour and wastage and the farmer's feeding methods are all fed into the computer on data input sheets and the computer then indicates:

- How much of each feedstuff will be eaten during the feeding period.
- The best time to sell the cattle.
- Details of the feeds needed to give a required average daily gain.
- The economic outcome of feeding different licks and other supplements during winter.
- A comparison of different rations in terms of profit per head and return on investment.

MEAT [redacted]

1977

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1978

3-
meat

Export of beef possible

6/11/73 Star

Abattoirs in Johannesburg and Pretoria are slaughtering hundreds more beasts daily than is being demanded and the surplus accumulating may have to be exported.

"We have a surplus of meat at the moment," Mr Gerrie Marais, general manager of the Meat Control Board confirmed in Pretoria, "but it is only a small one."

He added: "We may have to export the surplus but we are not keen on that because we must look after our own consumers."

On Tuesday the amount of beef brought into the abattoir at Newtown plus the surplus carried over from the day before amounted to 3 396 carcases and livestock.

The amount offered for sale was 1 585 and the amount sold, 1 338.

ARTIFICIAL

Several retailers believe that only half the total is being offered for sale in order to keep the price of meat artificially high.

Said one retailer: "The Meat Board's argument is that by keeping prices high, farmers are induced to send in more meat."

Whether that was fair to the consumer depended on "which side of the fence you're sitting," he said.

"From the meat-man's point of view, if the farmer was not induced to produce meat, there would be a shortage and prices would rocket.

"From the consumer's point of view, of course, it's not fair. The farmer should average out his prices."

Mr Marais denied prices were being kept artificially high.

DIFFICULT

"It is difficult to regulate our supply at the abattoirs," he said.

"Sometimes we have as many as 3 500 beasts on a Monday and we find we needed only 1 200."

He added: "Production is dependent on price. If the farmers aren't paid good prices, then they will go into grain farming or something else.

"In addition, if we worked on a small margin, we might find demand exceeding supply and the prices would go up."

Cattle farmers fear drought

Pretoria Bureau

Leading cattle farmers and agricultural experts said in Pretoria yesterday that rain was needed in the Transvaal by the middle of next month to avoid an impending drought.

All agreed that there would be a crisis situation already if farmers had not enjoyed good rainfall in preceding summers.

They were attending a one-day cattle production symposium.

"We can thank the last few good years for the fact that we're coping with the dry conditions now," said Mr J Steenkamp, who farms in the Potgietersrus area.

"But most of us cannot hold out without rain for more than another month at the most."

NOT A DROP

"Scattered rainfall in the Transvaal this summer has been kind to some farmers but harsh on others.

"I've been lucky" said Mr Steenkamp. "It has been raining on my farm in places, but my neighbour hasn't had a drop. There is the curious position of barren soil lying next to fertile land."

This trend was confirmed by others at the symposium. Luck is playing a vital part in keeping farmers viable.

"Several crop farmers, who became a bit over confident after the years of good rainfall, are in trouble at the moment" said Mr Steenkamp. "By and large cattle farmers are still getting away because their stock can feed off trees."

Mr Louis Mouton, a representative for the firm sponsoring the symposium, and one of four speakers — the others were Professor J Bonsma, Dr J van Marle and Mr S D Parsons — said in his opinion most farmers would survive the dry spell.

"Most of them tend to exaggerate a little about drought conditions. There are badly hit areas like the Koster-Derby region and Lydenburg. These are exceptions," he said.

We'll have to fight or go broke, say farmers

KILLER SNARES THREATEN CATTLE WAR

By PAT FARLEY

STOCK thefts are hitting race relations in northern Zululand according to cattle farmers north of Hluhluwe.

Some farmers claim that the thefts are threatening their livelihood and one had to sell his interests in cattle farming because of gangs of thieves using snares.

Farmers say the police cannot cope because they are seriously understaffed.

Farmers I interviewed warned they are fast reaching the stage where they will have to use "harsher measures" to protect their property.

Mr Petra de Haas said cattle were being lost in such numbers that the thefts appeared to be organised.

"We believe the cattle are often slaughtered and the meat illegally transported to black areas and towns — even as far as Kwa Mashu near Durban, where it is sold at great profit.

"Some of the meat could even be sold to butchers and then retailed legally, though the butchers must realise where the meat is coming from."

He estimated that 100 head of cattle had been stolen in the past six months in Sabaya district, costing farmers more than R10 000.

"We cannot afford to lose this sort of money. Somehow it must be stopped or some of the smaller farmers are going to move out.

"We are told the country must build up race relations, but this sort of thing can only upset the attempts."

Mr de Haas said that if 10 percent of the stolen cattle was returned to their owners it was a lot. At least 60 percent of the cattle farmers in the area are said to have suffered stock losses during the past two years.

Another farmer north of Hluhluwe, Mr Albert Diedericks, said he had lost 11 beasts recently.

Mr Dirk de Waal, a Hluhluwe farmer, said he had to sell his cattle farming interests in 1965 because "thieves just cleaned me out".

Lower Mkuze rancher, Mr Wallie Smit, who has been farming cattle and game in the area for the past 16 years, said farmers may have to resort to violence to protect their property.

"I lost 80 head between December 1975 and January 1977. Even I cannot afford that sort of loss and if it happened to smaller farmers they would simply have to close down."

Mr Smit said that it was the way his cattle and game were poached that made him so angry. He said snares were often used and he had found cattle and game strangled to death and left rotting in the bush because the poachers had not even bothered to inspect all their snares.

On Tuesday this week, farmers in the Sabaya area held a special meeting with their MP, Mr Stoffel Botha, to discuss the problem. Mr Botha has a farm in the Sabaya area and it is understood he has also suffered from stock thefts.

A police spokesman at Hluhluwe said 18 cases of stock theft had been reported during the past six months. In the same period two cases had come before the courts.

He said that stock theft was under control in Hluhluwe area. He added that he would be happy if a special police stock theft unit was set up in the area.

AMAZING CASE OF THE R80m ABATTOIRS





● Dr Van den Bergh, left, a member of the Abattoir Commission and a director of Estusa, and Dr De Villiers, chairman of Estusa.

Costs soared by 163%





● Mr Lorimer, left, who compiled a dossier on the abattoirs and Mr Schoeman, who has promised quick action.

MINISTER PROMISES PROBE

THE SUNDAY EXPRESS today discloses the startling case of a R50-million cost increase for two Government abattoirs — including nearly R5,5-million paid to consultants.

It also discloses an interlocking of directorships and associataon between private firms and Government bodies connected with the abbatoir's construction.

Yesterday, when the Sunday Express placed before Minister of Agriculture Hendrik Schoeman a dossier prepared by Mr Rupert Lorimer, Progref MP for Orange Grove, he agreed that a judicial commission of inquiry must probe the matter.

"I'm not prepared to cover up anything," Mr Schoeman said. "If the highest official is guilty of anything dishonest, he must be hanged."

By HUGH MURRAY
Political Corrsepondent

The Minister said he was "deeply upset" about the issue.

"I must take this to the Cabinet on Tuesday and ask for a judicial commission with the highest authority to be appointed," said Mr Schoeman.

The commission, he said, would investigate the unprecedented cost jump on the abattoirs — the new City Deep abattoir which opened in Johannesburg this week, and Durban's Cato Ridge abattoir.

The cost estimate of the City Deep abattoir has soared from R13-million in February 1973 to R32,8-million now.

The cost estimate of the Cato Ridge abbattoir has soared from R17,1-million in June 1974 to R46,4-million now.

Thus the cost estimate of the two abattoirs has jumped by 163% in four years, from an original R30,1-million to a staggering R79,3-million.

And Mr Lorimer believes that eventually the costs could rise as high as R100-million.

The Minister said the commission of inquiry would also probe the role of two firms retained by the Abattoir Commission as consultant companies.

They are Economic Studies in South Africa (Estusa) and Swerdlow, Cohen, Bahr and Associates — who have together already received fees and disbursements totalling R5,5-million.

The relationships to be examined are:

● Dr F J de Villiers is chairman of the Cato Ridge abattoir policy committee — and also chairman of the consultants, Estusa. He is a former industrial adviser to the Department of Commerce and Industry.

● Dr Martin van den Berg is a member of the Abattoir Commission — and a director of consultants, Estusa. He was a senior economic advisor to the Prime Minister.

● Two directors of the consultants Swerdlow, Cohen Bahr and Associates (SCBA)

• To Page 2

R80m—why such a price?

• From Page 1

are also directors of Kennington Incorporated, retained by the Abattoir Commission to conduct a national abattoir planning study.

• These SCBA directors, Mr Stanley Ernest Cohen and Mr Harry John Count Lindsell, are also directors of Technical and Management Services — appointed by SCBA to "provide specialist services."

Mr Schoeman's decision reverses his rejection last week of a call by Mr Lorimer for an investigating commission.

Mr Lorimer made the call in a personal letter to the Minister in which he urged a probe into the "unbelievable" cost overruns at the two abattoir projects.

Mr Schoeman reversed his decision on the commission during an interview with the Sunday Express when a full dossier of Mr Lorimer's year-long investigation was put to him.

"If the commission finds there has been dishonesty I will thank Mr Lorimer and the Express publicly in Parliament. If it finds nothing then at least it will clear the air," Mr Schoeman said.



• Johannesburg's new abattoir from the air . . . yesterday's picture.

On the face of it, there appears to be reason for concern, said the Minister.

Mr Lorimer said there were people who would come forward under the protection of a commission to substantiate "at the very least" allegations that the cost overruns were in many cases unnecessary.

A key consultant to the projects admitted to the Express that "in the national interest and in the interest of industry" it was important that certain matters be cleared up.

The consultant, Dr Francois de Villiers, chairman of Estusa, has been deeply involved in the growing controversy. Questions have been asked about the role of his company, which has among its directors Dr Martin van der Berg, a member of the Abattoir Commission.

Estusa has already received fees totalling R397 000 for its work on City Deep, and R597 000 on the far from complete Cato Ridge project. How much it has received in disbursements is not yet known.

In the words of Dr De Villiers, it is essentially a "one-man show" operating as a secretariat for procuring abattoir expertise overseas.

The Department of Agricultural Economics and Marketing has justified the appointment of Estusa on the grounds that it could, through its overseas contacts, advise on EEC regulations about abattoir construction.

But Dr De Villiers rejects this: "EEC specifications are quite clear and are only necessary from an export point of view. The abattoirs to be built will not necessarily strive to conform with these regulations."

Asked about the fees he said: "It doesn't matter about the fees. Those are laid down professionally."

According to Mr J C Jamneck, chairman of the Abattoir Commission, Estusa was appointed to assist the commission "in formulating a clear brief for the consulting engineers, to assess the planning, to provide a second opinion on design matters, and to report on the construction."

But Mr Lorimer wants to know what special expertise directors of Estusa have apart from the fact that Dr De Villiers chaired a Commission of Inquiry into abattoirs when he was industrial adviser to the Department of Commerce.

None are members of the South African Association of Consulting Engineers or the SA Council for Professional

3 meat

Reason why abattoir bill rose R50-m

Increased facilities, higher standards and rising building costs were responsible for the R50-million extra cost of the new abattoirs at Johannesburg and Durban.

Land and township costs were also not included in the original estimates and cover part of the increase, Mr Stanley Cohen, a director of one of the Abattoir Commission's consultants, Swerdlow Cohen, Bahr Associates (SCBA), said today.

"It is sometimes advisable to increase capital costs if running costs can be decreased, and thus reduce the tariff," Mr Cohen said.

He was replying to charges by Mr Rupert Lorimer, MP, that the cost estimate of Johannesburg's City Deep abattoir had risen from R12,8-million in February to R33-million now, and building costs — R11-million.

● The original estimate for the by-product plant was R1,3-million too low.

Higher costs at Durban's Cato Ridge Abattoir were accounted for by increased land and building costs, flowing largely from a decision to increase capacity.

Mr Lorimer, in his dossier, mentioned that Dr F J de Villiers, chairman of the Cato Ridge policy committee, was also chairman of Estusa, a firm providing engineering expertise for the project.

3 meat

Abandon R46m abattoir, suggest farmers

Agricultural Correspondent

NATAL stock farmers have called for the scrapping of the Cato Ridge abattoir, but R25-million has already been spent on the R46-million project.

Mr. H. C. Doust, manager of the influential Mooi River Farmers' Association, said yesterday that a resolution had been passed by the association calling for work on the abattoir to stop.

But Mr. B. J. Kruger, managing director of the Abattoir Corporation in Pretoria, which is erecting the new complex, said yesterday: "The new abattoir is already fait accompli."

He said it would be ridiculous to think of scrapping the buildings and contracts already awarded.

They had spent R25-million and work was well advanced.

Farmers said yesterday that the whole concept of centralised slaughtering was wrong, and smaller abattoirs should be built in the production areas.

Uneconomic

In reply, Mr. Kruger said that decentralised abattoirs were only economical if large numbers of animals were available.

Another reason for wanting to scrap the project argue farmers, is that production costs will rocket because of increased slaughtering charges. Present charges are R6.40 a head but are expected to rise to R11 a head, depending on the number of livestock slaughtered.

According to farmers the new abattoir will be a "white elephant," and the meat industry in Durban has supported this claim.

Mr. Kruger said there was no other alternative available, and the abattoir would go ahead as planned.

(Agriculture - Meat)

PRESS RELEASE BY THE HONOURABLE HENDRIK SCHOEMAN, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

ABATTOIRS: APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

The Minister of Agriculture announced that the arrangements for the appointment of a judicial Commission of Inquiry into the cost of certain abattoirs have now been finalised.

The State President has appointed Mr M.J. Prins, Chief Magistrate, Pretoria, as the only member and also as Chairman of the Commission with the following terms of reference:-

To inquire into and to report on -

(a) the reasons for the difference between the initial and final estimated costs of the abattoir erected at City Deep, Johannesburg, and of the abattoir to be erected at Cato Ridge;

(b) the nature and extent of irregular conduct, if any, in the planning or erection of the two abattoirs, and the mutual business or other connections, if any, of persons involved in such irregular conduct;

(c) any other matters, in connection with and arising from the investigation, which, in the opinion of the Commission should be brought to attention.

Mr T.C. de Beer, Senior Magistrate, Pretoria, has been nominated to lead the evidence before the Commission.

Mr R Selzer, Department of Agricultrual Economics and Marketing, Private Bag X250, Pretoria, will act as Secretary to the Commission.

A notice/.....

A notice in which interested parties who wish to give evidence before the Commission are invited to approach the Secretary of the Commission before 18 March 1977, will appear in the Government Gazette of Friday 18 February 1977.

The Minister emphasized that the two abattoirs concerned were planned by the previous Abattoir Commission. The affairs of the present Abattoir Commission and the Abattoir Corporation, which began functioning on 1 February 1977 in terms of legislation passed by Parliament last year, do therefore not form part of the judicial inquiry in question.

RELEASED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AT REQUEST OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

CAPE TOWN: 14 FEBRUARY 1977

hier, soos die Nederlandse taalkundige J. L. Pauwels aantoon, met 'n oorgeërfde verskynsel te make.

J. A. VERHAGE, „Deftige en gemeensame vorme in die sinsverband van ou Kaapse taal", *Tydskrif vir geesteswetenskappe*, jg. 5, nr. 3, 1965, pp. 307–323.

J. A. VERHAGE, „Die herkoms van die verbinding *as wat* na 'n komparatief en sy verbreiding in Afrikaans", *Tydskrif vir geesteswetenskappe*, jg. 7, nr. 1, 1967, pp. 328–342.

J. DU P. SCHOLTZ, *Taalhist. opstelle*, pp. 162–168.

J. L. PAUWELS, „De volgorde van verbogen verbale vormen in het Nederlands", in *Dietse studies*, pp. 105–110.

9.5 Slotopmerkings

In hierdie beknopte oorsig van die wording van die Afrikaanse taal kon net op die mees opvallende kenmerke van die woordeskat, klank- en vormstelsel, en van die sinsbou gewys word. Talle van die fyner besonderhede van die Afrikaanse taalstruktuur


Meat buyers boycott abattoir

Mercury Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Wholesale meat buyers yesterday boycotted Johannesburg's new R32 million City Deep abattoir when they were told the previous day's kill of 1 100 carcasses had not been stored at the proper temperature.

But officials at the abattoir are confident that tests today will give the meat a clean bill of health.

Mr. Ben Kruger, managing director of the Abattoir Corporation, which has taken over running the abattoir from the municipality, said yesterday a technical fault kept some of the cold storage rooms containing the meat at room temperature.

"The problem is not serious. I am sure the meat will be proved to be in excellent condition," he said.

But Mr. Louis Jordaan, owner of a large meat wholesale business, said he had refused to touch the meat.

"We have a duty to the public and a reputation to protect. The abattoir people suggested we go ahead and buy the meat and if subsequent tests proved it to be bad then they would take it back from us.

"We all got together and agreed we weren't going to play those games. I'm getting fed up with the place. There's been nothing but problems since it opened two weeks ago," Mr. Jordaan said.

City Deep abattoir, together with another abattoir at Cato Ridge near Durban, is presently the subject of a judicial commission investigating the escalating building costs of the two sites.

dryk, is die meeste „kenmerke" van Afrikaans voortsettings van die een of ander dialekvorm of tendensie in 'n dialek wat in Nederland self deur beskawingsfaktore teëgewerk is of verdwyn het. Daarnaas het die invloed van die talle vreemdelinge aan die Kaap 'n rol gespeel. Ook hier kan ons net by uitsondering een groep sprekers isoleer en vir die wording van 'n bepaalde taalvorm verantwoordelik hou. Ons kan bv. nie aantoon in hoever die Franse of Duitse immigrante die Afrikaanse sinsbou direk beïnvloed het nie, of in hoever hulle die vereenvoudiging van die vormstelsel veroorsaak het nie.

1. Teorieë oor die ontstaan van Afrikaans

Vroeër is daar wel aan die een of ander beslissende taalinvloed gedink. Dit was die geval voordat 'n taamlik groot hoeveelheid direkte gege-

wens van die Kaapse taal in die Argief in Kaapstad gevind is. Kort na die stigting van die GRA het die belangstelling in die herkoms en ontstaan van Afrikaans by taalgeleerdes begin posvat en aanleiding gegee tot die ponering van verskillende teorieë oor die ontstaan van Afrikaans. Th. Hahn se *Hottentots-teorie* van 1882 was die eerste poging tot 'n verklaring van die karakter van Afrikaans. Hoewel hy vasstel dat Afrikaans „phonetically teutonic" is, d.w.s. sy Germaanse struktuur behou het, is dit volgens hom „psychologically an essential Hottentot idiom". Maar hierdie vae stelling kan hy nie bewys nie. Kort ná hom kry ons die belangstelling van Nederlandse geleerdes soos M. de Vries en J. te Winkel, wat die *Frans-teorie* voorstaan. Volgens dié teorie sou Afrikaans onder die invloed van die Franse Hugenote ontstaan het, maar D. C. Hesseling het die teorie in 1897 al weerlê. In 1885 wys Hugo Schuchardt, die beroemde Duitse geleerde en kenner van Kreoolse tale, op twee belangrike faktore wat by die wording van Afrikaans 'n rol kon gespeel het; hy dink aan die een kant aan Duitse invloed; aan die ander kant was hy die eerste wat

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daarna het 'n groot aantal slawe wat gebroke Portugees gepraat het, Kaap toe gekom; dit sou volgens Hesseling 'n skielike kommunikasieprobleem veroorsaak het wat tot 'n vinnige verandering van Nederlands gelei het. Die resultaat was 'n sterk vereenvoudigde taal met 'n reduksie in sy grammatika. Wanneer 'n kultuurtaal in 'n bepaalde kontaksituasie deur 'n botsing met 'n sosiaal laerstaande taal binne 'n kort tydperk 'n drastiese reduksie, struktuurverandering en vereenvoudiging ondergaan, praat 'n mens van kreolisering. Hesseling moet egter self erken dat die tipiese kenmerke van kreolisering in Afrikaans ontbreek, daarom kom hy tot die konklusie dat Afrikaans beskou moet word as Nederlands wat halfpad bly staan het om 'n Kreoolse taal te word.

Ongelukkig het Hesseling destyds nie oor die nodige direkte taalgegewens beskik nie; hy kon sy teorie feitlik net op sosio-historiese gegewens baseer wat bowendien nie volledig en korrek was nie. Daarom was ook sy teorie ontoereikend en eensydig; dit het 'n hipotese gebly wat hy nie kon bewys nie.

3 MEAT

E ARGUS, MONDAY FEBRUARY 28 1977

R200-million lost at abattoirs

—SPCA report

PRETORIA. — Findings that a potential R200-million is being lost annually at abattoirs are to be presented to the Minister of Agriculture, Mr H. Schoeman, by the SPCA.

The SPCA, after a three year investigation, has disclosed that 43 percent of all heifers slaughtered at abattoirs in the nine controlled areas throughout the country were pregnant.

This, they claim, represents a loss of about R200-million in potential stock.

Dr Jan Lombaard, assistant general manager of the Meat Board, admitted that, of the 121 235 heifers slaughtered countrywide last year, 'an average of 1 000 pregnant heifers were slaughtered each week — about 52 000 a year.'

Another R20-million was lost yearly by the transportation of livestock across the country, according to SPCA spokesman Mrs Dorothy Bernstein.

'FIGHTING'

Mrs Bernstein calculated that each calf had the potential of having four or five offspring. The average floor price for a calf was about R200, slightly less for a cow or a heifer.

This is now the R200-million figure was calculated.

'It is frightening,' said Mrs Bernstein. 'We are throwing our country's economy even deeper into trouble.'

Mr Jan van der Walt, spokesman for the SA Agricultural Union, lays the blame on speculators.

Mr Norman Smith, SPCA chief in Port Elizabeth, claims that 40 percent of all pregnant heifers slaughtered were in the last three months of their pregnancy.

Mr Van der Walt agreed with these calculations.

'Why must they worry whether the animal is pregnant or not? As long as they get their money they are happy,' he said.

About 200 sheep and cattle a month are condemned by the Johannesburg abattoir because of injury after being transported by truck and rail from areas as far as South West Africa and the Northern Cape.

At least another 100 arrive dead, according to Mrs Margaret van Staden, SPCA investigator in Johannesburg.

3 meat

Drive to market SA poultry in Middle, Far East

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — South African poultry producers are selling large quantities of surplus chickens overseas and about a thousand tons have already been exported.

This was revealed here yesterday by Mr Cedric Savage, a director of the country's largest producer, Rainbow Chicken Farms, who leaves with Mr Stan Methven, the top executive, for a massive sales drive in the Middle East tomorrow.

Mr Savage confirmed that about 1 000 tons had already been exported but said that he did not believe that the exports would affect the local price.

Three South African companies were competing on the international market for the orders. The other two are Farm Fair, of Johannesburg, a division of Sunnyside, and County Fair, of Cape Town.

The export position was not very clear at the moment but should be clarified by the end of the month.

Mr Savage said Rainbow were aiming to sell to the Middle East, Iran chiefly, and the Far East, mainly Hong Kong and Japan.

"The Government is encouraging companies to export and we are carrying out this policy."

Rainbow was currently selling frozen chickens in Natal at 73c a kilogram wholesale and 75c in the rest of the country. Prices were currently very stable and he did not expect them to rise, although sometimes they tended to firm over Easter, he said.

Abattoir work 'was out of hand'

Pretoria Bureau

Work on the City Deep and Cato Ridge abattoirs had "got out of hand" the former chief engineer of the Abattoir Commission told the inquiry into the costs of the two abattoirs today.

Earlier, the one-man commission of inquiry, Pretoria's chief magistrate Mr M J Prins, heard the initial cost estimate of the Cato Ridge abattoir was R17-million in 1974, but this had risen to about R41-million. In the case of City Deep, the figures were R13-million and R32-million.

Mr Clive Feldman told Mr Prins he was "very dissatisfied" with the lack of co-ordination in the construction and badly organised site meetings on the City Deep abattoir project.

None of the 55 site meetings was attended by any of the senior partners of the consultant engineers, Messrs Swerdlow, Cohen Bahr and Associates. Six meetings were chaired by an unqualified person. The meetings were lengthy, sometimes lasting for four days, when they needed to be short and well-roganised.

When the resident engineer on the City Deep project, Mr Jack Norman, had a heart attack, Mr Norman's co-ordination work had been "of a very high standard."

(3) Meat

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III. The remaining requests for permanent ppsts are arranged alphabetically below and will be reviewed later in the year when the next staffing cycle begins:

African Languages — Lectureship (Intensive and Development)

Anthropology — of Junior Lectureship in Comparative ...nment & Law to Senior Lectureship

Archaeology — ...f part-time clerical assistant to ...ureship in Physical Anthropology

English — ...of 1 Junior Lectureship to Lectureship

Hebrew — ...this request for a Junior Lectureship)

Iberian and Latino American Studies — ...lectureship in French (Intensive course)

Romance Studies — ...hip ...lectureship

School of Economics (Division of Economics) — ...inclusive

(Division of Econ. History) — ...me clerical assistant

Speech and Drama — Senior Lectureship in Drama ...Lectureship in Teacher Training

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AHREP/GG

15.3.77

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA*

returned owners.

Ticks 'bleed farmers'

South African cattle farmers lose up to R200-million annually through ticks and tick-borne diseases, says Mr D Klingenschmidt, managing director of a major pharmaceutical group.

He told delegates the international symposium on the meat industry in Johannesburg, today, the loss would be much larger if it were not for the work being done to eradicate tick infestations.

"Today the work done on tick control in South Africa is receiving international recognition," he said.

26/4/77

(3) Meat

I. Introduction

The migration of worker... ...itical and economic pressures is no new thing in Southe... ...ment of people to, from, or within the sub-continent whet... ...ves, refugees, indentured labourers, immigrants, or oscilla... ...of the most pressing problems of our history. Analys... ...bour (and capital) is an essential part of the process ... ...ature of the social, economic, and ecological imbalance... ...hern Africa. Vital though the broader perspective ... ...rator sessions (Dr. Sandler has ...ub to cover ... ...) shall not examine the implications of ...the flow of capital ...ular areas of the sub-continent especially from West ...nited States; we shall not analyse the political and econon... ...her migration of whites to Rhodesia and to the ...frica in recent years. In passing we would simply note th... ...955 to 1975 Rhodesia's total net inflow of 53 00... ...n South Africa's net white in migration in any two years betwe... ...over the period 1924 to 1974 South Africa's net gain of white immigrants was almost exactly half a million people.[1] Nor shall we consider the ebb and flow of workers within the boundaries of South Africa in whose major urban areas it is estimated that approximately one out of every two black men legally at work is housed as a migrant on a single basis.[2] Our brief is to focus on the single aspect of the international flow of migrant workers and its consequences over the

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* This paper was prepared for the 'Migration for Employment Project' of the International Labour Organisation's World Employment Programme.

I am grateful to many people for discussion and criticism which, over the years, has helped to mould my own thinking as expressed in this paper. In particular I wish to thank Wolfgang Thomas and also the various members of the University of Cape Town joint anthropology-economics seminar group on international migration for their critiques, during 1975, of an early draft.

1. General Statistical Office, Monthly Digest of Statistics (Salisbury, January 1976) and Republic of South Africa, Dept. of Statistics, Migration Statistics: Tourists Immigrants and Emigrants 1970 and 1971 (Report No. 19-01-02, Pretoria).

The South African figures are for all races but exclude oscillating migrants. From the regional breakdown it is safe to assume that the majority of immigrants referred to in these figures are white. See also Migration to Southern Africa (Centre Europe - Tiers Monde, Geneva, 1975).

2. Monica Wilson, Migrant Labour in South Africa. South African Council of Churches and Spro-cas, Johannesburg, 1972) pp.29-77.
Jill Nattrass, 'Migrant Labour and South African Economic Development', S.A.J.E. (Vol. 44 No. 1 March 1976) pp.65-91. Combing the statistics for the country as a whole, Dr.Nattrass finds that in 1970 in the 'white' areas

3 meat

Only seven meat men attended

JOHANNESBURG — Fewer than one in 10 of the South African delegates to an international meat industry symposium being staged here attended its opening yesterday.

More than 130 South Africans were invited to the symposium. Ninety accepted but only seven had arrived by late morning.

Only one of the more than 30 breeding associations in the country was represented.

Virtually all the foreign delegates — 153 from 28 countries — were present.

The symposium is being held at the Rand Afrikaans University by the Permanent International Meat Office (Opic), whose members comprise about 250 organisations in 49 countries.

The chairman of the symposium's organising committee, Mr. Danie Scholtz, said the poor attendance reflected the lack of interest shown by beef producers in improving their yields.

He said South Africans were paying high prices for beef because it was produced inefficiently.

"In the United States and Austraia, for example, about 85 percent of cows calve each year. The South African figure is only about 55 percent," he said. — (Sapa.)

Hansard 15 col 1091 12/5/77

(3) meat

Imported beef

967. Mr. W. M. SUTTON asked the Minister of Agriculture:

(1) Whether any beef was imported from countries outside the African Continent during 1976 and the first quarter of 1977; if so, (a)(i) by whom and (ii) when was it imported and (b) by whom were such imports authorized;

(2) (a) what (i) was the mass and (ii) were the grades of the imported beef and (b) at what average price per grade was it imported.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

(1) Yes.

(a) (i) The Livestock and Meat Industries Control Board.

(ii) January 1977, February 1977 and April 1977.

(b) The Minister of Agriculture—on condition that the canned products manufactured from the imported beef be exported.

(2) (a)(i) and (ii) 1 873 tons deboned low grade (grade III) forequarter cuts.

(b) 75c/kg c.i.f.

(3) 5990
(3) Meat

RAND DAILY MAIL, Friday, May 13, 1977. 3

Poultry men warn of higher prices

13/5/77
RDM

Own Correspondent

CAPE TOWN. — The short term future of the South African poultry industry is bleak with both egg suppliers and chicken producers locked in a struggle for survival.

And the consumer is threatened with higher prices in spite of surplus production.

This is the message coming out of the annual congress of the Poultry Association which ends in Cape Town today.

The chairman of the Commercial Egg Producers' Organisation, Mr A. E. Karlson, yesterday warned delegates that falling returns and takeovers by big business were a major threat and a number of producers would "fall by the wayside."

"With ever-rising costs we have little hope of realising a producer price that is going to give us a fair return on invested capital."

The retiring chairman of the Table Poultry Producers' Organisation, Mr Stan Methven, warned that a big price increase would be necessary if producers were to survive present slump conditions in the R200-million a year broiler industry.

The next two years would be gloomy with housewives being asked to pay up to 20 per cent more for chicken, he said.

GERALD REILLY reports from Pretoria that all basic food prices will rise this year, according to Government sources.

The only way this can be avoided, they said, is for farmers to accept lower profit margins.

So far, mealie meal and a large variety of tinned and processed foods have risen sharply.

Later in the year the price of bread will rise by about 2c a loaf and sugar producers, currently selling sugar on the local market below production costs, are certain to be given relief.

And from Cape Town yesterday the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, said butter and cheese might also have to be increased in price later in the year.

Inflation is blamed for abattoir costs

17/5/77 Star

Pretoria Bureau

The major reason for the increase in the cost of the City Deep Abattoir from an estimate of R12,8 million to about R30 million was "galloping inflation", an inquiry heard today.

But there were "other reasons too", a former engineer on the project, Mr Arnold Swerdlow, told Mr M J Prins, who is heading a commission into abattoir costs.

Mr Swerdlow told Mr Prins, Pretoria's chief magistrate, that after nine months in hospital he returned to work on June 11, 1975.

Two days later, he visited the City Deep site and was "horrorstruck" at the lack of progress in view of the approaching planned completion date — November 1975. He then predicted completion by August 1976.

"After that I was to all intents and purposes totally excluded from the site and the project," Mr Swerdlow said.

On January 20, 1976, he attended a site meeting on the request of the abattoir commission where he pleaded with the contractor to speed up work.

PREVENTION?

Asked by Mr T C de Beer, who is leading evidence before the commission, how the unsatisfactory situation at City Deep could have been prevented, Mr Swerdlow said on a project as complicated as City Deep, control of contractors by the consulting engineers had to be of the highest standard.

"If not controlled, contractors would have a ball and, given half a chance, contractors would take advantage," he said.

(Proceeding)

Dudley Horner

AN LABOUR REPRESENTATION

3 meat

Southern Africa Labour & Development Research Unit

Drop in demand leads to surplus of meat

3 / Meat

16/6/77 DD

EAST LONDON — The Cape Eastern Agricultural congress here was informed yesterday that the meat industry at present was faced with a major problem —a surplus — for various reasons, but mainly because demand had dropped.

A spokesman for the meat industry said he was annoyed because all farmers, as requested, had not registered with the Meat Board.

The quota system, he said, had now been replaced on the Reef and Pretoria by a quota recruit system, which he expected to be adopted in other areas also.

Only registered people are issued with permits.

When asked why the importation of meat was allowed while South Africa was already faced with a large surplus, the official said the imported meat was not for local consumption but for processing into tinned meat for export purposes.

He also explained that South Africa had no rural abattoirs designed for export purposes. The only export abattoirs were in South West Africa and Krugersdorp.

Similar abattoirs are nearing completion at City Deep and at Cato Ridge.

Congress was told that quotas had been reduced but would hopefully be increased later this year. — DDR

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The Hon. Treasurer,

P.O. Box 929,

Pretoria.

0001.

Beef farmers urged to increase production

3 / meat

EAST LONDON — There was an urgent need for beef producers to improve production, management and marketing strategies that could be adapted to the changing agricultural scene.

This was the message conveyed by the chief of the production division of the Stock Owners Co-Operative, Dr G. Harwin, when he presented the presidential address at the official opening of the 46th annual congress of the Eastern Agricultural Union last night.

Dr Harwin said the energy crisis and prospects of further escalation in the price of fuels heralded a new era for livestock producers.

"We must face the challenge of sustaining and increasing production at reduced costs through improved forage systems and the breeding of livestock suited to production regimes," he said.

Dr Harwin said that while the Eastern rainfall areas was suited to a grassland economy, the farmer was at present not completely utilising the vast forage resources.

He listed six salient factors which, he said, could be fully exploited by beef producers if they wanted to remain economically viable.

They were: Adaption of production systems to the changing economic climate; economic efficiency; strategic use of improved pastures; improved marketing; extended grazing periods geared to provide for earlier spring fodder; and the breeding of beef cattle in accordance with production wants.

Dr Darwin said while production costs continued to spiral, the producer should not expect any significant price relief.

The reason he cited for this was the danger of a negative consumer reaction in the South African economy. — DDR

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P.O. Box 929,

Pretoria.

0001.

24-hour chicken ban claims true, say officials

By JEFF HENDERSON

TOP OFFICIALS of the Department of Weights and Measures this week backed a SUNDAY TRIBUNE report on the 24-hour ban on the supply of Rainbow Chickens to the trade following complaints that underweight poultry was being sold in Durban.

This follows a report in the Natal Mercury suggesting that the SUNDAY TRIBUNE's account was incorrect.

Last week we reported that department officials weighed 260 broilers and found that all but nine were underweight. The chickens were part of a consignment of 100 000 intended originally for export to Iran.

We also stated that the ban was lifted after 24 hours following an assurance by Rainbow Chickens that fresh stock would be "bled" into the remainder of the 100 000 stock and sold on a one-for-one basis.

The following day, the Natal Mercury carried a Page 3 report headlined "Chicken Weights Cause Export Delay" stating that an export consignment of 900 000 frozen Rainbow Chickens was held up for four hours following a complaint about the weight of one chicken sold in a Durban shop.

The report also quoted Mr Cedric Savage, joint managing director of Rainbow Chicken Farms, as denying the 24-hour ban and claiming that the housewife was not detrimentally affected as the weight of each individual chicken weighed by the department was within specification.

The SUNDAY TRIBUNE'S report — which is backed up by senior members of the Department of Weights and Measures — makes nonsense of any claim that a single complaint caused a hold-up of the export consignment.

The fact is that Rainbow chickens planned to send one million chickens to Iran but the ship sailed five weeks ago with 900 000 because there was insufficient space on board for all the original consignment.

The remaining 100 000 chickens were then placed on the home market — a fact confirmed by Dr Willard Mansfield, Rainbows director of processing.

Integrity

Dr Mansfield also confirmed that officials of the Department of Weights and measures had weighed 260 chickens and discovered 251 of them to be underweight. He promised a full-scale investigation into the matter saying: "Our integrity is at stake."

After the Natal Mercury report, Mr Hugh Twyford, regional assizer of the Department of Weights and Measures in Durban, issued a statement to the SABC which took exception to the claim that the chickens involved were for export and that housewives should not be detrimentally affected by the weight deficiencies.

Mealie price rise will hit milk, meat

Pretoria Bureau

Meat and milk farmers will have to make big adjustments in their operations to minimise the effect of the mealie price rise — but even so, some of the additional cost must filter through to consumers.

This is the view of office bearers in the Transvaal Agricultural Union (TAU), expressed in the union's journal.

The price increase granted to mealie farmers by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman did not equal the increase in production costs faced by mealie farmers, the journal said.

But at the same time, the mealie content in rations fed to beef cattle in feedlots would now increase the cost of the additional weight gained in the feedlot by 12c a kilogram.

This meant that the floor price of beef would simply have to be increased, said Mr Basie Snyman, a member of the TAU's cattle committee.

But at the same time he said the question could be posed of whether the market could stand an increase.

"The red meat market was so sensitive, that even the annual third-party insurance payment was felt in the beef market.

"There was no consumer resistance to beef. The problem was simply that money was short," said Mr Snyman.

To reduce as much as possible the effect of the higher mealie price, beef farmers would have to run their stock on grass for as long as possible, feed them in feedlots for as short a time as possible, transport bigger cattle by rail to the abattoirs to offset increased rail tariffs and slaughter costs, and by moving away from feedlots, also move away from the natural development of the meat industry.

Mr F I Mockford, of the TAU's pig committee, said the increased mealie price would raise the cost of producing a porker by R3 and a bacon pig by R5.

"The authorities had the problem that if these additional costs were passed on to the consumers, in a higher floor price, consumption would suffer through the inability of consumers to pay more.

"But at the same time pressure on the pig farmers themselves was such that even some middle-sized producers were selling out, said Mr Mockford.

Mr Mockford asked the Government to give the farmers' co-operatives entry to the oil-cake industry, now controlled by a small group of oilseed and margarine manufacturing companies.

The difference this would make to feed price held the key in today's circumstances, he said.

Meat co-ops protect farmers, says White

The farmers' interest in the meat industry can only be safeguarded if farmers will ensure that their slaughter stock is marketed through their meat marketing co-operative, the chairman of the Cape Eastern Meat Co-operative Board, Mr C.L. White, said. The percentage of the market handled co-operatively during 1976 was: cattle 40,6 per cent, sheep 54, 9 and pigs 32,8. "To ensure that their industry is controlled by themselves, farmers have to plan and motivate their fellow farmers who still not realise the benefits of co-operative action, to join hands and push their percentages up to a far higher figure," Mr White said. "The co-operative movement has made terrific strides in all walks of agriculture, particularly in the last ten years." "In the process of expansion, problems do arise and in 1972 a new "Blueprint" was approved by an overwhelming majority to again highlight the principles and to eliminate the problems. "The Board believes that the first principle mentioned in this "Blueprint" is of cardinal importance to farmers of the Eastern Cape — that the co-operative competition and overlapping in all its forms must be eliminated and avoided. "Competition between co-operatives is an evil which the Board believes the South African farmer cannot afford in present economic climate.

In addition such competition is completely contrary to the principles of the co-operative movement. The Board believes that farmers should only incur minimum of expense up to the marketing stage of their finished product and that competition is encouraged when the actual selling stage becomes a reality." The Board, Mr White said, will never lose sight of its primary responsibility to the farmer — a sound marketing system with as much bargaining power as possible.

3 - meat

Beef surplus halts imports—but prices stay

STAR 23/8/77

Pretoria Bureau

The Meat Board has stopped imports of beef carcasses from Rhodesia and Botswana because of the meat surplus caused by poor consumer demand.

Despite the surplus, there will be no reduction in price.

The deputy general manager of the Meat Board, Dr Jan Lombard, today said all prices for consumer lines of meat were "on the floor" and the answer was to use up the surplus of supplies before stepping up imports.

Dr Lombard said manufacturing beef imports from Rhodesia and Botswana would continue.

The ban on carcass imports had come into effect at the beginning of August. Its lifting would depend on an improvement in consumer demand and seasonal production factors.

Dr Lombard said the meat surplus resulted from the fact that total consumption over the last year had not increased by the usual 2,5 percent.

With cattle being fed mainly by the feedlot system between July and December, the quality of meat in the surplus was higher than usual, he added.

The surplus presently stood at one week's supply over and above normal daily production.

Beef price rise was kept secret

26/6/72 Sunday Times Extra

● From Page 1

Board, Mr Wink, told the Sunday Times earlier this week that a notice of the increase had appeared in the June 17 Gazette. The Sunday Times has established, however, that it did not.

Another Meat Board official promised to telephone the Sunday Times immediately he obtained the Gazette number. He did not return the call.

Mr Schoeman said meat imports from neighbouring countries had to continue — politics, and not vested interest, was the reason. Asked how he could have stated in Parliament this week that prices of beef would not rise in the near future, the Minister replied he could not foresee "average" prices rising.

Announcements of price increases, he said, would cause unrest among workers in this time of economic recession. The meat surplus — like the butter and cheese surplus — was only temporary.

Butter

"I have to see that the nation is fed," he said. If farmers did not get an adequate return, they would stop producing.

The price rise comes on the heels of the controversial increase in the price of butter and cheese, of which there is also a huge surplus.

Meat Board spokesmen have confirmed that refrigerators hired by the board to store surpluses are heavily stacked with beef.

The board buys at the floor price any meat that cannot be sold at public auctions. This is done to protect the farmer.

The oversupply in Johannesburg is so big that emergency cold storage facilities in the old condemned Newtown abattoir are being used to store meat.

Agents reported that sales were stopped at the new City Deep abattoir last week because the board had run out of cold storage space for unsold beef.

An indiciation of the seriousness of the meat over-supply is that a quota permit system has been introduced by the board to prevent farmers bringing even more cattle to market.

Quotas are introduced by the board in times of plenty.

The Meat Board confirmed that it had meat worth about R5-million in cold storage and was buying unsold carcasses at a rate of 2 000 a week.

Quota

In Johannesburg on Thursday last week, the Meat Board was forced to buy 350 carcasses, on Monday 100 and Tuesday 120.

Mr Servaas van Niekerk, a Klerksdorp cattle farmer, told me:

"The quota system is costing me an enormous amount of money. I used to send 100 cattle to market a month. Now I am only allowed to send 25. And I haven't had a quota since mid-March."

Mr Fred Lategan, managing director of Jan Pickard's Asokor group, estimated that retail prices of beef would rise by between 5 and 6 per cent as a result of the increased floor price.

He confirmed the oversupply of meat and that the board was holding quantities worth about R4-million to R5-million.

An explanation for the exporting of meat at a loss was put forward by Mr Wink of the Meat Board. He said one could not expect to export frozen meat at a profit. Markets were being sought in black Africa.

Meat was still being imported from Rhodesia and Botswana because South Africa could not cut off supplies in times of plenty as these sources would be needed in times of scarcity.

"Both these countries have agreed to a substantially cut quota," he said.

Mr Wink described the price increases as slight and unlikely to affect retail prices.

Mr Danie Scholtz, editor of the magazine Vleis/Meat, said the demand for beef had slackened and increased floor prices could only cause a bigger fall-off in sales.

"Poultry is one of the few agricultural commodities which does not fall under a control board and because of this, it is one of the best-selling products," he said.

In the past 15 years, chicken consumption in South Africa had increased 217 per cent.

Mr Scholtz said keeping surplus meat in cold storage was very costly. "I would prefer to see the Meat Board selling the surplus meat to supermarkets as specials. Instead it is sold on export markets at a loss.

"Why not sell it cheaply to the people of South Africa, particularly the less wealthy, at a loss — and stimulate sales and consumption? It could be written off as a promotion expense," he said.

Prices of red meat in South Africa were too high and could not compete on international markets.

The prices

The floor prices have risen by an average of 4 per cent. Super beef has risen from 106 c a kilogram to 110 c. Prime A is up 7 c to 106 c. Prime B floor prices increased the most, by 8 c to 101 c.

Grade One A beef floor price rose by 5 c — to 98 c, Grade One B by 4 c to 88 c, Grade One C by 2 c to 83 c. Grade Two by 1 c to 77 c and Grade Three by 2 c to 69 c.

An entirely new grade, Grade Four, was introduced with a floor price of 54 c.

Freak, overweight cattle in the super grade now have a floor price of 104c a kilogram — 2c less than the previous 106c a kilogram.



Miljoene se rooivleis (3) -meat geberg RAPPORT 26/2/77

TWEEDIE, — Rooivleis ter waarde van meer as R8 miljoen word deur die Vleisraad in koelkamers geberg, het die hoofbestuurder, mnr. G. J. K. Marais, hier gesê. Volgens hom staar boere die volgende ses tot agt maande 'n baie moeilike tyd in die gesig. „Die Vleisraad se geriewe vir die opberg van vleis is beperk, en ons kan elke week met 'n bepaalde hoeveelheid koop. Boere sal hul vee op hul plase moet hou. Daar is geen moontlikheid om meer vleis te verkoop voordat die Suid-Afrikaanse ekonomie gestimuleer word nie."

To be con ng 5th May.

1. Constant long run average costs for a firm

   a) mean that there are greater advantages to small rather than large scale plants;

   b) mean that an unlimited amount will be produced;

   c) mean that any scale of production is as cheap as any other;

   d) mean that no addition of factors is taking place;

   e) none of the above.

   Which of the above alternatives is correct? Explain briefly.

   (5%)

2. Assume a farmer could produce either 40 bushels of wheat or 30 bushels of corn on the available land.

Also assume	Rent	R100
	Wheat price	R 20 per bushel
	Corn price	R 50 per bushel

   What choices are open to the farmer in the short and long term? What is his best course of action? Explain your assumptions.

   (15%)

3.

Output (No. of units)	Labour (No. of men)
0	0
1	6
2	11
3	15
4	21
5	31
6	45
7	63
8	85
9	111
10	141

Assuming wages of R5 per man, fixed cost of R100, calculate Total cost, Total Variable Cost, Average ~~Fixed~~ Variable Cost, Marginal Cost.

Draw graphs to show the relationship between these curves.

(30%)

p.t.o.

2/...

meat

3

28/6/77 Natal Mercury

248

Denial on meat price

Mercury Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — The Meat Board has denied reports of an increase in the price of meat for the 1977/78 season.

Reacting to a Sunday Press report alleging a recent secret increase in the floor price of meat, the chairman of the board, Mr. P. R. du Toit, said yesterday from Pretoria:

"There is no mystery about floor prices for the 1977/78 season. Average floor prices have not been increased. In fact, they are lower by almost two percent."

The floor prices were announced in the Government Gazette and supplied to firms which required them. They were not announced through the Press because the functioning of the system was complicated and was altered annually with regard to grades and carcass mass.

Mr. du Toit emphasised that floor prices, in any event, represented only minimum producer prices, and had only an indirect effect on the consumer. This effect would be downward in the new season, because floor prices averaged a drop of 1,5 cents a kilogram compared with last year.

The average auction price (the price paid by butchers and other meat dealers) was 92c a kilogram for beef last year, while the new floor price was 86,7c.

This was a drop of six percent and it was accordingly difficult to understand statements attributed to the trade by the Press report that the new floor price would increase consumer prices by five to six percent.

Referring to allegations of massive surpluses in the report, he said that if the board had accumulated supplies worth R5 million, this represented only one week's requirements for the controlled areas, and one percent of the meat sold each year.

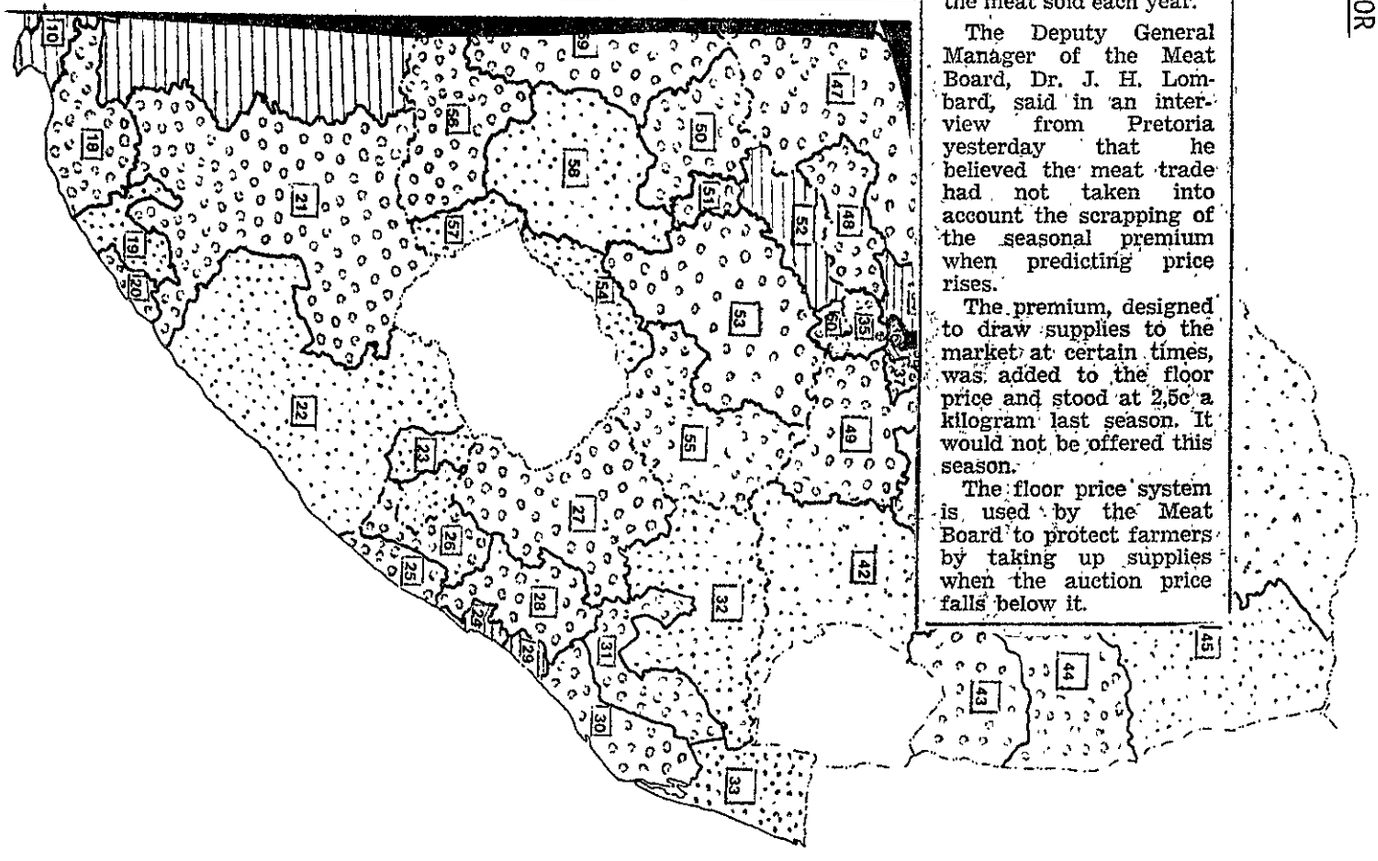
The Deputy General Manager of the Meat Board, Dr. J. H. Lombard, said in an interview from Pretoria yesterday that he believed the meat trade had not taken into account the scrapping of the seasonal premium when predicting price rises.

The premium, designed to draw supplies to the market at certain times, was added to the floor price and stood at 2,5c a kilogram last season. It would not be offered this season.

The floor price system is used by the Meat Board to protect farmers by taking up supplies when the auction price falls below it.

MAP 2: DEVIATIONS FROM AVERAGE MONTHLY TOTAL WAGE FOR AFRICAN REGULAR EMPLOYEES

ECONOMIC REGIONS



27/6/71 N/MERCURY (3) MEAT.

A surplus of beef — price up

(248)

Agricultural Correspondent

THE floor price for meat sold by auction at abattoirs has been increased by the Meat Board in spite of a massive R8 500 000 surplus of beef carcasses throughout South Africa.

However, reports that the price increase was "hushed up" by the Government have been denied by a Durban livestock agent, who said yesterday that rises in the floor price are never released as a Press statement.

Mr. Kevin Caine, a director of Natal Livestock Auctioneers, said his company had been advised of the new price last week by the Meat Board, and had passed on the information to its clients all over the country. He said: "At no stage were we ever told to play this down."

Mr. Caine said that a higher floor price for beef carcasses auctioned at abattoirs did not necessarily mean that butchers would increase their prices to the consumer. Only some grades of beef would be affected, he said.

Speaking at the annual general meeting of Stock Owners Co-operative Ltd., last week, the general manager of the Meat Board, Mr. G. J. K. Marais, disclosed that a surplus of beef carcasses worth R8,5 million was in cold storage throughout the country.

Mr. Marais said these surplus carcasses could not be sold until the economic climate improved, nor could the meat be exported profitably because of a world-wide over-supply of beef.

The beef floor price can be [illegible]

TYPE OF FARM EMPLOYMENT - [illegible] FACE - ALL RACES EMPLOYMENT AS AT 31ST AUGUST 1973

EC REGION	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
EMPLOYMENT	39472	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	
EMPLOYMENT	[illegible]	[illegible]	13194	33302	5245	14233	4338	

TYPE OF FARM EMPLOYMENT - CASUAL FACE - AFRICAN EMEL

EC REGION	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
EMPLOYMENT	196	416	317	2289	3192	2306	47	426
EC REGION	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20
EMPLOYMENT	5570	207	516	12265	20947	7373	2761	4030
EC REGION	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
EMPLOYMENT	7750	7221	14717	15507	21.6	9291	1023	15549
EC REGION	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44
EMPLOYMENT	1313	567	1213	12[illegible]	[illegible]	24824	10623	5560
EC REGION	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56
EMPLOYMENT	27172	[illegible]	2262	13435	23171	6307	15584	3927

	9	10	11	12						
	[illegible]	3294	12309	10177	579					
	57	58	59	60						
	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]						
	9	10	11	12						
	1	2	3	4						
	1	2	3	4						
	9	10	11	12						
	33	34	35	36						
	41	42	43	44						
	57	58	59	60						

(3-Meat) Cape Times 28/6/77

Board denies price rise

THE Meat Board has denied reports of an increase in the price of meat for the 1977/78 season.

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Mr Du Toit said that floor prices only represented minimum producer prices, and had only an indirect effect on the consumer. This effect would be downward in the new season, because floor prices averaged a drop of 1,5 cents a kg compared with last year.

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Type B has no alternative uses and zero scrap value, but 200 units can be used for the Bellville job. In addition it will be necessary to buy 3000 units of Type C at R10 each for the Bellville contract.

Both jobs will take exactly one year.

The Managing Director asks you to consider which of the two alternatives is most profitable.

Draw up a table showing the opportunity costs involved in each.

What advice would you give?

(50%)

3/Meat

(248)

Smaller joints — so you pay more

THE floor price for lighter beef carcases has been increased substantially to encourage producers to market lighter-weight animals, the chairman of the executive committee of the SA Federation of Meat Traders, Mr L Salber, said yesterday.

He said in a press statement that a differential in the floor prices based on weight had been introduced because of the public preference for smaller joints.

The higher floor price for the lighter carcass must inevitably lead to an increase in the retail price, he said.

Mr Salber said he wished to clarify the position "consequent upon conflicting statements made in regard to the new floor prices for beef".

The per capita consumption of meat had fallen, "in spite of the fact that beef prices have been stable for a considerable time, and well below the high prices prevailing a few years ago.

"However, the public have been conditioned to the view that meat is expensive, which is not the case when compared to other foodstuffs which have increased in price considerably in the interim.

"There is no substitute for meat, and I would recommend that housewives consult their butcher, when they may be agreeably surprised to find that by judicious buying and selection they may continue to enjoy meat meals at a comparatively reasonable cost." — Sapa

3-Meat

Borrow cheap, lend dear

OR ONE MORE WAY THE GREAT MEAT CO-OP IS BEEFING UP ITS PROFITS

THE GIANT meat co-operative, Vleissentraal, is receiving low-interest loans from the Land Bank.

Vleissentraal is getting Land Bank money at an interest rate of only nine per cent. But it gives credit to farmers at between 13 and 14½ per cent.

The co-operative has never paid tax and has enormous reserves of its own.

In fact Vleissentraal, with 33 co-operative affiliates, has itself become a kind of finance house.

Its annual report just released shows that it made almost R1-million last year on interest income. It paid out R1,5-million in interest on loans but received R2,4-million.

In 1975 it made R1,7-million in interest.

A spokesman for the Land Bank refused to tell the Sunday Times how much money it had lent Vleissentraal and its affiliates.

"But we finance only a fraction of their activities," he said. "They have their own massive reserves. We may finance only actual co-operative activities — hide and skin operations and some wholesale marketing activities."

Asked how financing these activities could help the cattle farmer, the Land Bank man said I should speak to Vleissentraal's Mr C. J. J. Basson.

He was not available. Nor were the general manager, Mr S. J. J. van Rensburg, or public relations man Mr N. J. Deacon.

The only information I could get from any Vleissentraal official came from Mr G. Snyman, who confirmed that it charges farmers buying on credit between 13 and 14½ per cent interest.

However, the Vleissentraal report says Land Bank loans and "other liabilities" of managed affiliates last year amounted to R24-million. The 1975 figure was R15-million.

Being a co-operative, Vleissentraal has never been taxed. Since 1970 it has almost quadrupled its turnover from R122-million to R481-million and become the dominant force in the South African meat industry.

A form of taxation was to have been introduced from April this year. However, the Minister of Finance, Senator Owen Horwood, says no income is expected from this source for the current financial year and the Northern Transvaal Chamber of Industries says co-operatives are still virtually tax exempt.

Vleissentraal's inroads into private enterprise have been enormous. Tax-paying competitors are finding it increasingly difficult to compete.

Not only does Vleissentraal have access to cheap Land Bank money but it has a stranglehold on the Meat Board.

As the Sunday Times disclosed last week, at least 12 of the 23 members of the Meat Board — a majority — are linked with Vleissentraal. They include six of Vleissentraal directors and general manager Mr Van Rensburg.

In 10 years Vleissentraal's tax-free reserves have risen 1 500 per cent, from R1,7-million in 1966 to R28-million last year. The 1976 increase was R5-million.

Last year Vleissentraal teamed up with a major private enterprise competitor, Imperial Cold Storage, to take over Bull Brand which had an abattoir and meat canning operation in Krugersdorp.

In his annual report, the chairman of Vleissentraal, Mr Clive White — also a member of the Meat Board — defends the acquisition as being of long-term benefit to producers.

His report shows that Vleissentraal is continuing to swallow tax-paying private enterprises. He says it will eventually become the sole owners of SA Meat, a wholesale and retail group with a turnover last year of R168-million, in which it already has a 50 per cent stake.

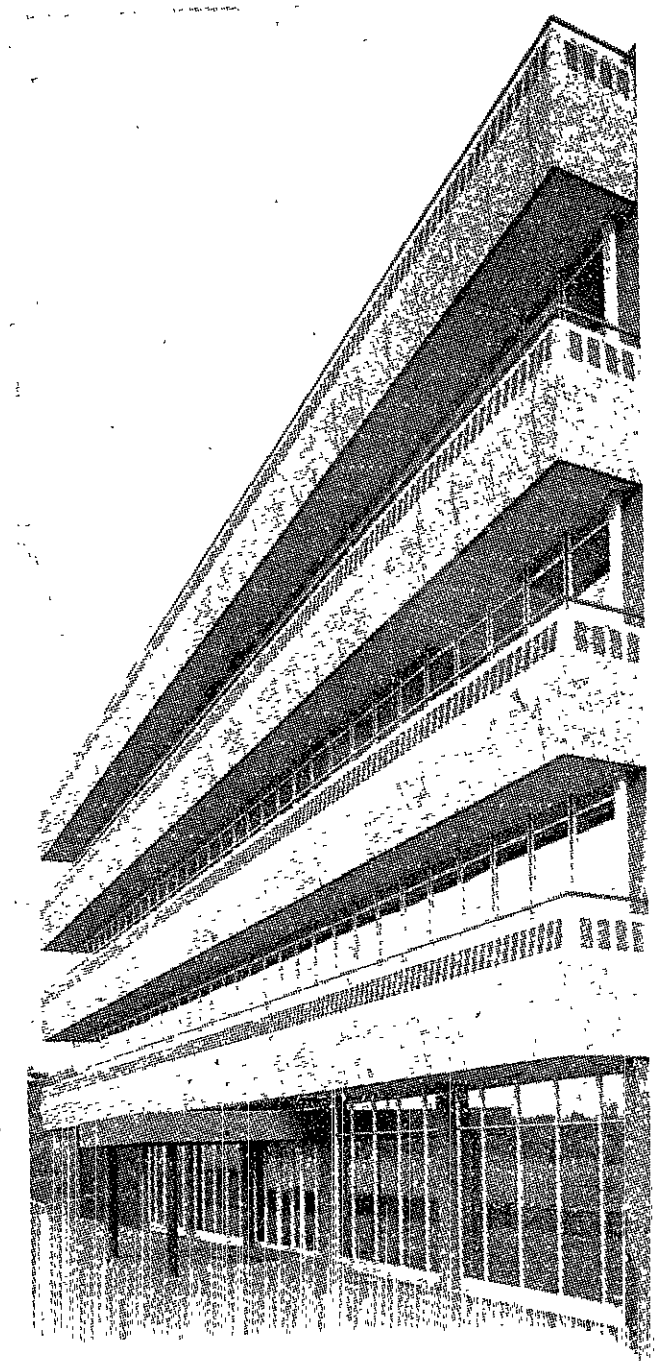
25 PER CENT STAKE

He reveals that SA Meat has bought 51 per cent in Vaaldriehoek Vleishandelaars, the Vereeniging meat wholesale, hide and skin, feedlot and biltong business. Vleissentraal therefore has an effective 25,5 per cent stake.

Mr White talks of a joint venture with a private company in Bloemfontein and says Vleissentraal's interests in the distribution trade in Natal are vested in Federated SA Meat Industries and Orchid Foods.

Meanwhile one of the country's oldest co-operatives, Eskort Bacon, has become a Vleissentraal affiliate.

This means that yet another member of the Meat Board, Mr G. H. Braak, representing the pig producers, is now indirectly linked with Vleissentraal.



Special report by MARTIN CREAMER

Import halt to cut meat stockpile

THE Meat Board this week stopped the import of meat from Rhodesia and Botswana because of the huge surplus in South Africa.

The move will be a major blow to Rhodesia, which is a big beef producer and relies solely on South Africa for export sales.

"It's a question of charity beginning at home," a leading meat man told me this week. "The South African farmer is going through a tough time. He has to be helped to market his meat without competition from imports."

The Sunday Times recently disclosed that meat was being imported from Rhodesia and Botswana despite the huge surplus at home.

Last week it revealed that the sole import agent of Rhodesian meat was Vleissentraal, the giant co-operative which has majority representation on the Meat Board. The agent for Botswana meat is Klopper and Gluckman. Its head, Mr Gerrie Gluckman, is also a member of the Meat Board.

A Rhodesian meat man confirmed that South Africa had cut off imports but hoped it would be a temporary measure.

A Meat Board spokesman said imports from South West Africa had been drastically cut.

OUTSPOKEN CRITIC

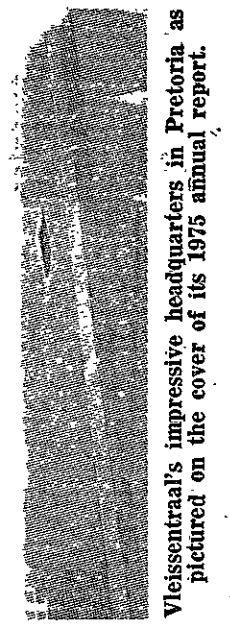
This week there was a merger between Mr Louis Jordaan's independent Atlas Wholesalers, Premier Cold Storage of Pretoria, a Vleissentraal-linked business and Imperial Wholesalers, which is linked with Vleissentraal through SA Meat.

Atlas was one of the last independent wholesalers in Johannesburg. Mr Jordaan had been an outspoken critic of trends in the meat industry.

Criticism of what he sees as a fast developing monopoly has also come from the chairman of the Witwatersrand Retail Master Butchers Association, Mr G. D. Mason. He says butchers have been worried about it for some time.

The Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, appointed a National Marketing Council inquiry after Sunday Times exposés last year.

It has yet to report. Beyond that, Mr Schoeman has taken no action.



Vleissentraal's impressive headquarters in Pretoria as pictured on the cover of its 1975 annual report.

Hard-up board raises levy

THE Meat Board this week almost doubled its levy on farmers to boost its dwindling funds.

The board uses the levy to buy in unsold meat when the trade refuses it and to pay for its administration costs.

Because of huge surpluses the board has been forced to buy in about R8-million worth of meat. It has had to borrow most of this at considerable cost and kept in cold storage.

This money came out of the board's stabilisation fund, now dwindling fast.

To boost the funds, the board put up the levy on beef from 1,94c/kg to 2,44c/kg. This means the farmer will pay about R4,88 in a 200 kg animal.

"This is going to hit us hard," a leading farmer told me. But at this stage the increase will not be passed on to the consumer.

Beef floor prices — the guaranteed minimum to farmers — were increased only recently.

Leading men in the industry told me the increased levy has no effect from Monday. I could not get confirmation from the Meat Board.

Its general manager, Mr Gerrie Marais, said he was too busy to talk to the Sunday Times. He was in the thick of trying to sort out the "mess" the meat industry was in.

Sake-Rapport 10/7/77 (3) insert

DAVI

Rooivleis-wins nie toevallig

DAVI

DIE winsgewendheid van rooivleisproduksie kan nie op 'n enkele faset van die bedryf of op toevallige voordele gegrond word nie. Sukses moet oor die lang termyn gemeet word.

„As sodanig moet vleisproduksie 'n deurlopende proses wees," sê dr. I.J. Ferreira, hoofbestuurder van Rumevite. Hy het aan Landbou-RAPPORT gesê; „Veeboere kan hul dierepproduksie op ons natuurlike veld met tussen 30 en 40 persent verhoog deur hul praktyke sorgvuldig te beplan en aan te pas."

Volgens dr. Ferreira verg die siklus van produksie en seisoenale verandering die uiterste kundigheid van die boer. Sukses is afhangend van die hantering van die twee gegewe bates, die herkouer met die koei of ooi as die fokale punt en die plantevoedsel (weiding, ruvoer, graan ens.) die ander.

Albei hierdie bates het gebreke wat neerkom op die wisselwerking tussen die voedinshoedanighede van die weiding en die vermoë van die herkouer om genoegsame plantemateriaal te verorber.

Die voedingswaarde van plantemateriaal bepaal in groot mate die doeltreffendheid waarmee die herkouer produseer. Onweerlegbare getuienis hiervoor is dan ook geleë in die teenstellende patroon van prestasie van die herkouer wat blootgestel word aan die genade van winter en somer, oorwegend te midde van voldoende weiding.

Winterweiding loop kort aan proteïen, fosfor en sekere spoorminerale. Die oordeelkundige Rumevite-onderhoudsaanvulling van winterveld bring mee dat energie uit die droë en onsmaaklike plantemateriaal geput kan word vanweë die doeltreffende vertering daarvan - energie wat andersins sonder aanvulling verlore sou gaan.

Somerweiding bring verhoogde eise mee ten opsigte van fosfor en energie. Die korrekte aanvulling met 'n Fermafos 12P/- soutlek sal die herkouer in staat stel om die sluimerende potensiaal van 'n bepaalde somerweiding in ekstra produksie om te skep.

Indien diere op goeie somerveld afgerond wil word, word energie uit graan bygereken en Rumevite het 'n lek wat die massa sal aanwas.

„Wins lê dus opgesluit in 'n deurlopende en stelselmatige proses van byvoeding, winter en somer," het dr. Ferreira gesê.

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Sake-Rapport 10/7/77

Vleisman is ontstoke

Deur DAVID MEADES

DIE vleishandel is besig om die verbruiker om die bos te lei met die stories dat die nuwe vloerpryse van beesvleis tot gevolg het dat die verbruiker nou baie meer vir sy vleis gaan betaal. In die eerste twee weke wat die nuwe vloerpryse in werking is, het die markprys vir nege grade en klasse in werklikheid gedaal teenoor die gemiddelde van die voorafgaande drie weke van Junie.

Die man aan die woord is mnr. Jan van der Walt, bedryfsbeampte vir vleis van die Suid-Afrikaanse Landbou-Unie, en hy is baie duidelik hoogs ontstoke oor die verwarring wat die nuwe vloerpryse vir beesvleis by die verbruiker geskep het.

Mnr. Van der Walt sê dat dit wel waar is dat daar in sommige gevalle 'n geringe verhoging in die markprys van beesvleis in die eerste week van die nuwe vloerpryse was teenoor die vorige week. Maar wanneer die gemiddelde vir die eerste drie weke van Junie met dié van die laaste twee weke vergelyk word, is daar net twee gevalle waar die markpryse hoër is.

En dan moet dit ook in gedagte gehou word dat die middelste week van enige maand gewoonlik dié week is waar pryse laer neig. Daarom is dit dat markpryse in die week onmiddellik voor die nuwe vloerpryse so naby aan die nuwe vloerpryse was.

Die markprys van graad Prima AY was byvoorbeeld in die week tot 4 Junie 107,6c/kg in die Witwatersrand, in die week tot 11 Junie 105,5c/kg en 102,7c/kg in die week tot 18 Junie. Prima AY se vloerprys is van 93c tot 106c verhoog en die markprys is tot omtrent dieselfde vlak aangepas, wat egter net sowat 1,2c/kg hoër is as die gemiddelde vir die eerste drie weke van Junie.

het van Desember tot begin Maart vanjaar met 5c/kg gedaal en tot middel Junie op dieselfde vlak gebly. Maar tog het die verbruikersprys effens gestyg pleks van om te daal.

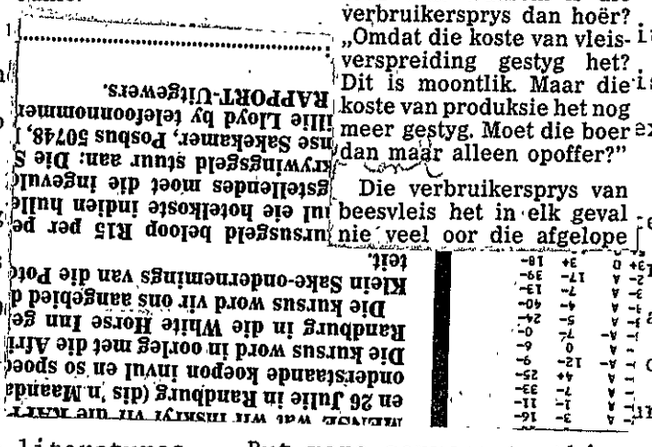
En dan was daar ook nog sedert Desember spesiale kortings deur die Vleisraad om die aankope van sekere grade an te moedig. Hierdie kortings het by tye tot 7c/kg beloop, maar verbruikerspryse het nie gedaal nie.

Opoffer

Die seisoenspremie gaan ook nie vanjaar weer ingestel word nie, wat beteken dat die vloerpryse onveranderd gaan bly. Hierdie premie het gewoonlik van Julie af begin geld om die maksimum van 5c/kg in Desember te bereik. 'n Graad soos Super X het op sy ou vloerprys van 106c/kg in Desember tesame met die premie 'n vloerprys van 111c/kg gehad. Die nuwe vloerprys is 104c/kg en daar sal dit bly.

Mnr. Van der Walt sê dat die prys wat die boer vir sy vleis kry in Mei vanjaar minder was as wat dit in 1974 was. Waarom is die verbruikersprys dan hoër? „Omdat die koste van vleisverspreiding gestyg het? Dit is moontlik. Maar die koste van produksie het nog meer gestyg. Moet die boer dan maar alleen opoffer?"

Die verbruikersprys van beesvleis het in elk geval nie veel oor die afgelope



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other Commonwealth literatures. But more germane to this conference, I suppose, is popular culture, especially in reading habits, best sellers, image-making and the control of media.

MINDER VLEIS INGEVOER

SUID-AFRIKA het verlede jaar minder beesvleis ingevoer as in 1975. Die Departement van Landbou-Ekonomie en Bemarking berig dat die invoer van beesvleis in die vorm van karkasse en snitte nagenoeg 202 000 karkasse beloop het. Dit is 52 000 minder as in 1975.

Weens 'n plaaslike tekort aan laegraadse vleis is 2 000 ton fabrieksvleis van oorsee af ingevoer en aan plaaslike fabrikante beskikbaar gestel op voorwaarde dat die vleis ingemaak en weer uitgevoer word.

Beesvleis

Volgens die Departement het die uitvoer van beesvleis die afgelope paar jaar feitlik tot stilstand gekom nadat daar in 1973 nog bykans 30 000 ton vleis uitgevoer is. Na verwagting sal daar vanjaar in dié opsig geen noemenswaardige verbeteringe intree nie.

Wat die binnelandse mark betref het beesslag-

RAPPORT

tings sedert 1974 steeds toegeneem en in 1976 het dit meer as 1,8 miljoen beloop. Vir die Republiek in die geheel het beesslagtings met 13% toegeneem terwyl dit in beheerde gebiede met 16% toegeneem het.

Slagtings

Die toename in die nasionale beeskudde dui daarop dat slagtings in 1977 sal toeneem. Intussen was daar 'n vinnige styging in die getal kalwers wat bemark is. In 1974 was dit 86 500 en in 1976 121 000.

Sunday Times
10/7/77

3-meat

BEEF DOWN!

We were right! BEEF PRICE RISE HUSHED UP

Beef prices ARE up — and the price rise is nearly double what we forecast

And it's thanks to the Sunday Times, says meat trade leader

By MARTIN CREAMER

THE Meat Board this week cut the prices of three grades of beef.

It did so on Monday by reintroducing the rebate scheme which it abolished only three weeks ago.

The back-down follows an outcry over the board's decision — disclosed exclusively in the Sunday Times — to raise the floor prices of beef at a time when the country has one of its biggest surpluses.

The full rebate could cut the price of super X to 102c a kilogram, super Y to 106c and prime AY to 104c.

The floor price of prime AY was recently raised by 14,9 per cent — more than any other grade.

Policy

Mr Lazarus Salber, chairman of the SA Federation of Meat Traders, said: "It is the policy of the trade to pass on any rebate to the consumer."

The chairman of the Retail Meat Trade Employers' Union, Mr M. S. Bester told me: "I welcome the rebate. We can thank the Sunday Times for this."

The general manager of the Meat Board Mr Gerry Marais, also thought prices would come down.

Although the Sunday Times has a Meat Board document saying that rebates would be abolished from June 20, Mr Marais insisted that they were not abolished but only suspended.

He said the decision to apply them had nothing to do with Press reports or the public outcry that followed.

"We had a board meeting last week and were authorised to reapply the rebates," he said.

"If we did not do something to subsidise the purchase of heavy carcasses, we would be left sitting with them."

This is because the board buys any meat not sold at auction and so guarantees the farmer a minimum price.

The board's meat purchases have put pressure on its stabilisation fund. It stood at R9,1-million in January but is now down to about R4-million.

When the rebate was previously applied, some retail butchers complained that wholesalers were not passing it on to them.

After its silence on abolishing the rebate, the Meat Board again made no public announcement that it was being reintroduced.

3-Meat

THE ARGUS, TUESDAY JULY 12 1977

Counter price of beef unchanged

ALTHOUGH the minimum price for beef guaranteed by the Meat Board at auctions was raised at the beginning of this month it does not seem to have made any difference yet to counter prices for prime and super grades at supermarket and chain store branches.

Most of these firms are keeping their prices fairly stable by absorbing small increases, to prevent daily fluctuations and pass only large or long-term increases on to the consumer.

Increases are mostly for the small carcasses, which produce the small joints that have become more popular today.

A spokesman for Woolworths said: 'The whole situation is still a bit confused because the Meat Board is not very forthcoming about what is going on.

'From our experience so far, the floor price of the super grades we buy has gone up by an average of about 4,5 percent. But the prices we are paying are virtually unaltered because the prices actually paid at auctions have been in excess of the floor price for sometime.

'They surged up by about 2,5 percent at first when the new floor prices were given in the Government Gazette on July 1 and then dropped back.'

Prices paid at meat auctions were governed by supply and demand and rarely dropped to the floor price.

Prices of pork and lamb, for which there were no guaranteed floor prices, fluctuated wildly. In one week last month the price of lamb had dropped from R1,56 a kg to R1,39.

'If we feel an increase is a short-term one we absorb it, but if we feel it is likely to be permanent we pass on some if not all to the customer.'

BOUGHT UP

A spokesman for Pick 'n Pay butcheries said: 'The new floor prices have not so far affected the prices we are paying in the market, although any raising of the floor price usually has the effect of pushing auction prices up eventually.

'Buyers usually pay more than the floor price. If prices fall to the level of the floor price the Meat Board usually buys it up.'

His firm had fixed counter prices but varied special offers and bulk prices according to the market.

Some of the new floor prices were reduced again just before the weekend. But a spokesman for Pick 'n Pay said: 'This was just in a few heavier grades and will not make any difference to prices.'

Beef was now plentiful which meant that auction prices were unlikely to be forced.

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The complications may even involve the central nervous system v
results. The reasons for the early infection and this very hi
in African conditions, including South African conditions, and
this high mortality is almost entirely within the non-White sec
population are related to socio-economic conditions - to over-c
unhygenic conditions, and malnutrition. The causes are social
related in any way to ethnic differences of any sort.

My own work in environmental studies is in three main fields.
am interested in the ecology of estuaries, in particular in the
and productivity of estuaries around South Africa. We have so
75 estuaries from Southern Mozambique along the coasts of South A
Southern Angola. This work forms a basis for an understanding of the
ecology of these interesting and reproductive systems, and has direct
practical applications mostly relating to development programmes of one
kind or another and regional planning problems. Until very recently in
most parts of the world estuaries and surrounding salt marshes have been
regarded as wasteland areas to be reclaimed or filled in. I am also

D.D. 15/7/77

This butcher's meat isn't going for a song

3-meat

EAST LONDON — East London's singing butcher, Eddie Shearon, has no plans of laying down his butcher's knife for the glory of television He says there is no money in it.

Mr Shearon, who won the Border television talent hunt, has hit the success parade after flying to Johannesburg for a television test, but he said until television became a commercial proposition, he would stick to cutting meat.

And he is qualified for that as well. Last month he won the Butcher of the Year award for Port Elizabeth and East London.

He said he had been performing professionally as a singer in the Tom Jones style for about 10 years, first in Johannesburg, then in Cape Town, and for the last eight months in East London.

"The television test was a really strange experience. There I was, singing, but without an audience. They played it back to me afterwards, and it didn't seem quite real," he said.

Ms Marion Gardner, in charge of SABC-TV's videotapes, said the five producers who viewed Mr Shearon's efforts had been very enthusiastic, and he would definitely appear on television.

He started singing and strumming on a guitar in the days when Elvis was the king, but later changed to the slower ballads, abandoning the guitar en route.

The butcher who won the Mr Republic title in 1961 (body-building is one of his hobbies) said he did not use a microphone unless he was backed by electronically amplified music.

He has appeared with the SABC Promenade Orchestra, the Jewish Guild Orchestra and will soon appear with the East London orchestra.

"In those cases I usually sing light opera, otherwise I stick to love songs and ballads. I don't write my own music and play no instruments," Mr Shearon said.

He runs a small-holding outside East London and is married with three children, the youngest of whom sings along with his father and accompanies him to all his shows.

"I am not at all nervous when I'm singing to an audience. I forget they are there and put everything into the song.

"I love singing and wish I could make it my career, but as a married man, I can't. I'll just keep on with this knife," he said.

But he flatly refused to sing the special offers in the butchery, and said his customers provided too awesome an audience for a song. — DDR



EDDIE SHEARON . . . the singing butcher.

3-Meat

N. Mercury 20/7/77

'No beef berg' on farms

Mercury Reporter

THE general manager of the Meat Board squashed speculation yesterday that a "beef mountain" was building up on farms with more than 50 000 carcasses in cold storage.

Mr. G. J. K. Marais said: "We have 28 000 carcasses in cold storage at the moment which is about one week's supply of beef for South Africa."

Its value was R5,2 million in these times of economic down turn.

Annual slaughter of cattle in South Africa was 1,8 million and the total population of cattle was about 9 000 000.

People were simply buying less of everything because of unemployment and tight money.

Farmers in the Transvaal had been hit by commando worm and grazing was limited.

They were desperate to get stock off the land.

Australia, Argentina and New Zealand had experienced the same problems as South Africa when the EEC countries stopped importing.

In spite of the present surplus South Africa was compelled to continue to import 25 percent of its beef from Lesotho, Swaziland and Botswana.

"One of these days our surplus conditions will be over and we will need their meat again," said Mr. Marais.

Mr. J. Delport, of the Stock Owners Co-operative, said that the speculation that farmers could market four times more than the present figure was grossly exaggerated.

But Mr. Marais and Mr. Delport were adamant that there would be no drop in the price of beef.

Mr. D. C. Sinclair, president of the Natal Agricultural Union said that the over supply of beef was a serious concern for Natal farmers.

3 - Meat

'Beef mountain' builds up in SA

The Argus Correspondents

DURBAN. — The South African beef industry faces a crisis as a 'beef mountain' estimated at more than two million cattle is building up on farms, while more than 50 000 carcases hang unsold in cold storage.

Farmers are having to keep stock they would like to sell, because of the drop in demand and saturation of Meat Board storage facilities, which at one stage contained carcases worth R9-million.

In Natal, a meat official estimated that farmers could market four times the present quota.

He said that every abattoir in the country had to restrict its intake.

Depressed

The chief cause of the glut was the generally depressed economic situation, coupled with a collapse in the export market and a drop in the number of ships stocking up at South African ports.

In order to compete on the export market, prices would have to be reduced, as countries like Australia had meat boards which were sales-oriented, and dropped prices to sell their surplus.

The South African board, by contrast, was distribution-oriented, and relied on cutting supplies to maintain artifically high prices, which had caused the surplus.

COUNTRY FOCUS

An improvement in the situation could be expected within two or three months, according to the chairman of the Natal, East Griqualand and Zululand Producers' Union, Mr R. A. Taylor.

In Pretoria the general manager of the Meat Board, Mr G. J. K. Marais, said beef in cold storage was valued at R5,2-million.

3-Meat

July 21, 1977 N. Mercury

Beef move is called 'a subsidy'

Mercury Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG—The new Republic Party's spokesman on agriculture, Mr. Warwick Webber, yesterday slammed the Meat Board's attempt to export 28 000 beef carcasses, calling it a "subsidy to overseas housewives."

He called on the board to drop the floor price of beef — about 86,7c a kilo — and reduce the glut by making the meat available to lower income groups at lower prices.

The surplus, worth R5-million and representing a 10-day supply to the main consumer areas on the Reef, in Bloemfontein, Kimberley and the large coastal towns, has built up as the Meat Board has bought carcasses to accommodate farmers "who need the extra finance during the general economic decline," the chairman of the board, Mr. Gerrie Marais, said yesterday.

Price

Mr. Marais said the board was negotiating export contracts to get rid of the surplus but denied that it was trying to protect farmers by maintaining the present floor price.

Mr. Webber said agricultural experts had been aware of the beef "crisis" for some time and had asked for a reduction in the floor price.

"But the price was raised by 6c a kilo in the Vote on the Minister of Agriculture's budget — this was just another manifestation of Government thinking — totally against sound economic principles," he said.

Local

Mr. Webber said the Meat Board should rather drop the price of beef to local consumers, particularly those in the lower income brackets, to increase consumption and reduce the surplus.

"Instead they have chosen to sell it overseas at prices lower than can be fetched here and in doing so they are subsidising overseas housewives."

He said South African beef consumption had dropped because of prohibitive prices as a result of the Meat Board's protection of the farmers.

Farmers, he said, should be forced to operate like other businessmen and rely on turnover to produce their profits.

"Farmers are producing beef for 25 000 000 people — all of South Africa — but only 5 million can afford to buy it. The problem is at the economic root of the nation — the Government has not allowed the Black man to develop to his full economic potential so that he can buy the goods."

Mr. Marais defended the board's policy of maintaining the present price and exporting the surplus by saying that farmers were increasing their "marketing pressure" — putting more cattle on the market — because they were struggling in the economic decline.

He said that although there was a surplus, South Africans were not consuming less meat.

Import

"In fact, South Africa cannot produce enough meat for her own requirements — we have to import," he said.

Asked why, in that case, the board was now in a position to export, Mr. Marais replied: "This is a sporadic surplus."

He said he did not anticipate any further rise in the meat price, but admitted that the board had recently raised the price of offal — poor quality meat bought mainly by lower income groups — by 15 percent.

"But this was not an increase right across the board — it included only certain items," Mr. Marais said.

N. Mercury
23/7/77

Threat to beef industry

3-Meat

Mercury Reporter

PIETERMARITZBURG. ALARMING proportions of herds are being affected by contagious abortion providing a threat to the entire beef industry.

A report in the Natal Agricultural Union's monthly newspaper, Nauntu, states that stock breeders of Natal have made repeated representations through farmers' associations to the union that positive steps be taken to combat the disease and to protect prospective buyers of female animals against the "indiscriminate sale of positive reactors to the disease."

An estimated 120 000 heifer calves are born annually on White-owned farms in Natal and figures show that during 1975 / 76 115 476 were inoculated, proving that the promotion of calfhood vaccination by the Department of Veterinary Services is successful.

Contagious abortion is a tabled disease and calfhood inoculation is compulsory.

(3) Meat

Vleissentraal kla oor uitvoere

IN die vleisbedryf is ook 'n oorskot aan die ontwikkel — net soos die geval is by suiker, suiwelprodukte, koring en mielies, om maar net 'n paar produkte met dieselfde probleem te noem. Die vleisbedryf sal ook nou teen 'n verlies moet uitvoer, terwyl binnelandse pryse hoog sal bly.

Daar is op die oomblik veral 'n oorskot aan die beter grade beesvleis. Die Vleisraad moes al reeds meer as 28 000 van hierdie karkasse onder die stutprys-stelsel aankoop.

Tog lyk dit asof die probleem in Suid-Afrika nie werklik een van oorproduksie is nie maar eerder verbruikersweerstand. Laasgenoemde is natuurlik die funksie van beide hoë pryse en die algemene ekonomiese toestand.

Oor weerstand sê die voorsitter van Vleisentraal, mnr. C. L. White, in sy jongste jaarverslag „in die Verenigde State van Amerika is die vraag na vleis nie juis kleiner as tevore nie, maar berigte dui daarop dat daar 'n besliste weerstand teen die pryse van hierdie kommoditeit ondervind word."

Dieselfde jaarverslag toon egter dat die produksie van rooivleis in Suid-Afrika in 1976 nog 8 persent minder was as die rekordhoeveelheid van 1971 en dat die totale groei die afgelope tien jaar slegs 21 persent was of 2 persent per jaar.

Die belangrikste styging het egter voorgekom by beesvleis, soos onderstaande tabel wat die aanbod van beesvleis en die totale hoeveelheid rooivleis beskikbaar, aantoon.

Uit die tabel is dit duidelik dat produksie tog nie so vinnig gestyg het nie. In sommige jare het die beskikbaarheid van skaapvleis bv. skerp afgeneem, terwyl die produksie van varkvleis byna konstant gebly het.

Rooivleis beskikbaar in Beheerde gebiede (1000 kg).

Jaar	Bees- en kalfsvleis	Totaal.
1967	217	318
1968	224	338
1969	231	362
1970	254	390
1971	280	416
1972	305	411
1973	296	396
1974	234	339
1975	260	371
1976	278	385

Landbou - RAPPORT

Verder sê mnr. White „die verhoudelike verbruik van pluimvee het die afgelope jaar (1976) dieselfde as die vorige jaar gebly. Die afleiding kan gemaak word dat dit tydelik in sy markveroweringsveldtog gestuit is."

Vleissentraal wys daarop dat die produksie van voerkraal-beeste in die jongste tyd baie gewild geraak het — basies omdat die besonder hoë stutprys vir hierdie soort vleis aan die boer 'n wins verseker sonder veel risiko's. Dit het veroorsaak dat die aanbod van die laer grade afgeneem het.

Dit is miskien ook maar goed so, want oor die mark vir verwerkte vleis waarvoor die laer grade gebruk word, sê Vleissentraal die volgende:

„Die afset van ingemaakte vleis op die oorvoorsiene plaaslike mark was steeds 'n probleem en ofskoon al die vleis wat vir uitvoer ingemaak is, in die buiteland verhandel kon word, was pryse nie bevredigend nie." Hieruit kan afgelei word dat dit maar weer die ou storie is van uitvoer teen 'n verlies.

Dit is seker ook om hierdie rede dat die voorsitter van Vleissentraal oor Bullbrand, wat hulle verlede jaar oorgeneem het, sê: „Ofskoon dit moontlik in hierdie stadium geen direkte voordeel vir ons as vennoot inhou nie . . ." Hieruit is dit duidelik dat dit op die oomblik met die Bullbrand nie te goed gaan nie.

Hierdie oorproduksie — of is dit dalk 'n gebrek aan vraag? — het reeds in 1976 'n duidelike invloed op vleispryse gehad. Die prys van beesvleis in Johannesburg het byvoorbeeld in die jaar met slegs 3,4 persent gestyg teenoor 'n gemiddelde jaarlikse styging van 8 persent die afgelope tien jaar.

Dit lyk ook nie asof die wêreldwye vleisposisie binnekort gaan verbeter nie. Die huidige oorskot aan graanprodukte, saam met baie lae pryse, behoort die voer van beeste verder te stimuleer en die oorskot vleis behoort dus te bly.

Oor Suid-Afrika se mededingendheid op die buitelandse markte sê Vleissentraal na aanleiding van die klein verbetering in die buitelandse vraag . . ." maar omdat ons binnelandse pryspeile in vergelyking steeds te hoog was, kon ons eie fabrieke nie in die oplewing deel nie".

VIC DE KLERK skryf: Die kans dat die huidige oorskot beesvleis sal lei tot laer pryse vir plaaslike verbruikers, is baie skraal. Die pryse wat tans vir geslagte karkasse behaal word, is meestal omtrent dieselfde as die stutprys. Die enigste manier hoe pryse verlaag kan word, is vir die Vleisraad om weer soos in Desember verlede jaar 'n rabat te betaal eerder as om die karkasse self in te koop.

Die gevaar hiervan is natuurlik dat so 'n rabat, al lei dit tot 'n verlaging in die pryse, nie noodwendig die vraag sal stimuleer nie. Dit was die ongelukkige ondervinding van die Suiwelraad.

Aan die ander kant kan die verlies op uitvoere ongemaklik groot raak en die Vleisraad se stabilisasiefonds is juis nie baie sterk nie.

Dis maar weer dieselfde ou storie. Die boere en die beheerraad gaan ly onder die oorskot terwyl dit nie vir die verbruiker laer pryse beteken nie.

AFRICAN URBAN AND RURAL EMPLOYMENT IN CAPE TOWN AND TRANSKEI.

N. Mercury 27/7/73

3- Meat

Meat industry faces problems

Financial Editor

THE MEAT industry is beset by many and varied problems in South Africa, according to Mr. C. L. White, chairman of Vleissentraal (Co-operative) Ltd.

Mr. White writes in his annual report that the industry has to find a market for an increasing amount of top grade meat at higher prices but there is a decreasing number of lower grades for which there is a large demand.

The Meat Board had to buy in considerable quantities of beef last year because farmers were solely dependent on the local market for the disposal of their meat.

This trend had a depressing effect on the market and was a drain on the industry's stabilisation fund.

Referring to the current abattoir situation, Mr. White suggested that the Government might write off a large part of the capital spent on the new abattoirs to enable them to be operated more economically.

"These thoughts have merit as abattoirs are constructed to serve the country and all its inhabitants while the producer, who has to foot the bill alone, never acquires ownership.

"It is, however, doubtful whether the Government will consider any such change in the present economic climate."

Meat co-op on gravy train

Meat Sunday Times 31/7/77

Board is in stranglehold

SOUTH AFRICA'S R1 000 - million - a - year meat industry is in the grip of a mammoth co-operative — and questions are being asked about its connections with the Meat Board.

No fewer than 12 of the Meat Board's 23 members are connected with Vleissentraal, the R480-million-a-year meat co-operative which has shown meteoric growth in the past few years.

Open charges of "control by secret" are being levelled against the Meat Board which is under country-wide attack for mismanagement of the meat industry.

This week the Sunday Times exposes another secret decision of the Meat Board to raise the price of meat offal — a major source of protein for the poorest of the country's poor — by up to 120 per cent.

A month ago the Sunday Times revealed that the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, had secretly increased the floor price of beef at a time of colossal surplus, and that the Meat Board had tried to hide the increase from the Press.

Vleissentraal, whose turnover rocketed by more than R100-million last year to a record R481-million, is commercially involved in all aspects of the South African meat business.



MARTIN CREAMER

For years, being a co-operative, it has not paid tax on its reserves. Last year its reserves rose by R5-million to R28-million.

The Meat Board dictatorially controls every facet of the meat industry.

Even setting up the smallest butcher's shop requires the approval of the board, which:

- Buys meat at a fixed price when the trade refuses to buy at that price.
- Exports meat at huge losses rather than sell it more cheaply in South Africa.
- Props up the meat price in a falling market with a floor price system.
- Controls the establishment of butcheries and meat factories.
- Stops large numbers of cattle from coming to market to keep prices up.
- Keeps watch on hide and skin sales.

Vleissentraal has a finger in every aspect of these activities — ranching, auctioning, wholesaling, retailing, importing, exporting, meat product manufacturing, hide and skin dealing and abattoir owning.

The cross-pollination between Vleissentraal and the Meat Board is remarkable.

- The chairman of the Meat Board, Mr P. R. du Toit, is a director of Vleissentraal.
- The vice-chairman of the Meat Board, Mr S. J. J. van Rensburg, is the senior general manager of Vleissentraal and one of the most powerful figures in the meat industry.
- The Meat Board's representative among Transvaal producers is Mr J. P. Smit, a Vleissentraal director.
- The board's representative for Cape producers, Mr C. L. White and Mr J. F. Vercueil, are both Vleissentraal directors.

Minister knows

- The Meat Board's Free State representative, Mr P. J. Pretorius, is a director of Vleissentraal.
- The board's South West African representative, Mr A. P. Pretorius, is vice-chairman of Vleissentraal.

Five other board members have co-operative or business links with Vleissentraal.

The Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, has done nothing to break the Vleissentraal stranglehold, although he is well aware that it exists.

Mr Schoeman told me: "Connection with a particular organisation is not a reason for disqualifying someone from the board." He said Meat Board members were nominated by provincial agricultural unions.

The huge tax-free reserves of the co-operative have, in recent years, enabled it to gobble up big tax-paying private enterprises in the meat industry.

- It bought a 50 per cent stake in Mr Bokkie Niselow's SA Meat Supply, giving it a stake in a vast wholesale and retail network.

Big stake in canning

- With Imperial Cold Storage, it bought up Mr Cyril Hurwitz's Bull Brand, giving it a big stake in meat canning, abattoir ownership and another distribution network.

It has stakes in concerns ranging from ranches to the small corner butchery. Vleissentraal is the import agent for Rhodesian beef, and that is causing an uproar because of the meat surplus.

It is also a big exporter and has a strong grip on the lucrative hide and skin business.

The managing director of Kanhym meat, Mr Julius Kahn, has openly attacked Vleissentraal's predominance on the Meat Board.

"I feel it is a crying shame that people commercially engaged in the meat trade should be in positions of control on the board," he said.

Sharp conflicts of interests could arise and frequent refusals would be necessary which would not be in the interests of the smooth running of the board.

Another hush-hush price rise for poor

PRICES of meat offal — the major source of protein for the poorest sector of the South African population — have shot up by as much as 120 per cent.

The increase were, once again, quietly introduced, with no announcement from the Meat Board.

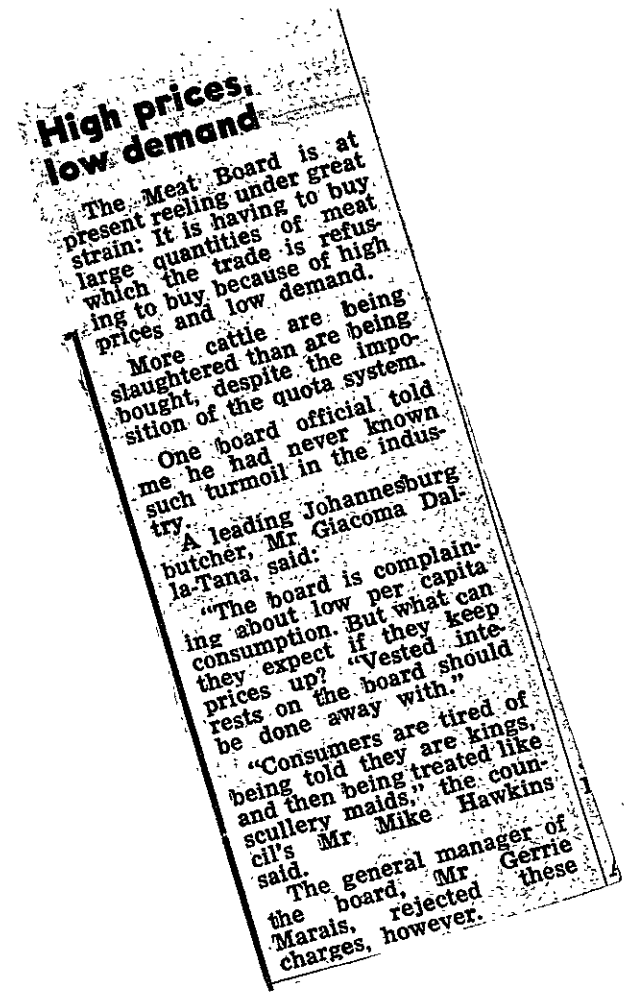
"These prices are going to hurt the black buyer," Mr Louis Jordaan, managing director of Atlas Wholesale Meat Supply, said this week.

Already buyers' resistance is building up, particularly among black township butchers and kosher meat suppliers.

"If butchers carry on refusing supplies I can foresee us having to burn large quantities of offal. It is highly perishable," said a leading wholesaler.

The chairman of the City Deep Offal Pool (Pty), Mr H. V. Lombard, admitted that prices had been increased by between 18 and 19 per cent.

The Sunday Times established, however, that on some items — like cow heels and calf heads, which are popular among black consumers — wholesale prices are up by as much as 120 per cent.



High prices, low demand

The Meat Board is at present reeling under great strain: It is having to buy large quantities of meat which the trade is refusing to buy because of high prices and low demand.

More cattle are being slaughtered than are being bought, despite the imposition of the quota system.

One board official told me he had never known such turmoil in the industry.

A leading Johannesburg butcher, Mr Giacoma Dalla-Tana, said:

"The board is complaining about low per capita consumption. But what can they expect if they keep prices up? "Vested interests on the board should be done away with."

"Consumers are tired of being told they are kings, and then being treated like scullery maids," the council's Mr Mike Hawkins said.

The general manager of the board, Mr Gerrie Marais, rejected these charges, however.

Meat co-op on Board is in stranglehold

Sun. Times

Sun Times 31/7/77

SOUTH AFRICA'S R1 000 - million - a - year meat industry is in the grip of a mammoth co-operative — and questions are being asked about its connections with the Meat Board.

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train ay

Mercury 4/8/97

Meat at Eet Centre 'unfit for humans'

3-Meat

Mercury Reporter

MEAT, later condemned as unfit for human consumption, was found floating in water in a dirty freezer at SLJ's Eet Centre, Clairwood, when a Durban City Health inspector visited it recently.

The shop, owned by Jeevaruthan Moodley and Wholaganathan Moodley, in Teakwood Road, has been fined on six counts under the city's food by-laws.

They have paid a R300 admission of guilt fine.

The inspector found the premises dirty and food unprotected.

A kitchen tray of unwrapped raw meat had flies sitting on it and a freezer, which was dirty inside and half filled with water had among other things pigs heads and trotters floating in it.

Packets of flour and maize meal were weevil-infested and rodent-damaged.

Cooked sausages and fish in an open cabinet had flies on them and polony and cheese were on a dirty shelf and unprotected in a refrigerator.

Unwrapped bread was found on an uncovered tray on the floor and money was strewn over a table used to prepare food. Cockroach eggs were found on fixtures and fittings.

"Walls were dirty, dusty, greasy and had cobwebs sticking to them," said the report.

D.D. 11/8/77 (3-Meat)

Wors row: EL butcher reacts

EAST LONDON — The chairman of the Meat Traders Association here, Mr Dennis Meyer, is disgusted at a news report warning consumers to beware of their boerewors which did not always conform to the required nutritional standards.

Mr Meyer said he was particularly annoyed at a paragraph in yesterday's report from Johannesburg which read: "According to reports the danger of food poison does not apply to boerewors because this type of food is usually well-cooked before being eaten."

"Such a statement can mislead the public and damage the meat trade. There is no question of food poisoning from boerewors, so why mention it.

"All meat passing through the abbatoir is inspected and passed by health inspectors before the butchers get it," said Mr Meyer

Scientists of the CSIR recently bought samples of wors from 60 butcher shops in Pretoria and studied the meat under microscopes.

It was discovered that 97 per cent of the boerewors contained animal tissue that was not allowed under regulations of the Foodstuffs, Insecticide and Disinfectant Act.

These included sweat glands, tonsils, cartilage and bone.

Mr Meyer said East London's 40 or so butchers had a high standard of butchery and while there was the possibility of a fragment of bone finding its way into boerewors, sweat glands, tonsils and cartilage were not, to his knowledge, used in the manufacture of local boerewors.

"The housewife is not stupid, so if the boerewors we sell is lousy, she won't buy it," he said.

Butchers, he added, were subject to spot checks, without warning, by meat inspectors which was an added incentive to produce only the best. — DDR

(3-Meat)

PAGE TWO

For the information of members the following table has been prepared by the Faculty Officer:

PREFERENCE / OPTIONS	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL VOTES CAST FOR EACH OPTION	POINTS
1	9	3	4	0	3	8	27	99
2	4	5	6	7	5	2	29	106
3	3	6	3	4	6	3	25	87
4	11	11	5	6	2	0	35	163
5	4	4	5	5	3	3	24	88
6	13	7	6	1	0	3	30	143

A full minute of the proceedings will be circulated to all members in due course.

5 August 1977

(Prof.) A.H.R.E. PAAP
Dean, Faculty of Arts

Sun. Trib. Business Brief 14/8/77

3-Meat

THE MEAT Board has announced that importation of beef carcases and quarters from Rhodesia and Botswana has been stopped until further notice. Manufacturing beef will, however, still be allowed into the country. Board spokesmen have recently pointed to the fact that imports have made a contribution to the present beef mountain.

3-Meat

Massive beef surplus coming

Star 19/8/71

A drop in demand for beef and farming setbacks have left South Africa with a "meat mountain" surplus of about 28 000 beef carcasses.

While Mr Gerrie Marais, head of the Meat Board, today denied that the industry was facing a crisis, he admitted that a huge surplus was building up.

The meat industry, like any other industry, was experiencing a drop in demand owing to the economic situation, he said.

The 28 000 carcasses in cold storage added up to 1½ week's beef supply to the main consumer areas, including the Reef, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, Bloemfontein, Kimberley, Durban and Pretoria.

NEGOTIATING

He added the glut would not bring down prices even if all the carcasses were dumped on the market all at once.

Mr Marais said the Meat Board was negotiating the export of some of the beef surplus.

The overseas beef market at present was weak and prices would have to be dropped as competition was keen.

Carcasses in South Africa were selling at an average price of R200 — thus the cold storage meat added up to more than R5-million.

Mr Marais said the Meat Board would not glut the retail market, but would release meat from cold storage as demand warranted it.

Carcasses were being bought by the Meat Board at a rate of between 1 500 and 1 800 a week to protect hard-pressed farmers. Supply and demand were expected to reach normality next month or in September.

According to The Star's Durban correspondent, Natal meat officials viewed the situation extremely seriously and some farmers had expressed concern over the increase in floor prices last month, which, they felt, could only aggravate the situation.

3 - meat

Beef surplus halts imports—but prices stay

STAR 23/8/77

Pretoria Bureau

The Meat Board has stopped imports of beef carcasses from Rhodesia and Botswana because of the meat surplus caused by poor consumer demand.

Despite the surplus, there will be no reduction in price.

The deputy general manager of the Meat Board, Dr Jan Lombard, today said all prices for consumer lines of meat were "on the floor" and the answer was to use up the surplus of supplies before stepping up imports.

Dr Lombard said manufacturing beef imports from Rhodesia and Botswana would continue.

The ban on carcass imports had come into effect at the beginning of August. Its lifting would depend on an improvement in consumer demand and seasonal production factors.

Dr Lombard said the meat surplus resulted from the fact that total consumption over the last year had not increased by the usual 2,5 percent.

With cattle being fed mainly by the feedlot system between July and December, the quality of meat in the surplus was higher than usual, he added.

The surplus presently stood at one week's supply over and above normal daily production.

3-Meat

Rhodesian beef ban

M. Mercury 29/8/77

Agricultural Correspondent

THE MEAT BOARD in Pretoria has stopped imports of beef from Rhodesia and Botswana.

It was learned yesterday that the Meat Board wants to reduce a massive surplus which is piling up in cold-storage rooms throughout South Africa.

The move is seen as a major blow to Rhodesian farmers. Until the ban was imposed, an estimated 1 000 carcasses of frozen Rhodesian beef were being sold weekly at South African abattoirs. According to the Meat Board, only deboned beef suitable for processing will be allowed into the country.

Mr. Alwyn Bisschoff, secretary of the Natal Agricultural Union, said yesterday: "We have close ties with our Rhodesian friends and this is going to hit them hard." Mr. Bisschoff said that although the move will ease the surplus, "local demand for beef is not reducing the present surplus."

Mr. Gerrie Marais, general manager of the Meat Board, was not available for comment yesterday but the decision is known to have been forced by South African beef producers who are going through a meagre time. The Meat Board's decision will protect local farmers from competition.

However, some observers in the meat industry would like to know why only Rhodesia and Botswana are affected by the ban. Beef from Swaziland and South West Africa is still being allowed into the country.

Venison exports well up

3 MEAT RDM 25/8/77

CAPE TOWN. — South African venison exports in 1977 should be worth about R2-million, compared with less than R1-million last year, a spokesman for the Gerber-Goldschmidt group said yesterday.

Over the next few years exports of venison can be expected to reach about R4-5-million but should not rise much above that level.

The main export markets are France and Austria, although a search is being made for others.

The spokesman said the local market is very small and can be expected to remain around the R100 000 level for some time.

Prices on the export markets are at about twice the local level. Local prices are not controlled by the Meat Board.

ormally divided into 5 separate sections. Sections 1, 4 provisions for men living singly. Sections 4 and 5 are as part of Sections 1 and 2 respectively, so that effectively lly three separate sections.

there are two types of accommodation for men living singly. Board's hostels as are found in Langa and Nyanga, in which ity of the men; and there are Employer built dormitories 1972.

FOR SINGLE MEN IN GUGULETU: SECTION 2.

Type of Accommodation	No. of Beds.
Board Hostels	2 752
Employer Dormitories	872
Total Single Men	3 624
Total Population	22 148

In Section 3 there are strictly speaking only the employers' dormitories for men living singly. However at the time of writing employers are busy building new accommodation, with a multi-storey building by Murray and Stewart virtually complete. Then again the Board has made 50 houses available for single men on a temporary basis.

TABLE 4.

ACCOMMODATION FOR SINGLE MEN IN GUGULETU: SECTION 3.

Type of Accommodation	No. of Beds
Employer dormitories	846
Family Units	350
Total Single men	1 196
Total Population	16 320

No gold for Rainbow

(3) MEAT RDM 29/8/77

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — Higher feed costs and a mountain of unsold frozen chickens has forced Rainbow Chickens to retrench staff.

Although the exact number has not been established, it has been confirmed that the country's biggest producer of broiler chickens is getting rid of workers — white, African and Indian — to cut production costs.

The managing director, Mr Stanley Methven, has been "unavailable for comment" for the past week amid growing rumours that all is not well with the company. The former joint MD, Mr Cedric Savage left in July.

The chicken price war, which has now been raging for months, has undoubtedly hit Rainbow margins. For the past few years the company had an annual growth rate of more than 25%. Industry sources put present growth at less than 5%.

Rainbow's production costs are estimated to be at least 82c a kilogram. With broilers selling to supermarkets at 66c a kg, huge stocks have been building up in its plants at Hammarsdale and Worcester.

The two plants produce about one and a quarter million broilers a week, or 35 to 40% of South Africa's total production. The Hammarsdale plant, where the sackings have taken place, produce about 900 000 broilers a week. Rainbow is producing faster than it can sell. Because of competition from broiler farms owned by feed companies in the Cape, the new Worcester plant has to ship chickens to the Rand at high cost.

The number of Rainbow chickens in cold storage is not known. What is known is that storage is expensive. Unless new outlets are found or the price goes up, Rainbow's problems can only worsen.

elves at the Associations'
In addition, the W.N.L.A.
(originally entered into
3), whereby W.N.L.A. would
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12/ This agreement
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e two bureaux worked largely in favour of W.N.L.A., the higher wages stipulated on the latter's contracts being the all important determinant of the distribution of labour supplies between them. Only Nyasaland government limitations on permissible W.N.L.A. recruitment levels enabled the R.N.L.S.C. to secure a growing level of supplies as its permit maximum was periodically re-negotiated upwards. In northern Bechuanaland a similar pattern of W.N.L.A. superiority prevailed, the supply of R.N.L.S.C. recruitees from this country being very small. South of latitude 22° S. the N.R.C. operated for the Chamber of Mines.

Even after the establishment of the Federation in 1953, whereby Nyasaland became more firmly under the political power of Southern Rhodesian employers, W.N.L.A. continued to dominate the Nyasaland foreign contract labour market. However, Southern Rhodesia continued to place most of its reliance on the 'free-flow' system though the R.N.L.S.C. did build up annual recruitment to a relatively high level. The peak was reached in 1956 with a total recruitment of 16 234 workers. After 1958, with the onset of economic recession in the Federation, the growth of a substantial labour surplus in Southern Rhodesia and the adoption of a new foreign labour policy by the Southern Rhodesian government, the R.N.L.S.C. contract system faced steadily increasing supply constraints. Its annual throughput began systematically to be run down. This occurred as W.N.L.A. hegemony in Nyasaland became more easily asserted and as farm wages fell seriously in real terms in Rhodesia after 1963. By 1960 the Chamber of Mines (S.A.) had recruited 83 000 'Tropicals' (20,9 per cent of all their African mineworkers in South Africa). By 1973, as may be seen in the table below, the figure for Malawian workers alone had reached 106 638 or 27,7 per cent of the total complement.

/Table 1 .....

FRANÇAIS III

LE NOUVEAU ROMAN

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Nuwe plan met vleis

DIE Vleisraad se plan vir goedkoper beesvleis het die samevoeging van die drie beste grade as grondslag, het Sake-RAPPORT verneem. Besonderhede van die nuwe plan sal waarskynlik Vrydag in Pretoria bekend gemaak word.

Die plan is glo om onder meer die grade super, prima en 1A aan die kleinhandel as een graad aan te bied. Die boer sal egter steeds volgens die bestaande grade vergoed word.

Die prys aan die kleinhandel sal dan verlaag word en daar sal van die handel verwag word om die hele verlaging na die verbruiker oor te dra.

Dit lyk of daar een of ander vorm van subsidie sal wees om die gewaarborgde vloerprys vir die boer dieselfde te hou. Dit wil dan ook die indruk wek dat die verlaging in die prys nie permanent sal wees nie.

Die Vleisraad hoop natuurlik dat hy hiermee 'n groter vraag na beesvleis kan skep. Die oorskot aan beesvleis raak al hoe groter en dit is bekend dat daar in georganiseerde landbou heelwat kommer oor hierdie toestand is.

3 meat

Sake-Rapport 1/9/77

S+D 5(b)

Intended Career (if known): .....

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Referees (Give the names of at least two people who will be prepared to give an objective assessment of your potential):

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Personal Description:

Height: ..... Weight: .....

Hair Colour: ..... Colour of Eyes: .....

Complexion: .....

Command of Languages (Spoken - fluent, good, fair, poor, etc.):

English: .....

Afrikaans: .....

Other (Specify): .....

Why do you wish to follow this profession? .....

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I hereby certify that, to the dge, the above particulars are correct.

Signature of Applicant: .....

Date: .....

equire any additional wers to questions, please sheet.

D.A. 13/9/77

Meat may cost less

PRETORIA — South Africa's meat eaters will know on Friday whether they have to fork out less for a kilogram of their favourite cut, the Meat Board's general manager, Mr G. Marais, said here yesterday.

This follows the Minister of Agriculture Mr Schoeman's statement on August 31 that lower consumer prices for beef may soon be announced.

Until the decision is announced on Friday, the Meat Board is limiting the intake of beef carcasses because of insufficient refrigeration facilities and is still considering ways of distributing the surplus. — SAPA.

STAR 13/9/77

3-Meat

Beef price slashed on the Reef

Meat is the latest to join a list of commodities that are coming down in price.

Its price will be cut by as much as 12 percent in most Reef outlets next week.

Only the upper four grades will be affected.

The cuts follow closely a proposed beef subsidy announced by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Schoeman, last night.

The scheme allows beef to be bought at below the official floor price instead of being placed in expensive cold storage, adding to the existing high beef surplus.

Producers will be guaranteed minimum floor prices for the four top grades, but the trade will be able to buy at cheaper rates.

The managing director of Transvaal Atlas Wholesale meat distributors, Mr Louis Jordaan, said bulk cuts would be reduced from between 10 to 12 percent in his outlets as from Thursday. Counter cuts would be selling 10 percent cheaper.

Mr Frans Pieterse, senior general manager of Asokor — suppliers to two leading supermarket chains — said beef prices would come down in their outlets from Monday.

Distributors were sceptical whether the subsidy would continue once the present surplus had been eradicated.

They said: "The consumer will definitely benefit as long as retailers don't pocket the savings. The only protection the consumer will have in this regard is to watch prices."

Butchers will pass on the cuts

Meat bills will drop

3-Meat

STAR 16/9/77.

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Tony van der Watt, Farming Editor

The Meat Board has been assured by wholesale and retail butchers that the new reduced beef prices announced by the board will be passed on to consumers.

The chairman of the board, Mr P R du Toit, announced this a Press conference in Pretoria today.

The new prices, to take effect on Monday, represent a drop of about 7½ percent in the floor prices of top grades.

A smaller drop has been passed on for middle grade, but the lower grade price will be unchanged.

Farmers will still be paid R1,06 a kg but will be charged an additional levy of R4 a head on their cattle.

Butchers will pay 98c a kg, or an average 7,5 per cent less, for four top grades, Super Y, Super X, Prime AY and Prime AX, which have been amalgamated into one Super grade.

This reduction is meant to benefit the housewife.

The reduction will remain in force for as long as the present "moderate over-supply" of meat lasts and is made possible by farmers accepting the additional levy.

Mr du Toit said the producers had been willing to carry the burden without asking for a subsidy from the Government. This was proof, he said, that the producer, even at his own cost, was prepared to put the interests of the consumer first.

Competitive

He said that, apart from the assurance received from the meat trade, consumers were further assured of price reduction because the retail butcher industry was highly competitive.

Mr du Toit said about the new super grade that quality would not be sacrificed, as there was no difference in eating quality between Super and Prime A carcasses.

The weighted average floor price cut of 7,5 per cent giving a new trade floor price of 98c a kilogram for the new Super grade meant a floor price reduction of 12c a kilogram for Super Y carcasses, 6c a kilogram for Super X, 8c a kilogram for Prime A Y, and 3c a kilogram for Prime A X.

Most Reef wholesalers said today their price cuts would be "at a realistic level probably not higher than those recommended by the Meat Board."

Wholesalers expressed the fear, however, that prices would go up at the market as from next week when the reductions came into effect.

Meat prices will tumble on Monday

Daily Disp 17/9/77

(3-Meat

CAPE TOWN — The price of red meat will tumble by up to 40 per cent here on Monday as supermarkets scramble to take advantage of a scheme to clear surplus stocks announced yesterday by the Meat Board.

The new plan involves the grouping together of super and prime A grades and a 7,5 per cent average reduction in the trade floor price of these grades.

The floor price is not the market price which is determined by auctions and is accordingly based on supply and demand.

But one supermarket chain has drastically reduced prices and another intends to offer cheaper meat even if auction prices go up.

The chairman of the Meat Board, Mr P. R. du Toit, told a press conference in Pretoria yesterday that farmers' floor prices would not be reduced.

The difference between the producers' floor price and the new lower trade floor prices would be financed by the board out of an additional levy paid by producers of R4 a head. The scheme applied only to areas controlled by the board which includes all the large urban areas.

This means consumers will not lose price benefits by having to bear a subsidy indirectly through an increased flow of funds to the board from the Government.

A Transvaal wholesaler said a price war was probably inevitable, but this would be a good thing if it cleared surplus stocks.

Mr Du Toit said the board was also considering the further grouping of other grades, and a new trade floor price had been introduced for grades prime B and A1. The existing grouping would not sacrifice quality since

poration which supplies Pick 'n Pay, Mr Guy Hawthorn, said the 40 outlets in the group had been instructed to offer massive price reductions for a week from Monday as a gesture of goodwill on the action of the Meat Board.

Reductions averaging about 25 per cent would be offered on steak mince, stewing beef, boerewors and half rams.

After this the company would reassess the effect of the board reduction and would reduce prices accordingly.

Industry sources were reluctant to predict how long the meat surplus would last, but one estimate ranged to six months.

Meanwhile, the Consumer Council has welcomed the new plan. It said in a statement from Pretoria that it had yesterday completed a survey of current retail beef prices and it would consistently check prices from now on. — DDC.

3-Meat

Meat price chopped



Exposé No 1 for 1977: June 26.



Exposé No 2: July 3 . . . Meat Board nailed.



Exposé No 3: August 7 . . . There's money in meat.

Sunday Times carves up your beef bill

THE MEAT Board this week cut the price of beef to the trade by up to 12 per cent, firing the first salvo in what will probably develop into a full-scale meat price war.

And you can thank a series of Sunday Times exposés on the meat business for that, say top men in the industry.

The price slash by the Meat Board could mean a drop of up to 20 per cent in prices of top grade meat from the butcher's shop.

Signs of an outbreak of a beef price war had already become evident at the time of going to press, although the new prices will only come into effect tomorrow.

All wholesalers and retailers questioned said they would be passing on any price reduction to the man in the street.

The chairman of the Meat Board, Mr P R du Toit, announced on Friday that the two top grades of meat — super and prime A — would be grouped and sold to the trade at 98c a kg. This is a drop of 12c on the maximum for super meat, and a drop of eight cents on Prime A.

Overall, the drop was 7,5 per cent, he said, but the farmer would still be receiving the old, high, price.

The next highest grades — prime B and grade 1 A — would be grouped at 95c, a drop of 6c and 3c a kg on the old guaranteed minimum prices.

The difference between the farmers' floor prices and the lower trade prices would be financed by the Board out of an additional levy of R4 an animal paid by producers.

The Board would not immediately group any of the lower grades, but could do so in the future.

The feeling in the trade, however, is that, once the higher grades drop in price at the auction markets, the lower grades will follow — provided market supplies are kept at the present rate, which the board is committed to do.

"Wholesale and retail butchers have already been approached by the board for their co-operation. They have undertaken to pass the price reduction to consumers," Mr Du Toit said.

Public

"The undertaking is also assured by keen competition between butcheries."

Price surveys would be made to keep consumers informed. "Although the consumer has, for some time, had good quality, he will now get it for less money."



MARTIN CREAMER

Mr Frans Pieterse, general manager of the Asokor group, told me his 118 retail outlets — which include Checkers and OK Bazaars — would pass on all the reductions to the public.

He confirmed the looming signs of a full-scale price war, and said he would be cutting the price of a hindquarter to 116 c a kg to compete with SA Meat Supply — part of the Vleissentraal group — which had cut it to 118 c.

He had previously sold hindquarter at prices from R1,28 to R1,45 a kg.

Mr Pieterse said it was "thanks to the Sunday Times" that prices were coming down. "The Sunday Times can take the credit for this," he said.

Mr M. S. Bester, chairman of the Retail Meat Trade Employers' Union agreed. "The Sunday Times was responsible for exposing much that had to be exposed. We will certainly be passing on the lower prices to the consumer," he said.

Mr Stanley Kahn, of the Kanhym group, which markets through Hyperama, said the Sunday Times's articles had had a positive effect.

Well done

"We welcome the reduced prices to the trade," he said. "We will pass them on."

Kanhym, he said, was a producer, and could bring meat to the public direct from its own abattoir.

Another well-known Johannesburg butcher, who did not want to be named for fear of victimisation, telephoned the Sunday Times after the announcement on Friday to say: "Well done. Your articles have worked wonders."

In June we exposed the fact that the floor price of beef had been secretly increased in spite of a colossal surplus throughout the country.

Challenged on the accuracy of its report, the Sunday Times went on to prove its case and unearthed a situation in which the South African meat industry was showing dangerous signs of becoming a monopoly, and that the Meat Board was dominated by a single group actively engaged in the meat trade —the giant co-operative, Vleissentraal.

The Sunday Times was also responsible, last year, for the appointment of a commission of inquiry into the industry by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman.

Controls

But the huge meat mountain, worth about R5-million in June, continued to grow. All unsold meat was bought in at floor prices by the Meat Board to protect producers.

Meat men saw the latest measures as being a step towards allowing the law of supply and demand to have a bigger place in an industry bogged down by stringent controls.

Mr Harold Greenstein, food merchandise manager for Checkers, which runs 150 retail outlets throughout the country predicted that the present oversupply position would last for several months.

"The reduction in the floor price is an indication that our free market system, where price is determined by supply and demand, is starting to take effect again.

"Unfortunately, the floor price is no guarantee of the auction price. But we do not foresee that the price will increase in the next four to six months."

Supermarkets slash price of beef

STAR 19/9/77 (3 Heat)

Supermarket butcheries today took the lead in slashing beef prices.

While the small independent butchers were still uncertain if and when they would be able to buy cheaper beef and reduce their consumer prices, Johannesburg supermarket butcheries dropped their prices by as much as R1,20 a kilo.

Other price drops were only a few cents a kilo.

Below are some of the prices on offer at Johannesburg supermarket butcheries today. Prices marked "special" will be held for one week only, according to the butchery spokesmen, unless they find it possible to continue these reductions. The first price is last week's. The second price is the new reduced price.

At Pick 'n Pay prices were (super and prime A grades, per kilo): topside 2,68, R1,48 (special); rump R3,54, R3,14; fillet R3,98, R3,49; stewing steak R2,50, R1,96; boerewors R1,24, R0,89 (special); topside mince R1,89, R0,89 (special); stewing beef R1,38, R0,89 (special); porterhouse steak R3,44, R2,38 (special); half lambs R1,99, R1,49.

At Checkers and OK Bazaars (Prime Grade 1 beef, per kilo): fillet R4,28, R3,98; rump R3,38, R2,98; topside, silverside, H-bone and tenderised steak R2,48, R2,28; "cheapest" mince R1,58, R1,38; stewing steak R2,28, R1,98; porterhouse steak R3,36, R2,98; topside mince R1,98, R1,88; "top quality" mince R2,18, R2,08; chuck R1,64, R1,58.

Spokesmen for Blue Ribbon, which has butcheries in Pick 'n Pay supermarkets, and for Rand Cold Storage, which has butcheries in Checkers and OK Bazaars, were uncertain today how long the reductions could be held.

Independent butchers said they had not yet reduced prices. Most still had old stocks available and were not planning to buy new stock till late this week or next week.

One butcher was doubtful, though, whether he would be able to reduce prices then by more than one or two cents, if that.

The floor price might well have dropped, he said, but this meant only that prices could not go lower than this figure. In the course of the auctioning at the market, prices might well be pushed up to higher than they were before, he said.

EL meat the costliest in SA

Daily Disp. 21/9/77

(2-meat)

EAST LONDON — Meat costs more here than anywhere else in South Africa — in spite of the drop in the floor price of red meat on Monday.

Prices fell by up to six per cent in other centres, but rose by two per cent here.

This puts the abattoir price at 10c a kg higher than any other centres.

However, meat bargains were available at a supermarket here which is selling steak mince, sausage and stewing beef at 89c a kg and half lambs at cost price.

The regional manager of the supermarket's meat section, Mr R. Price, said this was a national offer, but that the Meat Board was not co-operating in East London.

The board's quota system allowed farmers to send only a certain number of carcasses to abattoirs. When the quota was small, prices went up. Yesterday 125 carcasses reached the abattoir — 50 more than on Monday, but the going price had risen two per cent.

Prime beef in East London yesterday was 12c a kg above the floor price set by the board.

The floor price dropped by 10 per cent on the old one as a result of this concession.

The general manager of the corporation which supplies the supermarket, Mr G. Hawthorn, said it was too early to judge the effect of the new floor price. He said if the price in East London continued to rise, he would contact the Meat Board to demand a reason.

Meanwhile the East London Meat Traders' Association welcomed the Meat Board's efforts to reduce the price of beef.

The chairman, Mr D. Meyer, said any savings on the market price of meat at the abattoir would be passed on to the consumer. — DDR

1.4.5. Precipitation

Rainfall in the area is dependent on air movements and a consequent influx of moist air over the Orange Free State. For rain to fall unstable air conditions are necessary. In the Orange Free State unstable air conditions are usually caused by one of three processes. Firstly, a cold front moving up the continent from the South West, as a result of a strong high pressure off the Mozambique-Natal coast, is marked by a cloudy period with precipitation.

Secondly, an inflow of unstable maritime air from the North East, East or South East caused by an anticyclone off the South East coast following the passage of a depression. This results in widespread prolonged rainy and cloudy periods in summer and, in the Eastern Orange Free State, extensive snowfalls.

12-18

2. .../

Butchers bid to keep prices low

3 Meat

Star 21/9/77

Price cuts on beef at supermarket butcheries were the same today as on Monday although butchery managers were not certain that they would be able to maintain some of the reductions.

Mr B Hefferman, general manager of Blue Ribbon, which has butcheries in Pick 'n Pay supermarkets, said they would hold all present prices until Saturday.

He guaranteed that a minimum reduction of 12 percent on beef prices would be continued. If they could hold a couple of the "specials" they were offering this week, they would do so.

He said there was tremendous demand for the meat in his stores and their wholesaler was battling to meet demand.

Mr F Lumby, retail manager of Rand Cold Storage, which has butcheries in Checkers and OK supermarkets, said reductions made on Monday had been maintained.

They would have to be reassessed as prices of some "specials" were "totally out of line."

SAKE-

RAPPORT, 25 September 1977

Nuwe vleisplan kos boere miljoene

Deur DAVID MEADES

DUE Vleisraad se nuwe aansporingsplan om die verbruiker sover te kry om meer beesvleis te koop, gaan die boer baie kos. Dit kan hom 'n ekstra R4,8 miljoen oor 'n volle jaar kos, maar dan is dit te betwyfel of hierdie plan so lank van krag sal bly.

Volgens mnr. Jan van der Walt, vleiswoordvoerder van die Suid-Afrikaanse Landbou-Unie, moes die boer reeds voor die instelling van die nuwe plan sy vleis teen 'n onekonomiese prys verkoop.

Maar daar is nou ongelukkig die toestand waar die boer met 'n oorskot beeste sit en maar te dankbaar is as hy van die diere ontslae kan raak.

Dit is dan ook hierom dat die Unie die plan steun. Maar dan moet die voordeel tot die verbruiker oorgedra word, want alleen dán sal daar 'n groter vraag na beesvleis ontstaan.

In hierdie stadium is dit nog nie duidelik hoe die nuwe plan by die verbruiker inslag gevind het nie en daar sal eers 'n week of drie gewag moet word voor 'n betekenisvolle vergelyking getref kan word.

Daar is egter tekens dat pryse begin daal. Maar terselfdertyd moet 'n mens dit in gedagte hou dat die slagter hierdie prysvoordeel tot die verbruiker sal oordra op die manier wat dit sy eie vraagposisie die beste pas, wat ook te verstane is.

Die vraag na die goeie agterkwartsnitte sal altyd sterk bly en die verbruiker moet nie verwag om hier 'n groot voordeel te kry nie.

Die probleem was egter nog altyd by die minder gewilde snitte soos byvoorbeeld die voorkwart, rib en die skof.

Die verwagting is dan ook dat daar by hierdie snitte vir die verbruiker die grootste voordeel behaal kan word. Deur die pryse van die gewilder snitte nie veel te verlaag nie, sal die slagter in staat wees om by die voorsnitte 'n baie groter afslag as die gemiddelde aan te bied.

Volgens mnr. Van der Walt het die prys van beesvleis die afgelope jaar volgens amptelike syfers gemiddeld met net 3 persent gestyg. Daarteenoor het die voedselprysindeks met sowat 11 persent toegeneem.

Dit is dus duidelik dat die boer in al hoe groter mate self die kostestygings moet dra. En dan is daar ook nou nog die verdere heffing om die goedkoper pryse moontlik te maak.

Die heffing van die Vleisraad was in die begin van die jaar nog sowat R2,50 per bees aan die Witwatersrand. Vroeër vanjaar is dit tot R5 per bees verhoog om onder meer die Vleisraad in staat te stel om sy stabilisasiefonds te versterk.

En dan is hierdie heffing ook die enigste inkomstebron van die Vleisraad. Daar is geen subsidie of geld van die belastingbetaler wat na hierdie beheerliggaam gaan nie.

Die jongste plan stoot hierdie heffing tot R9 per bees op en dan is daar nog al die ander kostes. Die slagplaastarief is tot R8,27 per bees verhoog, terwyl die slagfooi 'n verdere R2,70 per kop beloop.

Aan die Witwatersrand beloop die agent se kommissie 'n verdere R8,57 per bees plus net meer as R2 per bees vir versekering. En dan is daar nog spoorvrag. Dit beloop gemiddeld R16 per kop vir alle beeste wat na die Witwatersrand vervoer word. Dan word

Landbou - RAPPORT

10.3. General:

10.3.1. Proposal re Vice President Programmes within the Region to circulate reports to each other. Being put on the floor at Subcon.

10.3.2. Members' interests forms have been drawn up and will be circulated at next G.B.M.

10.3.3. Graphs showing involvement in projects shown to Council.

10.3.4. Brainstorming session arranged for 18-10-77.

10.3.5. Request booklet "How to run projects" from National Secretariat.

10.3.6. Suggested projects:

(1) Public Relations project re menaces on the mountain.

(2) Jaycee diary for Ways and Means.

(3) Suitable project to carry on Nathan Martin Trust.

(4) Training for Trainers.

(5) Effective Speaking for Schools.

(6) Club House (A. Fowler to investigate).

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11. VICE PR IRS' REPORT - C. Camp

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Star 29/9/77.

(3)

'Dearer meat' claims baffle board chief

The general manager of the Meat Board, Mr Gerrie Marais, said today he could not understand the claims made by members of the meat trade that market prices of beef had risen.

He was commenting on claims by local butchers that, in spite of the Meat Board's drop in the floor price of super grade beef last week to 98c a kilo, auction prices had increased and they were having to pay about as much for their beef as before.

But local butchers continued to claim today that they were paying prices as high as before. They blamed the fact on the "whole monopolistic situation" in the trade.

PRICES

Prices at Johannesburg's City Deep abattoir today, said Mr Marais, were: Super X beef (X denotes a heavier carcass) sold from between 98c a kg and 98,8c; Super Y (Y denotes a lighter carcass) between 98c and 105,2c; Prime A X, 98 to 98,6c; Pime A Y, 98 to 105,2c; Prime B X, 95 to 96,8c; Prime B Y, 95 to 98c; Grade 1 AX, 95c; Grade 1 AY, 95 to 100c.

(Note: Super X, Super Y, Prime A X and Prime A Y all from the new grade called "Super" which the Meat Board introduced with the reduction in the floor price.)

A Johannesburg butches who buys his meat from a wholesaler claimed today that since the reduction of the floor price of beef (on September 12) he had been paying between 108c a kilo and 113c a kilo for heavy carcases.

Before the floor price reduction, he said, he was paying between 109c and 115c a kg for similar-bodied carcases.

LIGHTER

Mr Marais said however, that the figures showed that generally beef prices were "moving around the floor price." The higher price for Super Y and Prime A Y grades were because these were lighter carcases and there was always a bigger demand for lighter carcases.

"But the butchers are not forced to buy these carcases," he said. "I can't understand the trade telling me that the prices had gone up. Before the scheme the floor price for Super Y, for example, was 100c. Just before the scheme butchers were buying it from 110c to 112c a kg."

Mr Marais denied too that there had been a deterioration in the quality of super-grade meat since the lowering of the floor price, as alleged by local butchers.

Butchers angry over prices

3-Meat.

Star 30/9/77

The Meat Board's scheme to lower the floor price of certain grades of beef to clear a surplus has aroused a wave of angry protests from Johannesburg's smaller, independent butchers.

They claim they have not had a "look-in" at the price reductions owing to the monopolistic situation in the meat trade and the fact that they are forced to buy from wholesalers.

Wholesalers in turn have denied that they are unduly loading their prices and claim the small butchers are merely reluctant to pass on reductions to the consumer.

While the general manager of the Meat Board, Mr Gerrie Marais, has said that prices at City Deep Abattoir, Johannesburg, have been generally "moving around the floor price" (of 98 cents a kilo), the small butchers claim they are paying as much for their beef as before.

Small butchers have claimed that the few major wholesalers on the Reef are "forcing them out of business."

One butcher, who asked not to be named lest the wholesaler "take it out on him," said that although independent butchers were permitted to buy at City Deep, they found it uneconomic.

DOMINATED

They could not meet the cold storage, truck and other requirements laid down for buyers there. Furthermore, he said, the market was dominated by a few major wholesalers who had stakes in every aspect of the meat trade — farming, the agencies, the auctioneers, wholesaling and retailing.

"If you come along," he said, "they know straight away you are a small independent butcher, and the wholesalers deliberately bid against you to put up the price. Eventually, you are forced to buy at a very high price."

When bidding amongst themselves, he said, the wholesalers kept prices low. It was ultimately cheaper for the small butcher to buy straight from them, even after the wholesaler had added his margin.

DIFFERENCE

But Mr H J de Kock, co-ordinating officer of Vleissentraal (one of the biggest meat concerns in this country), today said the difference between the market prices — which he said fluctuated up and down according to supply and demand — and the prices the butchers were paying the wholesalers was merely the five percent margin which the wholesaler put on.

"The trouble is that the retail butcher doesn't want to reduce his prices to the consumer," Mr de Kock said.

'Technician' is roughly defined as a per
and 'professional' levels, e.g. between

'National Diploma for Technicians' at a
Education equivalent to a Std. X certif

'Nation Certificate for Technicians' at
Education or Technical College equivale

'Entrance qualification' for these techn
cate with a pass in Mathematics and a Sc
N. 111 with approved subjects.

Question - Assuming full economic recove
How many Africans would you require qual
the categories stated at the period state

A) Qualification	National Diploma for Technicians	ns required 1980
1. Electrical Engineering (Heavy Current)		
2. Electrical Engineering (Light Current)		
3. Industrial Instrumentation		
4. Telecommunication		
5. T.V. and Electronics		
6. Mechanical Engineering		
7. Automotive Engineering		
8. Production Engineering		
9. Refrigeration & Airconditioning Engineering		
10. Civil Engineering		
11. Structural Engineering		
12. Town and Regional Planning		
13. Construction Supervision		

Star 6/10/77

(3) meat

Supergrade beef prices for probe by Meat Board

Pretoria Bureau

The Meat Board will look into substantiated claims by small butchers that wholesalers are still charging them as much as before on supergrade beef despite reduced abattoir prices.

Dr J H Lombard, deputy general manager of the board, said today that in some areas heavy demand had pushed the price of supergrade beef above the 98c per kg floor price set by the board for the duration of its campaign to move the surplus.

Slaughterings had increased and the prices being paid at the abattoirs were not as high as those ruling before farmers were asked to pay a levy of R4 a head to move their stock.

He had been asked about a complaint by a Pretoria butcher who said his wholesalers were charging him as much as before and that he was coming under fire from his customers for his inability to reduce his prices generally. The butcher is preparing his case to lay before the board soon.

OVERTIME

Dr Lombard said the Pretoria abattoir was working overtime to meet demand and keep prices down. If wholesalers were charging small butchers as much as before then he wanted to look into the matter. He invited the butcher to give him details of his complaint.

The butcher told The Star that wholesalers were entitled to a five percent mark-up on meat. As a small butcher, it paid him to buy from wholesalers rather than transport his own meat from the abattoirs to his shop.

But he had always paid a round 115c a kg for the top grades of beef, occasionally higher, and now was pay 111 to 115c.

He said he should be paying a round 105c if the wholesalers were paying 98c at the abattoir.

A 'Control Board' answer to a production glut

Now the price of chickens is raised

Sunday Times
Business Times
16/10/77

CATHERINE LURIE ——— REPORTS

THE producer price of chickens is to be increased by almost 20 per cent tomorrow by the four main producers despite an overproduction glut of five-million birds, according to Desmond Lurie, chairman of one of the top producers, County Fair Foods.

This is a desperate move intended to avert a serious production crisis in the industry.

However, the extent to which this is passed on to the consumer will be cushioned by the fact that the large supermarket chains believe that they will be able to absorb much of the increase until December.

This is because of the stocks they have built up at lower prices and the medium term effect of forward buying contracts.

The producer price of fresh chickens will rise from 84c to R1,00 a kilo and of frozen chickens from 80c to 95c a kilo. But the increases will vary according to the producer's break even point and marketing strategy.

The price rises are intended to reduce overproduction losses that have been running at R2-million a month since the beginning of the year.

They are also intended to subsidise large loss-making export orders to the Middle and Far East entered into over the past two weeks by the four producers, who between them account for 85 per cent of total production, to help move the glut, which is piling up at the rate of 300 000 chickens a week. Export orders will absorb 400 000 to 500 000 chickens a week.

These price rises follow recent sharp cuts in the producer price aimed at reducing the glut. But chicken men say that, despite their market having reacted in the past to price cuts, they find now that even at lower prices production exceeds demand.

There are two basic reasons for the present chicken surplus, according to Mr Lurie, whose company is 50 per cent owned by Tiger Oats, and which has 12 per cent of the producer market.

The first is a sharp reduction in demand. Between 1970 and last year chicken consumption grew at a compounded rate of 12 per cent a year. This year, however, it seems likely to fall by about 8 per cent.

This coincided with a massive amount of new prodction capacity coming on stream. Rainbow's R20-million Worcester plant boosted its production by 12,6 per cent last year and this was followed by County Fair's doubling its capacity when extensions to its Cape plant were completed.

As this new production hit the Cape regional market, prices there began to decline. Frozen chicken prices slipped from 65c a kilo in May to 59c two weeks ago. Since then, one producer has increased its prices for this line to 69c a kilo.

As production costs vary between 85c to 95c a kilo, the extent of recent running losses is clearly evident.

Industry sources speculate that even if export orders are sold at the new domestic

• To back page



Desmond Lurie. His company, County Fair has 12 per cent of the producer market.

3-Meat
16/10/77

There's a chicken glut but the price still goes up

S Times
B Times
16/10/77

• From Page 1

price (R1,00 a kilo), with freight and storage charges added to known production costs, there is no possibility of a profit.

The large producers seek to justify their price rise, which amounts to local consumers subsiding foreigners, on the grounds that it will enable domestic production to be maintained, thus avoiding unemployment, and that it will earn foreign exchange at a time when the country badly needs it.

The leading producer is Rainbow Chickens, with about 40 per cent of the market. Other large ones, apart from County Fair, are Festive Food, an Imperial Cold Storage subsidiary, with 12 per cent; Farm Fair, a Premier Milling interest, with 22 per cent; and Delmas Kuiken with 5 per cent.

Independent producer, Tommy Bosman, of Delmas Kuiken, agrees with the chicken price rise because of rising costs. But in addition he would, as a small producer, like to see a production cutback to re-establish financial equilibrium in the industry.

The burning questions now are:

• To what extent and for how long the large supermarket chains are able to hold their current chicken prices.

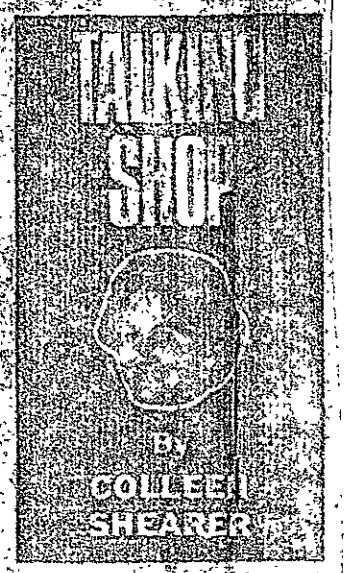
For although they have been stockpiling chickens as prices declined in anticipation of the annual producer price rise, they did not expect tomorrow's rise to be so soon — or so high.

• Whether other, smaller retailers, who still command a substantial share of this market, were in a sufficiently strong financial position to have stockpiled at the lower price levels.

Inevitably the rise in the producer price will eventually work through to the consumer, who, in effect, will be shouldering the burden of the chicken producers' own production misjudgments.

Moreover, as chickens are an important protein source for urban blacks, the inflation burden on that section of the population most hit by unemployment will be increased.

And now for the kindest cut of all



THE KINDEST cut of all from the Meat Board in recent weeks has been its policy to move a surplus of high-price super grade beef at a much cheaper price in a determined effort to woo back red meat eaters.

Butchers have gone one step further and reduced their charges by a higher percentage than the floor price reduction. While this obviously cannot last indefinitely they are at least proving to the Meat Board the wisdom of lower profit but quicker and bigger turn-over.

The four top grades — Super X and Y, and Prime AX and AY — are now combined under the Super label. The average price drop here was 7,5 percent.

The next five grades have been reduced to two under the labels Prime B and Grade 1A, but it is hoped these may later all be incorporated under Prime B.

The average last drop of these five grades was only one percent, which will explain why some small butchers who deal mainly in Grade 1 meat are unable to show any reduction in prices.

Reaction from the main meat suppliers was optimistic, the opinion being that this welcome move has given a stimulus to top quality red meat sales. However, they voiced a reservation that supplies may not be able to keep up with demand, unless the Meat Board continues its progressive policy.

Testing

So it is a testing period, with the Meat Board watching events closely while playing a refreshingly enterprising game.

Mr Gerrie Marais, general manager of the Meat Board, is very happy with the progress of super grade red meat buying and with the response of all the meat industries and outlets.

He quoted weekly slaughter figures in the nine controlled areas which have increased during the period August 12 to October 7 from 18 714 to 25 190. A 35 percent increase.

Individual figures were: Durban — 2 600 to 3 300; Witwatersrand — 7 860 to 10 408; Cape Town — 3 050 to 4 200; Pretoria — 2 614 to 3 000; Port Elizabeth — 1 200 to 1 800; Pietermaritzburg — 560 to 700; East London — 400 to 582; Kimberley — 550 to 650; Bloemfontein — 450 to 550.

But what of Grades 2 and 3? These prices have actually risen. I asked why these had not been lowered accordingly as the lower income groups cannot benefit from reduced Super prices.

Mr Marais said at this time of the year — August, September, October, November — there is no proper grazing for cattle off the veld: only later will rainfall bring on the grass. His advice is that these people should eat forequarter cuts like bolo, thick flank, brisket and chuck, as well as rib roast derived from the higher grades. And butchers in town concur that these cheaper cuts are excellent value and very tasty.

Regular

The butchers on the chart represent six big meat industries and one family butcher. Orchid covers Bull Brand as well. Renown is coupled with Federated Meat Industries. And Wholesome Meats has several outlets including Checkers Overport, and Farmers' Fresh Meat Supply in Point Road, in addition to the five named on the chart.

Wholesome Meat butchers are independent so some prices may vary, but overall they should be fairly regular.

Prince Street Butchery was chosen as the family butcher on its past performance as having competitive prices for good meat. It will be noted many of their prices are unchanged from Old to New but this is because the grade has improved — from Prime to Super.

The forequarter cuts are mostly suitable for stews although prime rib is a roast in its own right. It does take a bit longer to cook and here we have the question of whether the added cost of electricity cancels out the initial difference in price between, say, sirloin and rib roast.

I tested this and found rib roast took one hour longer than sirloin done as a pot roast. Stews in the oven take quite long and for these two reasons it seemed useful to calculate exactly what cooking does cost.

I was helped by referring to a newsletter lent to me by the Housewive's League on the amount of electricity used in the kitchen.

1. — Stove with all four plates and oven on — 9-11 kilowatts per hour.

2. — Oven only (varies according to size and temperature) — 3-6 kilowatts per hour.

3. — Single plates — 1-1½ kilowatts per hour.

4. — Kettle (more economical than using a stove plate) — 1½-2 kilowatts per hour.

While all this is very interesting it still represents useless data unless converted to money. The following figures give a rough estimate worked out on information given to me by Durban City Electrical Department. (In areas outside Durban this is an additional 10 percent, and in areas even further away costs are 20 percent higher than in Durban.)

These are the maximum figures, because electricity charges decrease as consumption increases. For instance, after the first 100 units the charge drops by 40 percent and after 500 units it drops a further 18 percent.

Item 1 (above) works out at about 40 cents an hour, Item 2 at roughly 18 cents an hour, Item 3 about 5 cents an hour and Item 4 about 6 cents an hour.

Note the difference between cooking in the oven and on top of the stove. This was a tip my mother gave me when she also armed me early in marriage with a cast-iron pot for pot-roasting. It is an indispensable item in my kitchen. It's so easy, keeps the meat juicy, and there's no messy oven!

An incredibly simple stew recipe is this. Put some best end lamb chops into a casserole dish. Cover generously with chopped onion. Sprinkle with salt, pepper and nutmeg. Half fill with water and cook slowly in oven. Towards the end thicken with flour or cornflour.

Recipe

Kanhym Butchers sent in a recipe for beef ragout using bolo.

Beef Ragout: 1 kg bolo, cut into 25 mm cubes; 25 ml cooking oil; 10 ml salt; 2 ml black pepper; 3 large onions chopped; 1 clove garlic crushed; grated rind of 2 lemon; 5 ml marjoram; 1 bay leaf; 200 ml meat stock; 25 ml tomato paste.

Brown meat in heated cooking oil. Sprinkle meat with salt and pepper. Add onions, garlic, lemon rind, marjoram and bay leaf to meat and sauté. Heat meat stock and tomato paste and add to meat. Reduce temperature, cover with lid and simmer until meat is tender. Spoon dumplings on top of meat 30 minutes before serving time, cover with lid and simmer. Wine can also be added with meat stock.

	BLUE RIBBON (Pick 'n Pay)		KANHYM (OK Bazaars West Street)		ORCHID (Mayville Butchery)		PRINCE STREET BUTCHERY		RENOWN (Checkers, Davenport)		WHOLESOME MEATS (Cambridge, Bedford, Greenacres, Checkers, Windermere) Westville Foodliner		WOOLWORTHS (West Street)	
	Old Price	New Price	Old Price	New Price	Old Price	New Price	Old Price Prime	New Price Super	Old Price	New Price	Old Price	New Price	Old Price	New Price
HINDQUARTER	1,32	1,28	1,39	1,25*	1,43	1,29	1,36	1,28	1,40	1,25*	1,35	1,25*	1,48	1,38
Fillet	3,98	3,98	3,99	3,89	4,20	3,50	3,20	3,20*	3,98	3,98	3,50	3,50	4,28	3,98
Rump	3,20	2,99	3,38	3,18	3,30	2,90	2,80	2,80	3,20	2,60*	2,80	3,60*	3,28	2,98
Porterhouse	3,16	2,99	3,00	2,98	2,99	2,90	2,60	2,60	3,20	3,20*	2,80	2,60	3,24	2,88
Sirloin	2,30	2,10	2,38	1,85*	2,99	2,90	1,88	1,88	2,40	1,96	2,45	2,15	2,64	2,38
Topside	2,28	1,99	2,48	2,18	2,50	1,70	1,90	1,80	2,40	1,96	2,00	1,60*	2,25	1,85
Stewing Steak	1,88	1,66	2,24	1,98	1,90	1,70	1,78	1,68	1,96	1,60*	1,80	1,60*	2,23	1,98
FOREQUARTER	1,18	1,08	— Roll	—	1,10	0,98*	1,19	1,19	1,20 (Roll)	1,20 (Roll)	1,20	1,12	—	—
Prime Rib Roast	2,20	1,89	2,35	1,65	1,99	1,65	1,60	1,60*	1,98	1,98	1,60	1,68	1,68	1,62
Boneless Chuck Steak	1,88	1,66	2,24	1,98	1,75	1,70	—	1,58	1,96	1,96	1,90	1,65	1,48	1,38*
Blade	1,88	1,66	1,78	1,68	1,70	1,50	—	1,58	1,78	1,68	1,56	1,45*	1,64	1,58
Brisket	1,42	1,39	1,48	1,28	1,45	1,20	—	1,20	1,40	1,30	1,44	1,20	1,28	1,18*
Bolo	1,88	1,66	2,24	1,98	2,20	1,70	—	1,48*	1,96	1,86	1,90	1,65	2,03	1,89

* = LOWEST

To make the dumplings: 350 ml flour; 10 ml baking powder; 1 ml salt; 1 ml thyme; 10 ml chopped parsley; 40 ml cooking oil; 80 ml milk.

Sift flour, baking powder and salt. Add thyme, parsley and cooking oil. Stir in enough milk to form a stiff dough that will keep its shape.

To wind up meaty topics, here is some advice from a butcher. Make friends with the butcher and buy your meat from him personally. Do not buy lower grades as these take longer to cook and contain a higher percentage of gristle, bone and tissue.

Be wise with forequarter cuts and familiarise yourself with how to cook them. It can save you a lot of money.

Try lesser known cuts and learn, too, how to cook these. Butchers are very knowledgeable about this. Evidently the reason so little use is made of forequarter cuts is because many people have no knowledge of their uses and preparation.

* * *

IN THE crunchie recipe last week, I left out the syrup. This should be one desertspoonful and is melted with the margarine, sugar and bi-carb. Sorry.

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Tiberius had the
result not known.
acquitted

...an snitte verskil tot 14 persent

...IER GOEDKOPER

Deur STEPHAN TERBLANCHE

HUISVROUE wat hul vleis by supermarkte, veral aan die Witwatersrand, koop, betaal ten duurste daarvoor. Sonder veel moeite kan dieselfde vleis aan die Rand tot 14 persent goedkoper verkry word.

Die verskil in vleisprys-se blyk uit 'n ondersoek by supermarkte en klein-handelslaghuise binne Transvaalse en Kaapse stadsgebiede waar die vleis beheer word, en slaghuise buite vleisbe-heerde gebiede.

Die verskil in pryse van die verskillende vleissnitte by supermarkte en slaghuise buite die beheerde gebiede aan die Rand, is tot 14 persent. Dis geen geringe besparing as in ag geneem word dat die vleisprys-se teen Kersfees se kant aansienlik gaan styg nie.

In die Kaap sal 'n huisvrou wat normaalweg haar vleis by 'n supermark koop, sowat 2 persent bespaar indien sy dit by 'n gewone slaghuis koop. As sy egter dieselfde vleis by 'n slaghuis buite die stad sou koop, sal sy tot 7 persent minder betaal as by 'n supermark binne die stad en 5 persent minder as by 'n slaghuis in die stad.

Slaghuise buite die beheerde gebied is gewoonlik binne maklike bereik van die huisvrou. Dié slaghuise verkoop vleis goedkoper as dié wat net enkele kilometer nader aan die stad is en waar die vleis beheer word.

Die slaghuise wat nie beheer word nie, is dié wat te ver van 'n munisipale slagplaas is en waar die slagter sy eie diere slag.

'n Huisvrou wat byvoorbeeld maandeliks R40 se vleis by 'n supermark koop, kan dieselfde vleis teen R34 koop by 'n slaghuis buite die beheerde gebied. Dit sal haar 'n jaarlikse besparing van R72 besorg.

Mev. M.J. Geyer van 'n slaghuis naby Roodeplaatdam, net buite Pretoria,



VLEIS ... talle mense kan dit heelwat goedkoper bekom met weinig meer moeite. 'n Landwye ondersoek na vleispryse het aan die lig gebring dat stedelike slaghuise en supermarkte hul vleis teen heelwat meer verkoop as slaghuise wat met 'n klein entjie buite die stad gelee is.

meen dit skrik nie haar klante af om 'n bietjie verder te ry vir goedkoper vleis nie. Sy sê mense kom tot van Benoni om by haar vleis te koop.

„Drie of vier huisvroue ry saam in een motor en kom koop dan hul vleis vir die hele maand," sê sy.

Die volgende is vergelykende gemiddelde pryse van verskillende vleissnitte per kilogram by groot supermarkte, slaghuise in en slaghuise buite stedelike gebiede aan die Witwatersrand en die Kaapse Skierel-land en omgewing.

Die volgende is vergelykende gemiddelde pryse van verskillende vleissnitte per kilogram by groot supermarkte, slaghuise in en slaghuise buite stedelike gebiede aan die Witwatersrand en die Kaapse Skierelland en omgewing:

Witwatersrand: Snit per kilogram	Supermark	Slaghuis in stad	Slaghuis buite stad
Skaaptjops	R3,05	R2,55	R2,20
Maalvleis	R2,10	R1,60	R1,50
Biefstukke	R2,80	R2,40	R1,80
Boerewors	R1,60	R1,60	R1,60
Skierelland:			
Lamboud	R2,47	R1,94	R1,38
Varkboud	R2,24	R1,72	R2,38
Lam-agterkwart	R1,77	R1,50	R1,47
Vark-voorkwart	R1,65	R1,23	R1,11
Soutvleis (bees)	R2,24	R2,21	R1,52

D.D. 26/10/77

26. 1977 S-Meat

Beef price may rise by 20 pc

DURBAN — The price of beef would have to be increased by up to 20 per cent within the next 14 months to avoid a serious shortage, a top Meat Board official said yesterday.

Dr J. Lombard, the board's assistant general manager, told the South African Federation of Lifestock Auctioneers congress the point had been reached where it was vital that farmers intensify production.

"Unless the price of beef is increased by between 18 and 20 per cent by the end of next year the necessary incentive would not be there for farmers to invest the large sums of money necessary to further intensify production.

"This would create a major threat to further growth of the industry," Dr Lombard said. — SAPA

Price of beef 'won't rise'

Mercury Correspondent

19/11/77 E3-Meat

JOHANNESBURG — Lamb and mutton prices are rising because of Christmas demand but the Meat Board plans to ensure adequate low-priced stocks of beef for the public by slaughtering overtime if necessary during short holiday weeks in December.

Yesterday, the general manager of the Meat Board, Mr. Gerrie Marais, squashed an earlier announcement from a board spokesman that consumers could expect the price of beef to increase between now and Christmas.

"I doubt whether this will happen," Mr. Marais said.

"We've got a big surplus of beef and there is heavy pressure on farmers to market their cattle. The board is still buying beef stocks in all major centres — an indication that prices will not go up."

The market price of heavier beef carcasses is a low 98c a kg while lighter carcasses are selling at between 98c and R1,04 a kg.

However, increased demand has pushed the market price of lamb and mutton from R1,50 a kg to an average R1,70 a kg this week.

"I think this price will go up still further before Christmas because we do not have a big enough sheep population to meet demand," said Mr. Marais.

"But we are not prepared to supplement stocks by importing lamb and mutton because of the surplus of high-grade beef.

"Should there be an indication of a beef price increase then we will slaughter cattle overtime to make up for time lost during the short holiday weeks in December," he said.

INTE

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Koch,

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The short cut to cheaper pork

3 Meat

Sunday Times
Business Times
20/11/77

By CATHERINE LURIE

THE MEAT BOARD this week permitted eight independent Pretoria pig producers to bypass wholesalers and sell fresh pork direct to retail outlets in the Transvaal. As a result pork prices to the public are expected to fall by 10 per cent.

The board requires that the farmers' pigs be slaughtered at officially-recognised abattoirs after they have been bought live by the retailer.

The eight producers, who together account for 30 per cent of the total 2 500 weekly production of bacon pigs in Pretoria, formed their own company, Pretoria Pig Holdings in April this year to gain better bulk-buying and selling facilities.

This week, Pretoria Pig Holdings acquired a 25 per cent interest in BophuthaTswana Import Export and Distribution, a company that has all the necessary licences to operate as meat marketers, including slaughtering facilities by virtue of an affiliated company.

Robin Walton, chairman of Pretoria Pig Holdings, said that in the next month, by using BophuthaTswana's facilities and marketing through it, his company would be able to reduce the price of pork to the consumer by an additional 10 per cent, resulting in a total drop of 20 per cent.

This, however, depends on the Meat Board giving its approval as the abattoir is not in one of its stipulated control areas.

The Pretoria pig farmers' action is prompted by a 200 per cent increase in slaughter charges to meet a R90-million bill for three new abattoirs.

The three new abattoirs are at City Deep, Johannesburg, Cato Ridge in Natal (still under construction) and at Chamdor, in Krugersdorp.

Farmers said it was particularly unfair that they were being forced to pay for the costs of all three abbatoirs when they only had the benefit of the abbatoirs in their particular areas.

Meat prices soar for Christmas

Star 9/12/77 (3) - meat

Meat prices on the Witwatersrand are rising rapidly as Christmas approaches — despite a surplus of beef and pork.

They have risen, on average, by more than 12 percent since the beginning of November.

A spokesman for one of Johannesburg's top three meat wholesalers accused the Meat Board of reducing slaughter quotas for Christmas.

"We've told our buyer to let the market sit with the meat until after Christmas, when prices should drop," he said.

Too much control by Vleissentraal executives at the Meat Board was resulting in artificially high prices, buthcers and some wholesalers claimed.

(Twelve of the 23 Meat Board members are employed by Vleissentraal, the largest livestock auctioneering co-operative in South Africa.)

A Kew, Johannesburg, butcher, who buys direct from the abattoir, claimed meat prices could come down 20 percent if monopolistic activities centred on the Meat Board were eliminated.

PROFITEERING

Other butchers agreed, but also accused wholesalers of profiteering. This was denied.

Prices started to go up about two weeks ago.

Mr Gerrie Marais, general manager for the Meat Board, said: "There is no necessity for prices to go up. We have surpluses here and in South West Africa."

He claimed the Meat Board would fight price rises by slaughtering more. He disagreed that present quotas were inadequate.

Mr Marais said present high prices were due to slaughtering "breakdowns" and shorter weeks near Christmas — although they were trying to work overtime at abattoirs.

He also denied that the Meat Board was trying to force the price of meat up another 20 percent in 1978.

Meat Board executives warned, a few weeks ago, that prices would have to go up to keep all feedlots operational.

Daily beef quotas have been increased by about

To Page 3, Col 10

Price of meat soaring

▶▶From page 1

2 700 since November. Quotas on the slaughtering of sucking pigs have been dropped.

However, despite the increased Christmas demand for sheep and the short supply, a quota has been introduced controlling the numbers of these animals killed. There was no quota on sheep last month.

Prices for super lamb have risen a whopping 18 percent since the beginning of November.

Compared with floor prices at the beginning of November, super X beef has risen 9,2 percent; prime AX beef 12,7 percent and grade 1AX beef, 7,6 percent.

Prices for porkers have dropped by nearly 2c a kilogram at the Benoni abattoir but have risen by about 10 percent in the same time at Krugersdorp abattoir.

Meat Board officials were uncertain of the reasons for this.

In time for Christmas, white meat has also risen, turkeys by 20 percent and chickens by 25 percent. Increased production costs have apparently led to these increases.

● Produce prices may rise. Page 23.

Star 12/12/77

Slaughter (3) meat costs up tenfold in five years

Charlene Beltramo, Consumer Reporter

Meat farmers have had to meet abattoir fee increases of 1 000 percent in the last five years and railage hikes of 360 percent since 1973.

"The farmers' plight never seems to be very dramatic news," Mr Jan van der Walt, representative for the Meat Industry in the South African Agricultural Union, said today.

"The market price is what the farmer gets; minus levies to the Meat Board, slaughtering and abattoir fees, transit insurance, agents commission and railage costs."

From January to June this year, on average, marketing costs for a head of beef in controlled areas came to R31,41c which the farmer paid.

"Railage averages R9,10 a head, although this can be misleading, because a farmer railing from Windhoek will pay about R20 a head.

"At the moment the beef industry is in dire straits. A commission of inquiry some years back recommended higher rail tariffs — before they had been comparatively cheap. The new abattoirs were built very expensively and redemption, payment on capital and interest works out to a large amount."

CONSUMER INDEX

During the same time, Mr van der Walt pointed out, prices to the farmer had barely inched up.

"For the first six months of this year an average 212 kilogram carcass brought the farmer R216,71 — R191 for the carcass, R12 for offal and R13 for the hide. This is before deductions."

Mr van der Walt, using the Consumer Price Index as a guide, showed that up until October this year, from the same time last year, beef had increased by five percent.

General foodstuffs, however, increased 10 percent.

esources.

Price of meat rockets

NM 16/12/77

3-MEAT.

Agricultural Correspondent

UNPRECEDENTED demand for beef in Durban sent meat prices soaring yesterday and the abattoir is working to full capacity in the effort to cope.

Meat prices are expected to stay firm for a few more weeks.

The price of super and prime beef reached 123c a kilogram on the Durban abattoir yesterday as butchers bid against one another to secure supplies for Christmas.

Other grades showed similar price increases and grade 1 A beef carcasses sold for up to 119c a kilogram.

In an effort to meet demand, the Durban abattoir this week has been slaughtering more than 900 cattle a day.

Star 19/12/77
(3)

Meat price has risen by 14 pc, say housewives

The Housewives' League of South Africa says consumers are not getting the benefit of the Meat Board's reduction in the floor price of meat — weekly surveys by the league show that prices in fact increased by as much as 14 percent between October and December.

In September this year the Meat Board dropped the floor price of top grades of beef by about seven percent.

In a statement, the national president of the Housewives' League, Mrs Joy Hurwitz, said the league understood from Mr G Marais, of the board, that the abattoirs were slaughtering at full capacity "which denotes a plentiful supply of high grade meat."

The board's scheme of a seven percent reduction of the floor price still stands which also affects the producer in the form of a levy.

"The league feels the consumer is not getting this benefit because from our weekly surveys we noticed percentage increases by as much as 14 percent in the period October 7 to December 8.

"If abattoirs are working all out there must be an adequate supply to meet local demand therefore prices should not rise.

"The consumer has come to expect a seasonal rise in the price of red meat but we see no reason for it here," Mrs Hurwitz said.

Spokesmen for the Meat Board were not available for comment today.

Price of beef drops after rapid increase

RNM 20/12/77

3 MEAT

PRETORIA — Abattoirs throughout the country were slaughtering overtime to cope with the Christmas demand for beef that had pushed market prices up by more than 11 percent, Mr. G. Marais, general manager of the Meat Control Board, said at a Press conference here yesterday.

Since the meat board reduced the trade floor price of super beef by seven percent on September 19 auction prices dropped by five percent until the end of November and retail prices by between four and seven percent.

"Under the influence of a keen Christmas demand and in spite of a record supply of fresh beef, auction prices of super beef increased by about 11 percent from the beginning of December until the end of the week ending December 10.

"Retail prices on the Witwatersrand increased by five percent and those in Durban by 10 percent," he said.

The board had made every effort to increase the supply and during the week of December 10 a record number of 30 327 fresh carcasses were offered for sale in the nine controlled areas, reports Sapa.

Our agricultural correspondent reports that the price of super grade beef at the Durban abattoir dropped yesterday from its record high earlier in the week of R1,40c a kilo to R1,11c a kilo.

A spokesman for the Durban and District Meat Traders' Association said a request sent to the Meat Board in Pretoria earlier this week for additional supplies of cattle had been turned down.

He said however, that it appeared as if butchers were easing off on their buying and the price had dropped as a result.

At the Durban abattoir yesterday more than 1 000 cattle, 5 000 sheep and 440 pigs were slaughtered.

Regional

KDM 20/12/77

(3)

'Festive sales push beef prices up'

By SHEILA WING

SCARCITY and heavy Christmas demand have pushed up the price of high grade beef, Mr Gerrie Marais, general manager of the Meat Board, said yesterday.

He was commenting on the finding of a Housewives' League survey which showed high grade beef prices had increased by 14% between October 7 and December 8 — in spite of the Meat Board scheme to give a 7% reduction in the floor price.

"The Housewives' League is calculating the increase from the reduced floor price of 98c a kg. But abattoir prices averaged between R1,06 and R1,08 a kg which means an increase of about 7% in the last three weeks," Mr Marais said.

Yesterday, higher grade beef prices were R1,13 a kg (Super X) and R1,16 a kg (Super Y).

"The 7% reduction is still in operation but consumers will only get the benefit from it early in January once demand has dropped," said Mr Marais.

"Prices are usually higher at Christmas. Demand is forcing the trade to pay more for the higher grades," he added.

Mr Marais said while full supplies of cattle were still being slaughtered at abattoirs, high grade beef supplies had dropped because the quality of cattle in many parts of the country had deteriorated due to lack of rain.

"Our supply position is not bad as far as numbers are concerned but the quality is lacking. Instead of the prime grades, we are getting more of the lower grades."

The price of lower grade beef was down as a result of increased supply, he said.

Grade 3 beef, which was selling at 72c a kg at Newtown last week, dropped to 69c a kg yesterday. Medium grades were selling at between 99c and R1,05 a kg.

A record number of cattle — 11 639 — was slaughtered on the Witwatersrand in only four slaughtering days last week. The slaughtering quota for a normal week is 13 100.

Mr Marais said abattoirs had chosen to increase their capacity rather than slaughter overtime for Christmas.

"We will be slaughtering 1 600 cattle a day this week," he said.

Chicken price to rise next week

NM 3/12/77

3-MEAT

Mercury Reporter

THE price of frozen chickens will rise by six cents on Monday and the loss of thousands of chickens during last week's heatwave may force the price up even further.

This is the opinion of Mr. Alan Gardiner of Pick 'n Pay. An estimated 500 000 chickens are believed to have died in the heatwave. Rainbow, the country's largest chicken producer, are believed to have suffered the heaviest loss.

The wholesale price of Rainbow frozen chickens will jump from 97c to R1,03 per kilogram.

Mr. Gardiner said that the price rise was the result of heavy exporting which left the local market undersupplied.

He felt that in the long run both the chicken industry and the consumer would profit by the increase as some suppliers would have had to go out of business if the situation did not improve. This would eventually make the price drastically higher.

He did not foresee the price of chickens coming down until at least July next year.

Mr. Pat Pitcher of Tongaat Poultry, Natal's largest egg supplier, said that the death of chickens in the heatwave would not affect the price of eggs.

Goeie nuus vir beesboere

(3) meat Soko Nat Mark 8/1/78

DIE daling die afgelope twee weke in die pryse van hoëgraadse beesvleis sal waarskynlik nog die volgende paar weke voortduur. Die verwagting is egter dat pryse teen die einde van Januarie weer sal begin styg. En vir die beesboere is daar die goeie nuus dat die vleissubsidie van R4 per karkas waarskynlik dan ingetrek sal word.

Ná die abnormale vraag na hoëgraadse beesvleis in die twee weke voor Kersfees, toe die beste grade vleis 'n prys van tot 116c per kilogram aan die haak gehaal het, het pryse die volgende twee weke tot sowat 101c per kg gedaal en vándeesweek weer tot 108c verstewig.

Maar hierdie tyd van die jaar is die vraag na beesvleis tradisioneel klein en neig pryse af omdat die meeste mense voor die Kerstyd hul koelkaste volgemaak het. Geld bly dan gewoonlik daarna tot die einde van Januarie skaars.

Die vleissubsidie is op 19 September deur die Vleisraad ingestel om die beesboere te help om van hul oorskot hoëgraadse beeste ontslae te raak.

Hierdie plan het goed gewerk. Hier kort voor Kersfees is tot 30 000 karkasse per week in die land se beheerde gebiede geslag, wat vergelyk met die minder as 20 000 per week voordat die subsidie ingestel is.

Die subsidie is ook op die laer graad beeste van toepassing, wat beteken dat die boer hier ook R4 per karkas moet opdok. Dit het meegebring dat boere meer van die goeie beeste na die mark gestuur het. Daar is gehoop dat die veld sodanig sou verbeter dat die swakker beeste teen Februarie se kant in baie goeie kondisie sou wees.

In Botswana is daar beken-klou en geen aanbod kan hiervandaan verwag word nie. Rhodesië lewer ook nie meer beeste vir die Suid-Afrikaanse mark nie en in die vleishandel is daar nou geen twyfel dat hoëgraadse beesvleis hier van einde van die maand af weer skaars gaan word nie.

Mnr. Gerrie Marais, hoofbestuurder van die Vleisraad, het ook aan RAPPORT bevestig dat die Vleisraad se opgekoopte voorraad nou heeltemal uitgewis is.

Fondse versterk

Hierdie voorraad — dit is karkasse wat opgekoop word wanneer die pryse te laag neig — het tot tussen 30 000 en 40 000 gestyg nadat die Vleisraad veral in Julie verlede jaar groot hoeveelhede vleis moes inkoop. Daar was veral tóé groot probleme om hierdie vleis te berg.

Hierdie vleis is nou egter alles uitgevoer. Die Vleisraad is dus weer in 'n posisie om vleis te kan inkoop wanneer pryse tot onder die vloerprys daal.

Intussen het die Vleisraad met aanvullende heffings en die heffing van R4 per karkas kragtens die subsidieplan die kans gekry om sy fondse, wat in 'n stadium baie skraal was, te versterk.

Met 'n sterker vraag na hoëgraadse beesvleis van Februarie se kant af, sal daar geen rede meer wees om die vleissubsidie toe te pas nie en sal dit waarskynlik afgeskaf word.

Aanbod

Dit kan dalk terselfdertyd ook saam met 'n heel nuwe bedeling vir die land se vleisbedryf met 'n jaarlikse omset van R500 miljoen kom.

Volgens mnr. Marais word daar nou 'n dieptestudie oor die hele bedryf gedoen. Dit lyk of daar veral opnuut na die hele graderingstelsel gekyk sal word, veral in die mate waarin dit die verbruiker en die slagter verwar.

En oor beweringe dat die Vleisraad die aanbod van vleis oor die Kerstyd kunsmatig laag gehou word, sê mnr. Marais ook dat dit onsin is.

In die week voor Kersfees het Johannesburg se City Deep-slagplaas byvoorbeeld sommige dae tussen 1 800 en 2 000 karkasse hanteer. Dit vergelyk met die slagplaas se maksimumvermoë van 1 650 karkasse per dag.

Star 10/2/78

3-Meat

Cheaper beef, but pork up

Chicken, lamb, mutton and beef prices are dropping, but an increase in the floor price of pork is expected to push up the price of processed meats by eight to 12 percent.

The price of frozen chicken is expected to drop to between 93c and 89c a kg as from Monday next week. Supermarket prices are between R1,05 and 99c a kg at present.

The Meat Board confirmed that lamb, mutton and beef prices had slowly been sliding downward during the last few days but said they had no idea why.

Floor prices for super beef have dropped from R1,19 to R1,14 a kilogram. Since the last week of January, prices for lamb have dropped fairly substantially although the Meat Board said this meat was still in inadequate supply.

Super lamb has dropped 10c from R1,65 a kg in January; grade 1 lamb is down 4c a kg to R1,46 and grade 1 mutton has dropped five cents to R1,35 a kg.

A snap survey reveals that consumers are still not getting the benefit of the lowered prices.

ENCOURAGE

To encourage pork production the Meat Board recently raised floor prices: grade 1 bacon pigs went from 81c a kg to 90c and grade 2 from 78c to 85c a kg. Porkers — the type usually bought by consumers—went up from 87c a kg for super to R1.

According to the Meat Board consumers have not yet felt the effect of these increases although they will, indirectly, with the higher prices for processed meats.

Retailers have accused processed meat manufacturers of forming a cartel, as prices for all are going up on March 6.

Manufacturers deny this, however. "We haven't increased prices since the beginning of last year," they said.

Pure pork products will increase by 10,5 percent to 12 percent and "emulsions" such as polony and viennas will cost eight to 10 percent more.

Butchers reject new meat plan

8/3/78 Star (3) meat

Butchers today rejected the Government's announced plans for freer meat marketing as "no solution."

Johannesburg meatmen said only a free-enterprise system would be acceptable, and all interference had to be scrapped.

Spokesmen for the Meat Board in Pretoria were not willing to comment today. Details of yesterday's announcement by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, were being sent to board members for discussion.

Mr Schoeman said in a statement that the Commission of Inquiry into the Marketing Act had recommended a freer system for the meat industry, and the recommendations had been accepted.

Mr Bruno Forlani, a retail butcher, said the changes announced were not good enough. "We must have a free-enterprise system," he said.

"I would like to ask the Minister for whose benefit they have controlled areas. Nobody benefits," Mr Forlani said.

Mr G Dallatana said he agreed with protection for farmers but, after that, marketing of meat had to be free.

Mr M F Lumby, a retail manager, said the announcement was so broad that at this stage it meant nothing. "If the Minister says control will be lifted in the whole area of Johannesburg and the Witwatersrand, then we can talk."

● Meat users to benefit. — Page 10.

3 MEAT.

New meat marketing

8/3/78

JOHANNESBURG — The Minister of Agriculture, Mr Schoeman, said yesterday he intends introducing a freer meat marketing system.

He envisaged a lower guaranteed minimum price for producers in controlled areas, a decrease in the number of controlled areas, and a gradual easing of the registration restrictions of butchers, wholesalers, manufacturers and brokers.

The minimum price of controlled markets would now be set at a lower level to protect farmers against abnormal price drops.

Stable meat prices

JOHANNESBURG — Meat prices are unlikely to drop as a result of the new meat marketing measures — announced this week by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Schoeman — according to spokesmen for the industry.

But the steps could mean a welcome stabilisation of prices.

Mr Schoeman announced the guaranteed minimum price in controlled areas would in future be fixed at a "conservative" level when he tabled the recommendations of the National Marketing Council on a freer marketing system for meat in Parliament on Tuesday. — DDC.

Close-up on the suffering of your Sunday roast



Sheep were packed so tightly into some pens at the Benoni abattoir last Sunday that they could not move to the food and water at one end of the pen.



A cow with a fractured hind leg in a pen at the Benoni abattoir. It could not get near food and water and other cattle trampled the injured limb.

Abattoir stock is maltreated

By CHRIS FREIMOND

SHOCKING cases of maltreatment of slaughter stock at the Benoni abattoir have been revealed by a Rand Daily Mail investigation.

During a visit to the abattoir in Lincoln Road last Sunday investigators found:

- A consignment of pigs in two railway trucks at the siding. They had arrived the previous day and according to the stock card the pigs were last fed and watered five days previously.
- More than 60 sheep crammed into a pen of about 30 sq m. They were packed so tightly that most of them could not move to the food and water in one corner of the pen.
- A large pig with a gash at least 3 cm deep and 15 cm long on his flank.
- A cow with a fractured hind leg. The animal tried repeatedly to stand up. It could not get near food or water. Other cows in the pen regularly stood on the swollen leg.
- Suckling calves that had been at the abattoir since the previous day. According to regulations if calves come by road, as these are believed to have done, they should arrive on the morning before slaughter.
- A cow that was so emaciated that it had difficulty in standing.
- A sheep with thick mucus dribbling from its nose and almost smothering it.
- Many of the water troughs were empty. The mains were turned off because the municipality had been working on the water pipes all day.

The chairman of the Benoni SPCA, Mrs C Julius, said members of the society had visited the abattoir at weekends for the past four months to check on conditions.

"Over the Easter weekend some animals were not fed or watered for three days," she said.

The acting manager of the abattoir, Mr D P van Rensburg, refused to comment until he had investigated the allegations, which he expected to be next week.

Tvl and OFS bear burden

2 & 14 and March	Checkers, Killarney			OK Bazaars, Rosebank			Pick 'n Pay, Rosebank		
	Old price	New price	% increase	Old price	New price	% increase	Old price	New price	% increase
sliced shoulder 250 g	49	66	35%	52	60	15%	49	49	—
shoulder bacon,	55	63	14%	67	67	—	39	54	38%
rise cork ges, 500 g	69	—	—	75	75	—	73	82	12%
prise wieners, 1,5	2,25	2,40	7%	—	—	—	2,18	2,42	11%
rise French 1 kg	1,35	1,49	10%	1,46	1,58	8%	1 28	1,32	3%
French polony, 1	1,19	1,38	16%	1,18	1,50	27%	1,19	1,48	24%
n French polony,	1.35	1,38	2%	1,49	1,49	—	99	1,24	25%
French polony,	—	—	—	34	45	24%	37	42	13%

these price rises justified? Some examples of price rises for pork-based processed products found in Johannesburg stores this week.

Witwatersrand consumers were hit this week by substantial increases in the price of processed meats.

The major producers emphasised, when asked for reasons for the price increase, that there has been a "rise in the price of pork" since the Meat Board raised its floor price in mid-January.

This claim has been hotly contested, however, by local pig farmers and The Star has found that, while market prices of the type of pork used for most processed meats have risen in other parts of the country, Witwatersrand prices have dropped since the floor-price increase.

Compiled by Mignonne Crozier and Sally de Vasconcellos.

Witwatersrand consumers might well wonder if the local increase is justified.

Retail prices of some pork-based processed meats at three Johannesburg supermarkets have risen by an average of 15 percent since the major producers increased their Transvaal prices last week — as shown in the tabulation at left

When we asked leading manufacturers for the reasons for their price increase, their initial replies were:

● A spokesman for the Eskort Bacon Co-operative, which makes the Eskort range of processed meats, attributed their price rise mainly to "a terrific increase" in the cost of pig feed. Eskort, he said, had had no option but to pay more to the pig farmers from whom it bought its pork "to keep the farmer in business". He added that, while this was the "basic reason" for the price increase, there had been other cost increases to the company such as packaging materials, paper and plastics.

● Mr Eric Stander, marketing manager of Asokor, which makes the Enterprise range, said "quite a lot of things" had led to the increase. Firstly processed meat prices had not been increased since about January 1977. Since then the cost of many items such as petrol, wages and electricity had gone up. And finally, he said, there had been an increase in the price of pork which constituted about 60 percent of their products.

● Mr Chris Raats, national marketing manager of Imperial Cold Storage (ICS) which makes the Renown range, listed the following reasons for their increase; "The rise in the floor price of pork", "heavy increases" in fuel costs, increases in wages and the cost of vehicle transport and castings. The cost of packaging material he said, has risen too — "not a great deal but it has gone up" and some spices had gone up "very slightly."

Contested

All the producers approached emphasised that the floor price of pork had risen or that its buying price had gone up. These claims have been loudly contested, however, by members of the pig-farming industry on the

All the producers approached emphasised that the floor price of pork had risen or that its buying price had gone up. These claims have been loudly contested, however, by members of the pig-farming industry on the Witwatersrand.

"The manufacturers should look for some other reasons for their increase," said a Johannesburg agent for the pig-farming industry. He said the raising of the floor price of Grade 1 baconers (the type of pork used for bacon and processed meats) from 81 c to 90 c a kg had had no effect on the prices realised on the Witwatersrand.

This was confirmed by Honeydew pigfarmer Mr John Roderick, who said the manufacturers' claims were "grossly exaggerated." The manufacturers are paying exactly the same price as before," he said.

The Star, too, found that the manufacturers' claims could only partially be substantiated.

Figures supplied by the Meat Board showed that while the price of pork in Cape Town, Durban and Port Elizabeth rose after the raising of the floor price, prices on the Witwatersrand's main pork market (Benoni abattoir have dropped since the floor-price increase.

In the week January 9 to 13, prices for Grade 1 baconers averaged about 95c a kg at Benoni. In the week February 6 to 10 they dropped to an average of 92c and last week the average price did not rise higher than the floor price of 90c.

When these facts were put to the two major Witwatersrand producers, their answers were evasive.

Mr Stander referred The Star to Mr E Potgieter, general manager of Asokor's factories, who in turn declined to comment and referred The Star to Mr Hans Levor of the Witwatersrand Bacon and Small Goods Association. Mr Levor was not available for comment.

Mr Raats at first replied that this was not his concern. He then conceded that the reaction of the pig producers was "probably true". But his company, he said, looked at the effect of the higher floor prices "nationally".

Prices vary

Most of the major producers, however, have different prices for the Transvaal and Free State than for Natal and the Cape.

Eskort, for example, increased its Transvaal and OFS prices on March 6 by from 10 to 19 percent but will only be

Most of the major producers, however, have different prices for the Transvaal and Free State than for Natal and the Cape.

Eskort, for example, increased its Transvaal and OFS prices on March 6 by from 10 to 19 percent but will only be raising Natal and Cape prices on April 3 from five to eight percent. ICS increased their Transvaal prices on March 8, said Mr Raats, and increases for the rest of the country are still to come.

The research reveals that Witwatersrand consumers are being faced with price rises for processed meats as high (and higher) than anywhere else in the country — despite the fact that the basic constituent of these products, pork, has been dropping in price locally.

Assurance to farmers on red meat

NM 19/4/78

3-MEAT.

Agricultural Correspondent

ALTHOUGH the future for red meat in South Africa is uncertain, there is no cause for pessimism, according to a senior Meat Board official in Durban.

Opening the annual congress of the Natal and East Griqualand Woolgrowers' Association yesterday, Mr. J. W. Raath, an animal scientist, said demand for red meat in South Africa must grow in spite of present problems.

Comparing the consumption of red meat and poultry, Mr. Raath said that since 1969 beef consumption had risen by 2,8 percent, mutton by 0,8 percent and poultry by 13,6 percent. He predicted, however, that poultry producers were in for an even tougher time than red meat producers.

Prices

Mr. Raath said that while the consumption of poultry in 1973 had increased by 22,8 percent, by 1977 the figure had dropped to 7,4 percent. In spite of a surplus of poultry, higher feed bills would make it imperative that there would be increases in the price of poultry. He doubted if red meat producers would shed any tears over this.

Delivering his presidential address to the association Mr. J. H. V. de Jager said he was very worried about the economic plight of farmers. Many would not be able to survive the continuing inroads on profit margins because of spiralling production costs.

Wool

Mr. de Jager said the future of South African woolgrowers was particularly serious in the light of the economic slump in most overseas countries. If conditions did not improve and farmers were not paid a higher price for their wool, it would become more and more difficult for them to survive.

On the question of using wool shearers from Transkei and Lesotho to cut the South African wool-clip, Mr. de Jager said it was time South Africa trained her own white wool shearers to replace the [redacted] who came from these

depress prices and stimulate consumption. That's the key point Schoeman should ponder as he goes about setting the new floor prices.

He will also need to consider very carefully the recent report of the Marketing Council (see box). The council accepts the value of a floor price system for the livestock industry. However, it argues that it is unsuitable to build in an "incentive price" to encourage production.

It recommends that floor prices should serve only as a protective measure against *abnormal* price drops, and that they should be fixed at a level which makes allowance for the wide price fluctuations that can normally be expected in the course of a season (in the case of beef, 10% or more below the average auction price).

In the row that followed the council's report, Schoeman gave an undertaking that he would not *reduce* the floor prices of beef, mutton or pork.

The *FM* understands that, where in the normal course of events beef farmers would have asked for an increase to cover their production costs, which would have been more than 20c/kg, they have realised that the present imbalance between supply and demand must be rectified. So they will only ask for an increase of a few cents to cover extra marketing costs (chiefly railage), in the hope that, if meat price increases are relatively lower than those of other foods, this will stimulate consumption.

Producers would then have to absorb the bulk of their cost increases themselves. This would probably result in slightly lower production.

The question the minister will have to decide is whether, as long as the present overproduction lasts, *any* increase in the floor price is wise. Should it not at least be postponed until supply and demand show signs of matching?



All that bull . . . price him low

RETURN TO FREER TRADE?

The Marketing Council comprises five economists and three farmers. Its chairman is W J Treurnicht. Its proposals, contained in a recent report, amount to a radical return to a freer meat marketing system. They concern the whole industry, including producers, wholesalers, manufacturers, retailers, livestock auctioneers, abattoir operators, curers of hides and skins and, of course, consumers.

The SA Agricultural Union, incensed because the minister accepted most of the council's recommendations (those concerning guaranteed prices, the number of controlled areas and restrictive registration) before consulting it, at first rejected the report outright.

Thundered SAAU chairman Albert Basson: "The report is totally unacceptable to agriculture . . . SAAU will oppose the report with everything at its disposal as it will put the meat producer back 50 years and will mean the complete downfall of the industry." And of various members of the trade approached by the *FM*, all are against it, though no one will comment or be quoted "at this stage."

Following subsequent meetings between the minister, the Meat Board and the SAAU, Schoeman gave an assurance that there would be no reduction in the price of beef, mutton or pork; and it has been agreed that the Meat Board and SAAU will go into all the implications of the council's recommendations thoroughly and that suggestions will then be submitted to the minister.

Besides guaranteed prices, the most contentious recommendations concern abattoirs, controlled areas and restrictive registration.

Abattoir policy. While the Marketing Council concedes that the existing marketing structure cannot be ignored, it argues that "the establishment of integrated private abattoirs and meat processing plants, coupled with the freer movement of meat throughout the country, will in the long run offer the best possibilities for the eventual establishment of an effective distribution system. This applies not only to the cost and hygiene aspects, but also to the steadiness of supply and stabilisation of prices."

Since existing slaughtering facilities in the controlled areas are ample, and more are due for completion in the near future, the council feels these must be protected. This involves restrictions on the movement of meat, and on the erection of private abattoirs. But the council recommends that the Abattoir Corporation should not be allowed to erect or take over any more abattoirs, either in or outside controlled areas, and that the Pretoria abattoir should not be replaced by a new public abattoir.

If a local authority is unable or unwilling to provide facilities at its own risk in uncontrolled areas, it should be left to private enterprise.

Controlled areas. These are areas where the Meat Board operates to control the marketing of meat. There are nine controlled areas, all round the main urban areas. Marketing is done by the "auction-on-the-hook" method through the abattoirs. Other methods such as sales on the hoof are not allowed. The Meat Board buys in at the floor price when necessary.

Control, says the council, should be lifted in East London, Bloemfontein, Kimberley and Pretoria, and on the abattoirs in Benoni, Springs and Krugersdorp. This would leave only Johannesburg's City Deep, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and Durban (in due course Cato Ridge), where guaranteed prices and the compulsory "auction-on-the-hook" system would be retained.

Restrictive registration. Under present arrangements the numbers of butchers and certain other key participants in the meat trade are limited by the Meat Board. The council maintains that, except in the case of abattoir agents, there is no justification for restrictive registration. It says it should either be lifted, or at least considerably eased on retail butchers, wholesalers, manufacturers of meat products, and curers of hides and skins.

The Meat Board guarantees beef farmers a minimum price for their product. This year, it should be frozen FM 21/4/78

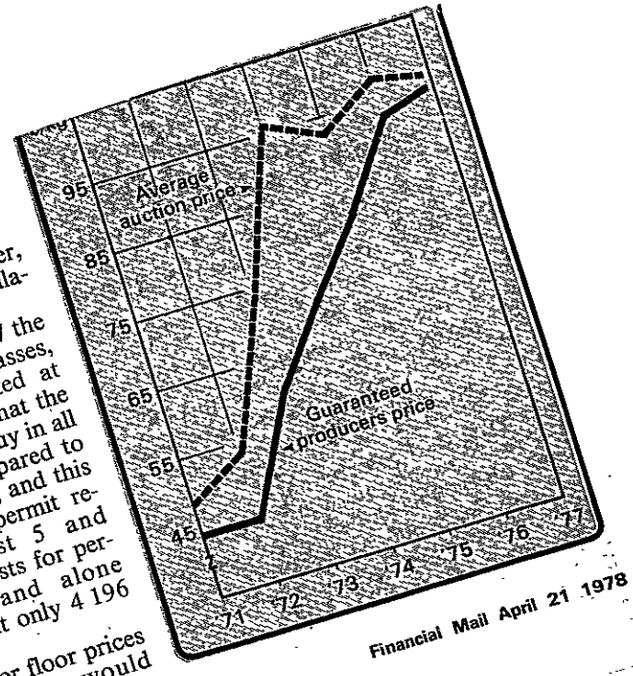
In the next few weeks the Minister of Agriculture, Hendrik Schoeman, will fix the coming season's guaranteed or "floor" prices for meat. He should be careful not to set them too high.

As far as beef is concerned, the market is out of balance: on the one hand, it is heavily over-supplied; on the other, prices are too high to stimulate consumption. The trouble stems partly from the price policies of recent years. In 1973-74 there was a serious beef shortage. Farmers' floor prices were then increased sharply to stimulate production. They more than doubled between 1972 and 1977 and average auction prices rose at about the same rate.

The result of higher prices, coupled with three years of very good weather, was a sharp increase in the cattle population from 8m to over 9m.

Between July 1976 and June 1977 the Meat Board bought in 54 000 carcasses, most of which have been exported at a loss. It soon became apparent that the Meat Board could not afford to buy in all the cattle that farmers were prepared to offer at the present floor prices, and this inevitably led to quotas and permit restrictions. Between August 5 and November 17 last year requests for permits on the Witwatersrand alone averaged 44 580 a week, but only 4 196 a week could be granted.

If the market were free (or floor prices much lower) the oversupply would



(3) meat

Vleisproduksie nou bedreig

Rapport 23/4/78

DIE ekstra R800 miljoen wat die verhoogde mielieprys vanjaar uit die ekonomie gaan haal, gaan ons vleisboere laat bloed sweet. Veral varkboere gaan kraak en vir baie hoenderboere sal dit die einde beteken.

Volgens mnr. Jan van der Walt van die Suid-Afrikaanse Landbouunie, sal boere wat rooivleis vir die mark teel, nie in staat wees om die verhoogde mielieprys by die vloerprys in te sluit nie. „Die huidige prys maak nie eens voorsiening vir verlede jaar se verhoogde mielieprys nie," het hy gesê.

Vanweë die saagtandpatroon in die land se landbou is daar tans 'n tydelike ooraanbod van rooivleis, hoewel boere in totaal nie genoeg rooivleis kan produseer nie. Maar dié tydelike ooraanbod bemoeilik rooivleisboere se posisie.

„As daar nou betoog moet word vir 'n geweldig verhoogde voerprys om produksiekoste te dek, sal daar gewis koopweerstand kom. Dit is 'n uiters ongelukkige posisie vir dié mense, maar ek is bevrees hulle sal nie hul pryse kan aanpas nie."

Hy sê die publiek kry min kans om oor hoë voedselpryse getroos te word. „Almal glo vleis is duur en dat dit duur sal bly. Maar dit is net een sy van die saak."

Vloerprys

Hy wys daarop dat die vloerprys van rooivleis in die 12 maande tot einde Februarie vanjaar gemiddeld met 4,48 persent gestyg het. Intussen het die algemene voedselindeks met 11,6 persent gestyg. Die prys wat boere in dié tyd ontvang het vir vee geslag, het ongeveer met dieselfde persentasie gedaal, nl. 4,8 persent.

[illegible] verhoging in [illegible] van rooivleis die afgelope jaar of twee in werklikheid gedaal."

Omdat die minimum netto styging van die koste van mielies aan die verbruiker sowat 16 persent sal wees, kan verwag word dat alle voerpryse met 15 persent of meer sal toeneem, meen mnr. Raath.

Varkboere

„Hoewel beesvleis sowat 70 persent van dié rooivleismark uitmaak, sit beesboere wat voerhokvee teel nie in dieselfde knyp as varkboere nie. Varkvleis is sowat 10 persent van die totale rooivleisafset.

In die geval van varke speel die koste van rantsoene 'n baie groter regstreekse rol by produksiekoste as in die geval van beeste. Hier bestaan 70 tot 75 persent van produksiekoste uit rantsoenkoste. Dan is daar nog die geweldige toename in die prys van vismeel wat 'n baie belangrike voerbestanddeel is. Al moontlike plaasvervanger is sojabone waarvan Suid-Afrika maar min kweek.

„Die teel van varkvleis is dus op 'n baie lae vlak van winsgewendheid. Varkboere sit regtig in die knyp. Al wat hulle kan doen, is maar vasbyt en hoop op die beste.

Hoenders

By die hoenderboere huil die byle nou letterlik en figuurlik. Tans is die aantal hoenders wat verkoop word gelykstaande aan 'n miljoen beeste per paar — of 25 persent van die totale verbruik van vleis in Suid-Afrika.

Vroeër was daar 'n gemiddelde groei van 20 persent per jaar in hoender[illegible] sterk

[illegible] saam met hul gesinne van huisvesting voorsien te word. In Junie op Oranjemund aangekom. Keurings- en opleidingsgeriewe is dwarsdeur die Groep uitgebrei en verbeter. Dit lewer alles 'n baie groot bydrae tot die uitskakeling van alle vorme van rassediskriminasie onder ons beheer, en waar daar [illegible]

passings onvermydelik.

Verlede jaar was daar 'n prysaanpassing. As dit vanjaar weer gebeur — en dit sal moet gebeur — sal die prys van hoendervleis glad nie meer so mededingend wees nie en sal baie van die minder-gegoedes nie meer soveel vleis kan eet nie.

Vleisplan kry knou

dappert 30/4/78 (3) meat

BOERE ERG ONTSTOKE

Deur DAVID MEADES

DIE Nasionale Bemarkingsraad se aanbevelings oor die bemarking van slagvee en vleis het 'n kwaai knou weg. Maar dit beteken geensins dat die land nie op pad is na 'n geheel en al nuwe vleisbedeling nie.

Die bemarkingsraad, wat 'n onderafdeling van die Departement van Landbou is, se aanbevelings het 'n bedeling in die vleisbedryf voorgestel wat ongetwyfeld 'n taamlike sterk verlaging in die prys van beesvleis kon gebring het.

Die eienaardige in die aanbevelings is dat dit in geheel deur die Minister van Landbou en die Kabinet aanvaar is voordat dit in die Volksraad ter tafel gelê is of dat die georganiseerde landbou en die Vleisraad hoegenaamd daarin geken is.

Die aanbevelings van die bemarkingsraad is ingrypend. Dit behels onder meer die volgende:

- Die vermindering van die aantal beheerde gebiede van nege tot net vier.
- 'n Meer konserwatiewe vloerprys vir vleis, wat volgens boere net een ding beteken — laer vloerpryse.
- Geen nuwe slagpales sal meer deur die Abattoir-Korporasie opgerig mag word nie.
- Beperkings op die nuwe slaghuise sal verdwyn, wat beteken dat supermarkte op groot skaal hul eie slaghuise sal kan inrig.
- Die uitvoer van vleis sal deur die Departement van Landbou en nie die Vleisraad hanteer word nie.

Toe die aanbevelings van die bemarkingsraad bekend geword het, was daar 'n buitengewoon skerp reaksie van die kant van die georganiseerde landbou.

Die voorsitter van die Suid-Afrikaanse Landbou-Unie, mnr. Albert Basson, het gesê dit kom neer op die stelselmatige aftakeling van die vleisskema, waarvoor 'n halwe eeu lank geveg is. Boere het baie hiervoor opgeoffer sonder om ooit 'n sent van die staat te ontvang, het hy gesê.

Die landbou-unie sal dit met al die mag tot sy beskikking beveg, omdat die aanvaarding daarvan die vleisboer vyftig jaar sal terug plaas en die totale ondergang van die bedryf sal beteken.

Die Minister van Landbou, mnr. Hendrik Schoeman, het kort daarna aangekondig dat daar geen sprake van 'n onmiddellike verlaging van die vloerpryse is nie.

Hy moes ook daarna 'n waarskynlik hoogs onstoke afvaardiging van die landbou-unie en die Vleisraad te woord staan. Hier is besluit dat die bemarkingsraad en die Vleisraad nou verdere samesprekinge sal voer oor die aanbevelings van die verslag en die toepassing daarvan.

En dit kan 'n tydsame proses word. In hierdie stadium lyk dit nie of daar voor die einde van die jaar duidelikheid sal wees nie.

Volgens mnr. Chris Cilliers, direkteur van die Suid-Afrikaanse Landbou-Unie, kan die georganiseerde landbou nie die hele verslag van die bemarkingsraad aanvaar nie.

Daar word baie sterk gevoel dat van die aanbevelinge nie in belang van die boer is nie. Dit is hoofsaaklik die voorstel om die aantal beheerde gebiede van nege tot net vier te verminder en dat vloerpryse „konserwatief" toegepas word wat pla.

Dit lyk ook of die landbou-unie nie so sterk voel oor die voorstel dat die beperkings op slaghuise verdwyn nie. Die voorbehoud is egter dat dit nie tot 'n verhoging van die handel se kostes moet lei nie.

Onkant

Dit blyk ook dat die vleishandel heeltemal onkant deur die verslag van die bemarkingsraad gevang is. Die handel is glo veral baie bekommerd oor wat die uitwerking van groter mededinging van die kant van die supermarkte kan wees.

Van die voorstelle van die bemarkingsraad het dit ook ten doel om byvoorbeeld supermarkte toe te laat om oor sy hele normale winkelure vleis te kan verkoop.

Die beheerde gebiede wat volgens die raad se verslag moet verdwyn, is Port Elizabeth, Durban, Oos-Londen, Kimberley, Pietermaritzburg en Pretoria, sowel as die Oos- en die Wesrand.

Die voorstelle oor die oprigting van slagpales sal ook beteken dat Pretoria nie sy nuwe slagpale sal kry nie.

Die raad se oogmerk met vloerpryse is blykbaar om dit net toe te laat as 'n beskermingsmaatreël teen buitengewone prysskommelinge.

Die hoofoogmerk is klaarblyklik 'n baie vryer bemarking van vleis, om op die lang termyn 'n volgehoue styging in die vraag te verseker. Die aantal karkasse geslag toon 'n volgehoue daling, terwyl daar in toenemende mate kommer is oor die omvang van die bestaande beeskudde.

Een ding is egter duidelik. Verwarring in die vleisbedryf kan ná die verslag van die bemarkingsraad net nog groter wees. En dan is dit ook glad nie duidelik in watter mate die Regering bereid sou wees om skiet te gee oor aanbevelings wat hy reeds aanvaar het nie.

Dit is ook nie duidelik of die nuwe samesprekinge hoofsaaklik oor die toepassing van die aanbevelings

3 Meat

Hansard 14 8 May 1978
Question 576 Cols. 4341.

Import of low-grade beef for canning industry

576. Mr. G. DE JONG asked the Minister of Agriculture:

(a) In what form was low-grade beef for the canning industry imported from overseas in 1977 and (b) what average per kilogram was paid for such beef.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

(a) Frozen deboned briskets and crops packed in cartons.

(b) 75.754c per kg (cif).

(1) 3 Hansard
(2) ~~766~~

Hansard 14 8 May 1978
Question 578 Cols. 735 & 736.

Issuing of import beef quotas/permits to neighbouring states within Customs Union

578. Mr. G. DE JONG asked the Minister of Agriculture:

(a) On what basis are import beef quotas or permits issued to neighbouring states within the Customs Union, (b) what quotas or permits were issued to (i) Rhodesia, (ii) Botswana, (iii) South West Africa and (iv) other states within the Customs Union for each financial year from 1972-'73 to 1977-'78 and (c) what is the estimated number of quotas or permits which will be issued to each of these states for 1978-'79.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

(a) By negotiation and with due regard to—
the estimated local demand and supply; and
actual deliveries in terms of the preceding year's quota.

(b) and (c) It is not in the public interest to publish information regarding trade with individual African countries.

Vleishandel moet sy kant bring

Rapport 4/6/78 (3) MEAT

Deur DAVID MEADES

IN die verlede was daar 'n neiging in die vleishandel om elke keer wanneer die vloerpryse van beesvleis verhoog word, ook hul pryse ooreenkomstig aan te pas. Hierdie keer sal die handel egter ook sy opoffering moet bring.

Só gesels mnr. Jan van der Walt, bedryfsbeampte (vleis) van die Suid-Afrikaanse Landbou-Unie, oor die besluit van die Vleisraad vandeesweek om die vloerpryse van beesvleis sowel as varkvleis onveranderd te laat.

Terselfdertyd is daar ook die verslag van die Nasionale Bemarkingsraad van die Departement van Landbou, wat steeds soos 'n swaard oor die hele vleisbedryf hang en dalk baie daarmee te doen gehad het dat vloerpryse nie verhoog is nie.

Hierdie verslag, wat aanvanklik deur die Minister van Landbou en die Kabinet aanvaar is, maak voorsiening vir ingrypende veranderinge in die bemarking van vleis. Die aanbevelinge van die verslag word nou weer in heroorweging geneem, maar dit moes ongetwyfeld die bedingingsvermoë van die Regering 'n sterk stoot gegee het.

Aan die ander kant het die land se beeskudde nou die stadium bereik waar dit ná 'n paar goeie seisoene die grootste ooit in die geskiedenis van die land is.

Winter

Die beeskudde word nou vir die blanke gebiede op sowat 9,5 miljoen geraam, terwyl die syfer hier tussen 13,5 en 15 miljoen kan wees as die swart gebiede ook in berekening gebring word.

Met die winter in aantog is dit nou vir baie boere belangrik om sy beeste op die mark te kry, in baie gevalle ongeag die verlies wat hy in die proses moet ly.

Daar kan ook aangeneem word dat die Vleisraad hoop dat die nuus dat vloerpryse nie verhoog gaan word nie, die sielkundige uitwerking op die verbruiker kan hê wat daartoe kan lei dat die verbruik gestimuleer kan word.

In verhouding met die aanwas in die bevolking oor die laaste paar jaar toon die verbruik van vleis 'n volgehoue afname en tensy hierdie neiging nie omgekeer word nie, kan dit 'n ernstige bedreiging vir die vleisbedryf in die land inhou.

Weiding

Volgens mnr. Van der Walt begryp die boer ten volle die huidige toestand in die mark. Daar word algemeen aanvaar dat dit baie dom sou gewees het om in die huidige stadium op 'n verhoging van die vloerpryse aan te dring.

Veral in die geval van die beeste in die hoër grade is dit nou vir die boer belangriker om die bees van sy plaas af te kry. Die kondisie van die beeste is nou besig om vinnig af te neem met die verswakking van die weiding. Daar sal eersdaags na die voer van beeste oorgeskakel moet word, wat die koste van die bees nóg verder sal verhoog.

Die boer moet dan ook reeds die onlangse verhoging in die prys van voer met mielies as basis dra. In die geval van supers beloop die boer se produksiekoste op die oomblik sowat 134c per kilogram, teenoor die prys van sowat 106c/107c, wat dit op die mark haal.

Troos

Daar is egter darem nou die een troos vir die beesboer. Die aanvullende heffing van R4 per karkas wat die boer sedert September 1977 moes betaal, is nou afgeskaf en dit behoort die boer se koste ietwat te verminder.

Terselfdertyd moes hierdie heffing ook daartoe bygedra het dat die Vleisraad se stabilisasiefonds weer versterk kon word. Hierdie fonds is veral teen die middel van verlede jaar kwaai uitgedun.

Omdat rooivleis die grootste enkele koste-item in die gemiddelde daaglikse kosmandjie is, behoort die feit dat prysstygings vir vleis in bedwang gehou word, mee te bring dat die styging in die lewensduurte ook tot groot hoogte aan bande gelê sal word.

Die verbruiker kan verder ook baie bespaar deur gedurig op die uitkyk na goeie pryse te wees. Twee opnames wat onlangs aan die Rand by nege supermarkte gedoen is, het geweldige verskille in pryse aan die lig gebring.

3 Maize

Hansard 14 8 May 1978.
Question 591 Cols. 737 & 738.

Maize: Exported/producer price

591. Mr. P. A. MYBURGH asked the Minister of Agriculture:

(1) (a) What quantity of maize was exported and (b) at what price per tonne, in each of the past three years;

(2) what was the producer price per tonne in each of these years.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

(1) (a)

	Maize t	Maize products t
1975-'76	3 206 000	34 000
1976-'77	1 465 000	48 000
1977-'78	2 529 000	30 000

(b) Average export realization (free alongside coastal elevator)

	Maize R/t	Maize products R/t
1975-'76	93,94	85,57
1976-'77	109,78	93,40
1977-'78	88,41	77,80

(2) Producer prices

	Gross R/t	Net R/t
1975-'76	56,00	56,00
1976-'77	65,00	65,00
1977-'78	79,00	73,60

(1) 3 Meat
(2) ~~766~~

Hansard 14 8 May 1978
Question 579 Cols. 736 a 737.

Imported beef from neighbouring states

579. Mr. G. DE JONG asked the Minister of Agriculture:

(1) On what basis or according to what proportions is imported beef from

MAY 1978

neighbouring states with the Customs Union allocated to the various auction markets in South Africa;

(2) whether beef imports from neighbouring states are reduced or increased proportionately when quota permits for these markets are reduced or increased; if not, on what basis such reduction or increase takes place.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

(1) Only factory meat is currently imported from only one of the neighbouring countries. The quota is determined with due regard to the demand for factory meat and the extent to which the quota was utilized during the preceding year. The imported factory meat is sold by public tender at auctions in Johannesburg, where the biggest processing factories are situated. Buyers send limited quantities to other markets, mainly Durban.

(2) No. Factory meat is imported for specific need. The quota is rarely fully utilized.

3 Meat

Hansard 14 8 May 1978
Question 579 Cols. 734 & 735.

Profit/loss of Meat Board on sale of meat purchased by Board

577. Mr. G. DE JONG asked the Minister of Agriculture:

(a) What was the profit made or loss incurred by the Meat Board on the sale of meat purchased by it during each financial year from 1972-'73 to 1977-'78 and (b) what is the estimated figure for 1978-'79?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

(a) Financial Year (1 July to 30 June)

	Beef	Mutton	Pork
	R	R	R
1972-'73	+2 743	−670	−1 591
1973-'74	+76 009	+22 740	−12 916
1974-'75	−140 612	−15 067	+4 283
1975-'76	−463 829	+9 824	+2 704
1976-'77	−961 299	+4 994	+8 620
1977-'78*	−3 220 000	+25 000	−3 000

*Estimate

(b) At this stage it is not possible to estimate the profit and/or loss for the 1978-'79 financial year.



Survey spotlights where you save

Don't let butchers floor you on price

STAR 5/5/78 (3-meat)

Elizabeth Wilson

Every year at about this time farmers and Meat Board officials closet themselves away to discuss what guaranteed price the farmer should get for meat. It's an exercise they call "setting the floor price."

In practical terms the floor price should not have a great bearing on what you and I pay for meat.

But all too often it provides an excuse within the trade for butchers to tell customers they must pay more.

It's not so. . . .

The floor price is simply a basic guarantee to producers.

The actual market price depends on the auctions where buyers bid for the meat available.

Only rarely — for instance when supply exceeds demand on a specific day — does the price fall to the floor price.

The price you and I pay at the butcher should be determined by the price paid at these auctions.

What sort of floor price increase is likely?

This year it's likely to be something of a balancing act.

On the one hand housewives say that if they must pay more for meat, they will have to buy less.



On the other hand farmers, although facing higher production costs, cannot allow the demand for meat to drop away further.

There is already an oversupply of beef and they know their product cannot be priced right out of reach.

So what is to be done?

The Minister of Agriculture has assured farmers he will not reduce or abolish the floor price but will he increase it?

It's my guess that the price will not be increased more than two to three cents per kg on higher grades, but it could possibly be more — four or five cents — on the lower grades.

Perhaps we will see a reintroduction of the "cheaper beef" scheme which was used to stimulate the market last September.

Certainly we must hope that any increase will be absorbed by the trade itself.

May 1, 1978	OK Bazaars, Oxford Road, Rosebank	Pick 'n Pay, The Firs, Rosebank	Checkers, Killarney Centre, Killarney	OK Bazaars, Eloff Street, Johannesburg	Pick 'n Pay, Protea Centre, Brixton	Checkers, Pretoria Street, Hillbrow	Stop 'n Shop, BP Centre Arcade, Johannesburg
All Gold Smooth Apricot Jam, 900 g	82	75	74 ★	75	75	74 ★	—
Black Cat Peanut Butter, 410 g	55 ★	55 ★	59	—	59	—	66
Candles, 450 g	34	—	32	33	—	32	31 ★
10 boxes Lion matches	17	18	15 ★	17	17	15 ★	19
Sunlight soap, 500 g	42	38 ★	40	39	38 ★	—	39
Omo, 1 kg	1,10	1,07	—	1,10	1,07	95 ★	1,08
Cobra polish, 400 ml	41 ★	42	43	45	42	43	49
Rama margarine, 500 g	59 ★	59 ★	61	59 ★	59 ★	61	—
Nespray Powdered Milk, 500 g	1,37 ★	—	1,45	1,37 ★	—	1,45	1,99
Epic Sunflower Oil, 750 ml	—	83	79 ★	79 ★	83	79 ★	—
Buffalo Table Salt, 1 kg	19	19	20	19	19	20	18 ★
Lion Haricot Beans, 500 g	42	39 ★	44	42	39 ★	—	40
All Gold Tomato Sauce, 375 ml	44	42 ★	43	44	42 ★	43	—
Huletts Sugar, 2,5 kg	85	82 ★	—	85	82 ★	—	87
Impala Mealie Meal, 2,5 kg	56	45 ★	—	47	45 ★	—	47
Ricoffy Instant Granules, 750 g	2,69 ★	2,89	2,79	2,95	2,89	3,39	3,49

Mealie meal, matches, margarine and sugar are basic necessities in any homes.

Just as well therefore to watch prices and make sure you aren't paying more than you need.

In our price survey this week, we found a 26 percent price difference on a 2,5 kg pack of mealie meal. A 500 g tin of Nespray powdered milk ranged from R1,37 to R1,99.

Other items which varied in price from shop to shop were: a 900 g tin of Smith apricot jam — 74 c to 82 c and a 750 g tin of coffee — from 2,69 to 4,49.

Check the guide above and see whether you are getting the most for your money.

A star on the chart indicates the best price for a particular product at the seven stores surveyed. A shaded price indicates the highest price found.

Topping the list of Best Buys is Pick 'n Pay, Rosebank with seven stars. Pick 'n Pay, Brixton was runner up with six stars. Then came OK Bazaars, Rosebank with five stars, Checkers, Hillbrow with four stars. Checkers Killarney and OK Bazaars, Johannesburg — three stars and lastly, Stop 'n Shop with two stars.

 3-MEAT



Legitimate traders resent the activities of the meat sellers as they can get away with unhygienic methods at markets like these

SICKNESS FOR SALE

We can't control these bad-meat hawkers, says city health inspector

By MARION COX

ILLEGAL trading in contaminated meat and offal flourishes in Durban in spite of efforts to stamp it out.

A health inspector for Durban City Council said they were helpless to do anything.

"The hawkers openly defy us when we visit them," he said. "Health inspectors have no power of arrest and because they are unarmed they are frightened to go to some areas without police protection."

Durban City Police and South African Police regularly raid the worst trouble spots, but the inspector said: "As soon as the police arrive, the hawkers scatter and unless they can be caught actually selling the meat even the police are powerless to do anything."

Every day African hawkers set up business in Dalton Road, near the abattoir, selling offal from filthy hardboard tables supported by crates and wrapping the fly-blown and often rotting meat in newspaper or used potato bags.

"The health hazards are obvious," said Dr Neville Becker, Durban deputy medical officer of health. "No checks are made on the fitness of the meat for human consumption and the practice is illegal. We would like to clean up the area but as fast as we catch one set of traders another crowd replace them."

Difficult

Brigadier Hennie de Witt, police commissioner for Port Natal, said the police had difficulty stamping out the hawking but he intended to take up the matter personally.

"This practice cannot be allowed to continue," he said. "I intend taking the matter up with the chief magistrate and the town clerk in an effort to eradicate this illegal trading. We must try to get increased fines — at present offenders get away with paying a R10 admission-of-guilt fine, which is absurd."

By-laws make it an offence to sell raw meat without a licence. Licenced traders have to comply with regulations on refrigeration, storage, wrapping, staff facilities and hygiene. Dalton Street's illegal traders do not.

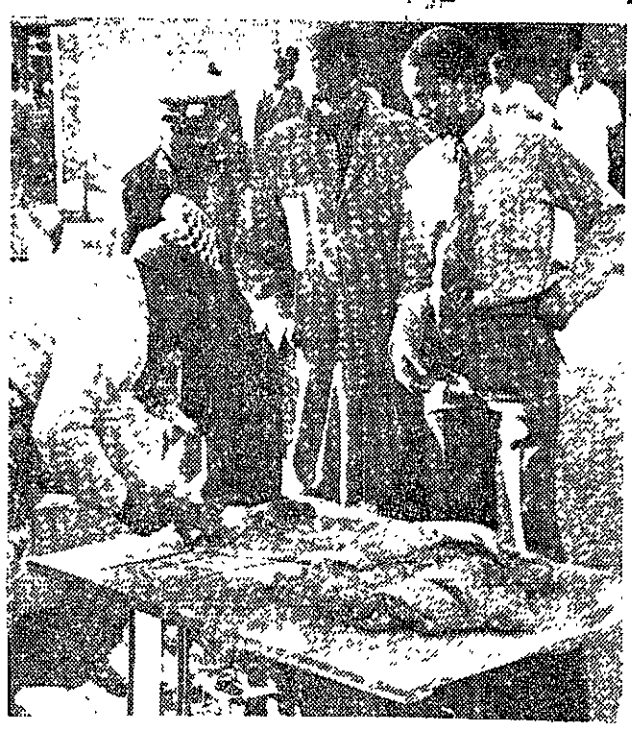
"You can imagine how much the registered trader resents these hawkers who are getting away with filthy practices for the price of an occasional fine," said a spokesman for the health department.

The source of the meat and offal sold by the hawkers is not known, but because the abattoir is only a few metres away the meat is probably bought from offal dealers there.

There is nothing to stop the hawkers buying offal from the abattoir and reselling it but, although the offal is probably uncontaminated when they buy it, storage in the open in filthy dustbins can make it dangerous to humans in a few hours.

Because the source of the meat is not checked, it could be from the carcasses of diseased animals and full of parasites such as tapeworms, liver flukes and TB-carrying organisms.

"Even abattoir-bought meat, when sold in the unhygienic conditions of the Dalton Street traders, can soon give the buyer food poisoning," said Dr Becker.



City health inspectors say they are afraid to go to Dalton Street alone and need police protection when on a raid



Intestines, stored in filthy containers, soon become a health hazard, and can give the customer food poisoning and gastro-enteritis



Star

③ Meat

Friday June 2 1978

A 5 pc rise in beef price looms

Pretoria Bureau

Consumers can expect to pay about five percent more for high-grade beef in the next few weeks.

The increase follows an announcement by the Meat Board last night that subsidies paid by farmers on high-grade beef are to be abolished.

This means that floor prices will return to roughly 106c, their level before September last year when the subsidy system was introduced in an attempt to get rid of a mountain of surplus high-grade beef.

Producers had to pay a R4 levy on each carcass, reducing the floor price to 98c and discouraging them from marketing their high grade beef.

Mr Johan Huyser, a spokesman for the board, said producers would continue paying the R4 levy until the board foramlised the decision to scrap it at a meeting in two or three weeks.

3- meat 2/6/78 KA

FARMING by Jac Van Wyk

Schoeman is aiming for one ultimate Friesland



Mr Schoeman and daughter Michele (5) with "Mistef 5032," grand champion female of the yard at the Aliwal North Show.

To breed a pure South African Friesland breed which can adampt itself to semi-extensive conditions — that is the aim of Mr H. L. (Herman) Schoeman, of the farm Windplaas, near Aliwal North.

Mr Schoeman, in his objective, is backed by a thorough training, experience and know-how. After his studies at Marlow Agricultural High School, he completed a diploma course at Glen Agricultural College. But, at heart a perfectionist, Mr Schoeman felt his knowledge could be broadened further before he sets out on his own and to do this there was only one person who could help him — his uncle, one of the foremost farmers in the district, Mr M. Schoeman. Here he received a thorough basic knowledge and training in what he was going to do.

A year later his new venture started on Windplaas with Merino (wool) farming and Friesland cattle for industrial milk production. At this stage Mr Schoeman had already decided to establish a Friesland stud of a North Holland bloodline.

Since the registration of [illegible] stud three

who also completed the AI course. Naturally Mrs Schoeman refused to attend the course, but was told she would be carried there in her husband's arms and, in addition, probably a hiding. She went.

"I have now reached the stage to be more selective to fulfil my ideal of the standard and quality animal I am aiming for," Mr Schoeman said.

The breeding programme includes a 25 per cent introduction of the Holstein bloodline in both "A" and "B" herds.

At this stage only young bulls are sold.

Dairying, of course, is also a major undertaking on Windplaas with Friesland grade animals — mainly for industrial milk production.

Beef cattle (Afrikander) and wool (Merino) production are additional responsibilities.

For the large Friesland breeders Mr Schoeman has nothing but praise. "Their assistance, advice and co-operation has been wonderful," he said.

Mr Schoeman disclosed one small worry. He has [illegible] which one of

3- meat D.D. 2/6/78

Red meat price curbs CoL

PRETORIA — The Meat Board announced yesterday that there would be no increase in the average floor price of beef and mutton. At this stage the floor price of pork would also remain unchanged.

This could mean the increase in the cost of living would be curbed as red meat was the largest single cost item of the daily food basket, the board said.

According to Mr P. R. du Toit, chairman of the board, a recommendation was made to the Minister of Agriculture who had decided there would be no increase in the average floor price of beef.

This decision had been taken in spite of the fact that the production cost of the super grades of beef had increased by more than 12 per cent over the past year and that this meat was already being marketed at prices below cost.

It had also been decided to abolish the subsidy on high grade beef which would result in its floor price returning to the level it was before September 1977. In that month the meat board announced an additional levy of R4 a carcass contributed by the farmer to subsidise the higher grades of beef to stimulate sales.

Since farmers were not getting any increase in the floor price of their products it could no longer be expected of them to continue paying this additional levy, the board said.

Mr Du Toit said it was essential from a marketing point of view that there should not be an increase in the floor prices at this stage.

The production of beef had increased sharply at an average of five per cent a year in recent years because of improved farming methods and good rains. Because of the tight economic conditions the increase in demand had not kept pace with the increase in production which made it logical that floor prices must maintain realistic levels.

The man in the street would have to realise, however, that this step required great sacrifices from the country's cattle farmers. The production cost of super grade beef at present amounted to 134c a kilogram and the floor price on average was 106c a kilogram — 26 per cent less than the production cost.

Mr Du Toit said the average floor price of beef had remained more or less the same over the past three years, while the cost of living had increased on average by more than 11 per cent a year over the same period. — SAPA

(3-meat)

Du Toit has faith in super grade

2/6/78

The intensive finishing of cattle at high cost in order to produce super grade beef is not profitable at the moment but without intensive feedlots the Republic will not be able to provide the quality and quantity of beef it will require in future, Mr P. R. du Toit, Chairman of the Meat Board, said when he officially handed over the new bull testing station at Cedara near Pietermaritzburg to the Department of Agriculture.

The Cedara Bull Testing Station is the fifth of its kind established completely by the Meat Board and then handed over to the control of the Department of Agricultural Technical Services, at a total contribution of R609 000 for the five testing stations by the Meat Board.

The other four testing stations are at Queenstown, Irene near Pretoria, Armoedsvlakte near Vryburg and at Omatjene in South West Africa. More than 5 500 bulls have already been tested at these stations in a service rendered by the Meat Board and the Department of Agriculture to the more than 20 000 meat producers in the country.

Mr Du Toit officially handed over the testing station to the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, and said that the Meat Board believed very strongly in the performance testing of beef cattle. He pointed out that under present conditions the wisdom of bull-testing with intensive feeding programmes was doubted because it wasn't profitable for farmers to feed cattle intensively for the market and therefore the selection of bulls which produced calves that could only perform well under such good conditions was not logical.

Although at present it is uneconomical for a farmer to intensively feed and finish his beef cattle for the market, Mr Du Toit expressed the certainty that the production of super grade meat will in future again become profitable when it will simply not be possible to meet the qualitative and quantitative requirements for beef in the country without intensive finishing programmes.

Vleisboer moet meer wins maak

(3) MEAT

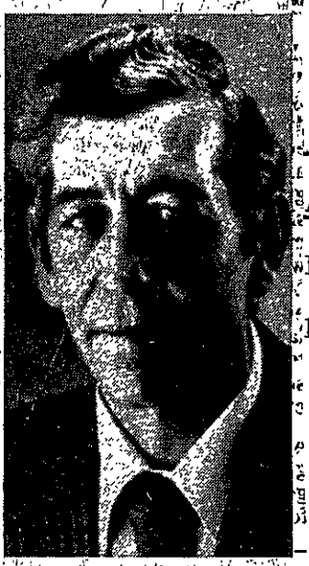
'n VERHOGING in die verbruik van rooivleis deur alle rasse in Suid-Afrika en die vinnige herstel tot 'n winsgewende posisie vir alle vleisboere in die land sien hy as die twee hoofuitdagings van sy nuwe taak op hande.

Só sê dr. Jan Lombard, nuwe hoofbestuurder van die Vleisraad. Die afgelope 2½ jaar het dr. Lombard as adjunk-hoofbestuurder van die Raad gedien en sy nuwe aanstelling geld van 1 Julie.

Om verhoogde vleisverbruik onder alle rassegroepe te bevorder, glo dr. Lombard in 'n benadering van positiewe bemarkingsaksies.

Waar beheerrade in die verlede hoofsaaklik gemoeid was met statutêre beheermaatreëls waarvolgens daar bloot aan mense voorgeskryf word wat hul optrede binne 'n sekere bemarkingstelsel mag wees, sal dit nou volgens dr. Lombard nodig wees om die Vleisraad bykomend hiertoe te ontwikkel as 'n ware bemarkingsorgaan wat ook verbruikersbehoeftes en -tendense ontleed en by wyse van kommunikasie die bedryf in 'n sekere rigting beïnvloed, eerder as om suiwer net te kontroleer.

Wat die land se vleisboere betref, sê dr. Lombard aan Sake-Rapport meer die funksie van die Vleisraad moet word om stelsels in tegnies-ekonomiese terme daar te stel, wat riglyne aan die bedryf sal verskaf waarvolgens dit onder veranderde omstandighede vir die boer nog moontlik sal bly om winsgewend te produseer in terme van die vereistes wat deur verbruikersvoorkeure en -vraag gestel word.



DR. JAN LOMBARD... nuwe vleisbaas

Dr. Lombard het sestien jaar diens by die Vleisraad. Hy het tussen 1956 en 1972 die grade B Sc(Agric), M Sc(Agric) en D SC(Agric) aan die Universiteit van Pretoria behaal. In 1957 aanvaar hy 'n betrekking as tegniese veldbeampte by die Vleisraad en in 1969 as assistent tegniese veldadviseur, verlaat hy die raad om by Veeboere-Koöperatiewe Maatskappy as raadgewende veekundige diens te aanvaar. Dit was een van die eerste raadgewende veekundige dienste wat aan boere in die Republiek gelewer is.

In 1975 keer dr. Lombard terug na die Vleisraad as [illegible]roduksie en word

HOLYCROSS

A.

EPTS & PAYMENTS

ED 31.12.1977

Rooivleis landwyd duurder

(3) MEAT

Rapport 4/6/78

ALLE soorte rooivleis was vandeesweek landwyd duurder. In Pretoria het die prys van supergraad beesvleis met 11c per kg gedaal terwyl dié vleissoort 6c per kg duurder was in Kaapstad. In Johannesburg was daar 'n minimale styging van 1c per kg en in Durban was die prys onveranderd.

Met die uitsondering van Kaapstad was superlammers ook landwyd duurder. Die grootste styging was egter in die prys van Skape Gr 1A. Die pryse van spekvarke het min veranderinge getoon maar vleisvarke was deur die bank ietwat duurder.

Intussen het die vleisraad aangekondig dat daar geen verhoging in die gemiddelde vloerprys van bees-, skaap- en varklvleis gaan wees nie. Volgens die vleisraad word hoëgraadse beesvleis reeds onder produksiekoste bemark en daar is besluit om die heffing van R4 per karkas af te skaf. Dié heffing was deur die boer betaalbaar.

	Super	Graad 1a
BEESVLEIS		
Johannesburg	102 (101)	100 (97)
Pretoria	110 (99)	105 (95)
Kaapstad	113 (107)	97 (96)
Durban	99 (99)	96 (87)
SKAAPVLEIS	Lammers Super	Skape Gr 1A
Johannesburg	157 (150)	134 (117)
Pretoria	144 (136)	128 (119)
Kaapstad	137 (144)	128 (117)
Durban	140 (138)	126 (124)
VARKVLEIS	Spekvarke Gr 1	Vleisvarke Gr 1
Pretoria	90 (93)	101 (96)
Kaapstad	90 (90)	103 (103)
Durban	90 (90)	101 (96)
GROENTE	Tamaties (kissies)	Aartappels Gr 1 groot
Johannesburg	90/150	160/170
Pretoria	100/150	170/180
Kaapstad	160/200	160/200
Durban	150/240	150/180

CROSS

& PAYMENTS

.12.1977

Ons sê . .

VANDEESWEEK se aankondiging van die Vleisraad om die vloerprys van beesvleis nie te verhoog nie, bring 'n dringende saak na vore, nl. moet vloerpryse dan nog hoegenaamd bestaan? Het dit nie sy doel gedien nie?

Uiteraard is vloerpryse daargestel om al twee kante van die skaal te help, produsent sowel as verbruiker. Sonder so 'n minimum-gewaarborgde prys kan boere in 'n hoë aanbod 'n appel en 'n ei vir hul beeste kry en sal die verbruiker op sy beurt weer in tye van vleisskaarste moet betaal dat hy ooplê.

Tog is daar in sekere kringe in die vleisbedryf 'n gevoel dat die Minister van Landbou nou maar net sowel die vloerprys-beginsel kan afskaf en die saak oorlaat aan die ekonomiese beginsel van vraag en aanbod. Diegene reken die boere sal 'n beter beheer hê oor die gemiddelde prys wat sy beeste op die mark haal.

Dinge is egter nooit so eenvoudig soos dit op die oog mag lyk nie. Daarom sal daar seker deeglik besin word voordat die beginsel van 'n vloerprys sommerso oorboord gegooi word.

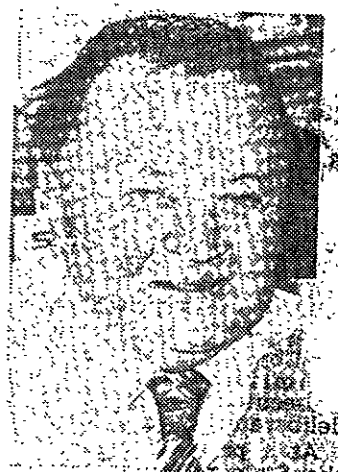
Tuesday,
June 6, 1978

3 (meat)

Abattoir's nasty turn



MRS GAITELBAND . . . wore mask against smell.



MR RANOSZEK . . . sold anti-nausea pills.

EAST LONDON — The big stink hit Cambridge, Selborne and Vincent yesterday when the smell of decaying meat wafted over the suburbs for nearly three hours.

Some locked themselves indoors against the stench, others rushed out to buy anti-nausea pills at their local chemist, but all agreed: The smell was nauseating.

It came from the municipal abattoir, where condemned meat was being processed three days later than usual due to an accident in one of the abattoir's boilers on Friday.

Complaints poured into the offices of the Daily Dispatch yesterday morning: "It smells like a corpse," said Mrs H. Caldwell of Renfrew Street, Cambridge.

"We've smelt them burning bones before, but it's never been nearly as bad as this during the six years I've been living here. We had to close all the windows and doors," she said.

Mrs D. Beyer, also of Renfrew Street, said: "The smell was absolutely terrible. I couldn't open up or go outside at all."

At a pharmacy in Queen Street, Cambridge, Mr K. Ranoszek said customers had queued up to buy anti-nausea pills. "People were saying they were on the verge of being sick," he said.

When he left his home in Bucholtz Street, Vincent, at about 8 am he thought there was a dead rat in his car.

Another employee at the pharmacy, Mrs Ros Gaitelband, of Beatty Road, Selborne, said her house smelt so bad yesterday morning her husband accused her of having let the animals inside.

She used a surgical mask to help combat the smell, while serving customers with pills to prevent nausea.

The superintendent at the abattoir, Mr R. Koorts, said there had been an accident on Friday evening when a down-pipe from a boiler blew.

"There was condemned meat in the pot and we couldn't process this into by-products until today," he said.

The abattoir had a scent which was used when such meat had to be processed, but this time it appeared to have no effect on the smell, though it was put into the pot with the meat.

Mr Koorts said a labourer at the abattoir was slightly burnt in Friday's accident. He was back at work yesterday however.

The smell from the abattoir continued for about three hours yesterday morning, but was at its worst at about 8 am before a westerly breeze rose to disperse the fumes. DDR.



The East London abattoir belches out smoke and smell.

15/6/78 US (3 Meat)

Beef production nears record

EAST LONDON — The assistant general manager of the Meat Board, Mr J. Wink, told delegates at the Eastern Agricultural Union's congress yesterday that consumers would not use more meat through a price fixing, and added that the present surplus of meat was partly attributable to the seasonal production of meat.

Mr Wink said South African beef producers were moving towards an all-time record with a total of some 10 million animals.

The main reason, he said, why the present situation existed was that consumption had not kept pace with production. Production, he added, should rather be decreased.

The situation did not exist only in South Africa, but in every overseas beef production country, too, where matters were even worse.

When resolutions on meat matters came up for discussion, comments were lively and often heated. Of the four resolutions three were accepted by the congress. They were:

From the Cape Eastern Meat Co-operative and Fort Beaufort Farmers' Association which read:

Congress deplores the fact that the Minister of Agriculture accepted the report of the Marketing Council regarding the investigation into the meat and livestock industry without prior consultation with the South African Agricultural Union or the Meat Board.

It also rejects some of the recommendations of the Marketing Council in this connection and requests that no decisions relevant to and affecting the interests of the meat industry be made at ministerial level without prior consultation with organised agriculture and the Meat Board.

A resolution from the Tyiden and Bolo Farmers' Association read:

The amount of money the Minister allows to be spent on the sales promotion of red meat is totally inadequate. Congress requests that it be increased to R1 million per annum and that a far greater portion of the sales campaign be directed at the non-white market.

In reply to this congress was told that the non-white market already absorbed 60 per cent of all meat.

The Victoria East Farmers' Association said congress viewed with alarm the rapidly deteriorating position of the beef producer and urged that urgent steps be taken to improve the meat marketing scheme.

One delegate said that more distribution points for meat should be made available, such as cafes and shops, and that it should not be necessary for supermarkets to have their own butcheries on the premises.

Mr Wink also recommended a reduction in feedlots and that the production of high grade meat should be reduced by 25 per cent.

Explaining the permit system, Mr Wink said permits to market cattle were only issued to registered farmers and that those farmers who had applied unsuccessfully for permits should make certain they were registered — DDR

62/3

Pretoria 18/6/78

boer by

(3) MEAT

KOMMER OOR ROOIVLEIS

SUID-AFRIKA se beesboere het 'n kruispad bereik. Dit lyk 'n uitgemaakte saak dat boere verplig gaan word om op 'n taamlike skaal beesboerdery te staak. Ons beeskudde het te groot geword en die beesboer moet teen 'n al hoe groter verlies verkoop.

Dit is een van die afleidings wat gemaak kan word uit 'n omvattende studieverslag oor die vleisbedryf wat pas deur die nuwe hoofbestuurder van die Vleisraad, dr. Jan Lombard, gedoen is.

Terselfdertyd het die georganiseerde vleishandel ook diepe kommer oor die toekoms van die vleisbedryf uitgespreek en sê dat die vleisboer weens faktore heeltemal buite sy beheer besig is om die verbruiker te subsidieer. (Berig hierby).

Dr. Lombard sê dat tensy die Suid-Afrikaanse ekonomie teen die einde van 1978 weer teen 'n koers van 4 tot 5 persent per jaar begin groei, strukturele aanpassings in die beesvleisbedryf onafwendbaar is.

In die huidige stadium meen die meeste ekonome dat die ekonomie teen die einde van die jaar nog nie naastenby daardie soort groei sal bereik nie, wat die vooruitsigte vir die beesboer bra donker maak.

Volgens dr. Lombard se verslag was daar tot aan die einde van Januarie 1978 nog geen tekens van 'n kuddelikwidasie nie. Daar kan egter verwag word dat boere teen die heersende pryse in die huidige winter met 'n proses van kuddevermindering sal begin, wat die aanbod van vleis verder sal verhoog.

Dr. Lombard voeg egter by dat 'n kleiner voerkraalproduksie weens die hoë voerkoste daarteenoor kan neig om die totale produksie te verminder. Volgens die studiestuk het die beeskudde in blanke besit van 'n hoogtepunt van 8,8 miljoen in 1960 verminder tot 'n laagtepunt van 6,9 miljoen in 1967. Daarna het dit tot 'n nuwe hoogtepunt van 9,2 miljoen verlede jaar geklim.

Wat die winsgewendheid van die vleisbedryf in die geheel betref, sê dr. Lombard dat dit in die geval van beeste geleidelik verbeter het tot 1972, skerp gestyg het tot 1974 om daarna dramaties tot 1977 te daal.

Die produksiekoste van supergraadvleis beloop teen die huidige mielieprys volgens die jongste berekeninge vir die gemiddelde boer tussen 135c en 145c per kg, waarvoor hy net 106c/kg teen die vloerprys op die mark ontvang.

Hy kry dus 25 persent minder terug as wat sy produksiekoste is, terwyl die doeltreffendste boer 127c moet bestee om 'n kilogram supervleis te produseer.

Na raming sal die ekonomie vanjaar effens verbeter, met 'n verwagte groei van 2,9 persent in reële besteding. Met 'n geraamde inflasiekoers van minstens 10 persent kan dus verwag word dat die verbruik van vleis teen konstante pryse met 13 persent kan toeneem en dat die prys teen 'n toename van 10 persent in die verbruikersprys met 3 persent kan styg.

Dr. Lombard sê dan dat die vraag nou ontstaan hoeveel beeste boere in 1978-'79 sal moet bemark om 'n toename van 12 persent in hul finansiële verpligtinge te kan nakom?

Hy maak dan sekere aannames en kom tot die gevolgtrekking dat sowat R213 miljoen gerealiseer sal moet word. Dit sal verkry kan word deur 'n totaal van 1 911 277 beeste, waarvan 704 000 koeie sal wees.

Met 'n totale vraag van 2 214 000 karkasse, bly daar dus 'n balans van 302 723 karkasekwivalente oor wat uit ander bronne voorsien kan word.

Dr. Lombard kom tot die gevolgtrekking dat die verhoging van vloerpryse vir die 1978-'70-jaar ongewens sou wees omdat die verbruik die laaste tyd baie stadiger toegeneem het as produksie en dit dus nodig sou wees dat 'n mate van kuddevermindering moet plaasvind ten einde winsgewendheid in die bedryf te herstel.

Die stap sal egter met aggressiewe verkoopbevordering en promosie gepaard moet gaan, sluit hy af.

TABLE 10. ACCOMMODATION FIGURES FOR THE EMPLOYERS' DORMITORIES IN LANGA ANL KEY TO STATISTICAL DATA OVERLEAF

Name of Company... Key to Statistical data overleaf.

	No. of permanent dormitories	No. of Bunks	No. of temporary dormitories	No. of Bunks	Total No. of dormitories	Total No. of Bunks.
Brice Bros - 16, 17.	2	82			2	82
					1	50
					7	392
					4	144
					56	312
					1	50
					7	260
					3	156
					1	50
					1	50
					2	82
					2	112
					21	864
					2	82
					3	130
					3	120
					1	50
					3	132
					1	50
					1	50
					4	204
					1	50
Murray & Stewart - 10, 13, 18, 20A, 35, 36, 43, 46, 53, 57.						
	16	200				
		82				
	3	130				
		50				
	2	50				
		50				
		204				
		50				
	83	2020	127	1452	3472	

The number of bunks actually in each dormitory differs from the number of bunks in its turn does not indicate how many bunks are

Middelman bring sy kant

Rapport 18/6/78 ③ MEAT

HOEWEL die totale bemarkingskoste van die beesboer oor die afgelope vier jaar meer as verdubbel het, kry die beesboer nou R20 per kop minder vir sy beeste as in 1974.

Mnr. Danie Scholtz, uitvoerende beampte van die Federasie van Lewendehawe-Afslaers, sê dat Suid-Afrika en sy mense nie besef wat die ekonomiese posisie van die beesboer is nie.

Weens faktore heeltemal buite sy bereik is die beesboer besig om die verbruiker te subsidieer. „Ons verbruiker moet hiervan kennis neem, ons owerhede moet kennis neem. Die hele Suid-Afrika is diep in die skuld teenoor die beesboer," sê mnr. Scholtz.

Mnr. Scholtz stel dit ook baie duidelik dat die grootste styging in die beesboer se bemarkingskoste nie voor die deur van die vleishandel gelê kan word nie.

Die kleinhandel sowel as die groothandel se winsgrens beloop nou 27,7 persent teenoor 28,7 persent in 1969. Die agent se kommissie het van 3,1 persent in 1969 tot 3,3 persent in 1978 gestyg.

Die abattoir- en slaggeld het egter van 1,4 persent in 1969 tot 3,9 persent vanjaar gestyg en die Vleisraad se waarborgfonds van 0,8 persent tot 3,2 persent. Spoorvrag en transitoversekering het van net 1,9 persent in 1969 tot 3,5 persent vanjaar gestyg.

Uit elke rand wat in die kleinhandel uit die verkoop van vleis gekry word, kry die middelman ná belasting 'n wins van 3,5c, waarvan 0,4c na die lewendeagent gaan, 0,5c na die groothandelaar en 2,6c na die kleinhandelaar.

Mnr. Scholtz sê dat die antwoord dus duidelik is. Die middelman is nie daarvoor verantwoordelik dat die boer se deel van die kleinhandelprys gedaal het nie.

Hy sê dat dit oor die laaste paar jaar ook duidelik is dat daar deur die samewerking van die vleishandel daarin geslaag is om vleispryse vir die verbruiker feitlik konstant te hou.

Mnr. Scholtz voel dat daar 'n paar plekke is waarna gerus gekyk kan word om die posisie van die vleisboer te verbeter. Hulle meen dat alle verdere slagplase deur die private sektor gebou moet word as slagplase/verwerkingsfabrieke. Hierdie sektor kan dit doeltreffender gebruik en dit kan bydra tot laer slaggelde en ook spoorvrag.

Rooivleis moet meer geredelik beskikbaar wees. Dit moet net so beskikbaar as enige ander dierlike produk wees. Supermarkte kan langer oop bly, veral in die gebiede waar nywerheidswetgewing sekere beperkende ure neerlê.

3 meat Nim 21/6/78

The Natal Merc

Meat men face 'grim' future

Agricultural Correspondent

THE general manager designate of the Meat Board, Dr. Jan Lombard, has predicted a gloomy future for the meat industry in South Africa.

According to a study of the meat industry prepared by Dr. Lombard and released yesterday there has been a dramatic restriction in the profitability of the industry in the last few years.

He said mutton, beef and pork were being produced at "rapidly reducing profit margins" and ever since 1974 the position had not improved.

Dr. Lombard said beef was, in fact, currently being produced at a loss.

He said at the end of 1977 the Republic had experienced its third consecutive year of negative growth with the per capita income continually dropping until "the average South African has become poorer."

Dr. Lombard said demand for red meat was determined by domestic buying power.

In an editorial published in the latest issue of *Meat*, a magazine devoted to developments in the industry, the Meat Board is taken to task for increasing the floor price of meat during the shortage of meat in 1973/4.

"In the year ending June 1977 the Meat Board had to buy in 54 000 carcasses.

Most of it had to be exported at a loss. But the position has become untenable.

"The Meat Board was simply unable to buy all the meat offered. Millions-of-rands-worth of meat went into cold storage."

The magazine said if it had been possible to sell this meat on the open market — without restrictions — the public would have jumped at the chance to buy at lower prices, but this was not done.

"The meat producers' own protector, the floor price, has become a monster threatening his survival."

According to the editorial the floor price of meat should be even lower than it is.

"Producers will have to bear their own increased production costs. Production will probably decrease."

Exports at loss to keep price up

22/6/78 Star (3) Meat

The Meat Board is exporting surplus beef at a loss to keep local prices high.

Dr Jan Lombard, deputy manager of the Meat Board, said today there was a surplus of high-grade beef in the country and farmers were producing at a loss of about 25 percent.

He said the surplus was a seasonal phenomenon. About this time of the year there was usually a surplus of high-grade beef and a shortage of the lower grades.

He said the board was trying to export beef — "but not very large amounts." He admitted that the exports were at a loss.

It was a typical consumer reaction when products were exported at a loss, Dr Lombard said, to ask why they could not be sold on the local market at reduced prices.

"NOT POSSIBLE"

He said this was not possible. There could not be two price structures for beef — one for the surplus and another for normal supplies. All prices would have to be reduced.

"And this would simply mean that farmers would stop producing," he said. In the end there would be a shortage and eventually prices would go up again "tremendously."

Mrs Yvonne Foreshaw, national vice-president of the Housewives' League, described the Meat Board's attempts to clear the surplus as "a sick solution."

Instead of being given the benefit, consumers had to watch surpluses of products being exported at a loss.

She said the beef surplus should be disposed of locally by reducing prices. Farmers would still suffer losses but at least they would be helping to feed the population more adequately and to stimulate demand for meat in the country.

Mr Eugene Roelofse, Ombudsman for the South African Council of Churches, said: "I, for one, am getting sick and tired of control boards that export at a loss to the detriment of local consumers. I cannot see any justification for the fact that a housewife in Holland or Turkey or anywhere else can buy our products more cheaply than a housewife in Roodepoort, Mamelodi or Soweto.

"It's time our control boards adopted a policy of South Africa first," he said.

Figures released by the Department of Statistics show that prices of meat, groceries, household appliances, electrical equipment, petrol, alcohol and radio licences increased by an average 20 percent in 1977 compared with those in 1976.

23/3/78 DD 3 Meat

Meat Board's aid to farmers ups prices

JOHANNESBURG — Beef farmers are having a tough time. So the Meat Control Board stepped in and dealt another blow to consumers.

A surplus of high grade beef — produced at a 25 per cent loss — was exported at a further loss, boosting the price on local markets.

"We have to protect the farmers," said the Meat Board deputy manager, Dr Jan Lombard. "We could not ask them to continue subsidising the price any longer, so the farmers' levy was abolished and the floor price will gradually move back to its September 1977 fixing of R1,06.

It has been as low as 98c.

Nobody seems happy about the state of affairs in the meat industry. The South African Council of Churches' consumer ombudsman, Mr Eugene Roelofse, said yesterday: "Farmers should be put in a homeland and export their meat to South African consumers at a loss."

One farmer said: "There's no future in beef production. I'm cutting back on my herds. The cost of production has gone up and the price of beef does not go up.

Probably not. The R1,06 floor price is the price guaranteed to a farmer. But it costs him between R1,35 and R1,45 to produce.

An editorial in the meat industry's magazine "Meat" said: "If it had been possible to sell this (exported) meat on the open market, the public would have jumped at the chance." It called for the Meat Control Board to stimulate internal consumption.

But Dr Lombard's answer to increasing the industry's profits was that "farmers will have to cut back supply."

Dr Lombard admitted it was difficult to explain to the "consumerism movement" how a surplus could be exported at a loss while local prices rose.

Difficult or impossible? Perhaps with a cut in supply and a board in control the price will go down. — DDC.

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3. Meat.

Processed meat prices raised

Star 21/6/78

Own Correspondent.

DURBAN — About 100 meat lines including sausages, bacon, polony and ham have been increased in price by the four major manufacturing firms, Baynesfield, Eskort, Renown and Supremacy.

This was revealed in Durban today by Mr Alan Gardiner, of Pick 'n Pay, who said despite denials from the firms that they had set prices together, the size of the increases and the new wholesale lists were remarkably similar.

The new prices are effective from July 16, and when the general sales tax is added sausages will cost the housewife about 10 percent more and bacon about seven percent more.

Examples from the wholesale price lists show that Baynesfield pork, beef and vienna sausages will go up from 78c wholesale to 82c for 500g. Renown mini-French polony from R1,34 to R1,44 a kilogram and Renown 250g packs of sliced cross bacon is up from 59c to 63c, shoulder from 56c to 60c, short back from 62c to 66c and streaky from 62c to 66c.

Eskort boerwors is up from 82c to 86c wholesale for 500 g, frankfurters from 78c to 82c and family fried sausages from 78c to 80c. Mini ham jumps from R2,92 to R3,10 a kilogram, pork pies from 19c to 22c and lard from 37c to 40c for 500 gram.

In a letter accompanying a new list, Supremacy blames the continuous rise in the prices of spices, packaging, raw materials and the higher floor price for pork for the increases.

● Farmers are losing on meat. — Page 14.

(c) Prepositions with Ablati

in : Abl. = in, on:

quo in loco — e

in absentia — ence

requiescat in p — in peace

in equo — t

in nomine Dei — of God

in: Acc. = into, to:

in urbem ibat — the city

medias in res — st of things

sub: Abl. = under:

sub divo — air

nihil novi sub — under the sun

sub potestate — power of the Roman people

super: Abl. = above, about:

hac super re — matter

super: Acc. = above, during

domos super s — they burnt the houses over their heads

super cenam — er

18. When we come across further — tin as extensions of the basic structure, we must — function a particular case fulfils in its sentence — e the following:

urbanus mus ce

hows)

If a mouse (or a man) gives, — ws, a dinner, the immediate question that arises — ui dat / praebet / promittit / monstrat? and t — ico muri, or veteri amico, or amicis suis, or ve — tever is required. These words are in a case which in — on is taking place for or on behalf of or to the advan — of the person or thing indicated by the case. This — Dative (derived from do, dare, because it is so often — . We find here a very common pattern in Latin consi — (nominative), the object (accusative), the indirect ob — edicate (verb).

29/6/78 BD

3 Mod

Meat agents under fire

FORT BEAUFORT — Profiteering marketing agents and auctioneers came under attack yesterday at the annual meeting of the Eastern Cape Meat Co-operative here.

In his review, the chairman of the Queenstown based co-operative, Mr Clive White, said they were the only obstacles to progress and economic stability in the meat industry.

He also criticised the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Schoeman, for accepting the recommendations of the National Marketing Council to change the present meat marketing system by reducing the controlled areas from nine to four — Johannesburg, Durban and Pietermaritzburg, Port Elizabeth and Cape Town.

In addition, it recommended that the floor price should act as a deterrent only to stop the complete collapse of the price structure, that marketing of meat in general should be freer, that there was not sufficient justification to maintain restrictive registration of all factories in the meat industry, except the abattoir agencies, that green hides and skins be sold by acution at reserve price and that the Meat Board buy in those not fetching the reserve prices.

"These recommendations are aimed at returning to the outdated system whereby primary producers of red meat are left to the tender mercies of profiteering companies and individuals who have unfortunately remained in business due to the support they receive from so many of our farmers."

Marketing would only succeed when available supplies were correctly channelled to the respective markets in relation to their demand. This could only be achieved if the commodity was supplied to the trade at predetermined prices and after being processed, was presented in an orderly and acceptable manner. — DDC

17/7/78
3(meat)
R.I.M.

Meat industry calls for subsidy

Staff Reporter

THE meat industry has called for a Government subsidy of meat — as is the case with all other agricultural products — following increases in slaughter fees and rail transport costs.

In an editorial in their magazine, Vleis/Meat, the industry says the cattle farmer has had to face exorbitant cost increases from 1975.

These are:

- An increase in slaughter fees of 200%;
- An increase in the Meat Board levies of 252%.
- Rail tariff increases of 190%.

The editorial suggests that the subsidy should be used to relieve the farmer of these high slaughter fees and rail costs. Further proposals, aimed at helping the "over-burdened" farmer, include a suggestion that private enterprise should have a hand in building abattoirs. This would lead to lower fees through more efficient management and utilisation, the editorial says.

Supermarkets should be allowed longer selling hours — even over weekends — which would mean red meat would be more readily available to the consumer.

The meat industry has a sound case in asking for this subsidy, the editorial continues, because meat forms a third of the average housewife's shopping basket.

...../cont'd

- 3 -

Additional Reading:
Follow van Onselen's footnotes and especially E.J.Hobsbawm, Primitive Rebels, chapter 2. Also A.Isaacman, 'Social Banditry in Southern Mozambique' in International Seminar on Class Conflict, Leesotho, (Special Collections) and Journal of Southern African Studies, 4.1.

Week 7

The Invisibility of Women

Basic Reading:
J.van Allen, 'Aba Riots or the Igbo Woman's War?' Ideology, Education and the Status of Women, Canadian Journal of African Studies, Vol.VI, No.2, 1972

Additional Reading:
A.D.Gordon, M.J.Buhle 'The Problem of Women's history' in B.A.Carroll (ed) Liberating Women's History
P.E.Bardis 'Making the invisible visible: African women in politics and policy' in African Studies Review, Vol.XX, No.1, 1977
Women of Tropical Africa, introduction, especially pp.1-9
J.van Allen 'Sitting on a Man': Colonialism and the Lost Political Institutions of Igbo Women' in Canadian Journal of African Studies, Vol.VI, No.2, 1972

Also consult the reading list for the seminar in week 4.

Week 8

Slavery

Basic Reading:
C.Bundy 'The Emergence and Decline of a South African Peasantry', African Affairs, 71 (Oct. 1972)
Colons in Contemporary Southern African Studies: Research Papers, Vol.II)

Additional Reading:
Liverpool, Bordeaux and Bristol. Slavery, as we know (see p. 85), was invented long before the eighteenth century, but the slave trade rose to its climax in that century in a depressing commentary on an age of Enlightenment. The argument for slavery was simple and practical: the gold mines of Brazil, the sugar plantations of the West Indies, the tobacco plantations of the southern colonies, demanded labor so hard, in such heat, that free men would never do that necessary work. In 1764, John Pinney, a prominent Bristol sugar merchant, spoke for the British commercial community: "Negroes," he wrote, "are the Sinews of a Plantation, and it is as impossible for a Man to make Sugar without the assistance of Negroes, as to make Bricks without Straw"—and by Negroes he meant slaves.[47] And in 1789 the chambre de commerce of Bordeaux officially declared: "France needs its colonies to sustain its commerce, and consequently slaves to allow agriculture in that part of the world to flourish, until another way is found to achieve this end."[48] These were the arguments

Week 9

Basic Reading:
K.Hughes 'Challenges from the Past: Reflections on Theories and Practices in Southern African History' Social Dynamics, June 1977

Additional Reading:
H.Wright 'The Afrikaner on the Reef' Social Dynamics, June 19
Wilson and Thompson (eds)

[44] *Rural Russia Under the Old Regime* (1932), 27–28.
[45] Quoted in Forster and Forster, *European Society in the Eighteenth Century*, 136.
[46] See Robinson, *Rural Russia*, 27.
[47] Quoted in C. M. MacInnes, *A Gateway to Empire* (1939), 193.
[48] Quoted in Henri Sée, *La France économique et sociale au XVIIIe siècle* (5th ed., 1952), 121.

CCS/ANC June 1978

Call on State to subsidise meat

A call for a Government subsidy on meat has been made by the magazine for the livestock and meat industry.

In its latest editorial "Vleis/Meat" said: "The meat industry is entitled to request the Government to subsidise meat — as is the case with other agricultural products."

It suggested the best way to do it was to subsidise slaughter fees and the transport costs of livestock by rail.

Cattle farmers were now getting less for their animals than in 1974 and were "in fact now subsidising the consumer." In 1974 grade 1A beef cost 96,6c/kg, in 1976 it was 99,3 and was now 99,4c/-kg.

INCREASES

But in this period slaughter fees increased by 200 percent, Meat Board levies by 252 percent and rail tariffs by 190 percent.

In the 1975-77 period farm implements increased in price by 49 percent, machinery by 47 percent, fencing by 59 percent, fertiliser by 74 percent, oil by 53 percent and fodder by 46 percent.

From 1969 the producer's share had dropped from 71,2 percent to 65,1 percent, for which "Vleis/-Meat" blames higher Meat Board levies, slaughter fees and railage.

Other proposals to lighten the "burden" on the meat industry were:

● The erection of more abattoirs should be left to private enterprise, which would improve effectiveness and lead to lower slaughter fees.

● Supermarkets should have longer hours, even over weekends, making red meat more readily available.

● In co-operation with the meat trade, the Meat Board should concentrate on the promotion of red meat, especially to blacks.

star 9/8/78 (3-MEAT)

Beef prices expected to drop — Meat Board boss

Prices of high grade beef are expected to drop next month because there is a large surplus, Dr Jan Lombard, general manager of the Meat Board said today.

He told The Star's Fair Deal office the surplus was caused by too great a production of beef cattle from feeding lots and too few field cattle coming on to the market.

The Meat Board may introduce a levy system if the surplus gets too high. This will drop the prices and encourage people to buy more meat.

Between now and June 1979, R500 000 will be spent promoting beef. Half of this amount is to be used to make blacks more aware of beef.

Recently it was found that blacks still get too much of their necessary protein from grain.

Dr Lombard said they will emphasise that beef is high in protein plus iron and certain important vitamins.

According to recent investigations the net profit wholesale is 0,6 percent and retail 1,7 percent. Dr Lombard said he did not consider this high.

However, the Meat Board is going to do an investigation into the price gap between producer and consumer and establish what profits are being made by the middleman and whether they are too high.

3-Meat

The Star Friday August 11 1978

Meat Board gives conditional 'yes' to cafe sales

Pretoria Bureau

The Meat Board has approved in principle the sale of pre-packed, frozen red meat by cafes.

Announcing this today, the chairman of the board, Mr P R du Toit, stressed that cafes would not be allowed to sell fresh meat. Another condition of the board's agreement was that cafes would have to buy their meat, pre-packed and frozen, from butcheries.

DISCUSSIONS

He said there was no talk of implementing the system at this stage. Cafe owners who now went ahead and sold red meat would be dealt with.

No finality had been reached in the matter.

Mr Du Toit said an internal meat board committee would meet on August 21 to discuss the issue and decide on a date for discussions with the Marketing Board on the subject.

A senior spokesman for the Department of Health said today his department had no objections to cafes selling red meat after hours, "provided the proper precautions are taken."

"We will be watching them the same as we do butcheries. We will definitely be safeguarding health as we do with all perishables," he said.

● Mr G J K Marais, former general manager of the Meat Board, recommended at his retirement earlier this year that selected cafes and restaurants be allowed to sell frozen pre-packed beef, mutton and pork cuts.

This would help boost meat sales and he regarded this suggestion as one of the most important ideals his successors would have to follow.

However, the SA Federation of Master Butchers has expressed strong opposition to the idea.

The President of the federation, Mr G D Mosterd, said the argument that the move would promote the sale of red meat "did not hold water."

RDM 11/8/78 (3-Meat)

Beef surplus, so prices may drop

Staff Reporters

SOUTH Africans must eat more beef, said Minister of Agriculture Mr Hendrik Schoeman, in Pretoria yesterday. Concurrently, a spokesman for the Meat Board indicated that a decrease in the price of high grade beef could be expected by mid-October or early November.

The Minister said the Government, through the board, had decided to promote the consumption of beef and had earmarked R500 000 for a publicity campaign. "That," said Mr Schoeman, "is a step in the right direction."

"There is no question of merely dropping the price," the Meat Board spokesman said. "The farmers already operate at a 26% loss and we cannot allow the price to fall flat."

He did not rule out a renewed levy on farmers to subsidise the price of beef.

The present beef surplus is approximately the same as it was last year when the Meat Board introduced a levy on the farmers which resulted in lower retail prices. Consumption rose by about 16%. The subsidy ended recently and prices rose.

Mr Schoeman said South Africans ate far less beef, per head of population, than most other countries. But, in the long term as the unequal distribution of income — between the workers of different race groups — was rectified, prospects for the beef industry would be far better.

The Meat Board is to attempt to export part of the present surplus of beef, but levies of over R1 a kg will make it difficult to find markets, said Mr P R du Toit, the board's chairman.

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er. 3 280

reyed; 1 349 of these were used in the general tabulations. The ten areas dealt with

Kommetjie
Methodist Mission
Redhill
Hout Bay
Zeekoeivlei
Philadelphia
Pollsmoor
Airport
Lourdes Farm
Philippi

The following information is on file:

(1) <u>for each family</u>:

(i) <u>identification</u>: shack number and letter

(ii) <u>geography</u>: area of previous residence
number of years in present home
living area
husband's birthplace
wife's birthplace

(iii) <u>general</u>: whether attends clinic
number of people in shack
number of families in shack
sanitation facilities

More beef being eaten

16/8/78

3-MEAT

Mercury Reporter

SOUTH Africans consumed 7 percent more beef in the first six months of this year than in the corresponding period last year, Dr. Jan Lombard, general manager of the Meat Board said yesterday.

The consumption of super grade meat also rose by more than 15 percent.

Dr. Lombard said that the increased consumption of super quality meat could be ascribed to the public's awareness that the difference in price between super and lower grade meat was proportionally smaller than the difference in quality.

The Meat Board expects there will be further market pressure at the end of October caused by the inflow of super quality meat.

With regard to meat prices Dr. Lombard said that a steak bought in Pretoria for R3 per kilogram was still the cheapest meat in the world, when compared to Australia's R3,22 cents, London's R7,24 cents and Washington's R3,69 cents.

Dr. Lombard also said that in the past three years 27 percent more super quality beef was slaughtered, while prices remained more or less constant.

Jan Lombard must get meat industry back in red

An increase in the consumption of red meat by all races in South Africa and a restitution to a profitable position for all meat producers in the country, are two main challenges to the new general manager of the Meat Board, Dr Jan Lombard, whose appointment came into effect on July 1.

To increase consumption under all race groups Dr Lombard believes in an approach of positive marketing actions.

In the past control boards were mainly concerned with statutory control measures which were to direct people as to what they were allowed to do within a certain marketing system. But according to Dr Lombard it will now be necessary to additionally develop the Meat Board into a real marketing organ which will also analyse consumer demands and trends and by way of communication influence the industry in a certain direction, rather than simply exercise control.

As far as the country's cattle farmers are concerned, Dr Lombard sees the function of the Meat Board as setting up systems in technical-economical terms to provide indications to the industry under which it will still be possible for the farmer to produce profitably under changing circumstances in terms of the requirements set by consumer preferences and demand.

Dr Lombard has been with the Meat Board for a total of 16 years. Between 1956 and 1972 he obtained the degrees B Sc (Agric), M Sc (Agric) and D Sc (Agric) at the University of Pretoria. In 1957 he accepted a position as technical field official at the Meat Board and in 1969, as an assistant technical field adviser, he left the Board to join Veeboere Co-operative Company Limited as advisory cattle expert. This was one of the first livestock advisory services in the country.

In 1975 Dr Lombard returned to the Meat Board as head of production and early in 1976 he was appointed deputy General Manager.

He lectured part time at the University of Pretoria in advanced selective breeding and resulting from his knowledge of and interest in breeding, he developed a new breed of cattle, namely Tauricus, which is suitable for highveld sour veld areas.

In the managerial field Dr Lombard is busy qualifying through MBL-studies and at the moment he is working on his final thesis which covers a strategy for the Meat Board in the red meat industry.

Call for subsidy as costs soar

The meat industry has called for Government subsidy of meat as in the case in all other agricultural products following increases in slaughter fees and rail transport costs.

In an editorial in their magazine Vleis Meat the industry says that the cattle farmer has had to face exorbitant cost increases from 1975.

These are: An increase in slaughter fees by 200 per cent, an increase in the Meat Board levies of 252 per cent and rail tariff increases of 190 per cent.

The editorial suggests that the subsidy should be used to relieve the farmer of these high slaughter fees and rail costs. Further proposals, aimed at helping the overburdened farmer, included a suggestion that private interprise should have a hand in building abattoirs. This would lead to lower fees through more efficient management and utilisation, the editorial says.

Supermarkets should be allowed longer selling hours — even over weekends — which means that red meat would be more readily available to the consumer.

The meat industry has a sound case in asking for this subsidy, the editorial continues because meat forms a third of the average housewives shopping basket.

Further, the Meat Board should concentrate on promoting the sale of red meat especially to blacks, although black buying power is presently only 25 per cent to 70 per cent of white buying power this will increase to 44 per cent by the turn of the century while white buying power will fall to 39 per cent.

But the disturbing fact it says, is that the cattle farmer is now receiving less for his animal than in 1974 and he is, in fact subsidising the consumer.



MR DU TOIT

Du Toit aims at 100 000 export

An attempt would be made to export 100 000 beef carcasses this year, even though South Africa was not a major beef exporter, the chairman of the Meat Board, Mr P. R du Toit, said.

Addressing the Hereford meat day at Eloff, near Delmas, on the future of the beef industry, Mr Du Toit said export market had to be kept in mind in the event of sporadic beef surpluses, as was the case at the moment.

"Levies of over R1 per kilogram, particularly in EEC countries, makes the exporting of fresh meat very difficult," he said.

Beef production, one of the backbones of the South African agriculture, was going through a lean period. "But the growth rate in the past five years has exceeded five per cent," he added.

The general recession, stagnation in market prices, rising production and marketing costs have caused most beef producers to operate at a loss, or to make very small profits.

An improvement in the economy, as well as political developments in Rhodesia and SWA-Namibia, which could provide alternative export markets, were important developments regarding the future of the beef industry.

Mr du Toit said the beef cattle owned by the white population had increased steadily over the past 10 years, and now numbered 9,5-million head.

Caring for animals

SPCAs throughout the country are planning to liaise with their local livestock farmers' co-operatives in an effort to curtail possible mishandling of animals in transit.

The move follows a report by the chairman of the Durban SPCA, and vice-Chairman of the SA Federation of SPCAs, Mrs Una Whitehorn, to the annual meeting of the Federation of SPCAs about a successful educational programme in Natal.

Mr Eric Jones, chairman of the SPCA Livestock Liaison Committee and general manager of Stock Owners, the Natal livestock farmers co-operative, said he was delighted to hear of the positive response from the SPCA in other parts of the country.

"In the short time that the Natal committee has been in existence we believe we have achieved much in educating farmers, livestock transporters and indeed the general public about the problems of moving livestock. We do not believe that in the most part people are deliberately cruel, but mistakes do happen.

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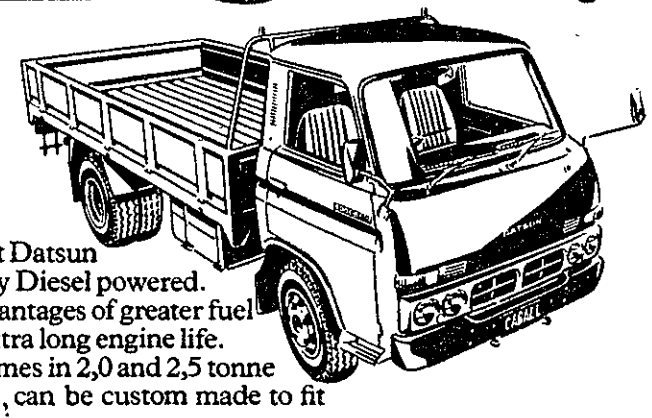

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Supplement to the Daily Dispatch, Wednesday, August 16, 1978

3 (Meat)

Tough time for beef farmer

BORDER AGRICULTURAL REVIEW COMMENTARY BY JAC VAN WYK

If any branch in agriculture is going through a lean and tough period it is the beef farmer. When last have the red meat producers found themselves in a situation such as this, and that for too long a period.

Border is producing a fair share of the market and in discussions with farmers their dissatisfaction with and disappointment in the whole system is soon apparent.

And with the tough time they already are facing, the Meat Board stepped in and dealt another blow to consumers — a surplus of high grade meat, produced at a 25 per cent loss, are being exported at a further loss, boosting the price of local markets, from which the producer did not really benefit in spite of abolishing the levy and a floor price which is to gradually move back to its September 1977 fixing of R1,06. But in spite of the guaranteed floor price of R1,06, bear in mind that it costs the farmer between R1,35 and R1,45 to produce. It certainly leaves no doubt that if the exported meat had been placed on the open market, the public would have jumped at the chance.

The ironic fact is that a few years back an appeal went out to farmers for a higher production in red meat . . . because of an expected food shortage throughout the world. The farmers have answered that call admirably — perhaps too admirably — and now they are "told" to cut back on production.

The big bone of contention also was the permit-quota system which even the then general manager of the Meat Board, Mr Gerrie Marais, admitted that the system did not lend itself to marketing requirements, and that it would never be a success. A new system is now in force and in its implementation posed an important question: If the old system was found to be a failure — one of the most important facets in the marketing of beef — was it not time also to analyse every other facet of the whole marketing system? In what way will the producer benefit with the new system if, because of prices, the consumer trend is still towards other meats and substitutes? In times of pressure marketing, problems are bound to be experienced by marketing people.

It is important to realise that there are two important marketing directions — marketing in controlled areas, and outside auction marketing.

Entree under marketing in controlled areas in pressure conditons is of cardinal importance and so also buying power by outside auction. Therefore it becomes the Board's duty to protect both marketing canals, and through this allow the producer to make his own choice.

But, although a lot has been said, plus brainpower spent on the present situation and the marketing of meat, one fact is absolutely clear — a coordinated front is needed in the whole marketing system and all bodies concerned have to stand firmly together in meat marketing. Appeals in this respect have been made in the past but up to now it was to no avail.

The Meat Board is optimistic that the future of red meat and production looks bright and that although there is a "so-called" overproduction of beef, South Africa in reality does not produce sufficient beef for its normal consumption.

The Board feels that with the population growth demand also must grow — a position which can change drastically overnight, particularly if the economic growth of the country also improves.

No doubt the good conditions experienced by farmers during the last few years with good rain also contributed towards increased cattle numbers (now a record 10 million). But, the Board warns, a guard should be kept on "unacceptable" increases in prices and that the cattle industry should rather consolidate than to expand.

Another question which remains is why meat — like other agricultural products — is not subsidised. This industry surely has sound grounds in asking for a subsidy as well as more aid to retain a rightful share of the food trade. At this stage the cattle farmer is receiving less for an animal than in 1974, and is in fact subsidising the consumer — certainly a most disturbing fact.

The fact that farmers have threatened to "pull" out of beef (some already have) could spell trouble if and when a drastic change occurs. Every producer, and those concerned with the industry, know that beef production is a long-term undertaking and that production cannot be increased, changed or corrected in a short period. Therefore objectives of production should be clearly spelt out for the purpose of breeding and feeding of cattle and that the farmer should pay more serious attention to planning — breeding herd and grazing management.

This issue was compiled by Daily Dispatch farming editor Jac van Wyk and edited by Glyn Williams. Jac van Wyk's farming page appears in the Daily Dispatch every Friday.

What is more, the lowe workers cannot explain why such a high bourers. This is because the 10(1)b's d than the migrant workers have almost the ers (Tables 4 and 5).

Thus neither the mig ment periods nor the lower educationa iately explains their low occupation n their predominance in unskilled occupat. probably because Cape Town is a 'Colo ch means that Africans can only be red' workers do not want. Furtherm posts for which local African labour is not esirable jobs are the ones most easily further contributing factor which also ke lled jobs is the industrial colour ba dustrial Councils by employers' associa They often concur on closed shop agreem of the skilled occupations.

1.3 Wages

All the earnings pro pondents themselves. Sometimes the intervi dents' pay slips. Weekly earnings range R26 (± R9). A wage of R72 was exc

95% of the sa
75% " " "
50% " " "

These amounts refer t That is, attendance bonus and overtime bc included while income tax and U.I.F. been deducted.

The wages paid by the and security firms were particularly lo R20 (± R3) respectively. State, R not earn better wages: with the exce ers in State employ, the average R23 (± R4). Averages for the buil icturing, and baking and confectionary were the same, namely R27 (± R9). The workers in commercial

FARMING (3) Meat

Red meat run-down FM 18/8/78

Red meat suppliers are caught in a classic but costly textbook example of gearing up for a once-expanding market that is now falling faster than their bank managers' lower jaws.

The ailing industry is in such a disrupted state that, even amid the present glut of beef, comes a warning of shortage. Producers say they are already selling beasts at a lot less than rearing costs as they run down herds.

Beef farmers, who were spurred by rising prices and consumer keenness between 1972-74, now see super-grade animals raised for market around 136c/kg being led away at the floor price of 110c/kg. The market price for these animals is presently around 104c/kg and lower for other grades.

Kanhym financial director Harold Kramer says despondent farmers are being hit so hard that they're even selling off breeding stock. He adds: "In six months the glut will be over and in nine months there'll be a shortage."

Kramer bases his predictions on trends at auction markets where farmers have easily worked out that they can't keep getting less for animals while feed prices rise. Maize, which accounts for about 75% of the cost of nourishing a feed-lot animal, has over the past year gone from R73/t to R84/t. Other items, such as silage and proteins, show similar rises.

Kanhym, with 34 000 head of cattle, is probably the biggest feed-lot supplier outside the US.

Dr Jan Lombard, Meat Board general manager, agrees with Kramer's figures on costs. He is not, however, sure that farmers are cutting back on breeding animals to the extent indicated by Kramer

During the past four years SA's beef stock rose from 7,8m to 9,4m head only to run into a depressed market. Lombard says present selling at a loss is part of an instinctive balancing mechanism by farmers to bring oversupply nearer under-demand. Sales of breeding cows for slaughter, a fair pointer to how farmers are reacting, indicate that there is a cutting back of herds rather than a serious depletion of breeding stock.

Lombard says: "What is apparently happening is that no further growth is taking place in the national (white area) herd which increased rapidly between 1974-78."

Surplus beef carcass purchases by the Meat Board between July 1977 and June 1978 were, says the Board, 50 010. In the same 1976-77 period they were 59 406; 1975-76: 20 811; and 1974-75: 27 243.

Beef carcass levy boosts board's fund

18/8/76

3-MEAT

Mercury Reporter

THE Meat Board levy imposed on farmers will provide an estimated R14 million for board funds for the next year.

In a statement released by the Meat Board yesterday the levy on beef carcasses has been increased from R4,87 to R7,65 a carcass.

According to Dr. Jan Lombard, general manager of the Meat Board, the increase was necessary because the market situation which gave rise to the introduction of a special levy some time ago was expected to continue.

The Meat Board said the money would be used as follows:

- R4 500 000 for an export subsidy to export possible surpluses of between 80 000 to 100 000 carcasses;
- R6 250 000 to stabilise domestic prices for the purposes of buying about 60 000 carcasses on the local market;
- R2 500 000 for administration costs of 10 offices with a staff of 344; and
- R750 000 for publicity and promotions.

Dr. Lombard said he regarded it as an "exceptional achievement" that only R14 million was budgeted to administer and control the beef industry which had an annual turnover of R1 500 million.

RDM 10/10/78

Surplus of red meat, but price expected to go up

3- MEAT

By MARILYN ELLIOTT

THE MEAT Board is battling to eliminate surplus stocks of red meat amid predictions of higher prices and a shortage.

Housewives said the surplus was caused by the price of meat, while producers said low selling prices would force them out to stop farming, thus causing a shortage.

Abattoirs slaughtered 28 000 head of cattle last week — the highest number yet.

Mr C Cilliers, the director of the Agricultural Union, said high production costs and low selling prices had forced an exodus of cattle farmers. This would eventually cause a shortage of red meat.

He was speaking at a conference on the meat business outlook for 1979, in Pretoria, last week.

Mrs Joy Hurwitz, national president of the Housewives' League, yesterday said she could not believe there would be a shortage.

"We all know that consumer resistance to red meat, because of astronomical prices, has been partially responsible for the surplus."

The Meat Board should look a close look at its marketing system to find out why both farmers and consumers were dissatisfied, she said.

The General Manager of the Meat Board, Dr J. Lombard, said: "Meat prices have remained constant for four years and farmers' production costs are running at 30% more than selling prices."

But it was too early to predict an immediate shortage of meat, he said.

The younger farmers seemed disinterested in cattle farming, he said.

Mr G D Mosterd, president of the Retailers' Master Butchers Association, said he did not foresee a shortage.

"There is a surplus at the moment which should last quite a while. Changes in supply are not so rapid as to cause a shortage," he said.

Sun. Times 22/10/78 (3-MEAT)

Defiant butcher is threatened, raided in 'battle of the biltong'

By G. R. NAIDOO

BILTONG KING Cliff Blackburn claims he is fighting a vendetta to stop him selling cut-price biltong.

He says he has ignored threats "to lay off producing biltong or face the consequences".

First someone removed two R70 banners he had strung up outside his butchery advertising his biltong at R4,99 a kg.

Then this week someone broke into his shop on the Berea, Durban. The window of his street-facing showcase was smashed and 138 kg of his biltong stolen. Another 40 kg was full of splintered glass and had to be destroyed.

It took Mr Blackburn, a former Johannesburg butcher, 20 years to produce what he regards as the ultimate in beef biltong. He experimented almost every day with different methods of preparing the meat and mixing different spices.

When he came up with the "perfect biltong" in May this year, he bought a butchery on the Berea and offered his biltong to the public at wholesale prices — R4,99 a kg as against R6,50 and R7,50 by other butchers.

Then the battle of the biltong broke out.

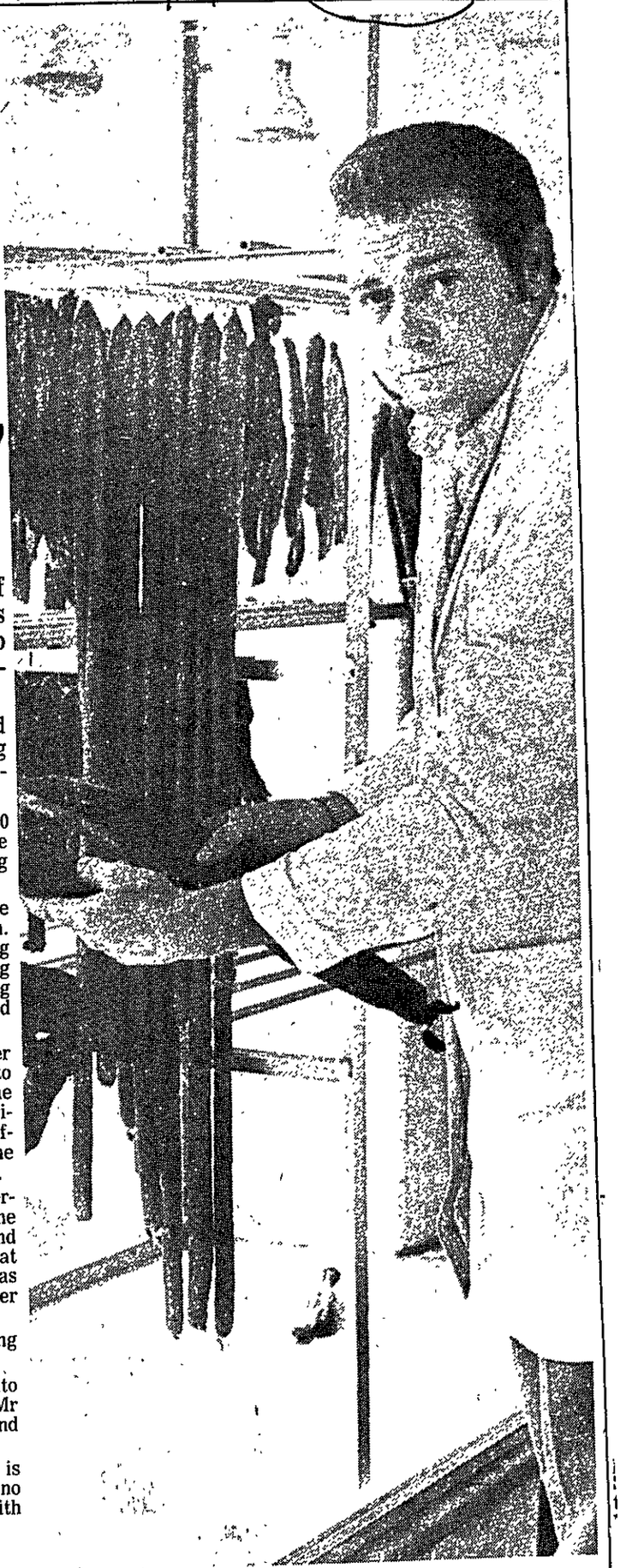
Six weeks ago a man came into his shop and threatened him. Mr Blackburn told him him to "go and get lost".

Mr Blackburn told me: "This is a free-enterprise system and no one can get me out of business with strong-arm tactics.

Threatened

Mr Blackburn went to Durban to be in charge of the butchery in a hyper store on the outskirts of the city. He then decided to open his own business.

"I made mine an exclusive butchery. I only dealt in super-grade meats, but kept advertising my biltong



Mr Cliff Blackburn . . . "no one will put me out of business with strong-arm tactics".

Sun Times 22/10/78

(3- Meat)

Haak cattle plan is a flop

MR JAN HAAK, former Minister of Economic Affairs, said this week that his multi-million-rand plan to export cattle from South West Africa had flopped.

He blamed inadequate abattoir and cold-storage facilities in the territory for the failure of his plan.

But a spokesman for the Administrator-General of South West Africa, Mr Justice M. T. Steyn, said that the Meat Control Board of South West Africa had cancelled its contract with Mr Haak's company.

It had also turned down other proposals.

It had, instead, decided to export the cattle live to South Africa.

Mr Haak — who narrowly escaped having his personal estate sequestrated last year after the collapse of his mining empire — received the go-ahead three months ago from Mr Justice Steyn to proceed with his plan to export cattle from the territory.

BY NEIL HOOPER

He told a Press conference that his estimated surplus of 60 000 head of cattle available for export had been wrong and that the figure was closer to 15 000.

"But there is still an overseas demand for red meat because of an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in Argentina, and we are negotiating with the Administrator-General for the construction of cold-storage rooms at Walvis Bay," he said.

"We are also negotiating for suitable veterinary export-clearance certificates. Before we can export the meat, the cold-storage rooms must be approved by the European Economic Community countries to which we intend exporting.

"We also have to obtain EEC approval of the abattoirs we intend using," he said.

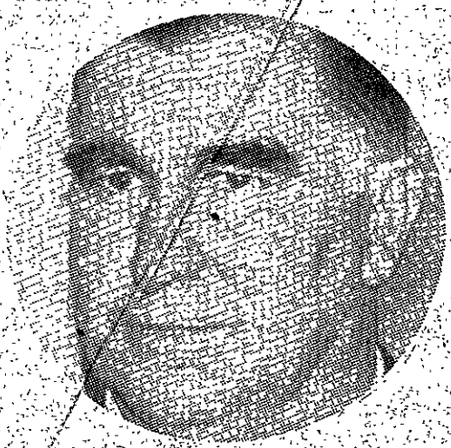
He was still optimistic that a more modest scheme would get off the ground — once the facilities were available.

Mr Haak said he had planned to export the cattle from South West Africa because they could be bought for R100 a head cheaper there than in the Republic.

He confirmed that there had been a dispute between him and a Johannesburg meat-export company that was to act as the agent for a Greek importer.

He said the company had brought Greek meat importers to South Africa to investigate the viability of the scheme, and confirmed that the Johannesburg company had threatened to sue him for R11 560 for the cost of bringing them to the Republic.

"But if they want to sue me, why haven't they done so?" he asked this week.



Mr Jan Haak . . . now his cattle-export plan flops.

Processed meat price rockets by 14pc

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — The price of processed meat products, including bacon, sausages and polonies, has been increased by an average of about 14 percent by major manufacturers.

This is in spite of a fall in the ordinary meat price.

This was revealed here today by a spokesman for Spar's independent wholesalers, who said he had been notified of the increases by two leading processors, Baynesfield and Renown.

"The increase is right across the whole range of meat products. The wholesale price of pork sausages, for instance, is up from 82c to 93c for 500 g, while polony jumps from R1,46 to R1,58, and the hike includes bacon, pork products, frankfurters and viennas, the more popular lines.

COST MORE

"With the announcement yesterday that the national egg producers' co-operative is to increase the price of eggs by 2c a dozen, a breakfast of bacon and eggs is going to cost a whole lot more," he said.

The spokesman said he could not see the justification for the processed meat increases, especially as the price of meat had come down, and not gone up.

The new prices for eggs announced by Nepco for the large chain group are 60c a dozen for extra large, 57c for large and 54c for medium.

Provincial health services [illegible] alities and the



3(Meat) 7/11/28 Nrm

WORK on the new R45 million Cato Ridge abattoir is nearing completion. Trial slaughters are scheduled to start in April.

Abattoir nearly finished

Mercury Reporter

THE new R45 million Cato Ridge abattoir, which will replace those in Durban and Pietermaritzburg, starts trial slaughters in April, according to Mr. Ben Kruger, the managing director of the Abattoir Corporation.

"And by June we hope to have commercial production underway as scheduled," said Mr. Kruger from Pretoria yesterday.

The abattoir will be one of the most modern and hygienic in the world.

The only feature it will share with existing abattoirs is the method of killing animals by stunning, said Mr. Kruger.

From then on a conveyor belt operation will take over and the meat will not be handled by humans until it reaches the butcher.

Mr. Kruger said the new abattoir would streamline the supply of beef and mutton in Durban especially during the holiday season because of its increased capacity.

The ultimate slaughter capacity is 1 450 cattle, 7 250 sheep and 800 pigs in a 7¼ hour working day.

The abattoir will provide employment for about 1 200 workers.

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to work through the questionnaire question by question. The purpose of the research often had to be explained at great length. Some of the most valuable interviews were held with people who understood its aims and suggested better ways of going about the job, and gave one the benefit of their own thoughts on the demand for African technicians in the light of their experience, often considerable, in industry.

To recap, the great advantage which this method of interview affords is that the researcher is able to form a subjective impression of some of the qualitative factors that influence a firm, or an individual speaking for a firm, in thinking about the employment of African technicians. One is given the opportunity of reading between the lines, so to speak, and thereby disentangling the actual from the mythological situation. The interviewer is thus able to perceive the significance of the various factors which influence an employer in his decision to employ Africans as technicians. The interviewer's prediction of the employer's actual behaviour when it comes to employing African technicians may be more accurate than the employer's perception of his own future behavious. We hope, for the sake of the accuracy of the recommendations in this report, that this is indeed the case.

Provincial health services ... Municipalities and the

Demand pushes up beef price

#244 3 MEAT

7/11/78 N/M.

3-Meat

Agricultural Correspondent

DEMAND for high-grade beef is pushing up prices and surpluses are being "eaten away," said the general manager of the Meat Board, Dr. Jan Lombard, yesterday.

Dr. Lombard said weekly cattle salughterings had reached record numbers and all marketing pressures had been eliminated. "There are already signs of possible price increases and the population is eating away all surpluses of high-grade meat," he said.

For the fifth consecutive week the Meat Board had announced slaughter figures of more than 28 000 cattle and during the first nine months of the year 117 000 — or 16 percent — more cattle had been slaughtered in controlled areas compared with last year.

One of the reasons for the sharp increase in demand for red meat was the rise in price of rival products like chicken and fish. Dr. Lombard said other reasons were the increase in buying power of consumers and better red meat promotion.

Prices were beginning to show an upward trend and he expected demand would exceed supply soon

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urday November 18 1978 Star

3-meat

High prices loom for steak set

Johannesburg meat-eaters are still smiling while vegetarians are finding their diets more expensive and of poorer quality.

However, a warning this week by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, that meat prices could rise, may soon wipe the smiles off the steak set.

Beef and mutton prices in Johannesburg have been stable for a month or two, with super Y beef selling at around R1,08 a kg, prime AY at about R1,07 and grade one AY at around R1,06.

Mutton has been selling at about R1,70 for super lamb, about R1,40 for grade 1 lamb, R1,40 for prime mutton and 1,4 mutton.

Fruit and vegetable prices make a sadder story, with recent dry weather and hail pushing up prices and dragging down quality.

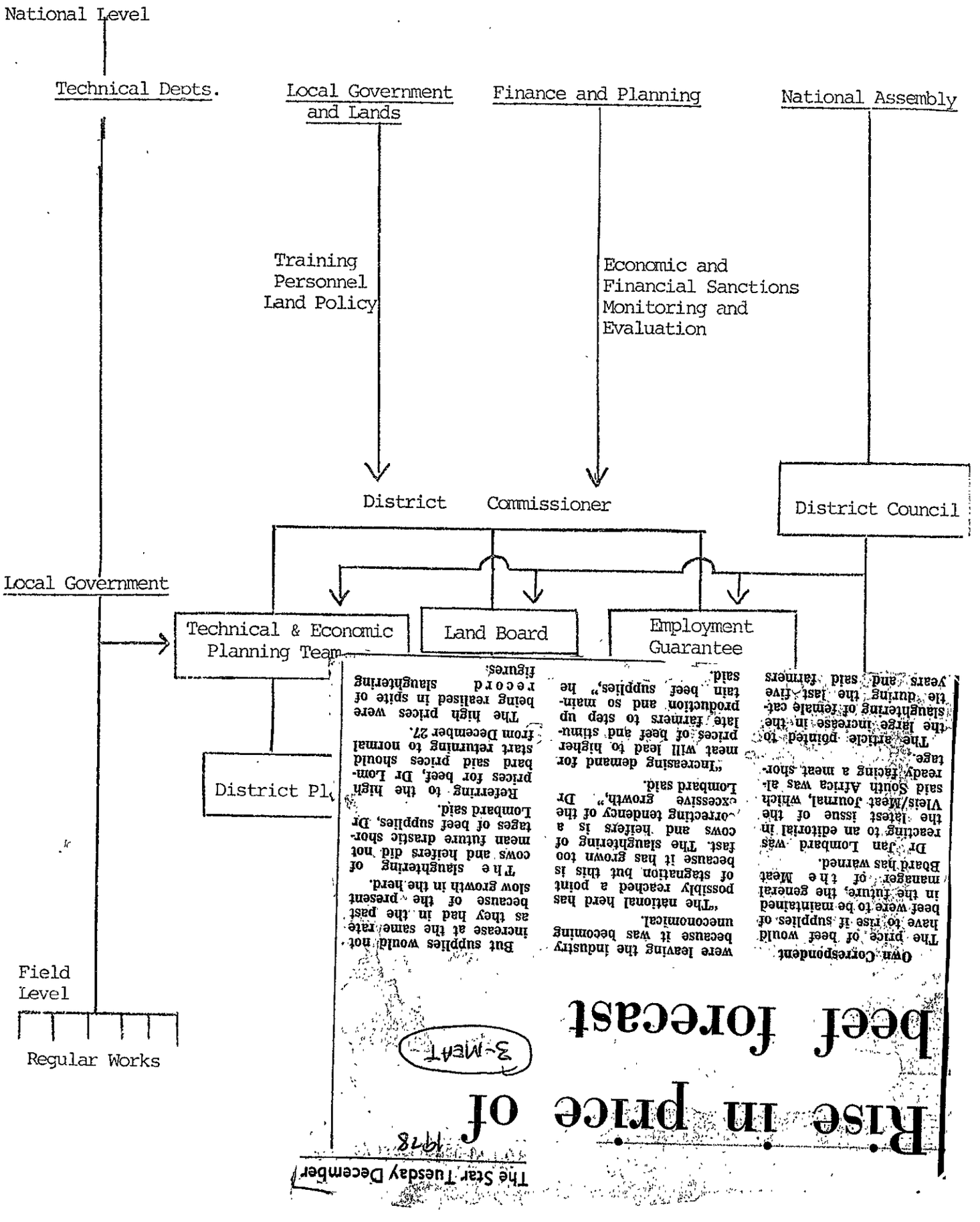
Mr S S Robinson, director of the Johannesburg national fresh produce market, said the proportion of good quality fruit and vegetables available this year was much lower than last year.

Prices paid for good quality produce was therefore much higher.

For example a tray of cherries that fetched up to R8 last year, is now fetching up to R14. Granadillas that cost R6,50 a pocket last year, are now going for R10.

Onions that were sold for R1,10 a pocket last year, are now selling at R2 while a box of Starking apples that went for up to R11 last year, now fetches R14.

Figure I Model Organisation for Rural Development



The Star Tuesday December 1978

3-MEAT

Rise in price of beef forecast

Own Correspondent

The price of beef would have to rise if supplies of beef were to be maintained in the future, the general manager of the Meat Board has warned.

Dr Jan Lombard was reacting to an editorial in the latest issue of the Vleis/Meat Journal, which said South Africa was already facing a meat shortage.

The article pointed to the large increase in the slaughtering of female cattle during the last five years and said farmers were leaving the industry because it was becoming uneconomical.

"The national herd has possibly reached a point of stagnation but this is because it has grown too fast. The slaughtering of cows and heifers is a correcting tendency of the excessive growth," Dr Lombard said.

"Increasing demand for meat will lead to higher prices of beef and stimulate farmers to step up production and so maintain beef supplies," he said.

But supplies would not increase at the same rate as they had in the past because of the present slow growth in the herd.

The slaughtering of cows and heifers did not mean future drastic shortages of beef supplies, Dr Lombard said.

Referring to the high prices for beef, Dr Lombard said prices should start returning to normal from December 27.

The high prices were being realised in spite of record slaughtering figures.

Meat prices up during December

HOUSEWIVES will have to contend with higher meat prices during December, according to Dr Jan Lombard, general manager of the Meat Board.

The increase in meat prices during the festive season was due to the public holidays which resulted in fewer slaughtering days and therefore a higher demand than supply, Dr Lombard said in a press statement.

Dr Lombard said the Board had already established measures to ensure maximum slaughterings in all controlled areas, to maintain a balance between supply and demand.

He advised people not to stock up their freezers right now saying they should wait until January when prices would be considerably lower than during the season.

As the Day of the Covenent fell on a weekend this year there would only be one short week so the Meat Board would be able to slaughter maximally to curb exhorbitant price increases.

Because the market prices were consistantly higher in October this year compared with October last year, good-quality beef would be more expensive in December this year. Grade 3 beef would be cheaper than last year because it had been in fuller supply.

The prices of mutton and lamb could reach record heights before Christmas because, despite a 10 percent increase in slaughterings, the demand over the past two months had not beent met.

Pork prices had increased sharply since October and high market prices could be expected in December.

Wait before stocking freezer

5/12/78

Housewives rage at Christmas meat 'rip-off'

Mercury Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — The national president of the Housewives League, Mrs. Joy Hurwitz, said yesterday that she was "mystified" by the Meat Board's announcement that "the consumer will have to pay more for meat this December as usual."

"Four months ago, we were assured by the Meat Board that the floor price of meat was going to be held for one year," Mrs. Hurwitz said.

"Reports last week of a price rise in Sandton, Vereeniging and Johannesburg were checked and we were told by the Meat Board that there was no need for a price rise over Christmas.

"There should only be a traditional increase in the price of meat if there is a shortage, and as far as I am aware there is no shortage this month," she said.

Control

Dr. Jan Lombard, the general manager of the Meat Board, said in Pretoria yesterday that the board would do everything in its power to at least prevent prices from getting out of control.

"We have established measures to ensure maximum slaughterings in all controlled areas in order to maintain a balance between supply and demand.

"But in spite of a 10 percent increase in slaughterings, the supply of lamb and beef could not meet the demand over the past two months.

"Prices are usually high in December with the public holidays resulting in two short slaughter weeks when maximum slaughtering is not possible," he said.

"But this year the Day of the Covenant is on a weekend and there is now only one short week so that the Meat Board will be able to slaughter maximally in order to curb exorbitant price increases."

Dr. Lombard warned people not to stock up their freezers now but to wait until January when prices would most definitely be considerably lower than during the festive season.

The price of quality beef is higher now than last December at R1,45 a kilo in comparison with the floor price of 88c.

Demand

The demand for lamb and mutton over the past two months has more than met the supply. Shoppers are therefore advised to make their purchases well in advance of the Christmas rush when prices are expected to soar.

Half lamb and pork chops were selling for R2,34 and R2,50 a kilo in Durban yesterday.

Pork prices have increased since October and are expected to rise again over the Christmas period as there is now an acute shortage of all grades of pork.

TABLE 23: GROWTH OF THE MINERALS INDUSTRY
(production in sales units - 1000s - base minerals)

| | 1970 | | |

(3) MEAT

Cape Times 20/12/28

9

Backlog of cattle trucks dealt with at abattoir

Staff Reporter

THE reported backlog of cattle trucks bringing livestock to the Maitland abattoir had seemingly been dealt with by early last night.

By 6pm only a few empty trucks remained. The livestock pens at the abattoir were also empty.

Numerous complaints and a newspaper article yesterday focused attention on a chronic situation at the Maitland abattoir. Cattle jam-packed on trucks had been left in the heat without food or water for about 24 hours.

The backlog problem at the abattoir is seasonal. Similar complaints of livestock sweltering in the heat for days were received in December last year.

The festive season is a busy time at the abattoir because prices and demand are high, but the abattoir remains closed on weekends and on public holidays. Cattle trucks continue to arrive at the weekends and a backlog occurs, particularly at the beginning of the week.

At a meeting of the Amenities and Health committee in July this year, it was decided that the abattoir would remain closed at weekends and public holidays, but the committee supported a recommendation that the SPCA ask the government to speed up the framing of regulations on the transport of animals under the Animal Protection Act.

● The Cape Times telephoned the abattoir yesterday afternoon and was informed that the director was ill and the deputy director was not available for comment.

..When he gives audience to his people to listen to their complaints and set them to rights, he sits in a pavilion around which stand pages holding shields and gold mounted swords, and on his right hand are the sons of the princes of his empire, splendidly clad and with gold plaited into their hair. The governor of the city is seated on the ground in front of the king, and all around him are his viziers in the same position. The gate of the chamber is guarded by dogs of an excellent breed, who never leave the king's seat: they wear collars of gold and silver, ornamented with the same metals. The beginning of the royal audience is announced by the beating of drums and horns which they call deba, made of a long piece of hollowed wood. The people gather when they hear this sound.

2. The City of Ghana.

The city of Ghana consists of two towns in a plain. One of these towns is inhabited by Muslims. It is large with a dozen mosques in one of which they assemble for the Friday prayer. Around the town are wells of sweet water from which they drink and near which they cultivate vegetables. The royal town called al-Ghaba (the grove) is six miles away from the Muslim town, and the area between the two towns is covered with houses. Their houses are made of stone and acacia wood. The king has a palace and conical huts, surrounded by a wall-like enclosure. In the king's town not far from the royal court of justice, is a mosque where pray the Muslims who come there on missions.....Around the king's town are domed huts and groves where live the rainmen, sorcerers, and guardians of their religious cult. In these are also the idols and the tombs of their kings. These groves are guarded, no one can enter them nor discover their contents. The person of the king is surrounded by ten of his pages holding lances and shields, and on his right hand are the sons of the chiefs of his country with gold plaited into their hair. Before him are placed his sons by his concubines. The royal interpreter is seated before the king and his hands and arms are covered with gold because of his office. Before him are dogs, many and excellent, guarding him on a carpet under a canopy of silk. Around him are archers and a number of men with spears and arrows.. ..When he gives audience to his people to listen to their complaints and set them to rights, he sits in a pavilion around which stand pages holding shields and gold mounted swords, and on his right hand are the sons of the princes of his empire, splendidly clad and with gold plaited into their hair. The governor of the city is seated on the ground in front of the king, and all around him are his viziers in the same position. The gate of the chamber is guarded by dogs of an excellent breed, who never leave the king's seat: they wear collars of gold and silver, ornamented with the same metals. The beginning of the royal audience is announced by the beating of drums and horns which they call deba, made of a long piece of hollowed wood. The people gather when they hear this sound.

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Agriculture

3 — Meat

8 JAN. 1979 — ~~9 August~~ 31 DEC 1979

Butchers all cut up over cafe meat sales

RDM 8/1/79 (3-Meat)

Staff Reporter

THE Meat Board's decision to allow cafe owners to sell prepacked meat has made butchers angry.

"It's just another way of taking trade away from independent retailers," commented Mr G D Mostert, president of the Retail Master Butchers' Association. He said cafes would have to rely on big meat-packing organisations for supplies.

"They will probably also supply free freezing and display cabinets. We can't afford that sort of equipment.

"Cafe owners know nothing about meat and the demand for meat from independent retailers is getting less and less as the opposition gets greater."

The main complaint from Pretoria butchers was that cafe trading hours gave an unfair advantage, reports Sapa.

"Why should cafes be allowed to sell meat in the evenings and over weekends when our trading hours are set at 6 am to 6 pm?" asked Pretoria butcher Arthur Worms.

"Why have we not been offered the option of extending our trading hours as well?"

Mr Willie Petersen, Pretoria Retail Butchers' Association secretary, said the Meat Board's decision would widen the gap between producer and retail price.

"By creating another link in the marketing chain there will be no alternative but for the price of meat to be increased.

"Cafes will charge more for their meat, and for the consumer it will be convenience at a price.

"Because cafes will take away part of the retail butchers' trade, especially on the better cuts such as steaks and chops, the butcher will have to increase the prices of his other cuts to stabilise losses."

Mr M S Bester, the Pretoria association's secretary, felt higher cafe prices would act against butchers losing much trade.

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decade saw a concen-
mation that was largely urban in character and witnessed increased off-take of cattle with high profits to those in a position to sell. Both factors favoured those better placed to take advantage of these extraordinary developments. Those less well placed presumably lost ground as income disparities grew. Indeed, official figures show that the lower income households lost absolutely: their GDP per capita rose 23% while their cost of living rose 50% over the period 1964-74.

Aware that the rapid growth of the economy was lopsided, Government took several measures to redress the balance. In 1972 an Accelerated Rural Development Programme was launched. The ARDP funded the construction of education, health and other physical infrastructure. District Councils and Village Development Committees were drawn into the management of the programme with mixed but generally better results than were expected. Also in 1972, the Government requested Messrs. R. Chambers and D. Feldman to prepare a Report on Rural Development upon which the Government could act. The Report, which will be discussed later, won ready acceptance by Government for most of its proposals, the central part of which is embraced in Government's recent White Paper No. 2 of 1975, the Tribal Grazing Land Programme (TGLP). In the last year a most useful survey on Rural Income Distribution has been completed. The Survey's findings underline the urgency with which Government must adopt effective measures to reverse the impoverishment of roughly half the rural population and to do so within institutional conditions that will further promote the commercial ranching of cattle and assist in the beginning of a more viable crop agriculture.

Appeal for higher meat prices

Pretoria Bureau

A top farming representative has urged consumers to accept higher prices for red meat to help forestall a slump in meat production during the early 1980s.

Farmers had already sent more heifers for slaughtering in 1978 than ever before, said Mr Jan van der Walt, meat industry officer at the South African Agricultural Union.

This proved that farmers were being discouraged from producing more beef, he said.

It would be in the consumer's own interests to encourage meat production by paying reasonable prices, Mr van der Walt said.

If farmers continued to cut back on their herds a meat shortage could set in, leading in turn to a sharp rise in prices.

A shortage would force South Africa to import more meat, Mr van der Walt said.

IMPORT

Improvements in the price of meat in 1974 had encouraged many farmers to go into livestock in a big way. But prices for meat had remained virtually constant ever since.

In Johannesburg the average producer prices for all grades and classes of beef had increased by only 2,4c a kg over the past five years, according to a survey made by Mr van der Walt.

In spite of these low prices farmers had struggled to sell their produce and disenchantment with meat production had set in.

There had been positive signs, however, of an increase in demand and higher meat prices since September last year.



10 percent boost to meat price

NM 26/1/79

3-Meat

PRETORIA — Consumers were likely to pay at least 10 percent more for their higher grades of red meat in 1979, Dr. Jan Lombard, general manager of the Meat Board, said here yesterday.

"Against all expectations the prices of the higher grades of meat did not drop as low after this Christmas season as in the past when prices virtually reached the floor.

"The prices of super beef and super lamb in particular showed an initial drop but refused to decrease to the floor and are at the moment moving at price levels approximately 10 percent higher than those of the corresponding period last year."

Dr. Lombard said the Meat Board was slaughtering at full capacity throughout the country and consumption of red meat was steadily increasing.

The 10 percent increase in the higher grades was still below last year's inflation rate of 11 percent.

"The main reason why the higher grades of beef are now moving on higher price levels is that the feedlot industry has now adjusted to the real demand for high quality meat.

"The percentage of high grades being slaughtered in the nine controlled areas is 4,2 percent lower than during the same period last year," Dr. Lombard said. — (Sapa.)

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than the upper end. It will be important to see whether the accelerating output growth rate in 1977 is also transmitted to the rate of growth of employment: evidence for the first 5 months suggests that it is (January - May 1977 employment is 11,7 per cent up on that for the same 5 months of 1976).[50]

The other three base-minerals (all larger employers than iron, chrome and manganese but smaller than coal) viz. copper, asbestos, and 'others ' (i.e. quarries and salt) are all very much below their projected rates of growth of employment; and in 1976 they were employing respectively 13 200 - 13 600, 8 500 - 8 800 and 6 400 - 6 900 less workers than had been projected by Plewman (using rounded figures). As we have seen in earlier discussions production of copper and asbestos has grown less fast than projected (markedly so in the case of copper), and in addition they have both experienced some unprojected increase in labour productivity which has reinforced the tendency for their labour complements to lag behind projections. Information about 'quarries and salt' output and productivity is not readily available.

For the rest, all the precious metals performed disappointingly as employers in the period under review and they dominate the overprojections. The labour force in gold-mining declined an average of about 1 per cent per annum instead of remaining constant (though the problem of supply constraints needs to be sorted out here). Because of the relative size of gold-mining as an employer this small divergence between actual and projected paths creates an overprojection of about

OMWENTELING KOM IN S.A. SLAGPLASE

(3) MEAT

RAPPORT 28/1/79

Deur DAVID MEADES

SUID-Afrika se slagplaasbedryf staan voor grootskaalse omwentelinge. Daar sal waarskynlik oor die volgende twintig jaar geen nuwe slagplase in stedelike gebiede gebou word nie, terwyl die grootste deel van die land se klein slagplase in 'n onhigiëniese toestand is.

Dit spruit uit 'n ondersoek oor die land se slagplaasbedryf, wat agttien maande geduur het en op versoek van die Abattoirkommissie deur Kennington Incorporated, 'n bedryfsnavorsingskonsultantsaak, gedoen is.

Die ondersoek moes die land se slagplaasbehoeftes van nou tot die jaar 2000 bepaal en die bevinding was dat daar geen twyfel kan bestaan dat daar voortaan 'n beleid van desentralisasie gevolg sal moet word nie.

Snitte

Kennington se senior konsultant en projekbestuurder van die ondersoek, mnr. Rob Eales, het vandeesweek aan Sake-Rapport gesê dat hulle bevind het dat dit oorweldigend in die ekonomiese belang van die land is om toekomstige slagplase in die produksiegebiede vanlewende hawe op te rig.

„Ons het vasgestel dat dit baie goedkoper is om karkasse of vleissnitte in verkoelde voertuie te vervoer as lewende diere. En as 'n beleid van desentralisasie gevolg word, kan dit teen 1990 'n besparing van R4 miljoen per jaar in vervoerkoste beteken, wat tot meer as R6 miljoen per jaar teen die jaar 2000 kan styg."

Hierdie raminge is gegrond op die heersende koste ten tye van die ondersoek en maak geen voorsiening vir inflasie en die plase „in die algemeen in staat is om goeie higiëniese standaarde te handhaaf". Sommige slagplase, en by name Johannesburg se City Deep — die grootste in die land — word bestempel as „uitmuntend in wêreldstandaarde".

Vryelik

Oor die aanbeveling van geen verdere uitbreidinge in die groot stede nie, sê Kennington dat die meeste van hierdie stede in die beheerde gebiede onder die Vleisraad se bemarkingsbeleid nou voldoende geriewe vir bees- en skaapslagtings het om in die plaaslike behoeftes te kan voorsien.

En om vleis in beheerde gebiede te voorsien, word voorts aanbeveel dat 'n nuwe soort slagplaas vir hierdie doel „aangewys" word.

Hierdie aangewese slagplase behoort toegelaat te word om vleis vryelik te voorsien aan enige gebied waar daar 'n vraag is, soos wat die geval met die huidige slagplase in beheerde gebiede is.

Varke

Die aangewese slagplase behoort al die groot openbare sowel as private slagplase in die beheerde gebiede in te sluit sowel as 'n aantal buite hierdie gebiede op die grondslag van hul grootte en hul strategiese plasing in produksiegebiede soos die by Pietermaritzburg, Upington, Queenstown, Escourt en Welkom.

Wanneer daar uiteindelik nuwe vermoë nodig is om die stede te voorsien, word die Oos-Transvaalse Hoëveld, Klerksdorp, Bethlehem en Newcastle aanbeveel.

Daar is ook bevind dat daar genoeg slaggeriewe vir skape is, maar dat daar 'n tekort aan geriewe vir die slag van varke is. Daar word aanbeveel dat stappe onmiddellik gedoen word om die slagvermoë te verhoog.

Vleisraad

Die aanbevelings in die ondersoek dui baie duidelike op 'n hersiening van die bestaande vleisbemarkingsplan, wat die beweging van vars vleis (varkvleis uitgesluit) na die beheerde gebiede verbied.

'n Woordvoerder van die Vleisraad het aan Sake-Rapport gesê dat die verslag aan hom vir kommentaar gegee is, maar dat daar eers in die eerste helfte van Februarie daarop gereageer sal kan word. Woordvoerders in die private vleisbedryf wil ook geen kommentaar in hierdie stadium lewer nie.

Die ondersoek het meer as vyfhonderd slagplase in die land betrek. Die verslag beslaan twee volumes van sowt 160 bladsye elk en is aan die publiek teen R35 beskikbaar.

22 Januarie 1979

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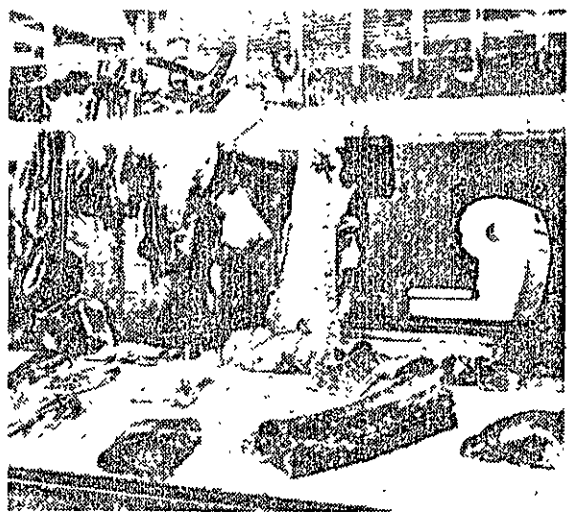

Sun. Exp. 4/2/79 (3-Meat

Meat Board boss happy

MR JAN Lombard, general manager of the Meat Board, said before the announcement of the 10% increase on top meat grades for this year that he was satisfied that the beef market was achieving some stability.

"I think it's good that the post-Christmas price of R1,30 has stabilised at R1,20, for instance, if you contrast this with the pre-Christmas price of around R1,10," he said.

He said he did not think that the system of agents and dominating wholesaler /manufacturers was capable of extreme manipulation of the meat market.

"We can't do without the middleman's services in distribution, but I agree that in a small economy such as ours it is easier for them to approach a situation where they could control the market.

"But we are not there by a long chalk," he said.

He said, when asked about possible manipulation by agents:

"I wouldn't say this has never happened but it is very difficult for the board to find out if and how it has happened.

"I can say that if any evidence that an agent has abused his position can be produced, you can depend on it that will not be an agent tomorrow," he said.

"I'm not making any recommendations, mind you," he said.

"But a number of the agents represent farmers' co-operatives and the farmers have freedom of choice in selecting an agent."

Mr Lombard said he was optimistic about the meat industry.

"We have gone through hard times, when the farmers could not market all they produced for two years and there was a lot of sharp practice.

"But now I don't think there is any producer who can't sell what he wants to. We have managed to hold the floor price.

"We must keep scratching away in looking for improvements, but right now we have some achievements to look at and take our hats off to in the industry," he said.



Giacomo Della Tana, butcher and beef farmer, tells three nasty stories.

Nasty stories from the man in the know

THREE nasty stories about the meat industry were produced by Mr Giacomo Dalla Tana, 57, a butcher and beef farmer.

Farmers in a dry region decide it's time to sell their cattle. They contact one of the board's agents and offer 300 beasts. The agent sympathises, but says unfortunately his quota for the abattoirs is taken up. The farmers must wait a little until he can take their production. The farmers wait a week or two — while their cattle's condition deteriorates slowly. And then "someone" visits the farms and makes a below market price offer for the cattle. The farmers, threatened by further deterioration of their beasts' condition, sell. And then, luckily; the new owners find an agent who can take them into his quota immediately.

The giant meat companies have extended their interests into buying or controlling many small retail butchers — almost every supermarket meat counter in the country is now controlled by them, for instance. But some of the little traders — like Mr Dalla Tana — still protest at the process.

One of Mr Dalla Tana's friends did so, at a butchers' association meeting. Afterwards, the wholesaler who supplied him with meat called in a R3 200 trading debit within 24 hours.

There are obvious seasonal fluctuations in the supply of beef by the grower. But Mr Dalla Tana and others are puzzled by situations which they say occur when the abattoirs are not required to respond to a capacity consumer demand. Suddenly all the quotas are filled and the abattoirs live-storage pens are full, but the daily slaughterings are low in accordance with demand. Slaughterings are increased by such pressure.

The price drops. Temporarily. And at that moment, buyers with enormous cold storage or meat-processing capacities begin buying. When the live supplies drop to normal again, the price rises again.

S. Zim.

Sechstes Buch – Beker

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Call to raise meat floor price

2113179 (3) ~~Gobot Bocnd~~ Meat

The head of the Meat Board, Dr J H Lombard, today called for a raising of the floor price of meat.

Addressing a symposium on meat production, Dr Lombard said this was one of the ways in which short-term price fluctuation in meat could be halted.

"Our main objective," he said, "is to negotiate in a manageable price for both the producer and the consumer."

Dr Lombard said there was no valid reason for short-term meat price fluctuations. He felt there was a need for more controlled meat markets.

He said that through analysis and research the Meat Board hoped to influence the meat industry into achieving a stable growth rate.

The meat industry should be aiming for a 4,7 percent growth rate, he said.

Another speaker at the symposium, Dr J Steenkamp, said that internal self-sufficiency in the meat industry could be accomplished only by capital and labour intensification.

Dr Steenkamp, who is the technical director of a national meat co-operative, said this intensification could only be achieved by having a higher consumer price.

Businessman Mr Raymond Ackerman spoke on a strategy for the promotion of meat products in southern Africa. He called for increased co-operation between meat producers and retailers.

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Ein Verhältnis zu einem neuen Nachbaren Philo vertieft, auch er ist nützlich für ihr
kranken Vater. Sie moralisiert immer wieder über Gott, Sünde und Glaube. Verzweiflung,
meint sie, kann nur überwinden wird durch Glauben – etwas, das nicht alle heute erreichen
können. Die Kirche wird uninteressant und langweilig. Sie verbindet sich mehr mit Philo und
der Herrnhutischen Gemeinde – sie findet in dieser heute Menschen, die fühlen wie sie. Der
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daß die Leute sich in jener Richtung neigen – aber es ist kurzlebig, da er starb.

Die Erzählerin wohnt die Hochzeit ihr Onkel zu ihrer Schwester bei und wurde seiner
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Zu Druck zu Hause beeinflußt die Verminderung in der Familie sie gefühlvoll. Ihre Lebens-
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aufeinanderfolgend und lassen 4 Kinder zurück. Sie vergleicht die Kinder mit dem
Charakter ihrer Verwandten. Es kommt in de Vordergrund daß ihre Stellung gegen
die Armen aus Pflicht ist.

Abattoir walk-out won't stop service—director

STAR 27/3/77

By Sieg Hannig, Labour Reporter

Slaughtering at the five abattoirs on the Reef and Pretoria will be maintained even if there is a walk-out by employees.

This assurance has been given by Mr Ben Kruger, managing director of the Abattoir Corporation, the statutory body which controls the abattoirs.

"We shall definitely not bring in meat from elsewhere because we are confident that irrespective of any action by employees, we shall be able to maintain the services required," Mr Kruger said.

"We have a substantial labour force of our own and have had applications for employment from slaughtermen other than the existing staff."

Mr Kruger was reacting to a statement by Mr S H Walters, administrative manager of Slaughtering Services Co-operative Limited.

The co-operative employs 800 or more people responsible for all the slaughtering at the five abattoirs of Johannesburg, Krugersdorp, Pretoria, Springs and Benoni.

About 500 of these people are members of the co-operative and control the co-operative.

On Monday the Abattoir Corporation is taking over the functions of the co-operative as well as the co-operative's 120 employees at the Springs and Benoni abattoirs.

"My members in Springs and Benoni object most strongly," said Mr Walters.

"For 31 years they have been their own employees through the co-operative, and now they will become somebody else's employees.

"If the members of the other abattoirs ... as well, we could ... a serious problem.

"The possibility ... members of the co-operative will stop slaughtering next week cannot be ruled out," Mr Walters said.

Mr Kruger said the takeover was designed to rationalise operations.

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Economic efficiency.
Equitable distribution of output.
Stability of rates of production, consumption, price levels.
Growth.

(iii) A brief look at alternative economic systems. Tradition economy; market (private enterprise); economy; mixed economies; planned collectivist economies.

Samuelson: Chapter 43.

5. Circularity of Economic Processes

Circular flow of income and output. At this point, the course branches out into Microeconomics (the determination of relative prices and outputs; study of markets, supply, demand) and Macroeconomics (study of aggregative economic behaviour - national income, employment theory, money & banking)

1 000 threaten to walk out of abattoirs

STAR 31/3/79 (3 meat)

About 1 000 workers at the five abattoirs on the Reef and Pretoria will walk out on Monday unless a dispute with the Abattoir Corporation is resolved.

Mr S H Walters, administrative manager of Slaughtering Services Co-Operative, said 800 white workers and 200 blacks objected strongly to the proposed takeover by the Abattoir Corporation of the functions of the Co-Operative at abattoirs at Springs and Benoni.

The Abattoir Corporation is planning the takeover on Monday.

About 500 of the abattoirs' white workers are members of the co-operative and 300 whites are non-members. There are 200 black workers.

He said 3 000 cattle, 9 000 sheep and 1 600 pigs would have to be slaughtered on Monday and he did not know where the corporation would find the men to do the job.

"My members in Springs and Benoni have been their own employers for 31 years through the co-operative, and now they will become somebody else's employees," he said.

Unless there was a reconciliation and slaughtering continued "as usual" most of the abattoir workers would walk out.

Mr Ben Kruger, managing director of the Abattoir Corporation, maintained that slaughtering at all five abattoirs would not be interrupted even if there was a walk-out.

He said the corporation had a large labour force and would be able to maintain services.

"The takeover of slaughtering at Springs and Benoni will affect only 11 percent of their total labour force," he added.

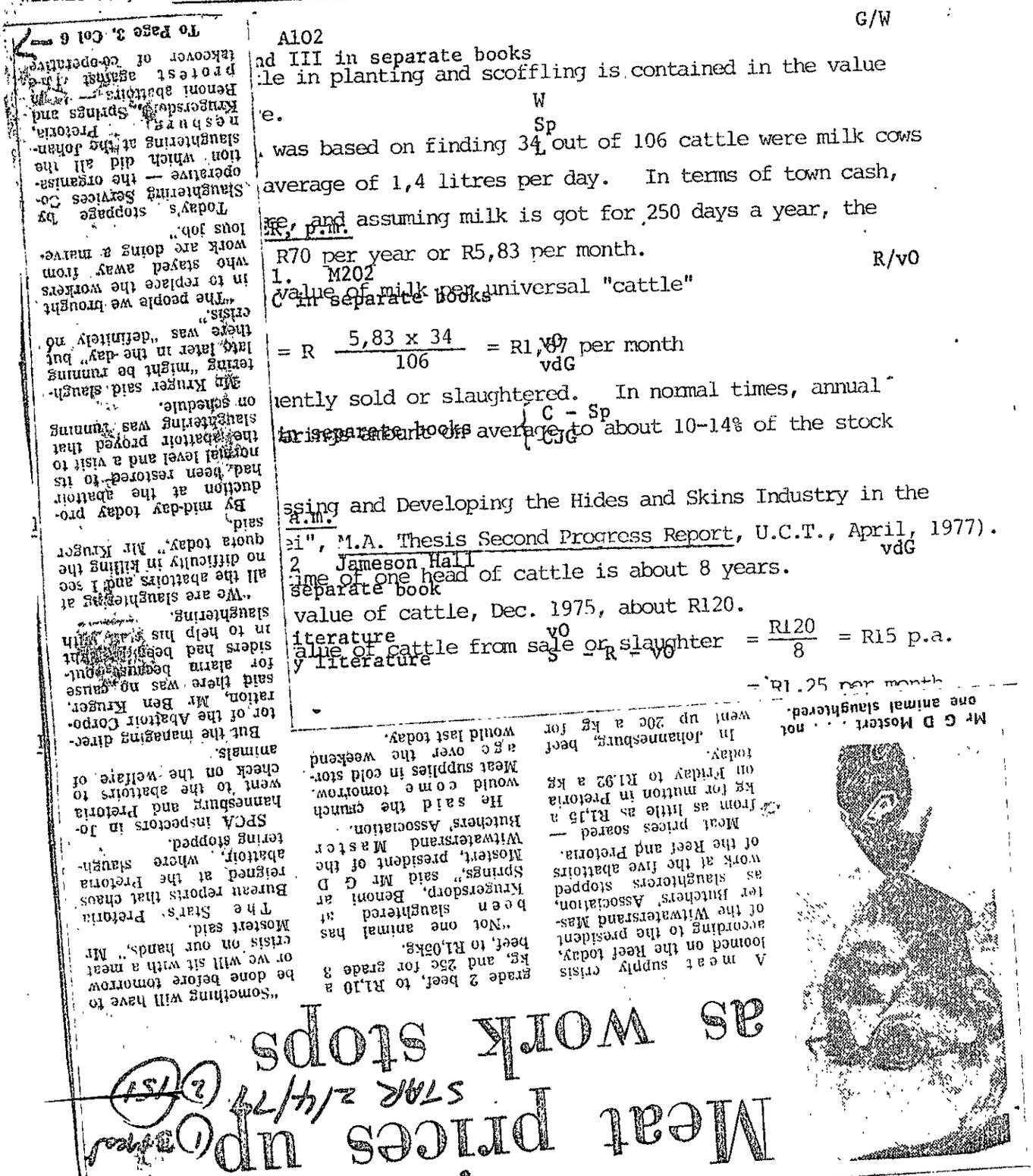
(21)

Government to entrust the conduct of its policy to the hands of Sir Evelyn Baring.

APPENDIX 3

Estimation of Monthly Income Flow from Subsistence Production

Bill Westcott kindly provided us with estimations of the monthly income derived from the ownership of cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and chickens. They are based on research she carried out in the Tsolo district of the Transkei at the same time we were conducting our survey. The calculation of income from maize is our own, based on 1976 prices obtained from the Cape Town Maize Board.





Slaughtering at the City Deep Abattoir near Johannesburg was disrupted today when 564 workers at the abattoir refused to go to work. The men, members of the Slaughtering Services Co-operative, stopped work over a dispute with the Abattoir Corporation. Several of the men gathered at the entrance to the abattoir early this morning.

Crisis in meat trade

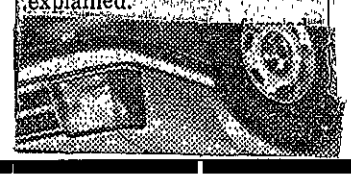
From page 1

functions at the Springs and Benoni abattoirs.

The co-operative is controlled by 500 members, who are also employees of the co-operative for which about 300 white non-members and 200 blacks also work.

To take over the co-operative's functions and employees at Springs and Benoni, the semi-State Abattoir Corporation had to cancel its contract with the co-operative.

The co-operative refused to enter into a new contract for the three abattoirs not affected by the takover, Mr Kruger explained.



Minister is asked to intervene in meat strike

STAR 3/4/79
① 3 meat
~~② 151~~

The Minister of Agriculture has been asked to intervene in the Transvaal abattoir dispute so that consumers do not have to foot the bill by way of unwarranted meat prices.

Conflicting claims about the disruption in meat production persisted today as the work stoppage by the 1 000 employees of Slaughtering Services Co-operative went into its second day.

And consumer spokesmen warned housewives not to be pressed into panic buying but to wait until fresh meat prices had dropped.

Telegrams urging the Minister of Agriculture to settle the dispute have been sent by the South African Federation of Meat Retailers and the Witwatersrand Master Butchers' Association.

ACTION

"It is time the Minister took action because now the consumers are footing the bill for the dispute," said Mr W Bester, chairman of the Pretoria Meat Retailers' Association.

He said the beef price had risen by 40 percent, that of lamb by 30 percent and that of pork by 15 percent — "and it is not going to stop there."

Mr G D Mostert, president of the Witwatersrand Master Butchers' Association, said prices on the Reef dropped back to Friday's level after rising sharply at first yesterday.

But he said a meat crisis was still looming.

Fresh meat produced on the Reef yesterday was only half of what was required, he said.

QUOTAS

But Mr Ben Kruger, managing director of the Abattoir Corporation, said the quotas at most of the five abattoirs affected were met yesterday.

He gave yesterday's slaughtering figures:

- Johannesburg slaughtered 83 percent of the sheep and 65 percent of the cattle quota.
- Pretoria slaughtered 68 percent of the sheep, 50 percent of the cattle and 65 pigs.
- Springs met the full quota.
- Krugersdorp also met its quota except for a shortfall of 200 sheep.
- Benoni slaughtered 56 percent of its sheep and 59 percent of its cattle quota.

The normal quantity of beef would be up for auction at Johannesburg today because 750 carcasses had been held over from Friday.

The output at all abattoirs would be much higher today as the efficiency of new wo[illegible] improved.

STAR 4/4/79

Some butchers raise meat price

Butchers began to raise prices in Johannesburg today as the disruption caused by the walk-out of 1 000 slaughtermen on the Reef and in Pretoria reached a decisive stage.

"Our problems will be virtually over by tonight," said Mr Ben Krüger of the Abattoir Corporation, who reported a large upswing in the slaughtering rate in Johannesburg.

But Mr G D Mostert, president of the Witwatersrand Master Butchers' Association, said: "The crunch will only come tomorrow, because we have been eating away our stock.

"The crisis will stop only when the slaughtermen go back to work."

He said supplies held over from last week were exhausted today as the auction prices in Johannesburg rose only slightly by another 3c a kilogram, to about 25 percent above last week's prices.

But Mr Krüger said the only problem that could have arisen was in the supply of beef if today's quota were not slaughtered.

But this morning's slaughtering rate indicated a great improvement.

A spokesman for the Meat Board said auction prices in Pretoria had increased by about 25 percent yesterday and those in Johannesburg by 15 to 20 percent.

But this was a short-term phenomenon owing to fears of possible shortages. There had been no shortages so far.

● Although the profit margins of wholesalers and retailers in the meat industry cannot be rated as excessive, it is the farmer who is on the losing end of the scale, reports The Star's Pretoria Bureau.

He has no profit margin with which to balance the scales, having worked at a production loss of 26 percent for the last four years.

Now the Meat Board has decided to step in to redress the balance. The general manager, Dr Jan Lombard, has promised to investigate.

He has pointed out that there is a discrepancy of up to 16 percent on certain grades of red meat between the minimum guaranteed floor price to the farmer and the market price.

It now seems likely that the floor price determined by the meat board will have to be increased this year if something is to be done to help the farmer.

STAR 5/4/77

Case of meat strikers weakens

The dispute between the Abattoir Corporation and the slaughtering co-operative, which stopped work at the five abattoirs of the Reef and Pretoria on Monday, took a firm swing against the co-operative today.

The corporation seemed determined today to have nothing more to do with the co-operative at any of the abattoirs.

And indications were that it had the support of the Government as well as the South African Agricultural Union.

With meat prices remaining fairly stable after the initial increases, the corporation clearly hoped for an early resumption of work by the 1 000 employees of the co-operative who have been invited to become employees of the Corporation.

SLIGHT RISE

Beef prices rose only slightly — by about 2c a kilogram — at Johannesburg's meat auctions today, indicating that local slaughtering, supplemented by supplies from elsewhere, was meeting the demand.

The Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, said this morning he had been told that about 80 percent of what was needed was being slaughtered.

Mr Harold Greenstein, national merchandising manager of Checkers, said prices were up by 20 percent and sales had risen by six to 10 percent but had steadied.

Meat price drop: buy while you can

(3) Meat Star 19/11/79.

Consumer watchdogs have greeted the announcement that meat prices are likely to plummet soon with a warning to housewives to "stock up" while it lasts.

Dr Jan Lombard, general manager of the Meat Board, said yesterday beef farmers were despeate to reduce their stock because of the drought and the severe shortage of winter feeds.

In an effort to ease the situation the present meat quota system would be scrapped and replaced by a 100 percent permit system, he said. This would come into operation from May 14.

Mrs Betty Hirzel, chairwoman of the SA National Consumer Union, said: "Consumers should shop around now and fill up their deepfreezes because the price drop won't last."

She felt that if there was a surplus now, there was likely to be a shortage later on.

But, Mrs Joy Hurwitz, president of the Housewives League, was sceptical because she said the floor price had been set for this year and if it were to change, it would not change before May.

MEAT INDUSTRY

Schoeman wields the axe

Agriculture Minister Hendrik Schoeman this week introduced a far-reaching change to meat slaughtering and marketing policy which he says could result in significant savings for the consumer.

Schoeman told the *FM* he wanted to open up the meat trade. As a result, he had decided to take away slaughter quotas from meat agents and give permits directly to farmers.

The trade was informed of his decision on Wednesday. According to the Minister, the agents who have had the right to administer quotas were "up in arms," but he could see no alternative.

It appears Schoeman's move was in response to an appeal from the Housewives' League, which has been engaged in discussions with him for some time over malpractices in the meat business. He confirms that he is looking into their accusations. As an initial step, he is setting up a meeting between himself, the League and the management of the Meat Board.

He expects, however, that his policy change will answer at least one of the League's complaints, since complaints were directed at the profit-making by agents handling quotas.

As Schoeman explains it, an abattoir will be given a quota of, say, 10 000 head to slaughter. The farmers will then have to apply for permits to supply their stock direct to the slaughterhouses, and these will be determined by the Meat Board in direct proportion to the needs of the abattoir.



Minister Schoeman . . . meat agents get the chop

Significantly, the Minister also confirms that one of the matters raised by the League was the question of alleged market manipulation by some of the country's largest meat concerns. It seems the most serious accusations, however, are levelled at the monolothic meat co-op, Vleissentraal.



Corner butchery . . . frozen out

Gravamen of the League's charge is that Vleissentraal, with six of its directors sitting on the 13-man Meat Board, is in a position to manipulate pricing and marketing policy to its own advantage. Until recently, seven Vleissentraal directors were on the Meat Board, giving them a majority.

While these members were appointed by the Minister himself, several non-Vleissentraal members of the Board are concerned that their co-op colleagues influence decisions at many levels.

As one board member put it to the *FM:* "We believe the Vleissentraal men have their own preliminary meeting before the Board gets down to business, and that most decisions are loaded in their favour."

Vleissentraal deputy GM, Cornelius Basson, argues that those involved — including his chairman and senior general manager P R du Toit and S J J van Rensburg — were appointed by Minister Schoeman because of their expertise in the industry.

Also concerned is Julius Kahn, MD of SA's fourth largest meat company, Kanhym, who says the time has come for Schoeman to act against those interfering with the natural forces that should dictate meat prices and marketing policy.

"I agree with the League on the question of Vleissentraal's domination of the Meat Board, as well as the general thrust of their argument," Kahn says. "Something's got to be done — and quickly."

Others spoken to were reluctant to hammer the co-op publicly for fear of retaliation, though their private remarks left no doubt as to their discontent.

Turnover rising

This year, Vleissentraal's turnover will top R600m, according to sources in the co-op. This will be an increase of close to R100m on last year's figure of R519m, and reserves are expected to move from R31m to R40m.

However, the other two members of the "Big Three," Asokor and ICS, are also under attack from the League, which told Schoeman of its concern about:

- The "cartel" that has arisen in the marketing of meat;
- The fact that wholesalers own 65% of retail outlets in SA;
- Activities of the "Big Three" not only as wholesalers, but as producers, agents and auctioneers.

The co-op is involved in ranching, auctioneering, wholesaling, retailing, import-

(3) meat

Meat price shoots up

Star 31/5/79

Meat prices soared at the Johannesburg meat auctions yesterday, leading to increases of up to 29 percent over those of last Wednesday.

Beef sold at an average of 20 percent more than last Wednesday.

The biggest increase — of 29 percent — was in the second lowest grade, Grade 2, where the price rose by 26c to R1,15 a kilogram.

Top grade beef sold at R1,23 a kilogram, according to the prices supplied by the Department of Agricultural Economics and Marketing.

Officials blamed the coincidence of two holidays, Ascension Day and Republic Day, and the month-end shopping spree.

Beef and mutton prices take off

(3) Meat
RDM. 31/5/77.

By PAM KLEINOT

MEAT PRICES rocketed by up to 51% at the Johannesburg abattoir yesterday — an increase described as the highest in South Africa's history.

The biggest increase was in the price of beef, which fetched up to 45c a kg more than last week.

The shock increases were a K O blow to consumers already reeling after this week's announcement of massive hikes in the price of milk, butter and cheese from tomorrow.

But a spokesman for the Meat Board said it was not an official increase and attributed it to the "short slaughtering week", saying consumers were stocking up for the weekend.

He said he was sure meat prices would be back to normal on Monday.

Mr G D Mosterd, president of the Witwatersrand Retail Master Butchers Association, said he did not realise the price had gone up so much.

"On Monday it went up by up to 15 % and slightly more on Tuesday," he said.

Neither the Johannesburg abattoir nor those in Krugersdorp or Benoni would disclose prices but the Rand Daily Mail was told that beef prices jumped by between 20 % and 50 % per kg.

Beef prices included:

- Super Grade up to R1,30 a kg.
- Grade 3 up to R1,20 a kg.
- Grade 2 up to R1,25 a kg.

The Springs abattoir, however, disclosed the prices of sheep and lamb, which soared by up to 20 % yesterday.

The prices for sheep per kg were:

- Prime and Grade 1, R1,57 — an increase of 27c since last week.
- Grade 2, R1,40 — an increase of 10c.

The prices for lamb per kg were:

- Grade 1, R1,65 — an increase of 25c.
- Grade 2, R1,48 — an increase of 20c.
- Super, R1,70 — an increase of 16c.

Mrs Joy Hurwitz, president of the Housewives League, said there was no justification for the increases.

"There has been an excellent supply of meat and a reasonable demand," she said.

The floor price had not changed and it was obvious that auctioneers were taking advantage of the public holiday.

"The poor will obviously be the hardest hit," she said.

Mrs Hurwitz said she was to meet the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, on June 22, to discuss the fluctuating prices of meat.

Meat prices will drop, but . . . .

(3) Meat RDM. 2/6/79.

Staff Reporter

MEAT prices will never again revert to the level of a few weeks ago, Mr G D Mosterd, president of the Witwatersrand Retail Master Butchers' Association, warned yesterday.

Referring to the hectic rush to buy meat before Republic Day, Mr Mosterd said there might be a 10 to 20% drop in meat prices next week, but "consumers should not expect to buy meat again at last month's prices".

Last Wednesday the cost of meat at the abattoirs rocketed by up to 51%. Shoppers flocked to buy stocks before prices went even higher.

Mr Mosterd said that in spite of assurances by the Meat Board that meat prices would soon be back to normal, any slight drop would be temporary only and was not likely last more than a few weeks.

He said: "It is easy to increase the prices but not so easy to lower them. The butcher has to pay more for his meat, and this in turn will affect the consumer."

This means the consumer will pay higher prices before the Meat Board has even introduced the new feeding prices, which in turn will affect the price of meat.

Mr J A Huyser, public relations officer for the Meat Board, said the increased prices were due to the two short slaughtering weeks.

"The situation is that there has been a greater demand than offer. When there are public holidays it is normal that meat prices rise, but the situation will be back to normal on Monday," he said.

Mr Huyser said the consumer would have to bear the brunt of the price increases till the meat prices were back to normal. He said the only thing that could push prices up was the introduction of the new feed prices, which would become available any day now.

A spokesman for Benoni abattoirs said the prices were still very high yesterday, but the price increase was only temporary and should not cause any concern.

A spokesman for Springs abattoir said the public would have to absorb the temporary price increase

Beef prices were still the highest at the various abattoirs, and super and prime grades were up to R1,33 a kg, which was 3c more than on Wednesday.

Grade 1 was up to R1,30 a kg, and grade 2 was up to R1,24, one cent lower than on Wednesday.

The prices of sheep and lamb were about the same as on Wednesday, although the price of super and prime grades varied between R1,55 and R1,59, an increase of 2c.

Grade 1 was between R1,48 and R1,59, which was also an increase of 2c.

The lamb prices were also up and varied from R1,72 to R1,74 for super grade, an increase of 2c.

Sun. Times 3/6/79 3-Meat 244

AFTER THE DAIRY PRODUCTS ...

HOUSEWIVES, girdle your loins. If you thought the dairy products price hike was the end of the matter, you're wrong. Soon it will be meat.

For the man South African housewives most love to hate has another shock in store for a country already reeling from a series of mammoth food price hikes.

Meat next in the price spiral

From his Marble Hall farm this week, the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, said South Africa may soon have to digest a 10 per cent increase in the price of meat.

"I am waiting for the Meat Board to come to a decision on a new floor price, but the increase could be in the region of 10 per cent," he said.

The floor price of red meat has not been increased in two years — just like the price of dairy products, which this week soared by 16 to 25 per cent.

The meat price hike, expected next month, will once again have housewives reaching for their "I hate Hendrik" buttons.

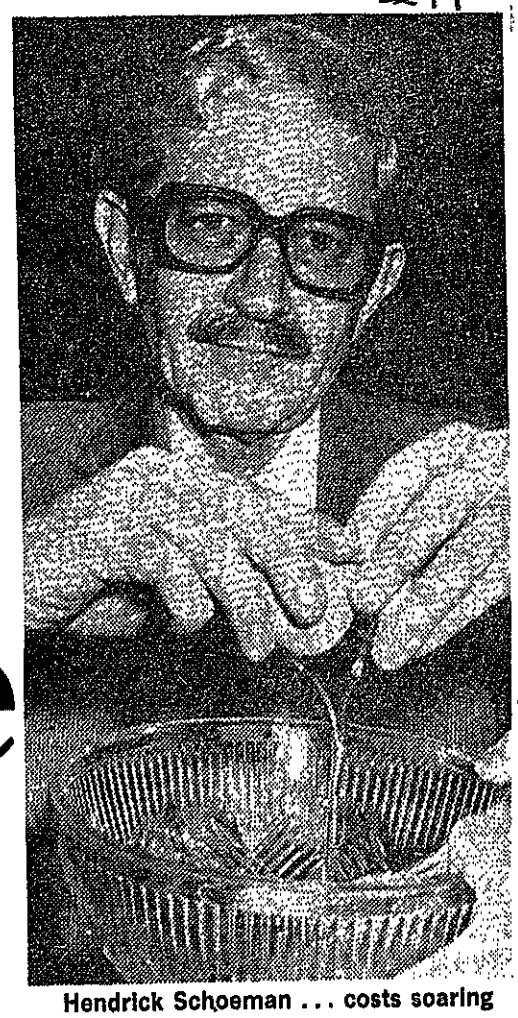
But Mr Schoeman is unrepentant.

"I know I am a very unnopular man.

"It's not easy for me to increase food prices, especially because of the needs of the black population.

"But I have to keep the farmers on the land.

"I have to ensure that South Africa has enough farmers to produce the food to feed our growing population."



Hendrick Schoeman ... costs soaring

By FLEUR DE VILLIERS

The dairy price increases — which mean that today housewives are paying 48c more for a kilo of cheese; that half a kilo of butter costs more than a rand and that milk has rocketed by 5c a litre — are, according to Mr Schoeman, the "minimum" to ensure tha One of the Minister's long-term nightmares — a food shortage — is today a reality as South Africa waits for emergency butter and cheese imports to fill the empty shelves in supermarkets and shops.

For the first time in years — despite a recent 25 per cent hike in the price of maize which is giving the farmers R100 a ton — South Africa may, he says, be forced to import third grade white maize next year at a landed price of R157 a ton.

South Africa — which today earns R1 400-million a year from its agricultural exports — cannot, he says, afford to become a food importing country at a cost of millions to its balance of payments.

Cutback

The key to the food price dilemma is soaring farming costs, fuelled by oil price increases, which in the last 10 months have added R800-million to the debt burden of farmers.

The price of diesel fuel alone has soared by 50 per cent in the last year, tractors by 28 per cent, labour by 25 per cent.

A further 10c hike in the price of diesel will add R100-million to farming costs.

And today the farming sector is not only crippled by costs, but is expected to make a significant contribution to the national fuel economy drive.

Once again farming production will suffer.

"If farmers undertake to reduce their diesel consumption by 15 to 20 per cent, there will have to be a 15 to 20 per cent cutback in the amount of land under cultivation," Mr Schoeman says.

South African farmers have become far more productive in the past few decades.

Some 20 years ago, there were 124 000 of them. Today their numbers have dwindled to 77 000 as inefficient farmers have been driven off the land by rising costs.

Over the same period, yield per hectare has increased by 44 per cent.

But if more farmers quit, the country will no longer be self sufficient in food production, Mr Schoeman says.

The only answer appears to be increased food subsidies.

But Mr Schoeman is cautious on this point.

Subsidy

"We have a R70-million bread subsidy, R50-million on maize and R4-million on milk", he says.

"A subsidy to cover the milk price increase will cost the taxpayer an extra R50-million."

And he makes it clear that higher food subsidies will depend on the size of the South African fiscus and the generosity of the Minister of Finance.

Meanwhile, Mr Schoeman — who is also one of the few successful South African farmers — remains optimistic, despite his problems.

"Things will come right.

"The farmers are at a low ebb, but they're producing food.

"The important thing is to keep South Africa well fed."

"But South Africans will not be well fed if they cannot afford to eat."

"That," says Mr Schoeman, "is the other problem."

Meat price rise possible

(3) meat C Times 9/6/79.

Staff Reporter

THE consumer, still reeling from the huge fuel and dairy product price increases, is now faced with a rise in the price of meat.

The floor price for beef, mutton and pork will be raised by up to 20 percent on Monday, subject to the approval of the minister of agriculture, the Meat Board announced in Pretoria yesterday.

The floor price of beef will go up on average 14 percent; mutton 14,5 percent, and pork 20 percent. The increase is likely to hit the consumer in six to eight weeks, with a possible further increase in the price of beef later in the year which may cost the consumer another 10 percent.

This follows a five percent rise in the price of chickens announced on Thursday.

The floor price is the price paid to the farmer by the abbatoir, and is a form of guaranteed price to the farmer. The market price has for some months been substantially higher than the floor price.

"As long as the floor price remains six to 10 percent below market prices the Meat Board is of the opinion that the floor price will not materially affect the consumer price," the chairman of the Meat Board, Mr P R du Toit, said.

However, a spokesman for a national chain of supermarkets and the president of the Housewives' League regarded the statement with disbelief.

"The price to the consumer must go up. Any reasonable person must face up to the truth. The effect may not be dramatic at first, but we should see the prices move up in six to eight weeks," the supermarket spokesman said. He said his firm had been paying as much as 25 percent more

➡➡➡➡ To page 2 A

A From page 10

3 meat C Times 9/6/79

than the floor price for certain grades of mutton

"If the farmer is going to get a better price, how can it not affect the consumer. Is the Meat Board mad?" Mrs Joyce Hurwitz, president of the league, said.

Mrs Hurwitz said she was due to meet the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, later this month about allegations of malpractice in the meat industry. Both Mrs Hurwitz and the supermarket spokesman believe malpractices and Meat Board inefficiency are responsible for "irrational" fluctuations in the price of meat.

"Families are already having meatless days. They used to substitute with fish and cheese, but these are beyond them now," Mrs Hurwitz said. "Putting the price up to sell more meat cannot work. The consumer can pay no more."

The statement from the Meat Board said it had been authorized, "if circumstances justify it", to raise the floor price of beef by a further three percent, which could cause an increase to the consumer of 10 percent.

The Meat Board said the floor price for beef had not been adjusted for two years. The average market price for all grades of beef in 1978 was 92,6 cents a kilogram, and they estimate production costs in 1979 will amount to 111 cents a kilogram.

The reason for the steep pork rise, the Meat Board said, is to stimulate production as there is a shortage

SA faces red meat lack

EAST LONDON — South Africa faced a red-meat shortage and resultant price increases, the Vice-Chairman of Vleissentraal, Mr Basie Snyman, told the annual meeting of the Cape Eastern Meat Co-operative here yesterday.

Meat consumption had increased in the last 18 months, and farmers would not be able to slaughter enough to meet the future demand, he said.

"If it were not for the serious droughts experienced in the major cattle areas, farmers would not have sold so much of their stock for slaughter, and the shortage would have been with us already," he said.

"Except for the Western Cape pig farmers, there is already insufficient pork on the market."

The sheep population would be hit, and this was already evident by the number of lambs marketed this year compared with last year: about 10 per cent.

Imports of meat from Zimbabwe-Rhodesia and South West Africa were dropping because of the political instability in those countries, and meat prices were expected to escalate.

This would mean higher prices for the meat producer in South Africa, but unless farmers supported their co-operatives to a greater extent, the profit gap between producer and retailer would widen.

Many farmers, he said, complained of excessive price controls by the Meat Board, but they were ignoring the tremendous control exerted by the major food chain stores.

The Meat Board's only real control was over the supply of livestock and the floor price for meat, he said.

Mr Raymond Ackerman has greater control over his shops and the prices they pay for their supplies than the Meat Board has over the prices paid to farmers."

The choice for farmers was whether they wished to control their own future or be controlled by the big retailers.

"Unless we do something about this situation now, the chain stores will be the controllers and the meat farmer will find himself in the same position as the egg and butter producers are today.

"The big chain stores are forcing the consumer prices down," Mr Snyman said.

"Prices of red meat will escalate to the extent the consumer won't be able to eat it, if we let them control us.

"Farmers must put greater pressure on their co-operatives to operate in the wholesale and retail markets, so that we can have control over ourselves and see that the consumer gets a fair price," he said.

The co-operatives would have to market meat in the same way the chain stores were marketing soap powders, and meat sales would have to operate with the minimum interference from outside interests.

This would be done to keep meat as cheap as possible for the consumer, provided the farmers maintained better profits, Mr Snyman said.

He said the Minister of Agriculture had agreed to the meat price being increased by three percent before the end of the year.

Meat prices would in future increase more regularly, but in smaller gains than before, in an effort to minimise consumer resistance, he believed. — DDR

Lower meat prices 'will not push up sales'

3 meat 28/4/77

Farming Correspondent

If meat control was abolished and prices dropped, consumption would not rise as much as many expected, says Mr Flip du Plooy, secretary of the Transvaal Agricultural Union.

He was replying to the contention of Mr Leon Louw, director of the Free Market Foundation, that consumers could forget about low food prices so long as control boards persisted in intervening in the market.

"The boards are symptomatic of our belief that we can cure a problem by giving more of the medicine that caused it," said Mr Louw.

"When there is a surplus we must keep the price down to encourage consumption and discourage production.

"But instead, a floor price is established which has a reverse effect and causes a surplus. Then the authorities try to cure this by buying up the surplus.

"This can't go on forever, so they apply a quota to the farmer. Now the farmer cannot sell his meat, and the consumer has to pay high prices — so both lose."

Free market prices were the only correct prices, said Mr Louw.

Commenting, Mr du Plooy said meat consumption was relatively insensitive to price fluctuations.

If farmers abandoned their farms or switched to other products, consumers would soon have to pay more for meat because much would have to be imported at exorbitant prices.

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MEAT BOARD

Permits under fire

F.M. 13/7/79

3 Meat

The president of the SA Federation of Livestock Auctioneers, Dennis Caine, this week launched a vociferous attack on the Meat Board's permit system for regulating cattle coming into certain controlled areas for slaughter. These permits currently apply to Pretoria, the Reef, Bloemfontein and Kimberley. Caine's onslaught has been met with stony silence by Meat Board GM Jan Lombard.

The new permit system, which has been in operation for two months and which the Board insists is a temporary measure, has replaced the quota system. Under the latter, producers' agents distributed quotas among farmers. But now this link between farmer and agent has been cut and the Meat Board doles out permits directly to the farmers.

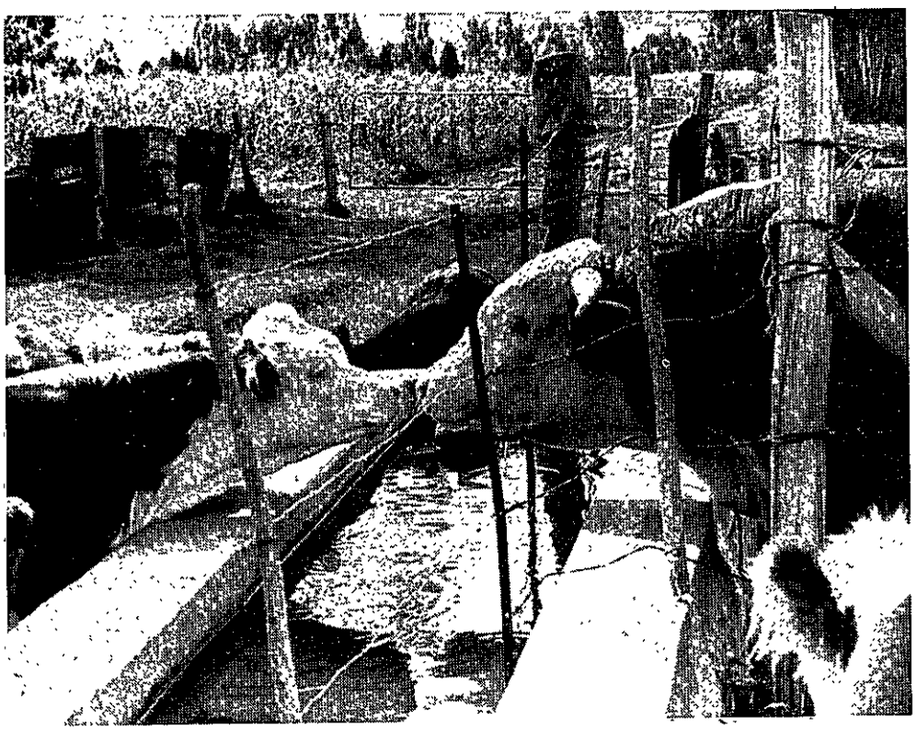
The Board's PRO, Johan Huyser, says that due to the drought farmers have been trying to send more cattle than usual to the abattoirs. However, those farmers who previously had not served the controlled areas were having difficulty in acquiring quotas from agents. The Board regarded this as inequitable, and thus decided to issue permits directly to the farmers.

But argues Caine, "Why should those farmers who, over the years, did not find it expedient to supply the controlled markets and feed the public in those areas, be entitled to share in that market with those farmers who have always done so?" Moreover, reckons Caine, the Board's levy fund has been built up by contributions from the latter farmers, and as such, they alone should be entitled to the benefits.

The Federation has also criticised the system on the following grounds:

- The share of low grade cattle in the market going to Johannesburg has risen by a mere 8,4% between April and June. Caine reckons that with the drought, the percentage share should have shot up;
- The Board has not been able to accommodate more than 25% of applications. But Huyser asserts that the abattoirs are working flat out and cannot cope with more cattle;
- The Meat Board is "out of touch" with farmers' marketing needs and therefore is not in a position to issue permits on an equitable basis.

Caine asserts that "the Meat Board simply has not got the know-how nor the competitive incentive to perform the function it has taken upon itself — namely, getting involved directly with the practical day-to-day operations of livestock marketing."



Meat permits — no love lost

RED MEAT F.M. 13/7/79

More for less

(3 Meat)

Though cattle slaughterings this year (to June) are expected to be a record, Meat Board GM Jan Lombard warns there could be less beef in the shops.

Reason is that because of last summer's drought, leaner and smaller beasts are being despatched to the abattoirs.

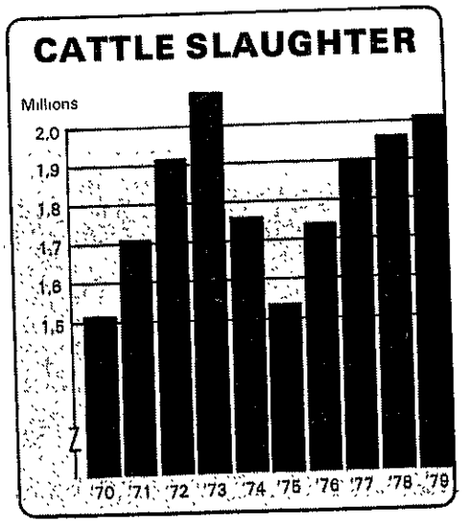
Slaughterings are expected to total 2 115 000 — almost 7% up on last year and above 1973's record 2 097 363 head.

Even with an extra 316 000 beasts imported, from SWA and Botswana, shelves in butchers' shops might not be as full as in recent months.

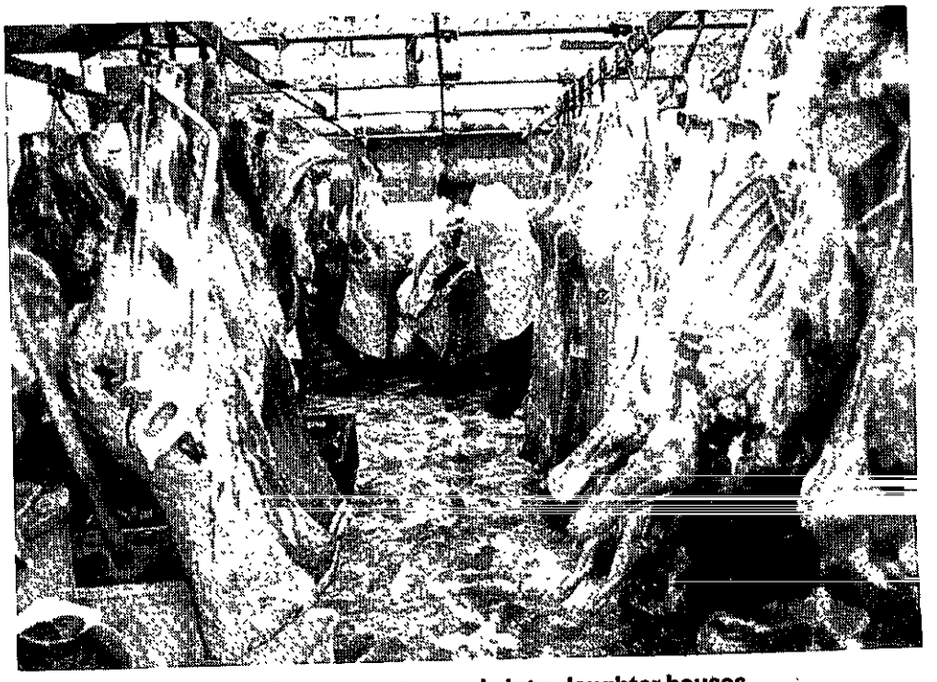
"More cattle are being finished (fattened for market) intensively in feedlots by both large commercial operations and by farmer feeders. Maize farmers particularly are resorting to finishing to augment income," says Lombard.

A lot of these cattle are being despatched before reaching full growth potential. Their aggregate mass is unlikely to pass last year's 471 000 t and could be considerably less.

Lombard says that another drought effect is a stampede to get into slaughterhouses during winter instead of spreading the carcase flow more evenly throughout the year. Facilities are presently so strained that a permit system is controlling the number of animals being sent to abattoirs.



Financial Mail July 13 1979



Meat industry . . . stampede into slaughter houses

Poor grazing conditions and rising feed costs also mean that more calves — normally next year's beef — are being killed. Lombard expects the rate to rise 3% above last year's 142 578 to be the highest since 1973.

He hesitates to guess where beef prices are going except to say up "at least 10% during the year and may show a further 10% at year's end due to the heavy early slaughter rate."

Breeders *should* be gleeful at the prospect of such price hikes but, at least this season, it looks as though they, too, lose along with the housewives.

Lombard says: "Turnover in carcases can be up by 6% and prices to producers by 10%-15%. Their realisation (against rising costs) will be up 8%-12% but that is not enough to get them out of the red."

Other red meat sectors seem much less bewildering with sheep and lamb production "likely to maintain increases but not as high as last year's 12% (6,4m including some goats). Something above 4,5m."

Lombard says the 1,2% decrease in pig slaughter last year (1,5m) will accelerate to as much as 7%. Price rises for sheep and lamb are not likely to keep pace with beef and "no major hikes are anticipated . . . pork prices have already increased and are expected to stabilise."

JAARVERSLAG

Meat price will soar next year

Own Correspondent

The Meat Industry spokesman for the South African Agricultural Union, Mr Jan van der Walt, expressed concern over a long-term increase in meat prices.

Now that the winter is far advanced and stock is generally in poor condition farmers will send fewer cattle to the market, preferring to wait until rain and summer grazing can improve their condition.

But more cattle from feed lots will now be marketed.

This supply is expected to dry up when grass-fattened cattle from the Northern Transvaal are sent to the market again.

An almost normal supply of beef will reach the urban consumer for most of the coming summer period but at higher prices than at present.

The crunch will come, presumably, after March 1980. If the coming season should bring normal rains a long-term scarcity of meat is likely to develop. During the recent drought farmers have slaughtered so many breeding stock that it will take some years to restore a normal long-term supply.

Beef will be increasingly on a sellers' market which will last for some time. How far the meat price will then climb will depend mostly on how far the farmer is compelled by present low prices to slaughter breeding stock.

And butchers may raise their margins when turnover falls and a sellers' market develops.

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Meat cost up by CT '20 percent'

13/10/79

3-Meat

Staff Reporter

MEAT prices have rocketed over the past few weeks and a City wholesaler, who put the blame on increased demand, said yesterday: "I don't know where it is going to end and Christmas is still coming."

Butchers told the Cape Times that while lamb prices had been very high for some time, beef prices had rocketed in the past few weeks and one said there had probably been an across-the-board increase of about 20 percent.

According to Mr J Mynhardt, branch manager of the Meat Board, there had been no "rocketing" in meat prices. He admitted, however, there had been an increase.

His figures revealed a maximum increase in prime A beef of 8 cents from R1,27 over the past two weeks, an increase of about 6,3 percent. However, compared to one butcher's July prices, the price of prime beef had increased by a staggering 29,1 percent.

A spokesman for a large chain-store butchery said there had been a 20 percent increase in the floor price of meat some months ago, which the consumer was only facing now because of increased demand.

The daily to weekly fluctuation in the floor price was usually absorbed by the butchers.

However, there had been a steady increase in meat prices, he said.

Mr Mynhardt agreed the increase in consumer demand for meat had probably caused the price hikes. "We are killing to full capacity," he said.

Asked if more people were eating meat, Mr Mynhardt replied: "Most probably, yes."

He said the increases were not normal for this time of the year.

Mr George Sondag, a director of one meat wholesaler, said beef prices had gone up "very high indeed".

He agreed the reason was an increase in demand and said that country butchers were also buying on the local market. The meat price increase was happening "all over the country".

"I don't know where it is going to end and Christmas is still coming," he said.

A suburban butcher said the reason for increases this week was the mid-week public holiday. With increased business later in the week, more animals should have been slaughtered last week and stored, he said.

He said consumers would probably start stocking up with meat some time before Christmas to avoid possible increases during the holiday period.

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THE GREAT MEAT MONOPOLY



P. R. Du Toit
meat board
chief

FARMERS ACCUSE BEEF BOARD OF MANIPULATING THE R3 000m TRADE

3-Meat
S. Tribune
14/10/79

By DARYL BALFOUR

SOUTH AFRICA'S R3 000-million a year meat industry is heading for a crisis.

And the country now faces severe shortages of beef — accompanied by rising prices — as independent farmers are forced out of the industry.

A **Sunday Tribune** investigation has shown that:

- The Government-appointed Meat Board could be in the control of Vleissentraal, the country's laregst beef producer, which has seven of the 13 directors on the Board.
- The permit system of marketing introduced by the Meat Board in May, as a temporary measure only, favours the large co-ops and makes economic farming by the independent farmer difficult.
- The Meat Board has threatened livestock agents with "drastic" measures for "irresponsible" action. Agents say they take this to mean their licences will be withdrawn if they complain to the Press or anyone else about the permit system; and
- The Board has ruled that farmers may not ask how their permit applications are progressing. A warning printed in italics on the back of the permit application forms says that any farmer making direct or indirect contact with the Meat Board about his permit will have the application set back by two months.

Monopolistic

The situation in the meat industry has been slammed by one of the Meat Board directors, Mr Fred Lategan; the head of the Department of Agricultural Economics at Pretoria University, Professor Jan Groenewald; and Mr Gerrie de Jongh, NRP MP for Pietermaritzburg South, and a large independent beef farmer.

According to Professor Groenewald, the beef trade is heading for a totally monopolistic

"We already have a virtually monopolistic situation in the wholesale meat trade and there seems to be nothing in the Meat Board system to prevent a monopolistic takeover of production too," he said.

Prof Groenewald said many independent farmers were being forced to leave their farms and stop cattle ranching because the permit system enforced by the Meat Board made economic beef farming difficult.

"Farmers never know if they are going to get permits to market their cattle so they can't plan their production," he said.

"We have got to a situation now where the Meat Board can't manage or administer its own marketing scheme. And the farmer is the one who is suffering as well as the consumer," Prof. Groenewald said.

"And because of this situation South Africa is now heading for a major beef shortage within a few years — and possibly even sooner."

Mr Lategan, chairman of Asokor, one of the "Big Three" in the meat industry and a director of the Meat Board, said the present permit system can only cost the consumer money in the long run and could drive the smaller farmers out of the market.

"We are definitely heading from an oversupply situation to a serious shortage within two or there years.

"No, I don't like the permit system as farmers can't plan their farming for the year ahead and they never know when or how many cattle they'll be permitted to sell," Mr Lategan said.

And Mr Lategan criticised the letter sent out by the Meat Board to livestock agents warning them not to complain about the permit system as being "rather autocratic and not the sort of thing I believe in."

Mr De Jong said: "That's dictatorial never mind autocratic."

Angry farmers say the only people who benefit under the permit system, are the big co-ops and the big feedlot owners (those who battery-feed beef cattle) — who make their money by speculating in the beef industry.

But the Meat Board now says the permit system — introduced as a temporary measure to regulate the flow of cattle to major abattoirs earlier this year when drought conditions caused a flood on the markets — has become a permanent aspect of the meat industry.

Under the permit system farmers with cattle ready for slaughter have to apply to the Board for a permit to take them to the abbatoir. But, say the farmers, they can never be sure when they will get a permit and as a result cannot plan their cattle feeding and fattenisg programmes.

The **Sunday Tribune** was told that while some farmers battled for months on end to get a permit from the Meat Board big-business speculators received permits to market cattle every week.

An examination of several lists of permit allocations in the

● TURN to PAGE 14

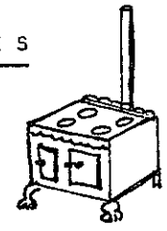
ONION RINGS

May Bennett, Ridgeworth

Peel and slice large onions, and separate the rings. Heat a pan; add oil. Dip the rings in milk and then coat with flour, and fry till brown in the hot oil. Drain the oil off on a paper towel, and season with salt and pepper.

---oOo---

OLD FAMILY OR VINTAGE RECIPES

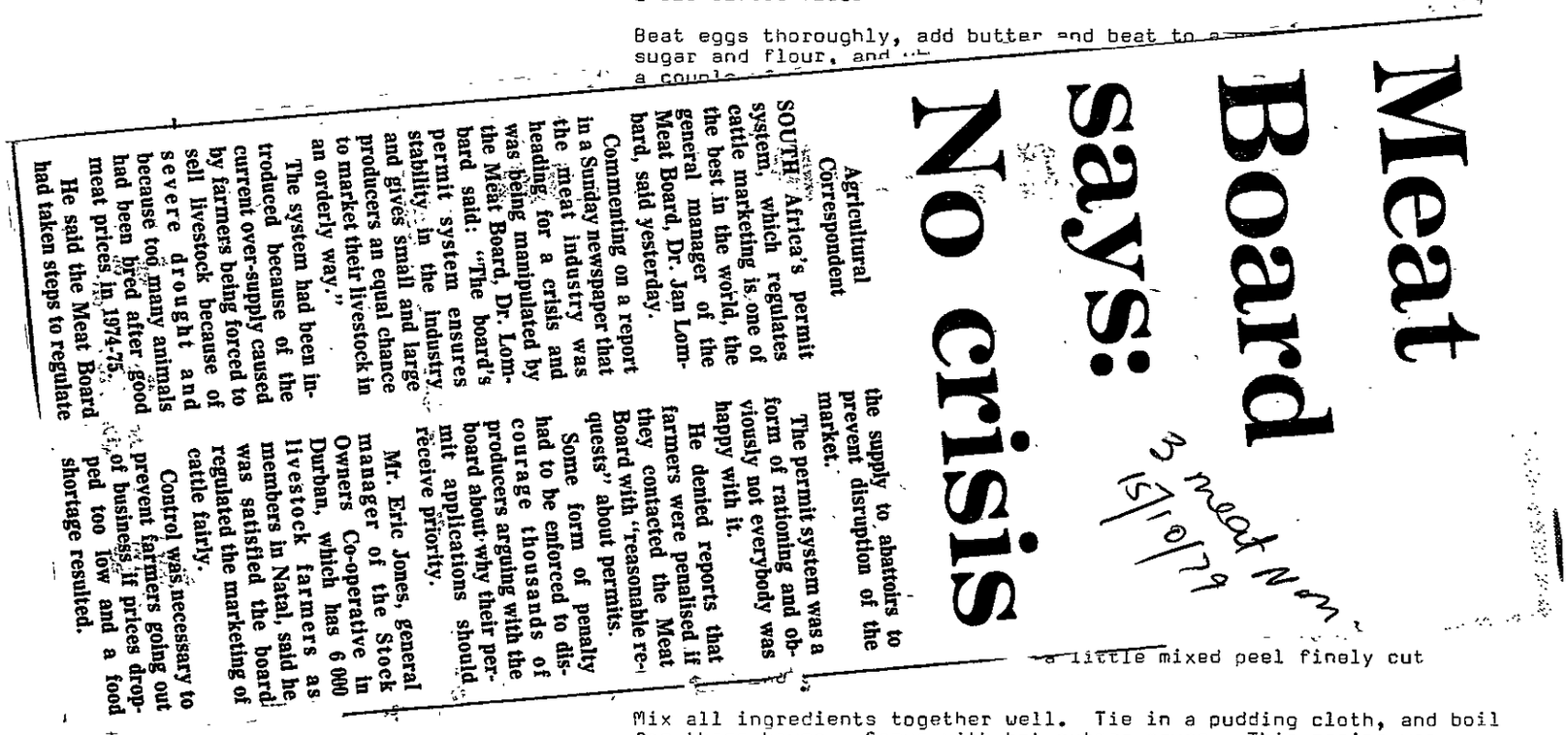


1820 and All That!

FRENCH PANCAKES - 1902

2 eggs
2 ozs butter
2 ozs sifted flour
2 ozs flour
1/2 pt of new milk

Beat eggs thoroughly, add butter and beat to a
sugar and flour, and
a couple



Meat Board says: No crisis

Agricultural Correspondent

SOUTH Africa's permit system, which regulates cattle marketing is one of the best in the world, the general manager of the Meat Board, Dr. Jan Lombard, said yesterday.

Commenting on a report in a Sunday newspaper that the meat industry was heading for a crisis and was being manipulated by the Meat Board, Dr. Lombard said: "The board's permit system ensures stability in the industry and gives small and large producers an equal chance to market their livestock in an orderly way."

The system had been introduced because of the current over-supply caused by farmers being forced to sell livestock because of severe drought and because too many animals had been bred after good meat prices in 1974-75.

He said the Meat Board had taken steps to regulate the supply to abattoirs to prevent disruption of the market.

The permit system was a form of rationing and obviously not everybody was happy with it.

He denied reports that farmers were penalised if they contacted the Meat Board with "reasonable requests" about permits.

Some form of penalty had to be enforced to discourage thousands of producers arguing with the board about why their permit applications should receive priority.

Mr. Eric Jones, general manager of the Stock Owners Co-operative in Durban, which has 6 000 livestock farmers as members in Natal, said he was satisfied the board regulated the marketing of cattle fairly.

Control was necessary to prevent farmers going out of business if prices dropped too low and a food shortage resulted.

3 meat Nov 15/10/79

a little mixed peel finely cut

Mix all ingredients together well. Tie in a pudding cloth, and boil for three hours. Serve with hot nutmeg sauce. This recipe was used for Christmas dinner in 1916 by my mother and gran, who says "we used 1 cup of flour and 1 cup of stale breadcrumbs instead of 2 cups of flour. Very successful".

---oOo---

MUTTON, ROAST SHOULDER OF 1900

shoulder of mutton
dripping
salt
flour

Put the joint to a bright clear fire, floured well. Baste contin-

Meat producers warn of another price rise

Fair Deal Reporter

Processed meat prices will go up 10 percent in the Transvaal on November 1 — and producers are planning another increase later.

The planned November increase has already aroused considerable controversy.

Certain supermarket executives have accused the producers of price fixing and the Meat Board has slammed one of the producers' stated reasons for the increase as "far from the truth."

Mr Hans Levor, chairman of the Witwatersrand Bacon and Small Goods Manufacturers' Association, said today that the November increase was "an absolute necessity."

This association represents all the major processed meat producers, including Eskort, Enterprise and Rand Cold Storage.

Mr Levor said market prices of beef and pork carcasses — basic raw materials of processed meats — had gone up 40 percent in the last six months. He believed this was because of a shortage of these meats.

Increases in petrol, machine repair and labour costs had also contributed to the need for this increase, he said.

"And this November increase is not enough," Mr Levor warned. "We are looking for another." He said the possibility of a further increase was under discussion.

A spokesman for the Meat Board agreed that pork prices were relatively high. But this was normal, he said. Pork was scarce.

He denied, however, that there was a shortage of beef. This was "far from the truth," he said.

For the last four or five months the Meat Board had been slaughtering at maximum capacity and prices were still at floor level. There was an oversupply of beef at the moment.

Mr Fred Lategan, a Meat Board director and chairman of Asokor which also makes processed meats, disagreed.

He said that while there was a higher supply than usual of high quality beef, supplies of the type of beef used for manufacturing were low. Prices for this type of beef had risen tremendously, he said.

Supermarket executives added to the controversy.

They said this was the second time this year that processed meat prices had been increased. The first increase was also about 10 percent, making a total increase of 20 percent this year so far.

Mr Richard Cohen, a director of Pick 'n Pay, said it was "absolutely disgusting" that manufacturers had got together to fix prices of processed meats.

"This price fixing is definitely not in the consumer's interest," he said.

Mr Ralph Horwitz, a director and general manager of OK Bazaars, said processed meat manufacturers had obviously formed a ring.

"They sit round a table, decide on prices and totally defeat the purpose of the free enterprise system," he said.

Bede means no bone of contention

The Star Bureau

LONDON — A piece of bone, little more than 2 cm long, has been cut in half as a gesture to Anglo-American ecclesiastical relations.

It is the only known relic of the Roman Catholic Saint Bede, the historian and theologian who died in AD 735.

The bone, from a rib or finger, has lain inside a silver box in the Oratory of the Holy Family at St Cuthbert's College, Durham, since the 1890s.

Half of the bone has now been donated to a church in La Canada, California, which bears St Bede's name.

Cutting it was a major technical operation. Scientists at the University of Southern California immersed the spongy fragment of old bone in transparent plastic and then cut it by hand with a saw.

6

Experts lash out at monopoly

(3) - Meat

MP BACKS SUNDAY TRIBUNE INVESTIGATION

S/Tribune 21/10/79

By DARYL BALFOUR

SOUTH Africa's meat industry is in a mess — that's the opinion of top economists, politicians and beef farmers who reacted to the Sunday Tribune's report last week on the state of the R3 000-million-a-year business.

Professor Arnt Spandau, head of the Department of Economics at Witwatersrand University, this week lashed out at "the meat monopoly", saying the domination of the statutory Meat Board by the giant Vleissentraal Co-operative was "absolutely shocking".

"That's a most unhealthy state of affairs and can only do the industry harm as well as damage the reputation and credibility of the Meat Board itself," he said.

Professor Spandau, who recently spent a month invesigating the beef industry in South West Africa, says the present permit system is having the effect of driving farmers off their land because they cannot get reasonable access to markets — the thing that permits were supposed to ensure.

Professor "Jake" Jacobs, director of the School of Business Administration at Wits, also criticised the domination of the Meat Board by the giant co-operative.

"Though I have nothing against big co-operatives, in the case of a board like the Meat Board normal free market principles should operate and should be seen to operate.

"It is not a good set-up when any group is in a position to manipulate policy," Professor Jacobs said.

The PFP's investigative MP, Mr Rupert Lorimer, MP for Orange Grove, slammed the industry, saying it was "certainly in a most unhealthy state."

"The meat monopoly is strangling the farmers and the independent butchers," he said.

"And the chap in the middle — the difference between what the farmer gets and what the retail butcher and the consumer pays — is beyond all reason.

"I have conducted my own investigation of the meat industry and I have found it to be in a real mess. A monopoly situation does exist and the Meat Board itself is just not working properly.

"There's a most unhealthy situation in the meat industry. Vleissentraal is no longer only a representative of the farmers as it claims to be. It is one of the major producers in the industry itself and should be judged as such."

Mr Lorimer praised the Sunday Tribune's investigation of the industry — "It's about time something was done about the situation," he said.

"Now I hope there are positive results. The Meat Board's system doesn't work, farmers are leaving their land because of it and it's high time there was a full-scale inquiry into costs from the time the cattle leave the farmer until the consumer gets it."

Now, a prominent Transvaal beef producer and feed-lot owner, Mr Wimpy Wethmar, has called on the Meat Board to open their records of permit allocations for inspection by farmers.

"There are all sorts of complaints about permits and farmers often see their neighbours getting regular permits while they are getting nothing.

"Now I call on Mr Wink (Meat Board assistant manager) to open his books to us so we can see exactly who has had permits and who has not," Mr Wethmar said.



Rupert Lorimer

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Board not facing a crisis

Chairman, Dr Lombard, denies Tribune allegation

3 - Meat: S/Tribune 21/10/79.

DR JAN LOMBARD, general manager of the SA Meat Board, reacted this week to the Sunday Tribune's report of last week on the state of the meat industry in South Africa. In a statement he denied the industry was heading for a crisis.

"The, contrary is true, namely that the Meat Board is constantly considering and implementing procedures designed to ensure long-term stability for the industry by means of price stabilisation and planned growth," Dr Lombard said.

Integrity

He regards allegations to the effect that the Meat Board is controlled by other organisations as naive accusations against the integrity of the members of the Meat Board and of the Minister of Agriculture. These allegations border on libel.

Leaders in the farming community will, of necessity, be elected to the managements of several independent farmer organisations and the fact that the same individuals sometimes serve on the managements of two independent but similar organisations is, in fact, proof of outstanding personal ability rather than anything else.

According to Dr Lombard the present permit system was introduced precisely to ensure that the small independent producer would have fair access to controlled markets and to afford the producer a choice as to the agent through whom he would like to market his cattle.

Quotas

The old quota system, on the other hand, enabled the agent to decide on his own as to which producers could be granted quotas and which had to be refused and frequently the choice fell on the large producer rather than the small independent farmer.

Dr Lombard emphasises that not a single farmer organisation today would like to see the permit system replaced by the old quota system.

Dr Lombard says the Meat Board did in fact appeal to all agents to act responsibly in the implementation of their duties under the marketing scheme.

All agents are appointed by the Meat Board and any irresponsible action by agents in sowing suspicion is totally unacceptable if agents wish to continue enjoying the beneifts of being sole agents of the Meat Board.

Should agents differ with the Board in any respect, such disputes must be settled with the Board by the agents' representatives and organisations, or otherwise they must forfeit their privileged position.

The so-called crisis threatening the meat industry may, according to Dr Lombard, be ascribed solely to the expectation of certain people that future shortages of beef are imminent.

In actual fact the production of beef over the past three years has consistently exceeded the demand, thus resulting in stagnant prices and growing losses for producers.

It only makes sound economic sense to expect that cattle farmers would have to curtail production under such circumstances and should there be a decrease in the supply of beef it would merely constitute an adjustment in terms of the law of supply and demand and by no means imply a crisis.

Nor would it have any connection with the alleged control exercised by the Board or with the permit system, Dr Lombard said.

The permit system's primary objective is to afford all producers fair access to controlled markets. The number of cattle for which permits are allocated to feedlots is determined by the market's need for high-grade meat as well as the past performance of individual feedlots. These criteria likewise apply to the allocation of permits to all producers.

Permits

It consequently does not require exceptional intelligence to appreciate that large producers (some feedlots finish up to 50 000 cattle at a time) are bound to receive a larger allocation of permits than smaller producers.

The Meat Board, if anything, favours the small producer and has since the introduction of the new permit system not allocated a single permit to speculators.

According to Dr Lombard prices at country auctions have increased to such an extent following the introduction of the permit system, that in some cases these prices even exceed those in controlled markets.

He emphasised for the umpteenth time that no producer is prevented from making enquiries regarding his application for a permit if he should have reasonable cause to suspect that there has been a break in his communication with the Meat Board.

Priority

The Board cannot, however, allow thousands of farmers and agents who have submitted properly motivated applications to the Board, to phone constantly and to try and bring pressure to bear on the Board to grant priority to individual applications. This could only lead to administrative choas, Dr Lombard said.

According to Dr Lombard, considerable progerss has already been made with planning which will enable those producers following a planned production programme, to plan their permit marketing for a year ahead as from January 1980, by entering into a contract with the Meat Board which will allow the to market a specified number of cattle at certain times as requested by the farmer.

A majority of the sample (69%) [illegible]

THIS SYSTEM IS RUINING US

Permits almost unobtainable by farmers — but agents get them

(3) Meat 21/10/79

By DARYL BALFOUR

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa's beef farmers are abandoning their farms — and they blame it on the Meat Board.

The Sunday Tribune has spoken to farmers from Vaalwater in the Northern Transvaal to Vryburg in the Northern Cape as well as producers in Natal and South West Africa. And everywhere the claims are the same — the Meat Board policies are driving them to desperation and off their farms.

Said Vaalwater farmer Mr Piet Henderson: "There are at least 30 farms in this area standing vacant — the people are not working them — and the authorities try to say it is because farmers in the border area are scared of terrorists.

"That's rubbish: farmers are leaving because they just can't farm economically under the Meat Board. It is the Meat Board that is driving farmers off the land here. The permit system is ruining us.

"The Board says the permit system is designed to give everyone free access to the market on a controlled basis. And they base this access on past performance records. But it is almost impossible for the smaller farmer — the private man — to build up a good record because he only wants to market two to four times a year.

Upset

"Now what really upsets the farmers is that when we can't get a permit to sell our cattle and the dry season comes we have to start feeding them. And that costs big money. So of course you can't feed forever — because soon you'll spend more on feed than the animal is worth.

"So we are forced to take our animals to the local auctions where the big speculators and feedlot owners come along and buy them at lower prices than we would get in the controlled markets.

"And then a few days later those very same cattle end up at the abattoir on a permit. Now why is it that the farmers can't get permits for the cattle they have spent two or three years raising?

Adds Mr Bill du Randt, also of Vaalwater: "Between January and July this year I have spent R34 000 on feed supplements alone. That's without fuel or labour or any veterinary costs either. And still I have to battle to get a permit to sell my animals."

Mr Henderson also claimed that the agents such as Vleissentraal preferred it if farmers sold cattle at the local auctions.

"If the farmer gets a permit and takes it to the agent the agent only makes four percent commission on the deal at the abattoirs.

Auction

"But if you sell at the auction the agent gets six percent sale commission. One of the agents, speculators or buyers comes and buys on money borrowed from the agent — at 14 percent interest to the agent. The cattle then go to the abattoir on a permit . . where the agent gets a further 4 percent."

Another large Free State produce and feedlot owner criticised the Vleissentraal domination of the meat industry, saying Vleissentraal had been pushing for years for one channel marketing of meat in South Africa.

Another farmer in Natal said study groups among farmers had shown that beef producers operate on a very low profit margin. The figures worked out by the Department of Agricultural Economics on their study group showed that the profit-before salaries was only 5,47 percent last year. This year its down to 2,87 percent.

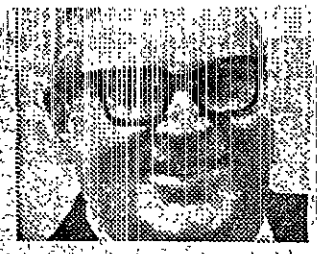
for distinctions between tradition functional characteristics.

What are the problems invol from a particular site as large did there? The first problem a tool's function. Whereas so specific, others may have serve historic sources referred to ea scrapers were used to scrape th were used as spokeshaves for sh drills were designed to perfora backed pieces were missile tips esquil used t sustai would repli speci tool for testing in particular research situations.

A second problem is that of how to assess the significance of differences in the frequencies of tools, given that some tools simply wear out faster than others. Thus it may be that four scrapers represent three hours scraping of skins whereas in three hours woodworking twenty adzes would be used, retouched, worn down and discarded. Little is known of the life span of stone tools and it must be admitted that in caves or rock shelters. If on the other hand adzes were made, used and discarded at the home base, the chances of their inclusion in cave or rock shelter assemblages would be very good. At least three major points derive from this observation. In the first place it becomes extremely important to distinguish between different types of site and to compare like with like. Secondly, on the assumption

SWA MEAT BOARD IN A MESS, REVEALS MANAGER

● Mr Vause Raw . . . a full-scale inquiry could do no harm — it would either clear the air or uncover irregularities and set things right again



(3) Meat S/Tribune 21/10/79

By DARYL BALFOUR

THE chairman of the Meat Board in South West Africa, Mr Andries Pretorious, told a Windhoek newspaper last week the Meat Board was totally above reproach and that no commission of inquiry would ever find anything irregular.

This week the manager of the board admitted before the sitting Commission of Inquiry into allegations of malpractices in the meat industry in South West Africa that his offices were "chaotic" and agreed that there could be errors and irregularities in the Meat Board records.

Seriously affected

The commission also heard that:

● Thousands of cattle are sent from South West Africa into South Africa regularly — ending up on the supposedly controlled markets and seriously affecting farmers with permits trying to gain access to these markets.

● A livestock agent who had been unable to obtain a permit to market cattle in a controlled area had then asked the manager of the Meat Board, Mr Frans Heydenrych, if he or his wife needed anything. Shortly after railing Mr Heydenrych some building material the agent received a permit.

● A Mariental farmer and legal man said he had not been able to acquire a permit on his own and the livestock agent had later obtained a permit for him under a code name.

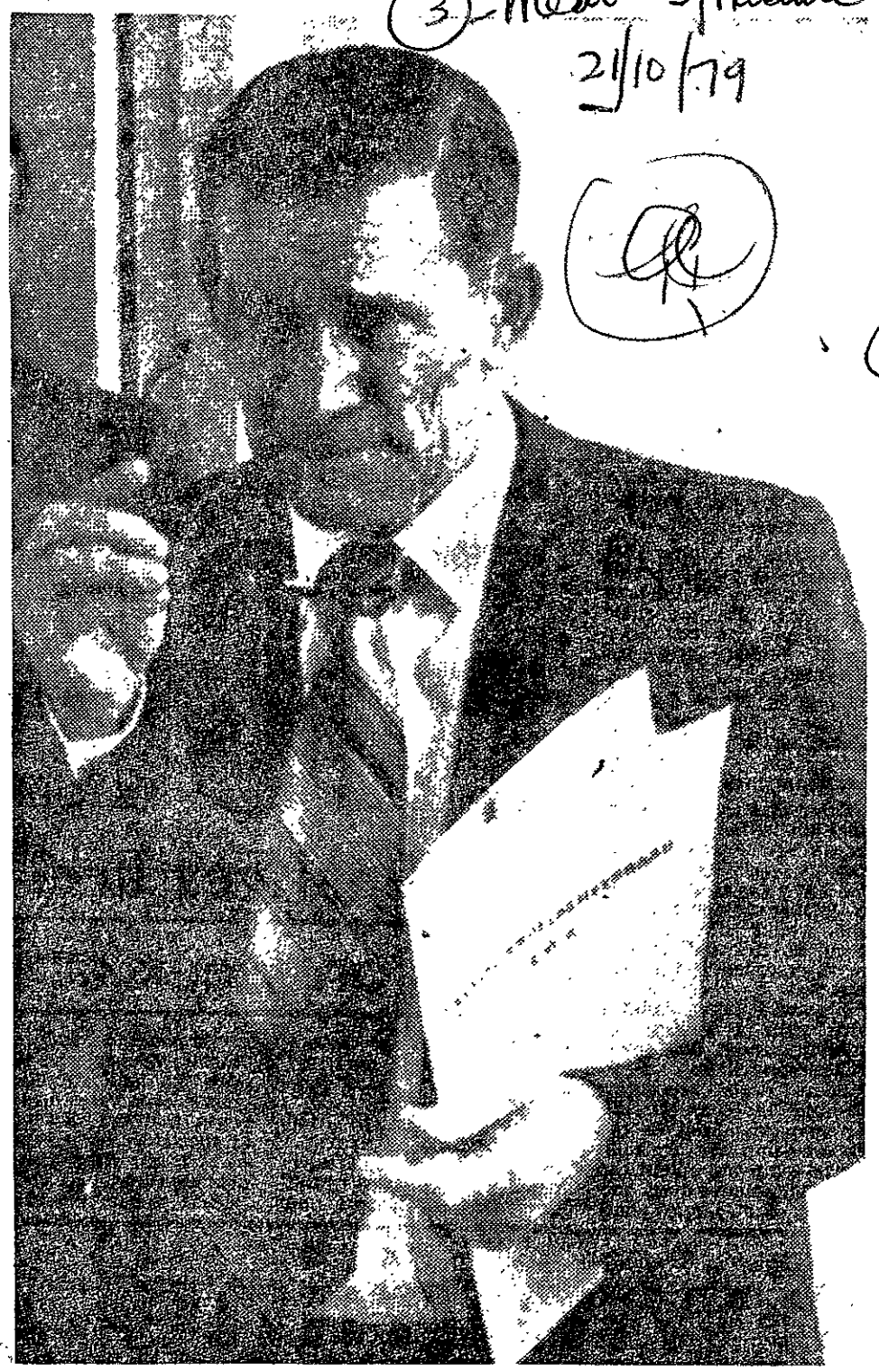
● Diseased cattle had been railed south from the Rehoboth district on a Meat Board permit at a time when cattle movements from that area were illegal because of the disease.

Right Contacts

● Farmers had little difficulty if they had the right contacts in getting cattle into the South African-controlled markets without permits.

● The Records of the Meat Board Windhoek — and on which the farmers' economic future rests — were in total disarray, incorrect and in a state of chaos.

● Many farmers have never received permits, despite the fact that they have been registered with the Meat Board for many year



SWA Meat Board Manager Mr Frans Heydenrych

It is almost impossible for a farmer owning less than 5 000 hectares to build up a good record with the board and thus be given permits or slaughter quotas for the closed or open markets.

● Permit application forms had been found with forged signatures and false information regarding farms and the number of cattle on them.

● Ghost companies and farms had been set up in order to gain more permits.

Now farmers in South Africa would like to know what a similar investigation in this country would find . . . and many claim the outcome would cause ripples throughout the industry.

Complaints, allegations

Last month the leader of the NRP, Mr Vause Raw, told a meeting at Standerton that he had received so many complaints and allegations of mismanagement and corruption within the meat industry that he felt it was time for the industry to ask for an investigation by the Advocate-General.

This week, following the evidence before the commission, Mr Raw reiterated his call.

He said a full-scale inquiry could do no harm — it would either clear the air and set the farmers minds at ease or it would uncover any irregularities and set things right again.

Mr Raw said he had been questioned and asked to make an affidavit by two meat board officials following his statement about the meat men at Standerton.

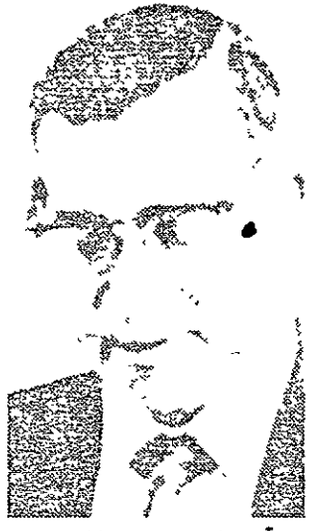
"So far I've heard nothing further that they are actually investigating the complaints," he said.

23/10/79

3 meat

N.M

Meat man in death fall



MR. Heydenrych . . . found dead after fall.

Commission may investigate meat industry

JOHANNESBURG — The Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Hendrik Schoeman, said last night he was prepared to have a judicial commission investigate complaints about irregularities in the meat industry.

Speaking at the official opening of the annual congress of the South African Federation of Meat Traders Mr. Schoeman said he was "sick and tired" of people telephoning him at night with complaints about such issues.

"So much so that I am prepared to have all these matters investigated by a judicial commission.

"But then those people who make it their task to send these allegations into the world must put it in writing and they must be prepared to confirm it under oath before I appoint such a commission.

"They do not have to be afraid that they will be discriminated against — I will ensure that they enjoy the necessary protection.

"I hope and trust that I will get the required reaction," Mr. Schoeman said.

He said it had come to his notice that there was dissatisfaction in the distributive trade about his appointment to the Meat Board of representatives of retailers.

"I wish to point out that in terms of the Marketing Act I am empowered to consult organisations concerned before appointing representatives of a group interest to a control board.

"In the case of the Meat Board, provision is made in the meat scheme for two representatives of those purveying meat as a business.

"It may be mentioned that the persons eventually appointed were nominated by at least three of the five organisations which I had approached in this connection." — (Sapa.)

Mercury Africa Bureau

WINDHOEK — A key witness in the commission of inquiry into alleged malpractices in the South West African meat industry was found dead at the bottom of a stairwell in Windhoek yesterday.

The body of Mr. Frans Heydenrych, manager of the South West Africa Meat Board, was found early yesterday by an office cleaner. Apparently he had fallen a few minutes earlier.

Colonel J. C. Greyling, divisional criminal investigation officer for the territory, said the police did not suspect foul play.

"We have no leads to suggest otherwise," he said. "But our investigations are continuing."

Appearance

His death follows his appearance last week before the commission of inquiry, where he was closely questioned about allegations that thousands of rands had been deposited in his personal banking accounts since 1963.

Mr. J. A. Greyling, the magistrate who is leading evidence before the commission, submitted that since 1963 R179 573 — far in excess of Mr. Heydenrych's salary — had been deposited in his accounts.

Asked whether he had ever taken money from any person Mr. Heydenrych said he would prefer to reply after consultation with his legal adviser.

Mr. Heydenrych (64), who was on the verge of retirement, was to have been recalled to the witness box to answer questions about the alleged deposits.

He said in earlier evidence that he had speculated on the stock exchange and he had inherited sums of money.

Mr. Greyling also put it to him that the administration of the Meat Board was in a chaotic condition and that he did not even know what was going on in his office.

Mr. Heydenrych told the commission he accepted that everything in his office was in order. He had no reason to believe there were irregularities taking place.

In his opening address on the first day of the second sitting of the commission, which began last week, Mr. Greyling said that during a six-week investigation throughout the territory he had found signs of mismanagement, maladministration and corruption.

A family friend, who was caring for a shocked Mrs. Heydenrych yesterday, said that her husband had left for the office at the normal time.

"Nothing appeared to be wrong and he didn't leave any notes behind.

"Mrs Heydenrych is under sedation and she can't speak to anyone. In fact we are all shocked and we don't even want to think about the incident."

processes is essential; and the division will have to be more fine the more discriminating public decisions can be.[10]



Meat board 'worse' than terror threat

WINDHOEK — It was not the fear of terrorism that forced farmers to leave their farms, but the meat marketing system in South West Africa, a witness, Mr. P. B. Mynhardt, yesterday told the Commission of Inquiry into alleged irregularities in the meat industry.

'It's cumbersome and inefficient,' says MP

JOHANNESBURG — Mr. Rupert Lorimer, MP for Orange Grove, has called for a thorough investigation into the South African meat industry.

In a statement here yesterday he said: "I welcome the announcement by the Minister of Agriculture that he is going to appoint a commission of inquiry into irregularities in the meat industry and the marketing of meat.

"Over a period of years I have urged the minister to review the whole system of meat marketing in South Africa.

"There is no doubt at all that a monopolistic situation exists and the result is that the consumer is paying far more for meat than is reasonable in relation to the farmers' selling price.

"The price obtained by the farmer bears no relation to the price paid by the housewife. The whole marketing system is cumbersome, inefficient and lends itself to abuse." — (Sapa.)

Another farmer, Mr. J. S. van der Merwe, identified two documents before the commission.

The documents had been altered after they had been completed, but he did not know by whom, Mr. van der Merwe said.

Mr. Mynhardt said he had been farming for 23 years in the Outjo district.

"Altogether 53 percent of the farmers at Outjo have left their farms because of the deterioration in the agricultural economy," he said.

Market

"They have not left because they feared terrorism, or because they are afraid of the future of the country."

Mr. Mynhardt said if farmers were allowed to market their cattle through the usual channels it would not be necessary for them to move away.

A farmer, Mr. J. C. du Plessis, had bought a flourishing farm at Outjo, but in the first five years he had not received a single permit from the meat board to market his cattle, Mr. Mynhardt said.

He had been active in organised agricultural bodies for many years, Mr. Mynhardt said, but up to this day he did not know how the points system and the allocation of marketing permits operated.

He did not believe other farmers knew how the system operated either, Mr. Mynhardt said.

The inquiry continues today. — (Sapa.)

ing. This is partly due to a deficiency in information on the results of the programmes which can be resolved by recourse to appropriate data. Nevertheless, there will also be differences of judgement which cannot

for guiding the choice of priorities has been ant.[12] It has been used by medical and nursing and one of its advantages is that it can be used ta is available. It, therefore, lends itself to n the experience of a group of people.

lems are first listed, and then given a score (from nder each of four headings:

of ranking health problems

	alence	Severity	Community concern	Vulnerability to management	Total
	+++	++++	+++	++	96
	+++	++	++	+++	48
Malnutrition	+++	+++	++	++	36
Need for medical care	++	++	++++	++	32
Specific diseases:					
V.D.	++	++	++	++	16
Dental problems	++++	+	++	++	16
TB	+++	+++	+++	++	54
Common cold*	++++	+	+	-	0
Yaws*	-	++	+++	++++	0

* Added to test scoring method

expenditure on health,[11] it may be felt that the benefits from this kind of provision warrant an increase in the share of the budget allocated to it.

Unfortunately, such intuitive processes can pick out only the grossest incongruities which are recognised by all, whatever criteria of 'value' are used. The optimum level of expenditure on a particular objective is, from the point of view of intuitive judgement, highly uncertain, because of the wide variation in benefits attributable to a particular type of spend-

The Meat Board controversy

We've no beef, says Natal

25/10/79 N.M 3 Meat.

Agricultural Correspondent

NATAL'S beef producers are more than happy with the way the Meat Board handles the marketing of cattle, the chairman of the Natal Beef Producers' Union, Mr. Arthur Hambly, said yesterday.

Mr. Hambly, who is a farmer and a director of the country's biggest livestock agency, Vleissentraal, which operates on behalf of South Africa's cattle farmers, said yesterday that ever since the permit system for marketing livestock had been introduced "farmers had expressed their liking for it".

Denied reports

He denied reports of a crisis in the meat industry because of decisions taken by the Meat Board. "The only crisis facing the board is how to assist every producer to get rid of 160 000 surplus, marketable cattle."

He said the number of cattle in South Africa had increased from 8 500 000 in 1976 to 9 200 000 in 1979. "With the advent of the feedlot companies, turnover, through marketing at earlier age, has increased enormously."

Mr. Hambly said five years ago slaughterings were about 16 000 a week. "Now they are often double this and the number is increasing."

Regulate the supply

Dr. Jan Lombard, general manager of the Meat Board in Pretoria, said the board had been forced to take steps to regulate the supply of cattle to markets following the increase in numbers and, because of a severe drought, farmers were being forced to sell their livestock.

The general manager of Stock Owners' Co-op, Mr. Eric Jones, which has 6 000 livestock farmers as members in Natal, said he too was satisfied with the way the Meat Board regulated marketing.

Quotas

Mr. Jones said there were more cattle being offered for sale by farmers than could be taken up by consumers at what were considered "a fair return to keep farmers on the land".

He said in Natal quotas for the number of cattle farmers could market were allocated according to the needs of consumers.

"The issue of permits or quotas is based on what butchers can sell."

He said meat was a perishable product that could only be stored at high cost.

"For Natal the controlled abattoir at Cato Ridge operates on a system of quotas which the Meat Board allocates to the respective agents on a pro rata basis relative to their past performance.

"If Stock Owners handled 60 percent of all the cattle in the past then its allocation of the quota would be 60 percent."

He said that many branches of farming were governed by quotas. "You cannot, for example, grow sugar cane or grapes unless you have a quota."

Mr. Jones said while every attempt was made to accommodate newcomers who wished to sell their cattle, "no assurances or guarantees can be given".

'Careless'

He said where the Meat Board made direct permit allocations to farmers the board required all producers to complete forms detailing the size of farm, livestock numbers and marketing times.

He said farmers were sometimes "careless" about furnishing their information and felt frustrated when the Meat Board did not grant them permits.

Mr. Jones said it should be remembered that for many meat was a luxury and its consumption was related to the economic situation.

He said the country had just been through a tough recession which had affected the industry as well as livestock farmers.

...and in South West Africa

The big beef about the R3 000m meat trade

Rumblings of dissatisfaction in South Africa's R3 000 million a year meat industry have reached a stage where the Minister of Agriculture has said he was prepared to have a judicial commission investigate complaints about irregularities.

What is the row all about ? Daily Dispatch Farming Editor JAC VAN WYK takes a look at the situation from the point of view of farmers, the Meat Board and livestock agents.

Is South A... 000 million a year meat industry heading for a crisis?

The chairman of the Meat Board, Dr Jan Lombard, says such an allegation is "not only untrue but also irresponsible."

Why, then, are there rumblings of dissatisfaction? And why are farmers accusing the Board of manipulating the industry?

Top men closely connected with the industry have openly criticised the situation.

And the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, has said he was prepared to have a judicial commission investigate complaints about irregularities in the meat industry as well as in the meat industry scheme.

The issue revolves around the permit system which many farmers view as monopolistic. Only the big co-operatives and feedlot owners benefit under the system they say. Many farmers battle for months to get permits. How then can they plan ahead?

According to Dr Lombard the present permit system was introduced to ensure that the small independent producer would have fair access to controlled markets and to afford the producer a choice as to the agent through whom he would like to market his cattle.

The old quota system, on the other hand, he said, enabled the agent to decide on his own which producers could be granted quotas and which had to be refused. Frequently the choice fell on the large producer rather than the small independent farmer.

But the head of a livestock agency in East London, Mr Basil Muir, conveyed a different picture.

"We boast that our South African economy is based on a free enterprise system. The government, from the top down, are punting this free enterprise line," said Mr Muir.

"The ideal is to have no control whatsoever — purely supply and demand. But in times of plenty the farmer must be given a guaranteed floor price for his beef. To do this there must be control.

"The next step from a completely free market is what is termed a quota system — a system where the Meat Board, in conjunction with our corporations, decide how many cattle can be slaughtered in an abattoir like East London.

"The Meat Board then allocates quotas to each of the three agents here which are based on their past performances. These allocations are passed on to clients on as fair a basis as possible. Naturally the farmer who has supported his agent regularly during the last 12 months is entitled to a bigger share than the farmer who supplies only once or twice a year.

"The final step is when the Meat Board itself controls the whole marketing system of beef under the permit system. Under this system the farmer applies direct to the Meat Board in Pretoria for his marketing requirements.

"We believe the agent, who knows each farmer in each area, knows what the requirements of each farmer are, also his financial position, drought and other overstocked situations. We, therefore, believe we are in a position to allocate quotas more fairly than the Meat Board who look at the overall position. They do not know the needs and circumstances of each individual.



Mr Basil Muir . . . agents are in a better position to know each individual farmer's requirements.

"The Meat Board argues that it is not the agents' function to decide who should and who shouldn't have access to the market.

"I think they have forgotten one important factor: Even under the quota system there is tremendous competition among agents. If, for example, a farmer feels an agent has not treated him fairly he will go to another agent. The farmer can sack his agent but he cannot sack the Meat Board."

One aspect which, rightly or wrongly, creates suspicion in the minds of farmers who battle for months to get permits, is that seven of the 13 members of the Meat Board are directly involved in the co-operative movement — either Vleissentraal or BKB. Farmers ask themselves who are getting the permits and why are those people favoured.

There are three controlled centres under the quota system — Durban, East London and Port Elizabeth.

"I don't think there is anybody who could say he is unhappy with the quota system once he fully realises its function", Mr Muir said.

"I do not think there is one farmer who can justifiably say he has not received fair treatment from his agent here. Some farmers, however, have not always been loyal to their agents. During the last two years there has been a pressure on the market with large numbers of cattle being offered, bearing in mind, however, that our market here is seasonal and the bulk of the cattle arrive on the market from January to March.

"When the outside sales have a lot of cattle on offer the market tends to drop and the farmers approach the agents for quotas. As soon as the outside sales go up in price some farmers forget their agents and send their animals to these sales.

"There are few farmers who want to market their cattle at this time of the year and we have to rely on the big feeders in this area. What then do we do next year? Do we tell these people who have pulled us through a difficult situation that we have to cut their quota because Mr X has to be accommodated to market his beef although he has not marketed through his agent during the last year but through outside sales?

"In times of shortages we rely on our regular suppliers — people who stick to their quotas, even when prices are down. These people have earned their quotas, have even lost money, but they look at it in the long-term."

The pattern of beef farming in the Border area has changed and will no doubt change more. Younger and smaller carcasses are becoming more and more in demand and feedlotting has already taken hold.

One worrying aspect is that with the above normal prices being realised at sales even young breeding stock are disposed of — stock that would normally only be offered for sale next year. This must create a gap which can only spell shortage and higher prices.

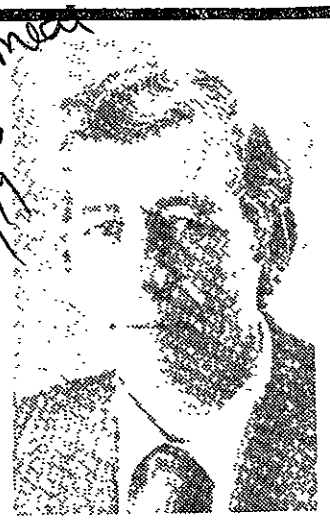
"My advice to all beef farmers is to hold on to their breeding stock. They are going to be needed," Mr Muir said.

Should a beef shortage occur it would be unreasonable to expect the wool farmer to fill this gap, particularly in view of present wool prices.

The so-called crisis threatening the meat industry may, according to Dr Lombard, be ascribed solely to the expectation of certain people that future shortages of beef are imminent.

In actual fact the production of beef over the past three years has consistently exceeded the demand, resulting in stagnant prices and growing losses for producers.

It makes sound economic sense to expect that cattle farmers would have to curtail production under such circumstances. Should there be a decrease in the supply of beef, it would merely constitute an adjustment in terms of the law of supply and demand and by no means imply a crisis. Nor would it have any connection with the alleged control exercised by the Board or with the permit system, Dr Lombard said.



Dr Jan Lombard, chairman of the Meat Board.

He pointed out that the permit system's primary objective was to afford all producers fair access to controlled markets. The number of cattle for which permits were allocated to feedlots was determined by the market's need for high-grade meat as well as the past performance of individual feedlots.

These criteria likewise apply to the allocation of permits to all producers. Consequently large producers (some feedlots finish up to 50 000 cattle at a time) were bound to receive a larger allocation of permits than smaller producers.

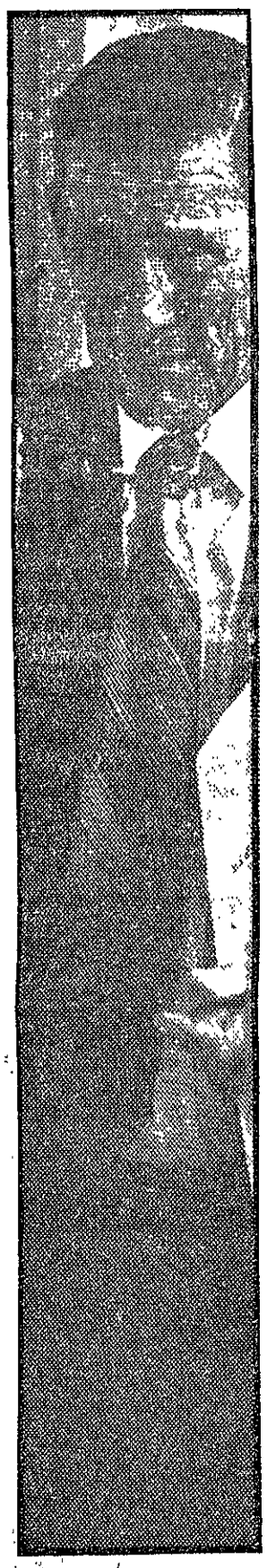
The Meat Board, if anything, favours the small producer and has since the introduction of the new permit system not allocated a single permit to speculators.

Dr Lombard emphasised that no producer was prevented from making inquiries regarding his application for a permit if he should have reasonable cause to suspect there had been a break in his communication with the Meat Board.

The Board cannot, however, allow thousands of farmers and agents who have submitted properly motivated application to the Board to phone constantly and to try and bring pressures to bear on the Board to grant priority to individual applications. This could only lead to administrative chaos.

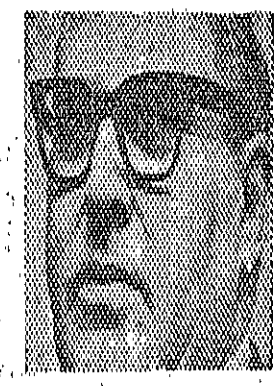
He said considerable progress has already been made with planning which will enable those producers following a planned production programme to plan their permit marketing for a year ahead as from January 1980, by entering into a contract with the Meat Board which will allow them to market a specified number of cattle at certain times as requested by the farmer.

This week TRIBUNE reporter DARYL BALFOUR continues his investigations into the meat industry which is at the centre of a major controversy. Today he reveals details from a Butchers' Association secret report.



SWA Meat Board manager Frans Heydenrych found dead this week

'Arrogant attitude' blasted by MPs



Mr Vause Raw



Mr Rupert Lorimer

THE BIG 3 ...AND THE SPREADING TENTACLES OF POWER

A CONFIDENTIAL report on South Africa's meat industry — handed to the **Sunday Tribune** this week — has criticised the composition of the Meat Board and says it is capable of being used by co-operative interests to gain a dominant position.

The seven-page report by the Retail Butchers' Association also criticises the position the giant meat co-op Vleissentraal is moving into in the R3 000-million-a year industry.

Attacking the dominance of the giant co-operative in the Meat Board, the report said the facts were that "they have in the connecting organisations involved, a stake on both sides. There is, therefore, within the Meat Board, the latent facility to advance their commercial interests."

To be blunt, the Meat Board in essence, was also there to be used for the advancement of the big co-operatives into a dominating factor within the entire industry, the report claimed.

Slamming Vleissentraal's position, the report said the interests of the giant meat co-op had extended beyond livestock marketing into the distributive field.

The structure of the industry was being harmed by the overlapping of interests.

"Livestock agency interests, for example Vleissentraal, have extended into both meat wholesaling and retailing," the report said.

Two weeks ago the Sunday Tribune disclosed that at least seven representatives on the 13-man Meat Board had Vleissentraal connections.

So far there has been no evidence to show that the co-op has in fact misused this position of dominance.

Although Vleissentraal refuse to supply the **Sunday Tribune** with their annual report or any information regarding their finances, a report in a financial magazine earlier this year quoted a Vleissentraal source as saying turnover this year was expected to top R600-million — an increase of almost R100-million over 1978.

The co-operative's reserves are expected to reach about R40-million by the end of this year.

According to the magazine report, Vleissentraal now controls 50 percent of the meat market "in one way or another".

Last year the co-op was responsible for the slaughter of 43,5 percent of sheep and 32,2 percent of pigs, it was reported.

Criticising the position of dominance within the industry and in the Meat Board which those figures reflect, the Butchers' Association's report states that "the board has the latent ingredients within its structure for fostering monopolistic development".

Within the structure of the Meat Board, there is the facility for certain producer organisations to advance their commercial interests in the meat distributive ambit, the report alleges.

It also attacks the "big business" imbalance in the meat industry and claims this could only harm the consumers in the long run and is forcing small butchers out of the trade in the meantime.

The report says the "big business" interests would one day be able to dominate the movement of meat from the source of its production to selling it to housewives, hotels, restaurants and so on.

The "big business" interests in the industry can be confined to what have become known as the "Big Three" in the meat game — Vleissentraal, Imperial Cold Storage and Asokor (which holds about 80 percent of Karoo).

BUTCHERS RELEASE SECRET REPORT

Among the three of them they control about 65 percent of livestock auctioneering, 60 percent of agency marketing of livestock, about 80 - 85 percent of trade wholesaling, more than 50 percent of the retailing of meat and about 60 percent of the meat processing industry.

Vleissentraal and ICS have a record of dealing together in the past. They teamed up to take over the Bull Brand interests in Natal and the Transvaal and each owns half of SA Meat Supply.

Now, despite the low prices of the past year and the static consumption of red meat, an authoritative financial magazine (Financial Mail) says in a recent report that the middlemen in the country's meat industry "have never had it so good".

According to the magazine the Asokor group's profit increased by 32 percent over the past year while ICS came out with a record turnover of R501-million, up 12,3 percent. Karoo, Asokor's main subsidiary, increased profits by 35 percent.

Farmers meanwhile are complaining of low profit margins and large numbers are leaving their farms — saying the Meat Board's permit policy is making economic planning of production impossible.

One farmer told me his farm had run at a profit of only 5,47 percent last year — before his own salary was deducted.

This year, he said, his profit margin was down to 2,87 percent.

Other farmers complain that while they receive no permits to market their cattle in controlled areas — where there is a guaranteed minimum floor price — Vleissentraal and Karoo have no difficulty in getting permits.

And a study of permit lists appears to back their complaints — for instance out of a total of 3 000 animals permitted at City Deep for June 22-24 more than 500 were from Vleissentraal-owned feedlots or bought by Vleissentraal at auctions.

One influential feedlot owner outside Johannesburg said the Meat Board had introduced the permit system in May as a control during an emergency situation caused by the drought.

"But the drought is over now. There's no longer an emergency, yet we are still being kept at the levels introduced when there was.

"Why haven't the permit allocations gone up to the level we had with quotas — or to what we were allowed to sell before the restrictions were brought in?"

The farmer, who did not want to be named for fear of victimisation, said although he would not make any allegations to the effect that there was mismangement in the Meat Board, no farmer could be satisfied that there was none because the Meat Board books were not open for inspection.

"If there's nothing to hide — let us see the books," he said.

LOMBARD 'OVER-SENSITIVE' IN THREAT OF LEGAL ACTION

SOUTH Africa's major opposition parties have backed the SUNDAY TRIBUNE's investigation of the meat industry — and slammed the "arrogant attitude" of Meat Board boss Dr Jan Lombard.

Both the New Republic Party and the Progressive Federal Party have called for a full-scale inquiry into the R3 000 million-a-year industry following disclosures in the SUNDAY TRIBUNE of widespread dissatisfaction among farmers and retail butchers.

And even Mr Hendrik Schoeman, Minister of Agriculture, has said he is tired of people telephoning him in the middle of the night with complaints about the industry.

Now he has called for people with complaints to send him affidavits before he appoints a commission of inquiry.

But Mr Schoeman's action has been slammed by both the PFP and the NRP — particularly following a statement by Dr Lombard that in the event of a commission finding no fault with the Meat Board the complainants face libel actions.

Mr Vause Raw, leader of the NRP, said the minister "had no moral right behind which he could hide in waiting for sworn statements following the threat of his own Meat Board officials to take action against complaints.

"Who would run the risk of the cost of a civil action to prove his allegations when he has no access to the records of the board which is suing him," he said.

Mr Lombard's attitude also came under fire from Mr Rupert Lorimer, PFP MP for Orange Grove.

"I think Dr Lombard is being highly oversensitive. If he thinks the integrity of the Meat Board is being questioned that is even more reason for an inquiry," he said.

Mr Lorimer said the whole meat system was open to abuse.

An investigation was long overdue, but he added that a commission should not sit back and wait for evidence to come to it.

"It must subpoena books of accounts, shareholders' registers and bank accounts," he said.



3 meat 28/10/79 M

QUOTE

"I told them I would sleep there until they gave me a permit . . . They said: 'Fine, you can stay until you starve,' so I told them if they left me overnight I might get so angry I would burn their nice building down.

FARMER BILL du RANDT

One man's war...

BILL du RANDT of Vaalwater in the Northern Transvaal — like many farmers the Tribune has spoken to around the country — says he was driven to desperation by the Meat Board.

He wrote to the board and asked for inspectors to visit his farm to see that his cattle were ready for the market — and his land was rapidly drying up and being over-grazed.

The meat men never came, he says.

He sent letters to the board and his wife phoned and phoned . . . and was passed from one clerk to another, without ever getting through to the person they wanted.

From January to July this year Mr du Randt spent R34 000 on food supplements for his cattle — getting them fat and prime for the abattoir. But the Meat Board wouldn't let him market them, he says.

"Eventually I got fed up. I took my pyjamas and blankets and a pillow and got in the bakkie and went to Pretoria.

"And there I went to those Meat Board offices and told them I would sleep there until they gave me a permit.

"I said to them that if they wanted to get rid of me they could call the police — then I'd hit one of them and they could take me to court and I would have a platform to say what I wanted to say about the Meat Board and the permit system that's driving us all to ruin.

"They said: 'Fine, you can stay there until you starve,' so I told them if they left me overnight I might get so angry I would burn their nice building down.

"And the next thing they said: 'OK, we'll give you a permit.' That was about August 25 or 26. I got a permit in the post on August 31."

Mr Piet Henderson, who farms near him, said Mr du Randt was the only farmer he knew who had had the guts to stand up to the board.

"He didn't let them push him around like they do to so many of us. I wonder what would happen if 100 of us beef farmers went to the board and did the same thing? Maybe they'd wake up to our plight then."

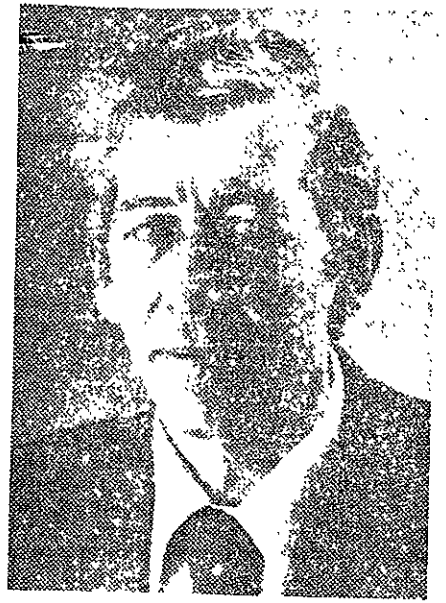
Mr Henderson and Mr du Randt said farmers in their district were being driven to ruin because they were not getting enough access to the controlled markets.



● BILL DU RANDT: I got in my bakkie and went to Pretoria

FARMER BILL I told them I'd burn their building

 3 meat



Dr Jan Lombard . . . denied any connection

You're wrong Dr Lombard, he's a link

THE South African Meat Board has until recently had close links with its South West African counterpart.

This week the general manager of the South African Meat Board, Dr Jan Lombard, issued statements denying any connection between the two boards.

But the SUNDAY TRIBUNE can disclosed that up until last year there were two members of the SWA Meat Board sitting as members of the SA Meat Board.

They were Mr Andries Pretorius, present chairman of the SWA Meat Board, president of the SWA Agriculture Union and director of Vleissentraal, and Mr J. P. "Hansie" van der Walt, vice-chairman of the SWA Meat Board.

Both Mr Pretorius and Mr van der Walt were appointed to the South African Meat Board as "representatives of cattle, sheep and goat producers in South West Africa".

Only recently, when the board was decreased from more than 20 to the statutory 13 members, did both men relinquish their positions.

Now the magistrate leading evidence before the Commission of Inquiry into Alleged Malpractices in the Meat Industry in South West Africa, Mr Hans Greyling, has called Dr Lombard to testify before the Commission on November 5.

Mr Greyling said Dr Lombard would be asked to give "the facts about South African Meat Board quotas" in South West Africa.

Every year the SA Meat Board allocated a quota for SWA and the commission would like some "advice from Dr Lombard on how they are distributed," Mr Greyling said.

The three-man commission is headed by Mr Willem van Zyl, a retired senior magistrate from Bloemfontein. The other two are Mr Gert Hanekom, a Windhoek auditor with meat industry knowledge, and Mr D. E. Heystek, a South African Meat Board official.

South Africa imports more than 100 000 cattle a year from South West Africa, with a large percentage of these destined for the SA Meat Board controlled areas on permits issued for South Africa through the SWA board.

The vice-chairman of the SWA Meat Board, Mr Hansie van der Walt, told a Windhoek daily paper recently that about 90 percent of the cattle designed for the South African open markets ended up in the controlled areas of Cape Town and the Witwatersrand.

Dr Lombard said in a statement this week that the two meat boards met annually to "discuss the number of cattle South Africa can import."

Meanwhile this week — following the SUNDAY TRIBUNE's disclosure of evidence before the Commission of Inquiry into Alleged Malpractices in the SWA Meat Industry last week that the industry was in chaos — farmers, politicians and the Housewives' League have called for an immediate inquiry into the state of the industry in South Africa.

The Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, told the SA Federation of Meat Traders Congress in Johannesburg on Monday that he would consider appointing a commission if he received written complaints of irregularities in the R3 000-million a year industry in this country.



Mr Andries Pretorius . . . until recently on both boards

QUOTE

The small butcher like myself can't afford to take advantage of these sales — they seem designed for the big boys.
GIACOMO DALLA TANA

Tribune PROBE

28/10/79 3 meat Sunday Tribune

We are being 'killed' by the big buyers!

A JOHANNESBURG butcher has called for an investigation into the Meat Board's policy of buying up meat that does not meet the guaranteed floor price — and then selling it in bulk, generally at a big loss, a few weeks later.

Mr Giacomo Dalla Tana, who has waged a one-man campaign for many years against alleged injustices in the meat industry, says the policy adopted by the Meat Board favours the big wholesalers who can afford to buy 2 000 carcasses at a time.

Big boys

"The small butchers like myself can't afford to take advantage of these sales — they seem designed for the big boys," Mr Dalla Tana complained.

He said the only buyers capable of benefiting from this bargain price were the manufacturing companies such as ICS, Vleissentraal and Asokor.

"Why is this reserved for the big boys to make even bigger profits? Because I'm sure they don't drop their prices when they buy at a bargain price," he said.

Mr Dalla Tana said the prices at which the lots of frozen or chilled carcasses were sold were as much as 40 percent below the floor price. The floor price is the least any small, retail butcher could ever buy at.

Mr Dalla Tana said he recently wrote to the Meat Board to inquire about the sale of board stocks. The general manager, Dr Jan Lombard, replied that the stocks were equally available to all interested traders.

But, Mr Dalla Tana complains, the manner in which they are put on sale and the quantitites in which they are sold automatically preclude any interest from the smaller buyer.

He showed the Sunday Tribune a catalogue excerpt showing one lot of 2 000 frozen carcasses offered for sale on September 6.

A notation on the catalogue indicated that although the consignment was made up of super, prime and grades one, two and three, the higher grades were in the majority.

There was a note at the bottom of the page which warned that the consignment would be sold to one buyer only.

Mr Dalla Tana said this was just one indication of how the major producers were able to monopolise the meat industry.

He said if there was more open competition in the meat trade "we could cut consumer prices by up to 20 percent and still give the farmers more money too."

The meat trade was thoroughly unpopular in the area between the producer and the consumer. The wholesalers were able to dominate and manipulate the market at will, he said.

Mr Dalla Tana also alleged that the "Big Three" could manipulate market prices at will by buying in bulk wherever the prices suited them best and simply railing to the other centres where prices were higher.

"So they can stop buying at one market until there's an over-supply and the price goes down. Then they buy everything there and rail it to another market until they get a good price there too," he claimed.

Mr Fred Lategan, managing director of one of the industry's giants, Asokor, and a member of the Meat Board too, said there was nothing to stop wholesalers doing that "if they can get the railways refrigerated trucks at the right time to suit them".

He said this was merely a principle of sound business economics.

Preferential

Mr Dalla Tana also charged that another of the industry's producer giants, Kanhym, was given preferential access to the controlled area abattoirs while other farmers — "also only trying to keep their businesses sound" — had to battle for permits every two months.

"Kanhym are allowed to slaughter at their private abattoir in Balfour and are then allowed to bring about 600 carcasses into the Witwatersrand area — which is supposed to be controlled," Mr Dalla Tana said.

This was confirmed by Mr Lategan, who said Kanhym had been given permission to bring about 700 carcasses a week into the Witwatersrand.

"I think it's about 144 a day, something like that," he said.

Mr Lategan said Kanhym had this special permission as they had invested in the Balfour abattoir at a time when the export market was at its peak. The abattoir was intended purely for export beef.

But, Mr Lategan said, when the export market slumped, the Meat Board gave Kanhym the special quota for the controlled areas "to protect the industry and people who invest in it."

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'No Meat Board irregularities'

C.T. 29/4/74

3-Meat

PRETORIA. — The Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, might refer the system of meat marketing in the Republic for investigation to the South African Agricultural Union, according to a statement issued by the Ministry of Agriculture at the weekend.

The statement, which ruled out the possibility of a judicial commission of inquiry, followed a request by the leader of the new Republic Party, Mr Vause Raw, that South Africa's meat marketing system be investigated.

"In connection with this request, the minister said that Mr Raw, in a statement to an inspector of the Meat Board, had given the names of 10 complainants upon which he apparently based his request," said the statement.

"These 10 cases have been investigated by the general manager of the Meat Board personally, and it was found that no evidence of irregularities exists.

"In fact, two of the complainants are not registered with the Meat Board. One has never applied for a permit, as far as could be ascertained, another has applied at odd intervals, and six have been treated extremely well.

"In the light of the foregoing, a commission of inquiry is not justified and the minister has to stand by his original point of view that a judicial inquiry into the meat industry can only be ordered when reasonable grounds therefore can be found, and not when his political opposition is merely seeking to gain political advantage from the matter." — Sapa

2 charged with illegal slaughter

EAST LONDON — A Kei Road police sergeant admitted under cross-examination in court here yesterday he tore up an exculpatory statement an accused had made to a magistrate

Sergeant Neville Richard Hansen said this while giving evidence against a farmer, Mr Peter Owen Butler, 55, and Mrs No-Amen Menjenjalo, 42, both of Caprice farm, Igoda, when they appeared before Mr J. A. Hamman.

They are charged with unlawfully acquiring, or selling slaughtered animals in a controlled area without the authority or a permit issued by the Livestock and Meat Industries Control Board on May 17 near the farm Glenmore.

Mrs Menjenjalo faces three other counts relating to the illegal slaughter of animals and sale of meat.

Mr Butler faces a total of 11 counts, including obstructing the police, defeating the course of justice and crimen injuria.

Mr Butler pleaded not guilty to all the counts and Mrs Menjenjalo pleaded not guilty to the four counts against her.

Sergeant Hansen told the court he and Constable M. Oberem as a result of a report from the Meat Board went to the FM tower from where they watched the houses and kraals through binoculars on the farm of Mr Butler. There were 15 cattle in the kraal and three men and Mrs Menjenjalo went into the kraal taking out two cattle.

"We went closer to a hill from where we kept observation. Two vehicles were near the place. A third vehicle arrived driven by Mr Ernest George Bentley who spoke to Mrs Menjenjalo.

"Mr Bentley supervised the loading of hides on to his vehicle while the carcases were cut into quarters and placed into bags and then loaded onto the other two vehicles," Sergeant Hansen said.

They left their point of observation and waited for the cars to arrive on the old East London-King William's Town road.

The first vehicle which arrived was driven by Mr George Lungile Menjenjalo. Two women and a man were also on the vehicle. There were also two-and-a-quarter hides on the bakkie, he said.

The other two vehicles also arrived and Mr Bentley's had eight hides on it.

Mr Bentley was asked to return to the house of Mr Butler but on their arrival they found the gate locked. Sergeant Hansen said he saw a man running and he gave chase.

The man dropped something and after picking it up found it was the keys of the locked gate.

There were two cattle slaughtered.

He looked for Mrs Menjenjalo but she was missing.

He interviewed Mr Butler on the following day but he declined to make any statement.

On June 7 in the company of Constable Oberem and inspectors of the Meat Board they went to the FM tower again to see if no illegal slaughtering was taking place.

He then arrested Mrs Menjenjalo. From there they went to Caprice farm and kept it under observation from a distance. He saw 10 vehicles going into the yard and down a kloof.

As they went to the gravel road leading to the farm Mr Butler drove up in his car.

"I stopped him and told him I suspected illegal slaughtering was taking place on his farm. I requested he accompany us back.

"On arrival he spoke in Xhosa to a youth whom he told to run to the kloof and warn the people there that the police were coming.

"I warned him he was committing an offence. The gate to the kloof was locked and he said he did not know where the key was.

"After asking several times that he open it I eventually shot the lock open. As I opened the gate he pushed me against a pole causing me to fall," Sergeant Hansen said.

Mr Butler told them the only way they would get to the kloof would be to to kill him by riding over him. He then lay down on the ground in the road.

"I warned him he was committing an offence and touched him gently asking him to move away. Mr Butler then tore open the buttons of his own shirt and accused me of assaulting him. He then swore at me," Sergeant Hansen said.

He said Mr Butler was later removed to the hospital by his son.

They then proceeded to where the slaughtering had taken place and found 20 cattle of which the carcases were cut into quarters and placed into grain bags.

Under cross-examination by Advocate J. F. J. van Rensburg, SC, for both accused, Sergeant Hansen admitted Mrs Menjenjalo made an exculpatory statement to a magistrate.

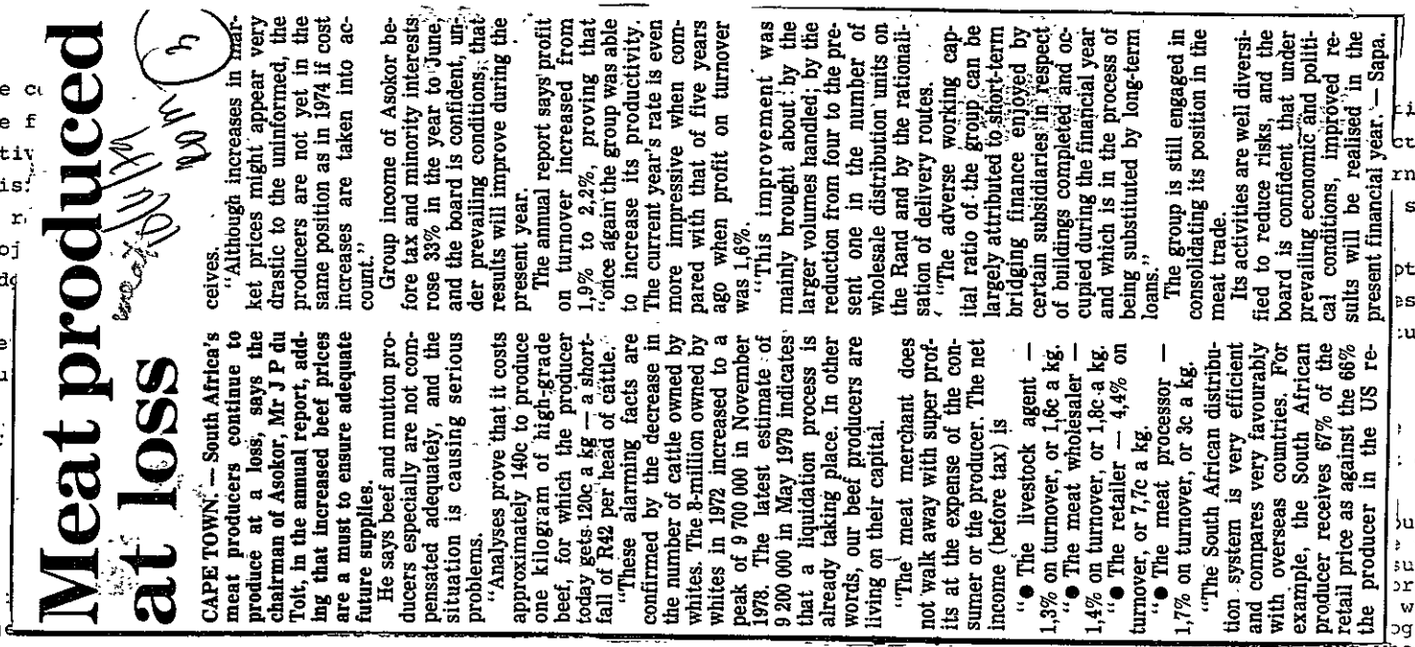
He admitted tearing it up at her request because she offered to make another statement to him.

Mr Van Rensburg: "Are you used to tearing up such statements. How many did you tear up in the past?" Sergeant Hansen: "Yes I did tear up quite a few."

Mr Van Rensburg: "What right have you to tear up statements made to a judicial officer?" Sergeant Hansen: "I have the right, I am the investigating officer."

The hearing continues today. — DDR.

ELECTRIC IRONS



Meat produced at loss

CAPE TOWN. — South Africa's meat producers continue to produce at a loss, says the chairman of Asokor, Mr J P du Toit, in the annual report, adding that increased beef prices are a must to ensure adequate future supplies.

He says beef and mutton producers especially are not compensated adequately, and the situation is causing serious problems.

"Analyses prove that it costs approximately 140c to produce one kilogram of high-grade beef, for which the producer today gets 120c a kg — a shortfall of R42 per head of cattle.

"These alarming facts are confirmed by the decrease in the number of cattle owned by whites. The 8-million owned by whites in 1972 increased to a peak of 9 700 000 in November 1978. The latest estimate of 9 200 000 in May 1979 indicates that a liquidation process is already taking place. In other words, our beef producers are living on their capital.

"The meat merchant does not walk away with super profits at the expense of the consumer or the producer. The net income (before tax) is

"● The livestock agent — 1,3% on turnover, or 1,6c a kg.

"● The meat wholesaler — 1,4% on turnover, or 1,8c a kg.

"● The retailer — 4,4% on turnover, or 7,7c a kg.

"● The meat processor — 1,7% on turnover, or 3c a kg.

"The South African distribution system is very efficient and compares very favourably with overseas countries. For example, the South African producer receives 67% of the retail price as against the 66% the producer in the US receives.

"Although increases in market prices might appear very drastic to the uninformed, the producers are not yet in the same position as in 1974 if cost increases are taken into account."

Group income of Asokor before tax and minority interests rose 33% in the year to June, and the board is confident, under prevailing conditions, that results will improve during the present year.

The annual report says profit on turnover increased from 1,9% to 2,2%, proving that "once again the group was able to increase its productivity. The current year's rate is even more impressive when compared with that of five years ago when profit on turnover was 1,6%.

"This improvement was mainly brought about by the larger volumes handled, by the reduction from four to the present one in the number of wholesale distribution units on the Rand and by the rationalisation of delivery routes.

"The adverse working capital ratio of the group can be largely attributed to short-term bridging finance enjoyed by certain subsidiaries in respect of buildings completed and occupied during the financial year and which is in the process of being substituted by long-term loans."

The group is still engaged in consolidating its position in the meat trade.

Its activities are well diversified to reduce risks, and the board is confident that under prevailing economic and political conditions, improved results will be realised in the present financial year. — Sapa.

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es', 'transport', 'medicines', etc. A separa-
ure on different disease groups or age groups

into programmes is an art. Pole, an econo-
of Health, writes:

uld, in my view, be mainly determined
taking of which one wishes it to con-
suggest that where decisions are primarily
or moral judgement - of determining basic
want the activities to be compared to
ogrammes - the mentally handicapped against
the alcoholics; but where it is a more technical question of how particular objectives can best be achieved - drug therapy against behavioural therapy - one would want the activities to be compared to be within a particular programme. This distinction ties up with an economic jargon of slightly older vintage - that of cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness; and through that to the main stream of neoclassical welfare economics, which attempts to make a distinction between the choice of the composition of the basket of outputs and the choice of the set of resources from which each output is to be produced. The former is, in a broad sense, a question of tastes, values, or utilities; the latter is a question of techniques".

He adds:

> "In practice, it is not an easy matter to make a hard and fast distinction between technical matters and matters of values or utilities in the health services. From one point of view, the question whether to treat schizophrenics in hospital or in the community is a technical one. Which is the cheaper way to fulfil whatever are the society's requirements for the treatment of this group? But community care originally became fashionable as a good thing in itself. The practitioners are very apt to muddle the medical and economic arguments when it suits them, and the politicians and administrators equally so when it suits them, but the economist's concern is to keep them separate". [9]

Programme budgeting, then, entails the attempt at this separation, sorting out from the multiplicity of decisions those which can be made on the basis of administrative or economic, together with medical-technical criteria, and those in which the role of the public through political

ives themselves? Can anything be said on the question of the priority to be given to particular diseases or age groups, whether to allocate more to child welfare clinics or care of the aged?

Overall criteria are needed, and they have to be expressed in such a way that they can guide these detailed questions. Essentially, the problem is not only to relate resources used to objectives achieved, but to relate the various objectives to each other.

There are various means of doing this; but all of them require that expenditure be accounted for by the ends it is expected to achieve.

2.1 Programme Budgeting

Programme budgeting, also known as budgeting by objectives, involves the presentation of expenditure data according to the objectives to which it is directed. Thus, projects to combat TB would be grouped together, geriatric problems, sanitation programmes, etc.

This is necessary:

(a) to know the cost of pursuing each objective;

(b) to group together activities with the same objectives which can be compared by cost-effectiveness analysis;

XIV

Red meat crisis is looming, professor warns

A 'Mail' Investigation By BRIAN O'FLAHERTY

SOUTH Africans could face a serious shortage of red meat — and complementary price increase — within the next few years, according to a professor of agricultural economics.

Prof Jan Groenewald, professor of agricultural economics at the University of Pretoria, yesterday said: "I would be very surprised if we do not have a shortage within the next three years."

He outlined a series of factors which could lead to the shortage.

- Sanctions against Zimbabwe Rhodesia — which has in the past exported beef to South Africa during times of shortage — could be expected to be lifted soon, reducing their dependence on possible SA markets.
- The same could happen with South West Africa, with a movement away from South Africa — their prime area for export — to more profitable opportunities on overseas markets.
- Local problems such as the recent drought and a financial crunch on many beef producers, which forced them to leave their farms because they were not able to meet their debts. Farmers would need time to restock their farms after the drought.

Prof Groenewald said: "The (meat farming) industry is facing a crisis to a certain extent. There are indications that a large number of beef ranchers are having serious financial problems.

"The survey by the department showed that the net income — excluding expenses on interest on loans — was just below the debt obligations of these people. So that indicates they are already in a crisis," Prof Groenewald said.

Professor W L Nieuwoudt, professor of agricultural economics at the University of Natal (Maritzburg), said the permit system currently in operation in South Africa pushed up consumer prices artificially and was reducing the supply of cattle.

"Some farmers don't get allocations to sell cattle, and lose. Others do, and stand to gain. But unfortunately some of the allocations are to people who are not farmers. These people receive windfalls and the others don't. Those farmers who get permits are slightly better off, but farmers who don't get permits are worse off than they would be on a free system."

Prof Nieuwoudt said the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Schoeman, had recently called for an increase in beef and other foods.

"But how can you justify a system that restricts the supply of beef? The goal is to produce more food. How can you justify a system that goes the other way?"

Mr Rupert Lorimer, PFP MP for Orange Grove, said: "The farmer is not getting a reasonable return. The consumer is paying far too much and there is far too big a gap between the prices they pay and what the farmer receives.

"Somewhere in the middle it is getting lost and is largely going into the pockets of the large meat combines. Too much is being creamed off by the middleman.

"The South African Agricultural Union has appealed to farmers who have got complaints about the industry to come forward and state their complaints. Many are nervous, rightly or wrongly, that they might be discriminated against if they do. But I urge farmers who have had a rough deal — and there are many of them — to come forward.

"The agricultural union has said if there is sufficient reason they will urge the Minister to go on with the inquiry," Mr Lorimer said.

See Page 13

XV

	M	F	B F
0-1	1,57		0,48
1-4	0,05		0,05
5-24	0,01		0,05
25-44	0,00		0,22
45-64	0,01		0,68
65+	0,02		0,91
ALL	0,04		0,20
NO.	87		329

	W M						B M	
0-1	12,46	9,07	16,92	11,55	29,22	24,78	23,16	22,23
1-4	0,02	0,02	0,02	0,02	0,02	0,04	0,04	0,00
5-24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ALL	0,25	0,17	0,48	0,32	0,83	0,67	0,55	0,67
NO.	519	359	170	113	942	785	1143	1075

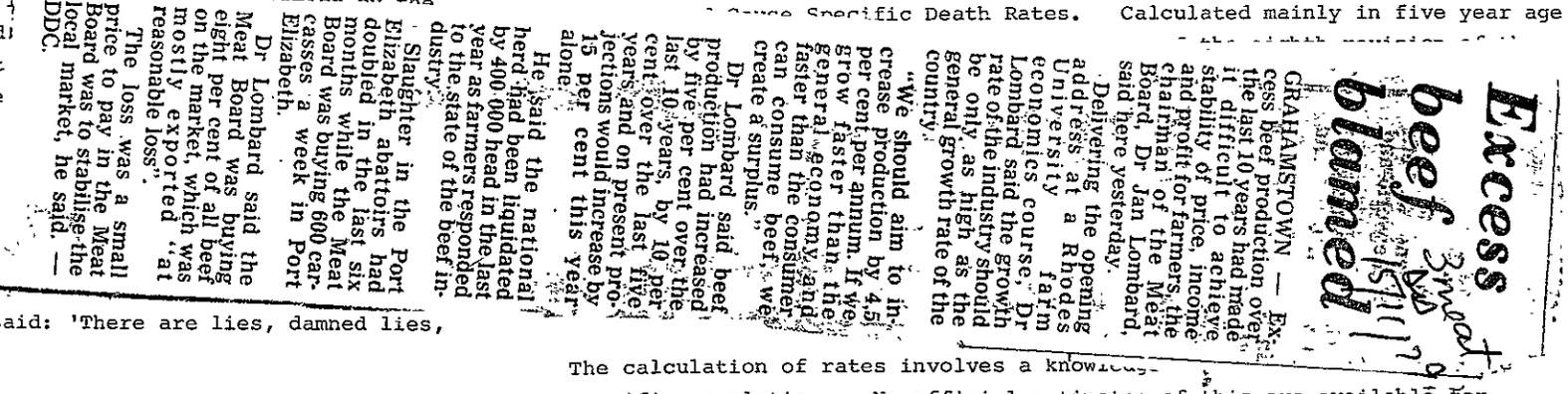
		F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1	0,02	0,03	0,00	0,10	0,25	0,10	0,04	0,06
1-4	0,01	0,01	0,02	0,00	0,12	0,14	0,02	0,04
5-24	0,02	0,01	0,04	0,04	0,02	0,04	0,03	0,02
25-44	0,02	0,05	0,06	0,09	0,17	0,13	0,06	0,08
45-64	0,23	0,19	0,44	0,37	0,36	0,36	0,34	0,25
65+	1,25	1,09	1,07	1,83	1,57	1,10	0,73	0,56
ALL	0,13	0,15	0,11	0,12	0,15	0,14	0,10	0,08
NO.	276	303	38	42	169	165	203	130

rural areas or cause of deaths' according to the Bantu Reference Bureau (Personal Communication). At least 50 000 deaths among Africans were not registered. These occur mainly in the rural areas. It is estimated that about 10% of the deaths in the main urban districts are not registered for Africans.

METHODS

The following indices were calculated:

1. Crude Mortality Rates.
2. Standardised Mortality Rates. Two standard populations were used: England and Wales representing a developed population and Mexico 1960 for a developing one.
3. Cause Specific Death Rates. Calculated mainly in five year age



Excess beef blamed

GRAHAMSTOWN — Excess beef production over the last 10 years had made it difficult to achieve stability of price, income and profit for farmers, the chairman of the Meat Board, Dr Jan Lombard, said here yesterday.

Delivering the opening address at a Rhodes University farm economics course, Dr Lombard said the growth rate of the industry should be only as high as the general growth rate of the country.

"We should aim to increase production by 4,5 per cent per annum. If we grow faster than the general economy and faster than the consumer can consume beef, we create a surplus."

Dr Lombard said beef production had increased by five per cent over the last 10 years, by 10 per cent over the last five years and on present projections would increase by 15 per cent this year alone.

He said the national herd had been liquidated by 400 000 head in the last year as farmers responded to the state of the beef industry.

Slaughter in the Port Elizabeth abattoirs had doubled in the last six months while the Meat Board was buying 600 carcasses a week in Port Elizabeth.

Dr Lombard said the Meat Board was buying eight per cent of all beef on the market, which was mostly exported "at reasonable loss".

The loss was a small price to pay in the Meat Board was to stabilise the local market, he said. — DDC.

The calculation of rates involves a knowledge of the age specific population. No official estimates of this are available for inter-censual years. For whites, Asians and 'coloureds, the 1970 population has been projected forward using the age specific survival rates from 1970 and taking into account the actual births and deaths in the 0-4 age group. Allowance was made for migration.

For Africans, a different procedure was adopted as a population figure for only part of the country was required. The 1970 age distribution[10] by magisterial district was used, the numbers being adjusted by the 1974 gross population estimates by economic region.[11]

DISCUSSION

The crude death rates and the standardised mortality rates for whites, Asians and 'coloureds' and urban Africans are presented in Fig. 1. The interpretation of these figures is confounded by the differences in the underlying structure of the population. The population pyramids of the various groups were pictured in Part I with the exception of the urban Africans, which appears in Fig. 2. This population shows an excess of healthy working males and lack of elderly persons as a result of the migratory labour situation.

The standardised mortality rate provides a single figure for the mortality experience of a population which can only be fully expressed in terms of a series of age specific death rates. The SMR is calculated by multiplying all the age specific mortality rates i[illegible] by the corresponding numbers in the standard[illegible] deaths so obtained and dividing the t[illegible] this figure is independent of the age the choice of the standard populatior the deaths in the various age groups population as a standard will give g weight to deaths among the elderly, [illegible] will reverse the position. The cho[illegible] ranking of the mortality between the[illegible] answer. As the Duke of Wellington said: 'There are lies, damned lies, and statistics'!

Infant mortality rates are summarised in Fig. 3. Once again, difficulty is experienced in obtaining data for Africans. Birth statistics for Africans are not published by the central government. The various medical officers of health[9] have estimated the infant mortality rates for their urban areas. These show considerable variation. (See also ref.15). A mean figure and the range are given in Fig. 2. These de facto figures should be interpreted with caution as sick infants are often brought to the cities from rural areas. An indication of the situation in the rural areas is given by a sample survey carried out in Cape Town and Transkei among Xhosa-speaking Africans.[12] An increase in infant mortality was observed with decreasing urbanisation, the figure for the completely rural areas being of the same magnitude as those parts of the world devoid of medical services. Fig. 4 summarises the age specific mortality rates of

Meat (3)

Now meat chiefs call Press conference

THE South African Meat Board has called a Press conference in Pretoria today to react to mounting allegations of corruption and malpractices in the meat industry.

The decision to call the Press conference was announced by the General Manager of the Meat Board, Dr Jan Lombard, yesterday.

It coincides with a Rand Daily Mail investigation and other disclosures of alleged irregularities in the meat industry in both South Africa and South West Africa.

On the eve of what could become a stormy conference, the Rand Daily Mail has also come into possession of details from a report aimed at rallying small dealers in the industry to fight what is described as the "meat monopoly".

The hard-hitting report calls for dramatic revisions to the South African meat industry and advocates sweeping reforms that could include:

● The establishment of a Rhodesian Cold Storage-type commission to handle the marketing of meat. This would cut out the middlemen, including livestock agents, and streamline the industry.

● Establishing a totally new and practical credit control system that would wipe out the present controls that have drawn retail butchers into debt to the tune of millions of rands to wholesalers.

● Creating a new approach that would prevent wholesalers from tying up indebted retailers — thus eliminating a situation which allows wholesalers to dictate prices.

'Mail' investigation by BRIAN O'FLAHERTY

The report also highlights "overlapping interests" and takes a critical look at the expansion of livestock agents, such as the giant Vleissentraal, into the wholesaling and retailing of meat.

Today's Meat Board Press conference has been called against the backdrop of a Commission of Inquiry in South West Africa into alleged meat industry irregularities. It also comes amid mounting predictions that a serious meat shortage could develop in South Africa in the next few years.

This has been hightlighted by the "Mail" investigation into the South West African meat industry which includes allegations of bribes, a death threat and widespread talk of a faceless "Meat Mafia" manipulating the territory's industry.

Dr Lombard will discuss the South West African Meat Board at the Press conference.

The South African Agricultural Union has said if there was clear evidence of malpractices in the meat marketing system it would ask the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, to appoint a commission of inquiry.

Dr Lombard said in a statement in October that the Meat Board would welcome an inquiry but said the appointment of a judicial commission of inquiry implied irregularities and failure to prove the so-called corruption would be tantamount to libel by the people who had requested the investigation.

● See Page 13

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DARYL BALFOUR continues his m

Call for Schoeman to act on marketing

BOARD STRANGLES F

VLEISSENTRAAL

● A scientific report has deduced that levies by the Meat Board and Abattoir Corporation are pushing up the price of fresh meat.

THE managing director of South Africa's fourth largest meat company has called for the Minister of Agriculture Mr Hendrik Schoeman to act against people interfering with the natural free enterprise marketing system.

Julius Khan, of the giant Kanhym concern, said he was waiting to see what action Mr Schoeman would take over the constitution of the Meat Board.

"Mr Schoeman has already said he was looking at the constitution of the board and that he wants to change it. That was early this year and we're still waiting to see what he'll do," Mr Khan said.

He said he would "very definitely" be in favour of seeing the board changed and added that any change would be good for the industry as a whole.

Mr Kahn said he felt certain people had been on the Meat Board for too long.

"When people stay too long they start to get a bit pale and then it's a good thing to have a change."

Disclosures

The Meat Board has come under fire recently because of Sunday Tribune disclosures that more than half of its 13 members are connected to the industry's own biggest giant, Vleissentraal.

The general manager of the Meat Board, Dr Jan Lombard, has denied that Vleissentraal exerts any influence on the board to favour their own co-op.

In a Press statement last week Dr Lombard said Vleissentraal did not try to influence board decisions and said whenever anything came up which involved their interests they recused themselves from the meeting.

But it is understood that the Vleissentraal men



Hendrik Schoeman

themselves have expressed dissatisfaction with the recusal clause and have tried to have it done away with in the past.

A comprehensive scientific study of the beef industry has challenged the need for a Meat Control Board and an Abattoir Corporation as controlling bodies and claims that levies depushing up the price of fresh meat.

The report also says both the housewife and the farmer are losing out as the farmers' share of rising beef prices decreases while the consumer ends up paying more — with middlemen taking the biggest slice of the profits.

Drastic steps

The 21-page report by George Rautenbach, of Langdraai Farm near Waterpoort in the North Western Transvaal, is based on statistics compiled with the aid of a farmers' study group over 10 years.

Mr Rautenbach says unless drastic steps are taken to improve the producers' share of the market, cattle farmers will not be able to survive — which will have serious long-term effects on the the consumer.

He says unless farmers get a better precentage of what the consumer pays for beef they will have little alternative but to give up farming, increase the size of their herds — thus causing further market congestion — or allow equipment, feeding and pest control to decline.

The report says farmers are already leaving their lands in search of greener pastures in the cities — "a phenomenon causing concern particularly in the areas mos distant from the markets."

Mr Rautenbach says that between 1968 and 1971 farmers received on average about 50 percent of what the consumer paid for meat.

Escalation

But figures show that by 1978 the farmer was only getting 43,3 percent. This dropped to 42,4 percent in 1979 and, he says will drop to about 40 percent by 1981.

He says the escalation in marketing costs is to blame for the decline in farmers' profits but also attacks the industry for the role the Meat Board and Abattoir Corporation play.

He maintains there is no need to have two boards governing the meat industry.

"It would be interesting to study the debits raised against both producer and consumer by each of these boards," he says.

Mr Rautenbach says

'Bulldog' is SWA farmers' best friend

IN South West Africa he's known as The Bulldog.

Fearless, tenacious and determined to root out all the evil in the SWA meat industry, Hans Greyling, former Johannesburg regional court magistrate, now magistrate for Luderitz, is a true South West son.

The Bulldog, as he's affectionately known among the farmers, has dedicated himself to his task of probing every nook and cranny of the multi-million rand meat trade with a zeal nobody dared hope for.

Today Mr Greyling, the officer leading evidence before the Commission of Inquiry into Allegations of Malpractices in the Meat Industry in South West Africa, has uncovered more discontent, corruption and irregularities in the industry than anybody thought possible.

To some farmers in SWA the industry was a closed shop — the meat industry ruled supreme. Nobody would ever break its control.

They hadn't banked on the Bulldog though.

Appointed to the commission in July, Hans Greyling set about investigating every aspect of the industry, every complaint of the farmers, every vague hint of irregularities.

Last month, when the Commission reconvened for the second sitting, he told them he had found SWA farmers feared the Meat Board more than the Swapo terrorists.

He said he found it was virtually impossible for the smaller farmer to make any kind of living because of restraints and controls exercised by the Meat Board.

And he said investigations had shown that the Meat Board records — on which farmers' destinies depended — were in total chaos, disarray and incorrect.

Mention the name Greyling to any beef farmer in South West today and you'll get an instant grin — despite the economic hardships they're facing.

The farmers say that if Mr Greyling gets his way they may again have more of a future in this troubled land.

Today Mr Greyling looks haggard and tired. The pressures of the inquiry hang heavily on him and now he's planning a holiday for a few weeks before the Commission reconvenes in late January or early February.

"I'm going to hitch up the caravan and take my wife and kids a few hundred kilometres down the coast from Luderitz and just relax," he says.

For the Bulldog the meat inquiry has been one of the greatest challenges of his life — and the hardest job he's ever tackled.

3 meat

eat industry investigation

Report shows present system is crippling producers and consumers

ARMERS...

there should be an investigation into the extent in which producers are directly represented on the Meat Board and "not by paid or directors-fee drawing co-operative society members."

The Sunday Tribune disclosed in October that more than half of the Meat Board members were directors of the giant Vleissentraal co-op or its affiliates.

Mr Rautenbach's study also points out that in the 10-year period up to 1978 the price of beef to the consumer increased by 130 percent while the farmers' share increased by only 88 percent. while the farmers' housewife paid 148,5 percent more than she did in 1968, the report claims.

He says the consumer and the producer are being exploited because prices are increased to the consumer "in small doses which only become significant over a period of time."

The report says the position in the beef industry is causing great despondency among farmers.

"The effect of this, in some cases is bankruptcy, desertion of farms and the forced move to greener pastures — invariably once all funds have been exhausted."

FARMERS WILLING TO PAY R1000 A PERMIT

PERMITS to market their cattle are worth at least R1 000 to farmers — and when they are desperate they'll pay that without flinching.

That's the opinion of two major beef producers — one from Keetmanshoop in South West Africa and another from Marquard in the Orange Free State.

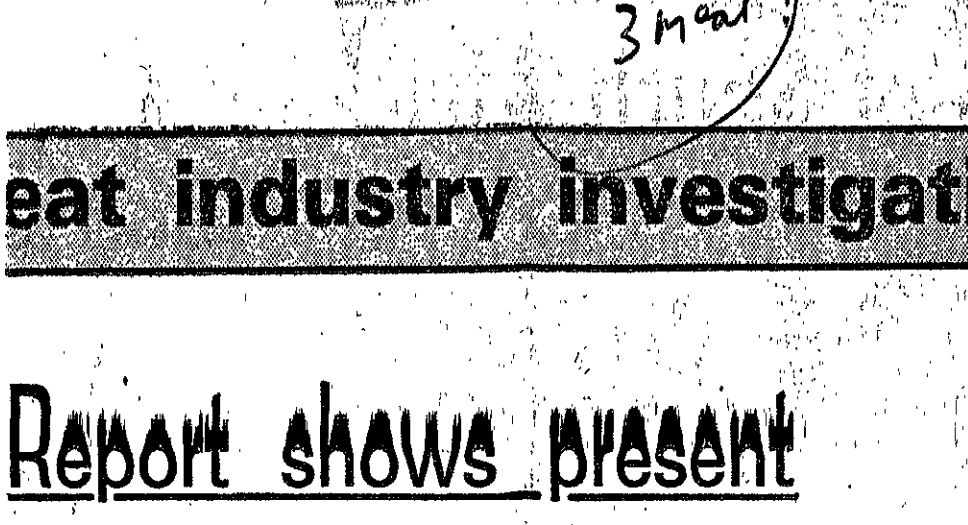
"We would pay R1 000 for a permit if we could find the right person. And it seems like we just didn't know who to approach," the Keetmanshoop farmer said.

Abuse

The Keetmanshoop farmer, who asked not to be identified, said he and his father had been trying to sell their herd of 250 cattle for more than a year but could not get permits.

Professor Jan Groeneveld, head of the Department of Agricultural Economics at Pretoria University, said the Meat board's permit system "is certainly open to abuse".

"I'm not saying it is abused, but it's a system that can be abused and there are certainly enough complaints from farmers to warrant an investigation," he said.



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Melt honey and ...
over hot cake be...
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NUT CAKE

4 eggs
¼ lb sugar
¼ lb ground almonds (or hazelnuts)
½ t baking powder
½ T flour
¼ grated lemon (skin & lemon)

Beat yolks with sugar until creamy, then add nuts, flour, baking powder and lemon. Fold in stiffly-beaten egg-whites. Bake at 350°F for ½ hour.

Serve with whipped cream.


Meat Board man murdered?
3 meat
BY BRIAN O'FLAHERTY
SOUTH West African police
Board, said he was shocked
at the murder suggestion.
"On Monday he left for
work at the normal time.
He went to the Post Office
and on to one of the Brits
where and left the office. He said
he'd be back, she said.
He never
came back. His hands
were in-
dicative of suicide.
"At this stage we are in-
clined to treat the man's mur-
dered or not whether he was
Vestigating a death with in-
Dis-
yes-
terday "At this stage
Mr Heydenrych's
wife
said
Mr
had not believe her husband
she did
Asked last week about the
band had killed himself,
she
replied "It is an absolute lie,
Mr Andries Prefontius
chairman of the SWA Meat

Argus

4/12/79

MEAT (3)

Farmers and Meat Board clash on permits

MORE than 300 Western Cape sheep farmers gave the assistant general manager of the Meat Board, Mr Jan Wink, a torrid time when he addressed them at a meeting in Malmesbury.

The meeting was held last week to explain the switchover from the old quota system to the permit scheme for the slaughtering of sheep.

The farmers — representing 23 agricultural unions — accused the Cape Town regional offices of the board of being 'slow and slack' in the issuing of permits.

The board, in turn, accused farmers of submitting false information in their applications for permits to send stock to the abattoirs.

AGREED

At the end of the stormy meeting, it was agreed that the local offices of the Meat Board would improve its operations — particularly when it came to issuing of permits.

One representative from Bredasdorp-Caledon said farmers in his area had not yet received their permits for December and January.

INSIDE MAIL

Big 4's stranglehold

SA was warned it was bad

IN MARCH last year the National Marketing Council — a body appointed by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman — issued a report based on an 18-month-long, R30 000 investigation of South Africa's meat industry. The report proposed sweeping changes but some of its recommendations were never implemented. It warned, however, that the degree of control exercised by the major meat organisations was "a potential danger for the future". BRIAN O'FLAHERTY reports.

AS EARLY as 1976 South Africa's meat industry was "dominated greatly" by three or four large organisations and this concentration was a "potential danger for the future".

This warning was contained in a report issued by the National Marketing Council in March last year after an 18-month investigation into the meat industry.

The report advocated sweeping changes in the meat industry, but the Rand Daily Mail has learnt that some of the recommendations were not implemented because the Meat Board and the South African Agricultural Union objected to them.

The three main organisations were not named, but they can be clearly identified as Vleissentraal, Imperial Cold Storage and Asokor.

Their tentacles reach out from a "dominant role" in the abattoir agencies and the marketing of hides and skins, through wholesaleing and meat processing, to retail butcheries and butcheries in departmental stores.

In its report the council said it appeared from its investigation that there already was a "high degree of concentration and vertical integration in the meat industry" because these functions were greatly dominated by three organisations.

It said it was convinced that in a few instances integration had been artificially stimulated by restrictive Meat Board policies.

It said integration in the industry had contributed substantially to its recommendation that restrictions on registration of trade bodies be abolished.

The council dealt with the concentration in four sections:

● **Abattoir Agencies.** The report said the four largest organisations and their affiliates handled the vast majority of cattle and sheep in South Africa's nine controlled meat markets in 1975 and 1976, and gave comparative figures for the numbers handled by the remaining — about 18 — independent agencies.

The table below shows the percentage of sheep and cattle slaughtered in the controlled areas by the two groups.

1975	Sheep	Cattle
Big 4 and affiliates	89,9%	79,3%
Independents	10,1%	20,7%
1976		
Big 4 and affiliates	88,8%	79,1%
Independents	11,2%	20,9%

The report said: "In addition the agencies in which the four big organisations have interests operated in all nine controlled areas, while the smaller ones limited their activities exclusively to a single controlled area."

● **Wholesalers.** The council said three of the four big organisations were also dominant in the wholesaling of meat.

"For example the wholesalers which are allied to these three organisations took up a total of 54,1% of all mutton and lamb and 62,4% of all beef sold by auction in controlled areas in 1976."

The council said that as far as it could establish there was no overall information on the total turnover of the meat processing industry — except in the case of single undertakings.

"Experts in the industry, however, informed the Marketing Council that according to their observations the three or four largest organisations might control as much as 80% of the total production.

"Especially in the area of canning, the concentration is high and some of the organisations, which are strong in the agency and wholesaling business, are stronger in this area."

● **Retail butcheries.** The same three organisations which were dominant in wholesaling were also "very active" in the retailing of meat.

The council said that in August 1976, the three organisations owned 484 (or 25,8%) of the 1 873 white retail butcheries in controlled areas. They also controlled a number of butcheries in uncontrolled areas.

"Of the 391 retail butcheries in the department stores in the controlled areas, 276 (or 70,6%) belong to the three organisations and of the 1 482 white conventional retail butcheries in controlled areas 208 (or 14%) belong to these organisations."

In its summary the council said: "Although the degree of integration is lower in the retail trade than in the other sectors of the meat industry, the situation is also not reassuring.

"Butcheries in department stores are to a large extent controlled by a few meat wholesalers and in the opinion of the Marketing Council this is definitely to the detriment of healthy competition."

● **Hides and skins.** Three of the four organisations also had interests in dressers, brokers and exporters of hides and skins. In addition, some of these organisations had interests in organisations which produced hides and skins.

The council said in its summary: "The situation as regards the curing and marketing of hides and skins is particularly worrying, because freshly flayed hides and skins from slaughterings in controlled areas automatically become the property of the abattoir agents and their subsidiaries.

"... this must of necessity have an adverse effect on the degree of competition for these hides and skins."

The council said the integration and concentration of interests in the hide and skin industry had contributed to unsatisfactory competition and price formation.

"This, in turn, makes it difficult to determine producer prices for the freshly flayed product."

The council recommended steps to extend competition and to eliminate problems in determining producer prices.

Summing up, the council said: "In general the Marketing Council has not found it possible to determine if this high degree of integration and concentration has had any adverse effect on the effective functioning of the different factors in the meat industry, and therefore on the price structure of meat and its by-products.

"The council feels, however, that this is a potential danger for the future.

"It is also difficult to determine to what extent the Meat Board's policy of restrictive registration has encouraged or facilitated the tendency towards integration and concentration in the meat industry.

"There is a strong tendency towards concentration of interests in almost all sectors of the economy and the Marketing Council believes that the meat industry is no exception. A degree of integration would in all probability have taken place anyway.

"There can normally be no objections to this, provided it is based on sound economic considerations and does not create a harmful monopolistic or quasi-monopolistic situation through statutory measures."

The council said integration should not be artificially stimulated but it was "convinced that this has been the case in a few instances".

"The Meat Board's policy that freshly flayed hides and skins in the controlled areas automatically become the property of the abattoir agents has, in the opinion of the Marketing Council, contributed substantially to the high degree of integration in this field.

"In the same way the Meat Board's policy of allocating butcheries in department stores mainly to vested interests in the meat industry rather than to the department stores themselves has contributed to the dominant control which a handful of organisations have in these butcheries and therefore also indirectly to their strong position in the wholesale meat trade."

The council said this adversely affected "healthy competition" and recommended a change in policy.

RD 4/1

3 Meat

Other contributors (e.g. Adler, Vol.2) would regard the nature of the economic system, rather than the legal structure of apartheid as the root cause of the 'Inverse Care Law', as it is apparent to some degree throughou the third world and in most 'western' societies. Both Adler and Savage, although not denying the need for medical reforms, regard these as inseparable from changes in the wider social structure if they are to be effective.

2.2 Public or Private : The Options

The debate on what has come to be called 'socialised medicine' concerns which method of health care provision is most *efficient* and which best satisfies the condition of *equity*. Efficiency, in the economic sense,

6

160-page, R30 000 meat industry report stalled

RDM 4/12/79 (3 Meat)

the SAAU were interviewed during the investigation. The source said the two organisations were against the recommendations from the start.

The report recommended that:

- The allocation of export quotas be taken away from the Meat Board and handed over to the Department of Agriculture. It said there had been criticism of the board's handling of the quotas because of its composition.
- Floor prices — set to give producers a minimum guaranteed price for their meat — be set at lower levels to allow for seasonal price fluctuations and that they should serve only as a protection against abnormal price plunges.

The council said it had come to the conclusion that the system was not a suitable method for reducing short-term price fluctuations or for the encouragement or discouragement of production.

The floor price is the starting point for retail prices and lower floor prices could mean cheaper meat for the consumer.

The report also recommended the abolition of restrictive registration of retail butchers, the wholesale trade, meat processing factories and hide-and-skin curers and brokers. Only control over certain aspects — such as prescribing from which source meat could be obtained — should be kept.

"From its analyses the Marketing Council had no option but to conclude that, however well meant, the disadvantages of restrictive registration far outweigh its possible advantages."

The council said the degree of integration and concentration in the industry had "contributed substantially" to this

From Page 1

recommendation.

It said the Meat Board's argument for retaining the restrictive registration "rested on the assumption" that that fewer bodies with a higher turnover helped to keep distribution costs lower.

The council was not convinced that the policy kept the number of units down.

"On the contrary, judging by the extent to which protection has been granted to existing units and the extent to which the competitive climate has consequently deteriorated, it is more than likely that the replacement of uneconomical units has been delayed by this policy. There is also little if any proof of restrictive registration having a stabilising affect."

The council also said it felt the spread by three large meat organisations into most sectors of the industry was "a potential danger for the future".

Other recommendations were:

- The scrapping of the support price system. This system is imposed by the Meat Board to stop prices at meat auctions dropping too low. It sets a limit in cents per kg on how much prices can drop in a day or a week. If prices plunge below the new bottom line, the board buys up the meat.
- The lifting of controls over meat markets in East London, Bloemfontein, Kimberley and Pretoria as well as the abattoirs in Benoni, Springs and Krugersdorp. This would save costs to the board and result in a more even supply of meat and more stable prices.

The report was issued in March last year by the National Marketing Council. The council consists of senior civil servants and farmers appointed by Mr Schoeman.

A former Secretary for Agricultural Economics and Marketing, Dr Claude van der Merwe, was appointed to aid the investigation.

Mr Schoeman said there had been two main points of difference — removal of restrictive registration on retail butchers and the marketing of hides and skins.

These points had been referred back to the council. Other proposals had been implemented

He said the support price scheme had not been in operation for two years but it might be re-implemented. "We only have the floor price system at the moment. There is no use doing away with something that is not being used

Commenting on the recommended change in export quotas, he said: "We can't export meat. The consumers don't want us to export It would create a tremendous shortage and the Common Market countries ask for a levy of R1,20 a kilo.

"Nobody is prepared to export under these conditions. The consumer would pay double the price for meat."

He said the report made no recommendations about integration in the meat industry although it said it was a "potential danger for the future".

"It only points out that it might be overdone. It didn't recommend that we shouldn't have this."

Asked about the claim that the report had been pigeonholed, Mr Schoeman said: "The recommendations can't alter anything in the situation. I look at the whole industry to see what is best for the industry."

See Page 15

Meat bosses stall on the R30 000 report

RDM 4/12/79 (3 Meat)

By BRIAN O'FLAHERTY

THE Meat Board and the South African Agricultural Union last year stalled a report by a Government body which recommended sweeping changes in South Africa's meat industry.

The 160-page report — by the National Marketing Council — came after an 18-month, R30 000 investigation into the country's meat marketing.

Last night the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, said he would take another look at the report in view of recent criticism levelled at the meat industry.

In response to questions from the Rand Daily Mail, Mr Schoeman said: "I am busy looking at the whole meat industry. I want the co-operation of the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU). I want to take them with me on certain proposals. I will consult with the meat committees of the four provincial unions."

A senior official in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Marketing has told the "Mail" that the National Marketing Council report was accepted by Mr Schoeman and his department, but some of its recommendations were not implemented because the Meat Board and the SAAU opposed them.

One source on the investigation team told the Rand Daily Mail that he believed the report had been "pigeon-holed".

The official said: "When a statement was made that the recommendations would be implemented the Meat Board, the SAAU and the Master Butchers' Association said they were against some of the recommendations."

Page 15

units has been delayed by this placement of uneconomical more than likely that the re- consequently deteriorated, it is the competitive climate has units and the extent to which been granted to existing

Report 'confidential' — but Meat Board lifts lid a little

By BRIAN O'FLAHERTY

THE massive Marketing Council report which recommended drastic changes in the South African meat industry is considered "confidential" by the Meat Board — along with the board's reasons for opposing the recommendations.

Asked last week to outline the board's opposition to the recommendations, a spokesman said: "The report from the National Marketing Council was a confidential report. The Meat Board's comments on it are naturally also confidential.

"The board feels that it was a confidential report back to the Minister. It is for the Minister or the Marketing Council to make any announcement on the report."

But he listed a few main points the board opposed:

- The removal of registration regulations — "The Meat Board feels that there must be limits on registration otherwise there will be many hazards in the industry."
- Fixing of floor prices at conservative levels — "The board assured them that they were being fixed at conservative levels."
- Lifting control in some areas — "The Meat Board is convinced there must be nine controlled areas."

The South African Agricultural Union's reasons for opposing some of the recommendations were outlined by its commodity officer for beef, Mr Jan van der Walt.

"We commented on the report quite extensively. We accepted a few recommendations but there were some we were totally against."

He said one of the SAAU's main reservations was over the recommendation that control in some areas be lifted.

"These areas are not controlled for the sake of control. In controlled markets producers have maximum protection because of the floor price system.

"Beef has a longterm production cycle — you can't produce it quickly — and you need assurance of a minimum price for the farmer. This minimum price isn't necessarily an economic price but at least it is something.

"In controlled areas the meat is graded and weighed, you have auction sales and the maximum floor price. In uncontrolled areas it is sold just as something on four legs. You find out what you bought after the auctions.

"Our view through the years is that we would rather the control be extended to other markets, such as the Vaal Triangle and the Free State gold fields."

Mr Van der Walt said the SAAU also opposed the recommendation that floor prices be lowered so that producers would immediately hold back supplies, retaining the balance between supply and demand.

"You can't have such a discouraging up-and-down business in a commodity where you have a longterm production cycle. In the long run it would not be in the interest of the consumer or the producer.

"We want the floor price to act as an incentive in the future. We need to encourage production, rather than import beef at tremendous cost in the future."

Mr Van der Walt said the SAAU opposed a recommendation that the allocation of export quotas be taken away from the Meat Board and handed over to the Department of Agriculture.

"We say that the Meat Board is in the know all the time . . . it has its finger on the pulse of the industry. They know best — how, where and what to issue."

Mr Van der Walt said the SAAU regarded integration and concentration in the industry as a normal business development, with successful firms taking over others.

"We said we find it a normal development as long as monopolistic tendencies are checked. We don't necessarily see it as a threat or something improper."

A spokesman for the Master Butchers' Association said the association opposed the removal of restrictive registration because "it would open the trade to all and sundry", reducing the profitability of each outlet. It would not increase the consumption of red meat.

"It would prejudice the small dealer. Unsavoury elements would try to get into the trade while the Meat Board is trying to raise the standard to the industry selling red meat.

"Only the consumer would suffer.

"We would rather have control on registration until the board has criteria to judge on — that a person must have been in the trade for some time, that he has the capital. We have found that without capital a butcher buys on credit and becomes tied up to the wholesalers."

Butchers blame Meat Board for price rise

Staff Reporter

BLAME for the present sharp rise in meat prices was placed on the shoulders of the Meat Board by a number of Cape Town butchers.

The board must have forseen the present increase in consumption (owing to the holiday season), and should have taken steps to step up slaughtering to cope with it, a city butcher, Mr M Berman, said yesterday.

"It's a crazy situation. On the one hand the board is spending vast amounts of money advertising meat, but on the other hand there isn't going to be enough meat to go around during the holiday season this year," he said.

There was no reason why the production rate at the abattoir could not be stepped up in October and November, and the carcasses stored in cold storage until the peak season began.

"Some people say there is no demand for frozen meat, but the idea is not to freeze it, just to chill it like the Rhodesian meat which was brought down recently", he said.

Chilled or even frozen meat was better than astronomically-expensive fresh meat.

Another retail butcher said there was no reason why the abattoir could not work shifts in order to step up production.

He was of the opinion that the demand for good meat over the hoiday season was such that the supply should be increased "by quite a bit".

"The problem you have at the moment is that people won't buy meat which is too expensive, and then they might tend to eat less and less after the season. Once people have done without meat for a few days a week they don't want as much anymore," a Sea Point butcher said.

…aber of the company to whom …e is sent before or after receipt

…resaid because it was received …cerned may (without prejudice …ons be read at the meeting.

… and the representations need …he company or of any other …e the rights conferred by this …matory matter.

…d other person's costs on an …art by the director concerned, …

…iving a person removed there- …him in respect of the termina- …minating with that of director …hich may exist apart from this …

…d Certain Acts

… capital.—(1) Notwithstanding …ctors of a company shall not …out the prior approval of the company in general meeting.

(2) Any such approval may be in the form of a general authority to the directors, whether conditional or unconditional, to allot or issue any shares in their discretion, or in the form of a specific authority in respect of a particular allotment or issue of shares.

(3) If any such approval is given in the form of a general authority to the directors, it shall be valid only until the next annual general meeting of the company but it may be varied or revoked by any general meeting of the company prior to such annual general meeting.

(4) Any director of a company who knowingly takes part in the allotment or issue of any shares in contravention of subsection (1), shall be liable to compensate the company for any loss, damages or costs which the company may have sustained or incurred thereby, but no proceedings to recover any such loss, damages or costs shall be commenced after the expiration of two years from the date of the allotment or issue.

222. Restriction on issue of shares and debentures to directors.—(1) No provision in any memorandum or articles or in any resolution of a company authorizing the directors to allot or issue any shares or debentures convertible into shares of the company at the discretion of the directors, shall authorize the allotment or issue of any such shares or debentures to any director of the company or his nominee, or to any body corporate which is or the directors of which are accustomed to act in accordance with the directions or instructions of such director or nominee, or at a general meeting of which such director or his nominee is entitled to exercise or control the exercise of one fifth or more of the voting power, or to any subsidiary of such body corporate unless—

(*a*) the particular allotment or issue has prior to the allotment or issue been specifically approved by the company in general meeting; or

12/6/80 AR 445

Meat ban: 'No effect' on abattoir

THE meat boycott has had 'no noticeable effect' on killings at the Maitland abattoir and quotas have continued to be met.

The acting director of the abattoir, Dr W W van Heerden, said today the boycott, which is into its third week, had had no effect on slaughtering at the abattoir.

He said farmers were still sending livestock for slaughtering and the flow was influenced only by price. The daily quota of 5 000 animals was still being met.

The branch manager of the Meat Board in Cape Town said he also had not seen any change in the turnover of meat during the boycott.

'As far as I can see it is having no effect at all. The abattoir is killing as normal and farmers are still sending their animals for slaughter at the same rate.'

The red meat boycott is in support of 800 striking meat industry workers.

Beef prices go up by the week

3 meat Star. 19/12/79.

Fair Deal Reporter

Market prices of beef have jumped by nearly 30 percent in the past six weeks.

The Meat Board today said there was no beef shortage. A spokesman told Fair Deal that meat prices usually increased at this time of the year because of high demand and fewer slaughtering days.

He said today that Johannesburg's City Deep and other abattoirs were slaughtering at full capacity.

Average prices of super beef have jumped about 29 percent since the beginning of November.

In the week ending November 2, the average price for super beef at City Deep was 120,9c a kg. In the week ending November 30, prices ranged from 124,4c a kg to 129c a kg.

On Friday, December 14, the average price of super beef was 144,8c a kg. And yesterday the average price was 156,1c a kg.

The average price of Prime A beef in the week ending November 2 was 121c a kg. In the last week of November prices ranged from 124,3c a kg to 128,4c a kg. Yesterday the average price of Prime A beef was 154c a kg — 27 percent higher than just over six weeks ago.

Prices of Prime B beef have jumped about 24 percent since the beginning of November. In the week ending November 2, the average price of Prime B beef at City Deep was 117,6c a kg. In the last week of November, average prices ranged from 120,7c a kg to 123,3c a kg.

Yesterday, the average price for Prime B beef was 149,7c a kg.

The Meat Board spokesman said the market prices reached for super beef in Johannesburg and Cape Town yesterday were the highest ever in these areas. In Cape Town, the average market price of super beef yesterday was 158,3c a kg, he said.

A leading Johannesburg butcher said wholesale prices of super beef were between R1,59 and R1,62 a kg today, and prime beef between R1,56 and R1,61.

In his stores, rump steak was selling at R4,48 a kg and topside at R3,34 a kg.

(a) Neglect of preventive medicine by most practitioners and inadequate budgetary provision for it. Savage also notes the excessive expenditure on cure.

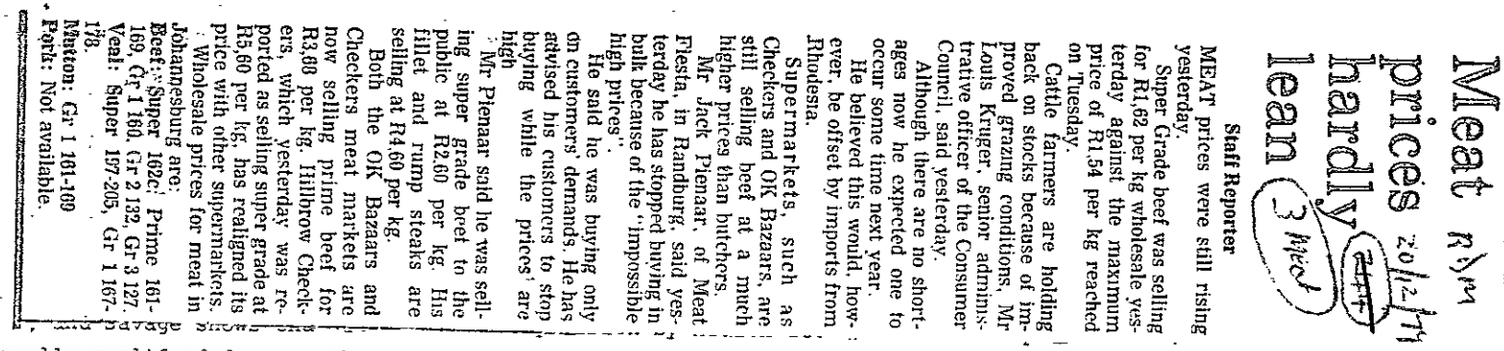
(b) Both also note the maldistribution of doctors and health services. Kirsch describes this in geographical terms, and in terms of inappropriate institutions. He notes the concentration of doctors throughout the world in urban areas. Savage describes this as a concentration in South Africa on the needs of the white and urban populations; but he also implicitly recognises an international dimension when he notes the applicability to South Africa of the 'Inverse Care Law' originally described by Hart, as it appears in Britain; 'the availability of good medical care tends to vary inversely with the need of the population served'.[5]

(c) Inappropriate institutions, particularly 'disease palaces' are associated with this geographical bias and partly responsible for both the urban- and disease-orientation of the

Savage discusses two further problems with

(d) weakly developed ancillary services opthalmic services are not easily availabl tion; pharmacies are absent in African to health visitors are few. Services for th elderly are also scarce, particularly for

(e) South African medicine is deeply perm apartheid, with duplication of training fa differentials are aggravating to black st



Meat prices hardly lean

Staff Reporter

MEAT prices were still rising yesterday.

Super Grade beef was selling for R1,62 per kg wholesale yesterday against the maximum price of R1,54 per kg reached on Tuesday.

Cattle farmers are holding back on stocks because of improved grazing conditions, Mr Louis Kruger, senior administrative officer of the Consumer Council, said yesterday.

Although there are no shortages now he expected one to occur some time next year.

He believed this would, however, be offset by imports from Rhodesia.

Supermarkets, such as Checkers and OK Bazaars, are still selling beef at a much higher prices than butchers.

Mr Jack Pienaar, of Meat Fiesta, in Randburg, said yesterday he has stopped buying in bulk because of the "impossible high prices".

He said he was buying only on customers' demands. He has advised his customers to stop buying while the prices are high.

Mr Pienaar said he was selling super grade bret to the public at R2.60 per kg. His fillet and rump steaks are selling at R4.60 per kg.

Both the OK Bazaars and Checkers meat markets are now selling prime beef for R3,60 per kg. Hillbrow Checkers, which yesterday was reported as selling super grade at R3,60 per kg, has realigned its price with other supermarkets.

Wholesale prices for meat in Johannesburg are:

Beef: Super 162c; Prime 161-169, Gr 1 160, Gr 2 132, Gr 3 127.

Veal: Super 197-205, Gr 1 167-178.

Mutton: Gr 1 161-169

Pork: Not available.

would cost only R1,4 million p.a. to pay equally qualified doctors the same salary, and R4,2 million p.a. to give equally qualified nurses the same pay.

Savage, however, differs considerably from Kirsch on the tractability of these problems. He attributes the misallocation of resources in the health sector to interests than to ideas, and points out that this misallocation affects society as a whole and not merely the medical profession. He criticises those who, like Illich, believe that one can change the behaviour of individuals without altering the behaviour of the system, and shows that the maldistribution of doctors is a mirror of the maldistribution of resources in society. He sees the need for doctors to become involved in 'combating the health-denying aspects of apartheid in order to promote effective medicine'.

Other contributors (e.g. Adler, Vol.2) would regard the nature of the economic system, rather than the legal structure of apartheid as the root cause of the 'Inverse Care Law', as it is apparent to some degree through the third world and in most 'western' societies. Both Adler and Savage, although not denying the need for medical reforms, regard these as inseparable from changes in the wider social structure if they are to be effective.

2.2 Public or Private : The Options

The debate on what has come to be called 'socialised medicine' concerns which method of health care provision is most *efficient* and which best satisfies the condition of *equity*. Efficiency, in the economic sense, is taken to mean that there can be no change which will make one person better off without making another worse off. If one can, by reorganisat

The free market position is argued by Rees (*27): If a good or service can be bought and sold between individuals, and all relevant costs and benefits are taken into account in the market transactions without spilling over to outsiders (excludability), and there are no economies of scale,[6] then individual preferences as expressed through their purchasing power can be met efficiently when the good is distributed through a free market so that neither can alter the price on their own, and no combination of buyers or sellers exists that can influence the price to their own advantage. In addition, there must be no information constraints on buyers and sellers. If these conditions are fulfilled, private provision will be efficient, although the possibility of efficient allocation may also exist under other conditions. The advantage of a private market are generally taken to be the minimal need for information transmission before an efficient distribution can be reached.

Call for 'meat bonanza' inquiry

RDM 21/12/79 (3 meat) (244)

Staff Reporter

THE annual "meat bonanza" over the Christmas season should be added to the investigation of the meat trade, says Mrs Joy Hurwitz, the national president of the Housewives' League.

Mrs Hurwitz commented on the high — and still rising — price of meat in Johannesburg yesterday.

She said the price had gone up by 30% in the past six weeks. It appeared big supermarkets and small butchers had been able to hold the price down, but they could not afford to do so for long, Mrs Hurwitz warned.

She said their prices had increased by only 8% to 14% in the same period.

"It is high time this annual bonanza for some people in the meat trade is investigated as there is an ample supply of beef which the wholesale trade appears to be buying and yet many butchers cannot buy it."

Mrs Hurwitz asked if the auction system was a farce, if wholesalers were taking too big a markup or if the high prices was an effort to squeeze the small butcher out of the trade.

"We strongly advise the Minister to add this to his investigation of the meat trade."

Mrs Hurwitz said it was impractical to expect consumers to buy their Christmas meat in November as many did not have deep freezes.

● Wholesalers bought Super Grade beef for R1,69 per kg yesterday. This constitutes a rise of 15c per kg from Tuesday.

II NEOPLASMS

	W		A		C		B	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1	0,17	0,13	0,00	0,21	0,06	0,16	0,04	0,06
1-4	0,03	0,07	0,07	0,00	0,07	0,05	0,03	0,04
5-24	0,09	0,05	0,07	0,05	0,06	0,04	0,05	0,04
25-44	0,26	0,33	0,21	0,26	0,54	0,56	0,34	0,36
45-64	3,01	2.58	1.47	2.19	5.10	2.68	2.32	1.91
65+	12,2							
ALL	1,4							
NO.	292							

TABLE I

MORTALITY RATES FOR THE 17 MAJOR DIVISIONS OF THE ICD (8th REVISION)

(Note: There are no tables for divisions V, XI, XII, XIII because of the small numbers in each of these categories).

III

	W		A		C		B	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1	0,09	0,05	0,06	0,21	2,27	1,68	2,31	1,96
1-4	0,03	0,01	0,00	0,05	1,27	1,08	1,02	1,29
5-24	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,02	0,02
25-44	0,02	0,02	0,08	0,08	0,08	0,05	0,06	0,07
45-64	0,09	0,12	0,39	0,88	0,28	0,42	0,24	0,61
65+	0,39	0,59	1,61	2,59	0,81	1,28	1,04	1,44
ALL	0,05	0,08	0,12	0,18	0,28	0,26	0,22	0,33
No.	114	173	43	63	316	307	455	530

45-64	0,25	0,13	0,75	0,45	3,30	1,37	2,15	1,27
65+	1,04	0,72	1,61	1,98	5,48	2,78	5,45	2,93
ALL	0,19	0,15	0,56	0,45	3,33	2,69	1,66	1,61
NO.	399	315	198	159	3792	3146	3472	2593

Sunday Post 21/12/69

Jo'burg beef price at record level

Fair Deal Reporter

Johannesburg market prices of beef, which reached record levels on Tuesday, leaped even higher yesterday.

The average price of super beef at Johannesburg's City Deep abattoir yesterday was 167,2c a kg.

On Tuesday, the average price was 156,1c a kg — about 29 percent higher than average prices at the beginning of November. In the week ending November 2, the average price for super beef at City Deep was 120,9c a kg.

A spokesman for the Meat Board said on Wednesday the market prices reached in Johannesburg the day before for super beef were the highest ever in these areas.

Another Meat Board spokesman said today the increase in the price of meat was purely due to demand. He said the abattoirs were slaughtering overtime and at a higher rate than last year so there was no shortage of meat.

He said he could not comment on a call made by Mrs Joy Hurwitz, national president of the Housewives' League for an official inquiry into the high increase in the price of meat during the Christmas season.

Other grades of beef have also jumped in price this week.

Meat prices jump 30 pc

Meat prices rocketed to record heights at the Johannesburg abattoir yesterday. Rump is being sold at R5,54 a kg — in October the price was R3,85 a kg.

The unprecedented leap, more than 30 percent since last month has been attributed to high demand and the short slaughtering week of only three days.

A spokesman for the Meat Board said it was about time consumers realised that the days of cheap meat were over and even if the situation stabilised, meat prices would not come down much.

"If the farmer sells super beef at R1,50 a kg, he is not making any profit as this merely covers his production costs," the spokesman said. "Consumers have to be realistic about meat prices."

He agreed that the farmers were "definitely benefiting" from the rise, but added that their rewards were "long overdue."

Butchers and supermarket representatives were not so happy about the increases, however, saying that huge increases would price meat out of the reach of a large section of the buying public.

One butcher said the blame could not be placed on wholesalers.

He added, however, that the present prices were "cruel" and a situation was arising where three major meat distributors were concerning the market, and could create a monopoly.

Meat prices remain elevated

RDM 29/12/79

3 Meat

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Staff Reporter

MEAT prices remained high at Reef abattoirs yesterday.

The prices at the City Deep Abattoirs yesterday were lower than before Christmas, but still high compared to the year's average.

The prices of super beef went as high as R1.84 per kg. This is 33% higher than the November price.

The price of lamb and mutton was almost unchanged, with super lamb fetching up to R2,35 a kg.

The price of pork has gone up since November when a shortage of pigs pushed the price up to an all time high of R1,62 akg.

Yesterday the same grade of meat was sold for up to R1,76 a kg.

Mr Eugene Roelofse, the consumer ombudsman for the South African Council of Churches said yesterday: "The Meat Board know this time of year is a peak period and they should be able to plan ahead. They do not seem to cater for peak demand periods."

The price of poultry is up about 15% on last year according to a spokesman for a large poultry wholesaler.

The price of chicken is now between R1,20 and R1,35 a kg and the price last year at this time was between R1 15 and R1,25 a kg.

"The demand for chickens is very high at this time of year and the cycle of availability is at its lowest," the spokesman said.

Yesterday's abottoir prices were:

Beef: Super and prime grade up to R1,82 a kg; first grade up to R1,79 a kg; second grade up to R1,42 a kg.

Lamb: Super grade up to R2,35 a kg; first grade up to R2,25.

Mutton: Prime grade up to R2,15 a kg.

Pork: Grade one baconners up to R1,47 a kg; grade one porkers up to R1,76 a kg.

D. Times 30/12/79 (3) MEAT

MARTIN WELZ REPORTS ON A CONTROVERSIAL PLAN THAT COULD PUSH UP BEEF PRICES AGAIN

THE RED MEAT DEAL and the Red connection

A NEW row has blown up in South West Africa's scandal-ridden meat industry after the announcement that a French consortium is to launch a new meat marketing operation aimed at Europe.

Critics of the huge R26-million project complain that:

- Exports to Europe on the scale envisaged by the consortium will cause beef prices to rocket in South Africa.
- The consortium has links through one of its leading members with a huge Soviet co-operative based in Moscow.
- Despite the communist connection, official pressure was brought to bear on the meat industry to tie up the deal.

The project envisages the construction of a new abattoir at Gobabis at a cost of R8-million to slaughter 400 cattle a day and a cold storage facility at Walvis Bay, also costing R8-million, which will be able to store 5 000 tons of meat and 2 500 tons of fish.

These facilities will be leased to a meat marketing company called Intermeat, in which French interests — including the Dreyfus Bank — will own 76 per cent.

[redacted]

The First National Development Corporation of South West Africa will hold the balance.

The idea is to draw meat not only from South West Africa but also from Rhodesia and Botswana and to export it to Europe when an independent Namibia becomes a member of the Lome Convention which permits African exports to escape Europe's stiff protective import duties.

Both the SWA Agricultural Union and SWA Meat Board had refused to deal with the French because they feared the project would expose the territory's R80-million-a-year meat industry to manipulation and disruption by foreign interests with communist connections.

These fears centre particularly on the leader of the French team which negotiated the deal in Paris last month with the First National Development Corporation, Mr Jean-Baptiste Doumeng, chairman of a major French wholesaling co-operative, Socopa.

Socopa heads the French consortium that will put R10-million into Intermeat. But Mr Doumeng has extensive communist business contacts.

The South African meat marketing co-operative, Vleissentraal, was so disturbed by these contacts that it handed to the Department of Foreign Affairs a copy of a French book titled "The Secrets Of The Communist Bank In France", which deals at length with Mr Doumeng's business connections.

A spokesman for the Department of Foreign Affairs confirmed that the Department had received the book, but refused to comment on a "private business transaction".

However, Mr Doumeng headed a delegation from the International Co-operative Alliance on a visit to Southern Africa earlier this year and was also taken on a visit to Transkei by officials of the Bureau for Economic Research, Co-operation and Development (Benso) in Pretoria.

Since January the International Co-operative Alliance has had a fulltime representative in Windhoek, Mr Jean Riccard, to oversee negotiations.

Co-operatives in 66 countries — including several communist and Third World countries — are members of the London-based ICA.

An important objective of the ICA is to "propagate the co-operative as an economic link between State capitalism and private capitalism", a spokesman told the Sunday Times. "We are non-political and can work under any political system."

The current president of the ICA is French, while one of its two vice-presidents is Mr Alexander Smirnov, head of the Centro Soyus in Moscow, reputed to be the largest co-operative in the world. Fulltime director of the ICA is Dr S K Saxena, of India.

[redacted]

Sources close to the South African Government see the involvement of the ICA in South West Africa as a major breakthrough.

"It could play a major role in the development of the Prime Minister's plan for a constellation of states in Southern Africa by providing a model for economic co-operation with the Marxist governments of Angola and Mozambique," a spokesman for the Bureau for Economic Research of the South African Development Corporation said in Pretoria.

"Considerable pressure was brought to bear on us from official quarters to negotiate with Mr Doumeng and representatives of the International Co-operative Alliance," Mr A P Pretorius, president of the SWA Agricultural Union and chairman of the SWA Meat Board, told the Sunday Times.

Mr Riccard, ICA's Windhoek representative, told the Sunday Times that the ICA was confident that Namibia would be admitted to the Lome Convention as soon as it gained independence, giving it substantial tariff concessions for exports to EEC countries.

"At present the average price for beef on the French market is R2,50 a kg of dead carcass, as opposed to only R1,30 on the South African market, so we are confident of a bright future for Namibian beef on the world market once the crippling European taxes are removed," he said.

He also said the cold store at Walvis Bay would be able to handle five times the production of the planned new abattoir at Gobabis so that plans existed to draw on Rhodesia and Botswana for additional supplies.

The project is planned to be operating within 18 months.

But local meat industry men see in this an enormous threat to South African meat supplies, which are among the cheapest in the world. South West Africa supplies nearly 20 per cent of South Africa's beef requirements — and 80 per cent of the Western Cape's — and diversion of this meat to Europe is bound to drive up prices.

[redacted]

"If they start paying unrealistic prices for beef in South West Africa, we will have to compete," a spokesman for Vleissentraal commented. "Obviously it will hurt us.

"Local production could never be increased sufficiently to replace lost supplies from South West Africa. But the world market is subject to severe fluctuations. Farmers might be encouraged to cater for expectations that can simply not be fulfilled. In the end somebody's economy must get hurt, theirs or ours," he said.

Referring to "pressure" on the industry to negotiate with the French, Mr Pretorius said: "The Administrator's economic adviser at the time, Mr Nico Oelofse, told us the South African Government wanted us to 'accommodate' the French as a means of 'building bridges' to the outside world.

"It has always been the policy of the agricultural union that the producer should control the marketing of his product. The two largest abattoirs in South West Africa are run by the local farmers' meat co-operative in collaboration with the South African meat co-operative, Vleissentraal.

"In the original letter of intent, signed without our knowledge by the SWA Development Corporation and the French in January, the French proposed taking over the marketing of all South West Africa's meat.

"It stipulated specifically that the South African meat co-operative, Vleissentraal, should have no part in the arrangement," Mr Pretorius told the Sunday Times. "We rejected the plan outright and made some counter-proposals which they did not even bother to acknowledge."

[redacted]

"They by-passed us completely in their negotiations," the chairman of Vleissentraal, Mr J van Rensburg, said in Pretoria this week. "It came as a complete surprise to us when we read in the Press that they had concluded a deal with the development corporation."

Mr Van Rensburg confirmed that there had been pressure from "people in official quarters" to co-operate with the French project. "We were not inclined to do so because we have reservations about some of the interests involved," he told the Sunday Times.

The chairman of the First National Development Corporation in Windhoek, Mr Johan Lerm, said this week that representatives of the meat industry in South West Africa, including Mr Pretorius and representatives of Vleissentraal, had in September unanimously instructed the development corporation to expand abattoir facilities in South West Africa. "While it was not specifically mentioned, they knew a long that we were negotiating with the French," he told the Sunday Times.

"Our job is to get an enterprise going and then hand it over to private enterprise. The agreement with the French provides for us to eventually hand over our 26 per cent share to a co-operative — which one is yet to be decided.

"The co-operative will be able to buy a further 23 per cent from the French at par value."

[redacted]

There has been a great deal of dissatisfaction among catttle farmers in South West Africa for the past two years as a result of cuts in the quota of cattle which they are allowed to market in South Africa. About 80 per cent of the beef produced in South West Africa is sold to South Africa.

In 1977 the quota allowed to producers in South West Africa was cut by the South African Meat Board from 6 060 head of cattle a week to 3 000 a week on the "controlled" market and from an unlimited number to 1 600 a week on the "open" market.

No provision was made in the system for seasonal peaks in the supply of cattle to the market.

The result was that the SWA Meat Board was obliged to introduce an extremely unpopular permit system which allows each cattle farmer to market on average only six head of cattle a month.

Farmers north of Windhoek are almost entirely dependent on beef production for their survival.

Difficulties in the market have led to fears that farmers in the north of the territory will leave their farms, opening the way for terrorist incursions.

Earlier this year a commission of inquiry was appointed to investigate allegations of corruption in the meat board and the marketing of meat in South West Africa.

[redacted]

Last month the manager of the board, Mr Frans Heydenrich, died in a fall down the stairwell of the meat board building.

The commission is expected to complete its hearings in January, when the meat board will reply to the various allegations made in the course of the inquiry.

The commission's report could have a decisive effect on the agricultural union and meat co-operative elections which will take place in May.

rural areas or cause of deaths' according to the Bantu Reference Bureau (Personal Communication). At least 50 000 deaths a registered. These occur mainly in the rural areas about 10% of the deaths in the main urban districts Africans.

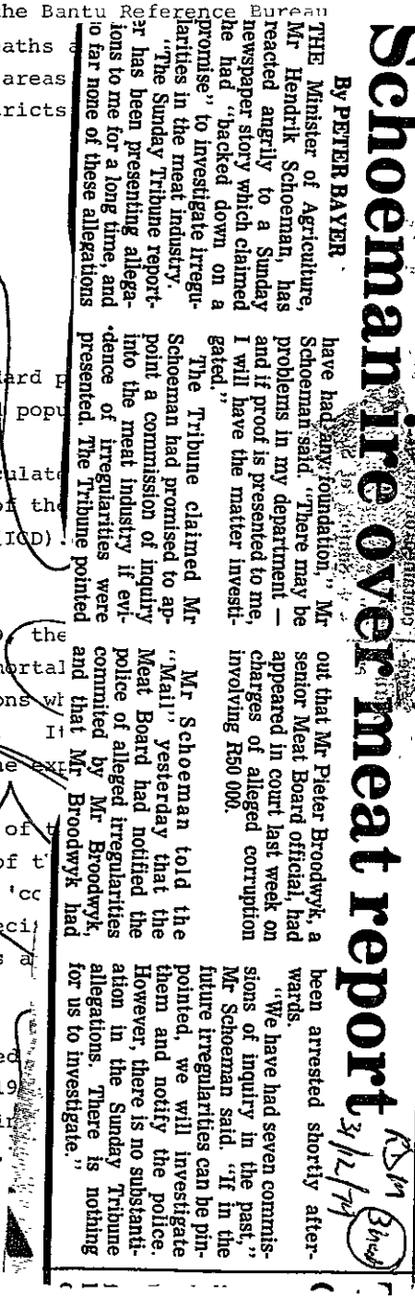
METHODS

The following indices were calculated:

1. Crude Mortality Rates.
2. Standardised Mortality Rates. Two standard p England and Wales representing a developed popu for a developing one.
3. Age and Cause Specific Death Rates. Calculat groups for the seventeen majos divisions of th International Classification of Diseases (ICD).
4. Proportions of Causes of Death.
5. Infant Mortality Rates.
6. Expectation of Life. Calculated for 1970, the
7. Competing Mortality Risks.[8] This is the mortal population under the hypothetical conditions w particular cause of death were eliminated. It of the relative effect of that cause on the ex

The calculation of rates involves a knowledge of t specific population. No official estimates of t inter-censual years. For whites, Asians and 'cc has been projected forward using the age speci 1970 and taking into account the actual births a group. Allowance was made for migration.

For Africans, a different procedure was adopted only part of the country was required. The 19 magisterial district was used, the numbers bein gross population estimates by economic region.



Schoeman ire over meat report

By PETER BAYER

THE Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, has reacted angrily to a Sunday newspaper story which claimed he had "backed down on a promise" to investigate irregularities in the meat industry.

"The Sunday Tribune report-er has been presenting allega-tions to me for a long time, and to far none of these allegations have had any foundation," Mr Schoeman said. "There may be problems in my department — and if proof is presented to me, I will have the matter investi-gated."

The Tribune claimed Mr Schoeman had promised to ap-point a commission of inquiry into the meat industry if evi-dence of irregularities were presented. The Tribune pointed out that Mr Pieter Broodwyk, a senior Meat Board official, had appeared in court last week on charges of alleged corruption involving R50 000.

Mr Schoeman told the "Mail" yesterday that the Meat Board had notified the police of alleged irregularities commited by Mr Broodwyk, and that Mr Broodwyk had been arrested shortly after-wards.

"We have had seven commis-sions of inquiry in the past," Mr Schoeman said. "If in the future irregularities can be pin-pointed, we will investigate them and notify the police. However, there is no substanti-ation in the Sunday Tribune allegations. There is nothing for us to investigate."

DISCUSSION

The crude death rates and the standardised mortality rates for whites, Asians and 'coloureds' and urban Africans are presented in Fig. 1. The interpretation of these figures is confounded by the differences in the underlying structure of the population. The population pyramids of the various groups were pictured in Part I with the exception of the urban Africans, which appears in Fig. 2. This population shows an excess of healthy working males and lack of elderly persons as a result of the migratory labour situation.

The standardised mortality rate provides a single figure for the mortality experience of a population which can only be fully expressed in terms of a series of age specific death rates. The SMR is calculated by multiplying all the age specific mortality rates in the observed population by the corresponding numbers in the standard population, adding the number of deaths so obtained and dividing the total standard population. While this figure is independent of the age structure of the observed population, the choice of the standard population will affect the weighting given to the deaths in the various age groups. The choice of an underdeveloped population as a standard will give great weight to infant deaths and little weight to deaths among the elderly, while a developed standard population will reverse the position. The choice of standard population affects the ranking of the mortality between the observed groups. There is no 'true' answer. As the Duke of Wellington said: 'There are lies, damned lies, and statistics'!

Infant mortality rates are summarised in Fig. 3. Once again, difficulty is experienced in obtaining data for Africans. Birth statistics for Africans are not published by the central government. The various medi-cal officers of health[9] have estimated the infant mortality rates for their urban areas. These show considerable variation. (See also ref.15). A mean figure and the range are given in Fig. 2. These de facto figures should be interpreted with caution as sick infants are often brought to the cities from rural areas. An indication of the situation in the rural areas is given by a sample survey carried out in Cape Town and Transkei among Xhosa-speaking Africans.[12] An increase in infant mortality was observed with decreasing urbanisation, the figure for the completely rural areas being of the same magnitude as those parts of the world devoid of medical services. Fig. 4 summarises the age specific mortality rates of

AGRICULTURE — MEAT.

11 JAN. 1980 —— 31 March 1980

Call to probe 'meat bonanza'

From 31 (meat) 4/1/80

By MAURITZ MOOLMAN

CONSUMER groups have called for a Government investigation into the "meat bonanza" after Witwatersrand prices rose to their highest levels ever during the festive season.

And the high meat prices over the holiday season are to be discussed during the coming Parliamentary session.

The Progressive Federal Party spokesman on the meat trade, Mr Rupert Lorimer, MP, said yesterday: "I believe the prices are being manipulated by the large wholesalers. I intend to raise the matter in Parliament.

"We have seen this happen every year and it is an unhealthy situation," he said.

The deputy chairman of the Hou[illegible]

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Mr Pieter Broodryk, a meat board official, shields his face with a handkerchief after leaving the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court yesterday. He appeared briefly on corruption charges. Picture: DANIE COETZER

3 (meat) 12.1.80 Rom

Meat probe: two charged

Staff Reporter

A POLICE investigation into allegations of corruption in the meat industry — which has to date led to the appearance in court of three men — is continuing.

Yesterday two men, Mr Deon Gerhardus de la Port, the manager of a Johannesburg meat agency, and Mr Pieter Abraham Broodryk, a meat board official, appeared briefly in separate hearings in the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court on corruption charges.

Both cases were postponed to February 8.

Mr De la Port was arrested at his home in Moffat View, in Johannesburg, on Thursday night.

He was not asked to plead at yesterday's hearing and was released on bail of R500 and on condition that he did not contact Mr Broodryk or Mr C J Oosthuizen, a director of another Johannesburg meat agency, Woodhouse, who appeared on corruption charges earlier this week.

Mr Broodryk, of Phillip Street, Alberton, is on bail of R1 000 after appearing in court in December, on corruption charges involving R50 000. He was arrested in connection with the issuing of quotas and permits. He has not been asked to plead.

Mr Oosthuizen, who was arrested at his home in Pendoring Avenue, Blackheath, on Tuesday night, appeared on charges said to involve R30 000.

He was not asked to plead and was released on R1 000 bail. His case was postponed until January 17.

A police spokesman confirmed that the investigation into allegations of corruption was continuing.

...ham (*67) find that lack of education is a major problem
...both employment and compliance in health matters. They also note
...h services conditions contribute to poor patient education; 38%
...l patients did not know what was wrong with them, and only 21% kne
... why they were sick, although at a conservative estimate between
...% of all hospital inpatients were suffering from illnesses
...elated to poor socio-economic conditions (hygiene and nutrition
...main factors concerned). However, in response to a further
46% of the sample claimed that lack of either money or enough of
food or lack of hygiene had caused or contributed to their ill-
showing a clear idea of which factors affect their personal

...i community sample, these authors found that 58% of households
...re landless, and 78% had either no crops or too few to live on.
...wned cattle. 59% of people said they did not get enough food
...em up.

...TH SERVICE MODELS

... was available for one district in the Free State, one in the
...pe (Westcott, Ch. 12); the area of Graaff-Reinet (Scott, *58);
...llu (Kok, *25, Sutter, Ch. 13); Ciskei (Selvan, Engelbrecht
..., *67); Transkei (Frankish, Vol.2); KwaZulu (Clarke, Vol.2);
(Ntiwane, *39) and Matabeleland (Pugh, *48).

TODAY . . . the man on a corruption charge who would not show his face.



Mr Pieter Broodryk, face masked, leaves Johannesburg Magistrate's Court after being remanded to February 8. Mr Broodryk, a Meat Board official, is charged with corruption

More meat probe arrests looming

SUNDAY TRIBUNE 13/1/80

(3 meat)

By DARYL BALFOUR

FRAUD SQUAD detectives in Johannesburg have launched an investigation into the meat industry that police say could lead to many arrests and corruption charges.

So far a senior Meat Board official and two livestock agency officials in Johannesburg have been arrested.

Detectives are to probe allegations of corruption and malpractices in the R3 000-million-a-year meat industry — first highlighted by the Sunday Tribune in October — and could investigate leads uncovered by the commission of inquiry into alleged malpractices in the meat trade in South West Africa.

In a series of articles the Sunday Tribune has reported on widespread claims of dissatisfaction with the industry among cattle farmers, including severe criticism of the permit system of beef marketing employed by the Meat Board in some control areas.

In several denials the Meat Board has claimed the permit system works well and is the best system under which farmers can market their stock. The board has complained to the Press Council about a Sunday Tribune report.

Two weeks ago a senior Meat Board official in Johannesburg, Mr Pieter Abraham Lourens Broodryk, 38, was arrested on corruption charges said to involve about R50 000.

This week, in two separate night swoops, detectives of the Fraud Squad arrested a director of the Edmund Woodhouse Livestock Agency, Mr Cornelius Johannes Oosthuizen of Bonifay flats, Blackheath, Johannesburg, and the livestock manager of another agency, Mr Deon Gerhardus de la Port of G. G. Walker Livestock Agents, Pim Street, Newtown, Johannesburg.

All three men are out on bail. Mr Oosthuizen is due for his second court appearance on Thursday. Mr de la Port and Mr Broodryk appeared in Johannesburg Magistrate's Court on Friday and were remanded until February 8.

The investigating officer in the meat industry probe, Captain C. J. A. Victor, told the Sunday Tribune this week that the investigation would probably take months to sort out.

"We're only just starting to uncover things now."

Captain Victor could not say how much money was involved in the corruption cases. "It will take weeks to sort even that out," he said.

After his release on R500 bail on Friday Mr de la Port told the Sunday Tribune that police investigations had uncovered only the tip of the iceberg.

"I don't want to say too much now," he said.

He said corruption in the meat industry was widespread but he would not elaborate.

It is understood that police inquiries could now involve beef farmers and other industry connections in an investigation which could spread to South West Africa-Namibia.

Back page Tribun

Meat cost this week may be lowest of 1980

Fair Deal Reporter

The Meat Board expects prices to rise later this year, but says they will probably be the lowest for the year this week.

A spokesman said prices paid to farmers had remained static for several years in real terms. They could not continue producing with prices at these levels and the board expected an "upward trend in prices" this year.

The big Christmas rush for meat was over, he said, and prices had dropped considerably. Slaughtering days were back to normal and there was no need for butchers to buy in large quantities — a factor which pushed up Christmas prices.

At Johannesburg's City Deep abattoir, he said, Super X beef which reached 181,3c a kg on December 31 dropped to an average of 138c a kg on January 9.

The average for Super X beef for the week ended January 11 was 141,8c a kg, compared with 152,7c a kg for the week before.

The highest average price for super lamb over the Christmas period, he said, was 241,6c a kg. The average for the week ended January 11 was 170,8c a kg, and for the week before that 203,4c a kg.

Johannesburg market prices for pork had also dropped, he said. In the week ended January 11 the average for top grade pork was 148,6c a kg, compared with 151,7c a kg the week before.

A spokesman for a chain of supermarket butcheries confirmed that prices had started "sliding." He said he had dropped the price of rump steak (super) to R4,69 a kg today. His highest price during the Christmas period was R4,99.

Meat Board move angers farmers

Agricultural Correspondent

NATAL'S beef farmers are angry over proposals by the Meat Board to change the province's cattle marketing system.

The general manager of the board, Dr Jan Lombard, is at present touring Natal and discussing with farmers the possible introduction of a permit system.

He has already met farmers in East Griqualand, Vryheid and Ladysmith and will go to Tweedie and Mooi River today.

Reports indicate that most cattle farmers are strongly opposed to changes.

Mr Gerrie de Jong, MP for Pietermaritzburg South, said yesterday that he would strongly oppose the move.

Fight

Natal farmers did not want to be dictated to by Pretoria, he said.

The present quota was supported by 99 percent of farmers and was working very smoothly.

The permit and quota systems are a form of rationing of slaughter stock sent to the controlled markets. The permit system is in operation in the other provinces.

The quota system is considered by local farmers to be better. Quotas are allocated to farmers by livestock agents on the basis of past performance.

Enforce

A spokesman for a firm of livestock agents, Mr D B Kaine, said agents had made it clear to the board that Natal did not want the permit scheme. "Most farmers will turn it down flat," he said.

However, Mr Kaine said the Meat Board had the power to enforce the system.

Now a powerful Free State agricultural organisation wants Schoeman to appoint an independent commission of inquiry

Tribune Reporter

Probe the Meat Board

S. TRIBUNE 3/2/80 3 Meat

THE powerful Meat Commodity Organisation of the Free State Agricultural Union is to ask Minister of Agriculture Hendrik Schoeman to appoint an independent commission of inquiry into the Meat Board.

And the organisation, which will hold its 1980 congress in Bloemfontein this week, will also ask the Meat Board itself to take all possible steps to root out any malpractices in the administration of the permit system.

These are among the draft resolutions on the congress agenda — which will be opened by the chairman of the Meat Board, Mr P. R. du Toit, on Tuesday.

The list of proposed resolutions include several calling for improvements and streamlining of the controversial beef marketing permit system.

One resolution will call on the Meat Board to make available in published form a full report of permit allocations in various production areas as well as the financial affairs of the Meat Board.

The permit system as administered by the Meat Board has come under continuous fire in recent months with farmers alleging that the system is unfairly administered.

On December 27 a senior Meat Board official in Johannesburg was arrested in connection with alleged bribery of R50 000.

The official, Pieter Broodryk, worked in the board's permit issuing offices in Johannesburg.

Also arrested shortly after Mr Broodryk were two senior men in the meat industry in Johannesburg, Johannes Oosthuisen, a director of the Woodhouse livestock agency, and Deon de la Port, manager of G. G. Walker livestock agency in Pim Street, Newtown, Johannesburg.

All three men are due to appear in the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court on Friday.



Minister of Agriculture Hendrik Schoeman



Meat Board chairman Mr P. R. du Toit

RAND DAILY MAIL, Monday, February 4, 1980

Fraud charges could come from inquiry

Mail Africa Bureau

WINDHOEK. — The commission of inquiry into alleged malpractices in the South West African meat industry reconvenes today to hear evidence.

Mr J A Greyling, the magistrate leading evidence for the commission, has conducted an in-depth analysis of the territory's beef marketing system since the commission adjourned late last year.

He said at the weekend he had investigated various statistics, records and books in the meat industry, and further witnesses would be called during the next week. He would not elaborate.

There is speculation the controversial death of Mr Frans Heydenrych, former manager of the SWA Meat Board, might also be raised during this week's hearing.

Colonel J C Greyling, SWA's CID chief, said yesterday a police probe into rumours that Mr Heydenrych might have been pushed to his death had proved negative.

Mr Heydenrych, a key witness in the inquiry, was found dead at the bottom of a stairwell in Windhoek on October 21, only days after he was questioned by Mr Greyling about thousands of rand that were allegedly deposited in his bank accounts since 1963.

Mr Heydenrych, 64, was to be recalled to the witness box to answer questions about the alleged bank deposits.

Earlier, Mr Greyling told the three-man commission he thought a number of fraud charges could result from the evidence he intended leading.

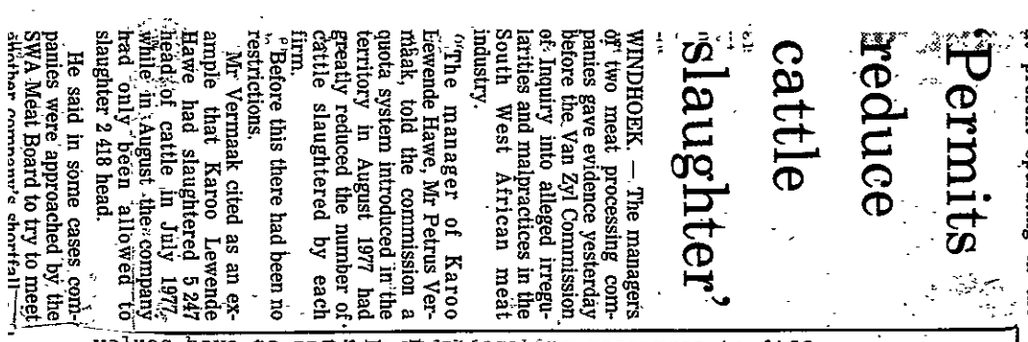
He said during the hearing he had found signs of mismanagement, maladministration and corruption during a six-week investigation.

The commission was appointed by the former SWA Administrator-General, Mr Justice Marthinus Steyn, after consistent complaints by meat producers.

The commission's chairman is Mr W A van Zyl, a former chief magistrate of Bloemfontein. The other two members are Mr D H Heystek, assistant general manager of the Meat Board in Pretoria, and Mr G J Hanekom, a Windhoek chartered accountant.

GILL WESTCOTT

11. HOW CAN ECONOMICS IMPROVE PLANNING FOR HEALTH?



Call for open probe into meat industry

Staff Reporter

THE Housewives' League has called on the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, to appoint an independent and public investigation into the South African meat industry.

In Bloemfontein yesterday a draft resolution asking Mr Schoeman to appoint a commission of inquiry into the Meat Board was voted down at the congress of the Meat Commodity Organisation of the Free State Agricultural Union.

The Housewives' League made its call in a letter sent to Mr Schoeman last month. Copies were sent to the Prime Minister, Mr P W Botha, and the National Marketing Council.

It said: "We would like to request formally a public investigation by an independent body into the marketing of meat in South Africa. Our reasons for asking this are as follows:

● The meat marketing system at present operating in the meat controlled areas is capable of manipulation, for example the Dutch auction system, and also the system of agency licences being held by wholesalers. ● The ability of the Meat Board to predict the rise or fall of prices and the percentages thereof (outside any increase in the Floor Price). ● The strange phenomenon of the excessive increases in meat prices over the Christmas period.

"In addition to the above we have the distressing court appearances of people connected with the meat trade and a senior Meat Board official. You will recall that we were given assurances at our recent meeting with you and Dr Jan Lombard in Pretoria that there was no question of there being any malpractices in the Meat Board.

"We would like to express our disquiet at Dr Lombard's statement, as reported in the Press and the Farmer's Weekly of November 7, 1979, implying that anyone who calls for a judicial inquiry into the meat industry could be accused of libel.

"We have received numerous enquiries from the public on the state of affairs in the meat industry (it is the main talking point of everyone one meets) and naturally we still continue to receive comments from farmers and butchers.

"It is clear that there is general dissatisfaction and uneasiness, particularly since the disclosures made at the South West African meat inquiry, and it is most important that there should be a public inquiry into all aspects of the controlled marketing of meat in South Africa."

A spokesman for the Minister of Agriculture said Mr Schoeman would reply to the letter.

A spokesman for the Prime Minister's office said Mr Botha would reply in a letter.

Permits reduce cattle slaughter'

WINDHOEK. — The managers of two meat processing companies gave evidence yesterday before the Van Zyl Commission of Inquiry into alleged irregularities and malpractices in the South West African meat industry.

"The manager of Karoo Lewende Hawe, Mr Petrus Vermaak, told the commission a quota system introduced in the territory in August 1977 had greatly reduced the number of cattle slaughtered by each firm.

"Before this there had been no restrictions.

Mr Vermaak cited as an example that Karoo Lewende Hawe had slaughtered 5 247 head of cattle in July 1977, while in August the company had only been allowed to slaughter 2 418 head.

He said in some cases companies were approached by the SWA Meat Board to try to meet [illegible] company's shortfall—

values have to be made in allocating resources to different categories of patients or types of care, to different regions, age groups and individuals. Who shall live? [1] is a highly relevant question for health planners.

Assuming that the way to improve health ... of the conventional variety is equi... possible techniques open to ach... incurring excessive expend... achieved. This paper ... the choice of hea... and value prob...

Any me... by data limita... tions ... with variables which are the ... ween these and various medical ... ropositions such as that of Archer [2] t... ronmental quality, income, wat etc.) afford... route to better public health than medical care. ...eria for selecting and measuring the impact of health p... to be clear and easily understood, not only by policy makers ... eir advisers but also by the public. [3]

A still less tractable problem arises from the fact that the conventional attempt made in economic analysis to distinguish between the choice of technique and the choice of objectives is doomed to failure. Ideally, one would like to separate the making of value judgements, the choice of ends, from the working out of the means using factual data. However, a final separation between means and ends, between choices dependent on

each. (e.g. the alternatives of: GP only; clinics or day hospitals employing all types of staff; clinics run by nurses only; hospital outpatient departments etc.)

(iii) the relative value of resources used up in each process.

Economic efficiency differs from technical efficiency in that it requires not only the best technical standards so that the lowest ratio of inputs to outputs is used, but also that this ratio is at a minimum in value terms; it entails using the least cost method, or obtaining the maximum output for given resources.

9.4 Priorities for Mental Health

Robbertze states 'The solution of the region's political problems must obviously take precedence in all fields, including that of mental health. But this acknowledgement in fact underlines the high priority claim of mental health, inasmuch as the conflicts in Southern Africa have a significant psychological component'. He sees one of the roles of mental health workers as assisting in restoring communication between members of different cultures.

Buchan (*16) describes the system of mental health care in Matabeleland, which shows how management of mental illness can be 'more community-oriented'. The aim has been to devise a strategy whereby as many patients as possible can be managed as outpatients; to contact patients earlier, and to prevent doctors from certifying patients before a diagnosis is reached. All these require the existence of psychiatric clinics in general hospitals which, with the help of a psychiatric nurse, can manage outpatients and refer cases presenting at general hospitals.

Buchan describes the considerable problems facing diagnosis in a different cultural setting from that of the practitioner; 'abnormally aggressive' or 'seriously irresponsible' are characteristics which require interpretation within each cultural context. In order to decide on admission or outpatient treatment, an accurate diagnosis is clearly essential. He felt that reasonable criteria for deciding on outpatient treatment could be evolved; that patients with thought disorder should be admitted, if clouding was heavy, to a general hospital; depressives could be treated on an outpatient basis. In discussion, Buchan agreed with Bührman that hallucination does not have the same ominous significance among Africans as it would in White patients. Bührman noted that patients undergoing hallucination, auditory and visual, who are wakened by nightmares and feel they are being chased by wild animals might be recognisable as falling in the *twasa* group (those being called to assume the role of a diviner) and could be cured by taking action considered appropriate to this stage.

Robbertze also recognises the role of indigenous healers and leaders of separatist churches in mental health care, emphasising that it is wrong to adopt Western models as the solution for Southern Africa's very different problems. He regards the specialist-oriented multi-professional team approach as impractical in this context, impossible in terms of staff resources and 'powerless in the judgement of the indigenous populations, when compared to the work of the traditional practitioner and the separatist priest.



... of a cadre of mental health

Meat Board man knew about permit fiddles

The Star's Africa News Service

WINDHOEK — The chairman of the SWA/Namibia Meat Board, Mr Andries Pretorius, admitted here today before the commission of inquiry into the territory's meat industry that the board had on "many occasions" been aware of irregularities in the issuing of marketing permits to farmers.

Mr Pretorius was asked by Mr J. A Greyling, who is leading the evidence, if he knew that cattle were being loaded for market by people using permits not allocated to them.

Mr Pretorius denied any knowledge of this and Mr Greyling then mentioned two instances in which people had loaded cattle using permits made out in Mr Pretorius's name.

Mr Greyling also produced an agenda of a meeting of the Meat Board early in 1978 in which members of the board admitted they were aware of irregularities in the permit system and made an appeal to agents.

Mr Pretorius said this had happened on "many other occasions."

Mr Greyling also told the commission that last year, 107 farmers — three percent of all farmers in SWA/Namibia — received R1,55-million of the subsidy money available.

Fourteen of these farmers received more than R500 000 of this.

Mr Pretorius said he had warned against this happening many times in the past.

Mr Greyling also produced a permit for 60 head of cattle which had been made out to Mr Pretorius but had been signed by Mr Frans Heydenrych, former manager of the Meat Board who died in a fall late last year.

The hearing continues.

... and concern ...
of their sickness.

10. THE COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF MEDICAL CARE AND THE PRICE OF DRUGS

10.1 The Cost Effectiveness of Medical Treatment

The papers of Meiring (*19) and Sundgren(*24) dealt with this question. Meiring spoke of a developing conflict between medical practitioners on the one hand and 'society' (represented ostensibly by politicians, bureaucrats and economists) on the other. The conflict was aggravated by high medical costs, rising more rapidly than the consumer price index. He argues that confrontation between the medical profession and the public would be harmful to both. He therefore argued for more effective communication and co-operation between the profession and those empowered to act on behalf of the public. Co-operation should be based on the general acceptance of a cost-benefit approach to medical treatment. Doctors, administrators, and the public should be made more aware of costs and benefits of alternative treatments. Medical training and the mass media should be involved in this process.

GILL WESTCOTT

12. PRIMARY HEALTH CARE IN TWO FARMING AREAS OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTRODUCTION

While the health problems of cities have been reported from year to year by Medical Officers of Health, and those in the Scheduled areas/ homelands by magistrates and mission doctors stationed there, the extent to which health needs are being met in farming areas [1] has received very little systematic consideration. Since they cover the largest part of South Africa, and contain about 52% of her population, [2] it would seem that they merit separate consideration. It may be that they suffer from none of the environmental deterioration of urban townships and shanty towns with their corresponding health hazards, or the poverty and dearth of facilities of the homelands; but very often we do not know. Studies of the situation of farm labourers, for example, show that their relative isolation and lack of control over their own lives (whether voluntary or enforced) also leads to poor life-styles and problems with access to facilities such as schools, shops, etc.; many of these problems also having been experienced by white settlers in days gone by. [3]

Thus, it may be valuable to look at farming areas as well as those whose needs are more dramatically obvious, to see whether health care resources are adequate in these areas and how effectively they are distributed and utilised.

The two areas studied here were chosen for no other reason than that the author had contacts there who could assist in the study, and no claim is made that they are statistically representative. They are merely examples of two different and widely prevalent types of health service which illustrate some aspects of the present methods of distributing resources [illegible] will show where there is a need for more th

(1) Areas where farming is [illegible] white-owned farming are the bulk of their incom BENBO Economic Revue f

(2) 1970 Census Report No. [illegible].

(3) Farm Labour in South Africa - Ed. Francis Wilson, Alide Kooy & Della Hendrie, Phillips, 1977.

PART I: TIERSDORP [4]

Tiersdorp is a small Free State town serving a farming community of some 7 000 people, of whom about 1 000 are white and 6 000 black, mainly Tswana and Sotho speaking.

1. HEALTH STATUS AND NEEDS

The crude death rate for whites in the magisterial district of which Tiersdorp is a part is 9,6 per thousand, slightly lower than the average for South African whites when the age structure is taken into account. [5] (25% of the population are over 50).



Meat inquiry told of illegal documents

WINDHOEK. — A manager of the South West African Meat Board, Mr Frans Heydenrych, illegally signed applications for beef export permits on at least one occasion, the Van Zyl Commission into alleged irregularities and malpractices in the SWA meat industry heard in Windhoek yesterday.

Mr Heydenrych fell to his death in the stairwell of a high-rise building in Windhoek last year, shortly after giving evidence before the commission.

The chairman of the SWA Meat Board, Mr A P Pretorius, yesterday told the commission of an occasion when Mr Heydenrych had illegally signed an application for a beef export permit during his absence.

In reply to a question by Mr Hans Greyling, leading evidence before the commission, Mr Pretorius said this was considered a serious irregularity.

Earlier, evidence was given that cheques totalling R1 250 made out by a local cattle marketing firm had been paid into Mr Heydenrych's personal bank account in 1976.

Mr Peter de Villiers, a member of the inquiry team, told the commission it had been part of his duty to examine the firm's books as well as the Meat Board's records.

He had found photocopies of four cheques made out to Mr Heydenrych during 1976. He added that the manager of the firm concerned had confirmed that the cheques had been paid to Mr Heydenrych.

Mr Greyling suggested to Mr Pretorius that a certain Mr Koch and somebody else had loaded cattle on Mr Pretorius's personal permit last year.

Mr Pretorius denied any knowledge of the incident, saying if it was true, it was illegal and highly irregular. He added that he was aware of more than one case when farmers had loaded cattle on other farmers' permits.

Mr Greyling put it to Mr Pretorius that there had been more than 2 000 such instances recently. Mr Pretorius said he was not aware there had been so many.

On the question of State subsidies for farmers, Mr Pretorius said R6-million had been allocated annually to assist farmers. He had no quarrel with the sum, but felt farmers should be entitled only to a maximum of R20 000 each.

Mr Greyling had said the commission had heard evidence that 107 cattle breeders had received financial assistance to the tune of R11 560 000, 14 had received R540 000 and six had shared R310 603.

Mr Pretorius said this was what he had always been afraid of and for that reason he had written to the former Administrator-General of SWA, Mr Justice M T Steyn, requesting that farmers be entitled to a maximum of R20 000 each.

The Executive Committee of the white Legislative Assembly had rejected this proposal, Mr Pretorius said.

Mr Greyling said the Executive Committee had denied ever receiving such a request from Mr Pretorius. He handed in a statement to this effect to the chairman of the commission, Mr W A Van Zyl.

Mr Pretorius, asked by Mr Greyling to define a bona fide farmer, said it was a difficult matter, but in his opinion it was anybody who "produced meat".

Several farmers had complained to the commission that they were not able to obtain meat export permits as they were not considered by the Meat Board to be bona fide farmers.

Mr Pretorius said there was no cut and dried regulations governing bona fide farmers.

"But as far as I am concerned, if you're entitled to register as a cattle breeder, you should be entitled to a permit," Mr Pretorius said. — Sapa

Housewives call for meat inquiry

EAST LONDON — The Housewives League has formally requested an independent investigation into the marketing of meat in South Africa.

In a letter to the Minister of Agriculture, the league said they felt the present system was open to manipulation and an inquiry was necessary to clear the air of all speculation.

They were also dissatisfied with the Meat Board's ability to "predict price increases", and the "strange phenomenon of the excessive increases in meat prices over the Christmas period".

Although the league has previously been assured there were no malpractices in the meat industry, they say they have received numerous complaints from the public which need investigating. —DDR.

Meat Board inquiry has last hearing

WINDHOEK. — The Van Zyl Commission of inquiry into alleged irregularities and malpractices in the SWA/Namibia meat industry concluded its sitting in Windhoek yesterday.

It will now sift through evidence gathered since July last year, before drawing up its final report, which will be submitted to the State President to be tabled in Parliament.

It will then probably go to the SWA/Namibian Administrator-General, Dr Gerrit Viljoen, who may submit it to the Attorney-General of the territory to decide if there should be prosecutions.

The three-man commission, chaired by Mr W A van Zyl, a retired regional court magistrate, was instituted last year by the South African State President at the request of SWA/Namibian farmers.

The deputy chairman of the SWA Meat Board, Mr Johannes van der Walt, told the commission yesterday that he had heard stories about money being "given" to the former chairman of the board. "So I confronted the person who allegedly gave Frans money, but he didn't want to discuss the matter," he said.

The former chairman, Mr Frans Heydenrych, fell to his death in the stairwell of the Land Bank building in Windhoek last year shortly after giving evidence before the commission.

The commission earlier heard that Mr Heydenrych had paid into his personal account cheques totalling R1 250 in 1976, allegedly made out by a local cattle marketing firm.

Mr Van Der Walt told the commission yesterday he knew of at least one other incident where a farmer had paid money to Mr Heydenrych. He did not elaborate.

Earlier yesterday he dismissed allegations concerning corruption in the SWA/Namibia meat industry as: "Absolute barefaced lies."

He said he had been aware of certain allegations about corruption before the commission was instituted, but no specific incidents had ever been cited.

He also denied that the Meat Board had favoured certain companies when alloting quotas for the exporting of beef.

"We submitted quotas to the Department of Agricultural Economy and Marketing, whom we operated under, and the department would then approve or reject the quotas," he said. "And we always stuck to these quotas."

Mr Van der Walt also discounted allegations that the election of office bearers of the SWA Agricultural Union and other agricultural bodies had been "undemocratic".

"In fact, each region was even entitled to elect its own representatives to the executive committee," he said.

In reply to a question by Mr Gert Muller, appearing for the SWA Meat Board, Mr Van der Walt said farmers had never been denied the opportunity at meetings to voice their opinions concerning the permit system or any other aspect of the meat industry, as was alleged before the commission. — Sapa.

By DARYL BALFOUR

ONE of the "Big Three" in South Africa's meat trade, Karoo Lewende Hawe, was involved in big cash pay-offs to the former manager of the South West Africa Meat Board, Mr Frans Heydenrych, who died mysteriously last year after refusing to answer questions about massive cash deposits in his bank accounts.

The **Sunday Tribune** has been in possession of this information since November last year but could not disclose it previously without contravening the Commissions Act.

But this week in Windhoek the Van Zyl commission of inquiry into alleged malpractices in the SWA meat trade was handed copies of four cheques made out by the Windhoek branch of Karoo Lewende Hawe.

All were traced to the personal bank account of Mr Heydenrych.

The cheques were for three sums of R250 and one of R500. They were dated February 9, May 24, July 20 and November 2, 1976. Three were signed by a former marketing manager of Karoo Lewende Hawe in Windhoek, Mr Louis Boshoff, who later testified before the commission. His evidence was heard in camera.

Some of the cheques were also signed by the present manager of Karoo Lewende Hawe in Windhoek, Mr J. A. Laubscher.

Mr Peter de Villiers, part of the investigating team that gathered evidence for the commission, told it on Wednesday that he had gone through the books of Karoo Lewende Hawe and found photostat copies of four cheques made out to cash.

He said the cheques ostensibly had been "donations to the Meat Board".

But, he added, when the manager of the firm was confronted with the fact that the cheques had been traced to Mr Heydenrych's personal bank account, he had admitted that the cheques represented money handed to Mr Heydenrych.

Those four cheques, according to evidence already before the commission, were only the tip of the iceberg of payments made to the former Meat Board manager over a 15-year period.

And several of the companies alleged to have been involved and who, the commission has heard, had paid Mr Heydenrych varying sums of money — have strong South African ties.

Karoo Lewende Hawe, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Karoo Meat Exchange, is one of South Africa's "Big Three" in the meat trade.

Others from whom Mr Heydenrych received cash or cheques, according to evidence already before the commission, include Mr J. N. "Kassie" Buys director of a Cape Town livestock company, with links with both Vleissentraal and BKB and a member of the SWA Meat Board — who paid Mr Heydenrych R140 on one occasion.

Others were: Swartland Veevoerders, of Malmesbury, Cape (no amount stated), Rohrs Meat Packers of Malmesbury (no amount stated), and Mr A. J. Liebenberg, a member of the SA Meat Board with large meat interests in the Cape.

According to evidence Mr Heydenrych received R150 from Mr Liebenberg on one occasion. Mr Heydenrych refused to tell the

(TO PAGE 4)



Meat Board manager Frans Heydenrych who died mysteriously after refusing to explain his huge bank account

PRESS BODY REJECTS CLAIM

THE chairman of the Press Council, the Hon. Oscar Galgut, this week dismissed the South African Meat Control Board's complaint against the **Sunday Tribune**.

"I have decided that no good purpose can be served by allowing the complaint to proceed to a hearing and it is accordingly dismissed," Mr Galgut said.

In a list of reasons for his decision Mr Galgut said he was satisfied that the statements in **Tribune** reporter Daryl Balfour's affidavit could be accepted.

The Meat Board's general manager, Dr Jan Lombard, lodged a complaint with the Press Council last year following a series of disclosures in the **Sunday Tribune** regarding widespread dissatisfaction among farmers with the Meat Board's administration of the permit system of marketing control.

After the first of the **Tribune**'s series of reports Dr Lombard threatened action, which culminated in the Meat Board's complaint to the Press Council.

The big cover-up

NOW WE CAN REVEAL HOW MEAT BOSS HEYDENRYCH WAS PAID FOR HIS FAVOURS . . . AND HERE ARE THE CHEQUES TO PROVE IT





Two of the cheques made out by Karoo Lewende Hawe which were traced to the personal bank account of Mr Frans Heydenrych

Sun. Trib 10/2/80

3 meat

Frans Heydenrych and the big meat pay-off

(FROM PAGE 1)

commission what the money was for when questioned in October.

On October 15 last year Mr Heydenrych appeared before the commission of inquiry in Windhoek and refused to answer questions about more than R180 000 deposited in his bank accounts.

Mr Heydenrych was due to be recalled for further evidence after he had taken legal advice — but on the morning of October 22 he was found dead at the foot of the stairwell in his Windhoek office block.

There has been speculation about the cause of his death. To date no inquest has been held and no post-mortem report made available. But in late December the Divisional Commissioner of Police in SWA, Brigadier Dolf Gouws, said police had found no evidence of foul play.

He said an inquest would be held "early in the New Year".

The week before Mr Heydenrych's death evidence had been led about huge cash deposits which grossly exceeded his salary.

For example, in 1976 — the year of the Karoo cheques handed to the commission — Mr Heydenrych banked R21 000. He could not, or would not, say where the money had come from. Last year Mr Heydenrych's total annual salary would have been only R15 600 — considerably more than it would have been in 1976.

Evidence led before the commission indicated Mr Heydenrych had deposited R180 000 between 1963 and 1979.

The general manager of Karoo Meat Exchange, Mr Fred Lategan, was unavailable for comment yesterday. His deputy, Mr Frans Pieterse, refused to comment other than to warn the Tribune to check its information.

Evidence was also led before the commission this week that the misuse of beef marketing permits — without which farmers may not market their cattle at controlled or open area abattoirs in SWA or SA — was rife.

Mr de Villiers said he had found that during the period July 1, 1977 to September 30 last year, 2 819 permits had been used to market cattle belonging to farmers other than those to whom the permits were issued.

This was done without the permit being transferred by the Meat Board and involved a total of 46 160 head of cattle — all of which were sold on the South African controlled market, he told the commission.

Mr de Villiers said SWA Amalgamated Auctioneers had used 1 184 of these permits, Karoo Livestock 657, BKB (Farmers' Bokers Co-op), 908 and Slabbert, Verster and Malherbe 70.

The Van Zyl Commission concluded its sitting on Friday.

It was instituted last year by the South African State President, at the request of South West African farmers.

Observers in Windhoek said the commission would now sift through evidence gathered since July last year before drawing up its final report.

The report would then be submitted to the State President to be tabled in the South African Parliament.

Following this it probably would be channelled to the office of the Administrator-General, Dr Gerrit Viljoen, who would decide wether or not it should be submitted to the Attorney-General of the territory for possible prosecutions.

[redacted] workers are increasing. At a solidarity meeting last week more than 500 university and college students from U.W.C., Hewat, Peninsula Training College and Bellville Technical College called for workers to be reinstated and for a boycott of Fattis & Monis products.

The Western Province Traders Association says it will instruct its members not to sell the factory's products unless there is negotiation.

The South African Council of Sport (SACOS) has called on all sports bodies and schools affiliated to SACOS to support the call for re-employment of the workers and a boycott of the factory's products.

At a meeting at U.C.T. over 500 students supported a call for a boycott of all Fattis & Monis products.

[redacted]

The final summary of basic recommendations mentioned, of course, the establishment of a NHS based on a modern conception of health. It also recommended that health services should be classified as non-personal and personal services and that direct control should be exercised by the NHS over all the personal services. Other basic recommendations consisted of a national health tax and a 'Transition Committee' to help with a gradual [illegible] the old system to the new NHS.

STAR 11/2/80

Inquest told of man being helped through a window

3 meat

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The Star's Africa News Service

WINDHOEK — Shortly after the death fall of former SWA/Namibia Meat Board manager Mr Frans Heydenrych last year, a Johannesburg factory manager overheard two men describing how Mr Heydenrych had been "helped out of the window," according to papers before an inquest here.

Mr Heydenrych died last October 22 after falling four floors down a stairwell of the Landbank Building in Windhoek.

Mr Maurizio Dalla Fana (28), manager of a polony and meat factory, said in a statement before Mr G S Coetzee that he overheard two men discussing Mr Heydenrych's death at the Johannesburg abattoir in late October or early November.

They spoke in Afrikaans and said that "somebody had helped him out of the window" and "they were sent from here."

The two men referred to were Mr Gery Gluckman, a livestock agency director, and Mr Lodewikus Jordaan, manager of Vleissentraal at City Deep.

DENIALS

Both men have, in statements before the magistrate, denied any first-hand knowledge of Mr Heydenrych's death.

They also denied discussing the possibility that Mr Heydenrych had been murdered.

They did not know either of anyone who was in Windhoek on October 21 or 22 last year who could possibly have been sent to murder Mr Heydenrych.

Detective-Sergeant W J Terblanche of the Windhoek CID said the inspection of Mr Heydenrych's clothes after his death did not reveal that there could have been a scuffle.

Mrs Martha Heydenrych said her husband had been feeling ill the day before his death. He had a record of "blacking out" whenever he became upset or excited.

The magistrate found that no one was to blame for Mr. Heydenrych's death. The official finding was that he died of multiple injuries sustained in the fall.

...o basic reservations.[5,6]

...n to administer all personal ...e authority. This raised a ...general hospitals was delegated ...9. The Government declared ...urrender their control of

...t all health services should ...his was not acceptable because ...l have for the financial relation... ...vernment.

A number of promising steps were taken, however, especially when the chairman of the Commission, Dr Gluckman, was appointed as Minister of Health in 1945. Besides the establishment of more and more Health-Centres as the fundamental NHS structure, a start was also made with the erection of a few superstructures. Three important bodies were established with Dr Gluckman as chairman. (1) NHS Advisory Committee; (2) Health-Centre Advisory Committee, and (3) Central Health Services and Hospitals Co-ordinating Council.

However, there was a failure to solve the constitutional and financial issues mentioned previously. This failure effectively blocked the develop-

ment of a South African National Health Service. Dr C.W. Gale, Chief Health Officer during that time, has commented extensively on the sad consequences of this failure, especially where it concerned the Health-Centres.[6,10]

time district surgeons, has brought medical aid to [illegible] of these 3 million people. The influence which these services has had on the health of the people is variable, but on the whole they cannot be said to have brought about any considerable improvement. This statement is not made in an effort to decry these invaluable medical aids, but rather to indicate that curative services per se cannot and do not attempt to prevent or modify the basic causes of ill-health. Thus, while hundreds of individuals are being cured or assisted in their illness, thousands more are developing similar diseases. Clinical services must, therefore, be brought within the sphere of a broader social health scheme before they can make their full contributions to national health. It was with the aim of introducing health services in the 'Native Territories', which would assist in correcting these defects, that the Union Health Department decided to establish an experimental Health Unit. This Unit was to combine preventive and curative work. It was started in April, 1940".[7]

The Union Health Department was very fortunate in acquiring the services of a young enthusiastic doctor like Kark, who had a great interest in clinic services. However, it took great efforts from the Pholela staff in the beginning to become accepted by the local people.

The home visiting especially was very suspect, and in the absence of any drug and even a thermometer it was impossible for the local people to recognise a health service at first. This mistake was quickly rectified however and with the promise of a curative health service, the first co-operation was gained from the local Christian leaders.[8] Dr Kark has given the following interesting comment about the first reaction of the people to the Health-Centre service: "...they often express doubt as to why an 'outside' authority like the Government should want to do them any

60.	P.I. Folb	The economics of drug prescribing in Southern Africa
61.	Esther Sapire	The role of primary health care workers/ nurse aides in Rhodesia in family planning
62.	B. Dick	Health care in rural developing areas -- A change of medium for a changing message
63.	H. Oosthuizen	Peptic ulceration in the Republic of South Africa
64.	Shirley Miller/ Pippa Green	A summary and critique of the Erasmus Commission
65.	I. Kitai	Management of chronic diseases in an urban Black hospital: the case of hypertension
66.	R. Schweitzer	Mental health services in an African context: Alternative modes of service
67.	D. Selvan *et al*	The Health Service structure in Ciskei
68.	T. Adler	Trade unions and the Workmen's Compensation Act
69.	S. Archer	Health financing systems: an international comparison
70.	M. Savage	The political economy of Health
71.	S. Tollman *et al*	A Primary Health Care programme in Gazankulu: Evaluation
72.	S. Piper	The response of population growth to fertility patterns
73.	A. Sorkin	Health and development
74.	Delia Hendrie/ Alide Kooy	Notes onindustrial accidents
76.	J. Hedden/ R. Corbett	The probabability of adverse drug:drug interactions in multiple prescriptions.

* * * * * * * *

3 (meat)

Case dismissed

DURBAN — The chairman of the Press Council, Mr Justice Oscar Galgut, last week dismissed the South African Meat Control Board's complaint against the Sunday Tribune.

Judge Galgut said he was satisfied that the statements in Tribune reporter Daryl Balfour's affidavit could be accepted.

The Meat Board's general manager, Dr Jan Lombard, lodged a complaint with the Press Council last year after a series of disclosures in the Sunday Tribune of widespread dissatisfaction among farmers with the Meat Board's administration of the permit system of marketing control.

Last week, after considering affidavits from both the Meat Board and the Sunday Tribune, the council dismissed the complaint. — Sapa.

FATTIS & MO

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nes; Princess, old,
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Bakery in Somerset West; Good Hope Bakery

Meat man's death: nobody guilty

'Mail' Africa Bureau

WINDHOEK. — An inquest magistrate found yesterday that nobody was responsible for the death of the former manager of the South West Africa Meat Board, Mr Frans Heydenrych, who was found dead at the bottom of a stairwell of a Windhoek highrise building on October 22 last year.

Mr Heydenrych was found dead a few days after he had given evidence before a commission investigating alleged irregularites into the SWA meat industry.

The inquest magistrate, Mr George Coetzee, found yesterday that Mr Heydenrych's death was not caused "by any act of omission involving or amounting to an offence on the part of any person".

He found that Mr Heydenrych had died of multiple injuries resulting from a fall from the fourth storey of the Landbank building.

His wife, Mrs Martha Maria Heydenrych in an affidavit before the court, said that when she heard about her husband's death she thought it was impossible he could have taken his own life.

Mrs Heydenrych said her husband had been ill the weekend before his death.

"He was terribly nauseous and didn't want to eat and he complained about his stomach. He was very pale.

"He had been so ill we did not even go to church on the Sunday," Mrs Heydenrych said.

They normally went to church twice on Sundays.

Mrs Heydenrych said her husband often had dizzy spells and blackouts.

The next day, Monday, her husband woke her up and gave her coffee. She asked him if he was well enough to go to work. He said he was.

She admitted she knew little about his problems with the Meat Board at the time, but he had told her he had no worries and was sure he could account for everything.

She said she was convinced her husband had had a blackout when he fell and had not

Sapa reports that in an affidavit before the court, the chief investigating officer, Sergeant Willem Terblanche, said it had become evident that there had been no foul play.

"The only conclusion that I can arrive at is that the deceased committed suicide by jumping off or diving from the fourth floor of the Landbank building," he said.

According to a number of affidavits handed into court, Mr Heydenrych had acted normally on the day of his death and had carried on with his work as usual.

An employee of the Meat Board, Mr Andre Gericke, said Mr Heydenrych had looked ill when he saw him in the lift that morning.

He said Mr Heydenrych had apparently just been to the post office.

He had two or three letters in his hand.

"He looked ill and mentioned how cool and crisp the weather was," Mr Gericke said. "That was the last time I saw him that morning."

Mrs H la Cock, a switchboard operator, whose office adjoined Mr Heydenrych's, said he had come into her office early as usual on the morning of his death and had hung up his jacket behind the door of his office.

She had heard noises from his office during the course of the morning but had not seen him again until he was discovered dead at the bottom of the stairwell.

She said she thought he might have gone to the toilet that is on the half-landing on the staircase in the building.

Mr Heydenrych's death had come as a great shock to her, she said.

"And I cannot believe that he would have taken his own life."

Windhoek fall: No one at fault

CAPE Times 12/2/80 (3rd ed)

WINDHOEK. — An inquest court found here yesterday that nobody had been responsible for the death of the former manager of the SWA/Namibia Meat Board, Mr Frans Heydenrych, 64, who was found dead in the stairwell of a highrise building.

In an affidavit before the court, Mrs Martha Heydenrych said her husband had told her during a commission of inquiry into alleged malpractices in the meat industry here that he had nothing to worry about.

The inquest magistrate, Mr G S Coetzee, found that Mr Heydenrych's death had not been caused "by any act of omission involving or amounting to an offence on the part of any person".

He found that Mr Heydenrych had died of multiple injuries resulting from a fall from the fourth storey of the Landbank building here.

In an affidavit before the court, the chief investigating officer, Sergeant Willem Terblanche, said it had become evident that there had been no foul play.

"The only conclusion that I can arrive at is that the deceased committed suicide by jumping off or diving from the fourth floor of the Landbank building," he said.

According to a number of affidavits handed into court, Mr Heydenrych had acted completely normally on the day of his death and had carried on with his work as usual.

Mrs Heydenrych said the news of her husband's death had been broken to her by friends.

Nauseous

On the day before his death, which was a Sunday, her husband had taken ill. "He was terribly nauseous and didn't want to eat and he complained about his stomach. He was very pale," she said in an affidavit.

She was convinced that nobody was responsible for her husband's death but she was equally convinced that he had not taken his own life.

She said it was possible her husband had suffered an attack of some sort while going to the toilet on the landing. She thought this might have caused him to trip and fall.

Her husband had suffered dizzy spells periodically since 1945, she said. — Sapa

Argus 3 (med) Argus 14/2/80

Drought ravaging Cape is 'worst in memory'

SHEEP farming areas in the North Western Cape and Karoo are in the stranglehold of one of the worst droughts in history—a drought which may ruin many farmers and could cost the country millions of rands in stock deaths and losses in wool and mutton production.

More than half the Cape Province has already been declared drought stricken and a special committee appointed by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, is to meet in Pretoria this week to discuss the introduction of unprecedented relief measures.

The committee, which is under the chairmanship of the general manager of the Reserve Bank, Dr A S Jacobs, has already toured some of the worst-hit areas.

Records show that farmers in the drought-ravaged areas of the Cape own just on 4-million sheep and are already drawing more than R50 000 a day in fodder loans to keep the animals alive.

The secretary of the Cape Agricultural Union, Mr Gert Bosch, said the severity of the drought could be gauged from the fact that farmers in the disaster areas collected a combined total of R1,2-million for their last wool clip whereas they had to spend R1-million on fodder alone.

'This drought is by far the worst the North Western Cape and Karoo has experienced and the situation at present can be described as a national disaster,' Mr Bosch said.

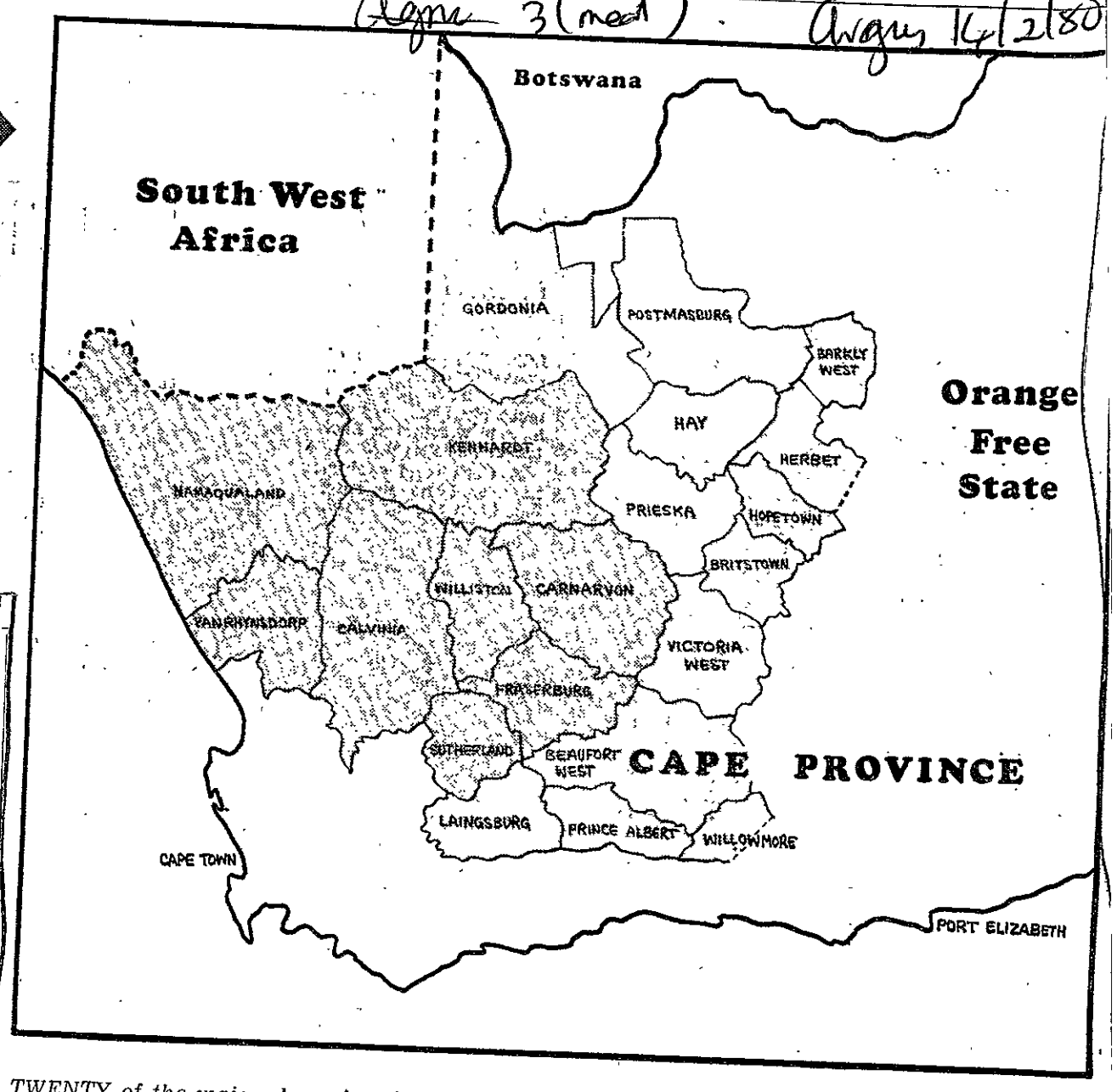
BOTH DROUGHTS

Mr Bosch said unprecedented steps would have to be taken to prevent a repetition of the drought which re-wrote the history of South African agriculture in 1933.

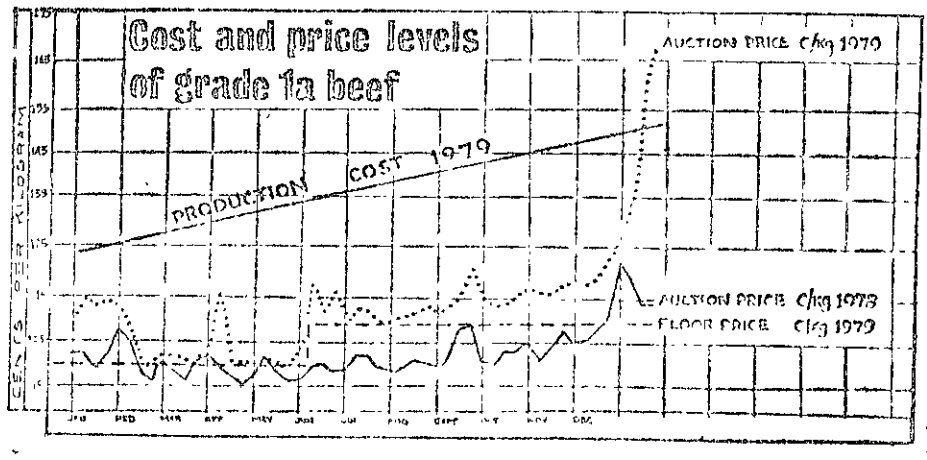
Mr Johan van der Vyver, the chief extension officer based at the Grootfontein Agricultural College in Middelburg, said he had lived through the droughts of 1933 and 1960, both of which ravaged the country and spelt financial ruin for many, but neither had been as bad as the present one.

'Some areas have had less than two inches (50,8 mm) of rain in the past three years,' he said.

The eight worst-hit areas are Namaqualand, Kenhardt, Carnarvon, Williston, Fraserburg, Sutherland, Calvinia and Vanrhynsdorp.



TWENTY of the major sheep farming areas of the country have been declared drought-stricken — almost half the Cape Province. The heavily tinted districts are regarded as 'disaster areas' while the others are said to be 'serious.'



This chart indicates how the interrelationship of cattle auction and floor prices with production costs affects the cost to the consumer of his favourite steak.

Riding herd on prices in SA's meat industry

Hannes Ferguson on FARMING

The price of cattle is where the price of meat starts. Transport and slaughtering, marketing costs, a wholesale margin and the butcher's retail margin are added to it to arrive at the price you pay for your T-bone steak, way down the line at your retail outlet

So when the price of a kilogram of ox is half the price of a kilogram of T-bone steak, an increase of 20c a kilo in the producer price will mean only 10c a kilo extra out of your pocket, in terms of retail prices.

Looking at the price of cattle, we are running the length of a railway line where the width of the track constantly changes. No wonder some get dizzy along the road

One rail is supposed to represent the cost of producing cattle, regardless of the day-to-day market. Obviously, if the farmer should have to continue selling below his costs, he would stop producing.

Sales

So the Meat Board maintains a minimum price, called the floor price. This is not the price the wholesale meat trade actually pays for an ox, but is the level at which the board itself is prepared to buy in that ox, should the trade fail to buy. When the floor price does not move in times of rising production costs, pressure for an adjustment builds up.

The other rail is the actual market price, regardless of cost of production, when the ox is being sold as a carcass on the hook at the board's auction sale. When the floor price happens to be much lower than the auction price, a change in the floor price does not affect the consumer at all.

If there is a serious oversupply of cattle, the board restricts the farmers' access to the market. Without this restriction farmers might be forced to sell off most of their herds in a short period. You would be able to buy your T-bone steak cheaply for a while, as you consume the national herd, and thereafter T-bone steaks would be an impossible luxury for one years

In the thick of last years drought, in May and June 1979, 5985 farmers wanted to sell 63 272 head. To preserve the herds, the board allowed only 1 189 farmers to market 10 650 head, or only to breed. In December 1979 things had brightened up somewhat, when 31 percent could be marketed.

In March 1980, it is estimated that 62 percent of permit applications will be granted.

This rationing of access to the market just when the producer must sell part of his herd, may of course cause inconvenience or even hardship to the farmer It is the direct effect of the drought, or of some other untoward event.

Rises

When the supply drops again to what the farmer in the normal course of his business wants to sell, the need for rationing market access falls away This is what may happen shortly The national herd has, during the drought of 1979, dropped from 9,4-million to 9-million head, which is not a disaster but does mean that farmers, during 1980, will sell 20 percent less meat than in 1979

At the same time, demand has picked up and this relationship points to a rising price trend.

How much will meat rise" Mr Jan Rensburg of Vleissentraal recently pointed to cost rises, mainly resulting from higher prices of maize and of various other meat inputs. That consumer prices will go up by the same percentage 10 percent could be an understatement

Various grades of meat may rise at different degrees, however If the commercial feedlot, who have high direct costs such as feeds, should find that their operation turns unprofitable, supply will reduce The price of super grade may then rise steadily.

Cattle marketed from the farm, some also supers but mostly of only prime grade, might continue to move at a more even rate fluctuating mostly according to the seasons.

Beef

The present basis of consumption the permit allocated directly to farmers by the board, is in any event becoming less and less important in the farmyard, where the previous method of rationing of access to the market, by way of quotas allocated to abattoir agents caused much dissatisfaction among producers, the farmers do not want to go back.

They are convinced that the present system, where allocation to farmers is done directly and according to objective data such as size of farm, size of herd, state of grazing and so on, is still the best shape for an ugly animal

The agricultural unions, which have had opportunity to discuss office methods and internal auditing with the board, concur They have stated repeatedly that the permit system is being applied in a fair and regular way Even if the rationing falls away, they may ask that the system itself be kept operating, to deal with any possible emergency situation.

Why meat prices will

Hot on the heels of last year's meat surplus and Meat Board appeals for farmers to reduce herds come prophecies from meat officials this year of a shortage and rapid price increases.

The R1 200-million a year (at retail level) meat market is geared for a massive producer incentive scheme — which will be met with little enthusiasm from consumers.

This article will attempt to deal with the factors that lead to housewives paying (at current prices) R5,39 for a kilogram of beef fillet; R3,44 a kg for beef stewing steak; R3,49 a kg for leg of lamb; and R2,98 a kg for leg of pork.

Fertiliser price increases are the first indicator of later meat price rises.

Thirty-three percent of the maize cost is attributable to fertiliser. Maize in turn is the principal constituent of animal feed.

Ripple

It forms 65 percent of pig feed, 80 percent of chicken feed, and about 70 percent of feed for sheep and cattle.

Fertiliser is also used to improve the quality of grazing pastures.

Any price increases in fertiliser will cause a wide ripple in the maize price, which will lead to meat producers demanding more money.

As an example, Dr Jan Lombard, general manager of the Meat Board said, "If maize prices increased to R120 a ton (at present they are R102 a ton and maize farmers have indicated they will ask for a 27 percent price increase this year), it would mean that for economical reasons the auction price of high grade beef would have to be R1,68c kg in the second half of 1980.

Patterns

"This represents a beef price increase of 40 percent, which is an optimistic expectation," he said. (The biggest beef producers in the country are maize farmers, according to the Meat Board).

The Meat Board has already warned consumers that meat prices will rise between 15 to 20 percent before June.

This is a contradiction of normal meat marketing patterns at this time of year, when farmers usually start selling more livestock before winter. Prices generally drop accordingly.

Good rains have apparently relieved the drought in many parts of the country — areas around Namaqualand had not seen rain in four years — and many farmers will probably rely on crops to bring in income until meat prices rise, agricultural sources said.

Many sheep farmers, particularly in the northern and eastern Cape have been selling sheep below production prices, rather than pay the cost of keeping their flocks alive on grain.

It is debatable whether a large price increase is desirable — even though producers, who have a six to eight percent profit margin say a minimum increase of 20 percent is vital.

Slide

High price increases in 1973/74 led to a drop in consumption. Per capita consumption of beef, which forms 72 percent of the red meat consumed, dropped from 18,2 kg a person in 1972 to 15,4 kg a person in 1974. Last year, however, it had again risen to 19,1 kg a person.

Red meat consumption overall is on a downward slide. Per capita consumption of red meat has dropped to about 68 percent of what it was in the 1940s, according to the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU).

In their controversial report on the meat industry, the National Marketing Council said, "The consumer will only buy meat at lower prices.

"Under a system of free price formation, price would balance supply and demand."

An obvious statement, it would seem. But in South Africa the selling of meat is enmeshed in a network of controls.

Capacity

During times of surplus, supply control in the form of a quota — or (as at present) a permit system — is introduced.

"The main purpose of either system is to regulate the supply of slaughter animals to controlled markets in such a manner that abattoir facilities and capacities are not exceeded.

"Under conditions where the supply falls well short of the capacity of the abattoirs, the quota and or permit systems can be suspended," the Meat Board said in a written reply to Star questions.

The quota system, which is not in use at present, came in for a barrage of criticism, and allegations of maladministration.

Under this, an agent's quota was determined according to previous performance.

Mr Jan van der Walt, meat officer of the SAAU gave an example of how this worked.

"In Johannesburg there are, say, 20 agents. Vleissentraal handles about 50 percent of the market and Karroo about 20 percent.

Disadvantages

"The Meat Board says, agent A, you handle 50 percent of the market, so you can supply half the market. The agent was then supposed to give farmers quotas, to make up this amount and keep four percent for themselves. There are possibilities for irregularities."

The Meat Board acknowledged this and said the disadvantages of the quota system were:

- "It was alleged that agents were not impartial in the allocation of quotas and could give quotas to favoured producers or to farmers who had financial arrangements with them."
- "Due to the fact that agents were allocated quotas on past performance, new agents could not enter the market. New farmers would have similar difficulties."
- "No competition between agents."

The quota system is still in operation in Natal and the Eastern Cape.

The Meat Board said disadvantages of the quota system were all advantages of the permit system.

Mr van der Walt said the permit system gave the impression that the "agent had no say (in marketing), however, Vleissentraal and Boere Makelaars Beperk have done better under this system."

He said he thought the reason for this was that both organisations were farmers' co-operatives, "and their own organisation has no other motive than to get the best services for their members." (Farmers who are members of these and other agricultural co-operatives, get an eight percent dividend on shares each year. Vleissentraal effectively dominates the SA meat market.)

The Meat Board say the disadvantage of the permit system is that they must rely on information "supplied by producers in applications for permits and in annual return of livestock numbers."

Many farmers inflate their actual livestock figures which disrupts the system. The Meat Board would allocate, as an example, 100 permits to farmer A when he has only 50 head of cattle.

Minimum

However, farmers have claimed the Meat Board occasionally over-allocates permits — one farmer's cattle were slaughtered four days after the permit date. He had to bear the cost of the cattle waiting at the abattoir.

The meat market is controlled in eight major centres of South Africa — Pretoria, Johannesburg, Cato Ridge, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, East London, Kimberley and Bloemfontein.

A minimum floor price — amount guaranteed to the producer — is fixed in these abattoirs. This ensures that even when the market slumps, farmers are not paid less than the production cost of the carcass.

While the National Marketing Council in its report conceded the value of a floor price — but suggested allowances for wider price fluctuations — it advocated the lifting of control in most of the centres.

This, it maintained, would result in a saving of R260 000 a year. However, this was strongly opposed by organised agriculture who maintained the existing floor price system was vital to prevent erosion of farmer's profitability.

Protecting

The council said it was convinced the lifting of control would also lead to a "more even supply and more stable prices."

It said the floor price should have a stabilising function and "serve as an instrument which gives the necessary incentive and direction."

However, it said that when the floor price was used during short-term price fluctuations as at present, it tended to artificially inflate meat prices.

The council "strongly recommended that floor prices should only serve as a protective measure against abnormal drops in prices."

Whether the council's recommendations will be adopted, despite strong agricultural resistance to certain of the above clauses, should be seen this parliamentary session, when the Marketing Act is due to be tabled.

The SAAU, commenting on the Council's report, said the floor price, as it stood at present, was vital as a producer incentive.

It pointed out that many farmers were discontinuing livestock production. The north-western Transvaal is an example of this where many farmers have stopped beef farming because it is not an economically viable operation.

Debt

Estimates by the Jacobs Commission into farming showed that in 1978 there were 72 000 farming units, against 93 000 in 1968.

The total farming debt has increased from R1 384-million in 1970 to R2 854-million in 1978. At the same time fewer young men are being attracted to farming. According to the Jacobs Commission, 39 percent of farmers are older than 55.

However, the commission conceded that low farming profits were also attributable, in many instances, to a "lack of entrepeneurship."

This is perhaps reflected in some of the anomalies that exist in the meat trade, particularly when one looks at export and import figures.

The accompanying table gives an indication of estimated production, consumption, import and export figures last year.

Meat is traditionally exported at a loss: any gains obtained from the export are political, as most is exported to Third World (mainly African) countries.

The average loss on wholesale price for each kilogram of beef exported is 10c.

This meant a minimum loss of R852 800 — at wholesale prices — on beef exports alone during 1979.

At retail prices this would have meant a minimum loss of about R3 407 200.

The Housewives' League have asked for an investigation into meat, but the Minister of Agriculture has declined to do this on previous occasions, "until it can be proved that there are irregularities in the meat industry."

Meat	Production	Imports	Exports	Total consumption
Beef (ton)	477 099	55 931	8 741	528 774
Sheep (ton)	113 533	784	269	114 408
Pork (ton)	70 133	47	1 371	69 692

● All figures relate to 1979 and were supplied by the Meat Board.

Briefing

rocket



The Star

Tuesday February 19 1980

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS INSIDE

Farmers last year were cutting back on cattle herds because of a meat surplus. Now there is a threatened shortage — and consumers have been warned that meat prices may rocket by 15 to 20 percent before June. Why? CHARLENE BELTRAMO looks into the complex forces that dictate what the housewife pays for red meat. . . .

Meat: no reply from Government

The Housewive's League is still awaiting a reply from the Prime Minister, Mr P W Botha, and the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, on their written request for an investigation into meat marketing.

Mrs Joy Hurwitz, national president of the League, said the situation in the meat industry was causing housewives grave concern.

"All in all it looks as though it is going to be a dreadful year for the consumer. We have nothing to be happy about at present, what with possible increases in the prices of bread and maize.

"Fertiliser is at the base of most of these problems and we are probably going to ask the Government from reduction in the price of fertiliser," Mrs Hurwitz said.

In its letter to the Minister of Agriculture the League expressed concern about high meat prices, the ability of the Meat Board to predict the rise or fall of prices, and the susceptibility of the present marketing system to manipulation.

APPENDIX 1

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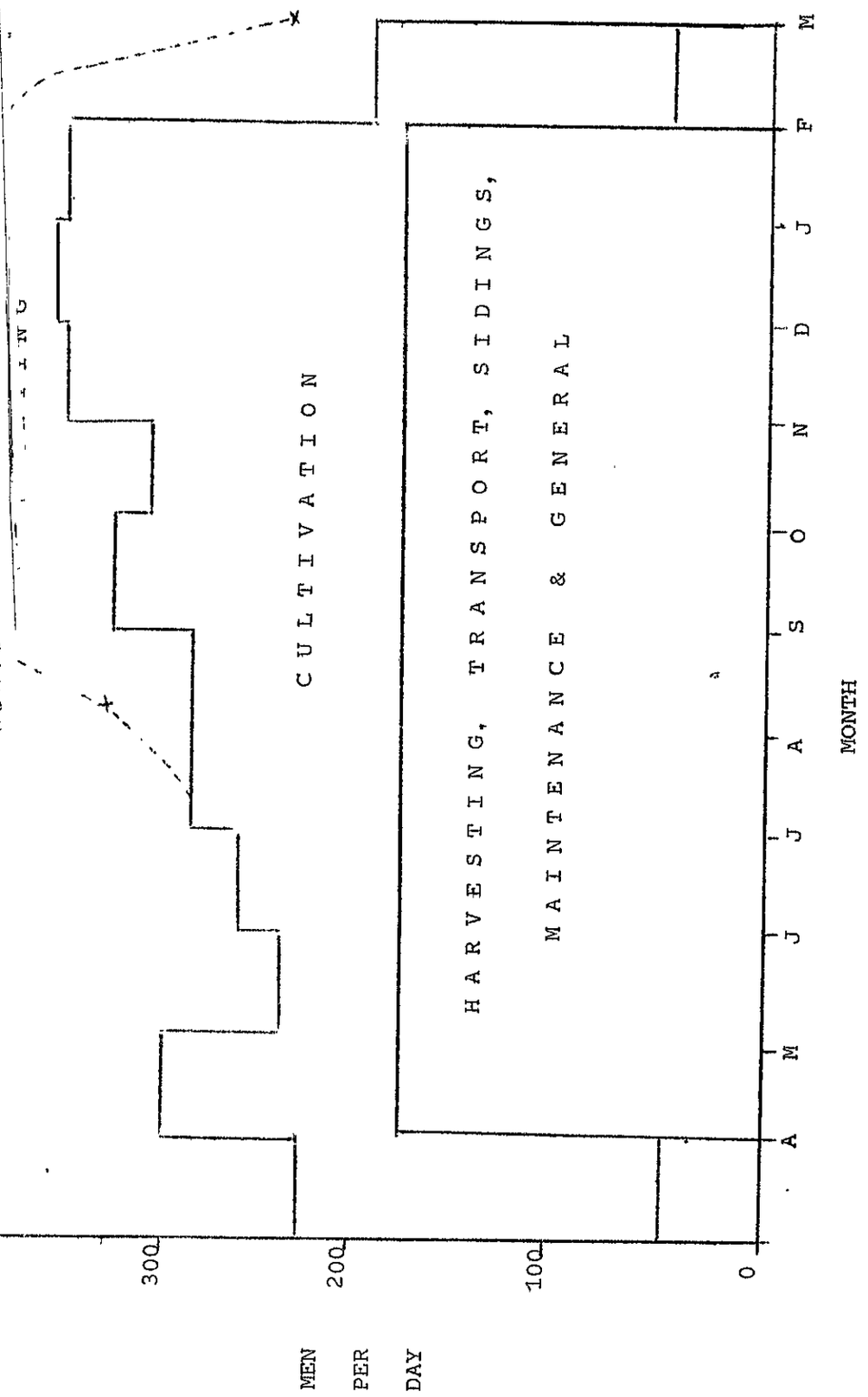


TRADITIONAL SEASONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR LABOUR FOR SUGARCANE FARMING

Floor price of beef up

(3) Meat RDM 23/2/80

Pretoria Bureau

THE floor price of beef is to be increased by 2,6% from March 3, the general manager of the Meat Board, Dr Jan Lombard, announced in Pretoria yesterday.

The increase brings the floor price to the maximum level approved last year by the Minister of Agriculture. Its purpose is to counter the big fluctuations in the market price.

Dr Lombard said that the big fluctuations in the market price of beef resulted from the market price moving at much higher levels than the floor price.

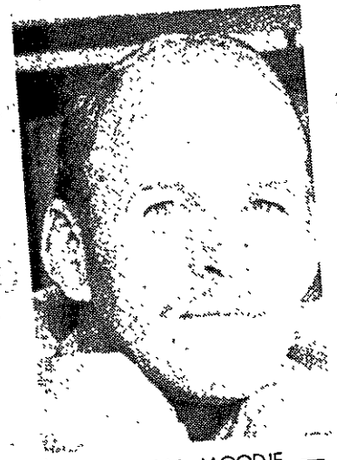
"Even with the new increase of 2,6% the floor price is still substantially lower than the market price and well below the production cost of beef, and as a result this increase will have virtually no effect on the consumer price of beef," he said.

Super beef now sells at about 140c/kg at most centres, while the new floor price is now fixed at only 122c/kg. The production cost of high grade beef is now about 145c/kg.

Rapport 24/2/80 (3) meat

SPIOENE IN VLEISBEDRYF

Niemand word ontsien in korrupsie-stryd



MNR. DAAN MOODIE — hy was verbonde aan die Spoorwegpolisie.



MNR. MARTIENS CRAEMER — hy was voorheen 'n speurder in die bedrogtak.

Deur THINUS PRINSLOO

OUD-SPEURDERS in strategiese poste is in die Suid-Afrikaanse vleisbedryf aan die werk om korrupsie oop te vlek.

Dié snuffelwerk van twee gewese speurders wat deur die hoofbestuurder van die Vleisraad, dr. Jan Lombard, self aangestel is, het tot die arrestasies tot dusver gelei.

Drie manne in die vleisbedryf is sedert 28 Desember verlede jaar deur lede van die bedrogtak van John Vorster-plein aangekeer nadat hulle die werk van hul oud-kollegas opgevolg het. Die polisie gaan voort met die ondersoek.

Die twee „spioene" in die Vleisraad is mnr. Martiens (M.C.) Craemer en mnr. Daan (D. J.) Moodie. Albei is reeds lank in die diens van die Vleisraad, maar hul jare ondervinding van polisiewerk is gebruik om die beweerde korrupsie met permitte waarby duisende rande betrokke is, oop te vlek.

Mnr. Craemer was amper agttien jaar polisieman — hy was o.m. speurder in die bedrog-afdeling. Mnr. Moodie was oor die vyf jaar 'n speurder by die Spoorwegpolisie.

Dr. Lombard het mnr. Craemer, hoofinspekteur van die Vleisraad, verlede jaar met die instelling van die permitbemarkingstelsel aangesê om as waghond op te tree oor die uitreiking en beheer van permitte.

Terselfdertyd het dr. Lombard mnr. Moodie, vorige hoofinspekteur, in Junie verlede jaar by die Witwatersrandse afdeling aangestel ten einde die beheermaatreëls teen ongerymdhede te verskerp. Die Witwatersrand is die grootste vleisafsetgebied in die land.

Die aanstellings en die strenger beheer wat dit meegebring het, het gemaak dat op 'n vermeende geval van omkopery afgekom is. Die saak is later aan die polisie oorhandig vir verdere ondersoek.

Mnr. Pieter Broodryk, 'n amptenaar van die Vleisraad, is reeds voor die hof gedaag en ná hom is vervolgings ingestel teen nog twee vleisagente, mnre. Deon de la Port en Cornelius Oosthuizen. Dié drie is tans op borgtog uit.

By navraag het dr. Lombard bevestig dat hy die aanstellings gedoen het omdat hy vasbeslote is om die vleisbedryf van alle moontlike ongerymdhede te suiwer.

„Ter wille van die goeie orde in my organisasie en omdat ek onskuldige en toegewyde mense in my organisasie van moontlike verleentheid wou vrywaar, het ek my tot dusver weerhou om besonderhede bekend te maak van die maatreëls wat my raad reeds maande gelede in werking gestel het om sy beheer te verskerp.

„Die opdrag aan die amptenare is reeds om sonder aansiens des persoons op te tree indien 'n sweem van onreëlmatigheid teengekom word."

Dr. Lombard sê dis in belang van almal in die vleisbedryf dat vleisbemarking sonder verdenking voortgesit kan word.

Hy het bevestig dat die polisie-ondersoek wat spruit uit sy amptenare se eie ondersoek, voortgesit word en dat daar sonder genade opgetree sal word teen iedereen, „ongeag sy status" indien daar op verdere ongerymdhede afgekom word.

Kapt. C. J. A. Victor, hoof van die bedrogafdeling by John Vorster-plein, het gesê: „Hoewel verskeie mense reeds in die hof verskyn het, gaan die polisie-ondersoek voort."

'Nat future relies on baasskap'

THE ASSEMBLY — There was no doubt that in terms of the National Party's policy, effective political power would be maintained in white hands, the Assembly was told.

Dr Z J de Beer (PFP, Parktown) said National Party members failed to realise, however, that the vote was not power.

Speaking in the second-reading debate on the Part Appropriation Bill, he asked what recipe the National Party had, other than a determination to retain voting control in South Africa.

The vote was simply a convenient and peaceful way of giving expression to a power possessed by virtue of one's economic contribution and one's social importance.

In the future South Africa, as the Nationalists saw it, the black people would have both economic and social importance, but no effective political rights.

"And if there is not to be a physical separation, and there is not to be power-sharing, then what is left is actually white baasskap as we have it today," Dr de Beer said.

The white minority in South Africa was in danger specifically because it was "so ostentatiously more fortunate in every way than the other groups of the population."

Schoeman refuses to probe Meat Board

Star 28/2/80. 3 (meat)

Political Staff

THE ASSEMBLY — The Minister of Agriculture, Mr Schoeman, yesterday dismissed an Opposition call on the Government to appoint a commission of inquiry to investigate the meat industry

The call was made in the Assembly yesterday during the second reading debate on the Part Appropriation Bill by Mr Rupert Lorimer (PFP Orange Grove).

Mr Lorimer said a "large question mark" was hanging over the operations of the South African Meat Board.

"The permit system has not been operating satisfactorily and many farmers are being driven to desperation because they cannot get permits to market their cattle," he said.

Unless the Minister was prepared to have an inquiry into the "extraordinary happenings" in the industry people would continue to believe that something was being hidden, he said.

Mr Lorimer said allegations of corruption on a large scale had been proved correct in the case of the South West African Meat Board and there were definite links between it and the South African Meat Board.



MR LORIMER



MR SCHOEMAN

Although a confidential report of the National Marketing Council had proposed sweeping changes in the South African meat industry these had been, in the main, ignored.

He said allegations of corruption were at present being tested in the courts and the whole industry was in a furore.

"The farmers are dissatisfied and the consumers are dissatisfied and what is the Honourable Minister prepared to do about it — nothing at all," Mr Lorimer said.

"He has been urged by all sorts of people to appoint a commission of inquiry but the Minister has been most coy about it.

"He says he has asked the South African Agricultural Union to investigate complaints and if people come up with sworn affidavits and evidence only then will he appoint an inquiry.

"But I would like to tell the honourable minister that no farmer sitting on his farm is in a position to prove corruption or malpractice.

"The farmer just knows that the allocation of permits appears to be very unfair and he is petrified to complain in case he gets no permit at all — which is his livelihood," Mr Lorimer said.

He said the stranglehold that monopolistic interests had on the industry was undesirable and not in the best interests of either producer or consumer.

Independent butchers were being put out of business by the big undertakings which also had "preponderance of representation" on the meat board.

Mr Schoeman said he was prepared to investigate an industry but not on a basis of false allegations by nameless people.

He said he found it strange that not one farmer had contacted him in connection with problems regarding the meat board.

Coetsee clamps down on mail

Political Correspondent

THE ASSEMBLY — The Government yesterday refused to answer questions about the legality of the interception of MPs' mail and telephone calls.

In a row that erupted in question time, the Deputy Minister of National Security, Mr Coetsee, told angry Opposition MPs that it was not in the public interest to say whether "security officials had in terms of the Post Office Act requested telephone taps and mail interception of MPs and, if so, who the MPs were and on what grounds the interceptions were made."

The questions were asked by Mrs Helen Suzman (PFP, Houghton) whose private correspondence, and a letter written by a house guest on one of her aerogrammes, ended up in the files of the Department of National Security.

Mr Coetsee recalled that the Minister of Posts, Mr Smit, had given the assurance his department had received no request from security services for interception of MPs' mail.

"It is not considered in the public interest to disclose any further information concerning this matter," he added.

In a supplementary question Mrs Suzman asked whether she could assume MPs' mail was still being intercepted.

Mr Coetsee refused to reply. Under further questioning he said: "No further reply can emanate from me because I abide by my previous reply."

Tax-free holiday suggested

THE ASSEMBLY — A tax-free holiday for all individuals for the first six months of this year was one of four recommendations put forward yesterday by Mr Alf Widman (PFP, Hillbrow).

Speaking in the second reading debate on the R3 640-million Part Appropriation Bill, Mr Widman said the Republic was awash with money as a result of the gold bonanza.

- The Government should also consider:
- Abolition of general sales tax, alternatively its substantial reduction from four to one percent.
- Pension concessions insofar as the means test was concerned, as well as increases in the annual pension payments.
- Tax concessions to donors' of cash or goods to public institutions such as museums and art galleries and libraries. — Sapa.

(3) Meat

Letter claims corruption in Meat Board

RDM 28/2/80.

By HELEN ZILLE
Political Correspondent

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY. — Mr Rupert Lorimer, Opposition spokesman on agriculture, yesterday read out a letter in Parliament accusing the Meat Board and Vleissentraal of reserving the December meat market — when prices reached record levels — for "its friends and influenced people".

The letter was written by a South West African attorney on behalf of a SWA farmer who had allegedly been prevented from selling his meat in South Africa at bargain prices over Christmas because he could not get a permit to do so

The attorney accused the Meat Board and Vleissentraal of manipulating the market, and keeping prices high

Mr Lorimer read the letter in the House yesterday as he renewed his call for a commission of inquiry into alleged malpractices in the meat industry.

The Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, rejected the call, saying the alleged malpractices had occurred in SWA and not South Africa

Mr Lorimer challenged Mr Schoeman to publish the list of people granted permits to sell meat over Christmas last year, when beef prices jumped as much as 33% over November.

Mr Schoeman said he was prepared to do this.

Mr Lorimer said he had received a letter from an attorney in SWA giving details of how a farmer had been unable to sell his meat to any of the controlled markets in South Africa for R1,20

During the same period, the retail price of beef to the consumer reached R1,84c per kg.

"This farmer was prepared to sell 200 cattle at short notice at R1,20 per kilo to any of the controlled markets in South Africa But he was advised that the quota for SWA had been reduced for the month of December," Mr Lorimer said.



MR RUPERT LORIMER
. . . call for commission

The attorney had come up with an explanation for this in the letter, Mr Lorimer said, and then quoted from it.

"The answer to this riddle is probably that the month of December was earmarked for the friends and influenced people of the Meat Board and Vleissentraal so that they could get their cut of the manipulated scheme."

The attorney then said he wished to find out which farmers did get permits for the period

"Their relationship with the Meat Board and Vleissentraal would, I am sure be of the greatest interest to any persons concerned with the meat industry," he said

Renewing his call for an inquiry, Mr Lorimer said that unless the Minister was prepared to take this step, "there is no doubt that people will believe something is being hidden".

There were clear links between the Meat Boards in South Africa and SWA, he said. Allegations of corruption by officials were subject to court action, the industry was in turmoil, farmers were dissatisfied, consumers were battling against rising meat prices and the Minister did nothing.

"The permit system has not been operating satisfactorily and many farmers are being driven to desperation because they cannot get permits to market their cattle," Mr Lorimer said

In reply, the Minister said the SA Agricultural Union, after repeated appeals to farmers to put their complaints in writing, had not received a single complaint

He said he had received telegrams and letters from producer organisations in all the major meat producing areas requesting that the present system remain unchanged

Meat prices 'manipulated' — allegation

(3) meat 28/2/80.

Political Staff

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Mr Lorimer



Mr Schoeman

During the same period, the retail price of beef to the consumer reached R1,84 a kg.

"This farmer was prepared to sell 200 cattle at short notice at R1,20 per kilo to any of the controlled markets in South Africa. But he was advised that the quota for South West Africa had been reduced for the month of December," Mr Lorimer said.

In his letter the attorney had come up with an explanation for this. Mr Lorimer then quoted from the letter: "The answer to this riddle is probably that the month of December was earmarked for the friends and influential people of the Meat Board and Vleissentraal so that they could get their cut of the manipulated scheme."

The attorney then said he wished to find out what farmers did get permits for the period. "Their relationship with the Meat Board and Vleissentraal would, I am sure, be of the greatest interest to any persons concerned with the meat industry," he said.

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There were clear links between the SA Meat Board and that of SWA/Namibia, allegations of corruption by officials were subject to court action, the industry was in turmoil, farmers were dissatisfied, consumers were battling against rising meat prices, and the minister did nothing.

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In reply, the minister said that the SA Agricultural Union, after repeated appeals to farmers to put their complaints in writing, had not received a single complaint. He had received telegrams and letters from producer organizations in all the major meat-producing areas, requesting that the present system remain unchanged, Mr Schoeman said.

SUNDAY TRIBUNE, APRIL 20, 1980

Minister says no...in spite of dissatisfaction

Plea for meat industry inquiry rejected

Tribune Reporter

THE Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, has admitted he is aware of dissatisfaction with aspects of the meat industry but has refused to appoint an inquiry to investigate the complaints.

In a letter to the Housewives' League of South Africa, Mr Schoeman says he will not grant the league their request for a public, independent inquiry, in spite of his being "aware of the fact that there is at present some dissatisfaction with regard to certain aspects of the meat industry."

In a series of articles from October to December last year the Sunday Tribune highlighted complaints from angry farmers and butchers in the meat industry. At the time Mr Schoeman refused to appoint a commission of inquiry unless he received sworn affidavits from farmers alleging malpractice.

Following this statement, the general manager of the Meat Board, Dr Jan Lombard, said that any farmer or person who submitted an affidavit would be sued if the commission found nothing wrong with the board.

Now the Housewives' League is calling for a number of reforms within the industry, and according to Mrs Yvonne Forshaw, vice-president of the league, the first area in which they want to see change is the method of meat auctioning.

"The present system lays itself wide open for abuse and misuse and is an example of blatant manipulation of the market.

"The wholesalers, who are also agents and producers, can set exceedingly high prices simply because the system in use makes it possible to keep prices artificially high," she said.

The system under criticism is the "Dutch Auction Clock" method in which the clock starts ticking down from a high price to lower prices.

When a buyer feels the price is right he pushes a button at his desk and stops the clock. The meat is then sold at that price.

"The wholesalers can set the price as high as they like just by pressing the button at a high price," Mrs Forshaw claimed.

"We've been wondering if this is the reason why prices are so high at the moment," she said.

"This system is not in the interests of the meat trade, the consumers or the independent butchers. The big buyers can determine what the price will be and that can be an artificially high price because there's no genuine bidding — they just decide beforehand what the price will be, then push a button when it gets to that price."

Mrs Forshaw said wholesalers — most of whom are also involved in production and livestock agencies — could manipulate the market at will and could manipulate sales to such an extent that the Meat Board could be forced to raise the floor price paid to producers as a minimum price.

"This is blatant manipulation of the market place," she said.

According to the Housewives' League it is believed the "Dutch Auction" system is only in use at the new abattoirs at Cato Ridge and City Deep (Johannesburg).

Professor Rudi Brits, Professor of Business Economics at the University of Witwatersrand, said the Dutch auction could keep prices artificially high — especially in times of short supply when one buyer could take the whole lot at an unnecessarily high price.

And Professor Lieb Niewoudt, of the Department of Agricultural Economics at Natal University, said on the face of things and if operated properly the Dutch Auction system was fine.

"But what is wrong is the collusion that goes on behind the scenes and can keep prices higher than normal," he said.

QUOTE

The present system of auctioning meat lays itself wide open for abuse and misuse, and is an example of blatant manipulation of the market — Mrs Yvonne Forshaw, vice-president of the Housewives' League of South Africa.



Minister of Agriculture Hendrik Schoeman . . . he is aware there is "some dissatisfaction"



Dr Jan Lombard . . . "they'll be sued"

Top Meat Board man in court

By GHERHARD PIETERSE

THE probe into allegations of corruption in the meat industry enter a new phase this week when a senior Meat Board official faces allegations of large-scale corruption.

Mr Pieter Abraham Lourence Brooderyk, a former control officer with the Meat Board, is expected to appear in the Johannesburg Regional court on fraud charges involving about R50 000.

His appearance is a sequel to a midnight swoop late last year by John Vorster Square Fraud Squad detectives when Mr Brooderyk and two livestock-agency officials were arrested.

Mr Brooderyk, who made a brief appearance in December, was released on bail of R1 000.

The state will allege that Mr Brooderyk accepted "payments and gifts" from several livestock agency officials in return for allowing them to slaughter more livestock than their quotas and permits allowed.

Mr Brooderyk was in charge of all the abattoirs in the Witwatersrand area between 1962 until December 1979

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Wives' league calls for meat reforms

Staff Reporter

THE Housewives' League has called for reforms in the meat industry in the wake of a refusal by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, to hold a public inquiry.

The league is particularly concerned about the method of auctioning meat.

At wrote to Mr Schoeman in January asking for an inquiry, and this week issued a statement which said:

"The Housewives' League has received a letter from the Minister of Agriculture in which he says he will not grant our request for a public, independent inquiry into the meat industry, in spite of his being aware of the fact that there is at present some dissatisfaction with regard to certain aspects of the meat industry.

"In view of this, we would like to see certain reforms, the first of which is a change in the method of auctioning meat.

"At the moment, it is done (to our knowledge, at Cato Ridge and City Deep abattoirs) by the 'Dutch auction' clock system. This system is operated by a clock mechanism, which starts at a high figure and ticks down to a lower one.

"The buyer presses a button at the figure he is prepared to pay, and the first person to press it purchases the meat at that price.

"In view of the fact that wholesalers purchasing meat are often buying from themselves, it is essential that this method be investigated.

"The wholesaler works on a percentage mark-up, therefore the higher the price the better this mark-up is. By using the 'Dutch auction' system, it is possible to keep prices artificially high, particularly if you are buying your own meat and then selling it to independent butchers.

"We would like to see this valuable commodity sold by ordinary auction. This reform could be implemented immediately, and although the argument will be raised that the ordinary auction is slower, this is not a valid argument to support a bad method of selling.

"We understand, anyway, that the 'Dutch auction' finishes by midday or soon after."

A spokesman for the Meat Board denied that the "Dutch auction" system raised prices artificially. "This is borne out by the fact that meat prices are substantially higher in Pretoria — where the system is not in operation — than in Cape Town and Durban, where it is.

"Recent Press reports about soaring meat prices are totally unfounded and are misleading the consumer public. The figures derived from actual market prices contradict these rumours and actually show that meat prices, especially beef, decreased at all the major markets. Beef has, in fact, dropped to the lowest level since December."

Mr Ben-Kruger, managing director of the Abattoir Corporation, said: "The Dutch clock system is there to expedite the auction. It would be difficult and time-consuming to auction all the carcasses in a normal manner."

A spokesman for the Karoo Vlei's wholesale group said the Dutch system was the most modern way to auction meat.

"The reason, at the moment, for higher prices is a matter of supply and demand, and has nothing to do with the manner of auctioning.

"I find it impossible to believe that wholesalers could manoeuvre the whole system in their favour. This would not be desirable from anyone's point of view."

A Rand Cold Storage spokesman, told of the league's statement, said: "They don't know what they are talking about."

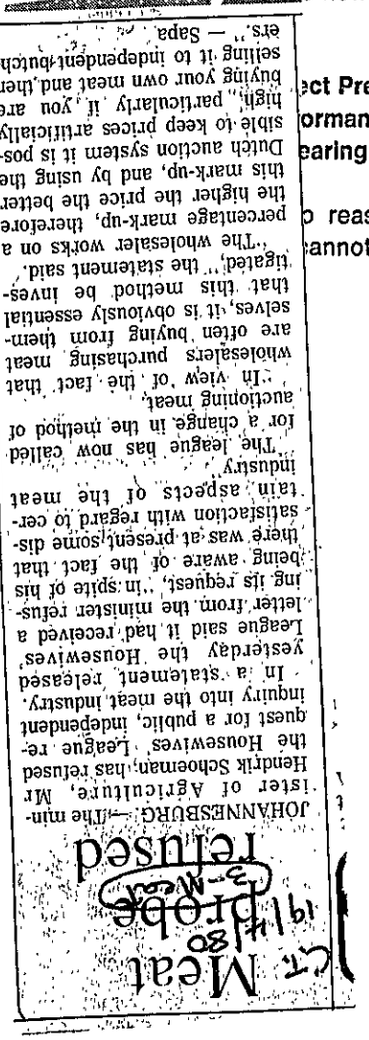
boat (which is the same as total rent since we assume the boat is costless to operate). He charges a fee of 2.8 fish per person for the right to be on board. With an average catch of 6.8 out of which each pays 2.8 and keeps four, only five persons will want to be on board. Now the 14-fish rent (social gain) goes to the government and is distributed however the government sees fit. It would appear that the only difference between this and the private-property control system is in who gets the 14-fish gain. The private owners, seeking personal profits, also achieved the maximum social output.

However, if our government agent takes life easier and doesn't charge the right fee, what will he lose? The loss is imposed on the public as a whole. But who in the public or government has an incentive as strong as a private owner to detect opportunism or shirking of prescribed duty? In contrast to the private owner, a political authority suffers less loss of potential personal wealth in being less attentive to nonownable gains. And if there is uncertainty about the potential catch on board, he would permit extra people on board if that made him more popular and enhanced his hold on political office. Or to make his personal life easier, the authority might allow too few on board because that permits shorter working hours for him (like closing on holidays [illegible] and earlier in the afternoons) and [illegible] the boat as fully as would maximize [illegible] we shall see how *incentives* and [illegible] about future potential production ar[illegible] fluences on methods for coordinati[illegible] trolling joint production activity.

But when has a government agenc[illegible] posed to maximize *profits*? It is us[illegible]

ways, told to "maximize public welfare and benefit." (The agency might be a nonprofit corporation for hospitals, colleges, or the post office.) How is "maximize public welfare" interpreted? In our example, maximize the number on board? Or maximize the catch on the boat? Or the social total? Maximizing the catch *on board* would, as we have seen, result in marginal products on board that are less than on shore, thereby reducing the social total—a *social* waste.

The ambiguous goal "maximum public benefit and welfare" is sturdy and widespread, because its ambiguity permits the authorities wide latitude of interpretation and hence of measuring performance. It is commonly mandated for government authorities who control access to the television and radio electromagnetic spectrum, air space for airplanes, postal service, highways, national and state parks and beaches, airports, harbors, schools; it is even applied to federal forests, offshore oil, and federal land. Zoning commissions that control the use of land (such as how congested it can be) are similarly instructed to maximize public usefulness. But hardly any government authority is instructed to maximize profits: not the post office, or the water, electricity, gas, or bus company. All are instructed to "serve the public," or "break even"—with consequences [illegible] now more explainable.


Meat Probe Refused

JOHANNESBURG — The minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, has refused the Housewives' League request for a public, independent inquiry into the meat industry.

In a statement released yesterday the Housewives' League said it had received a letter from the minister refusing its request, "in spite of his being aware of the fact that there was at present some dissatisfaction with regard to certain aspects of the meat industry."

The league has now called for a change in the method of auctioning meat.

"In view of the fact that wholesalers purchasing meat are often buying from themselves, it is obviously essential that this method be investigated," the statement said.

"The wholesaler works on a percentage mark-up, therefore the higher the price the better this mark-up, and by using the Dutch auction system it is possible to keep prices artificially high," particularly if you are buying your own meat and then selling it to independent butchers." — Sapa.

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Support prices worry butchers

STAR 9/4/80

3 Meat

Fair Deal Reporter

Despite the Meat Board's claim that the new support-price system would not inflate meat prices butchers are finding that lamb prices are soaring although beef prices have dropped slightly.

A major wholesaler and retailer complained that today's floor price on super lamb was R2,10 kg — up by about 15c from last week. First grade lamb is selling at a floor-price of R1,95.

The floor price is the price farmers are paid for their carcasses and prices cannot drop below this.

But, on top of this the Meat Board has introduced a support price system.

This is calculated on average prices for three weeks and is higher than the floor price.

Prices are not allowed to drop below this. If prices do drop to the support price, the Meat Board buys in carcasses.

A Meat Board spokesman denied that this system would inflate prices artificially.

A large retailer expressed concern that this system would inflate prices and cause consumer resistance.

He said half lambs were being sold at a minimum of R2,60 kg; neck of lamb at R3,69 kg and lamb chops at R4,19 kg.

As predicted beef has dropped below the Easter and Passover high of R1,64 kg (market price). It is now selling at an average of R1,50 kg for super beef at the abattoir.

A wholesaler said consumers could forget beef market prices of R1,20 kg. "You'll never see them again," he said.

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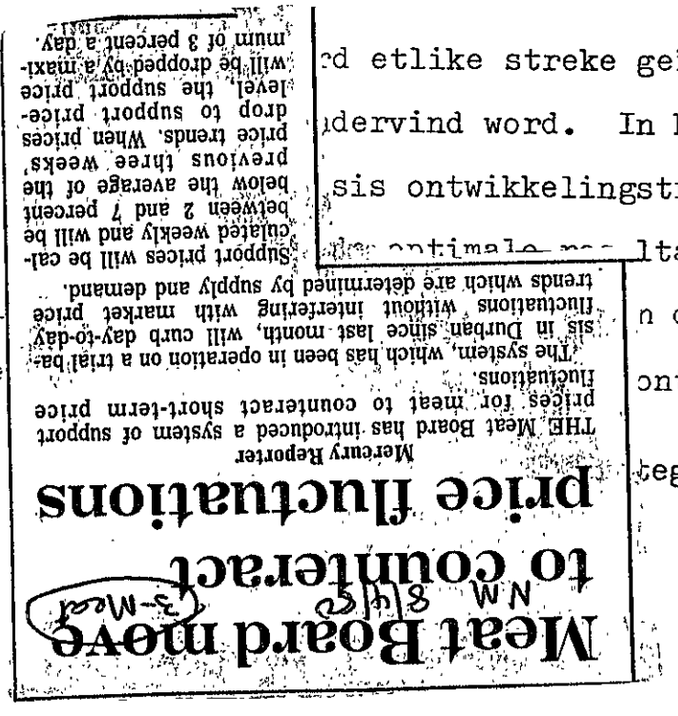
6. Streekontwikkelingsverenigings word deur die Departement erken en gesien as 'n baie belangrike skakel met streke. Hulle verteenwoordig streke se belange in die wydste sin, en daarom is dit vir die Afdeling Ontwikkelingsbevordering belangrik dat sodanige verenigings in stand gehou word met die oog op kommuni= kasie met streke, om

- op hoogte te bly met tendense en ontwikkelinge wat in streke aan die gang is; en om

- belangegroepe in die streke in te lig ten opsigte van beleid en ander aangeleenthede wat streke raak, om dit (waar nodig) as 'n forum te gebruik om 'n streeksbewustheid en lojaliteit te kweek en om die streeksinstandhoudingsfunksie te versterk.

'n Sterk en aktiewe dagbestuur kan op 'n deurlopende basis 'n suiwer en stewige skakeling na buite uitbou.

7. In die verfynir ...d etlike streke geïdentifiseer waar besondere ontwikk... ...dervind word. In hierdie gebiede is dit nodig ... ...sis ontwikkelingstrategieë op te stel om deur gek... ...ltate te verkry. Mettertyd sal ... n ontwikke= lingstrategie vir elke ... ontwikkelings= ...tegie ... /



Meat Board moves to counteract price fluctuations

Mercury Reporter

THE Meat Board has introduced a system of support prices for meat to counteract short-term price fluctuations.

"The system, which has been in operation on a trial basis in Durban since last month, will curb day-to-day fluctuations without interfering with market price trends which are determined by supply and demand.

"Support prices will be calculated weekly and will be between 2 and 7 percent below the average of the previous three weeks' price trends. When prices drop to support price-level, the support price will be dropped by a maximum of 3 percent a day.

Capt Times 1/4/80 (3 mar) (450) (465) (482)

Karoo strike ends, workers reinstated

By LIZ McGREGOR

THE week-long strike by 59 Karoo Meat Exchange workers ended yesterday. They will be reinstated in their former positions and given a week's pay.

The workers began striking last Monday after management had allegedly dismissed a worker without first consulting the elected workers' committee.

Yesterday the workers were reinstated after a two-hour meeting with Karoo management, from which the press and officials from the union representing the workers, the Western Province General Workers' Union, were excluded.

Worker representatives from several other meat firms, who had obtained permission from their firms to be present at the meeting between the Karoo workers and management, were also excluded from the meeting.

The chairman of the workers' committee, Mr Lennox Booi, reported after the meeting that management had acceded to their demands that they should be unconditionally reinstated in their former positions and paid for the period they were on strike.

He said this was agreed to after hard bargaining with the general manager of Karoo Meats, Mr Johan Louw, who wanted the workers to re-apply individually for their jobs and refused to guarantee they would be given the same jobs they had before the strike started.

"He now agrees that he should consult with the committee first on any matter that concerns us," Mr Booi said.

However, Mr Louw said the workers had been re-employed only after they had agreed to a statement accepting "the undisputed right of the employer to employ or discharge any employees who are not rendering satisfactory service".

He said the pay the workers would get was "an ex-gratia payment" made on "humanitarian grounds".

STAR 8/3/80

Mammoth Pretoria abattoir planned

Own Correspondent

A multimillion-rand abattoir is in the pipeline for Pretoria.

The chairman of the Abattoir Corporation, Mr Fanie van Rensburg, has confirmed that a piece of land has already been bought at Pyramid, north of Pretoria.

He declined to reveal the size of the site, or how many slaughter animals the abattoir would handle.

Mr van Rensburg said the abattoir was in the planning stage and further attention would be paid to it once the corporation's present projects were completed.

The corporation is at present putting the City Deep abattoir in Johannesburg, and the Cato Ridge, Durban, abattoir into commission.

It is also taking over the operation of the Krugersdorp and Kimberley abattoirs.

Meat-price curb

3 (Meat) SET 14/3/80

THE SENATE. — The Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, announced that a scheme would be introduced next month to bring retail meat-price fluctuations in line with wholesale prices.

Replying to the second reading debate on the Marketing Amendment Bill, Mr Schoeman said meat prices increased during the December holiday season because of fewer slaughterings at abattoirs.

After the festive season, butchers tended to keep meat prices at the Christmas level even though wholesale prices were declining.

The scheme, compiled in consultation with the Meat Board, would be implemented on April 1.

Mr Schoeman gave no further details. — Sapa

OK enters food war and slashes butter, cheese and meat prices

BY PAUL DOLD
Financial Editor

20/3/80 3 meat CT

THE supermarket price war took a dramatic turn last night when the giant OK Bazaars entered the fray announcing it is slashing butter and cheese prices as well as offering substantial discounts on meat.

General manager (sales promotion) Mr Allan Fabig says that butter prices are being cut by 28 percent from R1,09c to 78c for a 500g pack while cheddar cheese is being reduced from R2,48 to R1,82 a kg.

He said that the OK had been in touch with the Dairy Board to order substantial additional butter consignments and that prices would be maintained as long as stocks last. The campaign would help to diminish the country's butter and cheese surplus.

"The butter is being sold below cost and cheese around cost. In addition, OK are running a 14 shopping day red meat promotion offering popular cuts of meat at discounts of from 20 to 30 percent off yesterday's price. The first four cuts are boerewors, now R1,28 per kg, super half lambs at R2,28 per kg, stewing beef grade 1 R1,38 per kg and grade 1 topside beef roast at R2,48 per kg."

Prices are being slashed at all of OK's 146 stores throughout the country. The latest development is highly significant in that is underscores the new competitiveness of the OK under its new managing director, Mr Meyer Kahn. This is probably the first time that the OK has led the other supermarkets in this type of discounting.

I understand that the OK has several other promotions lined up and the group is highly confident that its new aggression in the market place will be maintained. Clearly, after some three years after vast reorganization Meyer Kahn's new style of management is coming to fruition at a time when retail sales are about to boom.

The OK is backing its promotions with vast advertising campaigns in newspapers across the country and will be using television for part of the campaign as well. The butter, cheese and meat campaign is being launched in morning newspapers.

The group is delighted with sales in the Western Cape and particularly its Kenilworth store which is producing tremendous turnovers and profits although it is close to one of Pick 'n Pay's largest supermarkets in the country.

This success has no doubt given OK added confidence that it can compete with the best chains in the country. The Kenilworth store is the first of OK's new style department stores in the Cape and negotiations are underway for further openings.

The group realizes that in this region many of its stores are old but management hopes to soon add similar stores to Kenilworth in and around Cape Town.



Mr Meyer Kahn

STU13-9 EXAMINATION RESULTS IN FACULTY ARTS
13020 BACHELOR OF ARTS YEAR : 2

STUD NO	SURNAME	FIRST NAMES	COURSE
133849N	PEARCE	CAREY SUSAN	114101
140639U	PETERSEN	BERTRAND SYDNEY	102201 116201
133499H	PLAAIJIES	NANCY	101105
137501H	PLAGIS	JOHN ACHILLES	801303
139271G	REDMAN	BARRY GEORGE	105104
052892R	ROSS	SALLY MARY	103302 104201 110303
121461Y	SANDGROUND	DAVID LEON	106202
133333C	SFAKIANOS	ALEXANDER GEORGE	107201
133034C	SHAPIRO	DEENA PERLE	107101
137998Y	SHAPIRO	LEONARD STEVEN	114101
134302F	SOLOMON	IVOR DANIEL	004201
155878U	STIGLING	JOSEF	
111532F	VERMEEK		
121723H	VISAGIE		
102166C	WOLFFE		
	* TOTAL NUMBER OF		
	DEAN		

STU13-9 EXAMINATION RESULTS IN FACULTY ARTS AS AT 29 02 80 PAGE 1

13030 BACHELOR OF ARTS YEAR : 3 13030

STUD NO	SURNAME	FIRST NAMES	COURSE	DESCRIPTION	SYMBOL			
102521L	ABBOTT	PETER HARRY KEITH D	603202	ROMAN LAW & JURISPRUDENCE I	UP	(57)	4	102521L
077201P	ANDREWS	DAVID BRIAN	107301	ENGLISH III	3	(56)	4	077201P
101148U	BASKIN	MELANIE ANN	114101	RELIGIOUS STUDIES I	UP	(54)	5	101148U
101875J	BOSSE	PETER GRAHAM	004301	PSYCHOLOGY III	3	(52)	4	101875J
114694T	COOKE	JOHN GEORGE	008204	GEOGRAPHY IIA (HALF COURSE)	UP	(51)	4	114694T
115418E	COPIDO	ODILE ARLENE	101202	AFRICAN LANGUAGES XHOSA II	UP	(50)	4	115418E
111405T	CURTIS	RICHARD MARK	911201	MATHEMATICS IIA M204	UP	(55)	4	111405T
100997E		SLEY SHARON	911103	MATHEMATICS IB	F	(41)	5	100997E
098097C		SAN	004301	PSYCHOLOGY III	UP	(57)	4	098097C
113612R		USTRATIOS JOHN	603301	ROMAN LAW II	UP	(63)	4	113612R
101853K		ELENA JANET	110201	AFRICAN HISTORY I	UP	(50)	4	101853K
102381J		NGRID GERTLINDE	115103	ITALIAN INTENSIVE	UP	(60)	4	102381J
097859U		AURA JEAN	902201	ASTRONOMY A (HALF CRSE)	2-	(63)	5	097859U
101158E		ILLEM DINANT	106301	ECONOMICS III	ABS		5	101158E
094855G		NALIESE LYNETTE	116317	DRAMA III	UP	(53)	4	094855G
111351M		NADINE BETTY	107301	ENGLISH III	ABS		5	111351M
103519W		NTHONY	117301	POLITICAL SCIENCE III	UP	(53)	4	103519W
102719B		AMANDA JANE	802131	HIST & APPRECIAT OF MUSIC I	ABS		5	102719B
102257Z		COLLEEN JANE	105103	GREEK & ROMAN LIT & PHIL	3	(58)	5	102257Z
033909H		FAROUK ISMAIL	102302	AFRIKAANS EN NEDERLANDS III	F		5	033909H
101164L		JEAN-MARIE RICHARD	106301	ECONOMICS III	UP	(51)	4	101164L
			910101	STATISTICS 1A(HALF CRSE)	F	(24)		
			910108	STATISTICS 1C(HALF CRSE)	F	(34)		
112105D		ANNE-MARIE	911201	MATHEMATICS IIA M204	UP	(55)	4	112105D
116606W		GILDA MARIA	102101	AFRIKAANS	UP	(50)	4	116606W
134108Z		ADELE	107301	ENGLISH III	2-	(67)	4	134108Z

UCT

Threats over meat inquiry

The Star's Africa News Service

WINDHOEK — Mr Eric Lang, the SWA/Namibia farmer who first called for an inquiry into the alleged irregularities in the territory's meat industry, says he has decided to drop all further investigation because he and his family have been threatened.

Mr Lang said today the threats were mainly aimed at his three-year-old son. Two unknown men once tried to give the boy a lift from his primary school but a teacher saw the incident and stopped the boy.

Last Thursday two men called the boy to the wall of the Lang garden and tried to speak to him but Mr Lang intervened.

"I invited them into the house but when I went to the gate to let them in they had gone," he said.

On Monday he received a threatening telephone call at home from an unknown man.

"What he said was well planned because I could hear him read it from several pages. If the threats are carried out it would make life totally unbearable.

"Under these circumstances I have decided to withdraw myself from the meat affair," Mr Lang said.

"I feel I have done my share. Enough has come out to show the manipulation that took place. I can't do battle if my family is threatened," he said.

MEAT INDUSTRY

All in the family

(3) Meat Fin 21/3/80

Whenever there is a rumpus about the workings of the Meat Board, attention always seems to focus on Vleissentraal, the R600m turnover central livestock co-operative.

No wonder. The chairman of the Meat Board, Flip du Toit, is also a director of Vleissentraal, while the vice-chairman, Fanie van Rensburg, is senior GM of the same organisation. Three other Vleissentraal directors, P J Pretorius, J F Vercueil and Gerhard Braak, sit with them on the board. And a sixth board member, J J Eksteen, is a director of BKB, the largest of Vleissentraal's 32 shareholder affiliates.

Moreover, with four seats out of seven on the Meat Board's executive committee, Vleissentraal is assured a working majority where it really matters.

Muckrakers looking further down the line are also able to note with glee that the board's new GM, Dr Jan Lombard, had been recruited from Stock Owners' Co-op, Vleissentraal's affiliate in Natal.

But over-representation isn't necessarily synonymous with corruption: Both Vleissentraal and the Meat Board brush aside any suggestion that the co-op derives competitive or commercial advantage through its strong representation.

But few other interested parties (except, perhaps, the minister himself) are able to view the situation with such simple faith or complacency.

Fair and equal

In theory the meat scheme is designed to ensure fair and equal access to the controlled markets for all producers and all buyers. In practice it doesn't.

The system of grading and compulsory auction on the hook at public abattoirs was supposed to give everyone a fair crack at the whip. Instead it gave an advantage to the large wholesalers and cold storage companies which soon learned how to manipulate prices.

Stringent regulations in respect of vehicle hygiene and private abattoir registration gradually forced more and more retail butchers to buy through wholesalers. Strong buying power then gave the wholesalers the muscle to exploit the auction system by bidding up prices for the few remaining retailers who wouldn't follow suit.

At Johannesburg's City Deep abattoir, the largest in the country, there are now seldom more than five and sometimes only three buyers.

But that problem should by no means be laid solely at the door of the Meat Board or Vleissentraal.

Even if neither existed, a combination of publicly owned abattoirs and pernickety health regulations would inevitably have led to the cartelisation of meat wholesaling.

Financial Mail March 21 1980

Indeed, it was to contain suspected price rigging and exploitation by cold storage companies that the farmers originally asked for a Meat Board in the late 1930s. And the currently maligned Vleissentraal owes most of its early popularity and expansion to farmer dissatisfaction with the private sector livestock agencies which were either acting in collusion with meat wholesalers, or accused of doing so.

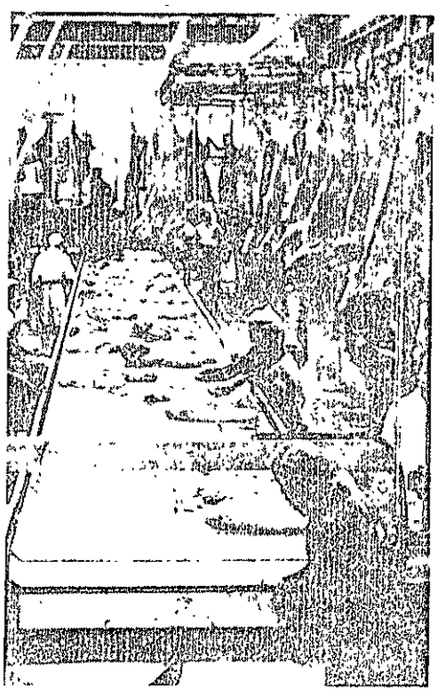
Today (although still officially outlawed), that sort of collusion is regarded as a pre-requisite for survival in the trade. Three vertically integrated groups (Vleissentraal, Imperial Cold Storage and Asokor/Karoo) dominate the nation's trade in beef. Each has interests on both sides of the abattoir. W L Oesch, the only significant livestock agency without an overt interest in meat wholesaling, is thought to lean heavily on its long standing friendship with ICS. Although the heavyweight of wholesalers, Imperial is weaker than its two rivals in the link between farm and abattoir. It has a majority stake in the W L Oesch hide and skin company.

Although each of the three groups has private abattoirs (ICS and Vleissentraal even share two at Krugersdorp and Vereeniging), they compete for the bulk of their supplies at the publicly owned slaughter houses in the Meat Board's nine "controlled areas" where well over 60% of SA's beef is traded.

Another sore point

Therein lies another sore point. The chairman of the Abattoir Corporation (Abakor) — a ministerial appointment — is the same Fanie van Rensburg of Vleissentraal who is vice-chairman of the Meat Board. And the only other non-executive director drawn from the meat trade, Gerhard Braak, comes from the same stable.

Although the Cape Town abattoir is still owned and run by city fathers, the ten other big ones have all been brought under the control of Abakor since 1976. Abakor now slaughters more than half the cattle in the country.



Suiting "the big three"

Together with certain consumer lobbyists and disgruntled farmers, many independent butchers suspect that the whole system of meat marketing, from quotas and permits through abattoirs and the Meat Board to wholesaling and vehicle hygiene regulations, is being shaped to suit "the big three".

And at least one of those has hinted on more than one occasion that even the three don't get an equal look in.

Fred Lategan, MD of Asokor, has been openly critical even though he holds a seat on the Meat Board himself. Recently he has joined in the criticisms of the change from a quota to a permit system of controlling the flow of cattle into the abattoirs. Under the new scheme the Meat Board is by-passing livestock agents and allocating permits directly to suppliers.

But the offending concentration of power does not stop at the Meat Board, abattoirs or meat and offal wholesaling. Hides and skins flow automatically to the livestock agent through whom the live animals are consigned to abattoirs. Control of those products, worth R93m last year, is even more concentrated. Vleissentraal now claims to cure 95% of all hides coming out of the Cato Ridge Abattoir and its omnipresent GM, Fanie van Rensburg, doubles up as chairman of the Hide and Skin Curers' Federation. It is actually as a representative of that industry, rather than the farmers', the co-operatives or the livestock agents, that he sits on the Meat Board.

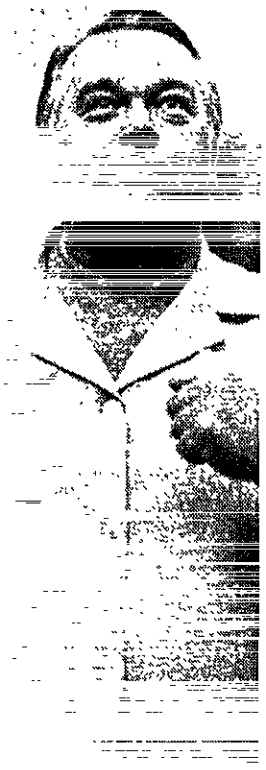
In spite of newspaper allegations of corruption (partially borne out by recent criminal cases) and appeals from the Housewives' League, the minister insists that there is no justification at this stage for a commission of inquiry. Refusing to pay heed to rumblings on the platteland, he insists that he needs details of specific allegations first.

But who is going to give them to him? Dr Lombard has threatened to bring a civil action (presumably using the producer's own funds to fight the cases) against any farmer who makes an allegation to the minister which subsequently turns out to be unsubstantiated. And as an interim measure, he has warned trouble makers that they may be relegated to the bottom of the list for permits.

Meanwhile the South African Agricultural Union, which might have been expected to take up the cudgels for the farmers, seems unlikely to do so. Fanie van Rensburg is not only chairman of its meat committee, but, as chairman of the co-operative council, he is effectively the second or third most powerful man in the whole union. Indeed, since the co-operatives provide more of the SAAU's finance than do the affiliated provincial unions, it could be argued that Vleissentraal has too much power behind the throne as well.

RAPPORT, 23 Maart 1980

BOERE HELP SMOKKEL



KOEKS TERBLANCHE, voorsitter van Messe Distrikslandbou-unie.

Beeste uit Rhodesië stroom in

Deur JAN COETZEE

BEESTE wat uit Rhodesië oor die Limpopo na Suid-Afrika gesmokkel word, is besig om ernstige probleme te skep. Bek-en-klouseer kan miljoene rande skade hier te lande veroorsaak.

Die polisie wat terdeë probeer om die misdryf te bestry, het reeds die een smokkelaar ná die ander aangekeer. Mense is onlangs op Messina gevonnis.

Die smokkelvraagstuk word as só dringend beskou dat die Beestekomitee van die Transvaalse Landbou-unie ten einde raad reeds vertoë tot die Departement van Justisie gerig het. Strenger strawwe word gevra.

Nog ontstellender is die feit dat sommige blankes naarstig plase langs die Limpopo soek net om beeste uit Rhodesië na die Republiek te smokkel.

Mnr. Koeks Terblanche, voorsitter van Messina se Distrikslandbou-unie, sê vandeesweek aan RAPPORT dat die insmokkel van besmette beeste die landsekonomie kwaai kan knou. „Ek oordryf nie as ek sê dat dit miljoene rande skade kan beteken nie."

„As beeste uit Rhodesië hier op 'n vendusie verkoop word, kan dit die hele distrik besmet. Hulle kan ook na Johannesburg en Pretoria vir bemarking gestuur word — moontlike besmetting oor 'n afstand van honderde kilometers. Om nie eens te praat van die slagplase waar die beeste gehanteer word nie.

„Nog erger — beesvleisuitvoer sal dadelik gestaak moet word as bek-en-klouseer onder beeste in die Republiek opgemerk word," sê mnr. Terblanche op sy pragplaas klein Eden.

Dis bekend dat bek-en-klouseer onder beeste oral in Rhodesië voorkom. Duisende diere loop los en beheermaatreëls is swak.

Veral swartes het nie beheer oor hul beeste nie. Baie swartes was lank in beskutte dorpies en hul beeste het sonder wagters buite rondgeswerf.

Baie beeste van blankes swerf ook oral rond. Terroriste het plaasheinings geknip en beeste het wild begin rondtrek.

Mnr. Terblanche sê dat „losloper"-swartes in die laaste tyd van die beeste begin bymekaarmaak het. „Hulle steel dit," is sy woorde.



TROPPE beeste wat naby Chipise in Rhodesië los loop word deur swartes gesteel, en na die Limpopo aangedryf van waar hulle na die Republiek gesmokkel word.

Drie smokkelsake het onlangs op Messina gedien. In een geval is 'n man gevonnis tot R1 000 boete, waarvan R500 opgeskort is.

Dan is daar ook, volgens mnr. A. J. Strauss, landdros van Messina, sake oor beesvleis wat van die Republiek gesmokkel is.

Mnr. Terblanche sê onomwonde dat die straf nie as afskrikmiddel dien nie.

Messina se boere het op 'n vergadering van die Distrikslandbou-unie besluit om hul beswaar oor die vonnisse van beessmokkelaars aan die Beestekomitee van die Transvaalse Landbou-Unie voor te lê.

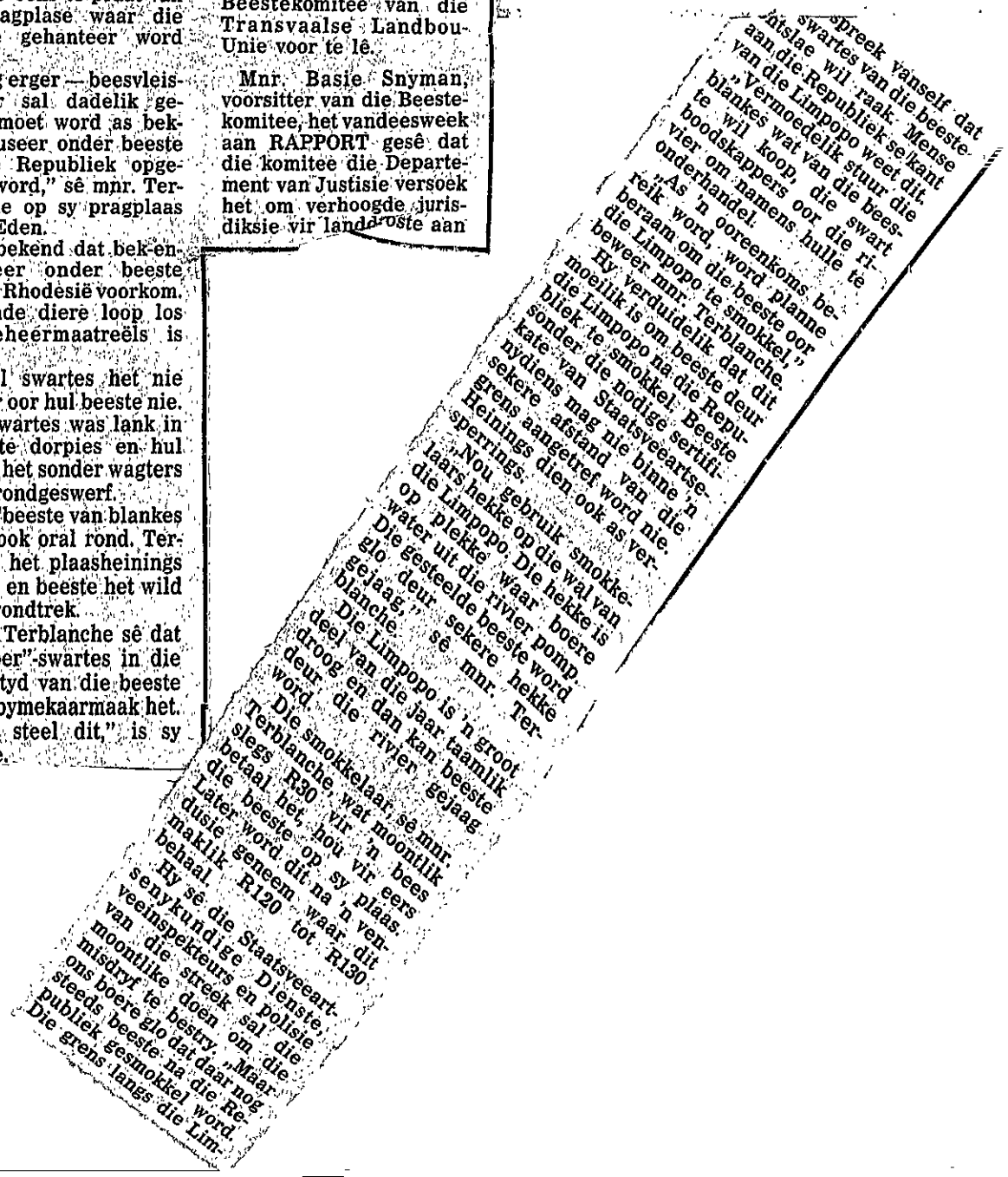
Mnr. Basie Snyman, voorsitter van die Beestekomitee, het vandeesweek aan RAPPORT gesê dat die komitee die Departement van Justisie versoek het om verhoogde jurisdiksie vir landdroste aan die grense van Rhodesië, Mosambiek en Botswana in te stel.

Hy sê landdroste kan 'n maksimum van twaalf maande tronkstraf oplê. Die Departement van Justisie is gevra om dié maksimum tot drie jaar te verhoog.

Mnr. Snyman sê die huidige vonnisse is geen afskrikmiddel nie, want iemand kan tot R6 000 wins met 'n smokkeltransaksie maak.

Hy glo ook nie dit is aanvaarbaar dat sulke sake in 'n streekhof moet dien nie. „Landdroste in die grensgebiede ken die omstandighede en is die beste toegerus om strawwe op te lê."

Mnr. Snyman sê ook mnr. Terblanche dit sterk onder sy aandag gebring het dat blankes nou plase langs die Limpopo soek met die oogmerk om beeste uit Rhodesië te smokkel.



Spreek vanself dat swartes van die beeste-aanslae wil raak. Mense aan die Republiek se kant van die Limpopo weet dit. "Vermoedelik stuur die blankes wat van die bees-boodskappers oor die swart te koop, die swart vier om namens hulle te onderhandel.

"As 'n ooreenkoms bereik word, word plannе beraam om die beeste oor die Limpopo te smokkel," beweer mnr. Terblanche. Hy verduidelik dat dit moeilik is om beeste deur bliek te smokkel. Beeste sonder die nodige sertifikate van Staatsveeartsenydiens mag nie binne 'n sekere afstand van die grens aangetref word nie. Heinings dien ook as versperrings.

„Nou gebruik smokkelaars hekke op die wal van die Limpopo. Die hekke is op plekke waar boere water uit die rivier pomp. Die gesteelde beeste word glo deur sekere hekke gejaag," sê mnr. Terblanche.

Die Limpopo is 'n groot deel van die jaar taamlik droog en dan kan beeste deur die rivier gejaag word.

Die smokkelaar sê mnr. Terblanche wat moontlik sleg R30 vir 'n bees betaal het, hou vir eers die beeste op sy plaas. Later word dit na 'n veemaklik geneem waar dit behaal tot R130.

Hy sê die Staatsveeartsenykundige Dienste, veeinspekteurs en polisie van die streek sal die moontlike doen om die misdryf te bestry. „Maar ons boere glo dat daar nog steeds beeste na die Republiek gesmokkel word. Die grens langs die Lim-

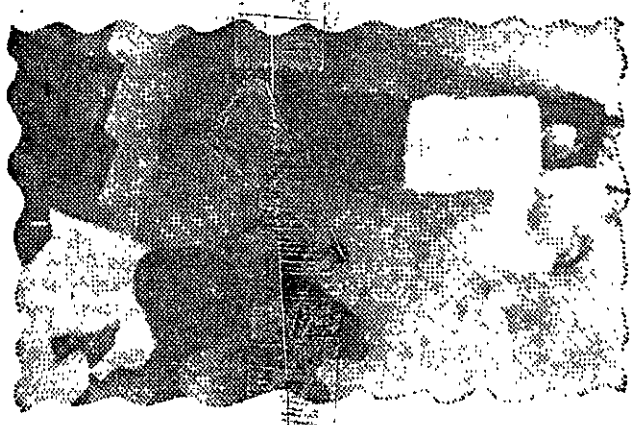
THEY'RE PLAYING OUR THONG

ING OF TERROR

S. Tribune 23 Fe

Phone threats to family force farmer to drop SWA meat probe

3 meat



THE END: Frans Heydenrych at the foot of a Windhoek stairwell

AT LEAST two prominent South West Africans who have been investigating alleged malpractices in the territory's meat industry have been threatened by anonymous callers.

By BRUCE PAGE

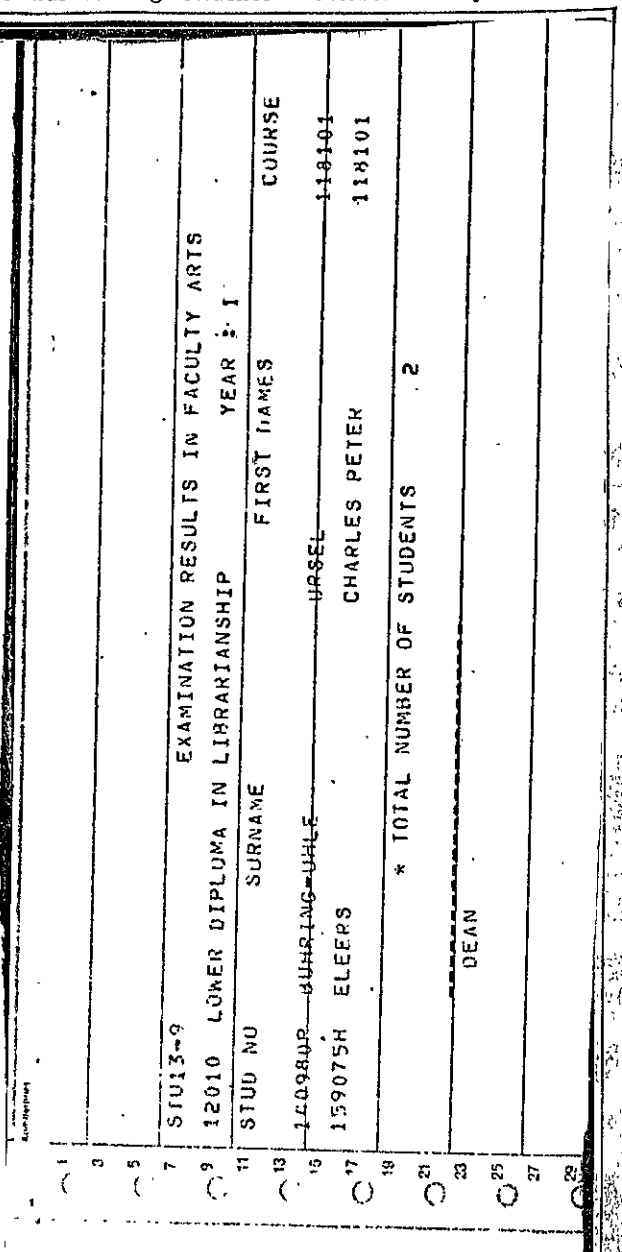
One call forced farmer Eric Lang to abandon his independent two-year probe this week — just as he was about to "crack it".

Luderitz magistrate Hans Greyling refused to discuss a threat which he received during the time he was leading evidence before the Van Zyl Commission of inquiry into the industry.

The threats follow the death of former SWA Meat Board manager Frans Heydenrych whose body was found at the foot of a stairwell in his Windhoek office block on October 22 last year.

Mr Heydenrych appeared before the commission on October 15 and refused to answer questions about more than R180 000 deposited in his bank accounts.

Police have said they found no evidence of foul play, but there has been intense speculation that he was pushed.



Calls

Mr Lang has ignored several anonymous calls during the past year, but he decided to drop his investigations after receiving a serious warning on Monday from a man who "sounded like a very smooth lawyer".

The man politely issued threats aimed mainly at his three-year-old son.

"It makes me absolutely powerless," Mr Lang said.

"I took it to the police and they also advised me to lay off."

He said previous callers had threatened him crudely "and one ignores that type of threat — I mean it's very easy to pick up a telephone and threaten somebody."

Two unknown men once tried to give his son a "lift" from his pre-primary school, but a teacher prevented him from taking it.

Last week two men called the boy to the garden wall the the Langs' town house in Windhoek and tried to speak to him.

Mr Lang went to talk to the men.

Garden

"I invited them into the house, but when I went to the gate to let them in they had gone."

He said he had no doubt there was a link between these incidents and Monday's call.

Mr Lang was the man behing the formation of a farmers' action group to investigate the meat industry in SWA and South Africa.

He addressed a farmers' meeting at Dordabis at the weekend and repeated allegations against members of the Meat Board and also said important evidence in the hands of the commission was never led.

The commission completed its hearings last month.



Frans Heydenrych

Reports of Mr Lang's speech appeared in the local press on Monday and the threatening telephone call was received a few hours later.

"It's a hell of a frustrating feeling when you've put two years of time and energy into this and you're right at the end — I mean it's just a matter now of cracking it."

But he said he could not do battle if his family was threatened.

Mr Greyling refused to be drawn into a discussion with the Sunday Tribune.

Finished

"Let me put it to you this way: I'm not prepared to comment on anything about this commission any more because people are phoning me these days asking: 'Did this happen? Did this happen? Did this happen?'

"As far as I'm concerned, I've finished my job. I'm back at the office and I don't want to have anything to do with it," he said.

A spokesman for the Attorney-General's office in Windhoek said he did not think Mr Greyling had taken the threat seriously.

"It's apparently something that happened a few times and he sort of ignored it. That's the impression I got from him.

"I don't know if the police will be able to do anything because it's anonymous threats and that sort of thing. It's an impossible sort of situation."

South West Africa Divisional Commissioner of Police, Brigadier D... Gouws, said he knew nothing about threats received by Mr Greyling but would find out which police station was dealing with Mr Lang's case and would look into the matter.

We're being slaughtered

Angry farmers boycott new Cato Ridge abattoir over high prices and system of grading

S. Tribune 3 (near) 23/3/80

FARMERS are boycotting the new multi-million rand Cato Ridge abattoir near Durban because they claim inept grading of carcasses and increased abattoir fees cost them a fortune.

Most of the complaints to the **Sunday Tribune** came from Eastern Cape farmers.

But the Department of Agricultural Economics and Marketing officials responsible for the grading, claim they use scrupulous grading methods which are regularly checked with other centres

QUOTE

I refuse to send another of my cattle to Cato Ridge. I have sent animals from East London to both Port Elizabeth and Cato Ridge. At Port Elizabeth the animals are all graded prime and super but at Cato Ridge they are all given second and third grade. The grading absolutely kills us — SEAN RYAN, farmer

By CHRIS WHITFIELD

Now the Department is sending its chief inspector from Johannesburg to investigate the complaints.

"I refuse to send another of my cattle to Cato Ridge," East London farmer Sean Ryan told the **Sunday Tribune** this week.

"I have sent animals from East London to both Port Elizabeth and Cato Ridge," said Mr Ryan, one of the biggest cattle operators in the Cape.

"At Port Elizabeth the animals are all graded prime and super.

"But the animals sent to Cato Ridge, which we selected to be of a better standard to try and get a better price up there, are all given second and third grade," said Mr Ryan.

"The grading absolutely kills us," he said.

Mr Ryan also pointed out that abattoir costs were about "R5 an animal" more at Cato Ridge than at other abattoirs.

Mr Ryan said the grading and costs were particularly damaging to farmers outside Natal who had additional transport costs.

Animals graded in the lower brackets fetch considerably less a kilogram for their carcasses.

Super and Prime A beef animals fetch a guaranteed floor price of between R1,18 and R1,24 a kilogram, while the floor price for grade two animals is 83½ cents to 94 cents. Grade four animals fetch a floor price of between 56½ cents and 69 cents.

Other farmers in the area echoed Mr Ryan's complaints.

Peter Butler, another leading East London farmer, told the **Tribune** he had stopped sending to the Cato Ridge abattoir because "I got more second grades in a consignment of 30 to 40 cattle at Cato Ridge than I would in 1 000 similar cattle anywhere else."

In response to Mr Butler's complaints Eddie Luppnow, the manager of the Cape Eastern Meat Co-Operative, who delivered the cattle to Cato Ridge, described the cattle as "in beautiful condition and rather big."

Mr Luppnow told the **Tribune** that as a result of complaints received by his company they had approached the Department of Agricultural Economics and Marketing, who had undertaken to investigate the matter.

Eric Jones, general manager of Stockowners' Co-op in Natal, said they had also received complaints and approached the department.

"As a result their chief inspector is coming from Johannesburg to see whether the complaints are justified or not," he said.

But a spokesman for the Department said they had already had an inspector down from Johannesburg after earlier complaints.

"We have what we call grading meetings where inspectors come from other centres and they all grade the same carcass to see if they get the same results," he said.

"I can assure you that the results were identical — our inspectors gave the same marks for a carcass as did the Johannesburg man.

"We do everything in our power to see that the grading is fair," said the spokesman.

STU13-9 EXAMINATION RESULTS IN FACULTY ARTS AS AT 29 02 80 PAGE

13010 BACHELOR OF ARTS YEAR : 1

STUD NO	SURNAME	FIRST NAMES	COURSE	DESCRIPTION	SYMBOL		
~~1620048~~	~~BURNE~~	~~SUZANNE ELIZABETH~~	~~106103~~	~~ECONOMICS IA~~	~~F~~	~~(43)~~	
158955C	CARO	SALLY-ANN	107101	ENGLISH I (PRE-1980)	F	(40)	1
			116120	DRAMA I	2-	(60)	
			~~114101~~	~~CULTURAL HISTORY OF W.E. I~~	~~3~~	~~(56)~~	
162195Z	CHAIT	CHERYL	102101	AFRIKAANS	UP	(50)	
~~153965D~~	~~CLARKE~~	~~PENELOPE JILL~~	~~103202~~	~~SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY I(PRE 1~~	~~UP~~	~~(68)~~	
157789K	COHEN	DAVID	104101	ARCHAEOLOGY I	2-	(62)	1
			110101	HISTORY I	2F	(23)	
156503M	COLLIER	LINDSEY JEANNE	911101	MATHEMATICS I M102	UP	(69)	
			916103	ANIMAL BIOLOGY (HALF COURSE	UP	(54)	
~~1539990~~	~~COLLINS~~	~~BEVERLEY ROYNON~~	~~116120~~	~~DRAMA I~~	~~F~~		
153621E	COUCHER	ROBERT GEORGE RENESON	004101	PSYCHOLOGY I	UP	(56)	
~~1585720~~	~~COURTENAY~~	~~COLETTE~~	~~107101~~	~~ENGLISH I (PRE-1980)~~	~~3NX~~		
153796V	DAVIS	CASSANDRA ELAINE	107101	ENGLISH I (PRE-1980)	3NX		
~~1404570~~	~~DELAHUNTY~~	~~ANNA TERESE~~	~~906101~~	~~GEOGRAPHY I~~	~~ABS~~		
162364E	DOMAN	MICHAEL EDWARD	106102	ECONOMIC HISTORY I	F	(8)	
~~1559310~~	~~DU PLESSIS~~	~~MARCIA ELIZABETH~~	~~107101~~	~~ENGLISH I (PRE-1980)~~	~~3~~	~~(57)~~	
158919N	DUNCAN	ANDREW SYMON	003101	SOCIOLOGY I	2F	(49)	
			004101	PSYCHOLOGY I	2F	(49)	
156415R	ERASMUS	ARNO JACQUES ERASMUS	601101	COMMERCIAL LAW A	F	(35)	
			910108	STATISTICS IC(HALF CRSE)	F	(48)	
~~1623107~~	~~EVANS~~	~~GAVIN MARK READ~~	~~101103~~	~~AFR LANG INTENSIVE (XHOSA)~~	~~3~~	~~(57)~~	
161480X	FAFAK	GIULIETTA	107101	ENGLISH I (PRE-1980)	3NX		
~~153863T~~	~~FARQUHAR~~	~~GILLIAN DEBORAH~~	~~115101~~	~~FRENCH I~~	~~UP~~	~~(57)~~	
152866J	FARRELL	MICHAEL BRUCE	004101	PSYCHOLOGY I	UP	(55)	
~~1573597~~	~~FINLAY~~	~~PAMELA JOAN~~	~~106104~~	~~ECONOMICS IB~~	~~UP~~	~~(52)~~	
			115102	FRENCH INTENSIVE	UP	(58)	
			115103	ITALIAN INTENSIVE	UP	(54)	
~~1597440~~	~~FIORAVANTI~~	~~LUIGINA~~	~~214102~~	~~PHYSICS IB~~	~~UP~~	~~(58)~~	

Casuals employed by meat-strike farm

A FEW casual workers have been employed by Karoo Meat Exchange following the dismissal of 59 strikers at the company's Maitland abattoir factory yesterday.

The general manager, Mr Johan Louw, said the men stopped work because the company would not continue to employ an unregistered black.

He said the firm faced a possible R500 fine, but would not say why it had chosen this time to dismiss the man.

Production was not affected, said Mr Louw.

He refused to say how many workers were on strike, but it is believed the factory employs about 80.

The management of Karoo Meat is today meeting a committee representing the 59 dismissed workers.

Strikers demand jobs back for all

AKSM 26/3/80

STRIKING workers at the Karoo Meat Exchange in Maitland, who walked out on Monday over a dismissal, have refused to apply for re-employment without an assurance that all will be taken back.

At a meeting between management and representatives of the 59 workers yesterday, the company said it was not in a position to guarantee vacancies for all the workers.

Those who wished to apply for employment should do so on Friday to resume work next Monday, the general manager, Mr Johan Louw, said.

'AMICABLE'

The company undertook not to appoint any new employees on a permanent basis until those who wanted to apply for re-employment had done so.

'In spite of counter allegations, the company believes it has made every effort to resolve the issue through amicable dialogue,' Mr Louw said.

A spokesman for the Western Province General Workers' Union said management's failure to consult the works committee on the dismissal of an unregistered worker caused the strike.

The workers demanded the reinstatement of all 59 men and dicussion of the original dismissal.

Union committees of other large meat factories are expected to meet today to discuss the matter.

STU13-9 EXAMINATION RESULTS IN FACULTY ARTS AS AT 29 02 80 PAGE 1

13130 PERFORMERS DIPLOMA IN SPEECH & DRAMA YEAR : 3 13130

STUD NO	SURNAME	FIRST NAMES	COURSE	DESCRIPTION	SYMBOL
1000601	HOGG	HENRY CAMERON	11317	DRAMA III	AHG 5 1000601

* TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS 1

DEAN

REGISTRAR (ACADEMIC)

Meat dispute in the air after talks

Labour Reporter

A MEETING between the management of Karoo Meat Exchange Ltd and the committee representing 59 striking workers ended inconclusively today.

The workers rejected a call by Mr Johan Louw, general manager of Karoo, that they fill in work application forms for consideration by the company.

'If Mr Louw wants us back, he must take us back without application. He must take us all,' one worker said.

ADJOURNED

Another said Mr Louw, who adjourned the meeting until Monday, was 'trying to play a cat and mouse game' with the workers.

A spokesman for the Western Province General Workers' Union said Mr Louw's failure to make a decision on re-engagement today was 'highly provocative' in view of the anger among meat workers.

'Management seems to be intent on provoking an industry-wide strike,' he said.

INTERNAL MATTER

Mr Louw said after the meeting that his reason for delaying a decision until Monday was 'an internal matter to be explained to the committee.'

The dispute at Karoo concerns alleged failure by management to discuss the dismissal of an unregistered employee with the recognised workers' committee.

A general meeting of Cape Town meat-workers is to be held in Langa tomorrow to receive a report from the Karoo workers.

STU13-9 EXAMINATION RESULTS IN FACULTY ARTS AS AT 29 02 80 PAGE 1

13100 PERFORMERS DIPLOMA IN SPEECH & DRAMA YEAR : N/A 13100

STUD NO	SURNAME	FIRST NAMES	COURSE	DESCRIPTION	SYMBOL	
1623241	STERN	JOCELYN NEILA	116113	PRACT SP I AFRIKAANS LOWER/ABS	3	1623241
			116117	PRACT ACT I AFRIKAANS LOWER/ABS		
	DEAN			REGISTRAR (ACADEMIC)		
	* TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS	1				

UCT

MEAT BOARD (3) Meat

On whose side?

Fin 28/3/80

For over three years the meat industry has been plagued by surpluses. A surplus of beef, a surplus of controls, a surplus of shady dealings or a surplus of malicious criticism. (*FM* March 21)

The oversupply of beef is cyclical and now rapidly disappearing. So it is currently the least of the industry's worries. But it was the Meat Board's inept handling of the surplus, more than anything else, that attracted attention to the background of its members. And, hence, to the rest of a web of interlocking organisations which variously direct, control or dominate the trade in slaughter cattle, carcasses, offal and hides.

The glut of slaughter stock from the late 1970s has been prolonged and accentuated (as always happens at this stage of the eight- to ten-year cycle) by the response of disillusioned farmers wishing to cut back the national breeding herd. The coincidence of a depressed economy aggravated the problem by suppressing consumer demand. Meanwhile, the temporary absence of profitability, combined with the tightness of money in 1978 and early 1979, made bank managers reluctant to advance the credit which producers needed to hold cattle off the market.

A clumsy attempt by the Meat Board to hold producer prices at too high a level between 1976 and 1978 backfired. High quality carcasses were purchased by the board, deboned and then stacked expensively in cold stores. When all the stores in the country had been filled, the meat was taken out again and sold at substantially reduced prices. Sensible butchers preferred to buy fresh meat.

Unprofitable exercise

This unprofitable exercise so depleted the producers' stabilisation fund (built up out of compulsory levies) that new tactics had to be found. The board resorted to quotas to restrain the flow of animals into the main markets. It also imposed an extra levy of R4 a head on every beast slaughtered to enable it to carry on buying up "supers" and "primes" at uneconomic prices.

Both these policies were discriminatory. The quota scheme obviously helped those who were awarded rights at the expense of those who weren't. The board was accused of favouring certain agents. The agents, in turn, were suspected of favouring either their own feedlots, friendly speculators (who obliged by buying up cattle at the agent's country auctions) or individual farmers.

The special levy blatantly penalised the vendors of lower grade grass-fed beef, which was still in demand for processing, to subsidise the feedlot finishers who were catering mainly for a more expensive, luxury market. The latter hadn't grown as fast as the board's myopic experts had predicted.

Frustrated farmers, who couldn't get enough quota, soon began to side with suspicious journalists and hard-pressed housewives in asking what the Meat Board was up to, and who it thought it was working for.

Although officially unsaleable, quota allocations had a definite monetary value. And well over half of the 13 members on the Meat Board were directors of co-operatives or companies controlling one or other of the livestock agencies to whom the quotas were being allocated.

The same organisations also happened to be heavily involved with feedlots which stood to benefit from the subsidies being forcibly extracted from veld fatteners.

General changes in floor prices for various grades have since brought them closer into line with market requirements. The world market has also improved, leaving room for exports of local and SWA meat surpluses.

Meanwhile, the board had decided to phase out the quota scheme and substitute a system of slaughter permits issued directly to farmers. This has upset private agents who fear that both they and their clients could suffer.

It has also met with stiff opposition from Natal farmers. Lacking faith in Pretoria, they have insisted on retaining the quota system so that allocation of slaughtering licences can be dealt with locally by their co-ops and private agents.

Financial Mail March 28 1980

Meat strikers return with ultimatum

(3) meat RDM 28/3/80. (439) (152)

By RIAAN DE VILLIERS
Labour Correspondent

THE 59 striking black workers at the Karoo Meat Exchange returned to work yesterday with the ultimatum that unless all were re-employed they would continue to strike

However, the firm's general manager, Mr Johan Louw said applications would be considered over the weekend and appointments would be made on Monday.

He said he could not say at this stage whether all workers would be taken back.

Workers at 11 major meat firms in Cape Town have pledged their support to the Karoo workers and have undertaken not to do any work for the firm while the dispute continues

In a letter sent to the Karoo management yesterday, representatives of workers at the 11 firms pledged their "absolute" support for the "non-negotiable demand" by Karoo workers that they all be re-engaged.

The representatives added they had decided that no workers employed at the 11 firms would do any work for Karoo while the dispute continued.

The letter was sent following a meeting attended by more than 100 representatives of meat workers at the 11 firms on Wednesday night.

In a statement issued yesterday, the union warned the workers were in an "extremely angry" mood and were determined that the attitudes and actions of the Karoo management should not be extended to the rest of the industry.

The incident at Karoo had come at a time when meat workers were complaining bitterly about wages and conditions in the industry, it said.

It added, Karoo workers would report back to a mass meeting of meat workers in Langa township tomorrow.

The letter to Karoo expressed "total opposition" to Karoo management's behaviour during the dispute towards its elected workers' committee.

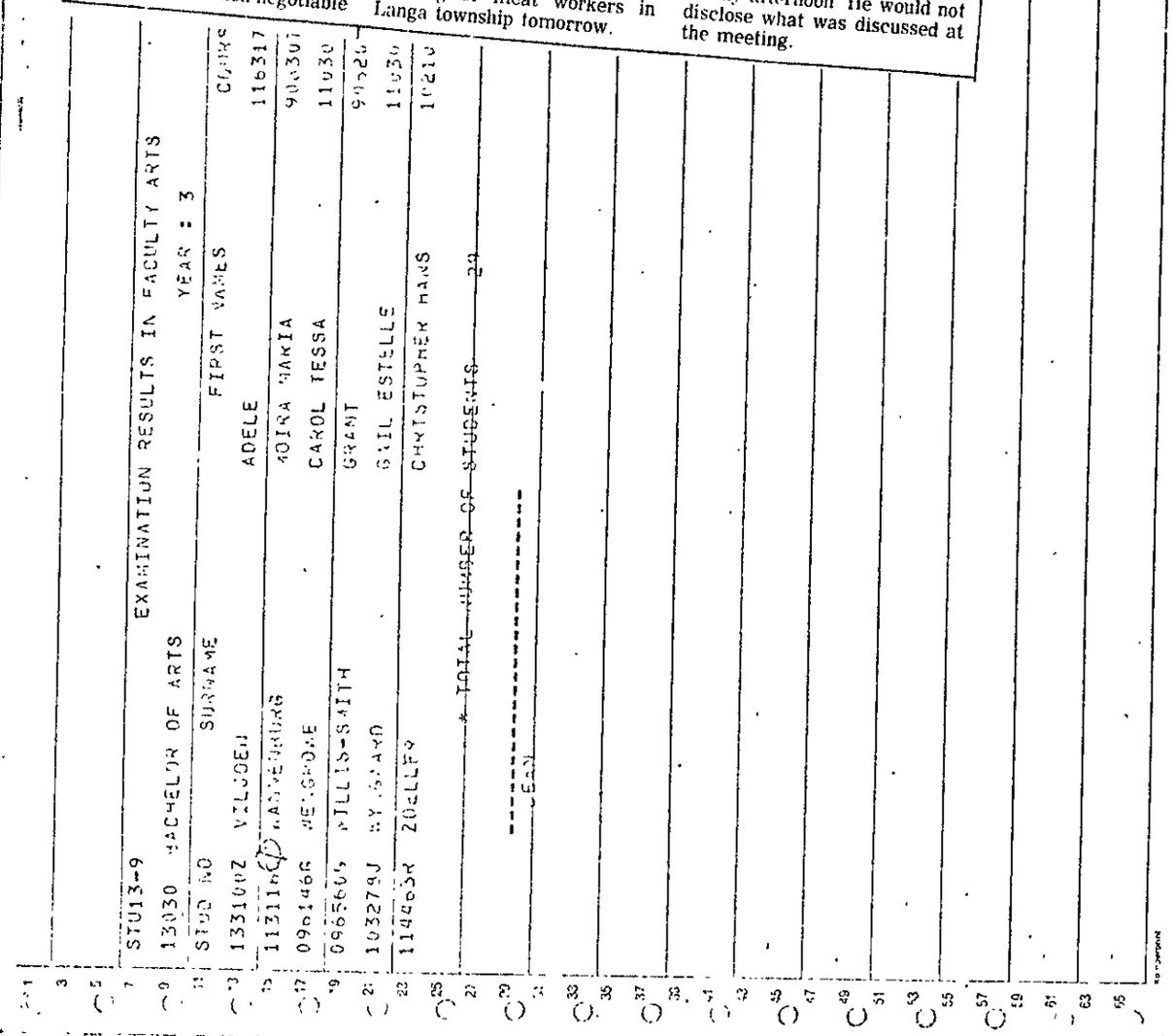
It added: "We demand that you explain to the workers at each of the companies the reasons for your refusal to re-engage all Karoo workers."

A union spokesman said yesterday workers at another meat firm had been asked by their firm to help handle goods from Karoo Meat Exchange, but they had refused.

Mr Louw confirmed he had received the letter and that other firms had offered to help Karoo during the dispute

"But while isolated incidents of assistance may have occurred, we have not accepted their offers because we don't need help"

Mr Louw said the management of all 11 firms met yesterday afternoon He would not disclose what was discussed at the meeting.



STU13-9 EXAMINATION RESULTS IN FACULTY ARTS AS AT 29 02 80 PAGE 1

13030 BACHELOR OF ARTS YEAR : 3 13030

STUD NO	SURNAME	FIRST NAMES	COURSE	DESCRIPTION	SYMBOL			
102521L	ABBOTT	PETER HARRY RAETH D	603202	ROMAN LAW & JURISPRUDENCE I	UP	(57)	4	102521L
077201P	ANDREWS	DAVID BRIAN	107301	ENGLISH III	3	(56)	4	077201P
101148U	BASKIN	MELANIE ANN	114101	RELIGIOUS STUDIES I	UP	(54)	5	101148U
101875J	BUSSE	PETER GRAHAM	004301	PSYCHOLOGY III	3	(52)	4	101875J
114694T	COOKE	JOHN GEORGE	908204	GEOGRAPHY IIA (HALF COURSE)	UP	(51)	4	114694T
115418E	CUPIDO	ODILE ARLENE	101202	AFRICAN LANGUAGES XHOSA II	UP	(50)	4	115418E
111405T	CURTIS	RICHARD MARK	911201	MATHEMATICS IIA M204	UP	(55)	4	111405T
100997E	FABER	LESLEY SHARON	911103	MATHEMATICS IB	F	(41)	5	100997E
098097C	FRANK	SUSAN	004301	PSYCHOLOGY III	UP	(57)	4	098097C
113612R	GATZOURIS	EUSTRATIOS JOHN	603301	ROMAN LAW II	UP	(63)	4	113612R
101853K	KLIJN	HELENA JANET	110201	AFRICAN HISTORY I	UP	(50)	4	101853K
102381J	KRAUSE	INGRID GERTLINDE	115103	ITALIAN INTENSIVE	UP	(60)	4	102381J
097859U	LEVETAN	LAURA JEAN	902201	ASTRONOMY A (HALF CRSE)	2-	(63)	5	097859U
101158E	OOSTERBAAN	WILLEM DINANT	106301	ECONOMICS III	ABS		5	101158E
094835G	ORGILL	ANALIESE LYNETTE	116317	DRAMA III	UP	(53)	4	094835G
111331M	PLOTKIN	NADINE BETTY	107301	ENGLISH III	ABS		5	111331M
103519A	SHUMAN	ANTHONY	117301	POLITICAL SCIENCE III	UP	(53)	4	103519W
102719B	SMALLHORNE	AMANDA JANE	802131	HIST & APPRECIAT OF MUSIC I	ABS		5	102719B
102257Z	TAYLOR	COLLEEN JANE	105103	GREEK & ROMAN LIT & PHIL	3	(58)	5	102257Z
033909H	VALLEY-OMAR	FAROUK ISMAIL	102302	AFRIKAANS EN NEDERLANDS III	F		5	033909H
101164L	VAN DER ELST	JEAN-MARIE RICHARD	106301	ECONOMICS III	UP	(51)	4	101164L
			910101	STATISTICS 1A(HALF CRSE)	F	(24)		
			910108	STATISTICS 1C(HALF CRSE)	F	(34)		
112105D	VAN WYNGAARDT	ANNE-MAREE	911201	MATHEMATICS IIA M204	UP	(55)	4	112105D
116606W	VENIER	GILDA MARIA	102101		UP	(50)	4	116606W
133100Z	VILJOEN				2-	(67)	4	133100Z

UCT

250 back striking meat workers

W/E Argus 29/3/80

3 Meat 186 145 162

Labour Reporter

OVERWHELMING support for the 59 striking workers from Karoo Meat Exchange Ltd was expressed at a meeting of about 250 meat workers in Langa today.

Workers from 14 factories — almost the entire fresh meat industry in the Peninsula — attended the meeting.

It was decided workers' committees would approach their managements on Monday to demand that an elected representative from each firm attend the 8 am meeting between Karoo management and the striking workers' committee.

REPORT BACK

Each representative would report back to his factory at lunchtime on the decision taken by Karoo general manager Mr Johan Louw.

A general report-back meeting is to be held in Athlone on Monday night.

The Karoo workers walked out last Monday in protest at management's alleged failure to discuss with their committee the dismissal of an unregistered worker.

Meat strikers to return

ARGUS 31/3/80

(3) Meat

Labour reporter

STRIKING workers of Karoo Meat Exchange Ltd will return to their jobs in the factory tomorrow after negotiating a settlement of a dispute with management today.

The 59 workers downed tools a week ago after management dismissed an unregistered worker without consulting the workers' committee, as required by the committee's recognised constitution.

In nearly two hours of hard bargaining today, the workers won the right to return to their old jobs, with full pay for the time they have been out of work.

They were given the assurance that management would in future consult fully with the workers' elected committee.

EXCLUDED

Representatives of the Western Province General Workers' Union to which the meat workers belong were excluded from the negotiations.

So were representatives of nine other meat factories who arrived for today's talks in terms of a resolution taken by about 250 meat workers at a meeting in Langa on Saturday.

In a report to them after the dispute was settled the chairman of the workers' committee, Mr Lennox Booil, said the workers had refused to apply for re-employment.

INSISTED

They had insisted on returning to their original positions although the factory had already taken on some other workers.

It was agreed the workers would be paid their wages for the last week on Thursday.

Mr Booi said the committee had refused to sign a document presented to them, saying they would abide by their existing constitution.

'We are a factory workers' committee, not a liaison or a works committee,' a member said.

UNITY

A spokesman for the Western Province General Workers' Union said the Karoo strike indicated the unity and determination of union members in all the other meat factories,

STU13-9 EXAMINATION RESULTS IN FACULTY ARTS AS AT 29 02 80 PAGE 1

13030 BACHELOR OF ARTS YEAR : 3 13030

STUD NO	SURNAME	FIRST NAMES	COURSE	DESCRIPTION	SYMBOL			
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097859U	LEVETAN	LAURA JEAN	902201	ASTRONOMY A (HALF CRSE)	2-	(63)	5	097859U
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111331M	PLOTKIN	NADINE BETTY	107301	ENGLISH III	ABS		5	111331M
103519W	SHUMAN	ANTHONY	117301	POLITICAL SCIENCE III	UP	(53)	4	103519W

Govt pays for two slices in every white loaf

3 Wheat

Cape Times 31/3/80

BREAD-EATERS should get two government-subsidized slices of bread out of every white loaf — or three if they are cut thin — according to the government's proposed bread subsidies from tomorrow.

This is the Cape Times' estimate based on figures obtained from the Department of Agricultural Economics and Marketing.

The Cape Times was referred to the department after approaching the Minister of Finance's office for figures relating to the amount the government would be subsidizing each white and brown loaf of bread from tomorrow.

If the proposed subsidy for white bread gives little to chew on, the brown bread subsidy provides somewhat more. It was said that wholewheat bread would be subsidized to the same extent as brown bread.

Measurements on a loaf of wholewheat bread showed that one would get about seven one-centimetre thick slices of subsidized bread from the loaf. Up to 13 slices of the same thickness would have to be paid for.

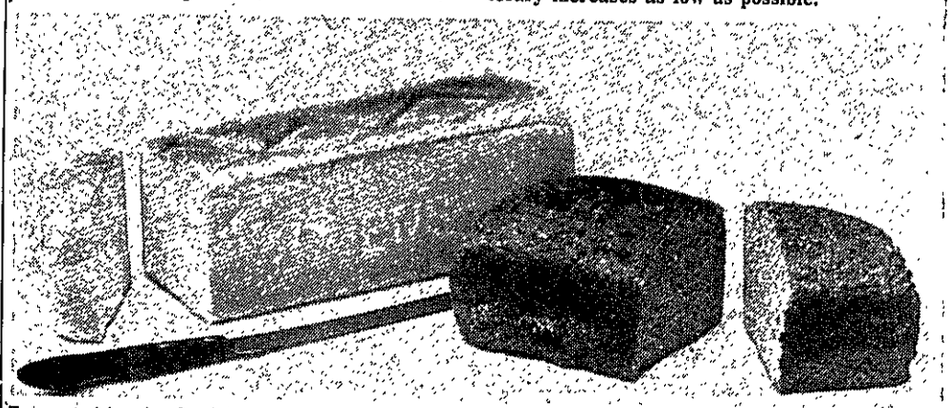
A spokesman for the department said that from tomorrow the government would subsidize every loaf of white bread by four cents. The public would then pay 30 c for a loaf of bread that should actually cost 34 c.

Brown bread would receive an 11 c subsidy a loaf, which meant that the public would pay 20 c for a loaf that should cost 31 c were it not for the subsidy.

The Minister of Finance, Senator Owen Horwood, said in his Budget speech that at present brown bread was being subsidized "by as much as 14 c and white bread by 9 c a loaf".

A total of R90 million had been provided for bread subsidies. The government had succeeded in keeping the price of bread constant since January 1978, but it would cost R220 million to keep the price fixed for another 12 months.

This would not only be disproportionate, but would make any necessary adjustments subsequently much more drastic. He recommended however, an additional R51 million to keep necessary increases as low as possible.



Every white loaf of bread will receive a government subsidy of four cents and every brown or wholewheat loaf 11 c from April 1, according to figures obtained from the Department of Agricultural Economics and Marketing. The piece of bread sliced off to the left of the white loaf is the proportion subsidized by the government. The subsidized piece of wholewheat bread is shown on the right of the wholewheat loaf. Figures show that the government subsidy will bring the price of brown bread down from 31 c to 20 c and the price of white bread down from 34 c to 30 c.

250 at meat strikers meeting

CAPE TIMES 31/3/80 Staff Reporter (3) meat (150) (152)

MORE THAN 250 workers from 15 Peninsula meat firms attended a report-back meeting in Langa yesterday by the 59 striking Karoo Meat Exchange workers

The meeting reaffirmed its support for the 59 workers, who went on strike a week ago today after a colleague had been dismissed without consultation with the registered workers committee.

At 8 am today the Karoo workers will be told by their management whether all of them will be reinstated

It was decided at the meeting that workers from each of the 15 firms should go to their respective managements when they start work at 7 am today and ask that an elected representative be sent to be present at the 8 am meeting between the Karoo workers and their management

AGRICULTURE — MEAT.

6 MAY 1980 —— 30 Sept. 1980

Beef hike suggested

THE ASSEMBLY — Beef would be priced out of the reach of most housewives if the Meat Board adopted a suggestion that the floor price should be increased by 41,5 per cent, the head of a butchery chain and the Cape chairman of the Housewives League said yesterday.

The suggestion was made by Mr R. F. van Heerden, MP for De Aar.

Mr van Heerden suggested the increase was necessary as an incentive to producers, because the demand for red meat would exceed the supply.

Mr Mike Hawthorne of the chain, said: "It is absolutely idiotic to expect the trade or the public to pay that price." — SAPA.

Strike at firm in Paarden Eiland

ARGUS 7/5/80

Labour Reporter

ABOUT 100 employees at Table Bay Cold Storage in Paarden Eiland refused to work today in protest at the firm's refusal to recognise their workers' committee.

Meat processing at the factory was brought to a halt and the workers have been told they will be paid off.

The Western Province General Workers' Union, to which the workers belong, called on managemet to recognise the committee of six people.

'LIAISON'

'Management has quibbled over the number on the committee and is now trying to force a liaison committee on the workers,' a spokesman for the union said.

'The workers are not prepared to accept anything less than a democratically elected committee under their own control.

'Their demand is reasonable and has been made in a responsible manner over the past few weeks.'

The management had no comment.

DD 9/5/80

Making more meat

(3 - Meat)

In view of the rapidly growing population it was important to produce more meat per cattle unit in order to supply the increased demand .

However, the most suitable slaughtering mass would largely depend on factors such as efficiency of feed conversion and carcass quality at different live masses.

This was the finding of Mr M. von La Chevallerie and Messrs H.J. van der Merwe, L.M. Vermaak and L.J. van Rensburg, of Potchefstroom College of Agriculture in research using Hereford cross Africander oxen.

Their findings were, among other things, that, with an increase in the production of meat and fat as live mass increased there were no noticeable differences in the efficiency of feed and energy conversion to carcass mass or the edible portions of the carcass.

This implies, firstly, that with favourable feed-to-meat price ratios more or less the same profit per kg carcass mass increase could be obtained from higher as from lower live masses.

Secondly, from the point of view of increased meat production, it was of the utmost importance that cattle which were fed intensively must not be marketed at relatively low live masses.

An increase in the slaughter mass from 453 to 539 kg brought about no further increase in the depth of thethorax, rib thickness, girth of the buttock, length of the eye muscle area.

Similarly the ratio between buttock girth and buttock length remained constant for mass increases above 367kg. The expensive cuts, due to a decrease in the percentage of thigh, dropped significantly up to a slaughter mass of 453kg. The biggest increase in dressing percentage occurred between 367 and453kg.

Tswanas beefing up their herd

STAR 9/5/80 ~~10?~~ (3 Meat)

Unheralded by trumpets or festive fireworks, a capital-letter event for the Tswana was the recent inauguration of the new meat factory at Mafeking. Eventually, the life of Amos Kirini Batshameki, in the remote kraal of Ikly on the brink of the Kalahari, will be affected.

Standing in the high corner of his cattle kraal and looking at his 32 cattle, he used to love to feel lord of all he surveyed.

How different things were today. When he went through initiation school, he was taught that a good Tswana does not eat his cattle. They were for pride and for bogadi (lobola).

Even his then headman, Old Barecki, had frowned and looked cross when he started to feed his cattle in winter and sold them at an early age, expanding by buying calves.

The old man must have turned in his grave when the bull co-op man came to Ikly to discuss artificial insemination.

Commercial

Now Amos was making more from his cattle than his son earned in Johannesburg, where he had to spend half his wage on transport, rent and services.

Like Amos Batshameki, thousands of present-day Tswanas urged on by the Department of Agriculture in Mmabatho, are turning themselves into small commercial cattle farmers.

Looking at old cows is no pride any more, for they should have been sold years ago, as well as their replacements.

And bogadi? This is paid in cash now, if at all.

Some black cattle farmers have become quite prosperous. Mr J L Mphafudi, for instance, is one of the new generation of successful individual farmers in Bophuthatswana. Formerly a school inspector, he resigned to give full-time attention to his farming enterprise.

Bottleneck

He farms with some 240 cattle in the Moretle district, on 1 500 ha he can proudly call his own. He is a registered Afrikaner cattle stud breeder and a member of the breeders' association. He is also a director of the Agricultural Development Corporation.

The President, Chief Lucas Mangope, is adamant that the cattle industry should be the mainstay of his country's economic upswing. Six hundred thousand cattle, as many goats and 250 000 sheep, are the livelihood of his people. As a progressive farmer, he is acutely aware of the restrictions and constraints hampering cattle farming in a traditional African community. He is, however, also aware of the tremendous potential of improved livestock.

Marketing, however, is the bottleneck. Out of the 600 000 cattle herd, 40 000 are exported annually and about 10 000 are locally consumed. This is less than half the turnover in South Africa, but still represents an improvement. In the export sector, 7 800 are sent to controlled centres in South Africa under Meat Board quota. The others are sold to speculators and feedlot owners outside Bophuthatswana.



It's thumbs up for the Mmabatho Food Corporation of Mafeking after the official opening by President Lucas Mangope of Bophuthatswana. Holding up two of the factory's meat products is one of its directors, Mr Joffre Joubert.

Meat products, such as polony and tinned meat wieners, etc, are being imported. With a flourishing hotel industry and increasingly populous towns, this market will expand.

Taken over

To become self-sufficient, to draw away economic activity from the Witwatersrand complex and the adjoining parts of Bophuthatswana, and to bring home Tswana workers now working in the meat industry, President Mangope wants the country to have its own meat industry, and own feedlots to finish Tswana cattle to reach the better grades.

Now the Mmabatho Food Corporation in Mafeking is this dream come true. A chain of local butcher shops owned by the Joubert family in Mafeking has been taken over, and the three Joubert brothers are managing the modern meat processing enterprise that the Agricultural Development Corporation has set up.

Tswanas are being taken for executive training right from the beginning, and the ADC is already planning for cattle feedlots and a piggery to supply the pork necessary for mixing with the beef for wieners and sausages.

The enthusiasm of Mr David Beuster, the ADC's managing director, has already made the meat factory an economic force in Bophuthatswana.

Seen within the framework of Lucas Mangope's overall policy, it represents a accomplished growt point to be followed l others, to make th young republic, terms of hard realiti a focal point for t whole of the Tswa nation.

Stockmen end SAR boycott

STAR 10/5/80

By Kevin Murray
Transport Reporter

A seven - year - long breach between farmers and the railways has ended — resulting in a saving of millions of litres of fuel a year.

The farmers were boycotting the railways and transporting livestock by road in protest at tariff increases.

From 1958 to 1973, the railways managed to stave off tariff increases, but were then forced to put up rates sharply in successive years.

The farmers decided to move livestock by road instead, wasting millions of litres of diesel fuel a year and damaging country roads with heavy vehicles.

But the fuel price increase last year and a concerted effort by the railways to attract lost traffic has reversed the tide.

Last year the railways showed an increase of 13 percent in livestock traffic — after losing 75 percent since the first tariff increase in 1973.

Now officials are urging farmers to make more use of special three-tier trucks introduced last year.

Mr Gert Coetzee, director of commercial services for the railways, said: "This 13 percent swing back to rail transport meant an estimated saving of 4,1-million litres of fuel.

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12/05/80 ARGUS

MP starts beef price-rise scare

246

3-Meat

244

BEEF will be priced out of reach of most housewives if the Meat Board adopts a suggestion that the floor price should be increased by 41,5 percent, say butchers and the chairman of the Cape branch of the Housewives' League.

The suggestion was made by Mr R F van Heerden, MP for De Aar, in the agriculture debate in the House of Assembly.

Mr van Heerden said the increase was necessary as an incentive to producers because this year the demand for red meat would exceed the supply.

LAST INCREASE

Since then rumours have been growing in the meat trade that the floor price is likely to be increased soon sending actual prices up by at least 25 percent. The last increase was in March.

Mr Mike Hawthorne, head of Blue Riband, the butchery chain for Pick 'n Pay, said prices paid by butchers when meat is auctioned at the abattoirs were well above the floor price and increased in times of shortage.

'It is absolute nonsense that anyone should suggest an increase in the floor price of the magnitude of 41.5 percent,' he said.

'IDIOTIC'

'The Meat Board increased the floor price in March. It now ranges from R1,19 a kg to R1,45 for the six grades of super beef.

'Perhaps there could be another increase, but nothing like 41,5 percent, which would bring the floor price up to R1,74 a kg for super beef and would mean butchers were actually paying about R1,90.

'It is absolutely idiotic to expect the trade or the public to pay that price.'

Mr Hawthorne said he had suggested to the general manager of the Meat Board, Mr Jan Lombard, that there should be a ceiling price as well as a floor price — to protect the housewife.

FARMERS

In the past few weeks his firm had paid an average of 11c a kg above the floor price for super beef. 'We have paid more, but that was the average,' he said.

'The floor price for the best super lamb is R1,24 a kg, but we have been paying an average of more than R2. So you can see the farmers are well covered.'

Mrs Peggy Borchenhagen, Cape chairman of the Housewives' League, said: 'Further big increases would put beef out of reach of most families.'

The league had been battling for changes in the system of selling meat at the abattoir by the Dutch auction method, 'which tends to push the price up.'

Meat price rises on way

RDM 14/5/80.

(3) Meat

Pretoria Bureau

BIG rises in the floor prices of beef, mutton and pork will be announced later this month — and by the end of it, all Government-administered basic food prices will have risen this year.

In a disastrous few months for consumers, the prices of bread, sugar and maize products have been raised substantially.

The Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, will announce the meat floor price rises before the end of May — and the prices of milk, butter, cheese and powdered and condensed milk will be increased by at least 20% before the month is out.

Consumers have also had to absorb the shock of higher coal prices this winter, and just around the corner is another rise in power tariffs.

Economists expect the combined effect of the flood of price rises this year to push the inflation rate up to or beyond 15% during the second half of the year.

And labour leaders say this year's price spiral has given unions a solid base from which to make their wage demands.

The increases in the floor prices of meat are expected to take Super grade beef to near R1,40 a kg, Grade One to about R1,25, Super lamb to near R1,45 a kg, Grade One mutton to about R1,35, Grade One porkers to about R1,35 a kilo and Grade One baconers to about R1,20 a kg.

The South African Agricultural Union claims beef farmers' profits have fallen steeply since the 20% hike in the maize price.

The SAAU estimates that maize makes up 28% of animal feeds. All other ingredients of animal feeds have also increased in price.

RDM 14/5/80.

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Question 9: (a)

To start with, I think we must mention the difference between the short run & the long run. In the short run, factors of prod are fixed & in the long run the factors are variable.

Short run average cost curves are governed by the law of diminishing marginal returns. This states that after a while, because the factors are fixed as one produces more so the marginal output will increase but after a particular pt., as one increases output so the marginal output decreases.

Question 6 (i)

We may this hypothetical assumption that farmers base their planned output for any year on the prices prevailing in the previous yr we can obtain two cases, ① where eventually new the price & planned output will eventually reach an Equilibrium ② where this planning creates a great fluctuating effect of prices & outputs which increases & decreases at even

Cape firms hit as meat workers go on strike

STAR 19/5/80

Own Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — Many factories in the Cape Town meat industry were today hit by a walkout of workers in support of striking workers of the Table Bay Cold Storage Company.

About 450 workers are believed to be involved in the widespread action, according to a spokesman for the Western Province General Workers' Union, of which the men are members.

Work at the Maitland abattoir was brought to a temporary halt when more than 250 workers left their factories.

The Meat Board, the wholesalers and the offal factory were among the worst affected, the director of the abattoir, Dr J A Louw, said.

However, he said the firms were "rallying" and helping one another. Killing would continue, although at a slower pace.

The walkout occurred after the committee representing Table Bay Cold Storage Works was turned away by management when they tried to discuss the dispute this morning.

In accordance with a decision at a mass meeting of meatworkers on Saturday, representatives of workers at 12 other factories waited outside the Table Bay offices for the outcome.

After the committee reported that management would not see it, the representatives returned to their factories.

The spokesman for the Western Province General Workers' Union said workers at the other factories had decided to stop work for a day in protest at the Table Bay management's stand and the support given to them by the other meat bosses.

UCT

Cape meat men locked out

By STEVEN FRIEDMAN
Labour Reporter

THE Cape meat strike continued to escalate yesterday as employers locked out striking black workers and refused to allow them to return to work.

Black workers at 17 Cape Town meat factories staged a one-day general strike on Monday in support of strikers' demands at Table Bay Cold Storage. Estimates of the industry's black labour force range between 500 and 700.

When workers returned to work yesterday they were met by large contingents of police and found that employers would not allow them to resume their jobs.

Employer spokesmen said yesterday that the strikers would not be re-employed, while the union stressed worker willingness to negotiate and accused employers of attempting to "starve the black workers into submission".

Monday's strike was the first across factory lines by black workers in several years.

Observers believe employers are taking a hard line with the strikers in an attempt to combat the growing effectiveness of worker action and the growing influence of the Western Province General Workers Union.

In another development, the chairman of the Western Cape Traders Association, Mr Kassim Allie, will meet the managing director of Table Bay, Mr R L Selzer, today.

It is believed that the association, which represents coloured traders in the Peninsula, may consider a boycott of meat products in support of worker demands that Table Bay management recognises an unregistered worker committee.

The association played a

during a labour dispute at the company last year.

Meanwhile the Maitland Abattoir was operating on a skeleton staff yesterday and farmers have been advised not to send stock for slaughter without consulting their local Meat Board agent.

A Meat Board spokesman said from Pretoria yesterday that, by refusing to work, the strikers had "resigned." He said they would not be re-employed and that attempts to hire alternative black labour were "already under way."

He added that slaughtering in Cape Town was continuing, although at a reduced rate, and said that consideration was being given to diverting some stock to Port Elizabeth for slaughtering.

Workers have decided to meet on Thurday to review the situation.

Big rise in price of beef is on the cards

(3) Meat RDM 22/5/80

Pretoria Bureau

THE price of beef is likely to rise soon — to help stave off a meat shortage in South Africa.

At a Press conference yesterday, the general manager of the Meat Board, Dr Jan Lombard, announced that the Meat Board would meet the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, in Cape Town today to discuss a new floor price for beef.

Dr Lombard warned that unless beef producers' prices were raised to a more profitable level, the country would face a serious meat shortage.

A significant increase is expected.

Dr Lombard said projections of reduced production for 1980/81 made increases in market prices inevitable, and floor prices would have to be adjusted accordingly.

His warning of shortages was reinforced by the chairman of the board, Mr R P du Toit, who stressed that a "very serious" situation was inevitable unless farmers were given incentives to produce.

Dr Lombard stressed the threat to already shrinking breeding herds, unless producers were given a better deal.

During 1979 the national beef herd had decreased by 400 000 head to 9 000 000.

South African meat was among the cheapest in the world, Dr Lombard said. He said a sober look at the background of general price increases and the cost-of-living index showed the "utter absurdity" of the spate of reports of so-called expensive meat.

Dr Lombard said in Brussels a consumer had to work for one hour and 56 minutes to buy one kilogram of boned loin; in Canberra one hour 44 minutes; in London three hours and five minutes, and in Paris two hours and 10 minutes.

Whites in Johannesburg had to work one hour, coloureds two-and-a-half hours, Indians one hour and 47 minutes, and blacks six hours.

With the same percentage of their monthly incomes, South Africans could now buy more meat than five years ago. In real terms meat had become cheaper, he said.

Dr Lombard said meat was singled out by pressure groups, including the Housewives' League, unfortunately with the support of some newspapers, as having become so costly that nobody could afford it.

He pointed out that the price index from 1975 to the end of last year had risen by 54,1 points. The index increase for beef was 17 points.

The income of whites had increased by 34%, and that of blacks by 46% from the second quarter of 1976 to the second quarter of 1979, he said.

"As a result, all South Africans, and particularly blacks, can now buy much more beef and mutton with the same percentage of their incomes than five years ago."

In sharp contrast, the producer had been steadily losing ground.

Beef production costs had risen by 70% since 1975, whereas the price farmers were paid, had risen by only 31%.

During recent years most farmers had been producing at a loss, he said.

It was vital that the meat producers' confidence should be restored and this could only be achieved by ensuring "lucrative prices for farmers".

Dr Lombard said the current cost of producing a kilogram of beef, off the veld, was R1,20. Producing high grade beef in feedlots cost the farmer R1,53/kg.

The weighted costs of all grades for the industry in 1980/81 was estimated at R1,30kg. The average market price now was R1,30/kg, he said.

Strike stalemate

CAPE TOWN. — A meeting between traders' organisations and representatives of the Table Bay Cold Storage company adjourned inconclusively yesterday after the managing director of the firm, Mr R L Selzer, failed to turn up.

Table Bay Cold Storage is the firm where the present dispute in the Cape Town meat industry originated two weeks ago. About 80 workers walked out in protest at management's alleged refusal to recognise an unregistered workers' committee.

Mr Dawood Khan, chairman of the Western Cape Traders' Association, said he was hopeful the meeting would be reconvened soon, with Mr Selzer present.

Yesterday's meeting was attended by Mr Khan and Mr Cassiem Allie of the Traders' Association, Mr Thomas Mandla of the Western Province African Chamber of Commerce, and a director of Table Bay, Mr E Bettesworth. — Sapa.

3-Meat

Minister asked to approve higher meat price

MEAT BOARD officials asked the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, for 'a substantial increase' in the floor price of meat when they met him in Cape Town yesterday.

They were told that the Minister would announce his decision within ten days.

A spokesman for the board refused to say how big an increase had been asked for but, admitting that it was substantial, said production costs for farmers had risen 70 percent in the past five years.

He said during that time the floor price, which would not cover farmers' expenses, had risen only 25 percent and the actual market price paid by butchers had risen by only 31 percent.

'Farmers have been selling at a terrible loss,' he said, 'and that cannot continue.

EXORBITANT

'Some are selling their breeding stock now and if that continues there will be a shortage of meat in a few years time and consumers will really have to pay exorbitant prices.'

But Cape Town butchers said the actual prices paid for meat at abattoir auctions are governed by supply and demand and are well above the floor price, which is a guaranteed minimum for the farmer.

Several butchers said an increase in the floor price always pushed up the actual price and they feared if the floor price rose too high, it would send real prices up to a level which would spark off consumer resistance.

'We know there must be an increase in the floor price but we are definitely going to object to any increase we feel is unreasonble,' said Sea Point butcher Mr Chris Joubert.

Housewives' warning to Meat Board on price

Staff Reporter

THE Housewives' League of South Africa yesterday issued an open statement to Dr Jan Lombard, general manager of the Meat Board, on the expected rise of at least 15% in the floor price of red meat.

Mrs Joy Hurwitz, president of the league, said "Housewives have, almost without exception, cut back on both the cuts and quantity of meat purchased, and many families have two meatless days a week.

"We understand from the Meat Board that their figures do not reflect this cutback, and can only conclude that any increased consumption of meat must be because of increased black purchases resulting from increased wages.

"The meat industry should not be deceived by its own statistics and think that meat prices in South Africa have not affected the purchasing and eating habits of our consumers.

"The league is astounded that the board is spending R1 500 000 on advertising meat, when we know that no housewife needs encouragement to buy meat — she needs cash.

"She is generally angry at what she considers a waste of money, and we wonder how the meat producer can afford this extravagance."

The statement asked Dr Lombard to note the following.

- "It is not the league's habit to make stupid statements, such as he accused us of, namely 'that meat is so costly that nobody can afford it'. Obviously consumers must buy meat regardless of cost — they have to feed their families. If there is an increase in price they cut back as previously stated.
- "The League supports free enterprise and at all times has insisted that prices should be based on justified costs of production plus a fair profit. Meat is a controlled item in the privileged position of a near-monopoly, and it is essential that this privilege is not abused.
- "If meat production costs have gone up, obviously the farmer must be compensated for them, and we would under no circumstances object to an increase in the floor price to cover this.
- "To be sure the production cost prices are fair."

The statement repeats the league's view that "there is a need for an official investigation into the the meat industry: farmer production costs, marketing, the system of agents and fees, wholesale methods and costs, abbatoir costs, retail buying and selling — the whole spectrum of meat production and selling . . .

"If Dr Lombard confronted any group of housewives with the statement that 'meat prices have not effectively gone up', they would laugh.

"The housewife pays the end price, and where these increases have taken place should be known by the Meat Board and Dr Lombard.

"Under existing legislation, the Meat Board has control not only of the marketing of meat from farmers to the market place, but right through to the retail level.

- "Finally, we would ask Dr Lombard and the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, not to compare our food prices with those of other countries.

"In comparing prices, account must be taken of the total budget allocation for all items, including, for instance, provision for old age, medical, transport and education costs.

"If all other factors are not comparable, neither are food prices."

STAR 24/5/80

3 Meat

SA meat permits: corruption ruled out

Fair Deal Reporter

The Meat Board has emphasised that it is not involved in the investigation by a commission of inquiry into alleged irregularities in the SWA/Namibia meat industry.

The report of the commission will soon be presented to the South African State President and tabled in Parliament.

"We are completely independent of SWA," Dr Jan Lombard, general manager of the Meat Board, said in response to a Fair Deal question.

An SABC radio report this week said the report had found the permit system had been abused, with 40 farmers receiving a disproportionate number of permits.

Dr Lombard said the permit system had been designed to let the farmer have fair market access.

"Any system is open to problems. But we have certain mechanisms to try and outweigh the possibility of abuse or inefficiency in the issuing of permits."

Mr Flip du Toit, chairman of the Meat Board, said he could give the assurance that "as far as the issuing of permits was concerned, there was no corruption whatsoever, in South Africa.

"We introduced the permit system to benefit the producer. Farmers must be registered to get a permit," he said.

Floor price of meat set to jump

Pretoria Bureau

THE Cabinet is expected to approve a substantial increase in the floor price of beef at next Tuesday's meeting.

A Meat Board delegation held discussions with the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, in Cape Town on Thursday.

The Minister has indicated that before the announcement is made, there must be Cabinet approval.

Producers expect an increase of more than 15%.

Both the Minister and the board emphasised that a higher floor price did not necessarily mean a higher meat price.

Red meat is sold by auction and the price is normally above the floor price, except when there is a glut.

The Meat Board has stressed that unless producers are given adequate prices the industry will land up in a long-term crisis.

An indication of the lack of profitablity in the industry, it claimed, is the decrease by 400 000 in the numbers of stock last year and the increasing numbers of breeding stock being slaughtered

The South African Agricultural Union's meat expert, Mr Jan van der Walt, said there was a complete misunderstanding about the effect of the floor price.

More than 90% of the meat sold at auctions was sold above the floor price. The floor price was merely a long-term guarantee to beef farmers of a subsistence price.

Mr Van der Walt warned that because of declining supplies and a growing demand for meat, the price trend was likely to be upwards for the rest of the year.

Govt and meat leaders hold urgent talks

CAPE TOWN — The Department of Co-operation and Development and meat bosses held an urgent meeting yesterday — the fifth day of the strike by meat workers.

The Deputy-Minister of Co-operation and Development, Dr G de V Morrison, declined to disclose what had been said at the meeting.

And at another meeting yesterday, meat workers called on township residents not to put pressure on local butchers to close their shops.

"We express our gratitude for the progressive involvement of the black traders in this conflict. Any attempt to compel them to close their shops is directly contrary to our wishes," they said.

A total of 765 workers were yesterday each paid R15 by the Western Province General Workers' Union in lieu of lost wages.

According to a statement by the union, workers had reiterated their willingness to negotiate with their employers.

In Natal riot police yesterday used teargas to disperse a large crowd of stick-wielding black strikers on the outskirts of New Germany where they were on their way to the Framtex mill where they are employees. — Sapa.

Townships tense as strikes spread

(152) (407) (3) Meat (187) RDM 24/5/80.



Riot police stand guard as strikers re-group near New Germany yesterday. The crowd later dispersed and went back to the mill, where thay were paid.

By STEVEN FRIEDMAN
Labour Reporter

LABOUR unrest continued to escalate in Durban and Cape Town yesterday as tension spread through black townships in both areas.

In Durban the number of striking textile workers rose to an estimated 5 000 and police teargassed a group marching from Clermont township to New Germany. Fears were expressed that the violence could escalate.

Clermont township was tense after stone-throwing incidents at Kransloof hostel, and streets were barricaded on Thursday night.

In Cape Town, the Deputy Minister of Co-Operation and Development, Dr George Morrison, met meat employers as black community support for a red meat boycott grew and black townships were reportedly "tense".

Dr Morrison declined to discuss details of the meeting.

The Minister of Co-Operation and Development, Dr Piet Koornhof and the Minister of Manpower Utilisation, Mr Fanie Botha, met late yesterday to discuss the situation.

In Durban, the general secretary of the Federation of South African Trade Unions (Fosatu), Mr Alec Erwin, said the presence of police was "escalating the tension" and expressed fears that the situation could worsen if police did not keep a low profile.

Mr Erwin said union officials "have ensured that worker meetings have been orderly and are doing their utmost to ensure that there are no violent outbreaks".

He said he was attempting to secure a permit for a workers meeting in the Clermont stadium on Monday but had not yet suceeded. He said: "If we are not allowed to hold an orderly meeting, I am worried that workers will gather in groups and there may be trouble."

Mr Erwin added: "The authorities are taking a hard line which is escalating the situation. Is this the new labour dispensation? Is this our new era of recognising black worker representatives?"

All workers at Frametex and the majority at three other Frame Group textile factories in New Germany, outside Durban — Nortex, Pinetex and Seltex —struck again yesterday in support of long-standing pay demands. The strike began on Thursday.

Durban sources feared that the strike could spread — in particular to a neighbouring tool factory where management and workers have been locked in a protracted union recognition dispute.

Yesterday, Frametex's black liaison committee attempted to resume wage negotiations with management but were told that the company was not prepared to negotiate while the strike continued.

At the same time, workers gathered at the Clermont stadium to await the outcome of negotiations. Sapa reports that officials of the Department of Manpower Utilisation were shouted down at the meeting.

In another development yesterday, a group of hostel dwellers from Clermont marched on New Germany. Police reinforcements were rushed to the scene and the group was teargassed before dispersing.

Support for the Cape Town boycott of red meat spread through black communities as the general work stoppage by black meat workers continued.

Workers who have taken the place of strikers have been prevented from leaving trains at some stations and butchers are under pressure from local communities not to sell red meat.

SUNDAY TRIBUNE, MAY 25, 1980

25/05/80 Sun

Now here's something for all you hard-working people to beef about

High meat prices to go higher

By DARYL BALFOUR

OUR meat is among the most expensive in the world — and prices are due to rocket even higher during the next three months.

These facts emerged following a Meat Board statement this week warning that prices would have to rise soon to keep beef and mutton producers in the market.

But figures released by the Meat Board — intended to prove that local meat prices are the world's lowest — show the average South African has to work for almost two and a half hours to buy one kilogram of boned loin.

This compares unfavourably with people in Paris — who have to work two hours 10 minutes, Washington — one hour six minutes, Brussels — one hour 56 minutes, and Canberra — one hour 44 minutes.

Madrid lags behind, with the average worker having to toil for two hours 36 minutes, while in London three hours and five minutes of work is needed.

Only in Tokyo are meat prices way above ours — the average worker has to spend seven hours 20 minutes at work to buy his kilogram of meat... more than the six hours the average Johannesburg black needs to earn his meal.

The Meat Board said it took a South African earning R9 120 a year one hour to buy a kilogram of beef... but this salary is way above the national average of R3 780 a year (R315 a month), according to the Department of Statistics.

Dr Jan Lombard, general manager of the Meat Board, said unless prices rose and farmers were guaranteed a higher floor price — the guaranteed minimum they can get for their cattle or sheep at the major abattoirs — beef producers would stop production.

He said the national beef herd had already decreased by 400 000 from 1978 to 1979.

"If this continues South Africa will end up with a dire shortage.

"If prices don't rise farmers will be forced to sell their breeding herds to pay their grocery bills," he warned.

He said he and the chairman of the Meat Board, Flip du Toit, would discuss a proposed floor price increase with the Minister of Agriculture. He added that any increase would not affect the current selling price as this was much higher than he expected the floor price to be set at.

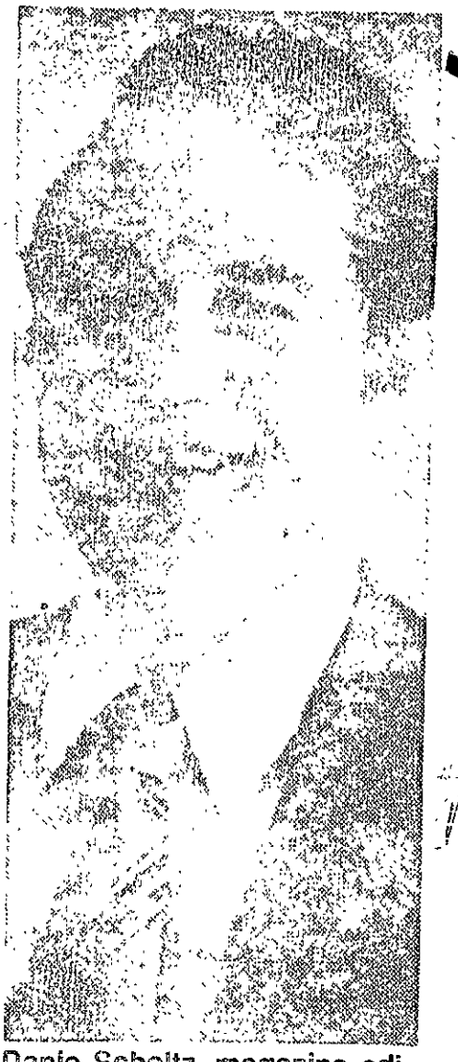
Dr Lombard blamed the rise in beef prices on an increase in production costs and said a 10 percent increase in the price of maize gave an immediate increase of six percent in the cost of beef production.

But a major beef breeder and producer, Gilbert Speedy of Vryburg, said production costs were not the ma jor influence.

"Since December 1974 the price paid to the farmer and the price the consumer pays has continually widened.

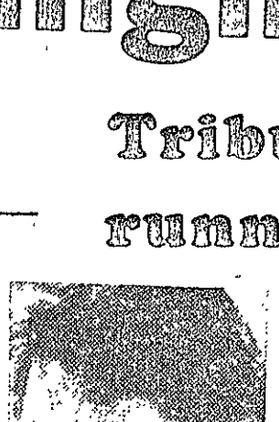
"In 1975 I was getting 55 cents a kilogram for every animal I sold. Today I get 45 cents a kilogram . . . and that is despite the fact that I get more at the abattoir," he said.

Mr Speedy said marketing costs had spiralled over the past five years.



Danie Scholtz, magazine editor blames rising prices on the Meat Board's marketing policies

Tribune reporter is runner-up for award



DARYL BALFOUR . . . runner-up

DARYL BALFOUR, of the Sunday Tribune, was runner-up for one of the national awards in the Stellenbosch Farmers' Winery competition for enterprising journalism.

The report by the chairman of the panel of judges, Joel Mervis said Balfour wrote with authority and responsibility in exposing a monopoly in the meat industry and drew attention to irregularities and allegations of corruption.

The winner of the category of investigative reporting, in which pressure played no part, was Stephen Wrottesley of the Cape Times who investigated pirate whaling and the South African connection.

Other journalists specially commended for their meritorious work in this category were Jean le May of the Sunday Express, Carole Charlewood of SABC, Thinus de Villiers of SABC and Malane Bosman of the Cape Times.

"I got less for every kilogram of beef I produced last year than I got in 1975 and that's purely because the costs of marketing have gone up so much."

He said railage had increased 246 percent since 1975.

"Abattoir fees are up 317 percent, slaughter fees are up 132 percent. All of this is taken off after the sale of my cattle and this is what has eroded the farmers' profits — not production costs so much," he said.

Mr Speedy lashed out at the expense involved in building new abattoirs at City Deep (Johannesburg), Cato Ridge and Kimberley.

"The old Kimberley abattoir was fine and City Deep is just too far away from the major production areas. The Government goes ahead and builds these showpiece abattoirs and then we as producers have to foot the bill in higher abattoir and slaughter fees.

Danie Scholtz, editor of the independent meat industry magazine Vleis/Meat and South African representative of the International Organisation of Meat Producers (Opic), also blamed rising prices and the decline in productivity and producer profits on the Meat Board's marketing policies.

Another major beef producer, Wimpy Wethmar of Chalmar Beef near Kempton Park, warned that consumers had better brace themselves for massive price hikes later this year.

Mr Wethmar said that while production costs had risen by about 20 percent in the past year a lot of farmers had experienced problems with the drought and problems in gaining access to the markets.

Mr Wethmar said although he would like to see an increase in the floor price he would be against a floor price equal to production costs.

"There must be a margin to allow farmers to suffer a loss as well as make profits — that's part of business," he said.

He criticised the support price system, introduced recently, and said although he had tried he had been unable to find out exactly how it operated.

No red meat in townships

Labour Reporter

COMMUNITY pressure has stopped the sale of red meat by butchers in Cape Town's African townships, as the widespread strike by meat workers enters its second week.

'We were given an ultimatum by the community not to sell red meat,' said a butcher and executive member of the Western Province African Chamber of Commerce, Mr Stanley Vokwana.

'From today butchers will have to sell only chickens and eggs.'

Mr Vokwana said he hoped traders would soon be able to meet employers in the industry to 'sort this whole thing out.'

MEETING

A spokesman for the wholesalers who supply the black butchers, Slabbert, Verster and Malherbe, said employers would meet today to decide on the proposed talks with traders.

The director of the Maitland abattoir, Dr A J Louw, said the abattoir was 'virtually back to normal capacity.'

DIFFICULTIES

Wholesalers, however, were still having difficulties outloading and delivering meat, he said.

The striking workers met in Athlone today. They are supporting the demand for unregistered elected committees by workers at Table Bay Cold Storage Company Ltd and National Meat Suppliers (Pty) Ltd.

(3) Meat

Cabinet discusses price rises today RDM 27/5/80

By GERALD REILLY
Pretria Bureau

THE Cabinet is expected to approve a substantial rise in the floor price of red meat and the price of dairy products in Cape Town today.

An announcement is expected later in the week.

It is feared the price of fresh milk will rise by at least 20% and the floor price of some grades of beef by as much as 25%. Butter, cheese, condensed and powdered milk are also likely to be increased.

The Meat Board has warned that because of a lack of profitability in beef production, herds are shrinking — they decreased by more that 400 000 head last year — and that auction prices could be expected to rise this year, with demand running ahead of supply.

The Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, and the board have stressed that a higher floor price need not necessarily mean that beef prices would be forced up.

The floor price, the Minister says, is simply a guaranteed low level price for farmers. The free market price is normally at a high level.

The Meat Board claims South Africans can today buy more meat with the same percentage of their incomes than they could five years ago

The general manager, Dr Jan Lombard, said the Consumer Price Index rose by 50 points from 1975 to the end of last year. In the same period, beef rose by only 17 points.

The Financing of Mitchells Plain

Mitchells Plain self-financing housing project.

It is for the m government capital loaned at nine and a q e R 30 000 000 Besterecta contract (provi a third of the houses) was financed th an from Senbank at thirteen per cent.

To cover the nea tra interest, a sum of R 1 000 to R 1 1 the selling prices of ten thousand hou ers of these houses are in effect paying in er cent, although on paper they are paying r per cent.

The capital cost - from sewerage to community centres - and ei f the cost of schools are included in the houses.

To give an examp d house sells at R 9 145. R 5 195 goes to ormal overheads amount to R 325. R 2 500 'site', to cover the capital costs, and R 1 1 provision for finance charges' - the e red to in the second paragraph.

Because the tota self-financing, the individual home-owner is le paying his share of the total cost. Therefor s for his house is only provisional and tment. The extra expense of all the houses st ltimately be paid for by the purchasers of the

also

This system of fi other 'coloured' home ownership schemes ntry.

Compiled by M Nash
118 Second Avenue
Kenilworth 7700

May 1980

CAPE TIMES 28/5/80

Boycott of meat spreads

3 Meat 186 152 145

THE DEADLOCK between employers and workers in the meat industry continued yesterday as the boycott of red meat products spread from the black townships to the Cape Flats.

Mass meetings called by civic associations on Monday night appealed to their communities to boycott red meat until the workers are reinstated.

The Western Cape branch of the National Union of Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers last night expressed its full support for the striking meat workers and resolved to encourage its members to stop buying red meat products until all the striking workers were reinstated and their workers' committees recognized by employers.

No butchers in the black townships have sold red meat since Monday.

The workers' trade union, the Western Province General Workers' Union, reported that it had received several hundreds of rand in donations from members of the community to help support the families of the strikers.

The Director of the Maitland abattoir, Dr A J Louw, said yesterday slaughtering at the abattoir was "virtually back to normal". However, the wholesale firms were "still having problems in getting suitable labourers," he said.

FINANCE

MERGER TO FORM GIANT MEAT GROUP

Argus 28/5/80

3-Meat

A GIANT meat farming and distribution company is to be formed through the merger of the meat interests of Picardi group's Karoo Meat Exchange and the farming group Kanhym Investments.

The two companies — with combined turnover of R300-million — were ideally suited to come together, Mr Jan Pickard, Karoo's chairman, said today.

'They have the cattle, the farms and an abbatoir and we have the wholesale outlets.'

The shares of Kanhym, Karoo and four other Picardi companies — Asokor, Picardi Finance, Picardi Investments and Picardi Canners — were suspended today on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange.

RATIONALISATION

Negotiations between Kanhym and Karoo for the rationalisation of their meat interests have started, says a JSE announcement. A successful conclusion could affect the companies' share price.

Kanhym, the first farming company to be listed on the JSE, runs a scientific farming operation in the Transvaal. It raised its stock from 3 000 to 43 000 head of cattle and sells about 80 000 animals a year.

Next year it plans to develop coal resources found in its farmlands.

Turnover rose 22 percent to R48-million last year and taxed profit was R3,8-million.

Karoo's turnover rose 19 percent to R275-million in the 12 months to September and taxed profit was also higher at R3,2-million.

The latest half-year figures show turnover of R115-million and earnings of R495 000. Only about one-third of profits are normally earned in the first half-year, however.

Tom Hood

Walkout—Meat price soars

28/5/80 Argus

3 - Meat

THERE was a 'tremendous rise' in wholesale meat prices in Cape Town today — a direct result of the decision of meat industry employers to turn their workers away after a one-day walkout last week, according to butchers.

'The abnormal situation created at the abattoir has sent the price of meat up beyond all reason,' one butcher said.

Another said the sacking of workers had cost consumers 'millions of rands' in the last week.

NONSENSE

'Anyone who says the price of meat hasn't gone up is talking absolute nonsense. It has risen about 30 percent in two weeks.'

He said a super side of ox which had cost the butcher R1,35 a kg was now more than R1,80 a kg.

The crisis in the meat industry led to the formation last night of the Cape Butchers' Association.

Interim chairman Mr Adam Jaffer said he hoped a meeting would be held today with the meat wholesalers.

Last week's walkout by about 800 workers was in support of demands by workers at Table Bay Cold Storage and National Meat Suppliers for recognition of their unregistered representative committees.

ASTONISHED

Sea Point butcher Mr Chris Joubert said he had been astonished by the tremendous rise in wholesale meat prices today.

'I never expected anything like this,' he said. 'Super sides of beef sent from Port Elizabeth by the Meat Board cost R1,42 a kg on Monday but today I was asked to pay R1,82 a kg.'

Mr Joubert said he thought the bigger butchers, who were in the habit of hanging meat for 10 days, probably had enough stocks to wait until prices came down

But smaller butchers with less storage space would have to pass the increase on to consumers almost at once.

29/05/80 ARGUS

Pricey meat blamed on big demand

HIGH meat prices this week are because of increased demand and not because of the industrial dispute, a spokesman for the Cape Wholesale Butchers' Association said today.

And a spokesman for the municipal abattoir at Maitland said: 'The number of animals killed yesterday was back to normal.

'The slaughter company seems to have enough staff and the wholesalers, who had difficulty with loading and with the handling of offal, seem to have sorted it out.

'There is no further need for the Meat Board to have large quantities of meat sent from other centres to avoid a shortage here.'

Butchers said they were shocked by a sudden rise in wholesale meat prices yesterday.

The spokesman for the association said prices had risen at the abattoir auctions because of the law of supply and demand and because of panic-buying by some butchers.

'Prices would have risen this week in any case because it is the month-end and there is a public holiday on Saturday.

'Demand has increased still more because all the hotels in the city are full for the test match.'

Yesterday wholesale prices of the best quality super beef rose from R1,42 a kg on Monday to R1,86 a kg.

THE ARGUS, THURSDAY MAY 29 1980

29/05/80 ARGUS

Butchers to press employers over strike

Labour Reporter

PRESSURE is mounting on employers in the meat industry to negotiate a settlement of the dispute with workers over unregistered committees.

Calls have been made at community meetings throughout the Cape Flats for a meat boycott, and there are indications that butchers there might soon follow those in the African townships in refusing to sell red meat.

Against this background, an often postponed beeting between the employers and traders' organisations is scheduled to be held today.

A spokesman for the newly formed Cape Butchers' Association said he hoped a 'peaceful solution' to the dispute would be reached.

REINSTATEMENT

The association would press for the reinstatement of all dismissed workers he said.

Representatives of the Western Cape Traders' Association and the Western Province African Chamber of Commerce will also attend the talk.s

About 800 meat workers were turned away from their factories on Tuesday last week after a one day work stoppage in support of demands for recognition of workers' committees at Table Bay Cold Storage and National Meat Suppliers.

120 butchers to stage boycott

Two union officials detained

CAPE TIMES 30/5/80

3 Meat

186

145

752

329

Staff Reporter

THE CRISIS in the meat industry came to a head yesterday with the detention of two key organizers of the workers' trade union and an announcement by 120 Cape butchers that they would not sell red meat from Monday.

According to a statement by the union, the Western Province General Workers' Union (WPGWU), Mr David Lewis and Ms Diane Cooper were detained by four security policemen yesterday afternoon. Ms Cooper was taken from the union's Athlone offices by four security policemen at 4 pm yesterday. Mr Lewis was detained at the Cape Town docks at 4 45 pm as he was leaving a meeting of the Stevedores Workers' Committee and their employers.

Both have been detained under Section 22 of the General Law Amendment Act.

Mr Lewis and Ms Cooper have both addressed numerous community meetings since the start of the strike, in an attempt to raise money for the meat workers.

Full support was given to the workers at all the meetings. Hundreds of rands have been given by members of the community to support the striking workers, and the boycott of red meat in support of the workers' demands has spread to all sectors of the community.

The dispute in the meat industry has been simmering for nearly two weeks, since 800 workers went on strike in support of the demand by workers from Table Bay Cold Storage Company for management recognition of their elected workers' committee.

All the workers belong to the WPGWU, which has been paying them each R15-a-week subsistence pay since the start of the strike.

On Tuesday night 120 butchers from as far afield as Paarl decided that unless the workers were reinstated by the end of the week, they would not sell red meat from Monday. The butchers formed an association called the Cape Butchers' Association.

'We have no alternative'

At a meeting yesterday afternoon representatives of Cape Town meat wholesale firms told a delegation from the butchers' association that the reinstatement of the workers was "not negotiable".

A spokesman for the butchers association said last night that "we now have no alternative but to implement the decision taken at our meeting on Tuesday night". He said the decision had been taken "as a result of pressure from our communities".

From Monday, he said, the butchers, who between them own more than 180 butcheries, would sell only chicken.

The Cape Town Meat Industry and Livestock Agencies confirmed in a statement last night that they had held a meeting with the Cape Butchers' Association

"The employers discussed with them the actions which led to the threatened boycott, but were unable to make any concessions with regard to the re-employment of the 800 former employees."

○ The Western Cape Traders' Association, which represents more than 2 000 traders, last night expressed its "full and unqualified support" for the Cape Butchers' Association's decision not to sell red meat from Monday.

In a statement released last night the WCTA said the failure to reach a settlement at yesterday's meeting between the butchers' association and the meat wholesalers "leaves the butchers with no alternative but not to stock red meat".

Strikes go on as two more held

By STEVEN FRIEDMAN
Labour Reporter

TWO officials of the Western Province General Workers Union, Mr David Lewis and Miss Diane Cooper, were detained in Cape Town yesterday as strikes continued in the Peninsula and Durban.

The Frame Group in Durban announced a 15% wage increase, but this is unlikely to end the strike because management refuses to reinstate strikers.

There were violent clashes yesterday between a group of Frame employees and strikers in Clermont township. It spread to St Wendolyn's, another township.

The Cape Town detentions sparked fears of a further escalation of the meat strike in the Peninsula. Most strikers are WPGWU members.

Both detainees are being held under Section 22 of the General Law Amendment Act — which allows for 14 days' detention without trial.

In a statement last night, the union expressed fears that the detentions "may be the start of wider repressive action against workers' leaders", and warned that detaining them would "simply give rise to a leaderless mass of angry workers".

The Frame Group, announcing the 15% pay rise for those workers still in the factories, said it would be followed by a further 10% increase in January.

But the management still insists that strikers will be re-employed selectively, terms which the strikers rejected yesterday at a 5 000-strong meeting in Clermont. The company's terms will be put to workers at a mass meeting tomorrow.

Two stabbings were reported in Clermont.

Striker leaders arrested on Wednesday did not appear in court yesterday, but are expected to today.

Police told Sapa that seven people had been arrested in connection with the strike — four for striking illegally, and three in connection with stoning incidents.

The Frame Group's joint managing director, Mr Selwyn Lurie, said in a statement yesterday that the pay increases had been determined after discussions with representatives of "several thousand workers" who had continued working.

Similar increases would be given to Frame workers in the light-cotton and blanket divisions throughout the country, he said.

Workers were told in March that they would receive increases, he added.

Talks on the issue "were proceeding well when a small group at one of the mills stopped work". This group, he said, had used "intimidation and physical force" to prevent others from working.

He praised those who had continued to work "despite widespread physical violence meted out to them by the militants".

In Cape Town, a meeting between black and coloured butchers and meat employers ended in deadlock when the employers again refused to meet worker leaders. Cape Flats butchers have now decided to boycott red meat from Monday.

The WPGWU last night described the detentions as "high-handed and authoritarian", and said they would not sway meat workers "from our attempt to secure democratic representation in the meat factories".

Meat (3) Meat floor prices to rise

from 30/5/80.

THE floor price of beef is to go up by 18% to 118c/kg and the floor price of mutton by 25% to 150c/kg on Monday, the general manager of the Meat Board, Dr Jan Lombard, said this week.

The floor price of pork will increase by 15%.

The new floor price would not affect the consumer price of mutton and would effect the consumer price of beef only slightly, if at all, he said.

"At certain markets such as Port Elizabeth, where auction prices are exceptionally low and out of line with prices at the major markets, the increase in the floor price will influence both market and retail prices."

FOOTNOTE: Although the price of butter, cheese, milk and other dairy products may rise sharply next month, the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, had not yet agreed to increases and they would not come into effect on Monday, a Dairy Board spokesman said yesterday. — Sapa.

See Page 2

Strikers go back, 'but it's not over'

DEPT OF AFRICAN
10TH MARCH
SHONA II
TEST
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XHOSA SI			
ANGLESS			
PENSON	5	20	0
BRAUN F	4	21	0
DAVIS T			
DOUGLAS	3	22	0
DUNN A T	5	20	0
HILL J	4	21	0
ISAACMAN	4	21	0
KAPLAN	4	21	0
KNIGHT			
MAY J E	5	20	0
NOLTE M I	4	21	0
O'DOWD S			
POTGIETER	3	22	0
SHUMAN A	3	22	0
SPRADBURY			
WEBSTER	5	20	0
WEYER L I			
YAMSON T			

Labour Reporter

SOME Frame Group textile workers in Natal returned to work yesterday after the compnay's offer of a 15% wage increase, but union sources said several thousand were still on strike.

The Frame Group joint managing-director, Mr Selwyn Lurie, said 80%-90% of workers at the company's mills affected by the strike had returned.

"We are back in operation again, and I think we're now seeing the end of this thing," he said. It would take a few days for the mills to return to normal, he said.

Union sources confirmed that many workers had returned yesterday, but disputed Mr Lurie's figure and said thousands were still on strike.

"The mills are only working one shift now. If only 90% of one shift are working, a substantial number of workers must still be on strike," the general-secretary ot the Federation of South African Trade Unions, Mr Alec Erwin, said yesterday.

He said many workers had returned to mills to collect back pay. This did not necessarily mean they intended to return to work.

Mr Erwin emphasised that the situation was "unclear" because a scheduled worker meeting to discuss the pay increase yesterday was banned and it was not possible to ascertain how many had agreed to accept the rise.

Clermont township remained tense yesterday as an estimated 2 000 Frame group workers roamed the streets and a large contingent of police patrolled.

There were fears that renewed clashes could break out between the group and strikers.

Mr Erwin described the Frame workers group as "provocative", and expressed fears that it could spark off renewed unrest.

Most factories in the Pinetown area sent workers home early yesterday to avoid confrontation between them and strikers.

In Port Elizabeth there were reports of intense worker discontent at the Ford factory, sparked by a management announcement that workers who took part in last year's strike would not receive their bonuses. But local sources were confident that a threatened strike had been averted by the intervention of the worker committee.

Three members of the Frametex liaison committee appeared in court yesterday charged under Section 10 of the Riotous Assemblies Act. They were released on R200 bail. Another three appeared on public violence charges, and bail was set at R150.

In Cape Town, the Western Province General Workers Union said that more workers had joined the general strike of meat workers, and more were expected to join over the weekend.

The WPGWU reported that the number of meat strikers had risen to 800 as more black and coloured workers joined.

The Students' Representative Council at the University of the Witwatersrand said yesterday that it was collecting money to aid the workers and called on the public to support their campaign.

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UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
EXAMINATION ANSWER BOOK

EVERY CANDIDATE MUST enter in column (1) the number of each question answered (in the order in which it has been answered); leave columns (2) and (3) blank.

All answer books must be numbered

Number of books handed in	3

	Internal	External
(1)	(2)	(3)
6b)	9.	
	6 1/2	CB.
	8	CB
	14	

10/6/80 ARGUS

No sign of city boycott after milk price increase

(3) no milk (186)

MANY housewives bought extra milk on Saturday before the price went up but sales were slightly lower than usual yesterday, the managing director of a Cape Town dairy said today.

But there is no sign of a boycott as a result of the 4,5c-a-litre rise in the price of delivered milk.

Supermarket spokesmen said it was too early to tell if there was any significant change in milk buying patterns, but there had been no sign yesterday of a boycott.

Mr L R Whitfield, managing director of Van Riebeeck Dairies said: 'There is always a drop in sales when the price goes up, but they return to normal after a few days.

'I would like to emphasise that the dairies, as distributors, are getting less than one-third of this increase — the rest goes to the farmers — and our share will all go in pay increases which some dairies have already given and others are about to give.'

A spokesman for Royal Dairy Ltd said: 'I think the public is reasonable and understands that our costs and those of the farmers have gone up since the last increase a year ago.

'People have grown accustomed now to the price of everything going up.'

A spokesman for Pick 'n Pay said: 'I cannot foresee that people will stop buying milk. It is a necessity, especially for families with children.'

The prices of butter and cheese have not yet been increased in supermarkets and some other outlets, although the wholesale price rose by 15 percent on Monday, because retailers had stocked up at the old price.

(to be copied from the heading on the Examination Paper)

NOTE CAREFULLY

1. Enter at the top of each page and in column (1) of the block on this cover the number of the question you are answering.
2. Blue or black ink must be used for written answers. The use of a ball point pen is acceptable. Red or green ink may be used only for underlining, emphasis or for diagrams, for which pencil may also be used.
3. Names must be printed on each separate sheet (e.g. graph paper) where sheets additional to examination book (s) are used.

WARNING

1. No books, notes, pieces of paper or other material may be brought into the examination room unless candidates are so instructed.
2. Candidates are not to communicate with other candidates or with any person except the invigilator.
3. No part of an answer book is to be torn out.
4. All answer books must be handed to the commissioner or to an invigilator before leaving the examination.

Any dishonesty will render the candidate liable to disqualification and to possible exclusion from the University

2/6/80 ARGUS

Red meat sales ban

Labour Reporter

A DECISION not to buy or sell red meat is being put into effect from today by about 180 butchers belonging to the Cape Butchers' Association.

This follows the failure of talks with meat industry employers last week to produce any agreement on the labour dispute in the industry, involving about 800 workers.

A spokesman for the butchers' association said the position would be assessed from day to day.

Kanhym beefs up payment

By ELIZABETH ROUSE

KANHYM Investments had excellent results in the first half of the year and its interim results add to interest in the proposed rationalisation of its meat interests with those of the Picard group's Karoo company.

Earnings a share for the six months to last March are 37c on a larger share capital — up 27,6% on the 1979 half-year's 29c. The earnings rise and good prospects have prompted the board to increase the interim dividend to 13c from 9c.

The chairman, Mr J Kahn, has revised his 12-month earnings forecast. Because of a successful farming season and good performance of all other divisions, earnings will now be above the previous estimate of 70c.

Earnings could exceed 75c on an annual basis and reach 90c for the 15-month accounting period. If cover is kept just above 2, the dividend total could be over 40c.

The interim results place Kanhym in a good bargaining position in a deal with Karoo.

Kanhym's taxed profit for the first half advanced 33,5% to R2 276 000 from the 1979 half-year's R1 705 000 on strong demand for low-grade beef, increased meat exports and a good performance by the crop production division.

The maize crop will provide feedlot requirements, the potato crop has been most successful and demand is strong.

But the largest proportion of Kanhym's profits come from its meat production and sales outlets and the news is encouraging. The size of the feedlot is being increased and is expected to process at least 10% more high grade cattle. Costs have been kept in control and higher throughput has resulted in further economies.

The company moved into the old meat wholesale market with a small initial venture, which yielded benefits in the past six months. Now R2 400 000 has been set aside for a large-scale wholesale facility serving Reef markets. It should be in operation by April 1981, say the directors.

There is no news on the coal division's profit contribution. Coal makes a relatively minor contribution to profits (13% last year), but the proposed development with BP of the southern coal block holds promise.

Market speculation is that General Mining Union Corporation, which owns 52,4% of Kanhym, is hiving off the meat interests to concentrate on the coal side.

Kanhym directors say the coal project viability study is being examined in depth. According to previous reports, development was scheduled to start at the beginning of next year.

Kanhym beefs up payment

By ELIZABETH ROUSE

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3/6/80 ARGUS

Butchers' action is applauded

(3) meat

Labour Reporter

CAPE TOWN meat workers have expressed their gratitude to butchers on the Cape Flats who are supporting the workers' cause by refusing to sell red meat.

'In taking this historic decision the butchers are liable to suffer considerable financial loss,' the workers' committee said in a statement yesterday.

'The fact that they are willing to do so is a profound indication of the immense anger of all sections of the community at the meat bosses' refusal to accede to the reasonable demands of the workers.'

About 800 meat workers were dismissed two weeks ago after a one-day walkout in support of demands for recognition of their committees at Table Bay Cold Storage and National Meat Suppliers.

They have been assured in a telegram from the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) that the whole free trade union movement is behind them in their struggle.

The ICFTU expressed dismay at the detention last week of Mr Dave Lewis and Miss Di Cooper, two organisers of the Western Province General Workers' Union to which the meat workers belong.

Mr Norman Daniels, Western Cape leader of the Trade Union Council of South Africa (Tucsa), said the union organisers and all other detainees should be charged or released immediately.

3 Meat 186 145 152 147 140A

The ghost returns

RDM 5/6/80

A wave of labour unrest has once again hit South Africa, raising new doubts about the ability of employers and the Government to meet black worker aspirations. Labour Reporter STEVEN FRIEDMAN analyses the present strike wave.

IN the past few weeks the ghost of 1973 has returned to haunt South Africa.

In 1973 employers and the Government were jolted by a wave of strikes in Durban which prompted much agonising about the treatment of black workers.

Now a spate of strikes, which has been building up since last year, has culminated in major factory-floor unrest in Durban and Cape Town.

The Durban strikes were uncannily similar to their 1973 counterpart. They occurred in the same Frame Group factories where the earlier unrest had begun. Once again, they were prompted by low wages.

But many of the strikes have been different to those in 1973. Worker demands have been more sophisticated and the strikes have lasted longer and been more successful. They point to growing black worker militancy and effectiveness.

Last year's Wiehahn Commission report prompted talk of a new labour era. But the key question raised by 1973 is just as pressing today.

Are employers and the Government prepared to meet black worker aspirations and thus prevent major waves of unrest?

The answer then was no. Seven years later, much has changed. But the answer has not.

Certainly, last week's Durban strikes indicated that any changes which have occurred appear to have passed the Frame Group by completely.

The textile empire founded by the late Mr Phillip Frame was built on the use of plentiful and cheap black labour. Wage rates remained low because black workers had no channels through which to demand increases.

Eventually workers used the only channel they could find — they struck, focussing widespread attention on the group's wages. Indirectly, they prompted significant improvements in most employers' wages. But they have had little effect on Frame wages.

Last week, Frame joint managing director Mr Selwyn Lurie said he did not know the group's actual wage rates but added: "They are at a good level now."

Frame workers, who *do* know what their rates are, disagree. Many say they receive R23 a week, just over half the Household Subsistence Level for Durban.

The HSL is calculated as the minimum a family of 5 need to live on — and it allows only for bare necessities like food and rent.

Minimum wage rates are now R23 a week for men, R18 for women. In 1974, they were R13 and R10,40. But, when inflation is taken into account, the current minima work out as R11,95 and R9,61 at 1974 prices.

[illegible] of Frame labour unrest in the past.

Another feature of the strikes has been the failure of negotiations with the group's liaison committee.

These committees, introduced in the wake of the 1973 unrest, comprise equal numbers of elected black worker and management representatives.

Unions have long argued that they are weak, ineffective and regarded by black workers as "stooge" bodies. They also argue that they were introduced to squeeze out trade unions.

The black union movement believes workers should be represented in the factory by union shop stewards (workers elected by their fellow union members on the shop-floor) who enjoy the backing of independent union officials who are not employed by management and cannot be victimised by it.

> 'The greater the attempt by managers to keep unions out, the greater will be the attack on the concept of company property rights in the future.'

The Frame Group, however, has never been willing to recognise a union and the National Union of Textile Workers has had to fall back on a widespread tactic among black unions — to urge shop stewards to stand in liaison committee [illegible] this way, to

Meat workers in Cape Town have been on strike for nearly three weeks. They staged a one-day sympathy strike with workers at Table Bay Cold Storage, but were then prevented from returning by employers who argued that they had broken their contracts by striking.

The strike follows a spate of Cape strikes this year which have affected the docks, engineering, construction and meat companies — even a number of fruit factories in the rural areas, where strikes are extremely rare.

None have concerned pay. They have hinged around alleged unfair dismissals and worker demands for union-backed committees.

Significantly, almost all of these strikes have produced settlements which contained worker gains.

The meat workers are members of the Western Province General Workers Union, whose members have been involved in several of this year's Cape strikes.

Although the union has alleged that pay and general working conditions in the industry are "appalling", the chief demand of workers has been that management recognise worker committees and deal with them.

In most cases, employers are only too happy to recognise committees — as long as they are liaison or works committees registered with the Government.

But, as in Durban, the Cape strikers reject these committees, both because they believe they are hamstrung by Government controls and because they are for blacks only and the union has significant coloured membership.

They have demanded unregistered committees outside the control of the authorities, and it is this demand which has sparked off the present strike.

The strike has led to a Cape red meat boycott backed by all but two black, coloured and Asian butchers. It has been compared with last year's Fattis and Monis strike, in which a consumer boycott was instrumental in persuading management to reinstate strikers seven months after the dispute be an.

workers has actually decreased over the past six years.

Workers also allege they are getting substantially less than other workers doing the same job at neighbouring textile factories not owned by the group.

Wages at the Frame factories are not set by negotiations between employers and workers, but by a legally binding wage order enacted by the Government.

The Government makes its order on the basis of employer recommendations, and thus orders the employer to pay what he feels he wants to pay. Obviously, employers tend to welcome this arrangement, their workers to resent it.

The strike was sparked by pay grievances. A short work stoppage in August prompted management to bring the annual 10% increase forward, but that meant that workers missed their annual January increase.

The company's black liaison committee had been negotiating for an increase since last November and the strike occurred after management told the committee it would only offer workers another 10% this July.

The strikes are thus an indictment of the wage order system which, although not widespread, affects some occupations, such as stevedoring, which have been affected by

gain control of the committee.

This is precisely what happened at Frame. Worker representatives on the committee were mostly union shop stewards.

Mr Lurie believes that the committee acted in "bad faith" and implies that it had some part in sparking the strike. But the union insists that worker representatives battled to keep negotiations going — to such an extent that workers had become impatient and were rejecting the committee.

The result was the strike, violence in Clermont township and the arrest and subsequent dismissal of committee members.

This experience, says Mr Alec Erwin, general secretary of Fosatu, has "finally sounded the death-knell of liaison committees."

Both the authorities and the Frame Group have enthusiastically pressed this system on black workers. "But when we reluctantly use it, the committee is ignored by management, arrested by the police and then fired after a strike which they did everything they could to avoid."

The strike has, then, focussed attention not only on wages but on the representation of black workers at the work place. The protracted struggle in Cape Town's meat industry focussed directly on this issue.

Once again, the black community has rallied around the strikers and a labour issue has become a broader community issue — a growing trend.

The employers were legally within their rights to lock the strikers out. In South African law, workers who strike — even if the strike conforms with the cumbersome procedures laid down by the law — are no longer employees.

But employers are not forced to fire strikers. If they do, it is because they believe it will help achieve their aims. And the aim of the meat employers is the destruction — or at least the weakening — of the WPGWU.

Employer sources argue that the union is too "militant", has won too many victories, is a threat. A hard line will cause worker disillusionment and reduce the union's influence, if not destroy it altogether, they argue.

The authorities appear to agree. They detained three WPGWU organisers, the first action against union leaders since 1977 when about 30 were banned.

The union believes they have been detained because police believe that removing them will weaken or destroy the union.

It points to a recent statement by the director-general of Manpower Utilisation, Mr Jaap Cilliers, warning that people who did not use the bargaining channels provided by the Government could face action.

The strike continues and has become a "battle to the death" between employers and a union whose support and effectiveness has grown dramatically.

If the employers win, they will have stopped the worker advance in the Cape in its tracks. If they lose, they will have to brace themselves for new and more effective worker demands.

Even if the employers do win, however, it is difficult to see how they can end worker militancy. They would, no doubt, quieten it for a while. But it would return — inevitably in a stronger form.

The recent unrest has indicated that neither the Government nor employers are getting to grips with worker demands. Employers have generally met workers with a refusal to negotiate and dismissals. The Government has made threats and detained leaders.

Some argue that it has proved the Government's new dispensation is inadequate — that it has been overtaken already by worker militancy.

But those who support the Wiehahn deal argue that this criticism is unfair, that the Government is not introducing the reforms quickly enough and that once they are introduced, adequate channels for black workers will exist.

It is by no means certain that the reforms will ever be fully introduced. But, even if they are, many observers believe they will be rendered irrelevant because they are inadequate to meet black worker demands.

The system proposed by Wiehahn is complex. But one of its chief implications is that the committee system which has been rejected of late will remain in force.

Employers will be encouraged to establish non-racial "works councils" which will have much the same structure and role as the liaison committees.

Trade unions will be expected to operate at an industry-wide rather than a factory level by joining industrial councils, industry-wide bodies which black unions believe are overburdened with red tape.

Most employers confidently expect this system to put paid to black worker demands for shop-floor representation. One Cape employer remarked recently that it would "completely stymie" the WPGWU because it would enable employers to set up alternative committees to those the union's members are demanding.

The system could do this. But it is likely to do more to cause strikes than to prevent them.

One of the most important characteristics of a successful labour relations system is speed. If workers are to be dissuaded from striking, they must have quick and effective channels for redress. If the channels are too slow or too cumbersome, they are likely to be ignored.

Present labour law, of which the industrial councils are an integral part, is riddled with cumbersome procedures. If workers have a pressing grievance, they may well simply ignore them.

A prominent white unionist acknowledged privately some time ago: "It takes far too long to go through the legal channels. If our people have a serious grievance, they strike first and ask questions afterwards."

This is not a general view among white unionists. Their members have been protected by formal and informal job reservation and have enjoyed far more privileges than black workers.

They have had few pressing grievances which required speedy solutions, and, like the Government they believe the system ensures industrial peace.

But that is not the view of black unionists. Their members are usually not well-paid and have pressing problems which white workers do not — the constant danger of dismissal for union activities, inadequate safety precautions, even the absence of adequate uniforms could spark a strike.

This is why black unions have insisted on remaining in touch with their membership and have demanded a strong union presence on the factory floor.

Employers, the Government, and the established unions prefer the old system. Many of them are unwilling and unready to adjust to the system black unions are demanding — and this unreadiness means that they are ill-equipped to deal with conflict.

In a recent speech, Mr Loet Douwes-Dekker, a prominent former trade unionist, now an academic, warned against incorporating black workers "into the same goals and strategies which established unions have followed or been forced to adopt over the past thirty years."

Independent black unions had "identified the place of work as the area of action", he said, and urged employers to come to terms with this trend.

He made no bones about the fact that he believed they were not doing this. He quoted examples which indicated that employers were attempting to freeze out independent black unions and replace them with "parallel" unions which accepted the committee system.

Employers were also placing obstacles in the way of trade union recognition and attempting to deal only with weak, ineffective unions. They were denying unions access to the factory.

This attitude, he said, stemmed from the "determined belief by managers that they hold sacred rights to the property of a company." But, he warned, the greater the attempt by managers to keep unions out "the greater will be the attack on the concept of company property rights in the future".

As labour unrest continues to simmer, those words have an ever-greater ring of truth.

(3) MEAT

NOTICE 388 OF 1980

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

PRODUCERS' PRICES FOR DRESSED CARCASSES OF SLAUGHTER ANIMALS IN CONTROLLED AREAS.—AMENDMENT

It is hereby notified for general information that the Meat Board, referred to in section 3 of the Livestock and Meat Control Scheme, published by Proclamation R. 200 of 1964, as amended, has decided under the powers vested in it by the said Scheme, to further amend the Annexures to the Schedule of General Notice 306 of 24 May 1968, as amended, by the substitution for Annexures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 thereof, of the following Annexures with effect from 2 June 1980.

Dr J. H. LOMBARD, General Manager, Meat Board.

SCHEDULE

Annexures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the Schedule to General Notice 306 of 24 May 1968, as amended, are hereby substituted by the following Annexures:

KENNISGEWING 388 VAN 1980

DEPARTEMENT VAN LANDBOU EN VISSERYE

PRODUSENTEPRYSE VIR GEDRESSEERDE KARKASSE VAN SLAGVEE IN BEHEERDE GEBIEDE.—WYSIGING

Hiermee word vir algemene inligting bekendgemaak dat die Vleisraad, gemeld in artikel 3 van die Vee- en Vleisbeheerskema, gepubliseer by Proklamasie R. 200 van 1964, soos gewysig, kragtens die bevoegdheid hom verleen deur die genoemde Skema besluit het om die Aanhangsels tot die Bylae van Algemene Kennisgewing 306 van 24 Mei 1968, soos gewysig, verder te wysig, deur Aanhangsels 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 en 6 daarvan deur die volgende Aanhangsels met ingang 2 Junie 1980 te vervang.

Dr. J. H. LOMBARD, Hoofbestuurder, Vleisraad.

BYLAE

Aanhangsels 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 en 6 van die Bylae tot Algemene Kennisgewing 306 van 24 Mei 1968, soos gewysig, word hiermee deur die volgende Aanhangsels vervang:

ANNEXURE/AANHANGSEL 1

RATES FOR THE CALCULATION OF MINIMUM PRODUCERS' PRICES FOR SOUND BEEF CARCASSES IN CONTROLLED AREAS

TARIEWE VIR DIE BEREKENING VAN MINIMUM PRODUSENTEPRYSE VIR GESONDE BEESKARKASSE IN BEHEERDE GEBIEDE

(c/kg cold dressed mass / c/kg koue gedresseerde massa)

As from 2 June 1980 until further notice/Vanaf 2 Junie 1980 tot nadere kennisgewing

	Witwatersrand, Cape Town/Kaapstad, Pretoria, Cato Ridge	Port Elizabeth, Bloemfontein, Kimberley, East London/Oos-Londen
	c	c
Super		
W	139	137
X	142	140
Y	143	141
Z	142	140
Prime/Prima A		
W	139	137
X	142	140
Y	143	141
Z	142	140
Prime/Prima B		
W	126	124
X	127	125
Y	129	127
Z	128	126
Grade/Graad 1A		
W	129	127
X	132	130
Y	133	131
Z	131	129
Grade/Graad 1B		
W	119	117
X	120	118
Y	120	118
Z	119	117
Grade/Graad 2		
X	109	107
Y	110	108
Z	109	107
Grade/Graad 3		
X	100	99
Y	98	97
Z	93	92
Grade/Graad 4		
X	89	88
Y	84	83
Z	75	74

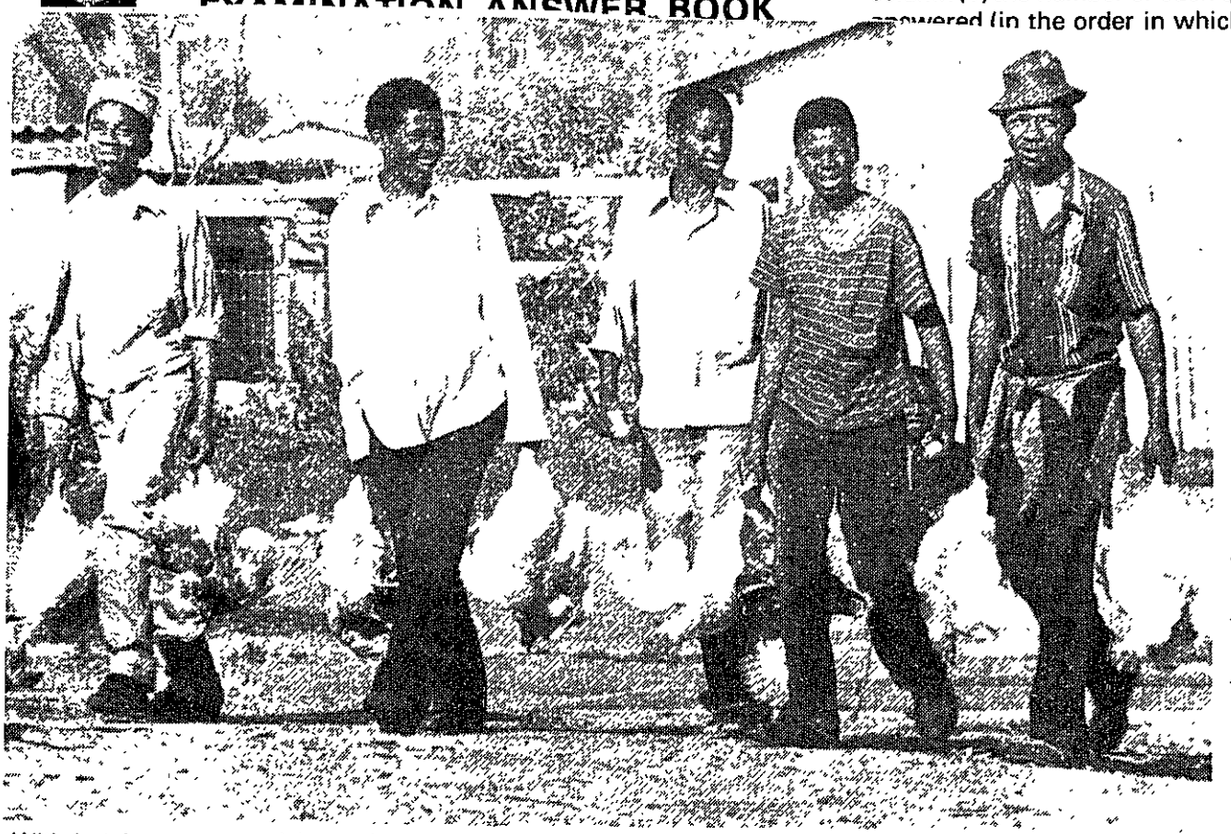
CONTINUES

SECTION B

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
EXAMINATION ANSWER BOOK

EVERY CANDIDATE MUST enter in column (1) the number of each question answered (in the order in which it has (2) and

nal



With butchers not supplying red meat in black areas because of the boycott, scores of people are buying chickens instead. In Guguletu yesterday, these youngsters carry live chickens home for the weekend.

Cape Times 7/6/80 (3 hrs) (186) (145) (182)

Meatworkers' claim rejected

Staff Reporter

A REPRESENTATIVE of the meat industry yesterday rejected a claim by the meat workers' trade union that the State was allowing employers the financial means to hold out against the meat strikers by raising the floor price of meat.

The representative, who declined to be identified, said that meat wholesalers had met the Deputy Minister of Co-operation and Development, Dr G de V Morrison, and not the Department of Agriculture — the department responsible for increasing the floor price of meat.

He said a national meat wholesalers' organization had made representations that the floor price should not be "substantially increased".

The floor price of meat was an agreed price between the producers and the Meat Control Board. The traders had to buy their supplies from the auction.

"The floor price has nothing to do with the margin of profits. So the allegation that the government is supporting the strike by raising the floor price of meat doesn't make sense at all," said the representative.

● For the second time since the strike began, 800 striking meatworkers were yesterday paid R15 each by the Western Province General Workers' Union to support their families in the absence of their weekly wages.

1. Enter at the top of each page and in column (1) of the block on this cover the number of the question you are answering.
2. Blue or black ink must be used for written answers. The use of a ball point pen is acceptable. Red or green ink may be used only for underlining, emphasis or for diagrams, for which pencil may also be used.
3. Names must be printed on each separate sheet (e.g. graph paper) where sheets additional to examination book(s) are used.
4. Do not write in the left hand margin.

1. No books, notes, pieces of paper or other material may be brought into the examination room unless candidates are so instructed.
2. Candidates are not to communicate with other candidates or with any person except the invigilator.
3. No part of an answer book is to be torn out.
4. All answer books must be handed to the commissioner or to an invigilator before leaving the examination.

Any dishonesty will render the candidate liable to disqualification and to possible exclusion from the University

Made in South Africa TRIO-RAND/S.P.C.T. PSL/UPD 100 000 1978 PD UCT AM7a Vervaardig in Suid-Afrika

R19 000 is collected for strikers

Cape Times 9/6/80

3 Meat

Staff Reporter

ABOUT R19 000 has been donated over the past 10 days by members of the community to support the striking meat workers.

In a statement yesterday, the Western Province General Workers' Union said the number of workers on strike had remained constant at 804 and the WPGWU had for the third time on Friday — and not the second time, as was reported at the weekend — paid out R12 000 in relief for the workers and their families.

'Surviving on R15 a week'

"Despite the fact that they are only surviving on R15 a week, the meat workers have clearly shown that they will continue to stay out until their demands are met," the statement said.

The demands included the reinstatement of all workers and recognition of the "democratically-elected workers' committees of Table Bay Cold Storage and National Meat Suppliers".

The community of Cape Town had shown their support for the meat workers by their boycott of red meat and their donations to the workers' families, the union said.

Donations total R19 000

"The amount of money donated from a broad spectrum of people ranging from Hanover Park to Guguletu to Bishopscourt and Constantia stands at about R19 000," the statement added.

The union had been approached by individuals and organizations elsewhere in South Africa who wanted to "extend community support to the cause of the meat workers".

In view of this, the meat workers had called for a national boycott of red meat and red meat products.

9/6/80 Argus

Gangs search trains for meat

YOUNG meat boycott enforcement gangs picketed trains, public assembly points and stations at the weekend searching passengers and parcels for red meat which they took and threw away, The Argus was told toay.

A woman said others in her coach during rush hour on Friday evening had their bags and parcels searched by a group of young men who, when they found red meat, threw the parcels out of the train window.

She said the victims were mainly coloured women who appeared not to know about the boycott. Africans on the train had been warned this might happen and few were involved in these incidents.

However, a woman from Guguletu, said gangs roamed the streets as people returned home and whenever they found meat in parcels during their street search, it was thrown into the dirt.

Both said it hurt them to see expensive meat wasted.

The Argus has also received reports of gangs controlling 'taxis,' both official and unofficial, commandeering cars and ordering drivers to ferry passengers who would normally travel to work in buses at specific prices.

Reports that drivers who try to charge more and are reported to the enforcement gangs are beaten up, cannot be confirmed by the police.

'The only report of intimidation we had today was from Nyanga station.

'When we investigated it, it was simply a case of people trying to crowd on to already full trains and not being allowed to board,' the Divisional Commissioner of the Western Cape, Brigadier J F Rossouw, said.

He added, there had been no other intimidation reported to the police.

SEE PAGES 7 and 9.

Inquiry exposes SWA meat scandal

STAR 9/6/80

3 meat

By Hugh Leggatt, Political Correspondent

The Assembly

Widespread irregularities in the SWA/Namibia meat industry have been identified by an official inquiry.

The former manager of the Meat Board in SWA/Namibia, Mr Frans Heydenrych (64), who fell to his death shortly after refusing to answer questions about payments into his bank account had in fact received "various amounts," the inquiry found.

Considering his financial position, the impression was created that he had received gifts in the form of cash and cheques from various persons or bodies.

The inquiry found conclusive evidence that a pergola made of rails had been given to Mr Heydenrych following a discussion about permits for marketing meat.

The report of the commission of inquiry into alleged irregularities relating to the meat trade industry in SWA, tabled in Parliament today, highlights other irregularities, but clears the names of the chairman and vice-chairman of the board, Mr A P Pretorius and Mr J P van der Walt.

The irregularities include:

- Employees of all brokers dealing with marketing permits and slaughter quotas abused their positions by running farming and/or speculators' enterprises.
- Large numbers of cattle are exported to the open market in South Africa without the necessary permit cover.
- In the registration of producers with the Meat Board for the purpose of permit allocations, "fairly extensive" duplication occurs resulting in some farmers receiving larger allocations than they are entitled to, at the expense of others.
- There was inadequate Meat Board control of the allocation of permits and the correctness of applications for permits.
- The granting of market access turned out to be largely at the discretion of brokers instead of being at the sole discretion of the Meat Board.
- Meat Trade Control Board records showed accounting errors and differing interpretations of the formula for granting permits.
- Certain persons were favoured unduly in the allotting of slaughtering turns (facilities) at the expense of others at local factories and abatteoirs
- Largescale unauthorised transfer of permits by holders themselvs and by brokers without notification of the Meat Board.

The inquiry recommended that general control by the Meat Board be tightened and that rules

To Page 3, Col 4

CAPE TIMES 10/6/80

3 meat

Meat industry probe 'needed'

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The Opposition last night described the widespread irregularities which the Van Zyl Commission has found in the SWA/Namibian meat industry as "scandalous".

The Progressive Federal Party's Mr Rupert Lorimer, MP, said it was scandalous that things had gone on for so long in such a way in SWA/Namibia without the government taking action.

He said that the fact that so many of the companies in SWA/Namibia had major South African links indicated that an investigation into the South African connection was needed.

However, the Minister of Justice, Mr Alwyn Schlebusch, said in an interview that he believed that the constitutional development in SWA/Namibia had reached the stage that the commission's report "can best be further discussed there".

Mr Schlebusch added: "If offences were committed they would have been committed there and it is a matter for the Attorney-General of SWA to decide on possible prosecutions".

The commission's report, tabled in Parliament yesterday, found that farms were registered twice for meat permits, that certain groups, including people employed by broking firms, were favoured for slaughtering turns and that various amounts had been paid into the account of the SWA/Namibian Meat Board's former manager, Mr Frans Heydenrich, who committed suicide during its investigations.

It found conclusive evidence that Mr Heydenrich had been given a pergola after a discussion about meat permits and that various amounts had been paid into his bank account.

'Abusing their positions'

It said these amounts, "considering his financial position, created the impression that he had received gifts in the form of cash and cheques from various persons or bodies".

The commission also found that a number of employees, including top management figures, ran their own farming or speculating enterprises and this had resulted in them "abusing their positions".

Between July 1977 and September 1979 it found that 46 166 head of cattle had been sold by way of unauthorized permit transfers. These had involved 2 819 unauthorized permits handled by four major broking firms.

Mr Lorimer said the fact that such irregularities "could have continued over such a long period in spite of continual complaints from the farmers, indicates that there are serious shortcomings in the contact between the authorities and the farming community".

Mr Lorimer said many South African farmers had similar complaints to those made in SWA/Namibia and in view of the close connection between the South African and SWA/Namibian meat boards, the situation waranted an investigation in depth.

● **Meat chief died: Evidence of gifts, page 4**

PFP urges inquiry into meat scandal

C. Times 11/6/80 3 Meat

Chief Reporter

THE Progressive Federal Party intends as a matter of urgency to call on the government for a full-scale investigation into the South African connection in the SWA/Namibia meat scandal, after disclosures and findings made by the Van Zyl commission of inquiry into the territory's meat trade industry.

The commission's report was tabled in Parliament on Monday.

Mr Rupert Lorimer, MP for Orange Grove, said in an interview yesterday that he intended to see the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, and the Minister of Justice, Mr Alwyn Schlebusch, about the South African connection.

"The firms involved in the irregularities disclosed by the Van Zyl Commission all have major connections with South African companies," he said.

"The 46 000 cattle found to have been sent to South Africa on irregular permits must have been received by someone in this country. Action should be taken against them, as well as against the people who channelled the cattle through to the controlled areas in South Africa.

"As we also have a quota or permit system in South Africa, such irregular practices as have been disclosed by the commission must obviously be to the disadvantage of many farmers in this country."

Mr Lorimer said that the object of his proposed interviews with Mr Schoeman and Mr Schlebush was to call for a full-scale investigation into the South African connection.

Mr Schlebusch said on Monday that he believed that the constitutional development in SWA/Namibia had reached a stage where "the commission's report can best be further discussed there".

He added in an interview: "If offences were committed, they would have been committed there, and it is a matter for the Attorney-General of SWA to decide on possible prosecutions."

Other findings

The Van Zyl Commission, in its report, said among other things that:

- Various amounts were paid into the bank account of the former manager of the SWA/Namibia Meat Board, Mr Frans Heydenrich, "which, considering his financial position, created the impression that he had received gifts in the form of cash and cheques from various persons or bodies".
- A pergola made of rails was given to Mr Heydenrich after a discussion about permits.
- "Before his tragic death the former manager was not prepared to testify on the source of certain funds without consulting his legal representative. He died before he could testify again."
- Farms were registered twice for meat permits.
- Permits for the open market were transferred on a large scale without the required prior notification of or approval by the Meat Board.
- A number of employees, including top management figures, ran their own farming or speculating enterprises and this had resulted in them "abusing their positions".

SA meat complaints invited

STAR 12/6/80

3 Meat

Political Staff

THE ASSEMBLY — Mr Schoeman, Minister of Agriculture, has called a meeting for next month to hear complaints against the meat industry.

Speaking during the third reading of the Budget debate in Parliament, Mr Schoeman, said that all major meat retailers and associated bodies were being invited to the meeting as well as organisations such as the Consumer Council.

Referring to the many calls made for a commission of inquiry into the meat industry in South Africa, Mr Schoeman said he could not appoint a commission as he did not know what complaints there were.

This was why he was calling a meeting on July 15 to establish whether there were any complaints.

Mr Schoeman said the situation could not be compared with the meat industry in South West Africa which had nothing to do with the South African industry.

With Zimbabwe now independent and a similar situation arising in South West Africa, two of this country's main sources of beef are threatened and, if lost, the South African beef industry will have no choice but to increase prices in a way that will "shake consumers."

This warning came from Mr Gerhard Olschevski, chairman of the RSA Simmentaler Club during a Farmers' Day in Pretoria.

12/6/80 AR 445

Meat ban: 'No effect' on abattoir

THE meat boycott has had 'no noticeable effect' on killings at the Maitland abattoir and quotas have continued to be met.

The acting director of the abattoir, Dr W W van Heerden, said today the boycott, which is into its third week, had had no effect on slaughtering at the abattoir.

He said farmers were still sending livestock for slaughtering and the flow was influenced only by price. The daily quota of 5 000 animals was still being met.

The branch manager of the Meat Board in Cape Town said he also had not seen any change in the turnover of meat during the boycott.

'As far as I can see it is having no effect at all. The abattoir is killing as normal and farmers are still sending their animals for slaughter at the same rate.'

The red meat boycott is in support of 800 striking meat industry workers.

12/6/80

Minister orders meat talks

Parliamentary Staff

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This was why he was calling a meeting on July 15.

SWA INDUSTRY

The situation could not be compared with the meat industry in South West Africa, which had nothing to do with the South African industry.

He accused Mr Rupert Lorimer, Progressive Federal Party spokesman on agriculture, of saying the South African meat industry was guilty of the same offences as the SWA industry.

EXAMINATION ANSWER BOOK

column (1) the number of each question answered (in the order in which it has been answered); leave columns (2) and (3) blank.

13/5/80 ARGUS

Democracy key to city meat dispute

3 meat

3-Meat 13/5/80

David Bleazard, Labour Reporter

THE arrest of 42 meat workers in a pre-dawn police raid on their hostel yesterday has done nothing to raise hopes of a settlementt to the dispute in the Cape Town meat industry.

For nearly a month now 800 breadwinners have been out of work. Most of them, unlike the arrested contract workers, are permanent residents.

Together, contract and local workers have won widespread community support in the dispute through the clearly democratic and non-racial nature of their demands.

FUNDAMENTAL

The dispute centres on the fundamental labour question of how workers are to be represented in their dealings with management.

It began with the refusal of management at Table Bay Cold Storage Company to recognise a six-man committee elected by the workers.

Managing director Mr R L Selzer insisted that the workers form a liaison or works committee, registered with the Department of Manpower Utilisation.

Meat workers have rejected these committees as racist, applying only to Africans and excluding coloured workers. Liaison committees, moreover, are composed partly of management nominees.

The workers have insisted upon non-racial workers' committees, democratically elected by all workers in a factory.

At most firms in the meat industry, such committees had already been recognised by management when the dispute at Table Bay Cold Storage came to a head.

About 75 Table Bay workers walked out on May 7 in protest at Mr Selzer's attitude, which included a demand that the workers dissociate themselves from their union.

NO NEGOTIATION

Like most other workers in the industry, they belong to the unregistered Western Province General Workers' Union. Formal recognition of the union by management had not been sought.

Mr Selzer refused to negotiate with the workers after the walkout, on the grounds that they had terminated their contracts. He refused to meet representatives from committees in the other firms.

In a Press statement, Mr Selzer claimed to have the unanimous support of all employers in the Cape Town meat industry.

Hundredds of meat workers from more than a dozen firms held a one-day walkout on May 19 in protest at this support and in sympathy with the Table Bay Cold Storage Workers.

They included more than 200 workers at National Meat Suppliers who had been refused recognition of a non-racial workers' committee.

When they reported for work the following day, all the workers were turned away — in some cases by police with dogs.

The reason for the concerted action by the meat bosses in supporting Mr Selzer and in dismissing the 800 workers are not clear.

In a half-page newspaper advertisement on May 23, the employes said they were taking a stand in support of the 'talk, don't walk principle' in industrial relations.

'NOT LEGAL'

They said normal channels of disalogue and conciliation had been bypassed and employees had 'resorted to illegal strike action before attempting to discuss their claims in a constitutional manner.'



FLASHBACK to the start of the dispute — workers of the Table Bay Cold Storage Company gather outside the firm's offices after a walkout.

This ignores, however, the very real attempts by workers at Table Bay Cold Storage and the other firms to settle the dispute through letters and requests for meetings.

From the workers' point of view, withholding their labour was a last resort in the face of management intransigence — backed up by the State in the form of the Department of Manpower Utilisation and later the police.

The rationale for the employers' behaviour may lie in the very effectiveness, and hence power, of the non-racial democratically-elected committees and their union.

NOT CONSULTED

In March, just before the Easter Weekend, 59 workers at Karoo Meat Exchange went on strike for a week. They claimed that their recognised committee had not been consulted — as its constitution required — before an employee was dismissed.

With the evident support of workers in other firms, the Karoo workers won reinstatement to their jobs and full pay for the week they were out of work.

FEW COLOURED

Employers may be intent now on teaching their workers a lesson and discouraging their attachment to the union, or even on replacing their African workforce with coloured workers.

In both the Karoo dispute and the present dispute coloured workers have been loth to join strike action. Only a handful of the 800 men now on strike are coloured workers.

According to committee members, however, there is no anger or resentment at the failure of coloured workers to support the strike.

'Our feeling is that we must still organise them,' one said.

POURING IN

Much of the money which has been pouring in to help the union to pay strikers R15 a week has come from the coloured community through student, community and other organisations.

The boycott of red meat which the workers called for has been well supported on the Cape Flats as well as in the African townships, although the Cape Butchers' Association members stopped selling meat for only three days.

Whatever the effects of the boycott on the meat industry's profits, it appears that the Cape Town community is largely behind the workers.

HOLDING OUT

In spite of the hardship of trying to keep their families on R15 a week, the workers are confident they can hold out in the war of attrition with management.

Many of them are skilled workers, many have several years' experience, and they believe their firms need them. They refuse to consider themselves dismissed and have refused to collect money owing to them.

The employers know the meat workers are serious in their demand for reinstatement and recognition of the committees at Table Bay Cold Storage and National Meat Suppliers.

Mr Selzer saw, in an attack on a Table Bay Cold Storage worker who wanted to return to work after walking out, the frustration and potential anger of the workers.

Two union organisers, Mr Dave Lewis and Miss Di Cooper, were detained under Section 22 of the General Law Amendment Act for two weeks and are still being held under Section 10 of the Internal Security Act.

Both employers and the State must realise by now that such action is no solution to the dispute.

One of the workers had a suggestion: 'We want the managements to change their minds and be prepared to talk the issue over with us. We are ready to discuss it.'

Sun Times 15/6/80 (3 Mar

Meat

Commission finds bribery and abuse in SWA industry

A SMALL, powerful coterie of brokers' representatives has been exposed as the muscle-men of the meat industry in South West Africa/Namibia.

In a damning official report, they are shown to manipulate the permit system, bribe officials, abuse their positions of authority for their own gain and to have captured the industry to the exclusion of others.

Their activities have been revealed in the Van Zyl Commission of Inquiry into the SWA/Namibia meat industry, whose report was tabled in Parliament this week.

The report shows that the meat board largely lost control of the industry to the brokers' agents who wield the power.

Police investigations are expected to follow the widespread corruption and irregularities exposed by the commission.

The Attorney-General of SWA/Namibia, Mr Donald Brunette, said this week there had been no police investigations yet, but that a copy of the commission's report was expected to arrive soon.

If necessary, there would be official investigations, he said.

Mr Rupert Lorimer, the Progressive Federal Party spokesman on agriculture, said there appeared to be clear cases of illegal activity revealed in the commission's report.

Mr Lorimer has called for a full inquiry into the South African meat industry as well.

From the evidence of the Van Zyl Commission, it is clear that control of the SWA/Namibia industry has been captured from the Meat Board by a clique of unnamed brokers' employees, who have become the meat bosses.

"Buying"

And they have not been beyond "buying" officials to achieve their positions of power and privilege.

Evidence was found that the former manager of the Meat Board, Mr Frans Heydenrych, received gifts and payments.

Mr Heydenrych refused to testify about the payments without consulting his legal representatives.

Before he could testify again, he plunged to his death down the stairwell of the Landbank Building in Windhoek.

An inquest found nobody responsible for his death.

The Van Zyl Commission investigated the bank accounts of senior Meat Board employees and, in the case of Mr Heydenrych, found that various amounts had been deposited which, "considering his financial position, created the impression that he had received gifts in the form of cash and cheques from various persons or bodies".

By IVOR WILKINS

Representatives of a meat broking firm gave evidence that "goodwill" gifts had been given to the former manager. Another broker refused to testify on the question on the grounds that it might be incriminating to answer.

The commission did not publish its findings in regard to the bank accounts of other senior officials of the Meat Board.

From the seven-page report emerges a picture of the SWA/Namibia meat industry as riddled with corruption.

The Meat Board, which ostensibly controls the industry, appears to be out of touch and its efforts to regulate the market are made farcical by the manipulation and irregularities revealed by the commission.

Permits abused

The permit system was widely abused, the commission found.

One of the important factors in determining permits is the size of the farm.

The commission found that meat producers were registering falsely.

"Sufficient evidence was given ... to justify the inference that many producers register with the Meat Board for the full sizes of the land owned or leased by them, while the land is being let or sublet wholly or in part to somebody else."

The tenant farmer would then also register for the land he was leasing, with the result that the same piece, or at least overlapping pieces, of land was registered twice.

The commission found this practice "fairly extensive" and reported that in the Outjo district alone there was evidence "of six persons who had been registered for completely incorrect sizes of farms".

Permits are applied for by brokers acting on behalf of producers.

Here, too, it was found that the Meat Board did not apply sufficient control over incoming applications and outgoing permits.

One broker gave evidence of a considerable number of cases where he had applied for permits, but they had landed in the hands of another broker.

There was also evidence that permits were transferred without authorisation.

What happened was that the broker made the application on behalf of the producer.

The Meat Board then filed the permit in the broker's box at the Meat Board offices.

Instead of passing the permit on to the applicant, the broker would give it to somebody else.

The original applicant would presumably assume that his application had been refused.

Another practice was that the broker gave the permit to somebody else with the knowledge of the applicant.

But in both cases, the Meat Board was unaware of what had happened:

"The effect of these practices is naturally that, so far as the controlled markets are concerned, the granting of market access is largely in the discretion of the brokers, instead of being solely in the discretion of the Meat Board where it is supposed to be," the commission commented.

Permits

According to the commission, 2 819 permits involving 46 166 head of cattle, were transferred without authorisation between July 1977 and September 1979.

The formula for the granting of permits was complicated, the commission found, and largely not understood by the farmers. It was also open to different interpretations by the officials granting permits.

"With a few exceptions no evidence was found of deliberate deviations from the formula to benefit certain persons or bodies continuously," the commission reported.

In the case of local slaughtering, it is again the brokers who are boss, the commission found.

Certain persons, "and especially employees of brokers, obtained excessive access to local slaughterings at the expense of more deserving cases".

One case was reported of a broker's representative who had been given ample slaughtering turns at the factory in Windhoek.

It transpired, however, that some of the cattle he was sending to slaughter had been sold to him by producers who were at their wits end because they could not get a turn.

There was also testimony that it was fairly general practice for brokers to allocate slaughtering turns on condition that the producer concerned would do all his marketing through the broker making the allocation.

Calling for stricter control, the commission said there was conclusive proof that certain persons are favoured unduly in the allotting of slaughtering turns at the expense of others.

es Riv

A shock report this week about irregularities in the SWA meat industry has led to calls for a similar probe here to investigate claims of a South African connection. Now Agriculture Minister Hendrik Schoeman has agreed to hold talks with all parties concerned.

15/6/80 SUN TRIB 2 221 3 (meat)

It's rotten through and through



DARYL BALFOUR WITH THE LATEST ON THE BIG MEAT BOARD PROBE



Commission finds SWA meat industry is riddled with bribes and corruption

THE South West African meat industry is riddled with corruption — and police investigations could lead to the prosecution of senior members of the industry through the territory.

The Van Zyl Commission of Inquiry into Alleged Irregularities in the Meat Trade Industry in SWA, has found numerous irregularities among officials of livestock broker's firms as well as in the Meat Board offices.

Now the commission's report, tabled in Parliament this week, is to be sent to the Attorney General of SWA, Don Brunette, and prosecutions could follow.

The Administrator-General of SWA, Dr Gerrit Viljoen, said a number of people might be prosecuted in the light of evidence disclosed in the commission's report.

Criminal

Dr Viljoen said urgent attention was being given to the possibility of criminal prosecution.

He said he had instructed the Director of Forestry and Agriculture for SWA to check with the SWA Meat Board what measures were envisaged and had been taken to fall in line with the recommendations made by the commission.

This week, after the report had been tabled in the House of Assembly, Minister of Agriculture Hendrik Schoeman announced he would hold talks with all interested bodies connected with the South African meat trade next month to discuss the desirability of appointing a commission of inquiry into the industry in South Africa.

There are fears in several quarters that "if it happened in South West it could be happening here."

Farmers and others involved with the meat trade — worth about R3-billion a year — would like a fullscale commission of inquiry "to clear any doubts we may have".

The Sunday Tribune has reported extensively in past months on widespread dissatisfaction among South African farmers and butchers.

There have been repeated calls for a commission of inquiry.

Mr Schoeman told the House of Assembly on Thursday he would meet with producers, meat marketers, the Consumer Council and other bodies. He said he could not appoint a commission without knowing what it was supposed to investigate.

Mr Schoeman said people had given the impression that the same fraud that had taken place in SWA was possibly taking place here.

The Van Zyl Commission found that "numerous irregularities" had arisen in the SWA meat industry and found conclusive evidence that the former manager of the SWA Meat Board, Frans Heydenrych had accepted bribes to retain his goodwill.

Evidence submitted to the commission indicated that these "gifts, in the form of cash and cheques", were paid by speculators and livestock broker's firms — some of which are prominent in the South African industry.

The commission did not name any of the firms that had paid Mr Heydenrych for his "goodwill".

According to the report, allegations were also made concerning gifts said to have been given to the secretary of the SWA Meat Board, Willem Johannes van der Westhuizen.

The report mentions nothing further in this respect.

Mr Heydenrych, fell to his death from his Windhoek office only days after refusing to testify before the commission about deposits totalling hundreds of thousands of rands in his bank accounts.

Mr Heydenrych was due to be recalled at the time of his death.

The report said it found that various amounts had been paid into the former manager's bank account which created the impression that he "had received gifts in the form of cash or cheques from various persons or bodies."

Evidence by representatives of a broker's firm (not named in the report) said they had handed over gifts in the form of money from time to time at the insistence of Mr Heydenrych.

A representative of another broker would not answer the commission's questions in this regard on the grounds that "it might be incriminating to answer."

The commission did not name this witness in its report.

The commission also inspected the books and records of a third broker's firm and found that regular cash withdrawals had been made without being properly accounted for.

"The replies by this firm regarding these withdrawals did not impress the commission," the report says.

The report also fails to identify the firm.

The report also says the books and records of one of the registered speculator's firms were inspected. It was found that regular cash withdrawals had been made.

Evidence was given to the commission that these amounts were not received by the firm to whom the payments were said to have been made.

The commission also found that a number of employees of livestock brokers' firms were running farming and speculators' enterprises.

Evidence before the commission also indicated that brokers' employees were abusing their positions on a large scale. Many transferred permits (which allow producers to send their cattle to the markets and abattoirs) from their clients to themselves.

According to Meat Board regulations this is illegal.

The report says 2 819 permits involving 46 166 head of cattle were transferred without authorisation between July 1977 and September 1979. This involved about 17 percent of the number of cattle sold to controlled areas.

Of the four brokers involved three have strong South African ties. They are Karoo Lewende Hawe, B.K.B. and Slabbert, Verster and Malherbe. The fourth was SWA Amalgamated Auctioneers.

The commission found "the allowing of such practice to be irregular, especially where top management of some of the brokers' firms are involved."

In confirming a South African connection with the SWA set-up, the commission found that it could "come to no other conclusion than that large numbers of cattle are exported to the open market in South Africa without the necessary permit cover."

The report also stated that although no concrete evidence could be found that SWA cattle found their way to the controlled South African markets without permits "it has reason to believe that it might have happened."

The commission found the Meat Board had not achieved the aim of giving every producer a fair marketing opportunity.

"From the evidence and investigations, it is clear that certain persons or bodies are favoured in the allotting of slaughtering turns," the report says.

"It nevertheless emerged from evidence that certain persons, especially employees of brokers, obtained excessive access to local slaughterings at the expense of more deserving cases.

Since October last year the Tribune has carried numerous reports following a thorough investigation of the South African meat industry.

The Tribune probe found widespread complaints about a number of aspects of the industry. Repeated calls for a commission of inquiry were made but Mr Schoeman has refused to appoint one.

The Minister's about-face this week has been welcomed by several people involved with the industry as well as by South Africa's "Meat MP" Rupert Lorimer and the Housewive's League.

Mr Lorimer said he found the Van Zyl Commission report scandalous and said it was high time for a similar investigation here.

"There's an obvious South African connection with the SWA industry," he said.

Mr Lorimer appealed to farmers or anyone with complains about the industry to either contact him in Cape Town or arrange to attend the meeting called by Mr Schoeman.

Yvonne Forshaw, vice-president of the Housewive's League said a South African commission was "very desirable".

Mrs Forshaw said the South African meat industry was based on a system which was wide open to abuse.

SWA Attorney-General, Don Brunette, said he had not received a copy of the controversial report but would study it as soon as he did.

"If there is any evidence of irregularities the police will definitely investigate and prosecutions could follow," he said.

"I know that at one stage of the commission things looked very bad indeed," he said.

ONLY THE TIP, SAYS LANG

Tribune Africa News Service

THE commission of inquiry into irregularities in the SWA meat industry appears to have only skimmed the surface, of the real problem facing the industry, according to the man credited with initiating the inquiry.

Eric Lang, the Friedental farmer who campaigned for an investigation into the industry, said the commission had been "totally understaffed".

He said the territory's National Assembly should now appoint a commission of inquiry to look into the problems of the SWA meat industry in depth.

He said many questions still remained unanswered and that much of the evidence led before the commission of inquiry had been untested.

"Any critical examination of figures presented to the inquiry could prove otherwise than it appears from the findings," he said.

Mr Lang said no indepth investigation had been made by the commission into the factories processing farmers' beef.

The commission of inquiry also had no jurisdiction in South Africa — where 99 percent of the territory's beef was marketed.

Andries Pretorius, chairman of the SWA Meat Board, said he felt the report exonerated the board.

The allegations contained in the commission's findings were against certain farmer and livestock agents.

Although he did not have the report at hand, Mr Pretorius pointed out that his board had been asking authorities for the past "three or four years" to sanction a Meat Board inspectorate to police loading procedures, and illegal export of cattle to South Africa.

17/6/80 ARGUS

42 told: Go to homelands

FORTY-TWO of the 800 Table Bay Cold Storage meat strikers charged with being in the Peninsula illegally were cautioned and told to return to their homelands when they appeared before a Langa Commissioner's Court yesterday.

One of the accused, Mr Fumbathile Maguzu, told the court that the labour dispute had started when workers had not been allowed to elect a workers' committee.

'LOCKED'

Mr Maguzu said on the morning of May 6 more than 800 workers were ordered by a Mr Sells, a senior employer at the firm, to leave the premises.

However, he said the following morning all workers reported for duty but found the doors locked.

He denied that they were expelled from work

Meat shortage unlikely — Board

STAR 21/6/80 (3 Meat)

Fair Deal Reporter

The Meat Board has scoffed at reports that South Africans must brace themselves for a shortage of meat.

The Federation of Livestock Auctioneers has said political changes in Zimbabwe and SWA/Namibia would lead to those countries exporting meat higher-priced European markets.

This would mean less meat flowing to South Africa. Last year, they point out, 20 percent of meat consumed here was imported from neighbouring territories.

At the same time consumption increased seven percent.

"It takes three years to produce meat for slaughter at present increased consumption and, if we lose our sources of imports, we'll have a serious shortage," Mr D Scholtz of the Federation said.

But the Meat Board pointed out that more than 15 percent of imported meat came from SWA/Namibia last year. "A few hundred head of cattle came from countries like Botswana, but nothing came from Zimbabwe, nor has it for some time," a Meat Board spokesman said.

RDM 23/6/80

Supply of beef may drop, and prices rise

CONSUMER MAIL

A MEAT Board market projection for 1980 shows that the supplies of beef from local sources could drop by as much as 12,7% this year — which would mean a 38% rise in the producer price.

A consumer price rise in red meat could be expected to follow, according to Dr Jan Lombard, general manager of the Meat Board.

However, he said, the amount passed on to the consumer would depend on how much the retail trade could absorb. In May, Dr Lombard warned of a "serious meat shortage" unless producers' prices were raised to a more profitable level.

He said then that projections of a reduced supply in 1980/81 made increases in market prices inevitable, and that floor prices would have to be adjusted accordingly.

Mr J W Raath, assistant general manager of the Meat Board, said yesterday that the formula had been based on a projected 15% inflation rate for 1980, and a 5% real growth rate in the economy.

Floor prices rose at the beginning of this month by 18% for beef, 25% for mutton and 15% for pork. Dr Lombard assured consumers that this would not affect retail prices because auction prices of meat were still above floor prices.

THEY'RE KILLING THE ANIMALS THAT WE NEED TO GIVE US FOOD IN THE FUTURE

Yesterday we ate tomorrow's meat. . .

Sunday Express 29/6/80 3 Meat

IF YOU can afford to buy red meat regularly, it's a three-to-one chance that the steak you had last night came from an animal that should not have been killed.

"South Africa is consuming the national herd," Transvaal stock farmer Richard Galpin told me this week. "Breeding cows and heifers make up two-thirds and more of the cattle slaughtered at abattoirs all over the country," he said.

"These are the animals that should produce the meat we shall need over the next decade. South Africans will not curtail their demand for red meat, whatever the price, and the way the breeding stock is being killed off now means real trouble.

"In 10 years only the rich will be able to afford red meat"

This week the Sunday Express spoke to cattle farmers in the central Transvaal — and found that at a monthly cattle sale in Naboomspruit 62% of all cattle sold were breeding cows and heifers.

And this percentage was lower than it has been over the past 18 months, we were assured.

Moreover, we were told many of the cows slaughtered for beef were pregnant. Two veterinarians confirmed to the Sunday Express that it was "a sickening sight" to see piles of calf foetuses at abattoirs.

At the cattle sale Sunday Express chief photographer Doug Lee and I attended this week, 513 cattle were sold for R94 464.

Of these:

- 42% or 218 were sold for immediate slaughter.
- 62% of all cattle sold were breeding cows and heifers
- Of the 212 cows sold, 180 were sold for slaughter, including 22 with suckling calves at foot.
- 20% of all cattle sold were heifers — and all except a handful were sold for slaughter as "baby beef".
- Only 35% or 189 of all cattle sold were slaughter oxen.

Mr Laffnie Jacobsz, Central Transvaal manager of Vleissentraal, told the Sunday Express that fewer cows than usual had gone for slaughter.

"Since February last year, 72% of cattle sold for slaughter at our sales have been breeding stock," he said.

"Producer prices have gone up in the last year, but have still not kept up with the cost of production.

"Many cattle farmers in this area have been able to keep going only by getting overdrafts from their banks — which the banks allowed them because of the big increases in the value of their land.

"But there comes a time when a farmer's overdraft is approaching a substantial proportion of the value of his farm and then the bank clamps down.

"The only thing he can do to keep going is to sell his breeding stock."

Mr P H van der Merwe, a buyer for Vaaldriehoek Vleishandel of Vereeniging, bought 70 cattle at the sale for immediate slaughter over the weekend.

About threequarters of the cattle he bought were cows and heifers. He agreed that this was deplorable, but added: "What am I supposed to do? If the producers are prepared to sell them am I not to buy them?

"You like to eat baby beef, don't you?" he said as we watched a group of plump, 18-month-old heifers stumbling up the ramp into the huge cattle transporter which would carry them through the freezing night to the slaughterhouses in the Vaal triangle.

Several of the cows loaded into the transporter desperately nudged their small calves ahead of them. It was a toss-up whether the calves would survive the trip, an attendant told us.

Many of the cows were obviously pregnant, including two beautiful five-year-old Brahmans.

Mr Jacobsz strode around the sale ring, up to his knees in mud and manure, imploring breeders to buy some of the better cows.

"These two are in calf to a stud bull," he said of the Brahmans. "You can't let them go to the butchers. . ."

But go they did, at R377 each. So did six Siementhaler cows and their small calves — "Good for another six years," said auctioneer Wally Zietsmann, but he knocked them down to a local butcher at R206 each.

An enormous horned cow, wild as only Bushveld Afrikanders can be, had her rangy year-old calf wrenched from her in the sale ring. After she was sold to a butcher for R269, she made short, frantic rushes at the attendants as she was driven from the ring. The abandoned bull calf bawled and tried to clamber after her, only to be driven back by a belt on the nose.

He went to a local farmer for R51 — "another year's grace, but he'll never come to much," said a woman at the ringside.

Bidding was fierce among butchers and speculators, which slowed down a little when animals they did not want were put up. A pretty Jersey milk cow went for R261 and six young Siementhaler heifers for R148 each.

Several farmers explained that in the past cows normally made up about 45% of slaughter stock, since it is always necessary for a stock farmer to cull his herd. And it was admitted that a cow due for culling was often allowed to become pregnant because "a pregnant cow gets fatter and will bring in more money from the butcher".

Mr E A Galpin of Mosdene, one of the few beef breeders still operating in the central Transvaal, produced figures to prove that the average Bushveld beef farmer was getting a return of only 1,45% on a capital outlay of R270 000 — and that the average nett income among this group was a fraction under R4 000 a year.

"It is particularly galling to listen on TV to the hogwash talked about beef producers," he said.

"They have become the whipping boys of consumer bodies — but on the same TV we are shown the abandoned bushveld farms.

"This is the writing on the wall. The farms are being abandoned and breeding stock sold because farmers cannot make a profit — in the Tolwe area alone the cattle population has reduced in just over a year from 13 500 to barely 2 500.

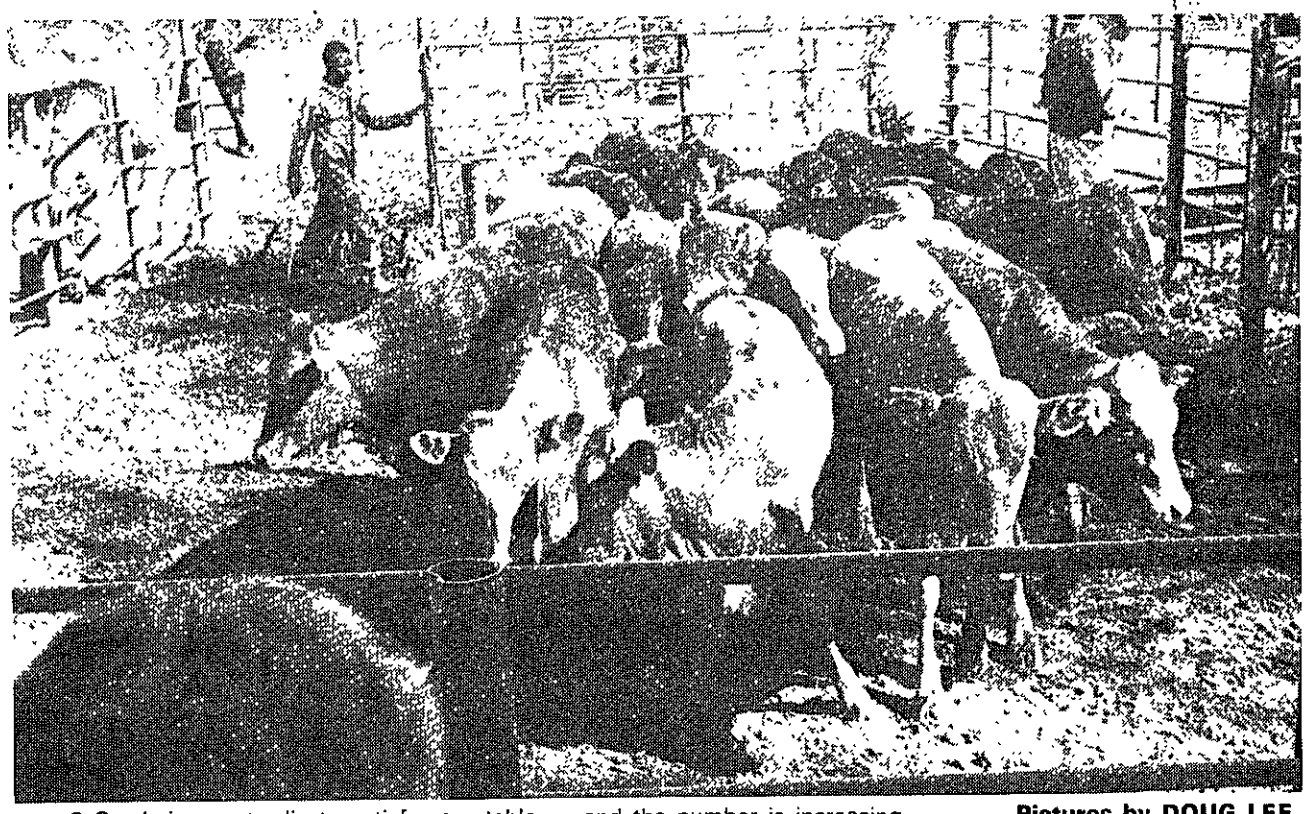
"Yet this is an important part of the country's meat larder and can only be rehabilitated by long-term breeding and realistic prices for beef."

A young farmer who had sold several breeding cows on the sale said, rather defensively: "I can't afford to keep them. I have to sell three times more cattle now than I sold five years ago just to maintain myself and my family in the same position."

Mr Koos Blignaut, a spokesman for the Meat Board, confirmed that while beef producers' expenses had increased by 70% since 1975, they were getting only 31% more for their cattle.

"The national herd has reduced by close on half a million in the last year," he said.

"The board has warned many times that the position is serious and that we cannot expect beef producers to keep producing if they don't make a profit."



● On their way to die to satisfy your table — and the number is increasing

Pictures by DOUG LEE

By JEAN LE MAY





● **Mr Koos Blignaut . . . position serious**

STAR 3/7/80

Meat official 'did not ask for cash'

(3 Meat)

Petrus Broodryk, a Meat Board official who accepted R27 000 from agents for letting them slaughter more cattle than they were entitled to, said today he had not asked for the money.

He said it had been given to him "in appreciation."

Broodryk (38), of the City Deep abattoir, has been found guilty of corruption.

A Johannesburg Regional Court magistrate acquitted him on three counts of fraud after the court found there had been insufficient evidence.

Broodryk pleaded guilty on the corruption charge.

In mitigation Broodryk said he first started accepting money after Mr Cornelius Oosthuizen had approached him. He felt sorry for Mr Oosthuizen, who told him that if the 30 extra cattle were not slaughtered, Mr Oosthuizen would lose a client.

A few days after he allowed the cattle to be slaughtered, Mr Oosthuizen handed him R100 cash in appreciation and told him the client had stayed with him.

About a year later Mr Deon Delaport came to Broodryk and said he was aware of Broodryk's scheme.

Broodryk thought if he did not admit extra cattle over the quota allowed by a Meat Board permit, Mr Delaport may take further steps against him.

Broodryk was not concerned about being reported to his superiors but was worried his wife would find out about his activities.

He said he had never asked for the money and it had been given to him in appreciation of what he had done.

When he was confronted by Meat Board officials, he told them everything. He did not see the acceptance of the money as a criminal offence but was aware he had contravened departmental regulations which forbade the acceptance of money or other gifts for favours.

(Proceeding)

Complaints still rife on meat price

There are many murmurings of dissatisfaction in the meat industry. What has caused this dissatisfaction and why has the Government not acted? CHARLENE BELTRAMO of Fair Deal reports. Star 10/7/80 & Mear

Late last year Mr Hendrik Schoeman, Minister of Agriculture, said that he would investigate the meat industry if he received "a single well-motivated request from an agricultural union, or a group, or from a single farmer."

Since then the South African Agricultural Union, the Meat Board and Parliament have heard complaints from farmers. So have newspapers and consumer organisations.

The Housewives League has asked for an investigation into various aspects of the meat industry.

An extensive investigation by the Sunday Tribune revealed widespread dissatisfaction among farmers, allegations of corruption and indications of a monopolistic situation.

First reports from the SWA/Namibian commission of inquiry into the meat industry revealed widespread corruption, particularly in the issuing of permits.

Despite all this Mr Schoeman still refuses to initiate an investigation into the meat industry.

Last October the Meat Board threatened to sue the Sunday Tribune for libel after the first of its articles on the meat industry.

Ultimately the board lodged a complaint with the Press Council.

After reading the Sunday Tribune's supporting affidavits and statements, the Press Council dismissed the complaint.

Dr J H Lombard, general manager of the Meat Board, asks in the latest issue of the board's publication, Focus: "Should (the Minister) order an inquiry if he has reasonable suspicion that something is amiss, or should he do so if he knows everything is in order?"

The furore that has surrounded the meat industry during the past few months seems to indicate that the board and the Minister stand almost alone in their belief that nothing is amiss in the meat industry.

Even the traditionally conservative SAAU has privately voiced its discomfiture about the widespread dissatisfaction.

Butchers are incessantly making complaints to Fair Deal about the current pricing and marketing structure.

Complaints about the present system include:

- the premise that meat prices are up 17 percent so far this year and are expected to rise at least another 20 percent before the end of the year;
- "the susceptibility of the present marketing system to manipulation."

The quota system was abolished through most of South Africa as a means of marketing livestock to the abattoirs after widespread reports of maladministration, which the Meat Board confirms.

It was replaced with the permit system. According to the Meat Board, "It was alleged that agents were not impartial in the allocation of quotas (amount of livestock a farmer is allowed to market at a given time).

"Agents could give quotas to favoured producers or to farmers who had a financial arrangement with them."

But almost the only difference between the quota and permit system is that the Meat Board controls the latter.

A senior Meat Board official, Pieter Abraham Broodryk, was recently jailed for two years on charges of corruption in the allocation of permits.

He admitted receiving R27 200 from two agencies, G G Walker and Woodhouse, for illegally allowing the agencies to slaughter cattle above the amount specified by the Meat Board.

- The Housewives League has expressed dissatisfaction with the method of determining prices at which carcasses are to be sold — the Dutch Auction Clock system.

The system is operated by a clock mechanism, which starts at a high figure and ticks down to a low one which cannot be lower than the support price. The support price is another bone of contention.

The three big groups which control the meat industry have substantial interests in farming, agencies, wholesaling and retailing.

Two of them, Vleissentraal and Imperial Cold Storage, have a combined control of 80 percent of cattle and 88 percent of sheep handled by the abattoir agencies, according to the companies' reports.

Vleissentraal alone has an annual turnover of more than R750-million.

The two groups have interests in 70 percent of departmental store butcheries and almost 40 percent of conventional butcheries.

In a recent multi-million-rand merger Kanhym and Picardi threw in their lot to become the major beef producers.

Included in the new group are established giants, Karoo and Asokor. Already 39 percent of Kanhym's profits come from meat trading, with another 47 percent coming from feedlot, crops and cattle farming.

The biggest beef producers in the country are among the largest maize farmers, according to the Meat Board.

Maize forms 65 percent of pig feed, 80 percent of chicken feed and about 70 percent of cattle and sheep feed.

It is the highest input cost in livestock farming. During the past two years the price of maize has risen more than 40 percent. Significantly there has not been a whimper of protest from the livestock producers.

The only investigation in recent years into the meat industry was an 18-month R30 000 effort by the National Marketing Council.

Its most significant findings and recommendations were pigeon holed after objections from the Meat Board, the SAAU and the Master Butchers Association.

It affirmed the necessity for wider price fluctuations and advocated the lifting of the floor price (that guaranteed to farmers) in most major centres.

At 1978 prices the lifting of the floor price, the council said, would have meant a saving of at least R260 000 in the eight major controlled areas.

The council called for the scrapping of the support price system. At the time of the report being tabled, the support price had not been in operation for two years.

Less than two years after the report was issued, in March this year, the Meat Board re-introduced the support price system.

The support price is calculated on average prices for three weeks and is higher than the floor price. It has an ultimate inflationary effect on the consumer price.

If prices do drop to the support price the Meat Board buys in carcasses.

These are either sold on tender, usually in such a way that only the large retailer can buy, or exported at a loss of about 10c a kilogram.

The carcasses sold on tender are usually sold at prices well below the prevailing floor price.

"Who would best inform the accusers that nothing is wrong?" Dr Lombard asks.

He says there are "mechanisms built into the system to trigger the alarm on deviations." These alarms obviously did not ring loud enough in SWA/Namibia, where widespread corruption has been revealed, and only after a senior Meat Board official in Johannesburg had accumulated R27 200 in bribes.

The alarm mechanisms according to Dr Lombard are:

- "All board members are appointed by the Minister;
- "All decisions of control boards are subject to ministerial approval;
- "When a control board cannot decide on a matter because members' personal interests are involved, the matter is referred to an independent body, namely the Agricultural Reference Board;
- "All board decisions are evaluated by the independent Marketing Council, which then advises the Minister" — who, as we have seen, can choose to ignore its advice.

BEEF PRICES FM 11/7/80 3 meat

Roach for the sky

Since late 1977 the country's beef industry has been in the doldrums. At the moment it is busy climbing out of them and, any time now, prices could go through the roof. At this stage of the cycle they always do.

But this time round there are some unusual factors which could make the climb even steeper than usual. In previous shortages SA often turned to SWA and Rhodesia for extra supplies. But Zimbabwe is unlikely to be able to assist this time. Having shut out imports from that country while our market was oversupplied with local stock, SA helped to wreck an industry that was already being thrown out of joint by the war. Now Zimbabwe has neither the cattle nor the incentive to resume supplies.

The position in Namibia is less clear, but probably little better. There too, the cattle areas in the north have been disturbed by war and many farmers, shut out of local as well as SA marketing opportunities by their quota restrictions, have simply thrown in the towel. The flow of animals from South West might be stepped up by about 50 000 head a year. But to maintain our existing slaughter rates, we could soon be looking for more than that number each month.

The beef-cycle, which normally takes about eight or nine years to run its course, is a feature of the industry which no interventionist policy is ever likely to cure. It has its origins, not only in the normal economic merry-go-round but, more important, in the very nature of the beef industry itself where the product and the capital equipment for producing it are one and the same thing. They are both cows.

Financial Mail July 11 1980

seen a good deal of that rise without any significant decrease in supplies. Prices for supers and prime carcasses, which were hovering around 120c kg in November are currently topping 140c. With consumer spending still buoyant, we seem set for another strong advance during the last quarter of the year.

Although supplies of the lower grades, needed mainly for manufacturing, are tight at the moment, the feedlots are full. Stocked at an estimated 95% of capacity they should be able to maintain an adequate flow of quality fresh meat through the remainder of the winter. But when spring comes, and the grass with it, there could be a sharp drop in marketings.

Anticipating this, fatteners and speculators have already bid up the prices of weaners and store cattle already. Feeders have been fetching about 65c/kg live weight this winter compared with only 45c to 50c last year.

That could be the cue for the commencement of the restocking phase. When ranchers can sell stores at high prices they have the cash, the food, the space and the incentive to recycle more heifer calves into their breeding herds.

Producer and consumer prices could easily advance by another 20% before the end of the year and a great deal further during 1981.

Scrapping cows

The downward phase of the cycle is therefore aggravated rather than relieved, by the scrapping of redundant capital equipment (cull cows and surplus heifers); similarly the upward phase is accentuated by the need to retain stock to build up breeding herds.

Despite the Meat Board's efforts to prop up local prices during the past three years, farmers have been cutting deeply into their breeding herds.

Cattle census figures published last month indicate that we have been eating into the national herd at a rate of over half-a-million beasts a year. From 9,54m head in February 1979 the count dropped to only 9m in February this year. Reports from the main abattoirs in the controlled areas show that, even now, the percentage of heifers in the total monthly slaughter is high. So the destocking phase has probably not yet ended despite the strong improvement in prices that have been seen during the past six to nine months.

Sooner or later the overslaughtering has to stop. The fact that it hasn't already come to a halt is probably due to the drought, which is encouraging many farmers to sell in order to conserve feed, and perhaps to a "stale bull" feeling among producers who battled for slaughter permits when they were more difficult to obtain.

The permit system is still in force — to control the flow of stock to the abattoirs — but hardly any applicants are having to be refused now that demand has picked up. Another sign of the times is that auction prices are at last clear of the Meat Board's floor prices. So the Board is not being forced to buy many carcasses.

The big question now is how far prices will rise if and when the farmers start to build up their herds again. Jack Raath, Deputy GM of the Meat Board, came up with a year-on-year rise of 38% for 1980 when he asked the Board's simulator model what would happen this year if supplies fell by 12%. That gives some idea of the movement that could be in store. But, halfway through the year we have already

SWA Meat Board member may resign

Argus Africa News Service

WINDHOEK. — A member of the South West Africa Meat Board who gave evidence before a commission of inquiry into alleged irregularities in the territory's meat industry is expected to resign soon.

His would be the first resignation from the Meat Board since the commission published its findings in June this year.

Sources say Mr J N Buys, the sole representative of meat agents and wholesalers on the board, announced his intention to resign at a board meeting yesterday.

Mr Buys is a director of the SWA Amalgameerde Afslaers firm.

PERMIT TRANSFERS

According to a table published in the report, SWA Amalgemeerde Afslaers was connected with 1 184 unauthorised transfers of marketing permits in the controlled areas.

The permits were said to involve 21 653 head of cattle, about 45 percent of the total number mentioned under 'unauthorised permit transfers.'

SWA meat probe: man to resign?

The Star's Africa News Service

WINDHOEK—A member of the SWA/Namibia Meat Board who gave evidence before the commission of inquiry into alleged irregularities in the territory's meat industry, is expected to resign soon.

His would be the first resignation from the Meat Board since the commission published its findings last month.

Sources say Mr J N Buys, the sole representative for meat agents and wholesalers on the board, announced his intention to resign at a meeting yesterday.

Mr Buys is also a director of the SWA Amalgameerde Afslaers firm, meat agents mentioned in the commission's report. The report noted that the commission had heard evidence that the company was involved with more than 1 000 unauthorised permit transfers in the period July 1 1977 to September 30 last year.

Corruption, fiddling in meat trade — butchers

STAR 18/7/80

3 meat

Fair Deal Reporters

The price of meat to the consumer has risen by as much as 45 percent during the past year, say butchers. Now they are calling for a full investigation into the meat industry.

Fair Deal surveyed more than 50 "small" butcheries, and those linked to chain stores. They said their profit margins were being constantly whittled away.

Butchers made claims of corruption in the distribution and marketing of meat and of prices being manipulated by the large groups who have interests in the farming, marketing, wholesaling and retailing of meat.

They warned that by the end of the year prices would have risen at least another 30 percent as butchers battled to keep going.

Many have said they will be forced to leave the trade. As an example, one butcher said his profit margin had been 32 percent in February, by March it had dropped to 19 percent, and now it was 11 percent. It would have to drop further.

NO PROFITS

A large number of other butchers claimed they were making no profit at all and just managed to cover costs.

Butchers also complained that the prices of low grades had soared and offal was almost unobtainable. As an example, a butcher showed receipts.

He had paid R1,44 a kg for prime beef. Grade 2 cost only 2c less, and he paid R1,39c for Grade 3. Similar figures were shown by other butchers.

Others complained that the price of poultry had also soared. "A year ago, I was paying 89c a kg for chicken. Now it costs me R1,29 a kg — an increase of 38 percent," one butcher said.

"There is definitely something wrong in the meat market," said Mr K du Plessis, liaison officer for the SA Co-Ordinating Consumer Council.

"The gap between the net price to the farmer and the retailer is alarm-

To Page 3, Col 1

Butchers blame high prices on fiddling

3 meat

From page 1

ingly big. We should have a free demand and supply situation.

"It would seem big companies are manipulating the market. An independent commission of inquiry with a legal basis is necessary to determine the full extent of this," Mr du Plessis said.

A spokesman for the Meat Board said the results of the Fair Deal survey were "very disturbing."

"We cannot initiate an inquiry as we have no control over any price other than the floor price. The butchers will have to call for an inquiry through their union."

A spokesman for a large supermarket chain said there were "too many vested interests in the market — all Government-condoned.

"What came out in the Press about the SWA/Namibian commission of inquiry into the meat industry was the palatable bits watered down for the public. The real situation there and here is in fact worse," he claimed.

Efforts to reach the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, for comment were unsuccessful.

The chairman of the SA Federation of Meat Traders, Mr L Selber, said: "I don't know what the butchers are talking about.

"There is no need for an investigation, there is nothing to investigate.

"If the butcher complains he is not making a profit because he is paying more, he should charge more and not subsidise the public."

Other butchers pointed out that they had not done this because the public were refusing to pay high prices and were generally buying less meat.

23/7/80

Meat Board surprised beef prices stay high

3 (meat)

By Charlene Beltramo

The Meat Board has expressed its surprise that while prices for super beef are "very low and often only 7c more expensive than grade 3 beef," prices have not dropped in retail outlets.

Prices for super beef from wholesalers are averaging R1,44 a kilogram. However, a kilogram of super rump, as an example, is fetching in the region of R6 in suburban stores.

Butchers say they are not cutting their profits on super and prime, because they are already slashed on the more popular lower grades. (See Fair Deal report today on Page 12)

A spokesman for the Meat Board said the high prices for lower grades were not due to any shortages. "On the contrary we are still experiencing pressure on the market. We are slaughtering between seven and 10 percent more this year than last.

"Grade 3 is an example. We slaughtered 14 000 more carcasses of this grade in the first five months this year than last year in the same period.

"We are expecting a 12,5 percent decrease in supply this year, but it won't result in a shortage, just a stabilisation of last year's surplus situation," the spokesman said.

He said the board had also received more permit applications in July than in the three previous months combined.

"We can only accommodate 60 percent of the permit applications received, but this is a seasonal problem, heightened by farmers liquidating breeding stock."

He said however, that farmers were receiving an average of R1,31 a kilogram for beef at present—a cent more than their production cost. "Farmers are now breaking even and they will probably slaughter less of their breeding stock," he said.

The SA Federation of Livestock Auctioneers has clashed head-on with the Meat Board, however, by disputing the claims.

Mr Dennis Caine, president of the federation, said there was a shortage of low grade meat for processing and he anticipated beef having to be imported soon.

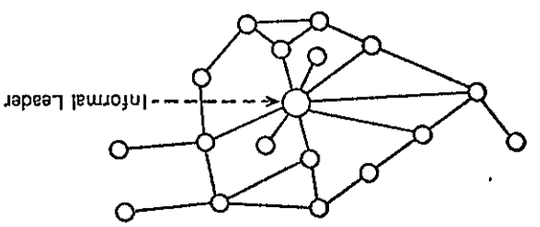
The Meat Board refuted this.

Mr Caine also claimed there was no longer justification for "a permit system for the markting of cattle."

He suggested the Meat Board introduce weekend quotas and allow free marketing during the week.

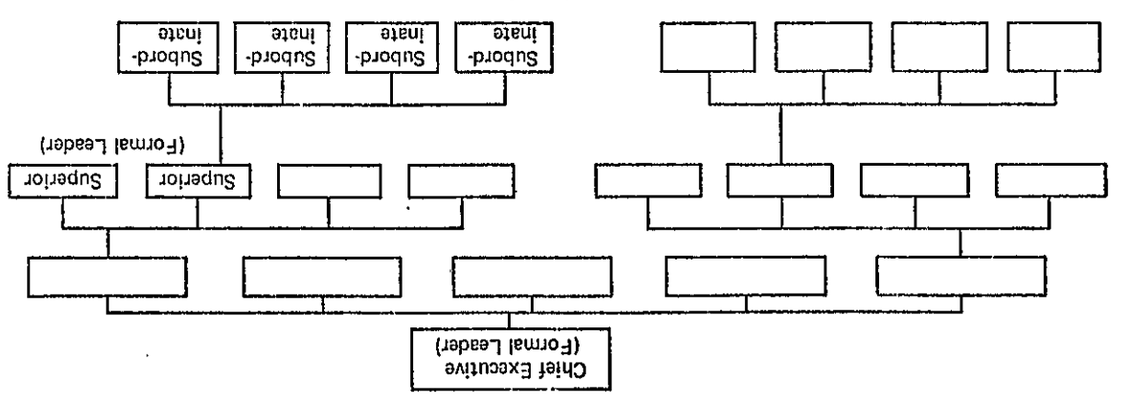
We have described the people on a formal chart

Chart 2 An informal structure



central persons are called "informal leaders". The informal structure, when described by way of a chart, looks like a nuclear structure in chemistry, or like a child's toy. The informal leaders are those people who appear on the chart with a larger amount of relationships with others (see Chart 2).

Chart 1 A formal structure



zational structure, can be performed in three different ways:

—by observation
—by interviewing
—by self-recording (filling in questionnaires or pre-arranged forms)

The study of a relationship structure can be done through one or two or all of the three above-mentioned ways. Usually, the study is not done in more than two of the above-mentioned ways because different organizational researchers support and are committed to different research methodologies in the organizational relationships study.

There are two different existing approaches to the study of relationships and interactions. The first is based on observations conducted by the researcher, while the other is based on data received from the [illegible] by way of interviews

Star 23/8/80

FAIR DEAL

Bitter butchers battle as prices rise

Comparison of offal prices per kilogram

	Price at Offal Pool	Price from Wholesaler	Price at Butcher
OX:			
Ox head	R0,90	R1,15	R1,21
Ox hearts	R0,75	R0,85	R0,95
Large ox tripes	R0,45	R0,53	R0,55
Ox skirts	R1,10	R1,30	R1,31
Ox tails	R1,30	R1,60	R1,85
Ox tongues	R1,15	R1,45	R1,80
SHEEP:			
Heads	R0,14	R0,25	R0,30
Tripe	R0,42	R0,55	R0,90

● The figures are gleaned from the official offal pool price list, from wholesalers' receipts and butchers.

By Charlene Beltramo

"If one of those guys stood on my doorstep and sniffed he could blow me out of business" — independent butcher talking of his fear of the large meat marketing and wholesaling concerns.

In a survey of more than 50 independent and chain butcheries last week Fair Deal reporters were told of the battle butchers are having against rapidly rising meat prices and increasing consumer resistance.

They admit that at this rate the suburban butchery cannot survive for more than two to three years.

The lower grades, which became more popular, because of the expense of super and prime, have soared in price. The price difference between super or prime and grade 1 is often as little as 2c. Between prime and grade 2 it varies from 2c to 3c and grade 3 will be from 0,5c to 2c cheaper than that.

Grade 4, which previously went only to processing plants, is appearing on butchers' shelves catering for the poor. It is about a cent cheaper than grade 3.

This does not mean that the price of prime or super will drop. They haven't and they won't. Butchers desperate to make ends meet will sell luxury lines at higher mark-ups to cover some of the losses they're making on the lower grades — the bulk of their sales.

Rump, as an example, costs from R4 to R6 a kilogram for prime in most butchers.

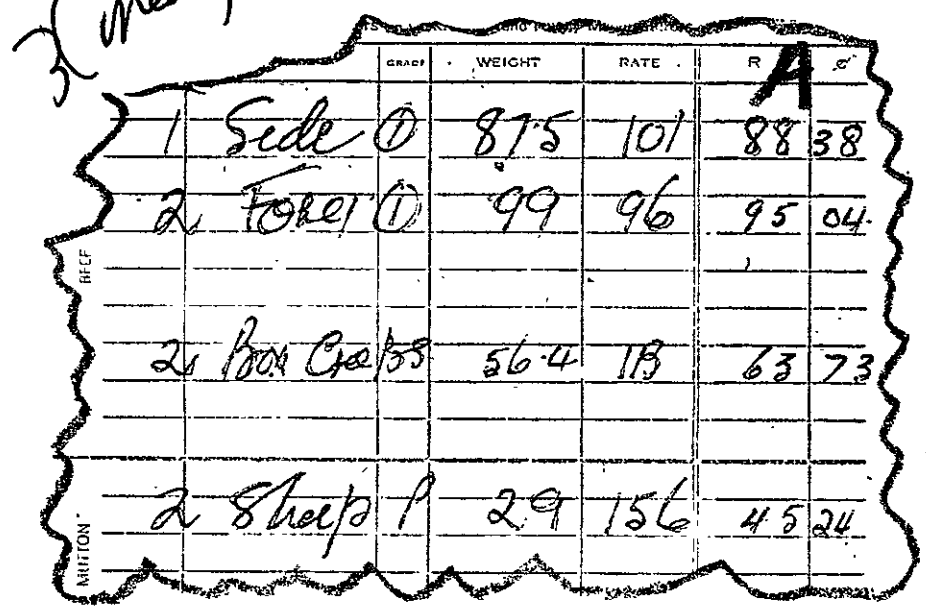
Butchers have slashed margins, and most are operating on a mark-up of about 10 percent to encourage consumers to continue buying.

But, one butcher warned, the price of meat could rise by as much as another 30 percent — it's already risen an average of 45 percent during the last year — before the year-end.

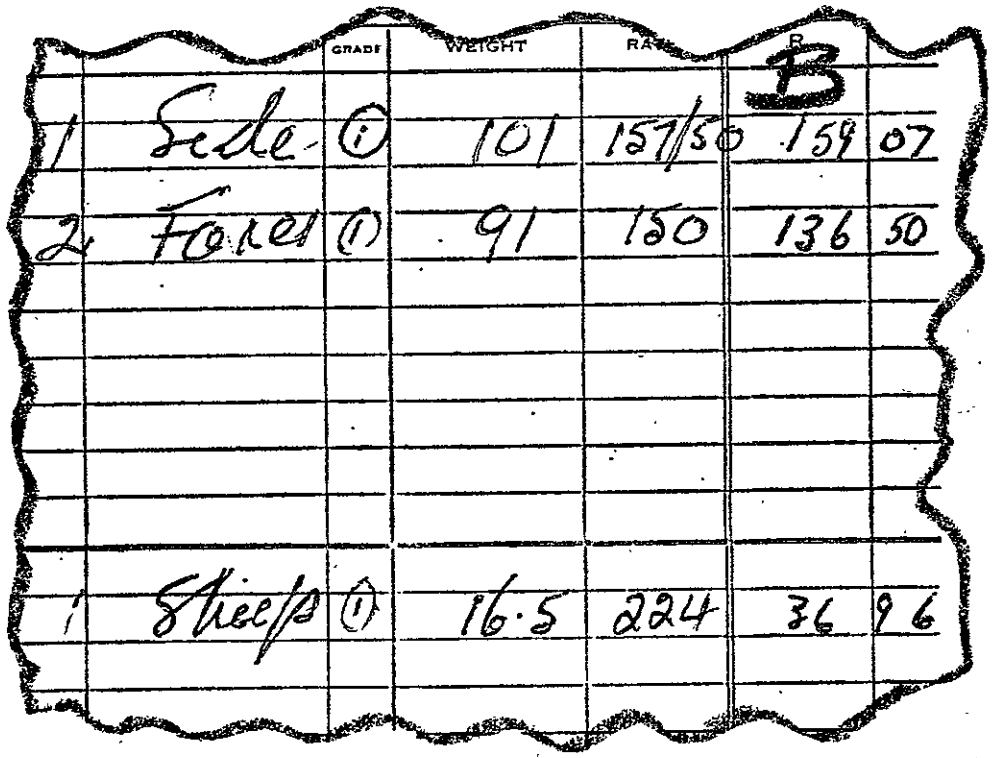
"Butchers will soon realise that prices aren't coming down and won't. Then they'll be anxious to recoup their losses."

Consumers are buying less. "A woman, who used to buy R35 worth of meat a week, for instance, will now buy only R28 worth. She's spending less money and meat is selling at higher prices," a Northern suburbs butcher said.

"People often come in and when you put the meat on the scale and they say 'No, it's too little, and leave the shop'," a butcher with a large store near a black station said.



These two wholesaler receipts show how the price of meat has gone up in slightly more than a year. Receipt A is dated the end of March, 1979 and Receipt B is dated mid-July 1980. In that time a side of grade 1 beef has gone up 56 percent, a grade 1 beef forequarter had risen 54 percent in price. Mutton has shown an even sharper price increase. A grade 1 sheep now costs 68c more a kilogram than prime did a year ago, having risen from R1,56 a kg to R2,24 a kg.



Many butchers have said they are either leaving or planning to leave the business.

"We work long hours. I'm here at 4.30 am and leave after 6 pm. What for? I'm not making any money from it," a butcher said.

Many are bitter that cafes are now allowed to sell meat. "Where is the fairness? They can sell meat until 11 pm and we have to close shop at 6 pm. Selling meat is our livelihood," they say.

Almost without exception butchers wanted an investigation into the meat industry.

For more than a year the Meat Board and the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman have vetoed calls for such an independent investigation.

Which areas, in particular, need investigation?

Many felt too intimidated to talk about the matter over the telephone, if at all. Others angrily and firmly said: "Everything."

"You have to be in the business to know the underhanded things that are going on." The Meat Board was completely out of touch, many alleged.

"The whole industry needs investigation, especially the offal pool. There is talk that people accept bribes. People who don't have big businesses get a hell of a lot of offal," one butcher claimed.

His view was supported by many others.

"Why, if the price of meat is so high, and the abattoir knows the butchers rely on the cheaper lines, can't we get offal?" another asked.

Butchers pointed out that some retailers and eating houses which sold no meat had no problems getting offal supplies. On the other hand, butchers who bought between R25 000 and R60 000 worth of carrasses a week were lucky if they obtained any offal at all.

Fair Deal queries and investigations substantiated this.

A group of independent butchers is considering forming its own wholesaling concern to try to eradicate some of its problems.

For the first time the SA Co-ordinating Consumer Council has relinquished it's conservative stand on the meat issue and, although not in the same militant fashion, is supporting Housewives League calls for a meat investigation.

The SA Agricultural Union has also begun expressing its disquiet about the situation.

Fair Deal attempted on more than one occasion last week to contact the Minister of Agriculture for comment, without success.

Scrap meat price support, butchers urge

3 (meat) Star 26/7/60

Fair Deal Reporter

Butchers have called on the Government to lift the support price on red meat. They claim there is no need for it and that it is inflationary.

They have already had talks with the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, and the Meat Board.

Mr Eddie Bielovich, chairman of the Master Butchers' Association, said today: "We are trying to obtain another interview with the Minister. Butchers are not happy with the support price system.

"The Meat Board says they want to give us an even market but a lot of butchers feel there's no need for it," Mr Bielovich said.

The support price was re-introduced in March this year, after a National Marketing Council recommendation that it be scrapped.

The support price is calculated on average market selling prices for three weeks and is higher than the floor price.

Prices are not allowed to drop more than three percent below the support price. They can never drop to the floor price.

Every three weeks a new support price is calculated.

If prices do drop to the support price, the Meat Board buys carcasses, which are then exported or resold to large buyers, generally at a lower price.

Mr Bielovich said his association would be meeting the SA Federation of Meat Traders in the near future to discuss whether or not an investigation was needed in the meat industry. "We would support such an investigation," he said.

29/7/80 SUN TRIB

DETECTIVES OPEN PROBE INTO SWA MEAT CLAIMS

(3) meat (22)

COMMERCIAL branch detectives in Johannesburg have launched an investigation into alleged widespread irregularities involving the South West African Meat Board.

The investigation follows the Van Zyl Commission report into alleged malpractices in the meat industry, Colonel Nollie Hulme, head of the commercial branch at John Vorster Square, Johannesburg, said yesterday.

Many prosecutions could result from the report, the chairman of the South West African Meat Producers' Association, Mr J. P. van der Walt, said this week.

Police said the investigating officer travelled to Windhoek this week to start work, reports Sapa.

In its report the Government-appointed commission found that farms were registered twice for meat permits, some people were favoured in slaughtering and money had been paid into the account of the board's former manager, who committed suicide during its investigations.

But the annual congress of the Meat Producers' Association agreed with the commission's findings that no evidence could be found that two of its representatives on the Meat Board — outgoing chairman Mr Hansie van der Walt and Mr Andries Pretorius — used their positions to promote other interests.

One "sacrifice" was made, however — that of Mr van der Walt, who has served as chairman of the association for seven years, not making himself available for re-election. Another association representative to the Meat Board, Mr C. Mouton, was voted out of his position.

It was perhaps this, coupled with the steps already taken through the Meat Board to start rooting out problems highlighted in the commission's report, that left the association unscathed after disagreement and mud-slinging over corruption allegations.

Meanwhile, reports the Sunday Tribune Africa News Service from Windhoek, meat farmers in South West Africa/Namibia this week averted a split in their ranks over the report of the commission when assurances wre given about prosecutions.

One of the first steps will be the promulgation of legislation making the Meat Board more powerful. It will provide for meat inspectors to be appointed to police activities such as the export of meat to South Africa without permits.

The legislation will also make the Meat Board more independent of its South African counterpart. It will set meat prices locally and, through this control, make it more attractive for Namibian farmers to market their meat inside the territory.

Mr van der Walt said legal steps would be taken against those who were found by the inquiry to have transgressed.

"I have personally been given the assurance that steps will be taken on the strength of the commission report by the Administrator-General and the Attorney-General."

The biggest problems he felt the inquiry report had aired were the transferring of permits among farmers and meat brokers, as well as the illegal export of meat to South Africa.

"There were also the irregularities among officials, especially one man which we never expected.

"The problems in general were born from misery and coincidence since about 1974 — the disappearing of our traditional markets, the closing down for 18 months of one of our biggest meat factories, and recession and inflationary tendencies that heavily affected the farmer. These were the problems that led to difficulties in marketing our meat. And the results — people doing anything to obtain outlets — can only be seen as human in this circumstance.

"And this all led to this crucial congress, which had the potential of either killing the meat industry here or setting it back on its feet. There was a real danger of a split.

"Through hard work I think we managed to hold it together and I feel we can hand over a clean slate to the new committee.

"What the inquiry did was to confirm suspicions, although they were not as radical as some people had blown them up to be.

"I think, looking back at the build-up of the entire process, that nobody was innocent: Official, representative, broker or farmer. One can argue for years over the degree of guilt."

9/8/80 Argus

Police plan SWA meat probe

Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Commercial Branch detectives are to travel to Windhoek this week to begin an investigation into charges of corruption and maladministration in the meat industry in South West Africa.

Police have also revealed that they are continuing investigations into aspects of the meat industry in South Africa. This follows the conviction in Johannesburg recently of a senior Meat Board official, Petrus Broodryk.

He was found guilty of collecting R29 200 in bribes from two meat agencies to grant larger permit allocations.

A police spokesman said the report of the Van Zyl Commission of inquiry had been forwarded to the Attorney-General of South West Africa some months ago.

Police headquarters in Pretoria, he said, had then been ordered to begin investigations into alleged malpractices in the SWA meat industry.

He would not confirm a link between the SWA meat investigations and recent investigations into the Broodryk case involving the SA Meat Board.

In a Press interview last week the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, Dr Jan Lombard of the Meat Board and Mr Jan van der Walt of the SA Agricultural Union denied that there were links between the SWA meat industry and the SA meat industry.

Fifteen percent of meat consumed in South Africa is imported from SWA.

The Van Zyl commission of inquiry was told that two members of the SA Meat Board served on the SWA board.

The commission also reported that Mr A Liebenberg (a representative of trade in controlled areas on the SA Meat Board) paid money to Mr Frans Heydenrych, the then manager of the South West Africa Meat Board who committed suicide by falling from a Windhoek building during the investigations.

Parliamentarians, consumer organisations, butchers and farmers have been calling for an investigation in the SA meat industry for more than two years.

7/8/80 ARGUS

City meat workers end strike, quit jobs

CAPE TOWN'S 800 striking meat workers have decided to call off their three-month strike and the consumer boycott of red meat.

Workers from the 17 firms affected are to sign off from work and collect money due to them on Monday. They will look for other employment.

This follows the failure of behind-the-scenes attempts in recent weeks to negotiate a settlement of the dispute, culminating in a meeting on Monday between representatives of the workers and wholesale companies.

The Western Province General Workers' Union said in a statement that the meeting had shown that the employers were not prepared to satisfy 'even the smallest demands of the workers'.

'After a 12-week strike and boycott it is clear that the meat bosses, with the support of the Government, are not prepared to give in to the reasonable demands for the reinstatement of the striking workers and the recognition of democratic workers' committees,' he said.

Dr Alex Boraine, the Opposition spokesman on labour matters, said today it was tragic that the situation had been allowed to deteriorate to the extent that a final breakdown had come.

ONE-DAY STRIKE

About 800 workers first went on strike for one day on May 19 in protest at the refusal of managements at Table Bay Cold Storage Company and National Meat Suppliers to recognise non-racial, democratically - elected workers' committees. They were locked out on their return to work the following day.

The workers received

(Continued on Page 3, col)

Strike off

(Continued from Page 1)

widespread public support for a boycott of red meat, and money poured in to help the union to meet a weekly bill of about R12 000 to pay workers relief of R15 a week.

But the interest waned in recent weeks. The boycott was suspended three weeks ago to give employers a chance to 'rethink and review' the situation.

Financial support dropped off and the union has been unable to pay workers the full R15 in the past few weeks.

In its statement, the union said the workers hoped the community would continue their financial support for the difficult period of time during which the workers would be seeking employment.

Red meat not scarce, says Meat Board

(3) Meat RDM 9/8/80.

By ALISON GILLWALD

THE general manager of the Meat Board, Dr Jan Lombaard said yesterday the prevailing drought could have far reaching consequences for the meat supply, but there was not a red meat shortage at present.

He denied reports by SABC-TV that there was a red meat shortage.

He said there had been a drop in production as the industry was moving away from a surplus situation which applied in 1979.

Any changes in the supply could have an affect on prices, but ample supplies were available, he said.

It was probable that fewer cattle would be slaughtered, which could even cause an actual shortfall of 10%. But it was also possible production could merely serve to even out the surplus production of recent years.

He said that production of mutton in the coming year could be lower than last year because of the drought in the major production regions.

In the first six months of this year the supply of beef had been 5% higher than in the corresponding period last year, while 2% less mutton had been available.

"Calculated at a realistically planned growth rate of 5% a year since 1976, about 1 840 000 beef carcasses would have had to be produced during 1979, whereas in fact 2 340 000 had been available," he said.

Hence there was a surplus of about 27% which was also reflected in the relatively low prices received by producers until recently, he said.

Dr Lombard said price increases at the retail level seemed considerable if compared with the low prices of the past, but the increase was not excessive and was more likely an indictation of keener demand than a reduced supply in controlled areas.

Producer prices had increased so that beef prices were 14% higher for 1980 than at the same time last year and, until June this year, increased by a further 17%, he said.

Mutton prices which had increased by 3% in the course of 1979 increased by 10% from January to June this year.

Dr Lombaard said he had estimated for this year that probably 13% less cattle would be available, with the possiblity that figures could drop to 21% compared with the surplus supply of last year.

Until mid-1980 this prediction had not been realised because farmers continued selling off their breeding stock.

"If the drought continues and if prices for producers do not increase further, farmers will continue to liquidate their heards," he said.

In mutton production there had recently been only a slight decrease in the normal heard and it would not necessarily become worse if the north western Cape received rain in the next three months, he said.

If it did not rain, liquidation could be expected which meant a fairly heavy marketing of sheep, but a low production of lamb so that the average quality produced would therefore also be lower, he said.

Calls for an investigation into the meat industry have intensified following the report of the commission of inquiry into the same topic in SWA/Namibia. Fair Deal recently discussed with the Minister of Agriculture, Mr H Schoeman, and other officials whether such an investigation should be initiated in South Africa.

CHARLENE BELTRAMO reports. . . .

Meat probe demand: is it question of grudge?

The dissatisfaction of a group of farmers in SWA/Namibia was sufficient to motivate the Administrator-General there to set up a commission of inquiry "into alleged irregularities relating to the meat industry."

The situation in South Africa is not as simple. The Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, for a long while claimed there was nothing to investigate — a stance from which he has not deviated.

In November last year he promised that if a single well-motivated request was presented to him, he would investigate. Shortly after that he complained to Parliament that he could not sleep at night, with farmers phoning in to complain.

In an interview with Fair Deal recently, however, he said all the complaints were from farmers who did not want an investigation.

He made an undertaking in Parliament to Mr Gerrie de Jongh, MP (Independent) for Pietermaritzburg South, that if any form of corruption could be proved, he would appoint a commission.

Shortly after that, Mr P Broodryk, a senior South African Meat Board official, was arrested and later convicted on charges of bribery amounting to almost R30 000.

Mr Schoeman, however, still refused an investigation.

"What in God's name must I investigate?" Mr Schoeman asked Fair Deal.

Mr Schoeman, who himself has 32 farms of which four are devoted to livestock, claimed "agitators" were trying to cause trouble. "It's political," he said.

He said Mr Rupert Lorimer, PFP Orange Grove, a Kew butcher, Mr G Dalla Tana, and a Kuruman farmer, were "stirring."

Mr Schoeman insisted that no farmers other than some who "have a grudge against the Meat Board," had complained.

Fair Deal told him some farmers had alleged they were intimidated by the manager of the Meat Board, Dr Jan Lombard, who earlier said if any complaints were proved incorrect by a commission or investigation, the complainants would be sued by the board.

Dr Lombard replied: "To be the target for allegations, it's only human to get annoyed."

However, when Fair Deal asked him and the Minister if they would retract the statement about suing complaints, both declined.

Mr Schoeman had a file in front of him when visited by Fair Deal, which he said was full of letters and telegrams from agricultural unions congratulating the board and Minister on their work and asking them to resist an investigation.

Meat Board members and executives of the big three companies controlling the meat industry often serve in executive capacities on agricultural committees.

In the report of the SWA commission of inquiry Mr A Liebenberg was found to have paid money to the former manager of the Meat Board in that territory, the late Mr F Heydenrych.

Mr Liebenberg was previously managing director of National Meat Suppliers and president of the Federation of SA Retail Butchers. In South Africa he is a member of the Meat Board, managing director of Roers Meat Packers and a member of the Swartland Farmers Union and the Swartland Agricultural Union. He is also a member of the SWA Namibia Meat Boards.

Despite links between the SWA/Namibia Meat Board and the one here, Mr Schoeman said an investigation could not be initiated under a similar brief here because the systems were "different."

"Before I spend R30 000 of my department's money on an investigation I must know I won't be wasting money," the Minister said.

Mr Jan van der Walt of the SAAU said all the complaints so far had come from "cranks."

Mr Schoeman said many complaints were from farmers about permits — "but they themselves asked for the system. They pleaded for it.

"I also can't get permits as I want, but the market needs control and often it is the farmers at fault for incorrectly filling in applications.

"If anyone can bring forward evidence, anything reasonably verifiable, and give me terms for a commission or investigation, I will appoint one," he said.

3 (meat) Star 18/8/81



Mr Hendrik Schoeman, Minister of Agriculture . . . "What must I investigate?"



Mr Rupert Lorimer, MP . . . rejects Mr Schoeman's allegations.

Minister's comment disgraceful—Lorimer

"Refusals by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Schoeman, to take action against monopolies in the meat trade have resulted in the precent unbelievably high prices," says Mr Rupert Lorimer, PFP MP for Orange Grove.

He rejected Mr Schoeman's statement that he was "stirring" and "agitating for political reasons." "I regard his comment as quite disgraceful.

"I am in the process of compiling a dossier to prove there are many dissatisfied farmers and consumers. Mr Schoeman claims no farmers are dissatisfied. That is untrue.

"The present system is damaging the farmer and many are giving up. It's important to note the difference between what the farmer gets and what the consumer is paying.

"It's so large that it's totally unreasonable," Mr Lorimer said.

Mr G Dalla Tana, the butcher who Mr Schoeman also alleged was "stirring," said: "Everything in the meat industry is wrong, from the bottom to the top, from the start to the finish."

He alleged that an investigation would not be launched into the meat industry, because "the big three companies can manipulate things to suit them.

"If one or all stopped buying, the abattoirs would have to close, they have their own abattoirs and also have better storage facilities than the State abattoirs.

"Farmers would not be able to market their meat and the government would be in trouble, as they have to support the farmer."

Mr Dalla Tana criticised the fact that there had previously been a grading system that indicated the origin of the meat eg "Super TJ" would have come from Johannesburg.

"This ensured people didn't exceed their quota or permit allocation. It also prevented them from illegally moving meat from one controlled market to another."

Mr Dalla Tana claimed the meat price could be manipulated by the big groups buying large quantities of meat from certain abattoirs and very little, if anything, from others.

"The price would then rise at the former and drop at the latter. Once low enough they could switch and also move meat to the more expensive areas, increasing their profit margins."

The Kuruman farmers Mr Schoeman said were "stirring" declined to comment. One said he was so disillusioned with cattle farming, he had sold his farm and would start crop farming.

Lorimer has plans for meat industry probe

3 (meat) (PFP) STAR 23/8/80

By Charlene Beltramo

If the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Schoeman, does not appoint an investigation into the meat industry, Mr Rupert Lorimer, PFP MP for Orange Grove, has said he'll ask the Competition Board to look into the industry.

Mr Lorimer, who is compiling a dossier of complaints and allegations about irregularities and problems within the meat industry, has said he will also ask the Minister for a meeting of all interested parties in September or October.

"Included will be the SA Agricultural Union, the Meat Board, the Marketing Council, butchers associations, wholesalers, independent farmers, the Housewives' League, Imperial Cold Storage, Vleissentraal, Kanhym, and the Press."

Mr Schoeman made an undertaking to Mr Lorimer in Parliament earlier this year that he would attend such a meeting. He set the date at any time before July 1, but Mr Lorimer asked for an extension of time, to investigate the situation further.

"I'm sure the public would be happier to have it proved to them that there are not similar irregularities here as those found on the Meat Board in SWA/Namibia," Mr Lorimer said.

"I have no proof of corruption in the industry. But I'm more interested in the general state of the industry.

"Farmers aren't encouraged to produce meat at a reasonable price, and consumers are paying ridiculously high prices."

Mr Lorimer outlined some of the issues he considered needed investigation.

"Monopolies in the meat industry manipulate the system to the detriment of the primary producer and consumer.

● "Why do permits go to feed-lot operators who then buy from farmers who can't get permits? It's highly expensive for farmers to keep stock on their farms that should be marketed.

● "Butchers say they can't buy from the abattoir because price rings operate. Fluctuations in price at the abattoir never get passed on to the consumer.

● "Meat bought in country areas is often half or two-thirds the price of that bought in Johannesburg — why is there such a price difference Transportation doesn't add that much more," Mr Lorimer said.

● "I'm interested to note that we could not meet European Economic Community (EEC) specifications with out R40-million abattoirs, yet in Maseru they are apparently building an abattoir to meet EEC qualification for about R1-million.

● "Why is cheap meat sold on tender by the Meat Board, and sold in huge lots, such as 2 000 carcasses marked for one buyer only? Small businessmen couldn't afford to buy or store that quantity."

Mr Lorimer said he was also concerned about the number of meat producers leaving farming and that type of agriculture.

"I know a farmer in Caledon who used to send 1 200 lambs to market a year. Recently he received a permit to market only 60. He's now going in for frozen vegetables."

Consumer Spotlight

Let consumer lose-taxman

Fair Deal Reporter

Consumers are complaining that they are not getting sales tax refunds on empty cool drink bottles.

But retailers claim that they lose 1c a bottle on any GST refund.

The Secretary for Inland Revenue, Mr D Roussouw, told Fair Deal that retailers who used the add-in system would lose thousands of rands if the Government forced them to refund tax.

A litre of cool drink sells for 56c at a small retailer's — 20c for the bottle, 34c for the contents and 2c sales tax. It costs him 45,66c a litre — 25,66c for the contents and 20c deposit plus a deposit of R3 on the crate. His profit on a litre is 10,5 percent.

If the retailer were compelled to refund the GST charged on the bottle, he would pay back to the purchaser 20c plus 1c. From the 2c sales tax collected on the total cost of 54c he would lose 1c.

The Receiver of Revenue does not take into consideration the money paid back to the customer but collects tax on the total selling price of 56c. The Government collects four percent of 56c and not 34c.

Mr D Michos, chairman of the Tearoom and Cafe and Restaurant Proprietors' Association, says retailers are already compelled by law to take back bottles even though they were not bought from their shops.

Mr Roussouw told Fair Deal that his department was aware that consumers were losing money.

"Someone has to lose and, as the retailer stands to lose more than the consumer — we let the consumer lose," Mr Roussouw said.

R100 000 backing for strikers

Labour Reporter

FINANCIAL support from the community for Cape Town's meat workers, who recently called off their three-month strike, has amounted to more than R100 000.

"The community has clearly shown its sympathy for the democratic representation sought by the meat workers," the Western Province General Workers' Union said in a statement today.

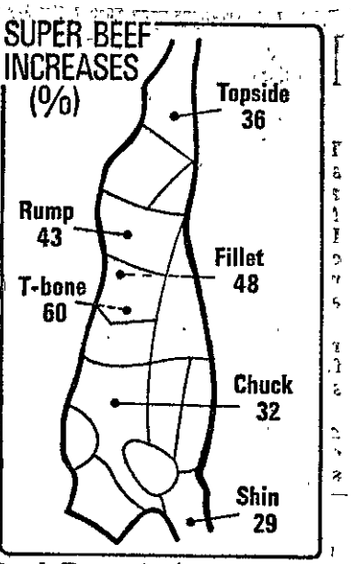
THE LESSON

"This is the outstanding lesson of the meat strike. The interests of the workers and the black community as a whole are one. They will stand shoulder-to-shoulder for realisation of their basic demands."

The union said the dispute in the meat industry had ended in a temporary retreat by the workers and a short-term pyrrhic victory for the employers and the state which backed them so ruthlessly.

Most of the 800 workers involved in the strike have not yet found employment, two weeks after they signed off from the meat firms.

Farmers lose out in meat price rise



3(meat)
S TAR
28/8/82

By Charlene Beltramo, Fair Deal Reporter

Farmers are receiving less than 54 percent of the retail price of beef, despite rocketing abattoir prices.

Mr Johan Willemse, economist for the South African Agricultural Union, said a month ago producers reached break-even in the production cost of meat. However they were making only a cent profit on each kilogram.

The Meat Board said farmers were making an average of R38 less than the average carcass selling price.

A spokesman said high prices were because of "the average long week-end and end-of-month situation.

"Demand is very high with tax rebates and civil servants expecting bonus cheques. The price will go up even more later when a 13 to 21 percent shortage is expected."

The Meat Board spokesman could not explain how a shortage situation was expected when South Africa was experiencing the worst drought in 15 years. A drought situation, as he admitted, inevitably leads to a surplus situation as farmers cull herds.

Mr Rupert Lorimer, PFP MP for Orange Grove, said the high meat prices were artificially induced.

"It's an absolutely ridiculous situation with high and low grades costing the same. You can't expect farmers to supply quality if they receive the same price as that for low grades.

"The price paid over the counter bears no relation to what the farmer is getting. Somewhere in the middle someone is taking a chop," he said.

Mr Costas Tomazos, owner of Squires Loft, a restaurant chain, said his

Import duty could make prawns caviar

Fair Deal Reporter

The gastronomic delight of the suburban gourmet — prawns — could enter the same luxury cloisters as Beluga caviar if Natal prawn fishermen are granted their request for a 6 000 percent import duty on prawns.

Not only does local consumption of prawns exceed the resources available to South African fishermen, but Natal prawns are far inferior in taste and quality, according to retailers and restaurant owners.

The response of the Natal Deep-Sea Trawling Industry Association, is bound to cause a bourgeoisie revolution — "Give them lobster."

"Wholesale lobster costs R5,75 a kilogram, whereas tiger prawns sell wholesale, at R10 a kilogram. There is plenty of lobster locally — we rarely have tiger prawn catches — and the lobster is far superior in terms of value and quality," Mr W Lewis, managing director of Blue Continent Products (a Tiger Oats subsidiary) and member of the association said.

"We asked the Government to raise import duty from 55c for 100 kg to R3,50. The current duty is very low for a luxury item.

"Since the fuel price has gone up 240 percent over the last 14 months, we have asked the Government for some form of subsidy. Half the boats are not in use, two packers in Durban have closed their doors.

"The situation has been aggravated by the recession in the United States and Japan which aren't buying much anymore. In addition, low priced Far East imports have been coming in," Mr Lewis said.

Walkout threat to mutton price

3-Meat

Rdm 29/3/80 p1

By MARIKA SBOROS

SLAUGHTERERS at the City Deep abattoir worked flat out last night to make up the backlog in sheep carcasses caused by yesterday's meat inspectors' walkout.

Mr Ben Kruger, chairman of the Abattoir Corporation, said yesterday that if the backlog was not caught up, and there was an increased demand, the price of lamb could be affected.

Mr Kruger said the dispute arose because meat inspectors objected to an increase in the number of sheep slaughtered per minute on the line.

The lines were designed for 12 sheep, but were only taking 10.

"We increased the number to 11. But the inspectors objected, and walked off twice on Wednesday, which meant we slaughtered 1 500 fewer sheep that day.

"Yesterday they asked whether the speed was still 11 per minute, and when we said it was, they walked off the floor again," Mr Kruger said.

It was feared that no sheep would be slaughtered at all that day, Mr Kruger said, because the meat inspectors did not indicate at the start of the walkout, whether they would return at all that day.

"We felt we were asking them to do it at a fair speed. The lines are designed for 12 sheep, and we only have 11 on them.

"Finally they agreed to man the lines, but we had lost three hours slaughtering time," Mr Kruger said.

Mr Kruger said he could not say whether the loss in slaughtering time would mean a shortage of lamb and mutton.

"Nobody knows what the demand is going to be," he said.

Chicken price up — and going up...

CHICKEN is unlikely to be a cheap meal again this year, say, supermarket executives.

The price has risen by an average of 10c a kg since June and is likely to continue rising.

Mr Desmond Lurie, managing director of County Fair, said he was now charging supermarkets R1,40 a kg compared with R1,30 a kg in June.

He said the price had gone up because of increased demand and higher production costs.

Low prices at the beginning of the year were due to an over-supply.

Mr Lurie said the demand for chicken always went up at this time of the year. But he thought it had increased more than usual because red meat and fish had become so expensive.

The extra 10c a kg which County Fair was now charging covered the increased cost of feed for the birds. Maize, which accounted for 70 percent of the birds' food, had gone up in May, adding 10c a kg to the cost of production.

Because of the state of the market, producers were forced to absorb this extra cost until August.

Mr Lurie denied a suggestion by Mr Raymond Ackerman, head of Pick 'n Pay, that producers had deliberately forced up prices on the home market by exporting chickens.

'The workings of the export market are extremely complicated,' he said.

However, he would 'act like a responsible businessman' and make sure his product did not become too expensive for the consumer. He was sure other producers would do the same.

A spokesman for Pick 'n Pay said he expected chicken prices to rise even higher by the end of the year.

City butcher urges consumers to fight meat prices

4/9/80 ARGUS (3) meat

CONSUMER resistance was the best way to bring down the 'ridiculously high' meat prices, a Sea Point butcher advised.

Mr Chris Joubert said housewives should avoid the more expensive cuts, and should resist any temptation to 'panic buy' to stock up their freezers for fear that prices would rise still further

Another butcher advised the public to boycott red meat until prices came down.

'SO COLOSSAL'

'The wholesale price increases are so colossal at the moment that butchers cannot possibly pass them on to the public and the small butcher will soon be forced out of business if this goes on.'

He said second grade beef cost between R1,48 and R1,50 a kg last Friday. Yesterday the price had shot up to R2,10 a kg.

He said closing prices at Cape Town abattoir auctions yesterday were R2,40 a kg for super lamb, R2,22 a kg for super beef and R2,04 a kg for second grade beef.

Butchers had to pay a delivery price on top of this, which meant that second grade beef would now cost him from R2,10 to R2,12 a kg.

Mr Joubert said he did not think boycotts were an effective solution. But he was sure prices would come down if there were consumer resistance to buying large quantities of meat or the most expensive cuts.

His own firm had held its prices steady for as long as possible, but had been forced to raise them by five percent at the beginning of this week. He feared they would have to rise again by the end of the week.

BUILDING UP

Mr Joubert said he had heard that a shortage was being caused because a big wholesale firm was buying meat for export.

A spokesman for Woolworths Ltd said his firm had been forced to raise prices because of the 'dramatic rise' in the past two weeks but hoped to hold them steady to prevent consumer resistance from building up.

'I hope sanity will return to the market before high prices create consumer resistance,' he said.

'We expected prices to rise because farmers were not getting a profitable return. But we did not expect them to go up so much or so quickly.

'Unless they stop going up they will soon be nearing European prices, which are on the R3 a kg mark.'

A SHORTAGE

A spokesman for Cape Town abattoir said there had recently been a shortage of sheep. But nearly 6 000 were killed yesterday and he hoped this would cause auction prices to drop today.

It was hoped that 6 000 sheep would be slaughtered daily at the abattoir from now on. In addition, the abattoir had been slaughtering its full capacity of cattle and calves.

In view of this, it was difficult to understand why auction prices had been so high.

'It is possible,' he said, 'that someone is buying meat to send to the Rand, where prices are even higher than here.'

5/9/80
ARGUS.

High meat prices in city

MEAT prices at Cape Town abattoir auctions were higher than in any other city in the country yesterday.

Though supplies were plentiful, super beef reached a maximum price of R2,21 a kg compared with R2,10 on Wednesday.

But super lamb, which reached R2,38 a kg yesterday, was slightly cheaper than on Wednesday when it reached R2,47 a kg.

In Johannesburg yesterday, super beef reached R1,97 a kg and in Pretoria R2,02 a kg.

SURPRISED

The high prices in Cape Town surprised Meat Board officials, who had hoped they would fall because more animals had been slaughtered.

The daily quota of sheep slaughtered at the abattoir has been increased this week from 5 000 to 6 000. The abattoir has been slaughtering its full capacity of cattle and calves every day but Monday, which was a public holiday.

A Meat Board spokesman said: 'We are puzzled by these continuing high prices.

'We thought they had risen only because a public holiday, with a short working week, coincided with the end of the month when demand is always greater and prices rise.'

RUMOURS

The fact that prices on the Rand were lower than in Cape Town disproved rumours that meat merchants were transporting meat from Cape Town to sell in Johannesburg at a higher profit.

'We can only think that prices are high because people have more money in their pockets and this has increased demand in Cape Town,' he said.

'People should not buy in panic, thinking that prices will rise even higher. It is not sensible to stock up a freezer when prices are at this level.

'They will fall when the demand eases.'

HYPER CHAIN'S RED MEAT PRICE FREEZE PROTEST

7/9/80 Sun Tens



Alan Gardiner (left) regional manager of Pick 'n Pay, and Mrs Joy Hurwitz, president of the Housewives' League

meat

By DARYL BALFOUR

PICK 'n Pay has frozen the price of all counter cuts of fresh beef, lamb and pork for two weeks in protest against the massive price spiral over recent weeks.

Regional manager Alan Gardiner said in Durban this week that the chain had "watched with trepidation as the meat went absolutely mad over the past six weeks.

"To us it is incredible that the price of meat can virtually double in the space of two months and there is so much apathy about it.

"Now we've taken this decision on a national basis. All our prices for red meat will be frozen — although for obvious reasons we can't do this with bulk sales like hindquarters or whole sheep as dealers would cash in on it," Mr Gardiner said.

'One hell of a profit'

He said he hoped this action would cause "the Meat Board or the Minister of Agriculture to sit up and do something to stop this price spiral."

"If red meat prices go through the roof as they are doing it will only leave a gap for white meat such as chicken.

"I can already see it coming. In a week or two we'll have massive increases in the price of chicken and eggs," he ned.

"Now I would like to make a call for a full investigation at Government level. It seems strange that the same people who were selling meat at price X six weeks ago can sell today for price X plus plus 60-70 percent. Somebody is making one hell of a profit somewhere along the line," he said.

Mr Gardiner said Pick 'n Pay would welcome other retail outlets joining in the "price freeze" to let it be known that the consumer orientated retail sector views very seriously the apparently out of hand spiralling cost of red meat and the possible ripple effect to other commodities such as chicken and eggs.

Urgent telegram sent

The president of the Housewives' League, Mrs Joy Hurwitz, said she was very pleased to hear of the freeze and that the chain "can afford to subsidise the consumer like this." But she pointed out that many small independent butchers had been holding prices for some time purely to remain in business.

Mrs Hurwitz said the league had sent an urgent telegram to Mr Hendrik Schoeman, Minister of Agriculture, calling on him to abolish the support price system in use at the major abattoirs.

"I find these rapid increases in the red meat price incredible when there is no shortage. If this is not the time for an investigation of the meat industry then when will it be," she asked.

"It is up to the Meat Board and Mr Schoeman to explain to the housewives of South Africa why this has come about. We would like to know why prices have escalated so much since the introduction of the support price — which the Minister once promised he would never use again," Mrs Hurwitz said.

In Bloemfontein this week, at the Free State congress of the National Party, several delegates called on the Government to investigate the large profits taken by "middlemen" in the meat industry.

One delegate complained that 47 percent of what the consumer paid for meat went to middlemen.

Despite many calls for a full-scale investigation of the meat industry, the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, has steadfastly refused to appoint a commission.

Meat men call crisis meeting

8/9/80 Cape Times 3 (Meat)

By MARILYN ELLIOTT

THE MINISTER of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, has announced that a special meeting will be held in Pretoria next week to discuss the current red-meat price crisis and the possibility of launching of a long-term campaign to encourage farmers to produce more red meat.

In an interview yesterday, Mr Schoeman said the Department of Agriculture would meet the Meat Control board and the Butchers' Retailers' Association to discuss countrywide record prices of beef and mutton and decide on steps to remedy the situation.

Mr Schoeman said he was not contemplating immediate steps to solve the crisis, but that the department would look into ways to avoid the same problem in the future.



Mr Hendrik Schoeman

On Friday, prices in Cape Town reached an all-time high. The floor price of super beef reached R2,70 a kg while super mutton was auctioned between R2,30 and R2,49 a kg.

"One long-term plan we wish to implement is a campaign to encourage farmers to produce more red meat," Mr Schoeman said. "The high prices at the moment are due to bigger demand and the widespread drought. The Housewives' League has sent me a telegram asking me to remove the support price which, it maintains, is being kept artificially high to protect farmers.

"The support price has nothing to do with current record prices. We are short of meat and we will meet to discuss what we can do about it."

Mr Schoeman said South Africans would eat 2,2 million head of cattle and 6,6 million sheep this year and that the demand would increase next year as urban blacks were becoming major red-meat consumers.

"The only long-term solution is to encourage farmers to produce more red meat. If they know that they will get a good price for their carcasses, they will go into production in a big way."

Asked if the present system of marketing meat in South Africa was responsible for the unreasonably high prices, Mr Schoeman said several different systems had been tried in the country before and that the present system was the most practical.

He was answering allegations from butchers that the Meat Board was deliberately keeping prices high.

Mr Schoeman said meat prices displayed an uncanny tendency to rise towards the end of the week. On Mondays, when fresh supplies of cattle and sheep were available from the weekend trains, the prices remain fairly low. As the carcasses were depleted, so buyers went higher and higher on bidding to make sure of their supplies.

In Cape Town on Friday, butchers from larger buying outlets said there was "panic buying" at the abattoir. Some retailers, however, stayed in the background and passed up the carcasses believing that their customers could not afford to buy the meat and that they would be stuck with the costly rumps.

Larger companies, for example Pick 'n Pay, have frozen prices countrywide on prepacked meat cuts until September 20. Supermarket chief Mr Raymond Ackerman says the price-freeze was prompted to show a "strong stand against wholesalers and everybody in the meat industry reponsible for the increases".

Mr Schoeman denied yesterday that the increases had come about because of inefficiency of the system or its agents. He also denied that the support price was keeping the price of meat artifically high.

Butchers anxious

"Only 60 percent of South Africa's meat is sold via the control boards. The rest is sold by private auction where the consumer often pays higher prices," he said.

He added that the Department of Agriculture was not considering a different meat-marketing system. "The one we have is adequate. We just need more meat."

Butchers will be watching bidding trends anxiously today as some observers feel the prices could rise even higher than last week.

Meat exports 'negligible'

Political Correspondent

THE MINISTER of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, said today that South Africa's meat exports were minimal and did not affect meat prices in the country.

He was reacting to allegations that these exports were partly to blame for recent sharp increases in meat prices.

Mr Schoeman said the only meat exported recently was approximately 4 000 sheep carcasses which formed part of an old contract.

If South Africa could still export meat at the present prices, this gave an idea of how high overseas prices were.

Mr Schoeman said he did not expect meat prices to rise any further. They would at the same time not come down much.

Prices had been unrealistically low and this had discouraged farmers from producing meat. In many cases farmers had gone bankrupt.

He dismissed suggestions that by Christmas some cuts of beef could go up to R8 or R10 a kg.

He said that, at that price, there would not only be consumer resistance, but many people would simply not have the money to buy meat.

A spokesman for the meat board said in Pretoria today that the board was not exporting meat at all now.

Last year when there was a surplus of meat, the country had to embark on an export programme, the spokesman said. It developed markets in certain countries including Greece and African countries.

See Page 9

Red meat boycott 'already in existence'

Fair Deal Reporter

The Housewives League has said there is no need to call a red meat boycott, as a natural one was already in force — supported by the League.

A growing consumer resistance in major South African centres to the rapid escalation of meat prices has caused consternation among butchers, many of whom fear they will be put out of business as consumers buy less or nothing at all.

Yesterday the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, said red meat prices would start stabilising within the next few weeks.

This was in direct contrast to Meat Board statements that because of an anticipated shortage prices would rise even further.

"The farmer doesn't have to debone an ox, at a 20 percent loss. If prices don't come down a lot of butchers will have to close their doors," a Johannesburg butcher said.

Mrs Joy Hurwitz of the Housewives' League said the league supported the natural boycott already in force because of strong consumer resistance.

11/9/80 ARGUS

High meat prices fail to daunt customers

3-Meat

Consumer Reporter

THERE is no sign of consumer resistance which would cause high meat prices to come down.

Even in the poorer areas, such as Grassy Park, people are still buying meat, and butchers in more affluent suburbs such as Sea Point report no change in buying patterns.

Mr Chris Joubert, chairman of the Cape Butchers' Association, who is in business in Sea Point, said: 'People who come into the shop to buy over the counter are still asking for the most expensive cuts.

'But we are advising our regular customers, and those who pay monthly, to buy cheaper cuts if they want to stay within their normal budget.

'The demand for meat is still high, and until it drops there will be no significant fall in these absurdly high prices.

'It is the law of supply and demand which governs prices at the Cape Town abattoir auctions.'

Mr Malcolm Simpson, area manager for Blue Riband, the butchery department of Pick 'n Pay, said: 'We have seen no sign of consumer resistance yet.

'But the middle of the month is normally a fairly quiet time.

'When the month-end comes, when people normally buy large quantities we will see if any consumer resistance is building up.'

Mr Simpson said that black, coloured customers and white customers were still buying normal quantities.

Prices had fallen slightly since the first week of the month, when super beef reached a record level of R2,70 a kg and super lamb R2,49 a kg at the auctions.

He was paying about R2,50 a kg for super beef and R2,20 for super lamb.

'The support prices introduced by the Meat Board this month will prevent any very steep fall.

'They prevent the price from falling by more than six percent in one week.'

Butchers were bidding above the support prices. 'The support price for super lamb was R2,13 a kg yesterday, and people were buying it at R2,18 a kg.'

A Grassy Park butcher, Mr H Petersen, said he normally dealt in Grade 1 or Grade 2 meat because his customers were poor people who could not afford prime or super grade meat.

'The staple diet here is soup bones or mince. People are still buying them, because they must eat.

'Some people are still sending their children for 20c worth of bones, but all I can give them for that now is three or four bones.'

CAPE TIMES 12/9/80

Red meat price: Outlook 'bleak'

By YAZEED FAKIER

THE outlook for red meat-eaters looked bleak yesterday when a spokesman for the Meat Board in Pretoria said that meat prices would never again drop to the low levels recorded last year

The spokesman said for the last few years there had been an over-supply of red meat, which was responsible for the reasonably low prices recorded last year.

The over-supply situation had been created because farmers did not find it worth their while farming meat. Many farmers had liquidated and this caused a 27 percent over-supply of beef in 1979

In August last year, the spokesman said, super beef cost R1,21 a kilogram on average compared with the R1,68 it cost in August this year.

"We will never see the low prices we have for the past couple of years," he said

Replying to press reports that farmers were receiving 24 percent more than their production costs, the spokesman said the farmers had only been receiving this percentage since the sharp rise in meat prices.

"Before that they'd been losing all the time. They only started breaking even in May this year -- and that was not on all markets," he said

41% higher

In August this year the price of meat at Cape Town abattoir auctions was 41 percent more than the corresponding period last year and "at a guess, the September prices would be about 50 percent higher than last year's".

Replying to speculation that small butchers might be forced out of business because of the high prices of meat he said:

"It is true that they are having a difficult time. They have to absorb the increases to some extent in order to soften the blow for their customers But I would not like to comment on whether they will be forced out of business"

'Depends on market'

The spokesman said the farmer received 50 percent from the marketing of meat while the wholesaler received between two and seven percent and the butcher between 15 and 20 percent

Asked by how much he thought the price of meat would increase for the rest of this month he said that the price was open to the market.

"It depends on whether people are willing to pay the higher prices or not But it won't go down to the levels of last year"

For the week ending yesterday the price of super beef in Cape Town was R2,53 a kilogram compared to R2,07 the previous week Super lamb fetched R2,18 a kilogram compared to last week's price of R2,34 a kilogram

Re: Term 3: Here it is suggested that a discount factor equal to (or slightly higher than) the interest rate on a comparable loan should be used for this term. This stream is riskier than the stream in Term 2 because the lessee requires to have a taxable income to get the cash flow.

Re: Term 4: The riskiness of this flow is likely to be equal to that of Term 3 thus the same discount factor is suggested. To facilitate a fair comparison with leasing the most rapid method of depreciation allowed by the Receiver of Revenue should be used. Further- more depreciation in this context includes the investment and initial allowances.

Re: Term 5: The riskiness of this flow is likely to be equal to that of Term 3 thus the same discount factor is

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Meat Board claim scorned

By Charlene Beltramo,
Fair Deal Reporter

The meat industry magazine, Vleis/Meat has scorned Meat Board reports that farmers are being paid more for their red meat and has called for the abolition of the permit system.

In a hard-hitting editorial headed, "Away with permits, free the market", the magazine joins a rapidly growing swell of voices calling for the abolition of the permit system.

The magazine quotes Mr Denis Caine, president of the South African Federation of Livestock Auctioneers as saying: "There is no longer any pressure on the market. The permit system should be scrapped and the Meat Board free the market mid-week with weekend quotas."

Vleis/Meat said a Meat Board statement that farmers were receiving a cent a kilogram more for beef than their production costs, hit at the crux of the matter.

This is "one of the main reasons why farmers are leaving beef production (not enough money). The other is the permit system.

"Having reared the animal to marketing mass and condition, the permit system stops him from turning it into money, at 'break even' point, and putting the farmer back in the red," the magazine editorialises.

It goes on to say that according to Department of Statistics figures, the country's cattle population has remained virtually static over the past 50 years.

'Disgusting' price of exporting meat



Agriculture Minister Hendrik Schoeman . . . Call for an explanation why South Africans must pay to send cheap meat abroad

THE R6M BEEF BOOB

14/9/80 SUN TRIB (3) meat

By DARYL BALFOUR

THE South African Meat Board exported meat at a staggering loss of R6,5 million last year, according to figures obtained by the **Sunday Tribune** this week.

As evidence of the big beef bungle came to light this week consumer bodies and economics experts slammed the Meat Board and outgoing Agriculture Minister Hendrik Schoeman for their "poor administration" of the R6 000-million-a-year meat industry.

While meat prices throughout the country soared to unprecedented levels in a dramatic leap of almost 75 percent over a two-month period, calls for a full-scale investigation poured in from all aspects of the trade.

And at the height of the storm this week a South African Agricultural Union official predicted that meat prices could rise to between R8 and R10 a kilogram by the end of the year — the fault, he said, of "irresponsible consumers."

The **Sunday Tribune** can disclose that, according to audited accounts, the Meat Board lost R6 521 153 on exports during the financial year ending last June 30.

R5 085 123 of that loss was on beef alone, while the remainder was made up subsidising the export of pork.

The loss on beef was made up of "contributions" to exports of both canned and fresh or frozen beef.

Slamming the export loss, consumer watchdog Eugene Roelofse, ombudsman of the South African Council of Churches, said he had no objection to the export of foodstuffs.

"But it is adding insult to injury if these exports are at a loss and lead to local increases in prices," he said.

"When meat is exported at a loss it means not only that the volume exported increases local prices but that also in the long run the South African consumers are subsidising cheap food for other countries."

Mr Harry Schwarz, PFP spokesman on finance and consumer affairs, said losses such as this "only accentuate the anger of the South African consumer."

"People in South Africa are getting very angry with the whole handling of the meat situation.

"We have demanded an inquiry into the whole industry, including the activities of the Meat Board and the distribution system.

"This only reinforces our demands for this action," Mr Schwarz said.

The export loss figures, which have shocked consumer bodies everywhere, are contained in the report of the Auditor-General on the accounts of the Meat Board.

Also included in the report are figures which show that the Meat Board spent almost R1-million on publicity — a fact that has been slammed by the Housewives' League.

"The housewife doesn't need to be told to eat meat — she needs it to be sold at a price she can afford," Mrs Yvonne Forshaw, vice-president of the league, said.

The national president of the league, Mrs Joy Hurwitz, also criticised the export losses and said the Department of Agriculture had been asked repeatedly that no basic foodstuff be exported at a loss until all "our own people have been fed."

"Here we have record high prices for meat and then we learn that the Meat Board is using our money to subsidise exports at a loss. We'd like an explanation for this," she said.

Mr Roelofse said the Meat Board and the Minister of Agriculture appeared to be "unaware of the wide extent of malnutrition in this country".

He said the export loss was "disgusting".

Mr Chris Celliers, director of the South African Agricultural Union, said this week that irresponsible consumers who make a fuss about current increases are partly to blame for the high meat price.

Addressing the Free State branch of the Agricultural Writers' Association, he said meat could cost between R8 and R10 a kilogram by December.

What really raised his blood-pressure, he said, were "fat tannies" who ate themselves "dik" and then spent millions every year on cosmetics.

Meat prices would climb through the roof, he said. However, within five to seven years prices would drop again as a result of increased production.

A spokesman for the Meat Board, Mr Koos Blignaut, told the **Sunday Tribune** that in the past South Africa had been in an over-supply situation and the Meat Board had had to embark on an export programme.

Boycott would push prices higher, claims official

Meat men tell of 'farmers' plight

NATAL MERCURY 16/9/80 (3 meat)

Mercury Reporter

A LIAISON committee between the Meat Board, meat producers and traders may be established to allow organisations such as the Housewives' League to open channels for official information about the meat industry — especially on price increases.

This decision was taken yesterday at a meeting of farmers and representatives of the meat industry who met members of the Pietermaritzburg Housewives' League at Nottingham Road to put forward 'the plight of the farmers'.

Referring to the league's call to boycott beef because of rocketing prices, the general manager of the Meat Board, Dr Jan Lombard, said if the boycott were successful it would eventually push the prices up even higher

'The farmers will reduce production which will create an increased demand for beef and force the price up,' Dr Lombard said.

Adamant

He added that the league had been adamant about calling for a Government investigation into the meat industry but could not pinpoint what should be investigated.

'If anyone comes forward with reasonable proof about possible inefficiency or manipulation of the industry it will be investigated. But no one does,' Dr Lombard said.

He said there was nothing sinister about the price hikes.

'The increases are simply economic realities. There has been a four-year backlog of beef price increases. If there's a backlog for so long there must be a sharp increase.'

Other factors causing the increase were the economic boom — which increased the consumer's buying power by 23 percent — and decrease in the country's cattle herd.

The general manager of the Stockowners' Co-operative in Durban, Mr Eric Jones, said it was quite clear the money from beef price hikes went straight into the farmers' pockets.

'And they are entitled to it because they have had a hard time for many years,' he added.

Mr Dudley Thompson, chairman of the Durban Meat Traders' Association, said there was a lot of witch-hunting in the meat industry.

'The horrible bogie called the middleman is me,' Mr Thompson said.

He added that his net profit on a kilogram of beef after tax had been deducted was 4,5 percent.

'The gap between farmer and consumer in South Africa is the narrowest in the free world,' he said.

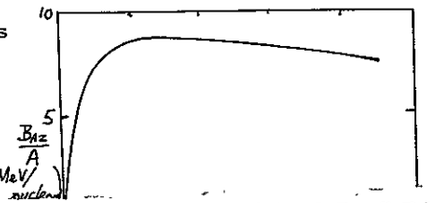
The Meat Board was the referee and the meat scheme the set of rules in the meat industry.



FARMERS and representatives of the meat industry met yesterday at Nottingham Road to discuss reasons for rising beef prices with members of the Housewives' League. Here Dr Jan Lombard, (right) general manager of the Meat Board, Mr Arthur Hambly, chairman of the Natal Beef Producers' Association, and Mr Dudley Thompson, chairman of the Durban Meat Traders' Association, discuss costs with the chairman of the Pietermaritzburg Housewives' League, Mrs Mercia Watkins.

4.8 *Fission and Fusion*

In the stable nuclei the nuclear binding energy B_{Az} increases as the nucleon number A increases. To show the rate of increase we plot the ratio (B_{Az}/A) versus A in fig. 22. The ratio is approximately constant and reaches a maximum of ≈8 MeV nucleon^{-1} for "medium" nuclei ($A \simeq$ 40–120). The lower values for light nuclei can be attributed to enhanced 'nuclear surface tension'. The lower values for heavy nuclei ($A \gtrsim$ 120) can be attributed to



5. *Interactions and Measurements of Nuclear Radiations*

We consider only radiations (particles) having kinetic energies in the energy range (between ∿ 0.1 MeV and a few × 10 MeV) typical of nuclear physics. The interactions of these radiations with matter are basic to many phenomena and to many aspects of nuclear technology. Examples are the detection of nuclear radiation, the design of radiation shielding and the assessment of radiation dose.

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As a representative group of particles (radiations) we will [illegible] the alpha range is less than the proton range for the same incident energy (see tables below and fig.24(a)). Furthermore, for either particle, the velocity decreases, and hence $(-dE/dx)$

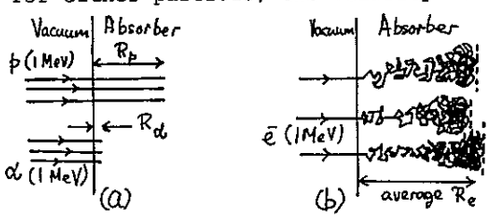

Fig. 24

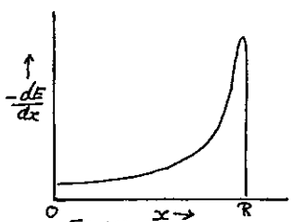

Fig 25

Slaughter permits — W Cape cattle men favoured

Staff Reporter

CATTLE-BREEDERS in the Western Cape were given preference over other beef producers when permits for slaughtering in the Western Cape were issued, a spokesman for the Meat Board said this week.

The spokesman was outlining the marketing of meat from the production to the selling stage at the abattoir.

The spokesman said 90 percent of Cape Town's meat supplies was brought in from SWA/Namibia, while the remaining 10 percent was provided by local farmers.

Short-term marketers

A Western Cape farmer who bred cattle was granted preference in the issuing of permits in order to encourage beef production in the Western Cape, which was not normally a good beef-producing area, he said.

Preference was given over short-term marketers, described by the spokesman as "those who come into the market only at certain times of the year".

The spokesman said farmers applied to the Meat Board for permits to send their cattle to the abattoir at a particular date. The criteria taken for the issuing of permits was to look at the number of applications brought and considering the capacity of the abattoir.

If some farmers' applications were unsuccessful they could either sell their meat by private sale, at livestock auctions or send it to other controlled areas, the spokesman said.

Sale by public auction

Once the cattle and sheep arrived at the abattoir they were rested for 72 hours and 48 hours respectively.

Slaughtering was done by a slaughtering company working under the control of the Meat Board and the carcasses were chilled for about 24 hours. They were then weighed, stamped and graded by officials of the Department of Agriculture.

The sale of the meat took place by means of public auction and was handled by agents acting on behalf of the farmers.

At the Cape Town abattoir the slaughtering capacity for cattle is 4 200 a week — 850 daily from Mondays to Thursdays and 900 on Fridays — while the capacity for sheep, lambs and/or goats is 27 000 a week — 5 500 daily from Mondays to Thursdays and 5 000 on Fridays.

"The Meat Board guarantees farmers minimum prices for various grades of meat which means that the trade cannot buy meat for less than that price," the spokesman said.

Minimum prices

He said if the trade (wholesalers and retailers) was not prepared to buy the meat at the minimum price it was bought by the Meat Board.

Minimum prices were based on production costs, the spokesman said. Meat bought by the board was either exported, in the case of oversupply, or sent to centres where there was a demand.

"Although we are not an exporting country for meat there are instances when meat is exported," the spokesman said.

Asked what purpose wholesalers served in the industry he said they had facilities for buying in bulk, which was often not possible for retailers. The retailer therefore made use of the wholesalers' bulk-buying facilities.

He said the permit system controlled the supply of meat. If there was an oversupply "the necessary rules and regulations" applied and if there was not an ove supply the market was "open", the spokesman said

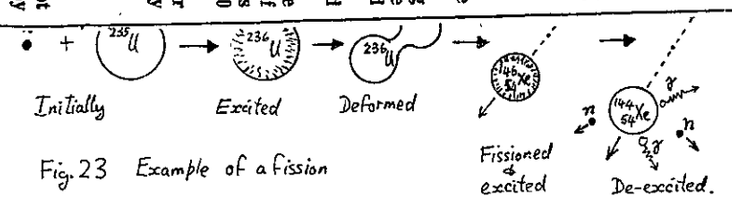

Fig. 23 Example of a fission

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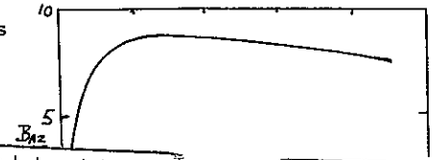


SA exports meat as shortage continues

Chief Reporter

AGAINST a background of meat "shortages" and soaring prices, official statistics have revealed that South Africa and her customs-area neighbours are exporting meat and meat products worth more than R160 million annually — a figure that has more than doubled itself in a year.

Beef exports alone have in one year shot up from a total value of R38m to R95m.

Mr Rupert Lorimer, MP for Orange Grove and Opposition spokesman on consumer affairs, said yesterday there could be little doubt that large-scale meat exports from South Africa were a major contributory cause of the "artificial" shortage of and the rocketing consumer prices of red meat.

in non-producing import countries."

Mr Lorimer said he intended referring the meat situation to the recently-created Competition Board set up under anti-monopolies legislation.

● A study of monthly abstracts of trade statistics for the common customs area, compiled by the Department of Customs and Excise in Pretoria, shows that exports of fresh, chilled or frozen meats and edible offals in 1979 were worth R102 071 321, as against R45 403 738 in 1978. Canned and preserved meats went up in value from R26,7 million to R50,5m.

The value of live animals exported rose from R3,4m to R4,4m in a year.

Poultry exports rose from R13m worth in 1978 to R17,6m worth last year.

Earlier this month supermarket chief Mr Raymond Ackerman, when he announced that his chain of stores throughout the Republic would freeze meat prices for the next two weeks in an effort to hold down the soaring prices, said that in spite of "desperate shortages" in the chicken industry, chickens were being exported at the rate of 330 000 a day.

These were going at less than R1 a kg, while it was costing between R1,40 and R1,50 a kg locally.

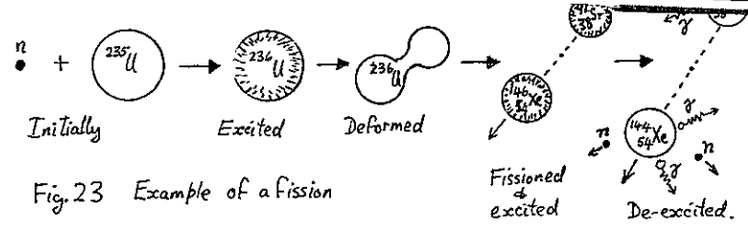
"I think this is a disgrace and it is important that we get a semblance of order into the industry," he added.

'Failed'

He said the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, and the Meat Board had "failed absolutely" to control the marketing situation and he repeated his call for a full public inquiry into the meat industry and specifically into the export aspect.

It appeared that the Meat Board was, on an increasing scale, buying in meat that did not reach the support price on the local market, and then exporting it, at undisclosed prices.

"The whole meat marketing system in South Africa is shrouded in secrecy, and as such it leaves itself wide open to abuse and suspicion. We have reached a stage where we are paying a price for meat that can be compared with that



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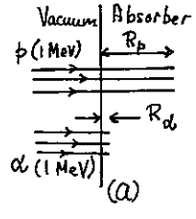
e.g. e, p and α) interact predominantly s in matter. Their interactions with e, in comparison, at the energies e interactions lead to the ionization n of the atoms in matter in a process a series of collisions between the or α) and the electrons of the article loses kinetic energy in these arry on losing energy until it is ng that the absorbing medium is he particle). The distance particle to rest is called nat particular medium) at

herefore depends on the rate ts path of travel, that is tance $(-dE/dx)$ along this depends on the density of the elocity of the particle. It is lower velocity. If we ne same energy, for example, and (owing to their larger mass) in a given medium, $(-dE/dx)$ is ons of the same energy and the alpha range is less than the proton range for the same incident energy (see tables below and fig.24(a)). Furthermore, for either particle, the velocity decreases, and hence $(-dE/dx)$



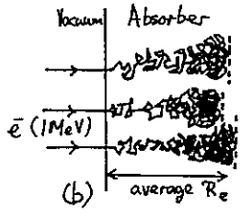


Fig. 24

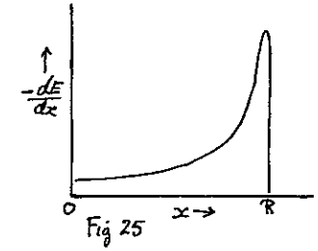


Fig 25

Meat crisis follows farmers' lean years

Argus 18/9/80 (3) meat

Consumer Reporter

TODAY'S high meat prices follow two lean years in which supply exceeded demand and many farmers received such poor returns that they went out of business or reduced their herds and concentrated on growing crops instead.

Drought at the beginning of this year further reduced the number of cattle and sheep being reared for meat.

Many animals died and others were sent to market before they were ready because of the lack of grazing.

EXPORT

Now the public has more money to spend and the demand for meat, as well as for other consumer goods, has risen. But the herds and flocks of sheep are depleted.

And there is a strong suspicion, voiced by Mr Robert Lorimer, Progressive Federal Party spokesman for consumer affairs, and other people, that the situation is being aggravated by the export of meat which is creating an 'artificial shortage'.

Some members of the Cape Town Muslim Butchers' Association believe that wholesalers are keeping demand, and the price, up by buying meat to keep in cold storage in the hope of yet higher prices towards Christmas.

This has been denied by wholesalers. A spokesman for one of the biggest firms said: 'Anyone buying for the future at today's high prices would be taking a big risk. And cold storage is expensive.'

But statements by a spokesman for the South African Agricultural Union yesterday that meat would become 'even more of a luxury item' with prices for top cuts reaching R8 or R10 a kg, lend credence to the butchers' suspicions.

The whole meat situation, and particularly the permit system under which the Meat Control Board limits the number of animals sent for slaughter each day, is clouded with secrecy and suspicions of corruption or inefficiency.

Mr Lorimer blames mismanagement by the Meat Board for the present situation and thinks more farmers would have stayed in meat production if it had not been for the permit system.

He believes that farmers would have preferred to send animals to market when they were ready, even when prices were low because of over-supply, than be forced to keep and feed them because a permit was refused.

QUOTA

He cited the case of one farmer who had been sending 1 200 lambs for slaughter each quarter, whose quota was suddenly reduced to 60 a quarter.

'A farmer cannot afford to keep all these animals on his farm eating their heads off,' said Mr Lorimer. 'His overheads are tremendous.

'I know that a lot of farmers went out of business, or changed to other forms of agriculture, for this reason. There should be a free market, where prices would find their own level.'

He said the issue of permits was 'shrouded in secrecy.' Reasons for granting or refusing them were never given. But it was noticeable that wholesalers were often able to get permits when they were denied to a farmer.

The farmer then had to sell to the wholesaler, which added a middleman's profit to the transaction.

Mr Lorimer pointed out that some wholesale firms had farming and feed-producing interests and, since they were the main buyers at the abattoir auctions, were in a position to manipulate the market.

MISTAKE

He said he thought the system of animals being sent to big central abattoirs such as Cape Town and Johannesburg, instead of being slaughtered at small regional abattoirs and being sent to the cities as meat was a mistake.

It increased transport costs and also encouraged the formation of buying rings at the abattoirs, where the small man was sequeezed out.

But Mr Koos Blignaut, public relations officer for the Meat Control Board, said the permit system was necessary to prevent chaos if too many animals were sent to an abattoir at the same time.

Mr Blignaut admitted that he hoped prices would not fall from their present high levels, through consumer resistance, until more farmers had a chance to recoup losses which, he said, they had suffered in the past two years.

Mr Blignaut pointed out that animals for meat 'could not be produced at a press of a button.'

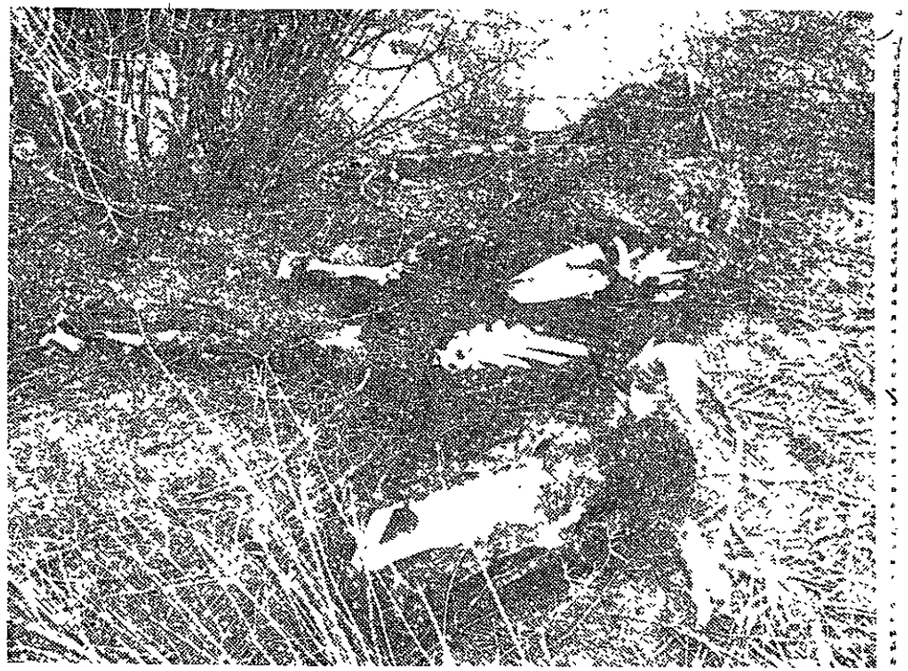
He said it took from four to six years to produce an animal and get it ready for market. High prices now would encourage more farmers to return to beef production.

However, he said, he hoped the present high prices would not cause farmers to 'go haywire' and produce too many animals, so that a surplus situation was again created.

Mr Blignaut said the Meat Board hoped to persuade farmers to increase production by a steady five percent a year, to allow for the normal expansion of the market.

He said the recession from which South Africa had just emerged was to blame for the farmers' past difficulties. They had increased production during the boom, expecting demand to continue to grow.

Then came the recession, during which most families had to cut back on their food budgets.



ONE of the reasons for the meat shortage in some parts of the country —drought killed off some animals and caused others to be sent to market before they were ready.

DEMAND

Now the economy has recovered and demand has suddenly increased. The cumulative effect of salary increases and tax concessions has given the white consumer 23 percent more buying power, he said.

'The buying power of the black market — which consumes 50 percent of all the beef in South Africa — has increased even more because their wages are increasing faster than those of the white people.

'But the production of lower grades of meat, alone, has decreased by 16 percent between May and August this year compared with the same period last year.'

HERDS

He said the number of animals in beef herds had fallen by six percent between January and July this year, compared with the same period last year, although more beasts had been slaughtered.

Meanwhile, Cape Town abattoir has been slaughtering to full capacity on most working days this month. Almost every day 5 500 sheep are slaughtered — 500 more than last month — and 850 cattle.

PRICES

Prices at the abattoir auctions are dropping slightly. Super beef, which reached a peak of R2,70 a kg at the auction on September 5, sold at between R1,90 and R2 a kg this week.

Super lamb, which reached a peak of R2,49 a kg on September 5 and sold at between R2,01 and R2,02 a kg on Monday, ranged between R1,90 and R1,98 a kg later in the week.

One supermarket firm has already reduced its local prices as a result of this fall.

R160m worth of meat exported annually

Own Correspondent

CAPE TOWN. — Against a background of meat "shortages" and soaring prices, official statistics showed that South Africa and her customs-area neighbours are exporting meat and meat products worth more than R160-million annually — a figure that has more than doubled in a year

Beef exports have in one year shot up from a total value of R38-million to R95-million.

Mr Rupert Lorimer, MP for Orange Grove and Opposition spokesman on Consumer Affairs, said there could be little doubt that large-scale meat exports from South Africa were a major contributory cause of the "artificial" shortage of and the rocketing consumer prices of red meat.

He said the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, and the Meat Board had failed to control the marketing situation and he repeated his call for a full public inquiry into the meat industry and specifically into the export aspect

"The whole meat marketing system in South Africa is shrouded in secrecy, and as such it leaves itself wide open to abuse and suspicion. We have reached a stage where we are paying a price for meat that can be compared with that in non-producing import countries"

Mr Lorimer said he intended referring the meat situation to the recently created competition board set up under the anti-monopolies legislation

"A study of monthly abstracts of trade statistics for the common customs area, compiled by the Department of Customs and Excise in Pretoria, shows that exports of fresh, chilled or frozen meats and edible offals in 1979 were worth R102 071 321, as against R45 403 738 in 1978. Canned and preserved meats went up in value from R26 700 000 to R50 5000 000."

The value of live animals exported rose from R3 400 000 to R4 400 000 in a year.

Poultry exports rose from R13-million worth in 1968 to R17 600 000 worth last year.

Earlier this month supermarket chief, Mr Raymond Ackerman, when he announced that his chain of stores throughout the Republic would freeze meat prices for the next two weeks in an effort to hold down the soaring prices, said that in spite of desperate shortages in the chicken industry, chickens were being exported at the rate of 330 000 a day.

These were going at less than R1 a kg while it was costing between R1,40 and R1,50 a kg locally.

"I think this is a disgrace and it is important that we get a semblance of order into the industry," he added.

Butchers fear ruin as meat sales plunge

By PAT SIDLEY
and ROB MEINTJES

SMALL butchers in Johannesburg's city centre claim they face ruin because of strong black consumer resistance to the steadily-rising red meat prices.

The black consumer resistance, revealed in a survey of city butchers by the Rand Daily Mail yesterday, confounds a Meat Board prediction that blacks would not boycott red meat because of their increased buying power.

Black consumers account for about 50% of meat sales in South Africa.

And the Meat Board has confirmed that overall consumption was down last week — by 263 tons on the Witwatersrand and 147 tons in Durban — on the previous week's figures.

Last week's sales figure of 2 698 tons on the Witwatersrand is 731 tons down on the figure for the corresponding period last year.

A spokesman for the Meat Board described the drop as a normal reaction to price increases.

The Housewives' League has called for a continuation of the meat boycott — even if prices start to come down — until the Government holds an inquiry into the marketing of meat and abolishes the controversial support price which prevents the price of meat from falling more than 6% a week.

Meanwhile, prices at the City Deep Abattoir continued their relentless rise yesterday, with steeper increases in the lower grades. Over the last two days, Grade 3 beef rose 21c a kg while Super went up 14c a kg.

After a meeting with the Meat Board in Pretoria on Wednesday, Mrs Joy Hurwitz, chairman of the Housewives' League, said the board was under the impression that demand for meat had increased, but the league did not agree.

Discussions with housewives had indicated thay they were buying less meat. Increased wages had been eroded by inflation, she said.

The Meat Board spokesman said Dr Jan Lombard, general manager of the board, had told the league delegation that the buying power of white South Africans had increased by 23% and the buying power of blacks even more.

South Africans could therefore afford to spend 23% more on commodities.

"Black consumers know their meat and we do not think they will be influenced by a boycott," the spokesman said.

But a snap survey of 10 city butchers by the "Mail" yesterday showed that sales in shops relying largely on black clientele had dropped by between 20% and 50%.

"If these ridiculous prices continue to rise, many butchers will have to close," one butcher said. "Only the Government can stop this nonsense."

Another butcher said colleagues with large salary bills and high rents were looking for buyers for their butcheries.

Black clients who had bought meat in the past were now buying bones and offal, butchers said.

Some butchers had halved their mark-ups. All those interviewed said they did not have the facilities to buy direct from the market and bought their meat from wholesalers.

Feelings were mixed about the league's boycott.

One butcher who approved said he would be prepared to close his butchery for two months if this would help reduce prices.

Another felt a boycott would knock the small butchers out of business but that the big operators would survive.

Meanwhile, supermarkets report shortages and increased sales of chickens. Frozen chicken prices, which have risen 13% since May, would continue to rise, a spokesman for the Checkers chain said yesterday.

Frozen chickens are at about R1,74 a kg, but will go up by at least 10% in the next month.

Fish prices have risen steadily, but by comparatively small amounts.

'PANIC BUYING' — MEAT PRICES SOAR

Don't stockpile - plea to housewives

3 meat

19/8/80 Argus

Consumer Reporter

PRICES at Cape Town abattoir, which had begun to drop, shot up again today because of increased demand which a wholesaler ascribed to panic buying.

By early today the price of super beef had reached R2,15 a kg — 16c more than yesterday — and the price of super lamb ranged from R2,27 to R2,23 a kg.

Earlier this week the price of super lamb was R2,01.

A leading Cape Town meat wholesaler blamed the rise on panic buying resulting from 'absurd' forecasts by South African Agricultural Union officials.

Unfortunate

He appealed to housewives today not to lay in stocks of meat until the price came down. This would happen when demand returned to normal.

The wholesaler said it was unfortunate that statements by union officials, giving the public the impression that a meat shortage and higher prices were on the way, had created panic buying.

Describing some of these statements as 'absurd,' he said they were sending prices up again when in fact the situation had improved and prices were beginning to come down.

'There is no shortage of meat in Cape Town,' the wholesaler assured The Argus.

Regret

'Those who stock up their freezers now may regret it, because they are probably paying more for their meat than they would if they waited longer.'

The sudden price rise had been caused by the combination of a public holiday, the end of the month and shortages in some parts of the country affected by drought.

The new support price introduced to Cape Town by the Meat Board a few weeks ago prevented any rapid fall in prices — because they could not now come down by more than six percent below the average for the previous week.

See-saw

Agreeing that 'ridiculous statements' by agricultural officials had sent prices up again when they were beginning to stabilise, the head of a supermarket butchery chain said: 'I have never seen the market prices see-saw in the way they have been doing.

'I have just been round the country and the situation is different in every city!'

He did not believe meat prices would reach R8 or R10 a kg by Christmas as had been forecast by some union officials.

'They represent the interests of the farmers, and it is in the farmers' short-term interests to keep meat prices up,' he said.

'I am in favour of the farmers getting a fair crack of the whip, but there should be a ceiling price as well as a floor price.'

Mr Malcolm Simpson, area manager of Pick 'n

(Continued on Page 3, col 4)

(Continued from Page 1)

Pay, butcheries, said he had never seen the meat counters so busy.

'Something is certainly pushing up demand — and the price,' he said.

The South African Co-Ordinating Consumer Council has announced that it will collect any information or evidence indicating that there is a need for an inquiry into the running of the meat industry.

If it finds sufficient evidence, 'recommendations will be made to the Minister with all expediency.'

The director of the Consumer Council, Mr Jan Cronje, appealed to the public to submit 'any verbal or written evidence of price manipulation' to the council.

Panic buying

Argus 19/9/80

Its telephone number at Pretoria is 012 48-3512 and its address P.O. Box 3800, Pretoria 0001.

In a statement today Mr Cronje said the council disapproved of calls for a meat boycott.

If meat production were made unprofitable it would lead to scarcity and still higher prices.

A shortage of beef and lamb pushed up prices in Johannesburg today. Super beef prices there were expected to reach R3 a kg at abattoir auctions. Mutton and lamb prices were expected to be higher.

Half the usual numbers of cattle and sheep were available for slaughter at City Deep abattoir, Johannesburg, today.

Butchers accused farmers of holding back animals to keep prices artificially high.

The Argus understands that wholesalers are buying lamb at Cape Town abattoir to send to Johannesburg, where it will fetch a higher price.

A Goodwood butcher said this was helping to push up prices in Cape Town.

But a wholesaler said it helped to stabilise prices nationally if meat was sent to alleviate a shortage in another area.

'It works both ways,' he said. 'In times of shortage in Cape Town meat is moved here from other centres.'

● See Pages 4 and 9.

BEEF PRICES (3) Meat

Breeding a boycott

FM 19/9/80

The surge in beef prices will not have surprised our readers as much as it seems to have startled the executive committee of the Housewives' League. The *FM* forecast the rise some months ago ("Reach for the sky," *FM* July 11) and the reasons we put forward then still hold good today.

Farmers can't conjure beasts out of thin air. To produce more calves they must first starve the market of slaughter stock to rebuild the breeding herds, which they have been culling during recent years of hardship. And since the biological process from conception to carcass takes anything from two to five years with the bovine animal, it can confidently be forecast that we will be short of red meat for at least another 18 months.

Consumer boycott or no consumer boycott, the price just had to go up and there is little the Meat Board or anyone else can do at the moment to hold it down. Importing offers no easy solution. According to Dr Jan Lombard, the board's GM, Australian beef, at R1,50 to R1,70 a kg, would cost us just as much as our own.

Then why the hullaballoo? And who is it supposed to frighten? Are the consumer lobbyists angry with the farmers, the butchers, the wholesalers, the agents, the board or someone else? When a drought-weary farmer posed that pertinent question at a meeting at Nottingham Road on Monday he had to go home without an answer. So did Dr Lombard and the meat trade representatives who had come along to explain their respective innocences.

A boycott, they all claim, will only aggravate the price problem later on. Their case rests on the assumption that unless farmers are assured of a good profit today, they will have no incentive to expand their herds for tomorrow. True. But that still begs the question whether the full price incentive really seeps through from the end consumer to the breeder. In common with the astonished farmers who visit supermarkets and marvel at the prices paid there for meat, those housewives who visit the ranching country remain deeply sceptical.

'Boycott of meat is sabotage'

STAR 20/9/80

3 Meat

Own Correspondent

The managing director of a major South African stock feed company has lashed out at meat boycotters and accused them of committing sabotage.

Dr Gerrit Louw, managing director of Rumevite, also called for restrictions on press reporting which "encouraged" the boycotters' activities.

"People who support the meat boycott in whatever form are committing sabotage against farmers and the country," he said.

Dr Louw was speaking in Pretoria last night at the South African Agricultural Writers Association's Transvaal Farmer of the Year award function.

He took the Press to task for "fanning the fires of discontent" among consumers. This lead to further depopulation of platteland, especially in areas on the borders where cattle farmers were already thinly spread, he said.

Dr Louw said it was grossly unfair to discriminate against farmers who, for the first time in the past five years, were able to make a profit.

A Johannesburg restaurateur yesterday slammed the rapidly rising meat prices saying the situation was creating a political time-bomb.

Mr Costa Tomazos of Squires Loft said: "The Government says it is meeting wage gaps and then diminishes the standard of living by raising prices."

As examples, Mr Tomazos showed invoices displaying how meat prices had risen to his restaurant chain since August last year.

"Rump has risen from R3,40 to R5,65 a kilogram — an increase of 66 percent. Sirloin has gone up by the same percentage. Fillet has gone up 30 percent, from R4,90 to R6,35. T-bone steaks now cost R4,40, an increase of 83 percent on last year's price of R2,40 a kilogram," he said.

A meat industry executive said today the Housewives' League had made a mistake in "vaguely calling for a meat boycott on all but two days a week. They should have specified which days."

Exports hit Cape consumers

20/9/80 ARGUS

MEAT DEALS AS PRICES RISE

By Audrey D'Angelo and Geoff Dekenah

WHILE meat prices soar in the Cape and consumer resistance grows, a Mafeking consortium has exported 80 tons of lamb at half price — and in Cape Town wholesalers are buying meat to send to the Johannesburg market.

And in another development in the raging meat-price controversy the managing director of a stock-feed company has lashed out at boycotting consumers and the Press, accusing them of 'sabotaging' the industry.

Wholesalers have countered butchers' accusations of pushing the prices up in buying for the hungry Reef market by saying it was in the interests of local consumers for them to do so.

The Reef shortage and higher prices would cause local suppliers to send their cattle there to take advantage of the prices and create a local shortage, they claimed.

Cape Town super beef prices, which dropped from the R2,70/kg peak at the start of the month to R1,90/kg during the week, jumped back to R2,20/kg yesterday.

Super lamb prices dropped from a peak of R2,49 per kg to R2,01 per kg this week, but climbed back to a R2,30 level.

The Meat Board said that in spite of sufficient permits to keep the market supplied, supplies were below the expected level.

Butchers accused Agricultural Union officials of 'irresposible' statements' which created panic-buying and forced prices up.

In Pretoria, the managing director of a stock-feed company lashed out at boycotting consumers and the Press, accusing the former of 'sabotage', and the latter of 'fanning the fires of discontent among consumers'.

Dr Gerrit Louw said it was 'grossly unfair to discriminate against farmers' who were making a profit 'for the first time in the past five years'.

In Port Elizabeth, a consignment of 5 119 super lamb carcasses was discovered on board a cargo vessel, the Jody.

The consignment, from a Mafeking meat consortium, is bound for Pireaus in Greece.

The export value of the meat which was loaded in Cape Town is R122 160, and the average cost, including transport costs, is about R1,40 a kg.

On the Port Elizabeth market, super lamb is selling at R2,93/kg and super beef at R2,59 to R2,68/kg.

The Cape Town abattoir slaughtered 26 700 sheep this week. The normal weekly average is 24 500. During the week, 5 500 sheep and 850 cattle were slaughtered daily, but yesterday this dropped to 4 700 and 590 as farmers withheld supplies.

A Meat Board spokesman said the expected supplies from the south-western Cape had not materialised.

'We don't know why,' he said.

The new S. African economics

. . .or how to set up perfect monopolies for the producers

By BEN TEMKIN

THE new South African economics is a phenomewow which looks as though it will become deeply rooted in the structure of our society.

The latest evidence of the hold that the new economics is taking is in the hot debate over the meat price — with those in authority suggesting that if demand falls off the price of meat will go even higher.

Even those tormented consumers with short memories will remember how, just a few years ago, the Minister of Agriculture — the same one now telling us all about the economics of meat — warned that dairy prices would take off unless we consumed more dairy products.

We thought this hysterically funny. After all, the laws of supply and demand tell us that when demand falls off producers reduce their prices in order to sell more of their product.

How wrong we were: We should indeed have been hysterical but with anguish rather than with amusement. The prices of dairy products rocketed and are soaring even further as consumer resistance, especially to fresh milk, increases.

What Hendrik Schoeman told us at the time of the dairy crisis was that producers were being forced to cut back on production because the prices they received in the market place were too low. This made it uneconomical for them to sell their products.

To preserve their production bases, they would have to have the prices of their products increased. It was appreciated that the higher prices could cause a fall-off in demand but this would tend to reduce production rather than prices.

While we chuckled at this contradiction to the economic theory we had been taught, we failed to notice that there was no real contradiction at all

What had happened in the dairy industry was that the State had created a monopoly by bringing all producers together under one control board. This monopoly could, therefore, raise or lower prices at its own discretion and adjust its supplies to meet the requisite demand in such a way as to give itself the level of profit it desired

Mr Schoeman and the Dairy Board were not rewriting economics — they were simply applying the lessons they had learnt from the text books.

It should, therefore, be no surprise to us to see a repeat of the dairy-price cycle with red meat. The Meat Board has, like the Dairy Board, created a monopoly which can dictate prices to the consumer.

Competition is diminishing by the day — it would be hardly surprising to find that most meat sales in cities are now through the supermarkets, which are dominated by the big meat-producing corporations

This is a perfect state of affairs in which the price to the producer can be raised to a level which promises him some very good profits if he is efficient while, at the same time, others with a vested interest in the meat market, such as the wholesalers, can get a really fat return for their labours. (It's worth noting that the Meat Board blames competition through fair enterprise for the high prices).

As we all have learnt to our bitter regret, price forecasts from those who control prices are self-fulfilling. Armed with this knowledge, we can expect, therefore, that the R8 to R10 per kilogram forecast for top cuts made by the Meat Board will be with us very soon.

Furthermore, we are told that if we boycott red meat, then not only will prices rise but there will be a shortage which will induce further price increases. The Meat Board is telling us that it will control supply in line with demand to ensure that its prices will be met.

Here we see again perfect monopoly in action. Of course, if it is to work effectively, then producers must be able to sell as much of what they produce as possible. This is why housewives are exhorted not to boycott red meat. If they do, then some of the producers will inevitably have to go out of business altogether — and that is hardly the intention of the authorities in a state which has a vested interest in keeping as many white farmers on the land as possible.

In case anybody disputes this latter assertion, let it be noted that the Meat Board made a whacking great loss on exports of meat at the expense of the local consumer during its last reported financial year. You don't make this kind of loss unless you really care about your important constituents.

The new South African economics is not, therefore, concerned with new theories. What it is, is a practical example of how free enterprise can be distorted by State control to the extent that the basic laws of supply and demand no longer operate. Effectively, monopoly replaces competition at the expense of the consumer while at the same time promoting inefficiencies among producers.

The trouble is that it will take years for the South African consumer to break the red-meat-eating habit. A boycott, unless it is almost a total boycott, is unlikely to force prices down. A monopoly of an essential product is neither price-sensitive nor demand-sensitive because demand cannot change radically enough as prices change.

If there is a hope that meat prices and the prices of other agricultural products will tend to maintain a more gradual increase, then it is the hope that we will be able to root out the unnecessary state controls that are strangling our so-called free enterprise system.



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STAR 23/9/80 3 Mear

'No war on farmers' —league

Fair Deal Reporter

"A smokescreen of insults and accusations is being created to alienate the farmer from the consumer, in calls for a commission of inquiry into the meat industry," Mrs Joy Hurwitz, president of the Housewives League said today.

"It's essential that farmers understand the league is not waging a war against them.

"The inquiry we want, would include a review of the floor price paid to the farmer. The league supports such a price."

Mrs Hurwitz said an inquiry would have to look into whether or not the current meat scheme was efficient and to the maximum benefit of producer and consumer.

"Subjects such as the offal pool should be looked into. A sheep farmer has told the league that for 40 percent of the sheep he markets he receives not quite R2.

EXAMPLE

"As an example, he receives 50c to 60c for the offal; including the hide, hooves, horns, head, brains, tongue, kidneys, liver, sweetbread, tripe, lights and intestines.

"The main aim of a commission of inquiry should be to investigate the gap between what the producer gets and what the consumer pays."

Meat probe not yet justified—Schoeman

By Charlene Beltramo
Fair Deal Reporter

The Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman told a meeting of editors and senior journalists yesterday that he had still not received a well-motivated request for an investigation into the meat industry.

This is despite calls from a wide sector for a full investigation into the marketing of meat or certain aspects of meat marketing.

Organisations that have made such representations to the Minister include: independent farmers, the Housewives League, the Master Butchers' Association, the Transvaal Hotel Association, the Federation of Meat Traders, the SA Federation of Livestock Auctioneers and others.

A Press statement issued at the meeting said there was sufficient flexibility in the system to "cut out" the middleman should the market require it.

It also said that even in controlled areas consumers and retail butchers could buy direct from farmers through abattoirs.

However, butchers pointed out this was impossible as not only did consumers lack the know-how to cut up a carcass, but they did not have the equipment.

Butchers and restaurant owners also said that an amount, three times more than the cost of the meat to be bought, had to be lodged with the Meat Board before purchases could be made at the abattoir.

A week's supply of meat had to be bought at a time.

"Most consumers and butchers don't have the storage or financial capabilities to buy such amounts," a retailer said.

Meat also had to be transported in refrigerated trucks approved by health authorities, which most butchers or consumers did not have and could not afford.

Butchers also angrily disputed a Meat Board statement that support prices "restricted inexplicable and unacceptable short-term price fluctuations to the advantage of the producer, trade and consumer."

They pointed out that the Master Butchers' Association and the Federation of Meat Traders had asked the Minister and the board twice since March, when the support price was reintroduced, to withdraw it.

A National Marketing Council study supported their view that it was "inflationary and unecessary."

A group of butchers said yesterday they were considering asking the Government to reimburse their losses as a result of the support price system.

The Meat Board extended the support price system at the beginning of September to cover all the controlled markets at the major centres.

Consumers and butchers protested it was unnecessary and inflationary.

Shortage forecast as demand rises

Farming Correspondent

The demand for meat is increasing.

The owner of five butcheries on the West Rand said in Pretoria today that while in the first two weeks of July he sold 18 tons of beef, the figure of the first two weeks of September had risen to 23 tons.

He thought that the boycott was counter-productive because it gave meat much publicity.

The public had, however, become much more price and quality conscious. In this respect the publicity had had a good effect.

Mr Basie Snyman, president of the Transvaal Agricultural Union's cattle committee, said the meat market was moving into a situation of overall shortage of beef.

Permit applications received by the Meat Board reflected producer requirements as stated three months in advance. They did not yet show an overall shortage.

But country auctions were now drawing supplies away from the city abattoirs.

Month-end slaughterings would probably show an adequate supply at City Deep, causing a higher price.

Beef prices continued to rocket on the Cato Ridge, Durban, abattoir today, opening at R2,73 for top grades while the carcasses of the five top 18-month-old animals at the Mooi River block tests were sold for R757 each.

Also up from today are the wholesale price of some processed meats with beef sausages jumping from R1,15 for 500g to R1,33; frankfurters from R2,18 to R2,77 a kilogram and meat loaves from R2,40 to R2,79 a kilogram.

Farmers urged to back meat probe

Consumer Reporter

FARMERS should join consumers in calling for an independent inquiry into the meat industry to clear up suspicions that prices are being manipulated, Mr Philip Myburgh, MP for Wynberg and Opposition spokesman for agriculture, said today.

Mr Myburgh said in an interview he was astonished to hear on SABC-TV last night, a spokesman for the South African Agricultural Union refuse an offer by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, to appoint a judge or chief magistrate to carry out an inquiry.

'Mr Schoeman offered to do this if the union asked him,' Mr Myburgh said.

'RIDICULOUS'

'The union said they would agree to such an inquiry only after misconduct had been proven.

'That is a ridiculous statement. If this country's legal system were run like that, nobody would ever be brought to trial because everyone is presumed innocent until proved guilty!'

Mr Myburgh said he thought Mr Schoeman should go ahead with the inquiry in spite of the union's reaction.

'There is a dispute about the reason for this sudden rise in prices and people are unhappy about it,' he said.

HELD BACK

He wondered whether meat bought by wholesalers at a time of low prices and kept in cold storage had been fed into the butchers' shops now that prices were inflated.

'It would be possible for wholesalers who had large quantities of such meat in storage to force up prices at abattoir auctions — even when supplies were plentiful — by bidding high.'

Mr Myburgh said he was not in favour of 'farmer-bashing.' It was easy in times of shortage or high prices to blame the primary producer, even though other people might be receiving R1,50 for every R1 received by the farmer.

Not every farmer had benefitted from high prices. Meat was sent to the abattoir by permit, issued by the Meat Control Board.

Shortage of super beef boosts price

Consumer Reporter

ALTHOUGH Cape Town abattoir slaughtered to its full capacity of 850 cattle and 5 500 sheep yesterday, there was a shortage of super beef at today's auction which sent prices up.

A Meat Control Board spokesman said this was because most of the beef on offer came from South West Africa, which is usually of a lower grade than grain-fed local beef.

When the auction began this morning, only seven of the carcasses on offer were super grade and they fetched R2,39 a kg compared with between R2,09 and R2,36 yesterday.

4.8 *Fission and Fusion*

In the stable nuclei the nuclear binding energy B_{Az} increases as the nucleon number A increases. To show the rate of increase we plot the ratio (B_{Az}/A)

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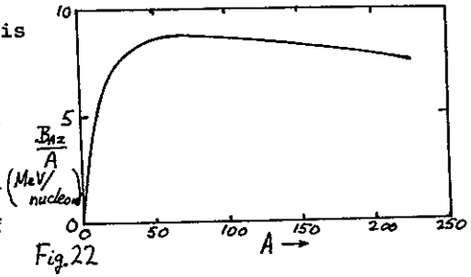

Fig.22

≲ 10) nuclei into *medium* nuclei or if we split
≳ 200) nuclei into *medium* nuclei our final
re be more tightly bound than the initial
In other words, there will be a further release
ent heat) which will be *liberated* as the
he reaction products. In order to produce
of the initial nuclei must have sufficient
their mutual Coulomb repulsion, so as to reduce
ion to within the range of the nuclear force.
taneously in some very heavy nuclei and is thus
ivity in these cases. It may also be induced as
, for example by bombarding a heavy nucleus such
ons (fig. 23). The product nuclei (fission
d exhibit a range of A values, average $A \approx 117$,
ly excited and are usually unstable in their
... radioactive. Two or three neutrons
e are important
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STAR 25/9/80 (3 meat)

Farmers got biggest bite

Own Correspondent

The largest portion of the recent price increases for red meat went into the farmer's pocket and not to the middleman, says the Meat Board.

It stresses this point in a document in reply to allegations made against it and the meat industry in general.

The board says producer prices for meat in August this year were 48 percent higher than in August last year.

On the allegation that prices have obviously been manipulated since the recent increases were not accompanied by shortages, the board lists several factors which it says affected the supply and demand position — and consequently, prices.

From January to August this year, it says, there was 5,6 percent more beef available than during the same period last year but three percent less grade 3 beef.

White buying power, as a result of salary adjustments and tax concessions, increased in the same period by at least 21 percent, it says, and black buying power "probably increased by more than 21 percent."

The South African Agricultural Union, in its annual report, says gross earnings from commercial cattle and calf slaughterings in 1979/80 increased by 32 percent to R546-million.

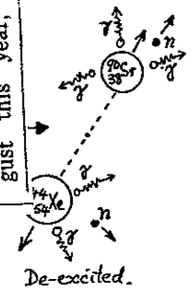


Fig. 23 Example of a fission

5. *Interactions and Measurements of Nuclear Radiations*

We consider only radiations (particles) having kinetic energies in the energy range (between ∿ 0.1 MeV and a few × 10 MeV) typical nuclear physics. The interactions of these radiations with matter are basic to many phenomena and to many aspects of nuclear technology. Examples are the detection of nuclear radiation, the design of radiation shielding and the assessment of radiation dose.

5.1 *Interaction of radiation with matter*

As a representative group of particles (radiations) we will consider the electron, proton, alpha particle, neutron and gamma photon (e, p, α, n, γ). Within these the charged particles form a natural group or subset which it is convenient to consider together.

(a) *Charged particles* (e.g. e, p and α) interact predominantly with the atomic electrons in matter. Their interactions with nuclei are extremely rare, in comparison, at the energies we are considering. The interactions lead to the ionization and electronic excitation of the atoms in matter in a process which can be viewed as a series of collisions between the incident particle (e, p or α) and the electrons of the absorber atoms. The particle loses kinetic energy in these processes and it will carry on losing energy until it is brought to rest (assuming that the absorbing medium is thick enough to completely stop the particle). The distance (thickness) required to bring the particle to rest is called the range of that particle (in that particular medium) at that particular incident energy.

The range of the particle therefore depends on the rate at which it loses energy along its path of travel, that is on the energy loss per unit distance $(-dE/dx)$ along this path. The energy loss $(-dE/dx)$ depends on the density of the medium and the charge and the velocity of the particle. It is higher for a higher charge or a lower velocity. If we compare alphas and protons at the same energy, for example, the alphas have a higher charge and (owing to their larger mass) a lower velocity. Therefore, in a given medium, $(-dE/dx)$ is larger for alphas than for protons of the same energy and the alpha range is less than the proton range for the same incident energy (see tables below and fig.24(a)). Furthermore, for either particle, the velocity decreases, and hence $(-dE/dx)$

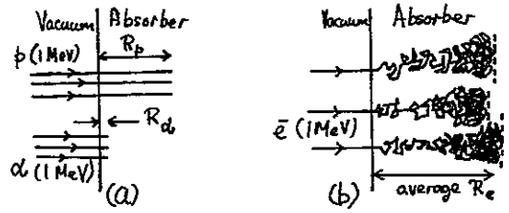


Fig. 24

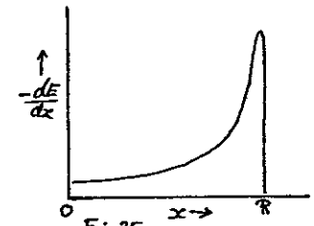


Fig 25

Farmers 'get less than half meat price'

By ROB MEINTJES

THOUGH meat prices were soaring, Bushveld cattle farmers were getting less than half what consumers were paying, according to agricultural economists at the University of Pretoria.

They said the rest of the proceeds goes to abattoirs, wholesalers, retailers, transportation and on other marketing costs.

These were their findings from research among beef farmers in the Northern Transvaal.

They said high abattoir fees and other marketing costs stripped 20% off the auction price beef producers obtained at City Deep abattoir in Johannesburg. Further mark-ups were added to the auction price by wholesalers and retailers before it reached the consumer.

Professor Jan Groenewald, head of agricultural economics at the university, told the Rand Daily Mail yesterday that excessive marketing costs were threatening the livelihood of Bushveld beef producers — in an area where there had already been an exodus of farmers from the remote border areas.

Research by Masters Degree student Mr W F Lubbe has revealed that abattoir fees rose 883 % in the 1970s, slaughtering fees by 178%, and transport costs by 350%.

Some beef farmers feel they are being made to pay for the "luxury" abattoirs built by the Government at City Deep and Cato Ridge, Durban.

Prof Groenewald criticised the Government for building the two massive abattoirs, and then trying to recover the capital costs from farmers. He said the worldwide trend was to smaller abattoirs in producer areas — thereby cutting transport and other marketing costs.

He urged the authorities not to replace the antiquated Pretoria abattoir with another outsize slaughtering complex.

"The Jacobs Committee, which reported in 1979 on the financial position of farmers, also criticised the luxury nature of the abattoirs.

"They are two of the biggest outside the United States."

In a recent paper on beef farming in the Northern Transvaal, Mr Lubbe said that in 1979 the beef farmer's share of the consumer price for meat was only 43%, taking into account that the farmer had to pay the marketing costs.

Prof Groenewald said it would be safe to presume that in 1980 farmers were still getting less than 50% of the consumer price.

The **Rand Daily Mail correspondent** in Port Elizabeth reports that the Minister of Agriculture, Mr H Schoeman, said the former low prices for red meat had driven about 2 000 stock farmers off the land.

Addressing the Eastern Cape branch of the Agricultural Writers' Association of South Africa, Mr Schoeman said South Africa's border areas had lost 850 farmers — not through terrorism, but low red meat prices.

While prices had increased 250% in the past decade, farmers' production costs had increased more than fourfold, he said.

And the country's cattle herds were dwindling — previously there had been 9 800 000 head of cattle, today there were only 8 700 000.

Defending the Meat Board of Control system, Mr Schoeman said the organisation at abattoirs which prevented bottlenecks and subsequent loss of stock underlined the need for the board.

Gigantic cartel controls SA meat

3 (meat
from
21.9.80

Consumer Mail

By VITA PALESTRANT AND PAT SIDLEY

A CONSUMER MAIL investigation has shown that the South African meat industry — worth R2 000-million and the largest in the country after gold — is controlled by a vast "monopoly" whose tentacles spread from ranching to supermarkets.

The investigation showed that:

'Big three' buy half the meat sold on Rand

Staff Reporter

THE "big three" in the meat industry — Vleissentraal, Imperial Cold Storage, and Kanhym — buy 49% of the meat auctioned on Witwatersrand markets, according to a spokesman for the Meat Board.

Smaller butchers buying independently at the auctions accounted for 36% of the sales, proving that "independents" were able to bypass wholesalers, the spokesman claimed.

Other sources in the industry have said independent butchers have neither the time nor the resources to do their own buying.

The spokesman said the balance of the meat at the auctions was bought for the mines.

A total of 265 wholesalers and 5 948 retailers throughout South Africa were registered with the Meat Board. Retailers could "cut out the middleman" by buying direct from the abattoirs, he said.

Mr Eddie Bielovich, chairman of the Master Butchers' Association, said consumers in South Africa had been "spoilt" and would have to adjust to eating the more economical cuts. At present many consumers still ate expensive hindquarter cuts, leaving the cheaper forequarter cuts to the lower income group.

"We must bear in mind that the ox is not made out of rump steak," he said.

Mr Bielovich said butchers were battling to adjust to a drop in sales because of the meat-price increases — between 30% and 40% in two months.

- Three large organisations, whose interests are intertwined, control 75% of the industry;
- Their interests begin on the farms, and their network and influence spreads to the centre of the meat industry — the Meat Board;
- They own feedlots, agents, abattoirs, wholesalers, supermarket meat counters, meat processing factories, hide and skin tanneries, and even have the greatest takings of offal;
- Their financial muscle and influence leaves little room for the diminishing independents who try to enter the industry.

The Housewives League — the organisation behind the recent meat boycott — said the probe left no doubt that there was urgent need for an investigation of the industry.

The League's president, Mrs Joy Hurwitz, said: "It is important that the man in the street understands the meat industry. We have been investigating it for seven years to find out what is going on."

The League's vice-president, Mrs Yvonne Forshaw, said: "We are surprised that the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, has been reluctant to investigate the industry, when earlier this year he acted with alacrity against Nepco, the egg cartel.

"Similarly, protests from grocery manufacturers were enough for the Government to institute an inquiry by the Competition Board into the monopolistic buying power of giant supermarkets.

"Why is the Minister so reluctant to institute an investigation into the meat industry."

She said the meat marketing scheme had defeated its orignal purpose: getting meat from producer to consumer at reasonable prices in the most efficient way.

Meat needed to be within the grasp of all South Africans — not only the financially privileged, said Mrs Forshaw.

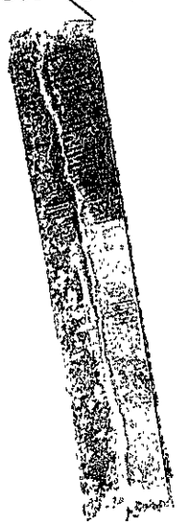
The "Mail" probe showed that the major agencies, who would be expected to act in the sole interest of the farmer, often belonged to the same organisation as the wholesalers. She asked in whose interests they were really acting.

Her other questions were:

- Why was there such a discrepancy between prices in the controlled areas — and in the decontrolled areas, where middlemen operated less?
- Was it in the interest of the farmer to have a marketing system whereby he had to compete in the market with the wholesalers to whom he was selling, and who were also supplying the market with cattle?
- Could the farmer always be sure of an allocation of permits when the wholesalers were represented on the Meat Board through producer interests?
- Could the farmer be sure of a fair price at the auctions in the controlled areas, when wholesalers could pay high prices for their own cattle?

Mr Schoeman was not available for comment.

● See Page 7



Too many bodies controlling meat industry, says top agricultural academic

A case of too many cooks

Sun Trib 28/9/80
3 Meat.

By DARYL BALFOUR

A top agricultural academic has slammed the Meat Board for being too involved in opposing functions in the meat industry and has backed calls for a full-scale investigation.

Professor Jan Groenewald, head of the Department of Agricultural Economics at the University of Pretoria and an acknowledged expert in his field, said one of the major problems faced by the ailing meat industry was the fact that the Government-appointed Meat Board was trying to fulfil too many roles.

"On the one hand it is a control board and has to control the sale of meat in the country and on the other it is trying to be a marketing organisation.

"The two just don't go hand-in-hand. If they're into marketing they should be going for maximum sales.

"And if they're supposed to be a control body, which they are, there are totally different interests to look to," Prof Groenewald said.

The professor said he also believed there was no need for the meat industry to be in the hands of different bodies such as the Meat Board, the Abattoir Corporation and the Abattoir Commission.

"From my experience it appears that there is a lack of feedback between the Abattoir Corporation and the Meat Board. How else can you have the situation where the Meat Board says the abattoirs are slaughtering at full capacity and the Abattoir Corporation says they are not," he said.

Prof Groenewald also criticised the fact that major abattoirs have been built in areas such as Johannesburg and Cato Ridge rather than in the production areas.

It would be far better for the Abattoir Corporation to have spent R80-million building 40 small abattoirs in the production areas instead of two big ones, he maintains.

Studies have indicated that it would be far more efficient if animals were slaughtered in the country and carcasses railed or trucked to the cities rather than go to the expense of taking live animals from the farms to the city abattoirs.

Prof Groenewald said there was also a danger of monopolistic conditions developing within the wholesale sector of the meat trade and said the present system of meat marketing was not in the best interests of the industry.

He said he found it strange that while there had been so much criticism of the meat industry from various quarters, the Minister of Agriculture, Hendrik Schoeman, still said he did not know what to investigate.

Prof Groenewald said several aspects in the industry were worth investigating.

● "The allegations of favouritism in the industry — is there anything in these allegations? They seem to be quite widespread. That is one aspect that could be probed.

● "Another aspect is he degree of monopolisation in the wholesale trade. It's all fair and well to say that anybody can go to the abattoir and buy there but how does the small man get his meat away afterwards? There are so many other little controls that seem to favour the big boys," he said.

● "Then there is the fact that certain firms and groups act as agents for the producer and at the same time they're buyers on the market. An investigation could determine what the effect of this is. This is definitely one area that should be investigated."

● Prof Groenewald said an inquiry should investigate exactly what happened from the time of the auctions until the housewife buys the meat.

"How much of that price goes in transport, how much to the wholesaler, how much to the retailer, how much to producers and other costs?

"I don't think anybody knows exactly where the money goes and if any sector of the trade is making an unfair profit or not.

"There is certainly not enough public knowledge of this part of the trade and a properly constituted investigation could only serve to improve the situation for all concerned," the professor said.

● He said the fact that some people were acting as producers' agents and buyers on the auctions was one particular aspect that had to be thoroughly investigated.

"As far as I know that practice is illegal in the United States — why is it allowed here?"

Meanwhile the spiralling meat prices have led to a massive outcry and calls for an investigation into the meat industry have come from:

- The Housewives' League
- The Witwatersrand Master Butchers' Association
- Eugene Roelofse, Ombudsman of the South African Council of Churches
- Alan Gardiner, regional manager of Pick 'n Pay, Natal
- The Transvaal Hotel Association
- Mike Illion, director of a chain of steakhouses in Johannesburg.
- Rupert Lorimer, PFP spokesman on consumer affairs
- Vause Raw, leader of the NRP
- A number of beef breeders and farmers
- Retail butchers
- The Durban and District Indian Master Butchers' Association
- The SA National Consumers' Union

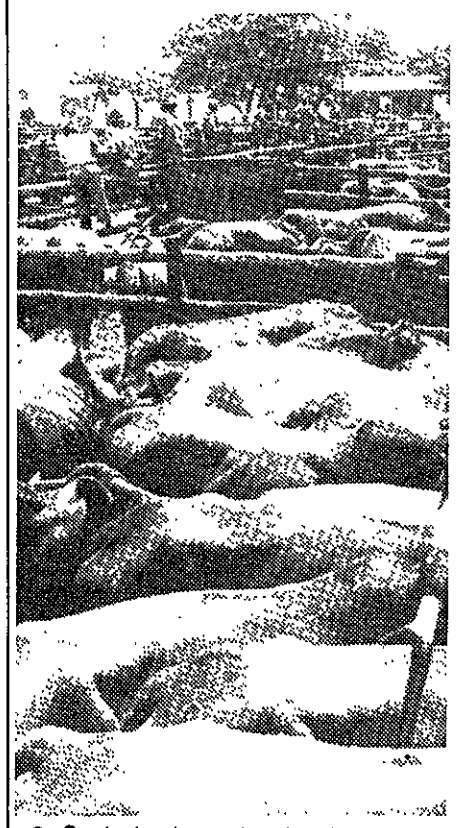


Prof Jan Groenewald . . . danger of monopolistic conditions eveloping

3 Meat

EXPRESSCOPE INVESTIGATES THE MYSTERIOUS AND

How the great is ripping into



● Cattle jostle each other in pens at a stock auction

MEAT dealers could be coining five times the profits on meat sales that are being claimed by some spokesmen within the industry, an Expresscope investigation has revealed.

The inner workings of the meat industry are clouded by a mass of confusing and contradictory claims and counter-claims — and to untangle these is just about impossible for an outsider.

However, Expresscope calculations, based on on-the-spot surveys and on figures supplied from various sources, have thrown up some remarkable conclusions and findings:

● Industry spokesmen said the profit of wholesalers on beef averages out at 2c a kilogram and profit by butchers at 7c a kilogram — a total of 9c. But calculations by Expresscope indicate a figure more than five times as high.

● This discrepancy suggests the consumer pays an average of 40c extra per kilogram of beef — from the best cuts to the worst — than he would if the profits claimed by the spokesmen applied.

● Beef can be bought for 33% less than in Johannesburg just an hour's drive from the city.

● One of the butchers selling at this low price told Expresscope his supplies came from the same wholesaler used by city butchers who charge 50% more.

The Expresscope calculations on profit margins have to be qualified with the statement that accurate information, acceptable to all parties within the meat industry, is virtually unobtainable.

Housewives' League president Joy Hurwitz told Expresscope the league had been investigating the situation for several years.

Expresscope made its calculations on figures obtained from sources within the meat industry and from information released by the Meat Science Section of the Animal and Dairy Research Institute in Irene.

Mr Fred Lategan, of Karoo Meat Exchange, a subsidiary of one of the largest meat companies in the country, supplied Expresscope with a breakdown of the various cuts of meat in an average carcase of beef. He also gave a breakdown of the costs and profits of wholesalers and butchers.

Mr Lategan's figures start with the roughly R2 a kilogram that super beef fetched at the abattoir last week. To this figure must be added the wholesalers' mark-up, which Mr Lategan averaged out in this way per kilogram:

Wages and salaries	5c
Rent	2c
Transport	2c
Depreciation and maintenance	4c
Financing	1c
Total wholesale costs	13c
Profit before tax	2c
Total wholesale mark-up	15c

This gives the wholesale butcher a profit of about 1% and increased the price per kilogram to R2,15.

After that comes the retail butcher's mark-up:

Salaries and wages	17c
Rent	15c
Packaging	11c
Depreciation and maintenance	5c
Total retail costs	48c
Profit before tax	7c
Total retail mark-up	55c

This gives the retail butcher a profit of 2,5% and would have increased the average price per kilogram of beef last week to R2,70. It also means that, when processed and sold in its various bits-and pieces, the average carcase would finally cost consumers a little less than R520.

As a check on these figures, Expresscope obtained an average price for the different cuts of super beef by phoning various Johannesburg butchers.

It then used the breakdown of a carcase, as supplied by Mr Lategan, to work out the actual total price consumers would pay for it in Johannesburg.

Result: a total of R575, considerably above the amount projected from Mr Lategan's initial figures.

Although the problems involved in averaging out the complex figures could account for a part of this variation, the inflated amount strongly suggests that the profit mark-ups by wholesalers and retailers are higher than claimed.

A further discrepancy emerged when Expresscope took the process one step further and compared the breakdown of a carcase as supplied by Mr Lategan with figures given by the Animal and Dairy Science Research Institute.

Its breakdown differed considerably from Mr Lategan's by listing a much higher proportion of top cuts — like fillet or rump — from a carcase and less poor quality cuts like shin or neck.

When Expresscope priced this carcase it came up with a total of R609 — at least R80 more than it should have been on Mr Lategan's original figures.

This represents nearly 50c a kilogram and would constitute about five times the profits for wholesalers and retail butchers calculated by Mr Lategan.

It also indicates that far from farmers receiving about 75% of the consumer price of beef as claimed within the meat trade, they are getting less than 66%.

Mrs Hurwitz, whose organisation has been calling for an inquiry into the meat industry, said the league did not begrudge farmers their profits.

"We are concerned about the widening gap between the price the farmer gets and the price the consumer pays. We want an inquiry so that everyone can see what is going on in the middle area between the farmer and the consumer.

"The league has told the Minister and Meat Board officials we want to see the abattoir auction price stamped on carcasses so everyone can see how meat prices are set. They

Permit plays role in R22-m deal

A MEAT BOARD permit to slaughter 344 cattle a day in an area controlled by the board is a principal asset at the heart of a R22-million takeover deal between two meat trade giants.

The deal — now subject to shareholders' approval — would give General Mining Union Corporation's Kanhym Investments a 51% controlling interest in the Karoo Meat Exchange.

Kanhym, despite its large meat trade interests, has been unable to acquire permits to bring cattle to the Meat Board.

Yet, in a policy statement rebutting widespread criticism, the Meat Board's Dr Jan Lombard said this week:

"Permits are not used to keep the market short but to divide the restricted entry (to the controlled areas of Pretoria/Witwatersrand, Kimberley, Bloemfontein and Cape Town) in a just manner among as many producers as possible."

A spokesman for the stockbrokers sponsoring the proposed takeover confirmed that the permit was central to the deal.

In a circular to shareholders giving details of the deal, the board of the Karoo Meat Exchange stated that among the conditions was:

"That the abattoir quota held by Karoo, in terms of which it is entitled to bring 344 head of cattle into the controlled area, is transferred to the abattoir of Balfour Meat Corporation (a Kanhym subsidiary involved in the cross-dealing)."

The circular said the transfer had already been effected.

MIGHTY DOMAIN OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN BEEF BARONS

meat killing your pocket

told us this would not be possible because of the expense and inconvenience."

Mrs Hurwitz said the league was concerned about the "vertical integration" of the meat industry — where a single corporation controls cattle farms, cattle-feed companies and wholesale and retail butcheries — because it threatened independent businessmen and reduced competition.

Mrs Yvonne Forshaw, a vice-president of the Housewives' League, said the meat industry was in the hands of big businessmen who were not satisfied with a fair profit. "They are manipulating prices so they can grab as much as they can," she said.

A spokesman for the Meat Board said the rocketing meat price had been caused by the rising consumer demand and the reduction of beef production.

"White demand has increased by 23% following salary increases and the April tax concessions and Black demand has shot up even more," he said.

Beef production had fallen because prices farmers received until recently were too low to give them an acceptable profit. The spokesman said there would be a 13% fall in beef production this year.

Although production had already dropped, there had been no shortage of beef early in the year because the drought had forced many farmers to slaughter their stock, while poor prices had forced other farmers to reduce their herds.



• Dr Jan Lombard
. . . 'permit system is just'

The good supply of meat had kept prices fairly constant in spite of the production drop and the rise in consumer demand. Now the full effect of the drop in production was being felt.

He denied exorbitant profits were made by middlemen. "The prices at the country's meat markets are there for everyone to see and the commission of inquiry into the meat marketing system found nothing unsatisfactory," he said.

He also denied big companies were manipulating the market: "It is impossible. I do not deny that larger companies are swallowing up smaller companies, but this happens in any industry in a capitalist economy. Consumer organisations confuse bargaining power with market manipulation."

The spokesman said the effect of price freezes was the creation of a critical scarcity that sent prices sky-high.

And he warned that unless farmers received prices which gave them reasonable profits, many would quit and meat prices would rise even higher.

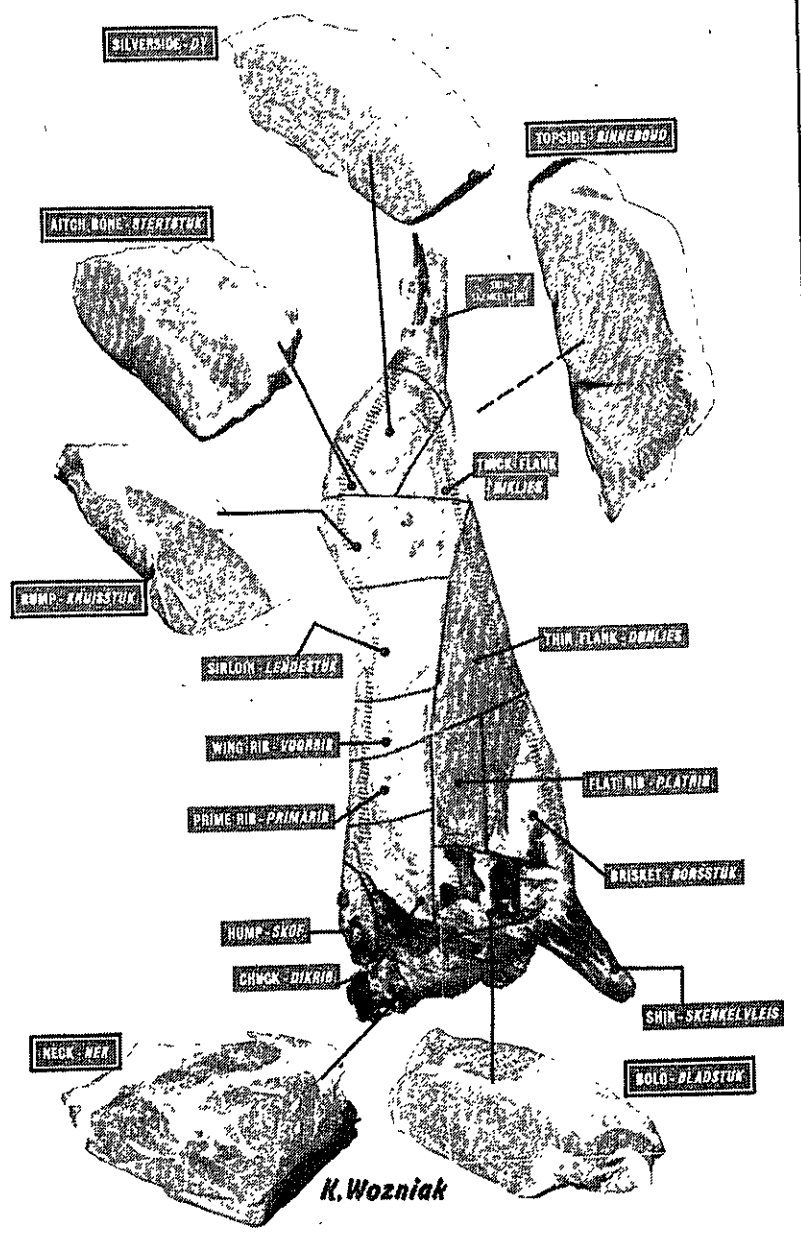
"In spite of annual production cost increases of 16% per annum from 1974 to 1979, the producer still received an average price which was below his production costs. When the producer's price rose from R1,48 in February to R1,66 last month, farmers received a price which for the first time in years was higher than their production costs."

A spokesman for a meat company did not think the big companies' profits were excessive, because costs were very high.

The chairman of the Witwatersrand Retail Master Butchers' Association, Mr Eddie Bielowich, did not believe the wholesaler was making a "killing".

"Most wholesalers get a mark-up of between 4% and 8%. Nobody can push up his price just as he likes because the meat market is very competitive."

Mr Bielowich estimated the farmer now received 75c out of every 100c paid by the consumer for beef. "The narrow gap between what the producer gets and what the consumer pays shows the meat marketing system is efficient in South Africa," he said.



• Beef cuts — check the price and the cut against the list at the bottom of this page and see how much you could save by going to the country.

Cut along to Brits and slice 30% from your meat bill

A HOUSEWIFE prepared to drive 80km from Johannesburg can slice a third, or even more, from the price of beef in Johannesburg and Pretoria. She could save up to R100 on filling a freezer with meat.

A Sunday Express survey shows that at Brits, just beyond Hartebeespoort dam, prices are much lower than in Johannesburg or Pretoria. This table shows the differences for super beef.

	Checkers (Brits)	Pretoria butcher	Joburg butcher
Choice cuts			
Fillet	4,43	7,12	6,80
Rump	3,65	6,46	5,80
Silverside	3,08	5,52	4,50
Topside	3,18	5,52	4,50
Thick flank		5,64	4,40
Wing rib		3,26	3,50
Good cuts			
Chuck	2,18	2,90	3,00
Prime rib	2,50		3,50
Bolo		5,64	4,10
Mince	2,53	2,80	3,50
Boerewors	2,30	3,00	3,00
Medium cuts			
Flat ribs	2,18	2,84	3,00
Shin	2,10	2,58	2,40
Brisket	2,28	2,84	2,80
Kidneys	3,00	1,90	3,00
Bones		0,50	0,40

A spokesman for Checkers in Brits said small butchers in the area did not sell graded meat, forcing Checkers to slash prices on their graded meat.

"In spite of the stiff competition, the prices we charge at the Brits branch give us a good profit.

"People from Johannesburg and Pretoria have come here to buy meat. I know of Pretoria butchers who buy from the same wholesalers as us but charge much higher prices."

Housewives up in arms over meat exports

STAR 29/9/80 3 Meat

By Charlene Beltramo,

Fair Deal Reporter

Despite Meat Board claims that they lost R6,5-million on red-meat exports last year, Customs and Excise figures show that R98,4-million worth of red meat was exported last year.

In the first four months of this year red meat worth R25 287 981 was exported.

These figures are for cattle, sheep, goats, offal and pork. They do not include the R17,5-million worth of poultry exports last year.

Mrs Joy Hurwitz, national president of the Housewives League, reacted angrily to the figures Fair Deal obtained.

"I don't want to ever hear of shortages when we are paying such high prices here and meat is being exported. The Meat Board said producers were subsidising their export losses — I would like to know how much meat we're exporting now.

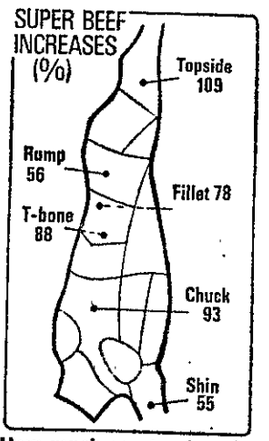
"Consumers will be upset to hear of meat exports when we are paying such high prices. That is why we want consumers to boycott meat to force an investigation — this is one of the aspects that would need looking into."

Mrs Hurwitz slammed people "who cause panic buying by saying meat will reach R10 a kg — especially when taken in relation to these export figures."

A Meat Board spokesman said exports normally were 26 percent of imports, but last year there was a 27 percent meat surplus and in the first six months of the year five percent more beef was slaughtered than normal.

He said that over a span of 10 years it could be seen that SA was a net importer of meat. Exports went to Portuguese and Greek countries and several African countries, he said.

He said the Board could not sell frozen meat — usually destined for export to consumers — "as they will not buy it."



How much meat prices for certain cuts have risen in a year, according to Fair Deal surveys.

However, a recent Fair Deal survey of more than 300 consumers showed that 69 percent were prepared to buy frozen meat.

Since then many supermarkets have introduced pre-packs of frozen meat — which are apparently selling well.

Import figures for last year and so far this year are far lower than export figures.

During 1979 beef exports had an FOB value of R94 769 736 but the FOB value of imports amounted to only R131 295.

Exports last year of sheep and goats had an FOB value of R484 673, while imports amounted to a paltry R556.

Pork — which has risen far more in price than any other red meat and which has apparently been in short supply for some years — had an FOB import value of R75 399, while export figures amounted to well over R3-million more.

Imports from January to April of beef amounted to an FOB value of R225 419 while exports topped a staggering R23,5-million.

'Illegal' meat sold on Witwatersrand

By Charlene Beltramo, Fair Deal Reporter

Witwatersrand butchers have started buying meat illegally in uncontrolled areas and bringing it back to the cities for resale at cheaper prices here.

Butchers are deliberately flaunting meat regulations which prohibit the movement of meat from an uncontrolled area to one of the nine controlled marketing areas.

One butcher who said he sent his truck to buy 40 tons of meat in an uncontrolled area today, said meat was so cheap in uncontrolled areas, he would now be able to sell scotch fillet and rump at R3,20/kg instead of R6,20/kg.

Butchers have said they will do this as long as possible — "or until the Meat Board withdraws the floor price and in particular, the support price."

Butchers have on at least two occasions, through their representative bodies — the Master Butchers' Association and the Federation of Meat Traders — called for the support price to be abolished.

They claim it is inflationary. The support price was introduced despite a National Marketing Council recommendation that it be scrapped.

Butchers also claimed that the big three companies who control 75 percent of all retail butcheries, and not four percent as claimed by the Meat Board — were manipulating the current price situation to suit themselves.

A Fair Deal check seemed to bear this out. Butcheries owned by Kanhym, Vleissentraal and Imperial Cold Storage were selling hindquarters for R1,89 a kilogram. This is about 20c cheaper than the price butchers pay from wholesalers.

P.T.O.

Meat prices 'open to manipulation'

3 (mail) 29/9/80 RDM

By VITA PALESTRANT and ROB MEINTJES

THE South African meat industry — which is controlled by three giant organisations — could be open to price manipulation, an agricultural expert said yesterday.

Professor Jan Groenewald, head of the Department of Agricultural Economics at the University of Pretoria, warned against the dangers of monopolistic conditions in the industry, and criticised the Meat Board.

He said the practice in South Africa where members of a single organisation were producers, agents, and buyers on auctions, would be regarded as illegal in countries such as the United States.

"The situation in South Africa could lead to manipulation of the market — with buyers striving for high prices," he said.

Prof Groenewald's comments come after a Consumer Mail investigation into the R2 000-million meat industry.

The investigation showed that three major organisations, Vleissentraal (a giant co-operative with vast commercial interests), Kanhym (controlled by General Mining), and Imperial Cold Storage, dominate an estimated 75 % of the meat industry.

Their interests range from ranching and feedlots to tanneries, canneries and retail outlets.

Prof Groenewald said this eliminated normal market mechanisms, because the buyers and sellers at auctions belonged to the same company. It created the possibility of the buyer paying artificially higher prices, which would then be passed on to the consumer.

He singled out one corporation which had been able to guarantee that meat sold in its retail outlets came from its own feedlots — which demonstrated the corporation's ability to guide its own cattle through abattoirs to its own butchers.

In the past year, meat prices have risen by about 40 % — resulting in a consumer boycott, and more allegations that the market is being manipulated to push up prices.

Prof Groenewald also criticised the Meat Board for trying to fill the conflicting roles of marketing meat and controlling the industry.

"On the one hand, it has to control the sale of meat. On the other, it is trying to market meat — and should be going for maximum sales. These are conflicting interests."

He also said that there was a need for better co-operation between the Meat Board and the Abattoir Corporation.

"It would have been better to have had many smaller abattoirs nearer the production areas, than a few costly ones such as City Deep in Johannesburg," he said.

"The world trend is to transport carcases — or even better, meat cuts in the form of boxbeef — rather than transport live animals."

Prof Groenewald is not the only authority to criticise the meat industry.

A 1978 National Marketing Council report warned against the dangers of the spread by the Big Three into most sectors of the industry as "a potential danger for the future".

It also critised the Meat Board, and made specific recommendations — but nothing has come of them.

Meanwhile, the Housewives League has said it is surprised at the reluctance of the Minister of Agriculture, Mr H Schoeman, to investigate the industry — when, earlier this year, he threatened to act against Nepco, the huge egg cartel. It was disbanded shortly afterwards.

Yesterday Mr Eugene Roelofse, the consumer ombudsman for the South African Council of Churches, was also surprised that no investigation had been ordered.

"Despite the avalanche of protest from consumers, butchers and the Press, nothing has been done. The stage has been reached to have an inquiry into why there hasn't been an inquiry. Who is putting on the brakes? The public has a right to know."

Mr Schoeman was not available for comment.

Butchers favour meat price inquiry

29/9/80 ARGUS meat

Consumer Reporter

CAPE TOWN butchers are in favour of an inquiry into the meat industry, as they believe it will belie the accusation that retailers are making a fortune out of the price rises.

Cape Town delegates will put forward a resolution at the annual conference of the South African Federation of Meat Retailers in East London next month, that butchers should assist investigations carried out by any reputable organisation 'into marginal profits made by the trade.'

There are signs, meanwhile, that panic buying for fear of even higher prices may be subsiding.

NOT BUSIEST

A spokesman for Blue Riband, the butchery department of Pick 'n Pay, told The Argus that the weekend — the last this month — was not 'the busiest month-end we have known.'

'We were quite busy,' he said, but there was such a rush to stock freezers with meat earlier in the month that we must expect things to quieten down a bit now.'

He thought, however, that the drop in demand was not yet enough to affect prices at Cape Town abattoir auctions.

'There are no carcasses left over at auctions for the Meat Control Board to buy in,' he said.

He pointed out that wholesalers were buying 'quite a lot of meat' in Cape Town to send to Johannesburg, where it was in short supply.

CHILLED BEEF

But Cape Town received chilled super beef from another area last week, to prevent a shortage because cattle coming from South West Africa for slaughter at Maitland abattoir were of lower grades.

The Meat Control Board did not disclose where supplies were coming from, but some butchers suspected, from the way it was trimmed, that it came from Port Elizabeth.

League, union want meat probe

STAR 30/9/80 3 Meat

Mrs Joy Hurwitz and Mrs Y Forshaw, president and vice-president respectively of the Housewives' League, will meet the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Schoeman, in Pretoria tomorrow.

They are to discuss an inquiry into the meat industry, the support price, the consumer meat price crisis and the desperate position of the independent butcher.

Joining the chorus for an inquiry is Mrs Betty Hirzel, president of the National Consumers' Union, who said in Pretoria that there was so much conflicting information about meat prices, trade margins and profit levels, that the only way to clear the air was to set up an independent investigation.

Mr Jan van der Walt, meat industry officer for the Agricultural Union, said in Pretoria there was a trend towards vertical integration in the meat trade, combining cattle production, marketing, slaughtering, processing and retailing.

In itself, Mr van der Walt said, this was no cause for alarm. Free enterprise led to this trend and as long as monopolistic positions were not abused, the SAAU could see no wrong in it.

Mercury Correspondent
Johannesburg (3) Meat
NM 30/9/80

A VAST organisation of many interlinking parts controls South Africa's meat industry.

Shocked consumers, whose minds boggle at high beef prices, will be surprised to know that three organisations control most of it. Between them they are said to control 75 percent of the R2 000-million a year meat industry, and their powerful influence spreads through the industry from the farm to the diningroom table.

The meat industry is the second largest industry in the country next to gold.

According to a recent university study, these benefactors automatically get half of what you pay - and the more you pay the more they make.

Every inch of the way, the middle men benefit and their power reaches into the inner circles of politics and big business.

The Big Three

The Big Three are Vleissentraal, a giant co-operative with lucrative commercial and manufacturing interests, Kanhym - whose controlling company is General Mining - and Imperial Cold Storage (ICS).

For decades arguments about shortages have been used to justify meat price increases with warnings that unless the consumer pays farmers' a 'realistic' price farmers will abandon their farms.

During the past year the price of beef - which makes up the bulk of red meat - rose by nearly 40 percent, resulting in a consumer boycott and further allegations that the market was being manipulated to push up prices.

Annual reports of the Big Three claim they are not making super profits at the expense of the consumer or the farmer, while boasting increased profits.

Increasing profits

'The meat merchant does not walk away with super profits at the expense of the consumer or the producer', says Karoo's annual report for 1979.

During the slump, when beef prices were low and farmers were forced off their land, Karoo made increasing profits: in 1977 they made R1 400 000, in 1978 R1 700 000 and last year R2 500 000. ICS made R9-881 000 in 1978 and R15 197 000 in 1980, according the profit-after-tax figures in their annual reports.

The Meat Board has in recent months hotly denied that there is any manipulation by the Big Three and produced figures to show that middle men don't get as much as 50 percent

But the people with the most representation and clout on the board are undoubtedly the Big Three.

It is also the Meat Board which sets the rules and regulations controlling the meat industry, from farmers' permits to the issuing of licences for butchers and meat factories.

This powerful trio own, or partly own, most of the feedlots, livestock agents, auctioneers, a few abattoirs, wholesalers, meat-processing plants and canneries, hide and skin distributors, tanneries, retail and supermarket butcheries

They are also interlinked with shared business interests.

Shared abattoirs

These interlinking elements operate in shared abattoirs, meat processing factories and canneries and hide and skin plants.

For example, the massive Bull Brand company, with an abattoir in Krugersorp and one of the largest meat canneries, is jointly owned by Vleissentraal and ICS.

Together they also control the Baynesfield abattoir.

Even independent agents like livestock agents W L Ochse are connected to ICS in hide and skin operations.

Similarly livestock agents, Klopper and Gluckman, are connected with Vleissentraal in South West Africa.

ICS, Kanhym and its recent acquisition, Karoo, are public companies forced to disclose their interests - unlike Vleissentraal which as a co-operative is not compelled to do so, and will not.

This week Vleissentraal, which represents about a third of the entire industry, refused to release its annual report 'because of the present climate'.

Our correspondent was told that only the general manager of Vleissentraal could talk to the Press and he was unavailable.

Calls for an investigation into the monopolistic conditions of the meat industry have regularly been countered by the claim that the three organisations compete fiercely with each other.

But their shared business ventures make a mockery of this.

crease of cattle being slaughtered from feedlots.

'It has a two-fold effect of pushing consumer prices up because of the higher costs involved and squeezing the farmer, who is unable to get permits for the more profitable controlled areas, out of the market,' says Mrs Yvonne Forshaw, vice-president of the league.

The auctions

At every stage, farmers are in the hands of the Big Three - because every time they enter the cattle auctions the self-same agents derive 6,5 percent commission.

And every time they enter an abattoir they pay agents about 5 percent of their sales.

Each of the Big Three has its own private abattoir. For example: the abattoir at Balfour is owned by Kanhym. And in Krugersorp, ICS and Vleissentraal own the Bull Brand abattoir.

Permits control the flow of the major portion of beef marketed in the nine controlled areas.

According to the league, meat prices in the controlled areas are double that in the decontrolled areas.

Topside in a decontrolled area last week cost R2,28 a kg while at Pick 'n Pay, Johannesburg, it cost R4,48 a kg.

'There is less middleman activity in the rural areas, which keeps prices down. These discrepancies alone highlight the need for an inquiry,' says Mrs Forshaw.

Of the 12 major agents at the City Deep abattoir, half belong to Vleissentraal, two to ICS and one to Kanhym. Of the three independent agents, two are involved in joint ventures with the Big Three.

The activities of the Big Three at wholesale level leave scant room for those with less financial muscle.

Floor and support prices

At the 'public' auction the free movement of prices is hindered by two devices set by the Meat Board: the floor price and the support price, both serving to maintain current high prices.

The Meat Board sets the floor price which is a minimum price paid to the farmer and the starting point for retail prices. Anything not sold at this minimum price is bought by the Meat Board.

Actual auction prices, however, are also controlled by a device called the support system which was introduced at City Deep in March this year and in the other controlled areas in September when prices started to rocket.

The support price serves to prevent prices dropping more than 6 percent a week.

The higher these wholesalers bid 'against' one another the more there is for their coffers.

For instance, the two ICS wholesalers will bid against each other, with the resulting high price at which both bought going eventually to the one company.

Although the auction is supposed to be open to the public, stringent hygiene requirements put the meat out of reach of the adventurous housewife, who would also be mystified by the coded sales catalogue. Add to that the fact that single carcasses are seldom sold at auctions.

And consumers in controlled areas who think they can nip across into the decontrolled areas for cheaper meat are going to be equally frustrated.

In order to transport more than 21kg they need a permit from the Meat Board

With a R35 000 refrigerated truck, and financial guarantees, if not cash, the small butcher may just make it

The majority of butchers are therefore forced to buy from the wholesaling operations of the Big Three.

The farmer who will gain approximately R37 for his animal's offal and hides and skins will find these gains wanting as his costs for transport, agents and slaughtering fees will have amounted to about R40.

The mark-ups

The wholesaler mark-up to the butcher is said to be 7 percent but it is alleged to be as high as 15 percent. By the time it reaches the consumer it is been marked up by between 17 percent and 30 percent - a total of not less than 24 percent.

Supermarkets, champions of the consumers, who never fail to criticise price hikes, are also caught up in the tentacles.

Kanhym and ICS control meat counters in most supermarket chains. They pay rent to the store which is linked to their turnover - said to be around 7 percent. The higher the turnover, the bigger the cut to the supermarket.

Pick 'n Pay, however, owns half a wholesale butchery, Blue Ribbon, together with ICS.

But the difficulty of supermarkets to get butchers' licences - issued by the Meat Board - has contributed to their dealings with the Big Three.

The wholesalers' tentacles also spread to meat manufacturers - the bulk of whom are tied up with the big three - like Renown, Enterprise, Eskort, Bull Brand, Supremacy and Franke.

They will all get a proportionate share of the offal sales. Hides and skins are also channeled to the wholesale agents through whom the stock is sent to the abattoirs. These products were said to be worth R93-million last year.

Interestingly, Mr Fanie van Rensburg, chairman of the Hide and Skin Curers' Federation, is also general manager of Vleissentraal and vice-chairman of the Meat Board. And the chairman of the Meat Board is Mr Flip du Toit - a board member of Vleissentraal.

'Dark dealings'

Calls for an investigation, by consumers and farmers alike, into the meat industry has met with threats from the Meat Board.

Dr Jan Lombard, general manager of the board, who has repeatedly denied there are any 'dark dealings' in the industry, has also threatened to take legal action against those whose allegations are not proved.

Although the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, at first agreed to an investigation late last year, he later retracted that offer.

In an interview at the time, he stated there was enough competition in the industry - although he agreed that the Big Three controlled 75 percent of it and admitted that the majority of members on the Meat Board were from Vleissentraal.

'I am a member of Vleissentraal and I wouldn't market my cattle through anyone else', he said.

Offal and hides

Through their powerful wholesalers they buy up the major portion of offal and hides on the abattoir which are dispatched to institutions like the mines at discounted prices, and to their tanneries.

Although 'The Three' may jockey with each other for a larger share of the meat market, they rapidly close ranks when independent newcomers try to break into the circle.

One farmer said the Big Three's activities in breeding and farming were minimal because of the enormous costs and risks involved - 'they leave it to the suckers'.

On the farm

Their tentacles first begin on the farm where their agents or auctioneers market farmers' cattle, deriving a 6,5 percent commission on the sale.

For some it begins even earlier with Vleissentraal, whose turnover is said to be R750-million, acting as a banker charging an annual 15(percent) interest on its loans. The Co-Op wins, even at this early stage, having access to cheap Land Bank loans at exceptionally low interest rates.

It also has the advantage of tax benefits - being a co-op.

The good calves marketed are sold to feedlots owned predominantly by the Big Three to be fattened for six months into super and prime grades.

Feedlot grades

At least half the meat on the City Deep Market, one of the country's largest abattoirs, is from these feedlots - which predominantly produce these grades.

They are also the grades that fetch the highest price.

According to a Meat Board publication the number of feedlot cattle in January this year was 467 720, increasing to 811 252 in May, - an increase of 343 532.

It means it will be the feedlot owners who will benefit from the recent price spiral and not the farmers.

Last year 78 000 head of cattle went through Kanhym's feedlots, producing 90 percent super beef and 10 percent prime.

In the same year it made R3 824 000 - and 45 percent of its profits were derived through it feedlots, cattle farming and crops.

The Meat Board says 25 percent to 30 percent of cattle marketed come from feedlots.

The Housewives League is concerned about the in-

R98,4-m in red meat left SA in '79

Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — In spite of Meat Board claims that they lost R6,5-million on red meat exports last year, Customs and Excise figures show that R98,4-million worth of meat was exported last year.

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THAT IS WHY

'That is why we want consumers to boycott meat to force an investigation.

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He said that over a span of 10 years it could be seen that South Africa was a net importer of meat.

He said the board could not sell frozen meat to consumers 'as they will not buy it.'

However, a recent survey of more than 300 consumers showed that 69 percent were prepared to buy frozen meat.

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During 1979 beef exports had an f.o.r. value of R94-million and an f.o.b. value of imports amounted to only R131 000.

Exports last year of sheep and goats had an f.o.b. value of R484 673, while imports amounted to a paltry R556.

Pork — which has risen far more in price than any other red meat — had an f.o.b. import value of R75 000, while export figures amounted to well over R3-million more.

STAGGERING

Imports from January to April of beef amounted to an f.o.b. value of R225 000, while exports topped a staggering R235-million.

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Butchers said they would do this for as long as possible — or until the Meat Board withdraws the floor price, and in particular, the support price.

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1 OPEN DAY

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(ii) to promote the idea of pc Booster Project with UNISA and Catholic Bishops;

(iii) to possibly raise funds bursary project, which cannot s

1.2 Centre or National Matters

Fundraising, as a policy matter upon at a directors' meeting. arrange the open day on a 'loca from Cape Town and Durban. The too late to make alternation to which have been written to were Sullivan and EEC Codes. Invita

1.3 Publishing:

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1.4 Funds

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(ii) we become dependent on an it was suggested SACHED obtains

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We should bear in mind that beca raising it is necessary to enter into a contract with any funding agency. Raymond Tuck[illegible] lawyer.

There has been no success with attempting to raise funds [illegible] organisations, rather than companies.

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Meat prices — a slight fall

Consumer Reporter

PRICES for super beef and lamb fell slightly at Cape Town abattoir auctionsyesterday.

One of the city's few independent butchers and wholesalers, Mr W Gautschi, said he hoped a fall in demand would bring down prices as fast as was allowed by the Meat Control Board's support price system.

The auction price for super beef ranged from R2,91 to R2,94 a kg, compared with R2,37 towards the end of last week.

The price for super lamb ranged from R2,14 to R2,19 a kg, compared with R2,29 a kg in the middle of last week.

The Meat Control Board released 250 frozen carcasses, which had been brought in earlier and kept in cold storage, to add to supplies.

Mr Gautschi said it had been 'a quiet day' for buying.

'There is plenty to go round. I am sure the price will come down to reasonable levels as soon as people stop buying meat as if they are afraid it will go out of fashion.

'But of course, the Meat Board's new support price system — which stops prices from falling more than 6 percent below the previous week's average — prevents it from coming down more than a few cents a week.'

Mr Gautschi, who will be a delegate to the annual conference of the South African Federation of Meat Retailers in East London next month, said a protest would be made there about the support price system.

He said the basic reason why prices had risen steeply at the end of August and the beginning of September was increased demand because a public holiday had coincided with the end of the month.

Prices had then risen even higher because of panic buying. People had been frightened by stories that meat would go up to R10 a kg.

'We had a lot of bulk buying as a result.'

But he thought it suspicious that whenever prices came down nicely, because of ample supplies, there was suddenly a fall in the number of animals sent for slaughter, until prices rose again.

'It is difficult to pinpoint any manipulation of the market. One cannot prove anything.

'But one cannot help suspecting that there is something funny going on, and that artificial shortages are created to stop prices falling.'