

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Statement by the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. R.G. Menzies

Among the objectives of our much discussed economic policy were -

- (1) The arresting of the run-down in our overseas balances and building them up to satisfactory levels. This has been successfully achieved, the reduction in imports in recent months being notable.

- (2) The halting of the inflationary boom. Today's announcement of the Consumer Price Index figures demonstrates the success so far of our anti-inflationary measures. The figures released today for the six capitals show that in 1960 up to and including the September quarter, the rises in the Index were 0.8%, 1.8% and 1.2%, each of these being a quarterly figure. Since the announcement of the measures of last November this increase has steadily fallen until now it has turned into a reduction. The three quarterly figures of 1961 are 0.7%, 0.6% and -0.2%. This puts into graphic form the steady success of our measures in the battle against inflation. The news should be received with pleasure by all Australians who feel that the battle against inflation is a battle for the financial security of ordinary men and women.

I am informed, as a matter of interest, that in this last quarter the overall movement of the Consumer Price Index was much the same as would have been shown by the old "C" Series Index.

CANBERRA,

20th October, 1961.