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THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS WASHINGTON

April 3, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: March Wholesale Price Index

Wholesale prices in March registered their fourth straight monthly decrease with a decline of 0.6 percent (seasonally adjusted). The decline reflected another sharp drop of 2.5 percent in prices of farm products and processed foods-feeds, and a small rise of 0.2 percent in industrial prices.

In the past 4 months wholesale prices have fallen at an annual rate of 6.4 percent as compared to a rise of 20.9 percent during 1974. While farm and food prices have been declining streadily since November, the rate of increase for industrial prices has slowed considerably. For example, industrials have risen at an annual rate of 3.8 percent since November in contrast to a rise of 25.6 percent during 1974. Within the industrial category, prices of crude industrial materials have fallen over the past 4 months while the rate of increase for intermediate materials and finished goods has slowed dramatically.

Wholesale prices of consumer finished goods, which have a major but lagged impact on commodity prices in the CPJ, have declined at an annual rate of 3.2 percent in the past 4 months. The corresponding figure for consumer commodities excluding foods is a 5.0 percent rate of increase. On the other hand, prices of producer finished goods have risen at an annual rate of 10.2 percent over the same period. This is much less than the rise during 1974 but is still comparatively high.

These data were released Thursday, April 3, 1975 at 10:00 a.m.

Gary & Seevers

Gary Q. Secvers Acting Chairman



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