

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
WASHINGTON 25, D.C. 20210

In reply please
refer to No. 800

April 29, 1964

Mr. Philip Barson

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approximately \$100 to \$150 during a 16-month period for personal care goods and services, e.g., haircuts, cosmetics, etc. Transportation expenditures for families who did not own automobiles amounted to about \$200 at that time.

Mr. Philip Barson
President's Commission on the
Assassination of President Kennedy
200 Maryland Avenue, N.E.
Washington, D. C. 20002

Dear Mr. Barson:

In response to your request in our telephone conversation of April 24, I have examined data on the expenditures of young couples with annual incomes after taxes of \$2,000 to \$3,000, as reported in our Survey of Consumer Expenditures in 1960 in Dallas. This is the income class in which a person with income of \$3,600 for a 16-month period would have been classified. Although the samples for subclasses of families in this income group, i.e., young families, renting facilities, etc., are small, the average annual expenditures for 1960 were about \$700 to \$750. This would amount to about \$950 to \$1,000 for a 16-month period.

This estimate for a low-income young couple in Dallas is generally consistent with the average food expenditures reported by all families in this income class in the Southern Region in the 1960-61 survey. It is also consistent with the cost of food budgets at low- and moderate-cost levels, as estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in January 1963 for the Southern Region. The low-cost food budget for a couple, aged 20-34 years was estimated at \$12.20 per week, or \$242 for a 16-month period; an infant under 1 year would have added \$2.80 per week, or \$293 for a 16-month period. At the moderate-cost level, the weekly cost for the couple was \$16.70, or \$1,152 for a 16-month period, with an additional \$3.50 per week, or \$242 for 16 months, for an infant.

The 1960 expenditure survey in Dallas and the Bureau's standard budget studies in Houston indicate that a couple would spend

Sincerely yours,



Arnold E. Chase
Assistant Commissioner
Prices and Living Conditions