

THE WORLD'S FIRST AIRCRAFT DESIGNED FOR WATER BOMBING FOREST FIRES, the Canadair CL-215 drops six tons of water from its storage tanks. This is the first photograph of the new fire-fighting weapon actually dropping water in tests. The new amphibian is built by Canadair Limited, the Montreal-based subsidiary of General Dynamics. Several CL-215s are scheduled to be on

station next year in time for the forest fire season. In action the airplane flies to a lake near the fire, skims along the water at 70 miles per hour and scoops up its full load — six tons — in 12 seconds. Fighting a fire 100 miles from base, the CL-215 can make 75 pickups and drops in a day with only one refueling. France and the Province of Quebec have ordered 30 of the aircraft.

Food Prices Up, But . . .

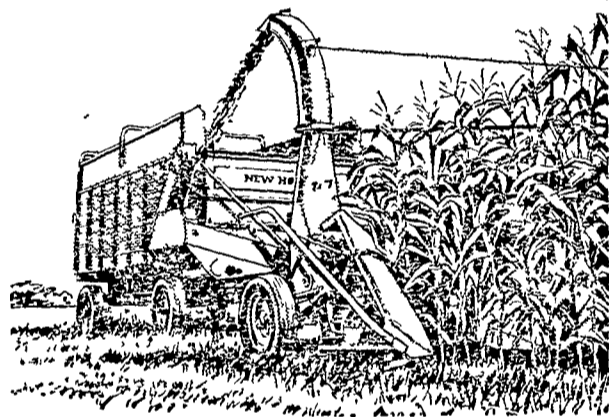
According to USDA's Farm Price Letter (August 19), U.S. food prices have averaged about 4 percent above those of a year ago through the second quarter of 1968 and are expected to average 23 percent above a year earlier throughout the rest of the year. It also estimates that food spending is expected to total a record \$101 billion — about 6 percent above the 1967 total of \$95 billion.

But food spending is still likely to account for only 17 percent of disposable income this year — compared to about 17 1/2 percent last year and 20 percent in 1963. And a rather detailed breakdown shows that only 5 percent of the total will go to U.S. farmers with marketing agencies getting 10 percent and the remaining 2 percent going for fishery products and imports.

From 1950 to 1966, U.S. food prices increased 33 percent, and food expenditures increased 102 percent. But disposable personal income also increased 148 percent during the period. As a result, food expenditures which took 22 percent of disposable income in 1950 took only 18 percent of it in 1966.



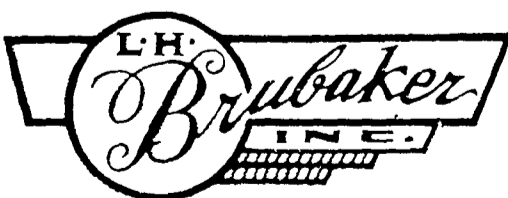
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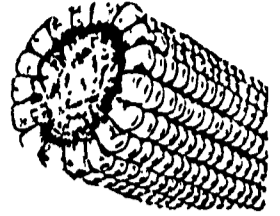


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