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CONGRESSIONAL FRONT
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UNCLE SAM — GROCERY BROKER

The enormous job of acquiring weapons, instruments, equipment and supplies for the Victory effort, must necessarily leave the Federal Government in possession of vast quantities of material and supplies of all kinds which must ultimately be disposed of as surplus property. There is, however, a large quantity of supplies and merchandise, part of the perishable variety, which must be sold from time to time to prevent deterioration or to balance supplies with needs. As a result, sales of such supplies and commodities are made constantly and as quickly as they are reported as surplus. This will be a continuous operation from now on till the war terminates, and probably for a long time thereafter.

Kind of Goods Sold: An example of the sales reported by the War Food Administration indicates that the foodstuff sold from time to time embraces about every kind of item that one would find in a grocery store, and many of a special nature which would not be found there. Since May there have been continuous
sales of peas, beans, sardines, spaghetti and milk, butter, eggs, 
dried fruits, sauerkraut, rice, fish products of all kinds, sugar, 
raisins and a host of other things. The list even includes Mexican 
garbanzos, of which more than 5 million pounds were sold at 5¢ per 
pound. Another interesting item is the sale of 11,000 pounds of horse 
meat at 9¢ per pound. One may assume that this was probably purchased 
for food for dogs in the canine corps.

Deterioration: Obviously large quantities of food which is stored 
in warehouses throughout the country is susceptible to deterioration 
and damage as a result of natural spoilage or infestation of vermin, 
including rats and mice. When rodents damaged 260,000 pounds of rice 
at New Orleans, it was offered for sale, and finally sold for 3¢ per 
pound. This is also true of eggs. 1200 cases of eggs, with 30 dozen 
to the case, were sold for tankage in September at Ft.Worth, Texas, 
on a carload basis, which made the price 5¢ per case. These are sold 
for tankage purposes. Thousands of cases of eggs have also been sold 
at prices ranging from 1 to 3¢ per dozen, depending on condition.

Such deteriorated commodities which were acquired in the first in-
stance to make certain that there would be no food shortage for men 
in the armed services must be regarded as inanimate casualties of