

Mystery—

Turkey Price Hike Rankles Whitehorse

The sign over the turkeys in a local store Saturday shouted "Compare!" Always willing to oblige, we stopped and looked. The price per pound was 10 cents more than the price per pound for turkeys advertised in this week's Fairbanks newspapers, where the Alaskans are preparing for their American Thanksgiving dinners. Elsewhere in town, turkeys were 20 cents a lb. higher than the Fairbanks price.

Having been invited to "compare," we took the trouble to pass this disconcerting bit of information along to the manager. "How come?" we asked but he had no answer. Strange that a city nearly 700 miles farther for freighting purposes should be able to sell the same brand of turkey for so much less. Particularly when that city is famous for its high cost of living, and workers there have to be paid so much more than ours for that very reason!

It wasn't just the turkey..other staple food items are less in Fairbanks stores; some sell sugar at half the price we are paying. Why?

We stored it away with other unsolved mysteries which pop up to haunt us from time to time: Why, for instance, does a leg of lamb cost 85 cents in New Zealand and \$8.00 here? We checked, and even if it were mailed across the Pacific by parcel post, it would still add only \$1.95 to the original retail price of 85 cents. That's right, 85 cents, and we don't mean per pound. Granted that's New Zealand dollars, so the Canadian equivalent is perhaps \$1.15.

Somebody is taking a great big slice out of our turkey, and we want to know who.