Hartford Area Retail Sales Ahead Of '53 Mark In 7 Classifications

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15—Sales in large retail stores in the Hartford area are ahead of 1953 marks for 10 months of this year in seven classifications of business listed by the Census Bureau, according to a report on October retail trade. In 10 classifications, sales for 10 months in the Hartford area are below the corresponding 1953 totals, and in 10 classes of business there is no change in the sales level. For the country as a whole, sales in large retail stores were one per cent less in the first 10 months of this year than the total for the corresponding period last year.

Largest gain listed in the report on the Hartford metropolitan area was 11 per cent for farm, feed and garden supply stores. This gain for 10 months of this year as compared with 10 months of 1953 was registered despite a 15 per cent drop in October sales in these stores as compared with their sales for October, 1953. Other Hartford area gains for the 10 months' period were dry goods and general merchandise stores, 5 per cent; household appliance and radio stores, 2 per cent; lumber and building materials dealers, 3 per cent; gasoline service stations 1 per cent, fuel and fuel oil dealers, 2 per cent; and drug and proprietary stores, 4 per cent. Drops in sales for this year as compared with the January-October 1953 period included: Motor vehicle dealers, 14 per cent; furniture stores, 8 per cent; women's ready to wear stores, 5 per cent; hardware stores, 5 per cent; and eating and drinking places 4 per cent.

Benton Hailed as Anti-McCarthy Pioneer

A supplemental issue of the appendix of the Congressional record, distributed Wednesday, includes an undelivered speech by Sen. Herbert H. Lehman (D-N.Y.) hailing "the pioneering role" by former Sen. William Benton (D-Conn.) in the Senate's action in censuring Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy (R-Wis.). Lehman's insert in the record was prefaced by the statement that his tribute to Benton had been intended as a speech in the Senate which he "did not find time to make." In the time immediately preceding the vote on the censure proposals the Senate was operating under unusual procedure by which a senator could get the floor for a speech only if time were yielded to him.

Lehman, in his inserted remarks, said Benton was the first member of the Senate to make a formal proposal of disciplinary action against McCarthy, and that Benton's resolution against McCarthy was "the first step on the long road" to censure. Lehman said he knew Benton had taken his action against McCarthy in 1951 without consideration of his own political interest, and full knowledge that it would make him the target for personal abuse and attack.

"Sen. Benton is personally convinced that his defeat in the election of 1952 was not attributable to the McCarthy controversy and the statistics seem to bear this out," Lehman said. "But I know him well enough to say that, out of his high sense of duty, I am sure he would have gone forward with his resolution even though he believed it meant the end of his political life."

Industry Advisors Reappointed

Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay Wednesday announced appointment of the members of the Gas Industry Advisory Council for 1955. Among the members of the 1954 council reappointed were Norman B. Berlofle, president Hartford Gas Co., Hartford; and George S. Havley, chairman of the board, Bridgeport Gas Light Co., Bridgeport.