



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
INFORMATION SERVICE

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release JUNE 11, 1958

PRICES ADVANCE AT GOVERNMENT FUR-SEAL AUCTION

An average advance of 8.9 percent in prices paid at the semiannual auction of government-owned fur-seal skins marked the spring sale held in St. Louis on June 7, Assistant Secretary of the Interior Ross Leffler announced today.

A total of 25,386 skins, products of the sealing industry administered by the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Commercial Fisheries on the Pribilof Islands of Alaska, brought \$1,809,272. This compares with 28,782 skins sold for \$1,983,208 at the October 1957 sale. The average for all skins sold for the account of the United States Government at the June 7 sale was \$71.27; the average at the October 1957 auction was \$68.90.

The Alaska skins included 7,568 black, 14,221 dyed "Mataras" (brown), and 597 of the newest shade called "Kitovi". The black skins sold at an average of \$81.04; Mataras at \$67.84; and Kitovis at \$64.26.

In addition to the United States skins, 11,324 South Africa fur-seal skins were sold for private shippers and the account of the Government of South Africa at an average of \$26.60, an advance of 3.4 percent; 500 Uruguay fur-seal skins were sold for the Government of Uruguay at an average of \$26.36.

The auction held at the show rooms of the Fouke Fur Company in St. Louis, Mo., normally set for April, was delayed because of a strike at the Fouke plant.

x x x