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# Strange Things Happening to Money

**M**OST people are too busy trying to get together enough dollars to pay their taxes and bills to pay much attention to strange things that are happening to money.

The Carter administration has endorsed eliminating the half-dollar and reducing the size of the dollar coin. The Treasury Department is trying to get stores to use more \$2 bills and not so many pennies.

Now comes a report that in market value for metals, a penny is worth 36/100 of one cent. A dime made of 91.67 per cent copper and 8.33 per cent nickel is worth one-third of a cent, and a nickel made of 75 per cent copper and 25 per cent nickel is worth 1.03 cents.

The metallic value of a quarter coin is 84/100 of a cent, about twice that of a lowly penny, but it will buy a lot of things that you used to pay a nickel for. Silver and gold have just about been eliminated from circulating coins.

Americans are too much con-

cerned about the declining purchasing power of the dollar in their hometowns to get upset about the news the dollar will buy only 240 Japanese yen compared to 265 yen four months ago. The dollar also buys fewer Swiss francs, West German marks and British pounds sterling.

Financial experts say we shouldn't worry about that, because a sagging dollar eventually will make United States goods more competitive abroad and improve our declining trade balance.

Money is defined as a medium of exchange for services, commodities, products or property. This idea is so prevalent that we seldom regard money as a token of perspiration or productivity.

A person doesn't have to be very old to remember when \$10,000 a year was regarded as the income of a well-to-do family. Nowadays, it takes that much money just to be poor! What used to be middle-in-

come bracket is now below poverty level.

Partly, that is because many former luxuries have become necessities. Partly, it is due to our illusion that we have three times the buying power because we have three times as many dollars.

When the energy crisis was recognized a few years ago, somebody proposed that instead of pricing merchandise in terms of dollars and cents, it ought to be priced in "energy units."

This idea contains some logic, but it is not likely to be adopted because many people might object to being paid on the basis of energy expended.

No matter how it is priced, money is a symbol for wealth only in terms of what it will buy to provide necessities and luxuries of life, secure happiness or property of real value.

As it is, Oklahomans still receive a lot more pennies in their change than \$2 bills!