Sugar Prices Take a Drop

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The first big retail price break in sugar in many months occurred the week of May 4 in a St. Louis supermarket, where shoppers with a coupon and $7.50 worth of other purchases could buy a five-pound bag of sugar for 79 cents. It was $1.79 without the coupon and register tab.

In other cities covered by UPI's regular survey of basic food prices, sugar continued to drop, with 24 reporting it at $1.99 or less. The decrease coincides with start of the preserving and canning season in some areas. After St. Louis, the low was $1.45 in Detroit. New York City reported a high of $2.39.

BUYERS HOLD BACK

Retail prices for beef continued to edge up, will continue high and may rise still more, said Cornell University's market report in New York City. Supermarket buyers were reported holding back on orders in anticipation of consumer resistance.

Ground chuck prices reflected the change. For the second week in a row, the low of 69 cents a pound was reported in Los Angeles, but elsewhere it ranged from 68 to $1.29 cents a pound, the latter in Jacksonville, Fla.

Beef liver offers a low-cost alternative. Cornell's consumer education division estimates the cost per serving at less than 20 cents and suggests cooking uniformly thick slices only until they lose their pink color. Overcooked liver becomes tough.

Chicken was another econom-