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The Editor
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Sir,- One is used to politicians deliberately using deceptive language. But sometimes one wonders whether they are not deceiving themselves by using language which they do not understand. When the Prime Minister prides himself in Parliament (July 25) that "inflation was increasing at half the rate it was" when his party assumed power, is he aware that he was referring not simply to the rate of inflation but to the rate at which the rate of inflation increased? And would he really claim, if e.g. the rate of inflation had four years ago increased from 1 p.c. p.a. to 2 p.c., i.e. by 100 p.c., and now was increasing from 10 p.c. to 18 p.c.p.a., i.e. by "only" 80 p.c., this was a great achievement? Such a claim would of course be entirely compatible with the rate of inflation having increased all the time!

Yours faithfully,

F. A. Hayek