

C246255

recommendation of the Majority Report that the Order should be thoroughly revised and made simpler, more logical and more intelligible in language and arrangement to the layman.

7.

The Committee is further agreed that, even though there had been no labour discontent and no Reports from the War Labour Board, it would be necessary to revise the Wages Control Order because the over-all stabilization program and particularly the price-ceiling policy cannot be maintained if wage increases of the magnitude of those approved under the present Order are to continue to be made and to be added to competitive and cumulative pressures from other quarters. A fortiori, the Committee is agreed that the latitude for approving increases in wage rates contemplated by the Minority recommendation could not be tolerated within the stabilization policy enunciated by the Government. The Committee sees merit in what it understands to be the implication of the Majority recommendation on these points, viz., that, over all, the present stream of wage increases should be restricted and slowed down but that such increases as are possible should be directed toward the lower end of the wage scale and away from the upper range of rates.

The difficult questions are: Can a new Order more restrictive of increases, not merely in language but in administrative results, be framed? If so, can such an Order re-

move the causes of the legitimate complaints of labour?

One logical suggestion which would fit into the price ceiling policy would be to <u>freeze</u> all wage rates, putting an absolute stop on increases, and endeavour to relieve substandard conditions by some other provision such as a system of family allowances. Deferring to a later section any consideration of family allowances, it can be said here that the Committee reached agreement that a rigorous freezing of all wage rates is not administratively practicable nor could it be made acceptable

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