

is being used for military purposes and the synthetic products now being developed will be used to the same end.

Credit  
Restrictions

The Wartime Prices and Trade Board placed restrictions on purchases on the instalment plan of almost all new or used consumer goods. With few exceptions a down payment of one-third of the purchase price was made obligatory, with the balance of the payment to be made in 12 months. Control was taken of all loans under \$1,500 excepting those for business or agricultural purposes. These restrictions have resulted in a pronounced shift from instalment to cash selling.

Simplification  
of Production

The Board, through its Industrial Division, works in close co-operation with the War Industries Control Board and National Selective Service toward the curtailment of non-essential industries and activities in order to release manpower, as well as material, machinery, fuel, power and transportation for war industries and the armed services. The reduction of the number of styles in civilian clothing, both for men and women, for example, as well as the simplification of styles, helped conserve material, manpower and machinery for the armed forces and their equipment.

Subsidies

In cases where all of the price-ceiling "squeeze" could not be absorbed by retailer, wholesaler and manufacturer by simplification and conservation, the Government has taken action through the Commodity Prices Stabilization Corporation, acting under the direction of the Board. Through this Company the price ceiling is maintained by the payment of subsidies, and Government bulk purchasing. In principle, subsidies are paid to the consumer to keep down the cost of living. In practice, because consumers are so numerous, they are paid to producers or dealers on condition that they maintain supplies and carry out the policy of the price ceiling.

Where shipping conditions and dislocation of normal sources of supply occur, the Commodity Prices Stabilization Corporation makes bulk purchases abroad and where possible