

3. The Issues Involved

Leaving aside, for the time being, the alternative of family allowances proposed in the Majority Report, and turning attention to the recommendation on wage control and the future of the cost of living bonus, certain differences in the two reports are significant. Both recommend that wage rates below 50 cents an hour should be free from control whether the rates are arrived at by employer's decision, by collective bargaining or by decision of the War Labour Board. The minority report further recommends that Section 25 of the present Wages Control Order, which authorizes the Board to increase rates which are low, judged by rates in comparable jobs in comparable industries or localities, should be replaced by a section "stabilizing wages but enabling adjustments or increases to be made -

- a) if justified by greater productivity,
- b) if the wage is substandard or inequitable,
- c) if justified by manpower needs."

This would be clearly a great enlargement of the Board's authority to raise rates.

The Majority Report, in sharp contrast, recommends that the Board's jurisdiction under Section 25 be limited to "the rectification of gross inequalities and injustices without reference to the comparative principle". The argument is that the comparative principle has resulted in a continuing upward revision of wage rates. Under the amendment proposed fewer increases would be granted.

Both reports endorse objectives of the Government's stabilization policy, and assume that their recommendations must fit into it. Our interpretation of the Majority Report on these points is that it contemplates increases in wage rates below 50 cents an hour considerably greater than have been made in that range under the present order, and that it contemplates a slowing down or

restriction