

Government would have no answer to the query: If those who received wage increases now are given the full bonus, why should not those who accepted the bonus from the beginning now receive wage increases? This is precisely the question which the tendency of the Board to adjust bonuses to the full rate, has provoked on the part of the Railway Brotherhoods and the western coal miners.

The Majority recommendation, on the other hand, appears to be an attempt to bury the problem unsolved. Even if there were assurance that the interment would be complete and permanent, it would seem dangerous to disturb stable and complicated wage-structures by such a step.

Officials of the Department of Labour recommend "that all future applications to the Board for bonus increases up to the present level shall be presumed to be justified; subject always to evidence showing good cause against such increase being given in whole or in part in the particular case". If the employer's financial interest were always involved, this formula might be acceptable. The decisive fact in all these problems is that the employer unites with the employee in applying for wage and bonus increases. In these circumstances, the Committee is of the view that this formula would lead to pretty much the same results as the Minority recommendations.

A suggestion was considered, which is somewhat on the principle of the "Little Steel formula" of the U.S. War Labor Board. Let the Board be given power to consider in any case the cost of living bonus and any increases in basic rates since August 1939 together, and if the two together do not equal \$4.25 for a normal working week, let the bonus be increased to bring the sum of the two up to that level.

It will be argued against such a solution that some, at least, of the wage increases given were necessary to raise

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