

offers any view of the underlying facts.

The original provision of P.C. 8253 was an attempt to give rough justice. It will be recalled that the first step in wage control, P.C. 7440, recommended that, aside from cases involving unduly low or depressed rates, cost of living bonuses should be recommended in lieu of wartime increases in wage rates. Certain groups, notably the Railway Brotherhoods and the coal miners of District 18, accepted the recommendation, and, in addition to their pre-war basic rates were awarded a cost of living bonus calculated from August 1939 and now standing at \$4.25 a week. Other employed groups on their own or their employers' initiative proceeded by way of wage-rate increases and received no cost of living bonus at all until wage increases, save for exceptional cases, were in purport prohibited and cost of living bonuses made mandatory by P.C. 8253. The rough and ready rule adopted in P.C. 8253 to achieve fairness was that all wage-earners should get any additional bonus awarded on the rise in the cost of living after October 1941 and that on application the Board might award a bonus calculated from the date of the last wage increase. The assumption underlying this was not as stated in both Reports that such wage increases had been granted solely to cover increases in the cost of living, but that, by and large, any wage increase had taken into account the rise in the cost of living up to the date of the increase. Subsequently, at the request of the Board, the Order was amended to allow the Board to change "unequal and unfair combinations of rates".

The Committee cannot approve the recommendation of either Report on this matter. The Minority recommendation appears to the Committee merely a crude pressing for monetary advantage and would be grossly unfair to those groups which accepted the bonus in lieu of wage increases. If the recommendation were accepted, the

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