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## STRONG PRICE LAW NEEDED, TRUMAN TOLD

### WASHINGTON WEEKLY COLUMN

#### All In Same Boat

Rep. Robert Ramsay (D., W. Va.) points out the people are behind the demands of trade unionists for a democratic defense program.

"Labor . . . is not asking too much," Ramsay told the House March 20. "I find its program not very much different than the demands of all the people, judging from the letters I receive from my constituents."

"Labor, in the field of wage control, wants a formula which will assure economic justice. That is pretty much what my constituents want. Labor wants a more realistic price control program rather than one full of loopholes. . . . That is just about what my constituents want. . . ."

"Labor wants a tax program that is more equitable than the monstrosity we passed in December which falsely carries the label of excess profits tax. Labor wants loopholes plugged in our tax bills. That is just about what my constituents demanded. . . ."

"I have referred to the things labor asks and the thing my constituents ask. I doubt if my constituency is much different from any other."

#### Stopping Speculators

Housing Expediter Tighe Woods wants Congress to clamp down on housing speculators.

Woods said March 20 the Government must be able to control rents in new defense or military areas just as soon as a new camp or plant is announced.

Here's what's happening now: As soon as the Government says it is going to build a camp or plant, rent gougers and housing gamblers get set for a killing. Servicemen and defense workers are stabbed in the back.

Rents shoot up and house prices increase before a single serviceman or defense worker is on the scene.

#### Byrd "Economy"

The machine controlled by Sen. Harry Byrd (D.) runs state and local government in Virginia. Byrd is a loud shouter for "economy."

Last year the number of state and local government employes in Virginia increased by 3,800—or 5 per cent. The government pay rolls rose by \$13.6 million—or more than 8 per cent.

What's that about "economy," Senator?

#### Ireland Adopts Government Housing Program

"Impossible!" you say? Read on—

The Irish Government is now sponsoring a housing program similar to the middle-income plan in the United States.

And everybody knows middle-income housing is Socialistic. The National Association of Real Estate Boards (NAREB), the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), Sen. Kenneth Wherry (R., Nebr.) and other stand-patters say so.

Whoever thought the Irish would turn Socialistic?

#### SMALL BUSINESS GETS RUNAROUND FROM WILSON

"While small firms have been left out in the cold, the giant corporations have been sopping up all the gravy in defense subsidies. Already the big companies, such as U. S. Steel, have been granted more than \$2 billion in tax subsidies for defense expansion.

"Yet at the same time applications from small firms and newcomers are gathering dust in government offices. . . . The truth is that small business is getting a worse deal than labor from Mobilization Boss Charlie Wilson." — Drew Pearson's Washington Merry-go-Round column, March 18.

## Organized Labor's Program for Action

Sixteen million trade unionists are united behind a six-point program to bring democracy to the defense program.

The six-point plan of action was adopted unanimously by 700 representatives of the AFL, CIO and Railroad Brotherhoods at a meeting March 1 in Washington called by the United Labor Policy Committee.

The program stresses the important fact that unorganized, as well as organized workers, housewives, farmers, small businessmen and pensioned old folks must work together to get a fair defense program.

The most important objective is Congressional passage of a workable Defense Production Act. The present law—cornerstone of the defense program—ends June 30.

The plan of action calls for the formation of local consumer committees, wide distribution of vot-

ing records of Congressmen on defense bills, visits to Senators and Representatives, meetings throughout the country and wide use of all methods of publicity.

Here is the six-point program:

1. Enlist co-operation in support of this anti-inflation program from all community organizations which support our democratic institutions and are devoted to the anti-totalitarian objectives of America's defense program.

2. Promote public meetings, radio and television programs, speeches before community groups and other appropriate means of alerting every citizen to the need for improved defense mobilization and anti-inflation policies.

3. Forward letters, telegrams, petitions and memorials to President Truman and Members of Congress in support of the principle of equal sacrifice and fair play in the mobilization program. Our first objective is the improve-

ment of the Defense Production Act.

4. Help establish local consumer committees through which the people may be fully advised of the developments in Washington, violations of price regulations may be publicized, and to cooperate with public-spirited merchants for local anti-inflation programs.

5. Encourage authorized delegations from labor and other groups to seek appointments with Senators and Congressmen during the forthcoming Easter recess to set forth the problems of the consumer.

6. Secure the widest publicity through the labor press and, if necessary, through the purchase of local radio time and newspaper space, for the voting record of Senators and Congressmen on major bills affecting the fight against inflation and for a better defense mobilization program.

## BIG PACKERS, FOOD, INVESTMENT, STEEL CZARS RUN DEFENSE

Wherever you look in the defense program you find Big Businessmen seated behind the important desks. Take the Office of Price Stabilization (OPS). It runs the phony price control program.

On March 18 the OPS announced appointment of 23 men to top positions in the agency. Who are they?

Their names aren't important, but their background is. Almost all of them are from the ranks of big business. Here are some of the companies these men worked for:

Mosinee Paper Mills, Mead Sales Co., Inc., North Pacific Millers Assn., Esskay Co. (meat packers), Premier Foods, H. J. Heinz Co., Green Giant Co. (food processors), Youngstown Steel & Alloy Co., Manhattan Shirt Co., International Shoe Co., Hearn's Department Stores Inc., American Telephone & Telegraph Co., Commercial Investment Trust Corp., and Pittsburgh Consolidated Coal Co.

## FACTORY WORKERS REAL PROGRESS

The list shows Big Business is well represented in the OPS. But what about the people? They have quite a stake in price control.

1. In 1939: The average wage was \$24.88 per straight time 40-hour week.
2. Living cost rises have added \$19.78 weekly to worker's living costs.
3. Taxes have increased by \$8.42 weekly for unmarried worker.
4. At end of 1950: Worker needed \$53.08 weekly to live as well as in 1939.
5. Productivity: Normal rise adds \$6.89 per week at 2 1-4 per cent per year (11 years).
6. To keep pace with progress requires \$59.97 weekly purchasing power.
7. Workers actual wage, end of 1950, \$58.80 per straight time, 40-hour week.
8. DEFICIT: \$1.17 per week, \$60.84 per year.

## DEFENSE LOSES

"With the rejection by the House of Representatives of consideration of the Administration's defense housing bill the national defense program is set back in its effort to assure decent housing and community facilities in areas affected by the developments of defense production facilities and military installations. . . ." — The New York Times, March 18.

## Wilson Draws Huge Pension

WASHINGTON. — Records of the Securities and Exchange Commission show that Charles E. Wilson, the nation's defense mobilization czar, is drawing a pension of \$66,000 a year from General Electric Company, which he headed as president until he retired to take his present post.

As Defense Mobilization Administrator with full and final authority over prices, wages, materials and manpower, he draws \$22,500 annual salary.

Mr. Wilson told a news conference on March 27 (the first time he had met the press in more than three months since he became the top U. S. official) that: "I am from big business resigned. When I came into government I became a bureaucrat. I ceased to be big business."

CIO Secretary-Treasurer James B. Carey, who is also president of the CIO International Union of Electrical Workers, said in a letter to The Washington Evening Star that:

## WILSON BRINGS IN MINING LOBBYIST AS HIRED ADVISER

A lobbyist for foreign mining interests is one of Defense Czar Charles E. Wilson's trusted advisers. Drew Pearson's Washington Merry-go-Round column, March 20 reports:

"It is almost unbelievable, but Mobilizer Charles Wilson is getting his advice on minerals from a lobbyist for foreign mining interests."

"Wilson's top mining consultant is Fred Searls, Jr., who used to lobby on Capitol Hill against domestic mining programs but now does his lobbying from the inside. . . . He had been hired to advise what the government's policy should be on securing minerals for defense."

"Yet, at the same time, he is president of Newmont Mining Co., which has a rich stake in South African mines. This is another shocking example of how private interests have infiltrated into the defense agencies to grind their own axes."

## FIGHT FOR ALL

"This is not the fight for labor alone—this is the struggle of all the American people. . . ."

"We invite every civic and consumer group to unite with organized labor in every community to make the protest of free men heard in Washington. . . ."

"United, the plain people of America are mightier than any group of profiteers or politicians." From the Declaration of Principles issued March 21 by representatives of 16 million trade unionists.

## All Wage Earners Have Big Stake In Stabilization

Mrs. Chase Going Woodhouse, Former Member of Congress, Cites Need For Understanding And Support Of Controls.

WASHINGTON.—The wives and other members of the families of America's wage earners, at all levels, have a very real stake in price controls and their successful operation," Mrs. Chase Going Woodhouse, former Congresswoman from Connecticut, declared here in an interview secured for use of labor publications. "It would," she continued, "be of mutual help if all of them would try sincerely better to understand and actively to support the price regulations so necessary for our mutual well being."

Mrs. Woodhouse has an impressive record of service in education and in the field of economics, along with two terms as a Member of Congress, and is now a consultant in the Office of Price Stabilization, ESA. Mrs. Woodhouse explained further: "Research reveals that wives spend an average of 55 per cent of the family income, children are sent out for about 11 per cent of the family purchases, while the husband and wife together make about 14 per cent of the family expenditures."

"The need for commodity price stabilization must be better understood by women. They should know that run-away prices have just the same effect as a cut in the family income and they result in a lowering of living standards. They should also remember that high prices mean fewer bombs, fewer planes, for the defense dollar."

"Here is where each woman can help lick inflation. Every time she refuses to purchase out-of-line items, refuses to pay more than fair ceiling prices, every time she encourages and co-operates with her local merchants in helping to keep prices within bounds, she is forwarding the defense program, she is supporting the national effort to control inflation and to stabilize our economy, and at the same time she is helping to make her own family dollar buy more."

"In short, by paying only legitimate prices, she is serving her own best interests and, even more important, she is rendering effective aid to our nation in our great task of making ourselves strong enough to maintain peace."

## BUYING POWER IS GOING DOWN

"The buying power of the average worker has fallen tremendously while business has made record profits."

"Wages have not increased in proportion to runaway prices. . . . For the average housewife, feeding her family today is a heart-breaking and discouraging undertaking."

In those words, Rep. Isidore Dollinger (D., N. Y.) told the House February 23 what's wrong with the defense program.

"Within a few days after the Korean war began, food prices were increased. They continued to spiral upward," Dollinger said.

"There was no justification for such increases. Shelves and storage places were piled high with every commodity. The price increases did not stem from a sudden shortage of consumer goods but from speculation and an opportunity to profiteer."

"Instead of rolling back prices to at least the beginning of hostilities, which would have been the only fair and equitable ruling, prices were frozen at top levels."

Local 42, Bakery and Confectionery Workers, Atlanta, Ga., has obtained a pay increase for 300 employes of Gordon Foods.

## FREE ENTERPRISE? WELL, SOMETIMES

The Readers' Digest and The Saturday Evening Post want the government to help them.

Honest! These fearless champions of free enterprise are on their knees crying for more Government subsidies. These opponents of Government aid for the people are yelling because their own subsidies are in danger.

The business manager of The Readers' Digest and the board chairman of the board of The Saturday Evening Post testified on March 16 before the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee, which is considering raising postal rates.

In the past 10 years, big magazines like the Digest and the Post have received \$2 billion in Government subsidies. That's because they get such low postal rates. Now the Government wants to end subsidies to the rich magazines that can pay their own way easily.

So the Digest and the Post are squealing: We want our subsidy! We want our subsidy!

## PRESS SILENT ABOUT FASCIST MOVEMENT

"The public press has done a magnificent job exposing and properly building up sentiment against communism in this country."

"However, the press has been strangely silent on the recent rise of the Fascist movement and the efforts made by strong influential people to make fascism the only alternative for communism as occurred in both Germany and Italy."

"It is important that we not only crush communism but that we also keep an eye on and crush the other devastating enemy approaching us from the other direction in the form of fascism." —Rep. Wright Patman (D., Tex.) in a House speech on March 7.

## PORK TO COME UNDER SPECIFIC DOLLARS AND CENTS CONTROLS

WASHINGTON. — The Office of Price Stabilization, ESA, has let it be known that specific dollars and cents ceiling prices are to be established soon on dressed hogs, pork and pork products.

Although prices of live hogs and other live animals were not covered in the general price freeze, ceiling prices on live hogs are also expected. Prices of dressed hogs, pork and pork products have been frozen at the highest level between December 15, 1950, and January 25, 1951.

OPS officials have already discussed terms of a tentative pricing regulation with forty representatives of all branches of the industry. Written opinions and proposals submitted up to March 15 are also being considered.

It is stated the new price regulation covering hogs, pork and pork products is designed to permit the industry to return as nearly as possible to its traditional pricing practices and still maintain rigid price controls.

## MANUFACTURERS' PRICE REGULATION COMING

WASHINGTON.—A representative group of industrialists responded to an invitation of Michael V. DiSalle, Director of Price Stabilization, to meet in Washington with OPS officials to discuss a proposed manufacturers' price regulation. Mr. DiSalle said that, through the new regulation, OPS hopes to aid industries which avoided price increases in the national interest and to require reductions by those who have advanced prices unnecessarily.

Headlines in Daily Newspapers Back Up United Labor's Charges That Defense Setup Brings Nationwide Chaos.

WASHINGTON. — Headlines in the daily newspapers back up in full the United Labor Policy Committee charges that the Defense Mobilization program as presently run has brought nationwide chaos.

As a change from statements of the United Labor Committee, the story is unfolded by quotations from newspapers which generally are minimizing or blacking out organized labor's fight for workable mobilization setup. "President Truman was warned by a top adviser that it will be impossible to control wages effectively until the government takes strong steps to curb rising prices and profits." — James Y. Newton, Washington, D. C., Star, March 25.

"In some sources it was said that the entire stabilization program was in peril of collapse; the situation calls for drastic measures, they said." — Joseph A. Loftus, New York Times, March 25.

"Cost of Living Rises 1.3 Pct. to Record High." —Headline The Chicago Tribune, March 24.

"The government announced that the cost of living jumped 1.3 per cent between January 15 and February 15 to another all-time high. The increase brought retail price levels to 8 per cent above those immediately before the Korean war started in June of last year and to 9.5 per cent above a year ago. The government imposed its wage-price freeze January 26. The rise means that under a contract negotiated March 1 at the White House, and praised by President Truman himself, 1,000,000 railroad shop and terminal workers are to get a 6-cents-an-hour pay raise which would pierce the government's own 10 per cent ceiling on pay increases." — Raymond J. Blair, New York Herald-Tribune, March 24.

"But Johnson Is Opposed." —Wall Street Journal.

"Enforcement of government controls during the present emergency has been much more gentle than the policy followed during World War II, a survey by the Journal of Commerce indicates. The policy of leniency has been carried to the point where some businessmen believe that non-compliance is increasing rapidly, particularly in the materials controls issued by the National Production Authority and in the price controls issued by the Office of Price Stabilization. Thus far, 6 months after the controls begin to be issued in Washington, prosecution is virtually nil." — Sidney Fish, New York Journal of Commerce, March 26.

## RENT BILL HELPFUL ONLY UNTIL JUNE 30

The House passed a weak rent control extension bill March 19 which will protect tenants in controlled areas only until June 30. The Senate approved the measure March 13.

But the extension isn't strong enough and the real estate lobby already is fighting every effort to defeat a strong rent bill after June 30.

Congressional action will keep controls on where they already exist. But towns and cities can take them off between now and June 30. There will not be controls where they do not now exist. So if controls are lifted in any city, they cannot be put back on—no matter how high rents climb.

## Speeding The Parting Guest

"You've got a pretty place, Frank," said the departing guest. "But it looks a bit bare yet."

"Oh," explained Frank, "it's because the trees are rather young. I hope they'll have grown to a good size before you come again."