Economists are not all in agreement that the recent inflation has been a cost-push or a wage inflation. But, certainly, this view has gained a considerable number of adherents in recent years. Just to give some indication of varying views, I note the following. For example, Prof. Gardner Ackley writes:

* * * Our postwar inflation is not basically the direct result of excessive demand. Rather, it represents a process that flourishes under conditions of high demand—but that can and does continue to operate even in the face of some, perhaps considerable, deficiency of demand.

On the analytical side, I criticize the usual view that inflation must result from excess demands or from a cost-push. It seems to me that inflations in our postwar economy can be understood primarily as a process of jockeying relative positions between labor and capital. In fact, the two groups extend claims that add up to more than the total GNP—inconsistent claims that can be resolved only by inflation.

* * * Wage setting can be to some considerable extent independent of supply and demand forces: Wage rates do not rise only when demand exceeds supply and rapidly fall in a reverse situation * * *.[79]

Prof. Albert Rees had this to say:

There is no firm evidence that unions are a cause of inflation, and there is a good deal of evidence that in rapid inflations, wages set by collective bargaining lag behind other wages. The view that gradual inflation results from a "wage push" is based on casual observation, which can be highly misleading. Much further study is needed before it can be accepted as a basis for public policy.[80]

Professor Weston has this to say:[81]

TABLE 10–1.—*Behavior of selected economic variables for manufacturing industries, 1949–56*

(1) Industry	(2) Percent increase in production, 1949–56	(3) Percent increase in hourly earnings, 1949–56	(4) Percent increases in prices (1947–49), 1956	(5) Percent increases, net profits to sales, 1949–56		(6) Average level of concentration of employment, 1950
				Before taxes	After taxes	
Lumber and wood products	35.2	41.0	25.4	−27.2	−33.9	27.7
Furniture and fixtures	28.4	35.5	24.8	11.9	3.0	25.3
Stone, clay, and glass	56.4	43.4	26.9	12.2	−4.7	50.2
Primary metals	25.5	47.2	53.4	28.8	13.6	53.8
Fabricated metals	39.2	40.4	32.7	−10.3	−21.6	39.9
Machinery (not electrical)	51.5	43.1	41.7	2.8	−15.6	41.6
Electrical machinery	111.2	36.8	37.6	−16.1	−33.3	59.6
Transportation equipment	89.5	38.0	29.1	−20.2	−35.7	60.4
Miscellaneous manufacturing	46.9	38.1	−9.0	8.1	0	38.4
Food and kindred products	15.3	44.2	6.1	−9.1	−27.3	42.3
Tobacco manufactures	4.9	49.5	15.5	50.7	16.3	57.3
Textile mill products	6.1	21.2	−12.1	−24.3	−36.6	31.5
Apparel	12.0	26.5	−.3	43.2	23.8	−.3
Paper and allied products	62.2	43.3	27.2	13.2	−6.2	33.5
Chemical and allied products	73.5	44.8	7.2	15.4	−2.4	51.6
Products of petroleum and coal	35.6	41.9	17.3	17.5	20.2	40.3
Rubber products	38.5	39.9	45.8	50.9	15.8	75.0
Leather and leather products	8.3	31.6	−.7	10.3	−4.5	24.2

Sources: For detailed sources, see original, and footnote 81.

[79] Hearings, "Relationship of Prices to Economic Stability and Growth," Joint Economic Committee, 1958, p. 394.

[80] Ibid., p. 401.

[81] The Joint Economic Committee, "Relationship of Prices to Economic Stability and Growth," compendium of papers submitted by panelists, 1958, p. 317.