

are contained in its October 11, 1966 report¹ and I would like to ask unanimous consent that those recommendations be included at this point in the record.

Chairman PROXMIRE. It is so ordered.

The recommendations referred to appear below:

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RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the President continue the present practice of including wage-price guideposts in his Annual Economic Reports as required by section 3(a) of the Employment Act of 1946 and that he make comments on or revisions of such guideposts in supplementary reports he may transmit to the Congress under section 3(b) of the act.

2. That the Joint Economic Committee of the Congress continue its present practice of holding full public hearings on the President's Economic Report and that these hearings give special attention to the wage-price guideposts contained therein providing an opportunity for representatives of labor, management, and the public to give their views on the guideposts.

3. That the Joint Economic Committee, in its report to the Congress, specifically include its findings and recommendations on the guideposts. If the administration's guideposts are approved by the committee, this congressional action will strengthen their public acceptability. If the Joint Economic Committee's position on the guideposts differ from that of the President, it can be expected that the President would review them in the light of the committee's recommendations and that should result in greater public acceptance and, thus, opportunity of success. This is particularly important with respect to the forthcoming January 1967 guideposts since they inevitably must come to grips with the erosion in the cost of living which has occurred, with the problem of equity between different segments of our economy, and with the problem of the utilization of manpower.

4. We recognize that the application of the guideposts in specific wage or price cases is a different and a complex matter. Here we endorse the suggestions of Secretary of Labor Wirtz and the President's Advisory Committee on Labor-Management Policy for action by that advisory committee in specific cases. This would be consistent with section 4(c) of the Employment Act which permits the Council of Economic Advisers to constitute advisory committees and to consult with representatives of various groups as it deems advisable. Inasmuch as the Joint Economic Committee of the Congress is already authorized by law to hold hearings, we recommend that where the committee feels that it may usefully supplement the work being done within the administration on specific cases, it hold hearings on them and make its own findings and recommendations. We believe that such action on specific cases and when "crises" arise would help reconstitute and reinvigorate the guideposts in a manner designed to secure the greatest degree of public agreement and support. Thus, the essence of H.R. 11916 will have been obtained.

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Representative REUSS. Have you had an opportunity to look at those?

Secretary WIRTZ. Yes, I have, Mr. Reuss, and I don't recall them in sufficient detail. I do remember the report.

Representative REUSS. They are here at this point in the record, and may I ask you to make your comment when you have a chance to review them? I strongly suspect from the testimony you gave that you will approve of every comma in those recommendations, but that is for you to say.

Secretary WIRTZ. I testified on the basis of my general recollection to that effect. I don't recall the detail.

¹ Strengthening Wage-Price Guideposts, 41st report by the Committee on Government Operations, H. Rept. 2231, 89th Cong., 2d sess.