Mr. REUTHER. Well, I would like first of all to suggest that you give consideration to the establishment of the wage-price review board, and I would like to put a more detailed description of that into the record if I may.

Chairman PROXMIRE. Without objection, that will be printed in the record.

(The material referred to was subsequently filed for the record and follows:)

OUTLINE OF PROVISIONS OF BILL TO REQUIRE HEARINGS ON ADMINISTERED PRICE INCREASES IN ORDER TO MAKE PRIVATE ECONOMIC DECISIONS MORE RESPONSIVE TO PUBLIC NEED

1. Purpose

To bring an informed public opinion to bear upon price policy in administered price industries as a substitute for the price-restraining influence of competition which is lacking in such industries.

2. Administrative machinery

(a) A Price-Wage Board of Review to conduct hearings on price increases proposed by certain corporations.

(b) A Consumer Counsel to represent the consumer and public interest in such hearings.

The relationship between the Board and the Consumer Counsel might be similar to that between the National Labor Relations Board and the General Counsel of the NLRB.

3. Coverage

The legislation should apply permanently to corporations in a position to act as "price leaders" in their respective industries. Specific and objective criteria should be devised to determine the corporations that fall into the "price leader" category. Total coverage should be limited to the minimum number of corporations required to accomplish the basic purposes of the bill. One possible criterion for coverage could be: all corporations accounting for 25 percent or more of total sales in a major industry. (Such corporations could be identified from data in the files of the Census Bureau, the SEC and FTC.) Under this criterion, only a limited number of giant corporations in major industries would be covered on a permanent basis. In addition, the President should be authorized to extend application of the legislation temporarily to other firms if he believes that a price action taken or about to be taken by such firms threatens over-all price stability.

4. Advance notification of proposed price increases

Covered corporations should be required to notify the Price-Wage Board of Review of intention to increase a price, and should be prohibited from putting such a price increase into effect for a specified minimum period (perhaps 60 or 90 days) sufficiently long to permit the Board to hold hearings on the proposed price increase and to issue its findings concerning such increase. The corporations should be required to supply to the Board, simultaneously with their filing of the notice, all data which they consider pertinent to the proposed price increase. The Board should publish the fact that notice has been received and make available for examination by groups listed below under "Other Appearances" the data filed with such notice.

5. Waiver of hearings

Upon analysis of the data submitted with the notice, and after a reasonable time has been allowed for examination of the data by all interested parties, the Board, with the consent of the Consumer Counsel, should be empowered to waive hearings and permit the proposed price increase to go into effect immediately. In such cases, however, the Board should be required to publish promptly a report setting forth the reasons for so doing.

6. Emergency price increase

Upon a claim that an increase in production costs creates an emergency requiring the corporation to raise its prices prior to expiration of the notice period,