

Chairman PROXMIRE. Congressman Bolling?

Representative BOLLING. Dr. Auerbach, I think perhaps your statement and the discussion that followed is the most stimulating that I have heard or read during this hearing. I say "read" because I haven't been at all of the hearings.

I would take it that your purpose is to attack the problem that all of us have given lipservice to, or recognition of, that of getting the public represented at the bargaining table in some fashion or another, rather than try to develop arguments that would persuade us to do nothing.

I believe that your idea, while not to me an entirely new one, is better worked out and better supported by the discussion than any I have heard, and all I will say further is that I note that we plan to have further hearings of the full committee on this, and I hope that we will pursue this particular point, because I think you have made a very important and timely contribution.

Mr. AUERBACH. Thank you, Congressman Bolling.

Chairman PROXMIRE. Congressman Reuss?

Representative REUSS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I want to associate myself with what Congressman Bolling has just said. I think you have made a real contribution to the thought processes of this committee.

You have sketched out a program for the future which would enable this country to live with something like full employment without inflation. However, this committee and the country now confront a situation where it is very important to keep prices stable in 1967 for both domestic and foreign reasons, and yet the Economic Report, unfortunately, I won't say throws up its hands at the problem, but doesn't really, in my judgment, come to grips with it.

I feel that we are a little in the position of the widower who was returning from the funeral of his young and beautiful wife, and somebody seeks to console him and pats him on the back and says, "Joe, don't take it so seriously. You will find another wonderful wife in the next year or two." And Joe looks at his comforter and says, "Yes, but what am I going to do tonight?"

That is the problem of the economy as I see it: What are we going to do in 1967? Would you address yourself to an immediate set of actions, if you can, which would enable us to keep our prices stable?

Mr. AUERBACH. May I tell you honestly, Congressman Reuss, that your story occurred to me as I was writing my statement.

Representative REUSS. It's quite an old story.

Mr. AUERBACH. You pose a very difficult problem. You have been one of the men in Congress who, very properly in my view has been asking the Congress to take greater responsibility in this area. If the guideposts constituted a good program for the President of the United States, they were also good for the Congress and the Congress should have said so in some responsible way. If they did not constitute a good program of stabilization for the Congress, Congress should not have permitted the President to administer them.

Nevertheless, in spite of your urgings over the years, nothing was done to avert the impasse we now confront. It is difficult, in the light of this past history, to answer your question. "All right, what do we do now?" But I acknowledge that you are right in criticizing