

without parallel in the history of the world. But, we must continue to progress—to build upon the mighty economic structure which currently exists.

It is essential that we grow without the accompanying inroads of inflation. This can be most effectively done by encouraging the fullest development of the economy and the increased productivity of the American worker. With the most modern tools and the incentive to produce our Nation can achieve forward economic momentum and stable price levels. This has been proven in the coal industry which has the highest paid industrial workers and a price level which has been stable for more than a decade.

In the same vein, we reiterate our rejection of governmental wage-price guidelines, whether they are of the type recently imposed by Executive fiat or drawn up by the Congress. To our minds the guidelines serve merely to impose unacceptable restraints upon the private sector and, in the long run, mitigate against the most efficient working of the economy.

We recognize that it is the prevailing practice in certain quarters to look to national wage and price standards as the answer to the upward movement of our price structure. Yet, it has been our experience and the experience of history that such interference in the free market economy can only lead to an improper allocation of economic resources, restrictive governmental programs and the stagnation of the economic machinery upon which so much depends.

Within the past several years a great deal of activity in the field of air and water pollution has been carried out by the Federal Government and at the State and local levels. Most recently, the President of the United States transmitted to the Congress a strongly worded appeal for legislation on the subject and such legislation is currently being considered. Certainly, the United Mine Workers of America is in accord with the objectives of such legislation. Our union has for many years fought to better the living standards of the coal miners of the United States and in effect to improve the environment of all Americans.

On the other hand, there is a tendency for those charged with air pollution control to ignore the economic consequences of their action on other segments of the economy and upon the general citizenry who must bear the cost of pollution abatement. Presently, proposed regulations for air pollution control on the Federal level would exclude the use of large reserves of bituminous coal. This would have disastrous effects on the coal industry in many of our States. It would mean unemployment and privation for coal miners in these areas and for the families of coal miners who depend upon the production and sale of coal for a livelihood. Further, the ill-timed regulations would mean that the Nation would not have access to large energy resources. This, in a nation so dependent upon energy, is hardly in the public interest.

Obviously, there must be a reconciliation of the twin objectives of pollution abatement and resource utilization. Pursuit of one to the exclusion of the other means economic chaos and wasted resources. Fortunately, there are such avenues open to the Nation. The magic words are "research and development"—research and development which will permit the growth of technology to use all of our natural