

price or wage control. Price and wage actions would still flow from the voluntary decisions of free men in a free society. But just as the freedom to make such decisions is limited in a completely competitive economy by the restraints of the competitive marketplace, so under this proposal the freedom to make such decisions would be limited by the restraints imposed by an informed public opinion, which should be mobilized to discipline voluntary actions and make them responsible. Thus the democratic concept of ultimate public authority over decisions which vitally affect the public interest would be extended from the political sphere, where it is recognized as the cornerstone of a free society, to the economic sphere where it is equally important that the concepts and the processes of democracy should prevail.

CONCLUSION

Our economy today faces three vital domestic problems:

With industry still operating at far less than capacity, and unemployment still much higher than it should be or need be, our economy is slowing down.

We have vast areas of social needs unmet, especially those which affect our ability to solve the problems of our cities, of our minorities and of the poor, which increasingly threaten the stability of our whole society.

We are undergoing a round of inflation which causes hardship to millions of families and also threatens to disturb our economic stability.

We in the UAW believe that for the first two problems there is only one answer—we must adopt programs to meet our social needs, and do so in such a manner as will stimulate the economy to produce the necessary goods and services and so reduce unemployment.

To solve the third problem, we must stop relying on processes of economic restraint which increase unemployment and reduce our ability to meet social needs, without effectively checking inflation. Instead, we must examine carefully the real sources of inflation and the institutional forms and structures which foster it. Having done that, we can then develop new approaches, based on the economic realities of the situation, to restrain the inflationary forces. In particular, we must find means to insure that those who make private decisions vitally affecting the economic welfare of all the people are subjected to the democratic pressures of an informed and enlightened public opinion.

We hope that this statement has contributed to the achievement of these goals.