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A question of great importance in relation to postwar readjustment is the probable future status of the various branches of the economy as a source of livelihood. If we assume that many of the trends observable in the past will reassert themselves when the war is over, the analysis of these trends can contribute to such readjustment and can indicate what developments may be hoped for, what are problematical, and what cannot be relied upon. The reports on manufacturing and agriculture have already borne fruit of this kind. Other reports dealing with mining, transportation, and public utilities, and above all the study of the service industries, will greatly amplify our information.

HAROLD BARGER

SERVICE INDUSTRIES

A grant received late in 1942 from the Maurice and Laura Falk Foundation for a study of the *Service Industries and the National Economy* makes it possible to round out our investigations of production and productivity. This study will supplement the investigations by Messrs. Fabricant and Barger of manufacturing, agriculture, mining, transportation, public utilities, and construction, and provide information that will enable us to learn something about the industries that produce services instead of commodities; e.g., retail and wholesale trade, domestic service, amusements, the medical and other professions, engineering, and government, most of which cater both to consumers and to business concerns. Growing steadily, these industries employed some 35 per cent of all gainfully occupied persons before this war. Knowledge of the course of their development is essential to an understanding of the history of total employment in this country, and to anticipating the part the service industries may be expected to take in meeting postwar problems of employment and unemployment. This study of the changing employment, efficiency, and product of the services will, when combined with our inquiries into industrial output, efficiency, and employment, complete a survey of variations of output and productivity in virtually the entire American economy.

Labor

The plan is to publish this year two short monographs on selected phases of the relation of labor to the war. The first will deal with

trade unionism in wartime and will cover the behavior of union membership in the United States and other countries, during two world wars. The most difficult basic tables are completed and I plan to have a manuscript ready for circulation late in March.

The second study deals with the behavior of wages and prices in wartime. Most of the materials have been collected and the writing of this monograph will begin as soon as the one on trade unions is ready for the press.

In connection with the National Bureau's studies of war production and employment, Clarence D. Long, who has been working at the Institute for Advanced Study on the history of unemployment in the United States, has become temporarily associated with the National Bureau. He has undertaken to prepare a report on labor supply and employment in World Wars I and II. The tables on labor supply are about ready and Mr. Long and his assistants are preparing the materials on employment. He plans to submit a manuscript by May.

LEO WOLMAN

Conference on Price Research

The Conference on Price Research works through an annual conference and through standing committees, two of which are now functioning: the Committee on Price Determination and the Committee on Governmental Price Control. The work of a third committee, on Price Policies and Their Consequences, is in abeyance owing to the absorption into war work of the committee's membership.

The May 1942 meeting was concerned with price control and rationing. Papers were presented by Don Humphrey, Paul O'Leary, Harold Rowe, Richard Gettell, and Hans Neisser, all of the Office of Price Administration, and W. W. Plumptre of the Canadian Legation in Washington. The discussion, as condensed and summarized by W. W. Rostow, was published under the title, *Some Aspects of Price Control and Rationing*, in the September issue of the *American Economic Review*.

The area of research of the Committee on Price Determination is the relation of costs and demand considerations to pricing by private industry. Until spring 1942 the Committee, under the co-