

March 6, 1946

Mr. Ollie Pecord  
Toledo Union Journal  
425 Winthrop St  
Toledo 10 Ohio

Dear Ollie:

Thank you for your note of February 22nd, and  
for sending me the copy of the radio broadcast I made in  
Toledo on February 10.

With kindest personal regards,

Fraternally yours,

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Walter P. Reuther  
Vice President

The major threat of inflation ~~to our economy~~ today comes from the pressure campaign of big business for unjustified price increases.

Wage increases are no longer the major issue in the dispute which is holding up our progress toward the goals of full employment, full production and full consumption. The major issue now is prices.

From the beginning of the GM controversy, the GM workers and their union have conducted an all-out fight against price increases. The Union has consistently stated that we did not want a wage increase that would necessitate one red cent in higher prices. The recommendations of the President's Fact Finding Board supported our contention - that General Motors could grant the wage increase without a price increase.

Despite this fact, the General Motors Corporation continues to defy the President's recommendation. GM, the Steel industry and other large corporations are hell-bent on destroying price control. They are determined to squeeze out of the American consumer unnecessary and ~~unnecessary~~ unjustified price increase.

American labor does not want a ten cent wage increase in one pocket, with a fifteen cent price increase taken out of the other pocket. We do not want to be paid off in the wooden nickels of inflation. We want, and we are fighting for, an increase in real wages - an increase in purchasing power. We want wages that will buy more food, more clothes, better housing - more of the good things of life that we need for ourselves, our wives and our children.

The picket lines of the GM workers are the front line defenses against industry's attempt to wreck price control. We are determined that the government and the American people shall not be hi-jacked into permitting higher prices that would provide industry with the most outrageous profits in history.

We call upon President Truman to stand firm against price increases, and to mobilize the support of the people who in overwhelming majority favor rigid price control. That is the way inflation can be defeated. That is the way it must be defeated.