

NATION BACKS INFLATION FIGHT

In Transport House, general headquarters of organized labour in Britain, the T.U.C.s general Council makes a far-reaching decision. Congress is to support the Gripps wage-freezing plan to halt the price increases which nullify each rise in wages, Chairman Florence Hancock announces:

SOUND

This momentous statement affects eight million workers in the nation's vital trades. Those in the steel industry have far exceeded prewar output, but in textiles, lack of labour and lack of new machines cripples expansion. Coal (though highest in production since the war) is yet too low to figure as a major export. Only the export of great quantities of coal can stave off imminent disaster. Industrialist Sir William Rootes gives his view on this subject:

SOUND

But, caught between the wage and price race is the housewife. For example Mrs. Mary Cannon here of Harnsey. She doesn't understand the expert trade, nor jargon-talk of too much money chasing too few goods. For here there are always too few goods at too much money. It's not that rations are too costly, PAYE is paid to keep them down! Shoes soon wear out in chasing goods. Two children, another room to furnish, that means forms! If the goods were there she'd get them straight over the counter, but now it's not so easy.

Six pounds a week for the whole family won't run to these off-decked prices, nor buy the sort of shoes which last, nor coats which keep the wind on the right side. As for the furniture she'd like, not until prices thaw. They're frozen far too high. Mrs. Cannon gets back to check the day's accounts. To keep them straight she works a hundred hours a week - not 44 or 48. Maybe the rest of us could learn from Mrs. Cannon. She knows what she must do to keep housekeeping straight.