

These were new and disliked programs for the American people, schooled in a land of surpluses and freedom of action. It was revolutionary to face price control and rationing.

For two years these programs have been carried on. Everyone has felt their effects. Programs, while initiated in Washington, have been carried out locally by volunteers.

The Board Members are volunteers - the Price Panels and their assistants and thousands of others who have helped.

The Washington Office and each of the eight Regional Offices have an average of less than 5,000 paid employees each. There are over 50,000 volunteer board members and over 50,000 other full or part-time volunteers.

These volunteers have made these programs possible. They have given the lie to Hitler and Tojo that Democracy can't function as a whole in wartime.

This is not the place to discuss the details of Price Control and Rationing. There are differences of opinion on the various details of these programs - but all thinking people realize the necessity of certain war controls.

Compared to World War I the results of price control have been startling. We were in War I less than 19 months. We are now in the 26th month of War II. Already we have used over three times the materials.

Yet prices, instead of being three times higher than in War I, are only 1/3 as high! Had uncontrolled War I prices prevailed, this war would have cost your Government 80 billion dollars more already. Had proportionate prices prevailed this time the cost to date would have been probably 200 billions more.

These men we are honoring today are a few of the thousands of volunteers who have made these possible.

They have sacrificed their own time - many have sacrificed their health, their friends, and their business.

But they have shown that a Democracy can function.

They have given us hope that in the difficult problems which lie ahead, they and other citizens like them will successfully handle and solve these problems.

They are proof that our "American Way" is still the best. We salute them for the unselfish work they have performed - the democratic way of life which they have exemplified.
