Ways Discussed To Check **Run-Away Cost Of Living**

The weepons being discussed at two toplevel conferences in Wash-ington: federal controls over wages and prices. But some businessmen question whether attempts to freeze wages and prices will get at the real core of the inflation problem — the rapidity with which purchasing power is outstripping production of mode

Many contend that wage-price



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By SAM DAWSON NEW YORK — (IP) — An assault is underway today on the cost of hving which threatens to get out of hand. The weepons being discussed at a signer prices.

The weapons being discussed at Auto Makers Summaned

mobiles. Auto makers are summoned to discuss with officials of the eco-nomic stabilization agency the re-fusal of General Motors and Ford to take back the recently an-nounced price hikes. Clearly in the air is the threat that if the auto companies won't "hold the price line," the government will roll back prices for them. Criticism of the price hikes is tied to the rec-ord earnings the companies have been reporting. ord earnings the companies have been reporting. This making "a guinea pig for price cuthacks" out of the auto industry is sharply criticized by young Henry Ford, who wants in-stead a general program applied equally to all industries, if any controls are necessary at all.

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Price Guessing DETROIT -/P- Chrysler corp., again in step wage-wise with Gen-eral Motors and Ford, kept its prospective customers guessing to-day whether it would fall in line price - wise. If it does, it will put higher tags on its forthcoming 1951 model care. Tuesday Chrysler passed out \$20,000,000 - a . year benefits to its 125,000 CHO and non - union employes. Auto industry sideliners apeculated a price rise would fol-low.

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Keeps Customers

low. Both GM and Ford boosted prices just a week ago, GM said its increases averaged "something less than five percent." Ford's was 5.7 percent. Both firms re-jected a request by the govern-ment's economic stabilization agency to rescindathe increases. Chryster's new models in its four

agency to rescindathe increases. Chrysler's new models in its four lines w." be introduced next month. Even before Tuesday's ac-tion, there had been widespread speculation that Chrysler would follow the GM and Ford lead. Most of the inducry's so-called "inde-pendents" already had boosted prices on their 1951 models. Chrysler rearranged its wage structure in a new five - vear con-

structure in a new five - year con-tract with the CIO United Auto

This is a course widely urged of late by people with harden course widely urged of late by people with hard incomes and those with semi-fixed incomes and those and the semi-fixed incomes and those with semi-fixed incomes and the semi-fixed incomes and the semi-fixed incomes and the semi-fixed incomes and those semi-fixed incomes and those with semi-fixed incomes and those with semi-fixed incomes and those with semi-fixed incomes and the semi-fixe

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benef() and granted a modified union shop.
A three - year contract signed last May after a bitter 100 - day strike was extended to Aug. 31, 1955 without wage reopenings.
Except for the guaranteed raises, wages will rise or fall only as the cost of living goe up or down. A penny will be added or taken away each three months for each rise or fall of 1.14 points in the cunsumers' price index of the U. S. Bureau of Labor statistics.
This is the ome system or statistics.
This is the one fail only the years adopted by General Motors in May, 1948, and renewed last May for five years. Ford switched over to an escalator pay arrayement last Labor day in a five year agreement. Economic sections of the three contracts now are vir-tually idenced.
The year out on diustments since then. Ford granted eight cents in September and three cents since then.
Chrysler an the UAW agreed it

September and three cents since then. Chrysler anOthe UAW agreed, it would take a penny now to hring the Chrysler workers abreast of ihose at the other two firms. The average wage at the "hig three" companies now is estimated at \$1.78 an hour. Conferences, all unannounced, started Dec. 1. Union ratification meetings will be held. Sunday but little or no opposition is expected.

Some commodities have gone way wit of line with the rest, and may be fair game for any rollback. Farmer, on the other hand, feel most their products are pretty well protected by the law which says that cellings must not be below parity or below prices prevailing between May 24 and June 24. Only cotton, cottonseed oil, wood, the and some meats are above that legal limit. And only cotton and wool are far mough above to offer attractive targets for control

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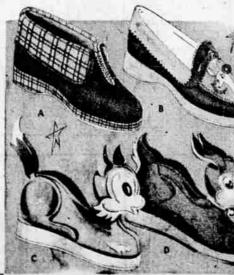
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