



## MONTGOMERY WARD'S ANSWER TO THE ORDER OF SEIZURE BY THE PRESIDENT

The order of the president to effect the seizure of the property and business of Montgomery Ward is a violation of the constitution of the United States, which the president has sworn to uphold and defend. The congress, which is the sole law-making authority under the constitution has given the president no power to seize the non-war business of Montgomery Ward.

The purpose of the president's order is to enforce, by an exercise of ar bitrary power, orders of the War Labor Board which the courts have declared to be merely advisory and legally unenforceable. The courts have held that anyone who refuses to comply with orders of the War Labor Board is not defying a command of the government and that, since the orders are merely advisory, no government official has the right to impose punishments on those who do not comply

The president's order does not arise from any failure on Wards part to pay fair wage rates, Wards policy is, and has been, to pay wages as high as or higher than those paid by other employers in the community for similar em. ployment. Ward's only objection to any of the War Labor Board's wage recommendations has been in those instances where the board has arbitrarily demanded that Ward's substantially increase its rates above those of its competitors in the highly competitive retail field.

The president has ordered the army to restrict the liberties of Ward's employees by imposing upon them the closed shop in the form of anion maintenance. This is the final step in the coercion used by the administrative agencies of the goverhment to force the closed shop upon employers and employees throughout the nation. Ward's has long believed that when the public awakens to the extent of this coercion, it will rise in indignation.

Ward's defense of the freedom of its employees has not been prompted by any feeling of anti-unionism; all employees at Ward's are free to join or not to join a uniony as they wish. Ward's fully recognizes this privilege and has assured all employees that their opportunity with the company will be the same whether they are union members or not.

Ward's cannot in good citizenship accept or obey the commands of those who have no legal power to give them and who are seeking to deprive Ward's of it's constitutional rights and liberties, Ward's.takes this position in defense of the constitutional rights and liberties of every citizen of the United States.

The issues are now before the courts where Ward's has sought for two years to have them decided. Ward's welcomes the opportunity to present its case to the courts.

