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Address before the National League of Women Voters
Baltimore, Maryland, April 24th, at the
Hotel Belvedere.

on

"OPEN PRICE ASSOCIATIONS"

by

Walter Thompson, Chairman, National Board of Public Administration

I N T R O D U C T I O N

into numerous guilds and a situation arose not unlike that described by Carlyle
in his "Pittsburgh Dispatch" "The Guilds of Pittsburgh" which the

PRICE ASSOCIATIONS AND AVOID CURTAILING PRODUCTION,



sell to others who did not maintain such prices, and required all those to whom he sold to report the names of those not keeping the resale price. His

Here we have a most revealing picture. The jobbers and the manufacturers are holding up the prices while at the same time the manufacturers practi-

A. Yes.

Q. Now Mr. Secretary, we have had had similar cases. You have been

do they drift out and hold another meeting? I would like to know.

orders, it indicates an advancing market, and whenever the reverse is true it indicates a falling market. Then once a month we will get out another barometer based on the production, which will indicate an ad-

CONCLUSION

Is it not well to ask ourselves whether we can afford to permit the practices of open price associations and whether they shall lead us to the situations that the guilds brought upon the whole world in days past?

After all is there any way out of the present economic situation except by keeping clear the channels of trade and keeping alive the competitive system?

All nations have started off in their virile youth with competition and continued to follow this policy until they waxed fat and ceased to preserve the individual initiative and responsibility. When that stage was reached, they have