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REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON
COMPARATIVE SOCIAL, LABOR
AND INDUSTRIAL LEGISLATION

To be presented by
Hon. R. E. Freer, Chairman,
to the Section at the annual meeting
at Chicago, Illinois, August 23-25, 1943.

1942-43

American Bar Association
Section of International and
Comparative Law
Division of Comparative Law

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LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS LEGISLATION 1/

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Because of exigencies of war and the resultant pressure on the time of all Committee members the work of the Committee during the year was subdivided among only two subcommittees instead of three as in previous years.^{2/} The Subcommittee on Comparative Social and Labor Legislation headed by Mr. Harry C. Shriver and that on Comparative Industrial and Trade Regulation headed by Miss Ellen L. Love, filed interim reports

of a patent where the patentee has suffered a loss by reason of hostilities. The statute also gave the Crown further rights with respect to the use and sale of patented designs and inventions as may be necessary in the efficient prosecution of the present war.

War Risk Insurance

_____ number was damaged has been in operation in Britain for

is punishable by imprisonment for not less than three months or more than one year, and subject to fine of from one to ten thousand pounds. Upon conviction of an offense, a notice to this effect is posted or exhibited on the offender's place of business.

Subsidies

Subsidies have been granted to prevent inflation, especially in those countries where imports and exports are of vital importance.

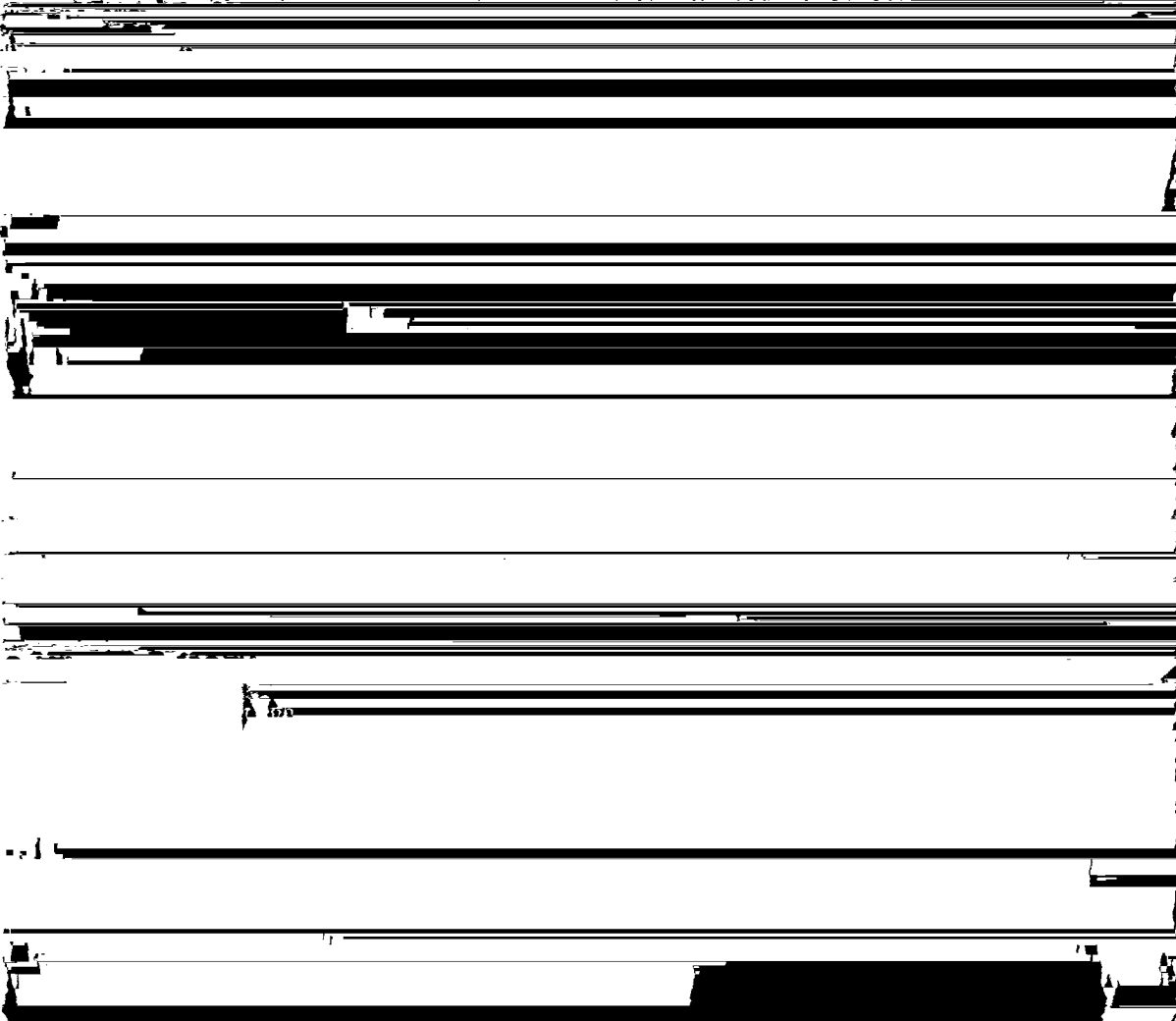
A statement made in the British House of Lords in 1942 showed the amount of British subsidies to be about £127,000,000 or more than \$500,000,000 a year. About one third of this sum was used to keep down the price of bread, flour, oatmeal and feedstuffs. About twenty per cent was applied to meats and lesser amounts to milk, potatoes, sugar and eggs.

Some of the British import subsidy was to offset higher shipping and insurance charges. Large quantities of foodstuffs are imported from the Dominions at prices designed to sustain and encourage produc-

September 1942, a National Foreign Trade Council was established in Chile to take over the functions of the Exchange Control Commission, Import License Commission, Export Control Service, and National Supply Board, and to cooperate with the Agricultural Economy Institute in foreign trade matters.

In Costa Rica, Legislative Decree No. 34, December 24, 1941, authorized the Executive Power to take necessary measures to develop and protect agricultural, industrial and commercial activities, with particular regard to difficulties that may result from the war, and provided for creation of an Economic Defense Board (Gaceta Oficial, December 30, 1941). Under this authority the President has issued numerous decrees.

In the Dominican Republic, Law No. 16, June 23, 1942, declared a



for appropriate legislation in the field of economic matters, with
particular attention to the supply, distribution and price of prime necessi-

ties, rent control, and exchange control.

In Colombia an Executive Order on April 1, 1942 (Diario Oficial,
No. 12,782) established the National Commission for Economic Study

an advisory committee representative of labor, agriculture, manufacturers and importers.

In Costa Rica prices of necessary products have been under surveillance since 1933, but in March 1942 an Office of Investigation and Control of Prices was created by Presidential decree, with direction to act in accord with the National Civil Defense Board (Decree No. 4

March 27, 1942 La Gaceta, March 28, 1942) Further regulation of

created a General Supply Board, the purpose of which is said to be to prevent inflation by rigid enforcement of the price fixing acts and expropriation of essential commodities.

Under this Act, which shall continue in force until six months after the war, unless otherwise provided, the United States agreed to

Several important missions from the United States have visited the Latin American countries in the interest of agricultural, industrial, engineering, and sanitation projects, including a tour of the Americas by Vice President Wallace in the spring of 1943. Problems relating to the production and distribution of agricultural products, of utmost importance at this time, were considered by the United Nations Food Conference at Hot Springs, Virginia, in May 1943, and a permanent international organization was proposed to continue this

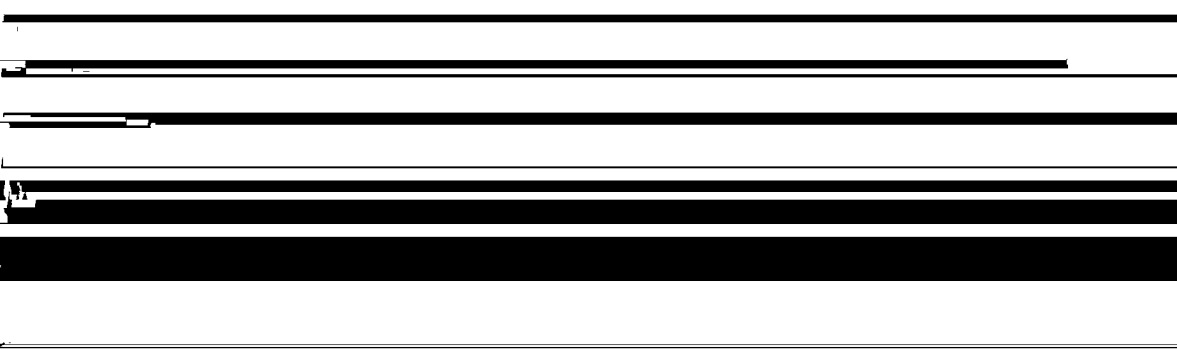
It is important to note the trend toward international regulation of foreign trade. Recently adopted "decentralization" and "program licensing" plans of the United States Board of Economic Warfare are designed to tie in with foreign trade controls abroad, the purpose of which is said to be to determine the essential needs of each country for materials to be imported, to provide a procedure which will assure that imported materials and transportation to each country will be utilized in such a way as to promote the greatest possible efficiency in the war effort, and to maintain as far as possible the essential

economy of the countries operating under the plan. (U. S. Board of Economic Warfare Current Export Bulletin No. 79, March 3, 1943.)

International cooperation will continue to expand as the war progresses, and will serve as a basis for post war policy. Already there

are in the United States more than a hundred agencies, Governmental and private, working on post war plans. Other countries are considering the same problems. Reconstruction of industry and reconstruction

reports and for the basic draft of this final report; and to the
Federal Trade Commission for access to information relative to foreign



legislation in the files of its Export Trade Section.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Elliott Freer,
Chairman.

July 12, 1943
Washington, D. C.