

from Apró's speech in Kocskemet (29 Sept 1957)  
(see also file "Government")

#### Wages and Prices

"Few Governments had such a difficult situation to handle as the one facing the Government of Janos Kadar last year", Apró went on. "Despite all the difficulties of that time, we allocated over 7,000,000,000 forints to wage increases and social allowances. Pensions, which amounted to 550,000,000 forints in 1948, now cost 2,600,000,000 forints a year.

"We think it extremely important that our children should not be the only ones to enjoy the benefits of socialism; we also want our contemporaries to profit by them. That is why we are now waging merciless war on all kinds of concealed price increases." The workers were right to complain that certain enterprises and shops were abusing their opportunities and were engaging in speculation. Contrary to the interests of the national economy, they were making concealed price increases and profiteering at the population's expense. The Government's Economic Commission had taken a number of measures to prevent concealed price increases and had called upon the Supreme Prosecutor's Office to investigate cases of profiteering and concealed price increases and prosecute the guilty. (See also under "The Campaign against Concealed Price Increases" below)

Apró added: "As a result of counter-revolutionary demagoguery, certain leaders and Workers' Councils introduced illegal wage increases. This later compelled us to reintroduce piece-rates. These measures were unpopular with many people, but it was the only way to bring about a proper balance between increased purchasing power and the volume of goods available."