

September Job Picture Cloudy

Signs of improvements in the nation's job picture remain clouded by a continuing high rate of seasonally-adjusted unemployment.

Official figures issued by the U.S. Department of Labor for September show the rate of unemployment, adjusted for seasonal fluctuations, still pushing seven percent for the tenth straight month.

A dip of some 450,000 between August and September left unemployment at 4.1 million—a seasonally-adjusted rate of 6.8 percent. This compares with a rate of 6.9 percent in August.

Commenting on the new figures, Seymour Wolfbein, the Labor Department's manpower expert, agreed with the AFL-CIO that, unless the seasonal rate shows marked improvement, the nation faces the bleak prospect of unemployment again rising to over five million this winter. Wolfbein sees signs of encouragement, however, in a number of developments highlighted by the September figures. There were four favorable indicators:

—Unemployment among adult men was reduced more than seasonally. The seasonally-adjusted rate dropped from 6.1 percent in August to 5.7 percent.

—Long-term unemployment of fifteen weeks or more also dropped by some 200,000, but remained, nevertheless, at a staggering 1.3 million. This was still 452,000 more

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Nelson Points to Waste in Consumer Packaging

Governor Brown's Consumer Counsel Helen Nelson recently warned the packaging industry that the consumer is not getting a fair shake on the amount of money that goes into the packaging of grocery items.

Mrs. Nelson addressed a day-long workshop session of the Packaging Institute at the Roger Young Auditorium in Los Angeles on the subject "Packaging, Display or Deception". The state Consumer Counsel noted that "out of a \$20 bill spent at the grocery store, estimates are that \$1.50 to \$2.00 goes for the cost of the packages the groceries are displayed in."

Elaborating on this point, Helen Nelson pointed out that the average

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THOS L. PITTS
Executive
Secretary-Treasurer

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Fed Issues Conference Call on Problems of Unemployment and Retraining

AFL-CIO organizations throughout the state were urged, this week, to lay plans for participation in two weekend labor education conferences on the problems of "Unemployment, Retraining and Skill Development," sponsored by the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

Dates and locations were announced as follows:

San Francisco, Del Webb Towne House, November 10-12, 1961.

Los Angeles, Statler Hilton Hotel, November 17-19, 1961.

Federation Secretary-Treasurer Thos. L. Pitts advised affiliates that the conferences will be identical in scope and purpose. They are being offered at two locations, Pitts explained, in order to minimize travel expenses for local organizations and to encourage the widest possible attendance.

Advance registration forms were enclosed with the conference call, which was sent out this Tuesday together with a preliminary outline of the conference program.

In the programming of the conference, Pitts said, "emphasis is

being placed on the development of practical, usable information so that local union leaders will be in a better position to cope with job displacement, retraining and skill development problems which are threatening both the security of our membership and the well-being of workers generally."

The format of the weekend conferences calls for a kickoff dinner session Friday night, plenary and discussion sessions on Saturday, followed by a plenary session and panel discussion on Sunday morning with adjournment by noon.

"In these conferences," Pitts added, "we are bringing together key people in governmental agencies for a carefully planned and orderly presentation of the 'tools' now available to help retrain displaced workers and develop the skill potential of our labor force."

Workshop sessions will enable conference participants to discuss the utilization and application of these "tools" in various industries and occupations.

Pitts noted that top representatives of government responsible for administration of programs in the skill development and retraining field will be on hand throughout the conference sessions. In addition to presenting information on how government services may be utilized in local situations, these officials will form the Sunday morning panel to answer questions arising out of the workshop sessions.

Pitts noted that unresolved issues

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Unemployment and Retraining Conference

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and problems will form the base for "pinpointing the direction in which organized labor must press in search of broader community solutions to job displacement, training and retraining problems in the period ahead."

Affiliates are urged to return completed registration forms to the office of the Federation, 995 Market Street, San Francisco 3, at the earliest possible date.

The conference registration fee for delegates is \$12.50, which covers both the kickoff dinner session on Friday, and a group luncheon on Saturday.

Hotel reservation forms were also enclosed with the conference call. They are to be sent directly to the hotels where the conferences are being held.

The following is a preliminary outline of the program. (Speakers will be announced in the near future.)

FRIDAY NIGHT

5:00 p.m.—Registration.

6:45 p.m.—Kickoff Dinner.

Speaker to (1) review the scope of manpower and skill development problems, (2) survey the "tools" available to retrain displaced workers and develop the skill potential

of our labor force, and (3) outline community efforts necessary to come to grips with these related problems.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

8:30 a.m.—Registration.

9:30 a.m.—U.S. Department of Labor speaker—

"Operation of Federal Skill Development Programs at the State and Local Levels." Emphasis will be on (1) programs administered exclusively by the federal government, (2) those administered by subventions made available to state and local agencies, and (3) how federal services may be fully developed and utilized in specific retraining and skill development efforts.

10:00 a.m.—State Department of Employment speaker—

"Administration of U.I. Retraining Benefits and Employment Service Role in Skill Development." Emphasis will be on (1) how the state income maintenance may be utilized in positive retraining efforts, spelling out criteria under which retraining benefits will be made available, and (2) services available through the Employment Service in anticipating skill requirements and designating areas of employment opportunity for skill development programs.

10:30 a.m.—Coffee Break.

10:45 a.m.—State Department of Education speaker—

"Development of Vocational, Technical and Related Classroom Programs to Meet the Changing Skill Requirements of Industry, and to Retrain Displaced Workers." Emphasis will be on (1) adaptability of vocational, technical and industrial education programs in public schools to skill training requirements, and (2) better utilization of public schools by labor and industry.

11:15 a.m.—State Department of Industrial Relations speaker—

"Development of On-The-Job Training Programs, including Apprenticeship Training, Journeyman Retraining and Non-Apprenticeable Approaches." Emphasis will be on (1) adaptability of on-the-job training approaches to retraining of journeymen, displaced workers, and unskilled workers generally, and (2) Department services available to labor and industry in the development of on-the-job retraining programs.

12 noon—Lunch.

SAT. AFTERNOON SESSION

2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. with coffee break.

Four simultaneous workshop sessions, each under a skilled discussion leader with resource people from each of the agencies represented in the morning session. The discussion sessions will give conference participants selection in accordance with the following four categories: (1) Construction Industry; (2) Manufacturing Industries; (3) Utilities, Trade and Service Industries; and (4) Office and Technical Occupations.

Discussion sessions will focus on application of "tools" presented in morning session to meet retraining and skill development needs in the occupational categories.

SUNDAY MORNING SESSION

9:30 a.m.—Coffee.

10:00 a.m.—Panel discussion consisting of four major speakers from Saturday morning session, and a panel chairman. Purpose of panel will be to (1) answer questions raised out of Saturday afternoon discussion sessions, and (2) pinpoint areas where new training and skill development approaches and techniques may be necessary.

11:45 a.m.—Conference summary by Chairman of Panel.

12 noon—Adjournment.

REGISTRATION FORM

CALIFORNIA LABOR FEDERATION, AFL-CIO CONFERENCES on UNEMPLOYMENT, RETRAINING AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT CHECK CONFERENCE LOCATION SELECTION

- ☐ SAN FRANCISCO, Del Webb Towne House, Nov. 10-12, 1961
☐ LOS ANGELES, Statler Hilton Hotel, Nov. 17-19, 1961

DELEGATE(S):

Name

Union and

Local No.

Address

City

CHECK SELECTION OF DISCUSSION SESSION

(See program for Saturday afternoon)

- ☐ Construction Industry ☐ Manufacturing Industries
☐ Office and Technical Occupations ☐ Utilities, Trade and Service Industries

ADVANCE \$12.50 REGISTRATION FEE ENCLOSED: YES..... NO.....

FORWARD THIS REGISTRATION FORM TO:

Thos. L. Pitts, Secretary-Treasurer
California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO
995 Market Street, Room 810
San Francisco 3, California

Brown States Liberal Social Welfare Outlook

Governor Edmund G. Brown recently launched the state's newly-appointed Welfare Study Commission with a clear statement of his Administration's liberal orientation in the field of social welfare.

The study commission was created by the 1961 legislature at Brown's request as part of a far-reaching package of social welfare liberalization bills signed into law by the Governor.

Addressing the opening meeting of the commission in Sacramento, Brown said:

"My Administration stands for progressive welfare programs for all who need public assistance and welfare services. To conduct a truly moral government, we must meet need where need exists. We must help those who are not able to help themselves."

In his charge to the commission, Brown noted that "recipients have moral responsibilities, and we must help them to fulfill their duties."

"But we must never forget," he added, "that recipients also have legal and moral rights. People in trouble must never be made second-class citizens. They must not be the victims of hit-and-run political highwaymen seeking headlines."

Brown also cautioned the study group to "hold firm against the rash of publicity currently pouring out of Newburg, New York."

In his condemnation of the Newburg plan, Brown said that enthusiasm for it "has come mainly from either uninformed or politically inspired sources." Pointing to its many unsound and illegal methods for depriving individuals of welfare assistance, Brown said bluntly, "This is the wrong approach to the problem."

In a specific reference to attacks on the aid to needy children program, he stated, "Let us never forget that we must always put the saving of children first, the saving of money second."

One of the study commission's first organizational acts, following a recommendation by the Governor, was the appointment of a committee to develop a plan for a citizens' advisory committee to the commission. Such a committee, it is recog-

AFL-CIO Blasts John Birch Society

The AFL-CIO has denounced the John Birch society as a group of "radical reactionaries," whose purpose is the destruction of American institutions, with the labor movement as one of its prime targets.

Speaking recently before the Massachusetts state federation of labor, AFL-CIO Legislative Director Andrew J. Biemiller said:

"When a group of wealthy, fanatical men undertakes to destroy public confidence in American leaders, past and present; in American institutions; in social progress, and even in the ability of the people to govern themselves, they are eating away at the fiber of our country and our way of life."

Last week, also, the AFL-CIO News editorialized as follows on the link-up of military leaders with the John Birch Society:

The labor movement is the logical target of the radical Right-wingers who have resurrected McCarthyism and the politics of fear under the label of the John Birch Society.

Labor's social, economic and political programs conflict at every turn with the John Birchers, who call for repeal of the income tax, impeachment of Chief Justice Earl Warren, withdrawal from NATO and the United Nations, and dumping programs such as urban renewal. In the guise of fighting communism, the radical Right is subverting and attacking the basic principles and policies of American democracy.

This lunatic fringe operating in its own limited sphere is symptomatic of a reaction to the tensions of the cold war. As a symptom it merits attention, especially when its spokesmen turn up in the top echelons of the military.

The use of armed forces indoctrination courses to peddle the disordered libels of the John Birch

nized, would enable progressive organizational forces in the state to help keep the focus of the study commission on the humanitarian purpose of social welfare programs, and offset the pressures of reactionary forces whose only interest in these welfare programs is the potential they see for cutting tax dollars.

Society is a breach of democratic tradition. No military organization or military leader has the right or authority under the American system of democracy to promote a political program within the armed forces.

The action of Senator J. William Fulbright (D-Ark.) and other members of the Senate in exposing the radical Right's infiltration of a part of the armed forces is a service to the nation. The Administration's order to prevent future indoctrination by political generals is in keeping with the traditions of our democratic philosophy.

September Job Picture Cloudy

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than the 805,000 listed a year ago for September 1960.

—Long-term unemployment of more than 27 weeks declined by 150,000 to about 750,000. Unemployed in this category, however, still totaled 243,000 more than one year earlier, when 417,000 were jobless for 27 weeks or longer.

—Involuntary part-time employment among non-agricultural workers for economic reasons dropped by 600,000 to 2.5 million, or to about the same level as in September 1960.

In California, latest reports issued this week show only a seasonal drop in unemployment. The September jobless total in California was 364,000, or 5.5 per cent of the labor force, compared with 419,000 or 6.3 percent in August, and 455,000 or 6.9 percent in July.

Unlike the federal government, California does not attempt to adjust monthly unemployment figures for elimination of seasonal fluctuations.

Among factors considered responsible for the drop in the state's September unemployment rate were peak employment in seasonal industries and the withdrawal of students from the summer labor force with the reopening of school.

September marked the first month this year that California unemployment fell below 400,000 and a jobless rate of less than six percent.

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Top 'Priority' Given 5 Bills in Congress

Labor has put a second session "priority" label on five major bills left hanging when Congress adjourned, an AFL-CIO spokesman has declared.

Legislative Director Andrew J. Biemiller predicted that Congress, after "hearing from the people" during the three-month recess, will act on:

- Health care for the aged through social security payments.

Nelson Points to Waste In Consumer Packaging

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clear designation of contents, and great confusion."

"Increasingly consumers are feeling not only confused, but deceived, cheated, and swindled," she added.

Mrs. Nelson reminded the packagers that they are bringing the wrath of consumers down upon the retailer and the manufacturer, while the packagers remain in their anonymity.

"You do not serve a manufacturer's best interests," she charged, "when you make a long-term customer say, 'I will never buy anything of theirs again. They deceived me.'"

Mrs. Nelson assured those attending the workshop that she had accepted their invitation to help work toward solving these problems. "The packaging industry is new. It has a lot of growing up to do," she said.

She recommended:

1. Stronger and more uniform law enforcement.

2. Acceptance by the industry of policing responsibility for setting standards of desirable practice.

3. Adoption of standardized container sizes wherever possible. She commended the canning industry for the job they have done in standardizing can sizes.

- Federal aid for school construction and teachers' salaries.

- A recession-triggered flexible public works program.

- Retraining of jobless workers.

Biemiller added that labor also "very much wants" congressional action on situs picketing legislation and reorganization of the National Labor Relations Board. He predicted that carefully drafted legislation to enable the NLRB to speed up decisions in unfair labor practice cases would pass Congress even though a presidential reorganization plan was defeated this year in the House.

Session a 'Success'

Biemiller, interviewed on the Mutual Broadcasting network's Labor News Conference, described the first session of the 87th Congress as "a success" from labor's viewpoint.

He cited enactment of a minimum wage bill, depressed area legislation and "the most comprehensive housing bill that Congress has ever passed" as highlights of the first session.

Biemiller said "a liberal Administration directed by a vigorous young President made a tremendous difference in getting bills passed."

Conceding that the Administration suffered a setback on federal aid to education during the first session, Biemiller predicted that when congressmen return home during the recess and talk to their constituents "they will change their minds and get back to work on this very important question."

There are still "many children who are going to school on a platform system or in dilapidated buildings," he noted.

Likewise, he said, there is growing support for health care for the aged and "every reason to believe that a bill will pass in the next session."

Biemiller also predicted congress-

D.I. Program Goes Into Operation for Farm Workers

On October 1, 1961, California became the first state to bring farm workers under the protection of unemployment disability insurance.

Under the provisions of AB 1663 (Hawkins, D., Los Angeles), signed into law by Governor Edmund G. Brown, some 56,000 growers began making wage deductions for farm worker contributions into the state disability insurance fund.

A one percent contribution by farm workers on their wages will result in an estimated \$8 million a year in benefit payments to this long neglected segment of the state's labor force. Disability and hospital benefits will become payable to eligible farm workers after May 1, 1962.

Irving H. Perluss, Director of Employment, said that any farm employer of one or more workers who pays total wages of more than \$100 in any calendar quarter on or after October 1, 1961 is required to make the payroll deductions for deposit in the state disability insurance fund. Any employer who fails to make the necessary deductions becomes fully liable for payment of the disability tax.

Extension of the disability insurance program to farm workers was considered one of the highlights of the 1961 legislative session in social insurance advancements.

sional approval of pending legislation strengthening the Welfare and Pension Plan Disclosure Act and establishing a cabinet Department of Urban Affairs.

He said he did not think legislation to put unions under the anti-trust laws would "go very far" and added that any attempt to pass such legislation would be "resisted vigorously" by the AFL-CIO.