

## Productivity Should Be Based On Single Accepted Data Standard

By BRUCE BLOSSAT

In this age you can find statistics to back up almost any point of view you care to take. And that's a sad comment on a way of life that must be nourished on sound factual information if it is to flower.

As an example, note the current fact-finding inquiry in New York on the issue of the United Steel Workers' wage and pension demands.

Led by Philip Murray, president of the CIO, the steel workers' union presented a case rooted in the claim that steel wages have gone up far less in recent years than has worker productivity in the industry.

The contention is, in other words, that steel workers are not being rewarded in keeping with their increasing contribution to production.

Robert R. Nathan, well-known labor economist, appears to have marshaled the figures in support of the union's view. If the statistics are valid, they certainly strengthen the union's case.

But along comes Dr. Jules Backman for the steel industry. He tells the fact-finders that steel workers' wages in recent years have shot up twice as much as has worker productivity. Almost the exact opposite of the union's claim—and Backman has figures, too.

Now there may be different ways of measuring productivity. But output per worker is a mat-

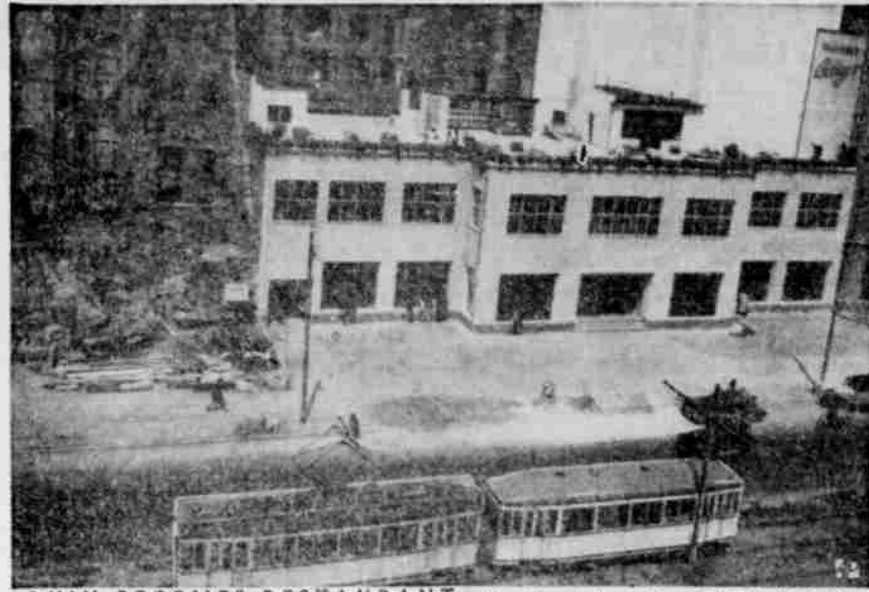
ter frequently crucial to wage disputes and there should be some standard gauge for calculating it. The National Labor Relations board, aided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, could determine such a measure.

Set against an accepted standard, productivity has either gone up more than wages or it has not. It cannot do both. And we are frankly tired of being told, in effect, that it can.

One might argue that is the fact-finders' job to decide whether the union's or the industry's claim is correct. Our belief is that the board should not have to weigh a matter that belongs in the realm of settled, known fact. Productivity should be as firmly established by some regular agency as is the Weather Bureau's report of yesterday's temperatures.

In too many areas of business and government the vaunted statistic is being twisted to the uses of propaganda. The only figures the American people care about are those which document a case honestly.

Somebody once said of the Rus-



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sians: "If it's documents you want, they are only too happy to supply you with them in great number. All false, of course." Unless our leaders in government, business and labor make

more judicious use of statistics in argument, they will bring down upon themselves the same sort of discredit the Russians earned by their phony documents.

Phenomenal waves ten to 15 feet high, traveling as much as 45 miles an hour, are formed by the spring tidal "bore" in the mouth of the Amazon river, says the Encyclopedia Americana.

## Higher Education Schools' Opening Dates Are Listed

EUGENE, Aug. 25. (Special)—Fall term college classes at the institutions of the State System of Higher Education will begin in Eugene and Corvallis Sept. 26, and in Ashland, LaGrande and Monmouth, Sept. 27. Deadline for registration at the schools is Oct. 8. All will have Thanksgiving vacations Nov. 24-27, and the terms will end Dec. 28.

Some University of Oregon students will begin arriving on that campus Sept. 11 for rush week. New student week and registration is set for Sept. 19-24.

Oregon State college will have registration and orientation week Sept. 19-24, with registration the last three days. First rush week is set for Sept. 22-25, and second rush week, Sept. 26-29.

Southern Oregon College of Education, Ashland, and Oregon College of Education, Monmouth, have set Sept. 22-26 for freshman days and registration of entering students, and Sept. 26 for registration of returning students; Eastern Oregon College of Education, La Grande will have freshman days and registration of entering students Sept. 22-24, with Sept. 26 for registration of returning students only.

Va. Airport Extension Center, at Portland, will have a similar schedule, opening as follows: Sept. 19, placement examinations

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for new students; Sept. 20, advisement for new students; Sept. 21-24, freshman week and registration. The University of Oregon Medical and Dental schools, also in Portland, will start a little later: as Thanksgiving holiday, and registration at the Dental school is Oct. 3-4, and classes will begin Oct. 5. The Medical school schedules examinations for removal of deficiencies on Oct. 1, registration Oct. 3, and classes, Oct. 4. Both will have Nov. 24 as Thanksgiving holiday, and Registration at the Dental school terms ending Dec. 23.



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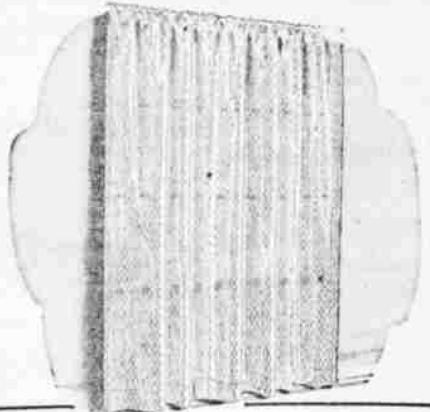
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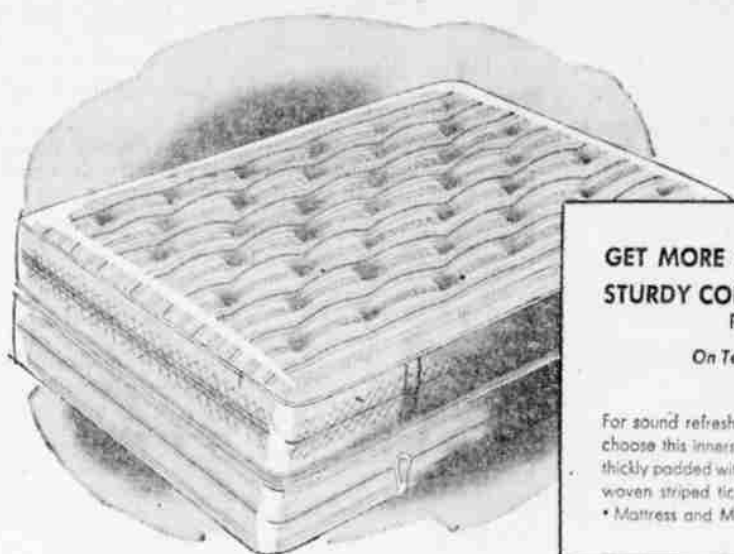


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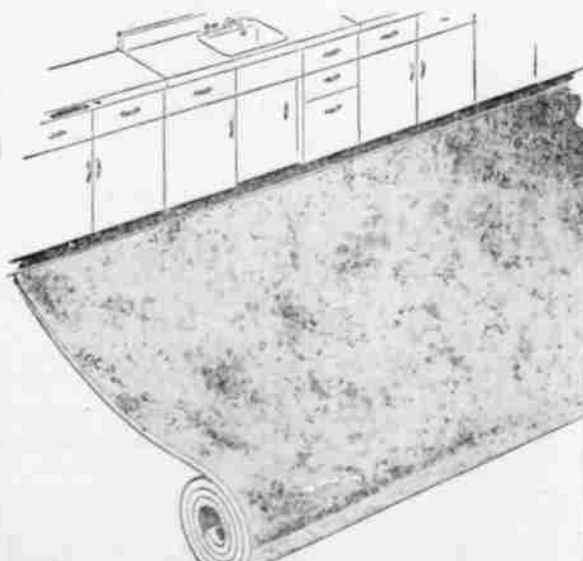
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