

Fast-Growing Population Outstripping Jobs' Supply; Unemployment Fund Sinks

By NORMAN WALKER

WASHINGTON—(AP)—The nation is failing to create enough jobs for its fast-growing population.

So says Secretary of Commerce Sawyer in summing up the 1949 job situation.

Sawyer pointed out that the average 58,700,000 employed last year was only slightly under the 1948 record.

However, he said there was an average of 3,400,000 unemployed in 1949. This was a big jump from the average 2,100,000 jobless in 1947 and 1948.

The answer, Sawyer said, is that new people are entering the labor force, looking for jobs, at a greater rate than the number of jobs are increasing. The secretary put it this way:

"The labor force has continued to expand in 1949 with the growth of the country's population, but employment opportunities have not kept pace."

Sawyer's comments were made in connection with census bureau employment figures for December. They showed total civilian employment for the month at 58,556,000.

Insurance Funds Dwindle

Farm employment declined seasonally 1,105,000, but non-farm employment rose 143,000, leaving 962,000 fewer employed in December than in November. The unemployed in December numbered 3,489,000.

The fast rise in the unemployed is taking a big nick out of state unemployment insurance funds, too. A survey on this came from Robert C. Goodwin, director of the labor department's bureau of employment security.

Goodwin said the jobless payments reached a record \$1,700,000,000 in 1949. The previous record was \$1,100,000,000 in 1946.

The number of people getting the jobless payments, 7,500,000, also set a new record. The old high was 5,200,000 in 1940.

Taxes paid by employers toward state unemployment compensation funds amounted to about \$1,000,000,000, or approximately 1.3 percent of taxable wages. But the tax payments were short of meeting the \$1,700,000,000 cost of benefits, so unemployment trust funds had to be tapped for the difference.

Goodwin said these trust funds were reduced by about eight percent but at the end of the year still aggregated about \$7,000,000,000.

That's enough trust money, he said, for paying future jobless benefits in nearly all states "even if employment should drop sharply from its current level."

Pros During Depression

Goodwin said jobless payments helped tide the nation over the 1949 business recession by providing unemployed workers while they were looking for work, with about 40 percent of what they had been earning.

He said this enabled them to buy food and other necessities temporarily and keep up purchasing power in hard-hit communities.

But Goodwin deplored the variation of amount and length of payments between the states and said:

"Much more remains to be done. Benefits are still generally

Illinois Teems With Gambling, Governor Says

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Jan. 5.—(AP)—Commercialized gambling, says Gov. Adlai E. Stevenson, has been his "biggest headache" during his first year in office.

Stevenson, in a radio talk, summing up his first year as governor of Illinois, said:

"Illinois is getting the reputation of a gambling state. The tribute we pay to the slot machines runs into millions a year."

The Democratic governor, in his first full scale report on the gambling situation, termed gambling the most "stubborn problem."

"It's against the law in Illinois," he said, "and it can only exist where local officials tolerate it, either because they think the people don't care or, because it's politically expedient."

In some counties gambling has stopped, he said. In other counties it stops for a while and starts again.

"In others it never stops and the state administration is under incessant pressure to come in and take over local law enforcement," Stevenson said.

The best way to end gambling, he said, is to elect "conscientious, vigorous officials and insist that they enforce the law."

"The people choose the officials and the people are still stronger than the gamblers," he declared.

Award Of Millions To Oregon Indians Poses Problem

PORTLAND, — (AP)—A congressional appropriation and decision on who shall share in the \$16,500,000 awarded by a court decision to four Oregon Indian tribes stand in the way of final settlement of the Indians' claims. But the appropriation should follow in normal fashion, L. P. Towle, acting area director for the Indian service, said here.

The big problem, he said, is "an equitable distribution of the funds to those who are entitled to them."

"You'll be amazed at the number of persons who will try to get into the act—including white-skinned Indians," Towle said. He added that preliminary surveys had already been made to determine direct descendants of the original owners of the land, "but there is still much to be done."

Tugs Attempt To Free Dislodged Pontoon Bridge

PASCO, Wash., Jan. 4.—(AP)—Two tugs battled the swift Columbia river current today in an attempt to free a 900-foot army pontoon bridge jammed against a Union Pacific railroad span.

Ice floes ripped the pontoon bridge from its moorings on the Snake river yesterday. It drifted down the Snake river into the Columbia and caught on the railroad structure.

State highway engineers said the pontoon bridge suffered virtually no damage in its two and three-quarter mile ride downstream.

Births At Mercy Hospital

BILOW—To Mr. and Mrs. Darrell James Bilow, Roseburg, Jan. 1, a daughter, Gayle Kay; weight seven pounds eight ounces.

Plans are being pushed to complete the Cairo, Egypt, to Cape Town railroad which, if finished, will be 10,000 miles long, the longest in the world.

Millions Of American-Given Toys Being Assembled For Sending To Europe's Children

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 31.—(AP)—A Delaware river pier is beginning to groan under a steadily mounting pile of picture books, dolls, blocks and cowboy suits bound for the children of Europe.

The flood of playthings is the nation's response to the American Legion's "Junior Marshall plan"—a drive designed (1) to provide toys for European children born during or after World War Two and (2) by so doing combat Communist propaganda.

Officially designated the "tide of toys," the project got under way the day after Christmas and was originally scheduled to end Jan. 7, 1950.

The response has been so great, however, that Legion officials announced the final date for shipment of toys to Philadelphia has been extended to Jan. 15.

All the nation's children have been asked to participate by sending new toys or cash contributions. Each toy should have a letter attached from the young donor.

While the primary appeal was to children, toys and money have been flowing in from churches, youth groups and civic organizations. Local American Legion posts are aiding in the collection while distribution of the gifts abroad will be handled by the CARE organization.

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The American Legion, pier 38 South, Philadelphia. Toys which are fragile or difficult to pack should be avoided, the Legion said.

Electrical playthings also are of little value because they cannot be used in many sections of Europe. And above all else, Legion officials warned, do not send any war toys—such as toy guns, tanks, planes or metal soldiers.

Edward P. McGinnis, Legion director of public relations, said one million toys are on their way to Philadelphia from California alone.

Several states, including Arkansas, Connecticut and Virginia, have designated official "tide of toys days," while Pennsylvania's governor James H. Duff endorsed the campaign in a recent statement.

Speaking of Communists attempts to discredit the Marshall plan in Western Europe, McGinnis said:

"A shlopd of toys from our children to youngsters in Europe will help offset this line of propaganda. The time to mold the minds of people is when they are young enough to be without prejudice."

The toys will be distributed in Great Britain, France, Italy, Belgium, Holland, Norway, Germany, Austria, Greece, Czechoslovakia, Finland, Poland, and Yugoslavia.

As far as possible, McGinnis said, the toys will be given to children born during or after World War two because they have never known a Christmas "such as we enjoy."

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