

Workers, Employers Benefit By Unemployment Measures

Additional savings for employers and increased benefits for workers were the main results of 10 unemployment measures approved by the recent legislature. Lower requirements under experience rating will reduce 1952 taxes at least \$1,477,000, the commission estimates, while compensation checks are expected to be 9.6 percent higher—about \$1,056,000 in an average benefit year such as the one just drawing to a close. The new schedule takes effect with the year starting July 1, 1951.

Another important bill made into law was the return to the 1941-49 basis for determination of seasonal firms. This requires four years of "off-season" experience before a concern can be entitled to restrictions upon compensation paid to its seasonal employees. Since 1949 only two-out-of-three years have been needed to qualify for seasonality.

Several other amendments to the unemployment law were passed by both houses and signed by the governor. Combining of wage credits with adjoining states to allow workers to draw increased benefits would be permitted. This depends upon reaching agreements with agencies in other states. Wages were re-defined to conform with latest federal legislation with regard to pension and social security. Women would be unavailable for work for

a definite period of six weeks before and four weeks after pregnancy, another bill provides. Notification period for appeals was lengthened to 10 days, while still another amendment extends penalties for false statements on interstate claims.

New Bill Needed

Passage of the last bill (H.B. 706) was made necessary because of almost simultaneous approval of two measures (S. B. 265 and 156) affecting the same section of the law. Because the latter amendment had the effect of nullifying the former, which provided for changes in employers' experience rating, a new bill incorporating both was needed, the attorney general ruled.

Several other unemployment pro-



CONFERS WITH CHIANG—Maj. Gen. William Chase (left), head of the U.S. Military Advisory Group, meets for the first time with Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek in Chiang's office in Taipei, Formosa. Chiang assured General Chase of his "fullest cooperation" in the American officer's task of training all branches of the Nationalist armed forces. (AP Wirephoto)

posals were defeated or died in committee. Among these were the "one-or-more" employe coverage up for the fourth time, the dependency measure favored by the Senate, the partial disability benefit measure proposed late in the session, the modified California plan that would have replaced seasonality, labor proposals for \$30 maximum benefits and elimination of the waiting week, broadening of disqualification sections, and raising qualifying base year earnings to \$600 from the present \$400.

Changes in the contributions and benefit provisions of the unemployment law followed a trend started in 1945. For four successive sessions, the legislature lowered experience rating requirements and raised the compensation schedule. Average tax rates have declined from 2.7 percent in 1946 and 2.234 in the last year of the war to 1.35 percent in 1950 and are expected to approach one percent in 1952. The measure just enacted allows qualified firms to secure reduced rates (2.4 percent or less) when their reserves reach 2 percent of their average annual pay rolls, and they will be entitled to the lowest rate of 0.3 percent when their reserves are over 10 percent. Provisions for additional voluntary contributions also have been made.

Benefit Schedules Upped
Benefit schedules have been increased steadily since 1940 in an effort to keep up with the rising cost of necessities for temporarily unemployed workers. Average payments have gone from \$11.68 in 1940 and \$16.50 in 1945 to \$20.96 for the 1950 benefit year. The new schedule continues similar limits from \$15 to \$25 for from 7 to 26 weeks a year, but the maximum will be reached by workers earning \$1,950 in their base year — instead of \$2,600. Benefits of higher paid employes will be unchanged.

Despite this continuing tendency toward higher benefits and lower taxes, the trust fund has remained above the \$70 million mark attained in mid-1945. Reserves reached a high of \$86 millions late in 1948 and now are over \$73 millions. Having successfully withstood heavy demands during long, cold winters of 1949 and 1950, the trust fund will meet all normal foreseeable demands, the commission believes.

OSC Students Donate 749 Pints Of Blood

CORVALLIS — (AP) — Oregon State college contributed 749 pints of blood in a two-day Red Cross blood-donating campaign.

Keith Osborn, Corvallis, and John Skovlin, Enterprise, student co-chairmen of the drive, said

this was a new high for west coast colleges. The best previous mark was 511 pints, contributed at U.C.L.A., they said.

College staff members and Benton county residents also participated, contributing an estimated 10 percent of the total.

Truman Letter To MacArthur Given Senators

WASHINGTON — (AP) — President Truman wrote Gen. Douglas MacArthur a letter dealing with Korean war policy last January when conditions there were bleak for the United Nations.

Senators who reported this said the President's letter told MacArthur that "steps which might in themselves be fully justified" and might help the campaign in Korea "would not be beneficial" if they should result in spreading the fighting to Japan or western Europe.

Paraphrased excerpts read into the record of the inquiry into MacArthur's dismissal showed that Mr. Truman "recognized the continued resistance might not be militarily possible with the limited forces available to General MacArthur."

The letter was dated Jan. 13, United Nations forces then were rapidly backed down before the first big onslaught of Red Chinese.

Paraphrased excerpts read into the record of the inquiry into MacArthur's dismissal showed that Mr. Truman "recognized the continued resistance might not be militarily possible with the limited forces available to General MacArthur."

Saltonstall read this paraphrased excerpt into the record:

"The President emphasized that pending the buildup of our national strength, we must act with great prudence insofar as extending the area of hostilities was concerned. Steps which might in them-

successful resistance in Korea, however, would serve the following purposes."

Saltonstall said the letter listed 10 such purposes, the first of which was "to demonstrate that aggression would not be accepted by the free world."

A spearhead found in Alaska indicates to archeologists that Asiatic tribesmen crossed the Brooks mountains of Alaska and wandered along a trail to central Oregon some 9500 years ago.

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