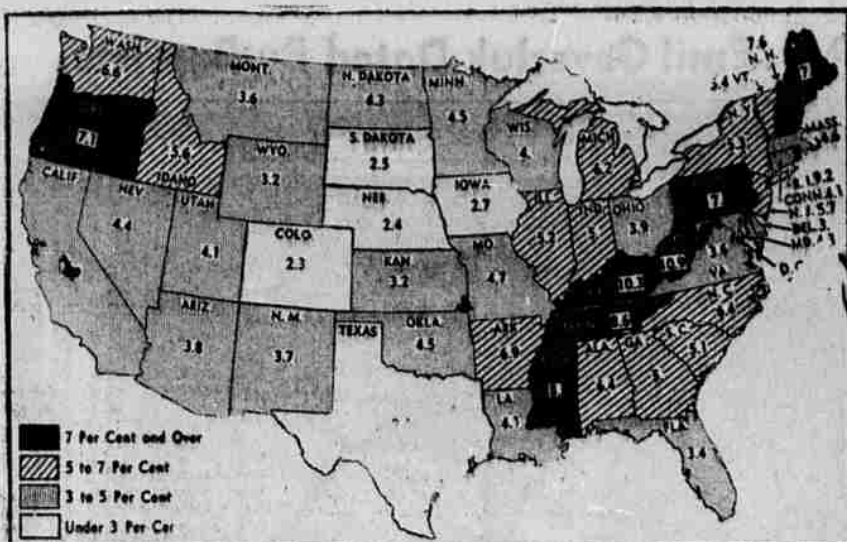




U. S. UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION—Above map, "Unemployment Rates, 1954," was part of President Eisenhower's economic message to Congress in which he forecast a future of high employment. The map shows the percentage unemployment rate of each state. Texas and Colorado were low with 2.3 per cent unemployed. West Virginia was high with 10.9 unemployed.

Germans View Soviet Overture With Caution

BONN, Germany (AP) — Chancellor Konrad Adenauer's government said Wednesday the Soviet declaration ending Russia's state of war with Germany will produce practical progress toward normal relations only if Moscow accepts free elections and a peace treaty for all Germany.

The government made this statement following a cabinet meeting to consider the significance of the Russian announcement Tuesday.

"The Soviet declaration," the statement said, "means practical progress toward the re-establishment of normal relations between the Soviet Union and Germany only if the Soviet Union agrees to genuine free elections for the whole of Germany and to a peace treaty concluded in full freedom between an all-German government and the former war enemies of Germany and if the Soviet Union takes all measures to attain this aim."

The statement expressed hope, however, that the Soviet Union now will "release all (German) prisoners of war and civilians still held as a first consequence of its declaration."

"The federal (West German) government naturally welcomes every move that might lead to an easing of the tension between East and West and to a genuine state of peace," it said.

"The statement of the Soviet Union on the termination of the state of war with the whole of Germany is in accordance with the actions which have been taken in 1951 by the Western Allies and after then, up to now, by more than 50 nations."

Meanwhile the question "What does it mean, a lot or nothing?" held the attention of parliamentary and party leaders in their attempts to evaluate the latest Russian move.

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Exceptions Taken To Ike's Claim About Economy

WASHINGTON (AP) — The CIO and one of former President Truman's economic advisers challenged President Eisenhower's claim of a strong economic comeback in 1954 and his optimistic forecast of a "high and satisfactory level of employment within the current year."

Both Stanley H. Ruttenberg, the CIO's education and research director, and Leon Keyserling, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers under Truman, took issue with Eisenhower's Jan. 20 economic report to Congress as the Senate House Economic Committee opened hearings on the document.

Ruttenberg said in prepared testimony the economy operated at lower levels in 1954 than in 1953, although he conceded that "within the last two or three months there have been signs of an upturn in the economy."

But, said the CIO spokesman, "employment in manufacturing industries is still running more than a million behind a year ago," with parttime employment "still greater."

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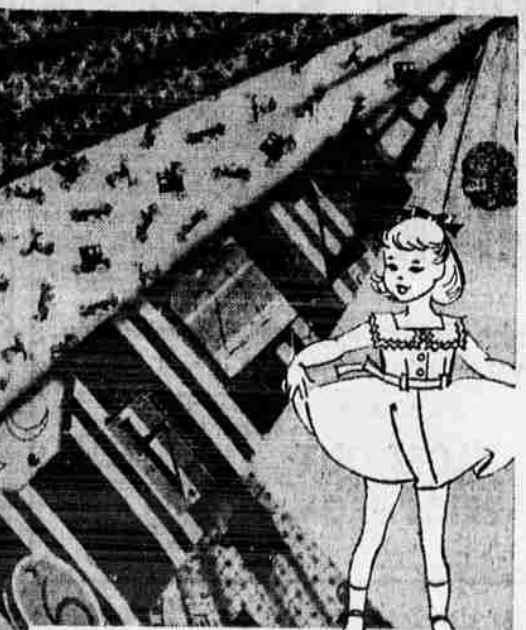
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