

Fraud in Jobless Payments Probed

By NORMAN WALKER
Of The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP)—Government officials are convinced after a nationwide survey that far more workers are getting unemployment payments through fraud and error than they had imagined.

Just how bad it is they don't know for sure. But they feel it's serious enough to ask Congress for another four million dollars to pay for more sleuthing.

Detective work already undertaken has convinced the Department of Labor's Bureau of Employment Security and the various states that they must clamp down on chiselers and tighten the processing of claims to reduce administrative mistakes.

SMALL SAMPLE
Random checks of jobless payments among the states have produced some startling data. Officials say they have doubted that the sampling was broad enough to reflect the actual situation nationwide, and for that reason the

results have not been announced. It was reliably learned, however, that the sampling indicated "improper" payments ranging from 4 to 11 per cent of total payments in some areas.

An initial survey among a few states more than a year ago supplied the 11 per cent ratio. A more complete sampling in 41 states up to mid-1954 indicated about 6 per cent in wrong payments. This showed 3 per cent due to innocent error of one kind or another and 3 per cent due to willful fraud—that is, claimant misrepresentation aimed at getting the system.

Officials say more recent samples in eight states reflect some improvement, showing a 4.1 per cent improper payment ratio consisting of 2.4 per cent fraud and 1.7 per cent error.

CONSIDERABLE MONEY
By any of the ratios the amount of money involved is considerable. Nearly two billion dollars were disbursed to jobless workers during 1954. A 6 per cent wrong payment ratio would mean

120 million dollars misspent out of employer-financed state reserve funds, a 4 per cent ratio would mean 80 million dollars.

Director Robert C. Goodwin of the Employment Security Bureau says the declining statistics show some progress is being made to ward nabbing the gyp artists and minimizing costly mistakes, but he concedes there is still a big job to do.

Goodwin and other federal officials are doubtful about the survey results. The 41-state sampling project investigated only about 8,000 claimants whereas 6,600,000 individuals received one or more benefit checks in 1954. Some cases counted as fraudulent are under appeal and may be reversed. Also, the samples tended to concentrate on the most suspicious cases.

U. S. ALERT
Whatever the true figures, the government and the states now are on the alert. Special investigative units have been established in Washington and some states.

For many years officials had been lulled somewhat because data for detected fraud looked pretty good. For the year ended last July 1, for example, when about \$1,600,000,000 was paid out for about 14 million spells of unemployment, all detected overpayments amounted to \$7,831,000 to 168,884 people.

About 70 per cent or \$5,563,000 was recovered and 5,745 persons were convicted of fraud after prosecution. Those figures showed all over-payments amounted to only one-half of 1 per cent of claims.

But the deliberate search for unwarranted payments brought about by the sample surveys has revealed the problem has far greater magnitude than this data indicated.

In 1951 these figures for detected fraud were made public for the first time, largely through the efforts of the American Society of Newspaper Editors and its special committee on government information.

ANNUAL REPORTS
Thereafter, the detected fraud figures were made public fraudulently for some time, but the Labor Department finally abandoned

the practice and has since published the figures in annual reports.

California, in particular, has been pushing a steady probe. It now claims more than 20 per cent of benefits are being drawn improperly and state officials recently charged that nearly half the payments from the San Francisco office resulted from fraud.

Washington officials are inclined to doubt the California figures on many scores, one being that other state survey results are nowhere near as high as California's.

In New York, executive director Richard C. Brockway of the state's Division of Employment, reported that a survey showed an improper payment ratio of 4 per cent, 2½ per cent through willful fraud and 1½ per cent due to error.

WHAT TO DO?
Brockway said a great amount of improper payments in both categories could have been eliminated if the state had more money from the federal government for administering the program.

What is being done about all this? For one thing, new precautions are being taken. More selective checks are being made. During periods of relatively heavy unemployment, state offices are flooded with claimants and not all of them can be thoroughly interviewed. Forms the unemployed are required to fill out are being simplified to reduce misunderstanding.

States are being urged to concentrate on most likely cases.

Where 10,000 auto or airplane workers are laid off officials don't expect many of them to get "suitable" new jobs until an auto or plane plant starts hiring. People who are job-hoppers, who are in and out of the labor force, are more likely worth investigating.

REASONABLE SEARCH
Women, for example, frequently claim they are available for work where they actually have children to take care of and couldn't respond to a job call.

Abuses also stem from varying state requirements that the jobless worker should make "a reasonable search" for work or

should be "actively seeking" work to continue benefit eligibility. What is "reasonable" or "active?" States interpret this differently.

Keeping such a ramified system straight is a terrific job. The average weekly unemployment payment is about \$25 and you just can't go out and spend a couple of hundred dollars meticulously investigating every case, especially when there are millions of cases.

Examples are made of the most flagrant cases, including forfeits of future entitlement to benefits, and fines or imprisonment.

"We want to clean this up and we'll do it," one official said. "But we hope abuses won't give the whole system a black eye. It could get so bad a reputation that unemployed workers would become reluctant to go in and apply for the benefits to which they are justly entitled."

There are some mistakes the other way, too. Officials say some workers lose out on payments because, through unfamiliarity with the system, they don't apply early enough.

Reds Refused List Of Names of Jurors

DENVER (AP)—Seven accused Communist leaders have been rebuffed in efforts to gain a list of names of jurors who have served in U. S. District Court here the past four years.

Judge Jean S. Breitenstein refused the request by counsel for the seven, who face trial here March 14 on charges of conspiring to teach violent overthrow of the government.

But he promised to personally inspect the lists to determine if economic or racial minorities have been "systematically excluded" from jury duty.

For Foot Troubles
See Eugene's Leading Foot Specialist—Dr. Handshuh
18 Years in Eugene
Examination Free
874 Willamette Ph. 4-3133

Coffee Shops Mushrooming In London

LONDON (AP)—The coffee houses of Samuel Johnson's 18th-century London are reviving, but with glass and neon-lit facades.

A Londoner can buy a cup of coffee almost as readily as the traditional British cup of tea. About 150 coffee shops mushroomed in London during the past year and they're popping up now at the rate of two a week. Brightly incongruous among ancient soot-blackened business fronts, they flash exotic names like Moka, El Cubano, Chiquito, Sirocco and Mocamba.

The typical shop has a tavern-like bar with high stools and a little cluster of low plastic-top tables with well upholstered chairs. Walls are painted or papered in splashy patterns.

Centerpiece is the espresso (express) coffee-making machine—an Italian or Swiss device with a forbidding battery of controls.

Arising from the business side of the machine is a row of half a dozen handles made like miniature baseball bats. The operator, many times a slick, black-haired Italian, pulls on a handle to force water just below the boiling point through finely ground coffee placed over a fine filter.

The product is a heavy, black liquid, too strong or bitter for many to drink straight. For the tender-tongued, there is "cappuccino"—coffee with milk heated and whipped to a froth by bubbling steam through it.

Britons got coffee fever during World War II, according to one importer. Tea was rationed then, plate glass and neon-lit facades, troops also helped create the demand. But until the last two years most coffee was sold as an incidental part of other restaurant fare.

Hearing Aid Users
We are happy to offer a complete battery service for the convenience of hearing aid users. We carry a standard stock of the special batteries that fit your hearing aid.
HYRONS
EVERYBODY'S DRUG
886 Willamette

Limitless Universe Is Eternal Mystery to Man

By J. HUGH PRUETT
Astronomer, Extension Division
Oregon Higher Education System

The one who studies the starry skies is often expected to give information which is entirely outside his field of endeavor. Some feel that he should be able to solve theological difficulties since his telescopes extend vision seemingly almost to where the waters of time lap on the shores of eternity.

The vast expanse of the starry universe is absolutely incomprehensible to mortal mind. A ray of light travels a distance in one second equal to over seven times the circumference of the earth. From the moon, light comes to us in about 1½ seconds; from the sun, in eight minutes; from the most distant planet, in five hours. These distances involved are enormous.

TERMS ALIKE

But beyond our solar system light from the nearest star, itself a sun, requires 4.3 years; from other parts of our own star system, in 100, 10,000 and even 100,000 years. The largest telescope brings light to us from outside galaxies in one million, 100 million and even two billion years. And there is no indication that the end has been reached.

It is unfortunate that "the heavens" and "heaven" are terms almost alike while they are so different in meaning. What we can see above us without optical aid appears to be a blue dome, not very far away, which is set with multitudes of stars. Many ancient peoples considered this firmament to be a solid dividing surface. Below it birds flew and clouds floated; above it was the abode of the Deity and the spirits of the blessed.

The dividing surface was called "the heavens"; the space immediately above it was "heaven." Heaven was thought to be definitely a material place above the world, and was divided into various heights. One New Testament writer spoke of the "third heaven." Mohammedan Koran was said to have come down from the "seventh heaven."

OTHER VIEWS

Some today believe this earth will finally be heaven. Others conjecture that this honor will fall to one of the planets or to

some region far beyond the Milky Way in the region of another galaxy—or even beyond all galaxies. There are limitless possibilities for locations in our vast universe.

A second view is that heaven is purely a superstition of childhood faith without any reality of any kind. A third group holds that heaven is not material but entirely spiritual in nature. They believe that after "crossing the bar" we move "from out our bourne of time and place."

The study of astronomy is primarily concerned with material locations, although wonder aroused may well lead to interesting speculations. But never has astronomy been able to give any light on the location of "heaven." No telescope has detected such a place. Such discussions surely belong mostly in the realms of philosophy and religion.

Marines Hold Rites for Hero

PHOENIX, Ariz. (AP)—The Marine Corps and 10 other organizations conducted memorial services for Marine Hero Ira Hayes Friday in the Arizona capitol.

The 32-year-old Pima Indian, who helped raise the Stars and Stripes atop Mt. Suribachi on Iwo Jima in 1945, was found near his Sacaton reservation home Monday.

His own people said farewell to Hayes at funeral services in the First Presbyterian Church at Sacaton, Ariz., Thursday. Nearly 2,000 Indians and white friends packed the church and stood in the churchyard.

Hayes died of exposure and excessive alcohol.

Misfortune and unhappiness had been his lot since he came out of the Marines. Those who knew him said he drank too much because horrors of the island battles of Tarawa, Bougainville and Iwo Jima never left him.

Burial will be in the Arlington National Cemetery, Washington, D.C.

RUPTURED

Don't Go Without a Truss
25% discount during January on trusses; Abdominal Belts; Braces; Back Belts; and Elastic Stockings.
Sacro-Ease — back supports for your car, home or office.
Experienced Truss Fitters
Lady Attendant
Trusses as low as \$3.99
Rubber Stockings as low as \$3.75
TIFFANY-DAVIS
We Give Green Stamps

A Sterling's SPECIAL

new Flexible Lighting

MODERN DOUBLE-FLEX FLOOR LAMPS

"THE LAMP OF 1000 USES and POSITIONS"

SPECIAL \$7.95
50c DOWN
50c WEEKLY

COMPARE THESE FEATURES AND YOU'LL KNOW THIS IS YOUR BEST LAMP VALUE!

- 13 WAY LIGHTING!
- FINE MATCHING TEXTURED SHADES!
- MODERN EVERLASTING FLEXIBLE GOOSENECK ARMS!
- SLIM BEAUTIFULLY FINISHED SHAFT!
- HEAVILY WEIGHTED, NON-TIP, ALL METAL BASE!
- CHOICE OF POPULAR DECORATOR COLORS!

Other Features:

- Holds in any position. Takes a finger-touch to move them.
- Perfect for Special and Spot Lighting Effects in Your Home.
- Wonderful for Reading, Writing and Entertaining.
- Ideal for Television and for Ceiling Reflector Lighting.

Shop at 4 floors

Maria Jones

STERLING FURNITURE

Daily 9:30-5:30
Friday 'Til 9

General Electric Appliances at GEORGE SCHAEFERS TIRE CO.

1955 G.E. MODELS NOW ON DISPLAY
They're Luscious! ... See them

THE EXCLUSIVE APPLIANCE STORE IN EUGENE!

Opening Features You Will Not Want to Miss

G.E. 40" RANGE
REG. \$229.95
INVENTORY PRICE **\$199.95**

11 CUBIC FT. REFRIGERATOR
TURN AROUND SHELVES
EVERYTHING YOU WANT IN A REFRIGERATOR AND ONLY **\$299.95**

WHEN PROMOTIONS ARE IN PROGRESS YOU'LL FIND THEM AT . . .

EUGENE
7th & Charnelton
PHONE 5-2341

George Schaefers
GOODYEAR TIRES

Open Daily at 8 a.m.
Open Fridays Until 9 p.m.