

# Spring Pick-Up Expected To Whittle Jobless Figures

By SAM DAWSON

New York, Feb. 9 (AP)—The jump unemployment has just taken to a postwar peak of nearly 4 1/2 million brings up two questions today:

1. Is this peak, representing seven per cent of the total civilian labor force, at the danger point?

2. Can the nation's economy absorb the steadily rising labor force, and how?

Economists say four per cent unemployment is "normal," seven per cent is not yet dangerous, and they expect the spring pickup in business to whittle it.

Each year our expanding population brings forth about 600,000 more people who are willing and able to work. This means that to keep employment high and to prevent unemployment from rising dangerously, all those already at work must hold their jobs, and at the same time around 600,000 new jobs must be found each year.

To do this, economists urge: That industry build a greater physical plant, so that more people will have a place to work; and, then, greater output, to pay the additional workers. It won't be easy.

This goal was set forth by President Truman in his economic report: Reduction of unemployment by the end of this year to "2 million, or 2 1/2 million at most"; 61 million civilian jobs; and "stepping up our national output by about 7 per cent above the 1949 total."

Yet, Commerce Secretary Sawyer says the nation's jobless total has jumped to almost 4 1/2 million a gain of 1.8 million over the previous January. He says 50.7 million persons are working in non-farming jobs, and 6.2 mil-

lion on the farms.

The 2 1/2 million unemployed, which President Truman set as a goal, would be about 4 per cent of the labor force, or "normal." The low point in postwar unemployment came at the boom's peak in October, 1948, when the jobless were only 2 1/2 per cent of the labor force, which economists call "abnormally low."

But percentages are cold things. To the man out of a job, his situation is 100 per cent unemployment. In the city where an industry goes down, the situation is far from normal. However, to the dealer in percentages, five million unemployed is

an "abnormally low" unemployment rate. On these points, President Truman urges further private investment based "on confidence in growth"; and that productivity per worker be increased by at least 2 to 2 1/2 per cent a year.

Williams notes that expenditures in the first quarter of 1950 for new plant and equipment are estimated as 15 per cent lower than last year's first quarter—so that job opportunities aren't expanding at the old rate. Increased productivity, Williams adds, means "greater output per man-machine hour; for the worker this means working better, not harder." He urges labor and management to get together "to increase the size of the whole pie to be divided among all of us."

Move from Fruitland  
Fruitland—Mr. and Mrs. John Fadenrecht and sons who have been living in the Harold Lattin house, moved to their new home at West Salem. The oldest boy attends Salem Academy, the other two attended Fruitland school. Fruitland neighbors wish them well in their new home at West Salem.

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Kirwood Retires As Professor  
Dr. James W. Kirkwood has completed his services as Willamette university professor of public speaking, effective at the end of the first semester. President G. Herbert Smith announced Wednesday.

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Monmouth—The Monmouth high school students were entertained by the Volga troubadours with Alla and Vladimir

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interest has turned to the field of psychology." Dr. Smith stated. "He has been relieved of his speech assignment to permit him to pursue his other interests."  
Dr. Kirkwood joined the Willamette faculty in 1948. His courses will be assumed by members of the staff.

Capital Journal, Salem, Ore., Thursday, February 9, 1950—11  
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