

State Unemployment Spread Continues During December

Salem—(U.P.)—Unemployment continued to spread slowly over Oregon during December, but seasonal changes were not as sharp as last winter, according to the State Unemployment Compensation Commission.

Local offices of the commission last week counted more than 30,000 insured claimants, nearly 10,000 below the corresponding week of 1953 but more than in any of the three previous years.

Employers reported 462,100 persons on non-agricultural jobs last month, 3100 more than a year before but below the 469,700 high of November, 1952. It was the first time in 1954 when employment topped the corresponding month a year before.

Lumber, logging and other wood products accounted for most of the gains. Employers reported 83,300 working in this basic industry in mid-November, 7600 more than a year ago. Last week 4984 claimants with main earnings in wood products were counted as compared with 8342 a year ago. The number of lumber and logging jobs, however, fell short of the same periods in 1951 and 1952.

Small employment gains over last year also were registered in metals, service and in local governmental units. Paper products, furniture and fixtures held even with late 1953 but most other industrial groups reported losses as compared with recent years.

Construction with 22,300 jobs was 700 under last winter. Ship repairing dropped to 2500 from 4100 a year ago. Retail trade reported 78,600 working last month, about 2000 fewer than in November, 1953.

Western Oregon timber areas

were making the best showing as compared with last winter. Fewer layoffs were reported from Eugene, Lebanon, Coos Bay, Roseburg, Grants Pass, Toledo and other sections of the Douglas fir belt. Claims lines, however, were nearly as long as a year ago in Portland, Hillsboro, Salem and a few other centers.

Payments during the first half of December indicated a total of just more than \$2,000,000 in unemployment insurance for the month, well under the record \$2,884,707 a year ago. For the first time in 39 months the total is expected to be below the corresponding period a year earlier. Benefits for the calendar year of 1954 are expected to reach \$24,000,000.

Liberace's Heart Strain Said Not Caused by Love

Hollywood—(U.P.)—Piano idol Liberace, suffering a "mild heart strain" from overwork, denied his heart troubles resulted from romance.

The piano star with the gleaming smile blew out his candles and crawled into his elaborate, king-sized bed Wednesday on orders from his personal physician, Dr. Joseph I. Marx. He said he was retiring "temporarily."

Dr. Marx said the curly-haired musician's condition was "neither critical nor serious," but instructed Liberace to remain secluded in bed, without any visitors, until Feb. 1.

George, Liberace's brother who never talks when he appears with the pianist on shows, broke his silence to say that his famed brother's ailment had

Germ Warfare By U. S. Favored

Washington—(U.P.)—The Army's authority on germ warfare feels it would be "an act of barbarism" to deny American troops the use of biological weapons in a future war.

Maj. Gen. William M. Creasy, chief Army chemical officer, said modern developments have given germ warfare "a practicality it did not have before. He said it now is quite capable of defeating an enemy 'with the least possible expenditure of American lives.'"

Creasy said that to deny U.S. troops the use of such weapons either at home or abroad "would be an act of barbarism against our own people" since the Communists would not hesitate to use them.

He stated his views in an article in the Army Information Digest, an official monthly magazine.

Threat of Eureka Water Lack Eased As Line Repaired

Eureka, Calif.—(U.P.)—The threat of a serious water shortage as a result of Tuesday's earthquake eased today after workmen completed emergency repairs to the Eureka City pipeline.

A 12-man crew repaired a break yesterday in a wooden section of the 26-mile line leading from Sweasy Reservoir. The break was spotted near Arcata, about 10 miles east of Eureka.

However, City Engineer Stanley Roscoe warned the quake has weakened the entire pipeline. He said its condition must be regarded as "critical" until it can be thoroughly inspected and overhauled.

Officials also discovered that the quake cracked the cement lining of the east part of Eureka's 20,000,000 gallon reservoir. Nearly 12,000,000 gallons poured through the crack into Humboldt Creek and thence into Humboldt Bay. The flow caused no damage, however.

The east section of the reservoir was closed off from the west section, which was being refilled to capacity—enough for three or four day's supply. Stores Open

A number of stores in Eureka opened yesterday after their proprietors and employees worked frantically to clear up the debris caused by the quake. Many of their customers bought replacements for Christmas decorations destroyed by the force of the shock.

The University of California's seismology department placed the epicenter of the quake in the Pacific, 30 miles offshore from Eureka.

Dr. Charles Richter of the California Institute of Technology, issued a revised estimate of its magnitude. He upped the rating to 6.8 on his scale of 10, greater than the disastrous Long Beach quake of 1933.

Change in Tax Law For Farmers Told

Corvallis—Many farmers in Oregon are still confused regarding deadlines for their final tax returns, reports Manning Becker, farm management specialist at Oregon State college.

Becker says this is the schedule: Farmers should file their returns and pay the tax on or before Jan. 31, 1955. Or, they should file an estimate and pay this amount by Jan. 15, 1955, then file their return and pay the balance due by April 15.

If the farmer's business year doesn't start Jan. 1, he may file his return and pay the tax on or before the last day of the first month of the succeeding taxable year. As an alternative, he may file an estimate within 15 days and a return with 3½ months after the end of his business year.

The revision of the law—one of many passed by the last session of Congress—extending the old Jan. 31 date to Feb. 15, becomes effective for tax years beginning after Dec. 31, 1954, explains Becker.

For further information regarding farmers' income tax, the specialist suggests checking with local internal revenue offices.

Prognosticator Fights Commitment Attempt

Chicago—(U.P.)—Dr. Charles Laughead fought today to stay out of a mental institution so he can continue his prophecies of world-wide disaster.

The ousted Michigan State college doctor said he would drive back to Lansing, Mich., to "see what I can do" about his sister's petition that he and his wife be committed to mental hospitals.

In the meantime, he told newsmen last night, he and Mrs. Dorothy Martin, 53, will work in closer harmony to "complete" their predictions of the end of the world.

Laughead's freedom was threatened earlier yesterday when his sister, Margaret Laughead of Des Moines, filed a petition in County Court at Lansing asking that he be committed as a "religious fanatic" who "believes that he is to create a new age."

New Dietitian For Camp White Announced

Camp White—Mrs. Edna B. Girard, who inaugurated the dietetic service as chief dietitian at the domiciliary in 1951, will retire from her duties on Christmas day.

Miss Charlotte Klock, who was transferred here from Los Angeles VA Hospital this past year, holding the position of assistant dietitian, will be acting chief dietitian, Manager E. K. Ricker announced.

Pope Pius Hears Mass From Chair

Vatican City—(U.P.)—Pope Pius XII heard mass from his armchair today for the first time in several weeks.

A tiny altar was moved into the papal bedroom and a German Jesuit priest recited mass with the Pontiff following the service intently from his chair, a gift of Buffalo, N.Y. faithful.

Vatican sources reported that the ailing 78-year-old Pope spent a "very good night" and plans to put the finishing touches on a short Christmas greeting today.

The message will be broadcast Friday at noon (3 a.m. PST). The four-minute greeting will be beamed by Vatican Radio transmitters in 23 languages throughout the world.

On Christmas Day, the Pope plans to appear briefly at his studio window overlooking massive St. Peter's Square to impart his apostolic benediction "urbis et orbi" to the city and the world.

Singer Kay Starr Defendant in Lawsuit

Hollywood—(U.P.)—Singer Kay Starr was named as a defendant today in a \$50,000 damage suit filed by two men who claimed they were injured seriously Nov. 11 when her car struck their vehicle.

Harry Blank, 48, laundry operator, and Henry Langston, 50, one of his employees, filed suit in superior court yesterday. The suit pointed out, however, that the singer was not in her car at the time. It was being driven by an employee of Clarence Dixon Cadillac, Inc. The driver and the company also were named as defendants.

Anti-Monopoly Subcommittee Drafting Power Policy Criticism

Washington—(U.P.)—The Senate Anti-Monopoly Subcommittee is drafting a sharply worded report criticizing Eisenhower administration's power policy, it was learned today.

Informed sources said the report probably will not be made public until the start of the new Democratic-controlled Congress, although its present chairman, Republican Sen. William Langer (N.D.), has publicly rapped the administration's power policies and Dixon-Yates contract.

The report is expected to add force to the drive for a Congressional investigation of the Dixon-Yates controversy, the utility companies, and power policy and monopolistic practices in general.

A Little Sunshine Senate Democratic Leader Lyndon B. Johnson (Tex.), for one, has promised a "ventilation" of the Dixon-Yates contract. He said it should be exposed to the glare of a "New Mexico sun" — a clear indication that he favors an inquiry by the Senate-House Atomic Energy Committee which will be headed by Sen. Clinton P. Anderson (D-Tenn.).

One of the leading opponents of the Dixon-Yates deal said today, however, that the contract involving the Atomic Energy Commission is just "part of the broader problem."

"I think the whole trend (toward monopoly) is due for study," said Sen. Estes Kefauver (D-Tenn.).

"There should be some extensive investigation of the whole problem," Kefauver said. He added that there has been some talk of a special committee to look into anti-monopoly matters including the Dixon-Yates contract and the operations of utility companies.

"I will use every honorable means that I can to stop the Dixon-Yates contract," Kefauver said.

The Dixon-Yates contract is sure to figure prominently in the report of the Anti-Monopoly Subcommittee now in preparation. The subcommittee conducted a series of hearings on the contract and twice asked that the government defer signing it until Congress could take a better look.

Under the contract the Dixon-Yates utility group — Middle South Utilities Inc. and the Southern Corp. — will spend some \$107,000,000 to build a steam generating plant at West Memphis, Ark., and sell power to the Atomic Energy Commission. Power will be delivered to the TVA at Memphis to "replace" power delivered by TVA to AEC installations.

TVA partisans and public pow-

er spokesmen generally have assailed the contract as a step towards monopoly in the power field and a blow aimed at the Tennessee Valley Authority itself.

SLOW SEASON Sidney, Neb.—(U.P.)—The fire department's fire pole here may be polished, but not by sliding firemen. A recent grass fire was the first alarm this city of 5,000 in over a month.

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