

Unemployment Compensation Plan Discussed at Chamber Roundtable

Oregon's unemployment compensation program has crumbled "a long way" from the basic intention of meeting the unexpected, according to Ken Pickens, office manager at Medford Corporation.

Pickens, speaking at the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce weekly roundtable luncheon yesterday, discussed evidence of abuses in the present set-up as well as suggested remedies.

He began by referring to the 1935 social security law that set the wheels of such programs in motion across the nation.

"There is no preamble setting forth the basic intent of the act," he said. The basic principles, he continued, are found in committee reports, transcripts of floor debates and the statements of President Roosevelt.

Meet Unexpected

"Unemployment compensation was intended to meet the unexpected," Pickens said, "not to pay benefits to someone not employed in the regular labor market or to someone in seasonal labor."

"Oregon has strayed a long way from these principles," he said.

"The main fault with our law is not how much we pay but who we pay it to."

Two primary abuses Pickens mentioned were benefits for those who leave their jobs voluntarily and those not belonging to the year-around labor market.

Cites Benefits

He also cited benefits to retired people who draw social security, to women after childbirth, to those indirectly involved in strike situations, to those bound by union work-duration rules and to those employees on vacations without pay.

"Voluntary quits," Pickens said, "account for 22 per cent of the fund expenditures." He explained that if an employee left for a "good reason," he would be immediately eligible for benefits; if "without a good reason," he would be disqualified for eight weeks.

But, he said, what constitute "good reasons" these days are such causes as not getting along with fellow workers, or not liking the hours.

Favor Claimants

The administrators, he charged, "are leaning over backwards in favor of the claimants."

Some states have solved the problem by absolutely disqualifying "voluntary quits," Pickens said. He mentioned Wisconsin, Michigan and Ohio.

Turning to seasonal workers, Pickens discussed those in the lumber, construction and agricultural fields.

He spoke of the high pay received by lumber and construction workers and added,

"We've given them an additional cushion" by letting them collect unemployment benefits when they are not working.

"Canners," he went on, "can draw one third more than what they make." He said office help hired during the canning season could also qualify.

Retired Persons

"When a person has retired on social security," Pickens stated, "he has no business drawing unemployment compensation benefits."

He described pregnancy claims as "another drain." While no benefits could be drawn for the six weeks before and four weeks after childbirth, he said, the mother can subsequently "milk the fund dry."

Pickens discussed the Teamsters strike in California last summer and the subsequent trucking shutdown in the 11 western states. He said drivers in Oregon drew unemployment compensation during the shutdown, yet when work was resumed they benefited from "all the wage increases the truckers in California got."

He told of a situation last year when the Medco logging railroad halted operations because loggers refused to cross a picket line and there was nothing to be hauled. He said the railroad employees, while in the same union as the loggers and picketers, received benefits since they didn't have to cross the picket line themselves.

Reviews Decision

Pickens reviewed a decision Pickens reviewed a decision compensation commission, reported in the Oct. 17 bulletin of Associated Oregon Industries, that permitted a merchant seaman to collect benefits when he was forced by a

union regulation to leave his job after six months "for the purpose of spreading employment opportunities among the membership."

This decision, Pickens pointed out, was particularly significant since it involved reversing the decision of a referee.

"How many referees," he said, "are going to stand up and be counted when the commission is constantly reversing their decisions?"

He also said that when employees take a two-week vacation without pay by the terms of a union contract, they are eligible for benefits during that period.

Suggestion Mentioned

One suggestion Pickens mentioned was to review workers' quarterly earnings, which are on file with the state. If over a three-year period one particular quarter showed little earnings, that could mean one worker was seasonally unemployed at that time of year.

On this basis, he said, the worker could be considered not in the labor market for those months and could be disqualified from receiving benefits, during that period.

"Some states," Pickens said, "have called a spade a spade." He reported that Wisconsin flatly excludes loggers from eligibility and that Ohio excludes seamen when the Great Lakes are frozen over.

Another suggestion Pickens brought up was to lengthen the disqualification period following the termination of employment, based on the salary. At present, he said, a worker must wait one week. He suggested that workers making \$5,000 a year might be made to wait two weeks, those making \$7,500 three weeks, and those making \$10,000, four weeks.

Jeopardize Support

Asked whether such actions might jeopardize federal support funds, he replied that some states "have made some pretty drastic steps, and haven't been disqualified." But, he conceded, "It's a possibility."

On the subject of employee contributions to the fund, Pickens said, "I don't think an employee should contribute." He said it would mean "more and more weakening" and that management would "lose every argument."

He said that from the employee's point of view it meant "less and less take-home pay."

Pickens emphasized that he wanted only to encourage people to start thinking about the situation. He said the suggestions he mentioned were not necessarily his own beliefs.

"I think we've got a good law if we can get back to basic principles," he said.

Scientist Warns On Radioactivity

Helsinki—(UPI)—Radioactivity from recent Soviet nuclear tests is approaching the danger mark, according to a Finnish radiation specialist.

The specialist, who would not be quoted directly, said the Radiation Research Institute has been taking measurements of radio-activity in recent weeks.

The accumulated data is not yet ready to be made public, he said. But he added it appeared that the increase in radioactivity, most noticeable in rainwater, was approaching the safety limit. He did not elaborate.

POLICE MINISTER DIES

Bern, Switzerland—(UPI)—Dr. Markus Feldmann, 61, justice and police minister, died of a heart attack Monday. Feldmann was a former president of the Swiss Journalists Association.

N. H. Hamlet First To Cast Ballots

Waterville, N.H.—(UPI)—This mountain hamlet vote first in the nation today, with residents staying up to midnight to back the Republicans, 15-6.

First voter in the land was a woman, Miss Jaclyn Osborn stepped up at exactly midnight (e.s.t.) to cast her vote into the town's century-old ballot box.

Outside, the temperature was 28 above zero in this ski resort village in the White Mountains.

Moments later, the ballots were spread on a table in the home of Town Clerk Wendell Stevenson, who offered his house as a polling place because the town hall has no electric lights.

Waterville won the race to be first in the nation because the election clerk overslept in nearby Ellsworth.

About 20 minutes after the vote was reported here, Ellsworth voted.

"There's been kind of a rivalry for years about voting first," town clerk Stevenson said.

"Somebody's got to be first. We thought it would be kind of nice for our town."

"There's no real reason—it's just kinda nice to be first."

Air Lines Agents to Attend Conference

Ken W. Cook, United Air Lines station manager here, and R. H. Higbee, W. W. Schooley and C. R. Mortimer, all senior agents, plan to attend a meeting of all managers and supervisors in the transportation services administration in the Pacific northwest region of the airlines in Seattle Nov. 5.

Objectives for 1959 and the jet-planning program will be discussed during the one-day meeting. Michael Dederer, president of the Seattle Fur exchange, will address the group on "The Challenge of Modern Management."

Clyde Crosby Trial Date Set for Nov. 12

Portland—(UPI)—Circuit Judge Charles W. Redding Monday set Nov. 12 as the date of the false swearing trial of Clyde C. Crosby, Oregon Teamsters Union official.

Judge Redding said next Monday he would assign the case to a trial judge. Crosby was indicted by a Multnomah county grand jury in March, 1957.

LOOT BRIGITTE'S VILLA

St. Tropez, France—(UPI)—Burglars broke into Brigitte Bardot's Riviera villa "La Madrague" Monday while the actress was in Paris. They made off with one of her slippers, a pair of slacks belonging to her fiancé, guitarist Sacha Distel, and a portable radio.

"It's nothing serious," she told police when they telephoned to tell her about the burglary. "I can always get more."

Ann Pavlova entered ballet school at age 10.

Manila—(UPI)—Congressman Bartolome Cabangbang, called for a congressional investigation of a purported military plot to overthrow President Carlos P. Garcia's government. Rumors about a plot swept Manila last week when Defense Secretary Jesus Vargas denounced the political opposition in a speech before the veterans' board. He accused the opposition of spreading the rumors.

\$\$\$ SAVE! \$\$\$

Brand New Necchi & Elna Sewing Machines

• Latest Styles • Full Guarantee

Instructions FREE! Instructions

Price List on Latest Style

NECCHI SUPER NOVA, Full Automatic.....\$249.65

ELNA AUTOMATICOnly 239.95

Your Viking Dealer . . . Art Kline's

SEWING MACHINE CENTER

408 E. Main, Medford • Phone SP 2-2388



Norman Rockwell

You can't
buy better, so
Why pay more?

SUPER SHELL with TCP
is the most powerful gasoline
any car can use



ANTI-KNOCK Super Shell has an octane rating so high that it fulfills the requirements of all the latest model cars...so high that your engine can't possibly knock unless it's out of tune

+TCP But to get all the performance you paid for, you need a gasoline with more than just high octane. That's why Super Shell has TCP. This exclusive Shell-developed additive stops spark plug "miss"—today's biggest cause of power loss. TCP also stops pre-firing and piston pounding.

+ECONOMY Because it has TCP plus special power ingredients, Super Shell gives you more miles per gallon than gasoline costing more.

Switch to **SUPER SHELL with TCP**



**Your new car can cost up to \$500 less
...the Insured Savings and Loan way**

You can buy your next car for as much as \$500 less if you buy it outright with savings instead of buying it on the installment plan. You save two ways—because your savings earn extra money, and because you eliminate the financing cost. Save at our Insured Savings and Loan Association, and here are four reasons why: (1) Your money earns excellent returns. (2) You get back what you have saved—plus earnings. (3) There are no charges for putting your money in or taking it out. (4) Your savings are insured up to \$10,000 by the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation.

Investments made
by the 10th
of the month
earn dividends
as of the first

FIRST FEDERAL

Savings & Loan Assn. of Medford

29 North Ivy Street — Robert F. Kyle, Manager
Convenient Street Parking

