

Increase in Jobless Benefit Exhaustions Worries U.S. Officials

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8 (AP)—A rapid rise in the number of unemployed workers exhausting jobless benefit rights is causing growing concern among government officials.

Latest figures compiled by the labor department's bureau of employment security show about 500,000 persons ran out of their rights to further unemployment compensation payments during the July-September quarterly period.

These are persons who still didn't have jobs after running through all the unemployment insurance payments they were entitled to. The number of weeks of benefits varies from state to state.

These exhaustions came at a time of high employment, and give an idea of the problem that would arise in a time of serious unemployment.

Employment has been gaining lately, and unemployment has been decreasing, so some of the people out of work in the July-September period may now have found jobs. However, unemployment in November was estimated by the census bureau to be 3,400,000 as compared with 1,831,000 in November 1948. The November 1949 employment figure was 59,518,000.

The exhaustion figures have risen rapidly this year. In 1948 they ran between 200,000 and 250,000 each quarter for the nation. This year

for any more state jobless benefits for at least three months. That means a bleak Christmas for many of them.

This spurt in exhaustions is likely to be an arguable point the labor department will use in carrying out its announced intention of asking congress to pass a law next year to require states to have minimum standards in amount and duration of benefits.

California and Massachusetts are the two states showing the heaviest increase in numbers of exhaustions in July-September compared with the same period a year ago.

The number increased from 34,983 to 61,767 in California and from 18,793 to 36,238 in Massachusetts. States in New England and the Southeastern section of the country also showed heavy increases in exhaustions.

No John Hancock Listed

WASHINGTON (AP)—Autograph of Rudyard Kipling, George Gershwin, Dr. Lise Meitner and Margaret Mitchell—one among the most sought-after by collectors today, one expert says.

Describing autograph collecting as a highly stimulating and profitable hobby, collector Robley Stevens writing in the magazine "Hobby Digest" listed other "most sought after" signatures as: Prof. Albert Einstein, President F. D. Roosevelt, Justice Felix Frankfurter, the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, Gen. George Marshall, Cordell Hull, Charles (not Thomas) Edison.

Commercial autograph catalogues list the following prices: George Washington—\$185; William Faulkner—\$45; John Philip Sousa—\$12.50; Woodrow Wilson—\$6.50; Sinclair Lewis—\$10.

Rare Disease Kills Little Patty Owens

CHICAGO, Dec. 8 (AP)—Patty Owens, a frail little girl who suffered a rare disease most of her young life, died yesterday, ending hope of celebrating one more Christmas.

Patty, ill with a fibrocystic disease since shortly after she was born four years ago, died shortly after an operation on her windpipe at Illinois Research hospital. She was brought to the hospital Tuesday after a cross-country train ride from California.

The fibrocystic disease caused her lungs to fill with a heavy secretion which was smothering her.

Operation

Surgeons opened a small hole in her windpipe to make her breathing easier and aid in removal of the secretion. But the advanced stages of her disease and her long train ride made the operation unsuccessful.

Patty had been taken from Chicago to California two years ago by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Owens. They had hoped the climate might effect a cure. But her condition became worse. Recently when physicians in California expressed little hope for her recovery Patty said she wanted to return to Chicago to see her cousins.

She was accompanied on the trip from the Owens' home in Sunnyvale, Calif., by her mother, Marguerite, and her two brothers, Bobby and Roger. Her father, a draftsman and engineer, could not make the trip.

During the long train ride, oxygen was administered to Patty almost constantly because she could not live more than 15 minutes without it.

Plants Have Twins, Triplets Too

BERKELEY, Calif. (AP)—Tobacco plants have twins and triplets, and at about the same rate as people. A seed that will produce two or three seedlings usually happens about once in every thousand, says Dr. D. R. Cameron, University of California geneticist. Checking some 100,000 seedlings since 1938, Cameron has found 120 twins and 18 triplets.

The rate can be increased, he reports, by selection.

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