

Facts On Unemployment Situation Prove Leading Domestic Problem

EDITOR'S NOTE: More Americans have jobs than ever before, according to figures released last week by the Labor Department. But more than 4 million persons do not have jobs and can't find them. This, the second of two dispatches on the impact of poverty, outlines what Labor Secretary W. Willard Wirtz calls "our No. 1 domestic problem."

By LOUIS CASSELS
WASHINGTON (UPI) — Displayed on the main floor corridor of the U.S. Department of Labor building is a large chart which is blood-chilling in its own way as an Alfred Hitchcock movie. It shows the number of Americans who are hunting jobs and unable to find them. Ten years ago, the unemployed constituted only 3 per cent of the nation's labor force.

Five years ago, they constituted about 4 1/2 per cent of the labor force.

Today, six per cent of America's workers are jobless.

And the curve on the chart is still moving relentlessly upward.

Why? The basic reason is that the U.S. economy is not growing fast enough to provide jobs for all the people who need them.

During recent years, Labor Department studies show, the economy has been creating only about 90 per cent of the new jobs required to offset the jobs lost through automation and gains in productivity, and to employ an ever-growing labor force.

For example, 11.3 million new jobs were needed during the past five years simply to maintain unemployment at the 1957 level. But economic growth actually produced only 10.2 million jobs—the

other 1.1 million persons joined the unemployment rolls.

Unless the rate of economic growth is sharply increased, the unemployment problem will grow dramatically worse over the next few years.

There will be a tremendous wave of new workers entering the labor force during the 1960's, as young people born during the postwar "baby boom" begin hunting for jobs.

The Labor Department estimates that the economy will have to create 16 million new jobs during the next five years just to stay even. If it falls short by 10 per cent—as it did during the past five years—the number of unemployed will rise by another 1.6 million to the highest level since the great depression of the 1930's.

Republicans and Democrats, liberals and conservatives, businessmen and labor leaders all agree on the imperative need to step up America's rate of economic growth, so that there will be jobs for those now unemployed as well as those entering the labor force in years ahead.

Opinions differ sharply, however, on the particular measures which are most apt to stimulate more rapid growth.

President Kennedy says major tax cuts and reforms, such as those proposed in the administration's tax legislation now before Congress, are the quickest way to "generate larger markets, additional investment and more job opportunities."

He also has asked for a stronger unemployment insurance system, a special government program to provide employment opportunities for youth, retraining programs for workers automated out of jobs, government help for "depressed areas" with unusually high unemployment rates, and a \$900 million public works program.

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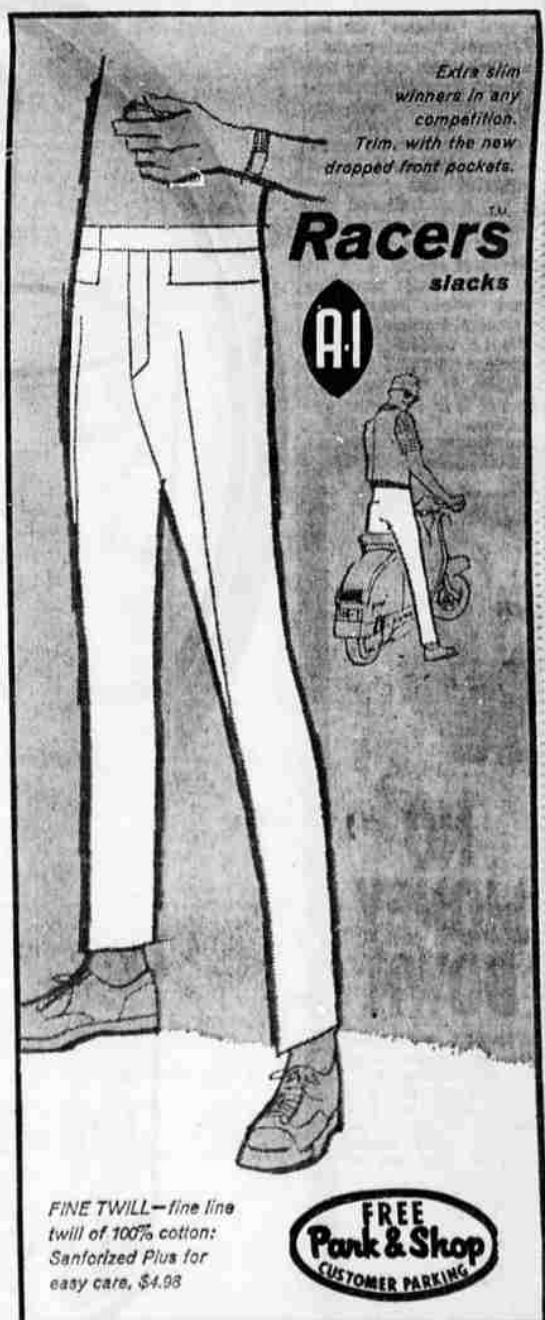
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