

The National Outlook
The Problem of Unemployment
By RALPH ROBEY

Unemployment declined significantly in March. While there still is room for concern, the job situation is obviously getting better.

Employment during March increased by 1.1 million to a total of 63.8 million. Manufacturing employment rose 153,000 with that in durable goods up more than 100,000. Out of the broad divisions into which employment data are published only mining showed a drop.

Unemployment declined 390,000, leaving the total at 4,360,000. This drop was substantially more than normal between February and March. The total is now 5.8 per cent of the civilian labor force, as compared with 6 per cent at the end of last year.

The primary reason for concern about this total of unemployment, aside from the personal problems it makes for those out of work, is that the economy as a whole is now back to pre-recession levels. This means that unemployment has not declined as rapidly as business has advanced.

This raises two questions: What has caused the delay in the improvement of the unemployment picture. When shall we return to full employment?

On the slowness of the unemployment decline there are several factors which must be considered.

First, over the past few years business has invested billions of dollars in new plant and equipment. These investments are now paying off. Not as many employees are needed to produce a given quantity of goods as formerly. In time, as business volume continues to climb, more employees will be needed.

Second, it is customary during a down-curve for business to eliminate its less efficient workers, at all levels, and that took place during 1957-58. It also is customary to go slow in re-hiring employees when the volume of business picks up. That, too, has been taking place.

Third, wages have reached a level which makes it necessary to hold employment to the minimum. In manufacturing the average hourly wage is now \$2.21; in building construction the average is about a dollar an hour higher; in retail trade the wage is substantially below manufacturing. This pressure against needless employees has been building-up for many years. It is especially effective now because of the public's clamor against continuous price increases.

Finally, the labor force continues to grow each year. In March it was about 600,000 above the same month in 1958. This is a relatively small increase. Historically the increase usually runs at least 700,000, and in some years the increase has been more than a million.

On the question of when we shall get back to full employment, there's a wide variety of opinion. Labor spokesmen insist that unless the Federal Government takes action—which means heavier spending—there is no chance of our reaching full employment for many years.

Dr. Raymond Saulnier, chair-

man of the President's Council of Economic Advisors, says that if recovery continues at the average rate of those following the two previous post-war recessions, total unemployment by the end of the year should be down to about 3.5 million. Secretary of Labor Mitchell says without reservation that by October the total will be down to 3 million. Since October is normally a low month for unemployment there is no particular inconsistency in these two views.

My personal opinion is that these forecasts are reasonable, and may actually be on the high side. The only development which appears at all likely to hold unemployment above 3 million in October would be if the labor force grows more rapidly than now is indicated. There will be, as always, a sharp increase in June as students out of school start looking for jobs, but from then on through October, the total will decline month by month.

This leaves the question of whether we will have full employment with 3 million out of work. Of course that total is higher than anyone likes to see, but nonetheless that is certainly close to as low a figure as we can expect in the near future, and perhaps from here on.

Fertilizers Improperly Placed Can Damage Cotton Root System

Now is the time to help prevent those cotton bolls and squares from shedding this summer.

The bolls and squares shed because of a poor root system, says Dr. Emerson Collins, in charge of agronomy extension at N. C. State College. One of the main reasons for a poor root system is the improper placement of fertilizer when the cotton is planted.

When fertilizer is placed directly under the seed, Dr. Collins says the seed, the young seedlings and the tap root of the plant can be damaged. Once the tap root is damaged or destroyed, the cotton plant must depend on the small fibrous or side roots.

These side roots are often damaged, too, by farmers cultivating too deeply.

"So you see," Dr. Collins added, "it's not surprising that cotton plants shed some of their bolls and squares when the soil gets a little dry. The plants simply do not have enough roots to



ODDS: 7 TO 1—There's one chance in seven that Navy Lt. Malcolm Scott Carpenter, 37, above, will become the first man to be placed in orbit around the earth two or more years hence. Scott, of Garden Grove, Calif., is one of the seven Mercury Astronauts chosen for special space flight training. He's shown at Wright Air Development Center, Dayton, Ohio, undergoing tests at a temperature of 130 degrees Fahrenheit.

keep going."

The way to correct the situation, he said, is to place the fertilizer in two bands, two and one-half inches to each side and one inch below the seed. If a farmer does not have the equipment for this, he can stir the fertilizer thoroughly with the soil in the row before bedding.

At Last The Truth

"Are you listening to the news, dear?"

"No, I heard the news. I'm listening to the meaning of the news."

"What does he say?"

"He says he doesn't know what it means."

Weekly Devotional Column
By JAMES MACAENZIE

Today's column begins an original sermon by John Mitchener, young member of the Edenton Presbyterian Church.

"Greatness" is one of those words which we hear often, but we often fail to realize the actual deep meaning of this word. "Greatness" . . . what thought does the word bring to your mind? Do you picture a leader of a great country, a general ordering soldiers, or an executive of a big industry? Or do you picture a simple, everyday person who simply tries to live hour by hour as Christ has commanded us to live? What you think in relation to this word may very well be a picture of the type of person you are.

Greatness, like most virtues, comes in varying degrees and in still more various types. Basically there are two types of greatness and they are as different as black and white. We shall name these (1) The Worldly Greatness, and (2) The Christian Greatness.

Let's examine each and see what type it is. Worldly greatness is as Christ has said: "Ye shall rule over the Gentiles and be counted to rule over the Gentiles"

exercise Lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them." The greatness of the world is based on power, and exercising of authority of superiors over inferiors in rank. Worldly greatness consists of the power to force allegiance and obedience to a man's wishes and desires. This is worldly greatness.

Christian greatness, Christ says is this: "Whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave." The greatness which Christ speaks of here (Matthew 20:26) is the greatness of humility, the greatness of a man to help others, to discipline himself so as to mold a Christian character; greatness so as to have great and complete control over his actions, thoughts, words, deeds and his tongue.

Complete control over his actions, thoughts, words, deeds, and his tongue. Let us consider each of these. How often we have heard it said that "actions speak louder than words." Certainly this is true in the Christian Faith, and in Christian greatness. The might and power of God can enable any man to become great. We have definite proof of this: "And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds"

(Acts 7:22). Moses was great, not because of the wisdom of the Egyptians, but because he allowed God to use that wisdom to accomplish deeds of greatness. But let us remember that God can make anyone great, even apart from worldly wisdom, if that person will allow himself to be molded and shaped into God's type of person.

(to be continued next week)

Hungry

"Bill said I looked good enough to eat last night."
"And so you steered him to a high-priced restaurant I suppose."

BOB CONSIDINE NAMES 10 MOST COLORFUL MEN

Famous reporter Bob Considerine, who has rubbed elbows with the world's most famous and powerful men, singles out those ten who impressed him as possessing that indescribable quality called "color".

See if you agree with his choice of THE 10 MOST COLORFUL MEN I'VE MET in the April 26th issue of the

AMERICAN WEEKLY Magazine in Colorgrave with THE BALTIMORE SUNDAY AMERICAN on sale at your local newsdealer

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