

# Job Trends Operating Against Youth Employment Point Up Need For Action

Fewer employment opportunities are open to young workers today than a year ago, and the whole youth employment situation bears watching for it has many dangerous potentialities, say the Children's Bureau, U. S. Department of Labor.

The statement, it was explained, is based upon information brought in by the Bureau's staff from many parts of the country, and upon various reports of recent developments from many agencies concerned with youth.

"There is no evidence as yet that we have made any appreciable headway in regaining ground lost during the war when high school enrollment dropped by a million," said Katharine F. Lenroot, the Bureau's Chief. "Boys and girls who left school then for jobs have not returned to high school classes. We are now confronted with the possibility of idleness among the Nation's youth, with thousands in the 14- to 17-year-old group neither in school, where most of them should be, nor regularly employed."

The Bureau's Chief cites the following trends in the youth employment situation.

1. Young veterans generally have the preference for the better jobs, that is, jobs that have a future.

2. The high school diploma is regaining its prewar value as a job qualification. Employers once more can find high school graduates for many jobs.

3. Many employers of their own accord are raising age requirements. Personnel managers who took of 16- and 17-year-olds during the war now tend to prefer those 18 years old and over. They are "steadier." The trend is particularly noticeable as it affects jobs in manufacturing industries.

4. Part-time employment opportunities for in-school youth are shrinking. (Much of the decline in employment that has taken place so far, it is believed, is in this kind of work.) Employers now want full-time workers and can get them. Young people who are dependent upon vacation and part-time employment to meet part of their school expenses are often hard pressed, particularly so when the older workers in the family are being laid off or are temporarily unemployed in the "twitchever."

One group of young job-seekers, the 17-year-old boys, have been having a particularly hard time of it, for many employers were unwilling to take them on a job that required any training since the likelihood was that they would be drafted before the training paid off.

These trends, the Bureau states; are not as yet being offset by any special measures aimed at getting these young workers back in school or intelligently directed toward vocational opportunities. "On the contrary," says Miss Lenroot, "there is little awareness as yet of the changed situation or of its potentialities."

The Children's Bureau is urging schools, labor unions, industrial groups, parent-teacher associations, and all other interested in the welfare of the Nation's youth to take a look at this youth-employment situation before it builds up into major proportions with no alternative opportunities provided for young people. Community, State and Federal action is needed, said Miss Lenroot, for "fundamental social and economic policies are involved in the solution."

A large part of the answer as to how both educational and work opportunities are to be kept open to youth, the Bureau Chief says, lies in full employment, for not only would it open suitable jobs to young workers ready for work, but "a relatively high family income would make it possible for many to remain in school who would otherwise have to cut short their education and training in the hope of a job, poor as it might be."

Beyond what might be accomplished through a high level of employment for the whole population, special consideration must be given to the needs of youth, Miss Lenroot emphasized. Among these needs are:

1. Some form of student aid so that no young person will have

to drop out of high school for lack of funds. Ways should also be explored by which those who can profit from an education beyond the high-school level may be financially assisted so that they can go on with their studies.

2. Counseling services in the community so that young people, trying to decide between a job and school or about what kind of work they want to enter, may have the benefit of skilled advice.

3. Good placement service for youth to help young people find the "right" job.

"The promise of the future must be kept open to this country's youth," Miss Lenroot said, "and we must never close the doors to them as was done in the depression years. If we do they will look for a solution elsewhere, and we cannot be reminded too often that both Hitler and Mussolini gathered their first strength from the disillusioned and disinherited youth of their respective countries, from those who saw no acceptable future for themselves in the existing order."

## NO. 12—RAILROAD UNIONS

Featuring Charles J. MacGowan, president of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers and members of railroad unions, interviewed at the Union Pacific roundhouse at Kansas City, Mo., by Dwight Cooke, CBS commentator.

Kansas City, Mo. — Common sense and labor management cooperation is the key to the smooth relations between the operators of the Nation's vast railroad network and the million and a quarter of members of the railroad unions affiliated with the AFL.

This was emphasized by Charles J. MacGowan, president of the Boilermakers, in a CBS radio interview by Dwight Cooke.

"Industrial peace is maintained by reasonable, sound-thinking men sitting at the conference table to resolve their problems. The best settlements come from agreements between the two parties—not from decisions rendered by a Government board," MacGowan said, pointing out that the Boilermakers have not been on strike in the railroad industry in 24 years.

Asked if the AFL rail brotherhoods had any part in the recent railroad strike, MacGowan replied: "None of our membership was involved. In fact, the 15 co-operating unions and the three transportation unions—a total of 18 and representing probably 80 or 85 per cent of the membership of the employees on the railroads—all resolved their problems by conference and negotiation."

Asked to comment on the cry raised in some quarters that unions are squeezing out the small businessman and are detrimental to the unorganized worker, MacGowan said:

"Unfortunately, there has been a very wrong conception placed in the minds of some of the American people. First of all, we never get any wage increase which the facts of the situation don't justify. Secondly, wage increases negotiated by unions reflect themselves in the incomes of the unorganized. And in the next place, the job for the unorganized is to organize and do the thing that we've done."

"With respect to the businessman, we sincerely believe in the free enterprise system, but that implies that free enterprise ought to have a proper job to do. It should pay good wages, it should pay wages to capital invested—otherwise it has no justification for its existence and becomes a parasite. "In other words, if a business had to depend on the Government to get its earned money, then it is a planned economy and enters into that field of regimentation which is generally unsatisfactory to the American way of life."

Couldn't Be Otherwise "Did you ever meet a man that was absolutely honest?" someone asked Mark Twain.

"Yes, I did," the humorist replied.

"What did he say that made you think he was honest?" "Nothing," replied Twain. "He hadn't been honest but a short time. I was attending his funeral."

Cruelty to Animals

# FOOD PRICES AND RENTS SKYROCKET AS OPA CONTROLS ARE ABANDONED

(Continued From Page 1) in Washington that it would sponsor local fair rent committees throughout the nation to hold rents to minimum levels.

Gov. Frank L. Lauch of Ohio, appealed to the people of his State to declare a buyers' strike on everything except the barest essentials.

One landlord in Dallas, Texas, notified a tenant his rent would be raised from \$35 a month to \$20 daily, or \$600 a month. Another landlord increased the rental of his property from \$30 to \$300. One 20-unit apartment in Miami has served notice of a rental increase from \$50 to \$150. In Denver, a justice of the peace issued 1,000 blank notices for eviction under Colorado's 10-day eviction notice law. In many areas newsmen surveying the situation reported average rent increases of 33 1-3 per cent.

Stirred by the widespread rental increases, OPA leaders cautioned all tenants to disregard eviction notices and refuse to pay the higher levies. They pointed out that in most states there is a time lag up to 30 days before an eviction notice could become effective. They advised tenants who are notified of rent increases to contact their area rent office or daily newspapers for information on the law in their communities.

The increase in food prices was described as sporadic. The determination of the chain stores to hold the line at OPA ceiling levels was recognized early by OPA observers. How long they could continue to hold the line was problematical, however, in view of soaring wholesale costs.

Reports were received at OPA of country ham selling for \$1 a pound throughout the South, 50 cents above the OPA ceiling. Eggs in New England went up 6 cents a dozen, poultry in the Memphis area rose from 40 cents to 63 cents a pound and low-grade beef from 9 to 14 cents.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that its wholesale price index, composed of 28 basic commodities, moved upward 7.7 points, to 206, on the first day without OPA. This compares with a rise of .2 points last week, and does not include whatever higher prices were reached in the five most important metals.

## SAVINGS BONDS ARE BEST INVESTMENT FOR UNIONS

Addressing the recent Virginia State Federation of Labor Convention, Mr. Samuel Miller, Business Agent, Retail Clerks International Protective Association, Local 635-A, Washington, D. C., made a strong plea for the investment of union funds in Government Savings Bonds.

"About two years ago, Mr. Ernest Fontana, Field Representative of the Labor Section, Government Savings Bonds Division, appeared before our local union and asked us to support the (then) War Bond campaign," Mr. Miller said.

"We promised this support, and for this purpose appointed a committee to solicit purchases of War Bonds from members to whom the Payroll Savings Plan was not available. At the same time our executive board considered the matter of investment of our union funds. It was decided that in the future all funds in the local treasury over \$9,000 would be invested in Government securities.

"I am glad to report that our organization is very grateful to Mr. Fontana for his advice. Every six months our interest checks come in. These interest checks of course increase with the volume of our investment and they now constitute a considerable portion of the overhead expense of maintaining our union.

"I strongly recommend that every local union adopt the same policy. Why let your money lie idle when this constitutes more than the current needs of your union? Government Savings Bonds are the best investment in the world; and the safest. They are, to all practical purposes, as fluid and available as a checking account. At the same time, investment in Savings Bonds is a patriotic service and a safeguard against inflation!"

Giving a health talk to her class, teacher warned them never to kiss animals or birds, and then asked one boy if he could give an instance of the danger of this. The boy said he could, that his aunt used to kiss her dog.

"What happened?" asked teacher.

"It died," came back the boy.

## I HEARD BUSTER ROOS

Editor's Note—The accompanying poetry was stimulated by the unfortunate condition of a little boy who, a short time ago, died of cancer.

I heard little Buster Roos — his whispered voice; I heard it, though so faint it seemed to be The last low breath of life.

I would to God this tiny mite of sound were amplified To a thundering shout to wake the earth! A mighty noise to penetrate men's souls— To drown the grinding noise of rolling mills, The gnashing clash of gears, The hungry roal of factories spewing out Their countless spawn; The steady ring, above it all, Of tradesmen, counting out their coin.

His words—what were they? Not so many words to rouse one's soul; What underlay them in the dying whisper This is the message you should hear. Somehow, as he spoke, his hollow eyes Bore deeply into me—accusingly And questioning, so questioning Who, it seemed to me, they asked, Had cut his life so short?

Eight years were all allotted him; Eight short summers—eight winters With their snows—eight autumns And colored leaves and browning grass— Eight springs, when life is full; Spring? This last one he will ever feel, Brings again the age-old change— From death to life. Life, full renewed for all the things that grow, But for a little child it brings A summons to the grave.

When the kind brown earth has claimed him, What of his whispered words? Will they echo through your mind? Will you hear them — hovering 'round your head Like a dream?

They should stir your conscience, Yes, you! You who are the people— The rich, the poor, the literate and the wise, The ignorant and the fool— White, black, brown or yellow man, You hold the blame; this is your world! The learned man, the scholar, the man of science, Perhaps he is your dupe; To him, you'll pass reproof.

No, I tell you I heard little Buster Roos! In his words, amidst the struggled breath From lungs all but gone with cancer, I heard an accusation— Not in the words but in the tone— It was as though he said: "A child is born of man, to live, "But you, and all of you, have let me die

"Without accounting for my life, "Too much preoccupied with wars and things "To find a way to make me whole again."

I heard little Buster Roos And I'll hear him 'till the end of life; But I vow that somehow down the years, You, too, must hear his voice!

## PRICE RISES THREATEN THE VETS' HOUSING PROGRAM

Washington, D. C.—Home construction has reached its highest peak since 1925, but the program will fail unless price controls are maintained, Housing Expediter Wilson Wyatt declared over a national radio hookup.

Reporting to the public on the progress of the veterans' emergency housing program, Wyatt said that 406,000 new dwelling units of all types were started this year by the end of May.

"The veterans' housing program, in its present form, will be doomed unless sensible, workable price controls are put back into effect, and quickly. This is of the utmost urgency," he declared. "The cost goals of the veterans' program were based on the retention of sensible price controls until production caught up with demands."

# Union Label—Always in Style!



## DON'T WAIT FOR THE FIRE ENGINE

Eventually there will be an absolute cure for cancer. Perhaps there may be a medication that even will prevent cancer. Tragically enough, that is probably years away.

You can't afford to wait until science finds the answer. There are many things you can do now to help prevent cancer. You can be alert and watchful for yourself and your family and insist on thorough medical examinations at least once a year.

Many thousands die of cancer every year who could have been saved had they acted soon enough. Surgery, x-ray and radium are successfully used in treating cancer. As many as 90 per cent of some types of cancer can be cured in the early stages.

With present knowledge alone most cancer can be cured if diagnosed soon enough. If you had a pail of water handy, when your house caught fire, you would throw it on the flames. You wouldn't wait for the fire engine!

Don't just sit and wait and hope that a cancer cure will be found. Be on your guard and prompt medical action can keep the scourge of cancer from increasing its toll.

Cancer kills more than 170,000 Americans every year but many of these die needlessly because cancer is curable more often than any other highly fatal disease.

There are many thousands living today who have been cured of cancer. It is estimated that at least 40,000 are cured of cancer in this country annually. These are people who have shown no recurrence of the disease for five years. The latest accurate figure of five year cures is for 1945 when 39,315 were pronounced entirely cured.

The chance of curing cancer in its early stages is extremely high. Up to 95 per cent of all skin and lip cancers are curable if diagnosed in time. Breast cancer and cancer of the uterus, the most prevalent forms among women have a 75 per cent chance of cure after early diagnosis. Moderately advanced cancer has only 15 to 40 per cent chance of cure. Advanced cancer is almost always fatal.

To avoid cancer, you must be alert! Don't take chances with a sore that will not heal. See your doctor immediately if you notice bleeding from any of the natural body openings. Watch for any progressive change in the color or size of a mole, wart or birthmark. Persistent indigestion or a noticeable change in your normal bowel habits call for a check-up by your doctor. Persistent hoarseness or an unexplained cough should be looked into.

None of these things might mean cancer, but why take chances? To be sure, see your

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doctor, warns the American Cancer Society, Inc., 350 Fifth Avenue, New York 1, N. Y.

## In current trends popular ideas

sometimes influence styles. Often old ideas, when suddenly brought to light, are rejuvenated. Just a few years ago, when scientists dug into the tomb of Old King Tut, who lived in the 14th Century, B. C., designs in his garments were revised into modern patterns for both hats and dresses.

ingham, Alabama.

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