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Government Payrolls Fall 13 Billions Since War's End, Wallace Reports

Washington, D. C.—Federal Government payrolls, both military and civilian, have fallen off by 13 billion dollars a year since V-J day, Secretary of Commerce Wallace revealed in a formal report.

The individual jobholder earned just about the same average weekly wage during the second quarter of 1946 as he did during the same period a year ago, he added, since the reduction in hours and in overtime premium pay and shifts to lower-paying jobs have been almost offset by increased wage rates.

There were 5,000,000 fewer people with jobs in the second quarter of 1946 than in the same period last year, Mr. Wallace said. This does not mean, however, that there are 5,000,000 unemployed since many former war workers as well as veterans have withdrawn from the labor force and are not seeking jobs.

During the second quarter of 1946 wages and salaries were at an annual rate of \$102,000,000,000 compared with \$115,000,000,000 for the second quarter of 1945. Since V-J Day 9,000,001 members of the armed forces have been demobilized, reducing military pay rolls \$11,000,000,000. Federal civilian employment has been cut by more than 500,000, reducing the pay roll \$2,000,000,000.

From August to October, 1945, wages and salaries paid by manufacturing industries declined more than 25 per cent. Since October these pay rolls have risen slowly, but during the second quarter of 1946 they were still one-fifth lower than they were during the same period a year ago.

All of the reduction in manufacturing employment and payrolls was in the durable goods industries, Mr. Wallace said. During the second quarter of 1946 wages and salaries in these industries were one-third lower than during the second quarter of 1945.

On the other hand, employment in the nondurable goods manufacturing industries, which declined for three months following V-J Day, again turned upward and is now above the V-J Day level. In the second quarter of 1946 pay rolls of nondurable goods manufacturing industries were at an annual rate \$2,000,000,000 higher than they were during the same period a year ago.

In nonmanufacturing industries employment increased 2,000,000 from the second quarter of 1945 to the second quarter of this year, and wages and salaries increased by 15 per cent, from \$44,000,000,000 to \$51,000,000,000.

Gross average hourly wages in private industry increased 7 per cent from April, 1945, to April 1946, Mr. Wallace said. The sharpest increases came in nonmanufacturing industries as a whole, amounting to about 13 per cent.

RANKS OF WOMEN AT WORK IN JUNE RISE HAVE MILLION OVER MAY FIGURE

Washington, D. C.—The number of women employed in June increased nearly half a million over the figure for May, it was reported by the Women's Bureau of the Labor Department.

Strange as it may seem, too, there also was an increase in the number of unemployed women. This paradox was explained by the bureau, which pointed out that summer normally sees an increase in seasonal workers and that there are more workers in the market when schools are not in session.

The bureau reported there are 53,750,000 women in this country 14 years of age or over; 16,710,000 employed, an increase of 450,000 over May; 560,000 are unemployed, an increase of 140,000 over May. It set the number in the armed forces at 50,000, a deadline of 10,000 since May, and listed nonworking women at 36,420,000 a drop of 560,000.

Meanwhile the bureau, on request of representatives from minimum wage states, is working toward a new cost-of-living budget for working women for minimum wage purposes. The first meeting in June of a Joint State-Federal Committee reviewed use of cost-of-living budgets, difficulties of States in devising defensible budgets, varieties of theories used in constructing budgets, and proposed new techniques as developed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Problems on individual budgeting, such as clothing, food, and housing, were discussed, as

well as methods for pricing the new type budget. The committee includes representatives from California, Utah, Minnesota, Ohio, Connecticut, and three non-Federal consultants. No report on the committee's work will be available for several months.

SECURITY TAX IS FROZEN BY HOUSE VOICE VOTE

Washington, D. C. — By voice vote, the House approval legislation to freeze through 1947 the Social Security old-age and survivors' insurance tax at its present rate of one per cent each for employes and employers. This action was taken, despite vigorous AFL opposition, to prevent the tax from rising automatically to 2 1/2 per cent next January.

MILLION VETS EMPLOYED IN MANUFACTURING PLANTS

Washington, D. C.—The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that in April, industry groups which average more than \$47 a week for production workers employed approximately half of the 2,000,000 veterans holding jobs in manufacturing plants. These veterans comprise a ratio of about one out of every six factory employes.

This proportion was better than one out of every five employes in the automobile, petroleum products, chemical and iron and steel groups. They represented almost as high a proportion in paper and allied products, machinery (except electrical), and in the rubber products group.

HOUSE VOTES TO RETURN USES TO STATES NOV. 15

Washington, D. C. — A Senate proposal to return the United States Employment Service to the States November 15 was approved by the House on a voice vote. The

House demurred in other Senate changes in the measure, however, and their differences probably will have to be ironed out in conference. The legislation is contained in the \$1,115,915,670 labor and Federal security appropriation bill.

STORES ON FIVE DAYS

Washington, D. C. — Several stores in this city and in Baltimore have been observing a five-day, 40-hour week for some time. Re-

cently certain department stores in Chicago, Detroit, Milwaukee, Columbus and six other large cities instituted a year-round five-day, 40-hour week for employes. In none of these stores were weekly salaries reduced on account of the shorter working schedules. New York City department stores adopted this policy as early as 1941.

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