

Living Cost Up 25 Per Cent In 16 Days Of No OPA

Washington, D. C.—Living costs merce Department and made public in the United States rose 25 per by the White House. cent in the first 16 days after col- The increase in all, but a handful lapse of the OPA, it was revealed of basic commodities amounted to in a report prepared by the Com- 35 per cent, by the Government's

128,000 Jobless In Philadelphia Labor Market

Philadelphia. — Unemployed in the Philadelphia labor market now number 128,000, it was revealed in a report by labor experts—after a survey.

This is the largest number of unemployed since the end of the war, they said, but the real peak is several weeks off. By the end of September, the report said, un-employment will begin to drop sharply as a result of the increased production of many now scarce supplies and commodities.

Even though unemployment has reached its highest point since 1940 those familiar with labor conditions and industrial production see nothing alarming in the situation.

They say it's remarkable that peacetime production should already have absorbed such a large number of war workers—especially since various shortages and other problems have delayed industrial reconversion.

Philadelphia's men's suit industry has plenty of cloth but is plagued by a shortage of workers. That was disclosed by a spokesman for that industry here. Philadelphia is the second largest suit-manufacturing center in the country.

Suit manufacturers here could use at least 4,000 more workers, of whom at least half should be hand tailors and machine operators, according to William B. Flickstein, secretary of the Philadelphia Clothing Manufacturers' Association. But the workers simply cannot be found, despite a campaign to recruit them.

Men's suits will therefore continue to be scarce for some time. For the same shortage of workers also exists in the nation's four other great manufacturing centers for men's clothing — New York, Baltimore, Chicago and Rochester, N. Y.

ICE CONTRACT IS SIGNED BY GALVESTON LOCAL

Galveston, Texas—Local 940 recently signed an agreement with the Galveston Ice and Cold Storage Company.

The Galveston Ice and Cold Storage is a part of the City Ice and Fuel Company of Chicago, signed agreement with Local 940 covering all the cold storage men, platform men, route salesmen and helpers.

By signing this agreement the Teamster Union has signed the largest distributors and manufacturers of ice in the city of Galveston. Negotiations were carried on by Mr. Homanson of Chicago, vice president of the City Ice in Chicago, and G. C. Rickert of the Teamsters.

RENTS CLIMB AND CLIMB

Chicago.—Rent increases in this city, as reported by tenants since OPA ceilings went off July 1, have reached an average of 80 per cent above OPA tops, an official of the Tenants League revealed. More than 4,500 tenants have filed formal complaints, and in a single day one municipal court was the scene of 150 eviction hearings.

own interpretation of the report.

If it had not been for the fact that business groups working for the removal of all price controls extended themselves to hold prices down to a minimum rise while Congress was still debating the fate of OPA, hoping thereby to prove their point that price controls no longer were necessary, living costs would have gone still higher, in the opinion of the department.

As a result of the recent price spurt, the department said prices increased at a much faster rate since the Japanese surrender than they did during a comparable period after World War I, when the country was experiencing "serious inflation."

The official appraisal of the price situation was based on the behavior of the Bureau of Labor Statistics index of daily spot market prices for 28 basic commodities—the usual basis of living-cost studies—during the first 16 days of July.

It was pointed out that among these commodities were six which showed no price change—four because of other government controls and two because of a market standstill due to economic uncertainties.

Eliminating these six commodities, it was noted, the price rise for the first 16 days of July stood at almost 35 per cent, rather than the 25 per cent indicated for all 28 commodities.

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