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GLUM PICTURE OF JOB OUTLOOK FOR BALANCE OF YEAR

Total jobs are still at record levels, considering seasonal factors, but the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics took a dim view of the employment situation in its latest survey of the Nation and all factors concerned.

A drop in manufacturing employment, coupled with "a disappointing rise" in the number of workers employed

in construction in April, "point to soft spots in our economy which will need careful watching."

This was the conclusion of Ewan Clague, Commissioner of Labor Statistics in his monthly employment review.

Clague emphasized that the layoffs of workers in manufacturing industries was only slight—140,000 persons—but it was the first decline since the reconversion low point in February, 1946. The cutback was mainly in "soft goods" lines—textiles, clothing, luxuries, etc.

But, coupled with this, Clague noted, "construction activity, which had been counted on to bolster employment later this year as weakness developed in soft goods lines, showed only a moderate seasonal increase, rather than the hoped-for sharper gains."

The BLS disclosed that in April, 62,000 new permanent dwelling units were started. This was 8,000 more than in March, but 4,000 below the number started in a year ago. This April was the third month this year in which the number of starts fell below the figures for comparable months last year.

The increase from March to April, Clague said, was "at best" only the normal spring upturn. "Resistance to high prices appears to have been the most important factor currently dampening the rise," he remarked.

On the basis of his figures, Clague declined to forecast a business recession, but he did admit to newsmen that the country has reached a crest of employment, which may now be expected to level off.

So far, he said, the signs do not point to a downturn, but they indicate that further employment increases, except for seasonal ones, cannot be expected. Employment, regardless of seasonal factors, had been steadily rising for the last 13 months.

Non-farm employment, the BLS reported, was 41,708,000 in April, as compared with 42,066,000 the previous month. The unemployment effect was characterized as "very mild" and felt only in a few areas, notably New York, New England and some of the South Atlantic States. These are the "soft goods" centers.

The declines were in textiles, apparel, tobacco, leather and rubber. The only industry to report a large gain in employment was lumber.

There was little change in the number of unemployed, the BLS said. It has been running at slightly less than 2 1-2 million. This is "near the minimum generally considered unavoidable in an economy where people are free to change jobs."

Turnover in employment, measured by hirings and quitings, was at a postwar low level in April, the BLS found. Most plants, it said, are now fully staffed and some are even curtailing operations. Meantime, the number of workers voluntarily leaving their jobs has tended to decrease.

Clague pointed out that employment in the construction industry is at a high record of 1,660,000, or 300,000 more than a year ago. But he admitted this could be explained by the high level of starts late last year, which are now being completed. He also agreed that the lower number of starts this spring could be reflected later in a decline in construction employment from present levels.

tween Communist-controlled unions and free, democratic trade unions and free, democratic trade unions. The lovers of liberty appreciate and understand the meaning of freedom. That is why those who believe in freedom fight to maintain freedom for workers, and free, democratic trade unions.

"Government domination and government control over the economic and industrial life of the workers is reflected in totalitarian control and Communist domination. Freedom and liberty are reflected in the establishment of free, democratic trade unions."

The letter was addressed to Tomas Palomino Rojas, General Secretary of the Mexican Confederation of Labor, following receipt of a communication expressing hope that the day would arrive soon when all workers on the American continent could be united and present, a combined stand against any Communistic inroads.

CHEMICAL WORKERS GAIN

Montreal Can.—A new contract between the employees of the Sherwin-Williams Co. and members of the International Chemical Workers Union (AFL) grants a general wage increase of 10 cents an hour retroactive three and one-half months; five cents an hour premium for afternoon and night shift; time and one-half for overtime or Sunday work; double time for work done on the seven paid holidays, and 1-5-25 years of employment, 1-2-3 weeks' vacation, respectively.

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unless we act 1 in 8 will die of CANCER GIVE TO CONQUER CANCER MEXICO'S UNIONS HOPE TO JOIN AFL RESISTANCE TO THE REDS Washington, D. C.—Strong support of the Mexican Confederation of Labor, by way of advice and co-operation, in ridding itself of Communists, was pledged by AFL President William Green on receipt recently of a letter from that organization calling attention to a resolution passed by the Confederation to weed out Reds.

THE MARCH OF LABOR

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