

88,000 HOMES STARTED DURING SEPTEMBER; YEAR'S RECORD IN EXCESS '46 LEVEL

Washington, D. C.—September saw the start of 88,000 new permanent homes, an all-time high for that month, according to estimates of the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The total for the month exceeds the record of any previous month with the possible exception of the peak month in the spring of 1925 which was the peak home construction year in the nation's history.

Home building for the first 3 months of 1947 showed an increase of 89,300 units over the same period of 1946. So far this year 615,000 units have been put under construction.

The September estimate is 2,300 above the revised total of 85,700 units started in August, and surpasses by 30,400 the figure for September a year ago. It is quite possible that, when all reports are in, the total number of dwellings started this September may be even greater than is apparent from the information received so far.

Preliminary estimates for other recent months have required upward revision when final figures were received. The high September level of housing activity prevailed in all regions of the country and in practically all types of communities.

Notable in September were important increases in the larger cities (for instance, New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore), in some of which housing activity had fallen off in August. Completions of new permanent family dwellings by the end of September totaled 576,000, and were more than double the number completed during the first 9 months of 1946.

TRUMAN CALLS A SPECIAL SESSION

(Continued From Page 1) Additional funds will be needed to maintain our position in occupied areas. It is clear, therefore, that congressional action cannot be delayed until January.

NEW YORK STATE STRIKE ACTIVITY IN '47 ABOUT 50% BELOW RECORD LEVEL OF '46

New York City.—Strike activity in New York State is about half that recorded for a similar period during 1946, according to the State Labor Department.

Preliminary statistics showed that while the number of strikes in the first nine months of 1947 were not much fewer than in 1946, the number of workers involved and of man-days lost from work was less than half.

From last January 1 through September 30, there were 518 walkouts by organized labor recorded in this state, compared with 533 for the corresponding three-quarters of 1946. This year's stoppages, however, involved only 78,900 employes directly, compared with 377,904 last year.

Man-days, idle, which is the most important criterion in judging strike statistics, totaled 3,686,200 this year as against 7,587,151 in 1946. This meant about one-half of 1 per cent of the "estimated available working time" was lost through strikes so far in 1947, whereas 1.07 per cent was lost at this time last year.

Strikes in 1946 were by far the most serious in numbers made idle and production days lost in the history of New York State, the aggregate of strikes reaching 403,400 and man-days lost 8,769,000 by the end of the year. Even though current strike activity is only half last year's record rate, it is clear that 1947 will surpass the runner-up year of 1933, which recorded 3,880,929 man-days lost from production and wages.

20,000 ILL VETERANS STUDYING BY MAIL

Washington, D. C.—The Veterans' Administration said that 20,000 of the 92,000 patients in war veterans' hospitals are studying correspondence courses ranging from college subjects to elementary reading, writing and arithmetic.

In some V. A. tuberculosis hospitals, up to 50 per cent of the patients are taking advantage of a choice among 234 courses obtained from the United States Armed Forces Institute at Madison, Wis.

Last Polio Health Hint: Avoid Sudden Chilling!

Sudden chilling such as plunging into cold water on a very hot day should be avoided as the sixth and final health precaution that should be observed in the polio season—June through September—the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis cautions through its local chapter. Scientific research financed by March of Dimes funds has shown that when laboratory animals exposed to the polio virus were suddenly chilled, twice as many developed acute and paralyzing attacks of the disease as did a control group which had been protected from sudden temperature changes. Therefore, take no chances. To be on the safe side avoid sudden chilling, the National Foundation advises.



SWEDEN PLANS FOR FULL EMPLOYMENT AS BULWARK AGAINST "RED" INFLUENCE

New York City.—Sweden has taken steps to assure continued full employment and stability in her economy as a precaution against any encroachment of the Communist philosophy.

This is the general conclusion of an article written by Arnold S. Zander, president of the AFL's State, County, and Municipal Employees Union, and published by the Workers Education Bureau of America. The article is the fourth in a series on the general topic, "Sweden: Laboratory in Economic Democracy."

The information in Mr. Zander's article was the basis for an optimistic declaration made to him by the Swedes that "for ten years at least there would be no unemployment in Sweden." Portions of the article are as follows:

"They took me through public works planning as we think of it in this country. They have plans for streets and sewers, public buildings, schools, and all the other things our planning covers. But this is only a beginning. In Sweden the people themselves own and operate monopoly businesses in the fields of power, transportation, and communications. We have removed these monopolies from competition and have set up government bureaus to regulate them, but we have left ownership in private hands. "We have bureaucracy in regulation; they have direct public operation. The critical difference, however, from the point of view of employment is that our monopolies in these fields will contract in case of recession or depression, while in Sweden employment in these areas will be expanded as need in order to maintain full employment.

"We went on from our kind of public works planning to planning for jobs in the expansion of public utilities and then to the number of man years of work in the improvement and extension of both land and air transportation; and then to similar plans for jobs in telephone, telegraph and radio.

"The Swedes asked me what our privately owned monopolies would do in case of major recession, and I replied that they would curtail operations. This seems obvious and natural to us. We don't visualize any other possibility. That would not be true here, I was told. These monopoly enterprises, our public utilities in power, heat, light, transportation and communications, constitute an enormous reservoir of jobs. These services will be expanded as necessary to control unemployment and to make available at cost to our private competitive enterprises, these services so that they can compete to better advantage in world markets."

"A valuable by-product from this arrangement of things has come to the Swedes. The taking of these utilities from private owners has removed power from those who would otherwise stand against social progress. "The influences which gave us the Taft-Hartley law spring largely from reactionary forces in control of monopoly enterprises. In Sweden these have been removed. The Swedes live, as a consequence, in a more liberal atmosphere. It is for this reason that they are not afraid of fascist dictatorship from the right.

"Their concern is about Communism, which they say frankly might come if they were to experience depression and mass unemployment. As a defense

against Communism they have planned for full employment as a means to a stable economy. They have a sense of calm assurance which it is a joy to see."

BUILDING EMPLOYMENT GAINS IN NEW YORK

Employment in the construction industry in New York State showed a net gain of 6,000 workers from July to August, a gain of three per cent, according to a report released by the New York Department of Labor.

Construction contractors employed an estimated 193,400 workers in August compared with 187,400 in July and 177,200 in August 1946. Average weekly earnings and hours remained at the same level. Employment estimates cover all construction workers, both on-site and off-site. Average weekly earnings and hours are for site workers only.

TRUMAN URGES PROMPT LEGISLATION TO STEM INFLATION; AID EUROPE

(Continued From Page 1) being crippled by economic paralysis and resulting chaos.

"The most imminent danger exists in France and Italy. If the economies of these countries collapse and the people succumb to totalitarian pressures, there will be no opportunity for them or for us to look forward to their recovery so essential to world peace.

"Even with the proposed aid from this country, the peoples of Europe this winter will be on short rations. They will be cold and they will be without many

necessities. But our emergency aid will be definite assurance of the continuing support of this nation for the free peoples of Europe."

Declaring that these domestic and foreign problems present a challenge to the American people, the President declared "it is within our power to lead the world to peace and plenty."

"With resolution and united effort, we shall achieve our goal."

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