

Editorial

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HIGHER WAGES BUYING LESS

Although the \$50.97 average weekly earnings of factory workers during October was slightly higher than the September record, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the increase measured over a year ago was more than offset by soaring prices.

Thus, the 11 per cent gain in average hourly rates and average weekly wages secured since October, 1946, has meant nothing to the nation's 13 million production workers. They have watched their weekly earnings measured in terms of what they will buy diminish week by week until now they and their families are worse off than a year ago.

This fact is especially significant in view of the BLS report showing that the average workweek was the same for the two periods chosen for comparison. It points up graphically that an American worker putting in as many hours per week in October, 1947, as he did in October, 1946, and earning more dollars per week for his labor, is worse off in terms of what that weekly wage will purchase.

On top of all this, productivity has increased. Workers are turning out more goods and services in the same number of hours than they did a year ago. In return for their improved efficiency, which according to the critics of labor is the only basis for wage increases, workers have slipped farther down the economic scale. They have had to tighten their belts, reduce their standard of living, and draw upon past savings in desperate attempts to keep up with the rising cost of living. They have been forced to make these adjustments and sacrifices in return for their efforts in boosting the nation's production to record levels.

And what have they seen during this past year of struggle to make ends meet? They have seen numerous reports from reputable business concerns telling of the fabulous profits reaped by industry, profits running in some cases better than 100 per cent over a year ago. They have read extra dividend announcements or notices that the regular dividend has been increased. They have read statements from prominent leaders implying that labor is to blame for everything. They heard Senator Taft denounce the President for daring to recommend that the Government of the United States take strong action to curb the ever-increasing danger of inflation.

It looks as though workers and consumers have been rooked royally during the past year. What is worse is the fact that all indications point to a greater rooking for them in the future. Living costs are still mounting and wholesale prices, as reported by BLS, stood at a new high for the third straight week. These prices will be translated into higher retail prices in the weeks to come, throwing an even greater burden upon the nation's working force.

DENHAM CRACKS DOWN ON UNIONS AGAIN

Robert N. Denham, general counsel of the National Labor Relations Board, is finding considerable fault with the affidavits filed by unions as required by the Taft-Hartley law.

He declared he has rejected nearly 30 per cent of the union financial and non-Communist affidavits filed to date because "they have been incorrectly executed."

Unions affected will be denied the services of the board for bargaining elections and processing unfair labor charges against employers until they file corrected forms, Denham indicated.

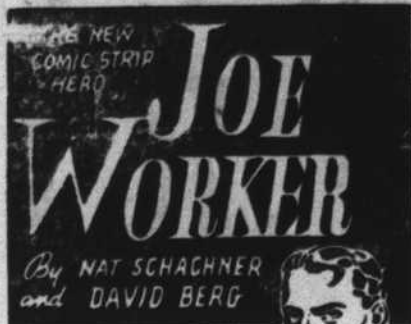
The most common error, Denham reported, is the failure of local unions to furnish their membership with the same data as that which they are required to file with the Secretary of Labor.

"The most common mistake is for union leaders simply to post a copy of the union's financial report on the bulletin board, or to announce that the books are open for anyone who wants to look at them," he said.

"This is not sufficient. Unions must endeavor to distribute copies of the required data to all their members." Evidently Mr. Denham intends to go out of his way to force unions to spend money and time in printing financial reports for distribution to each and every union member. He apparently is ignoring the common practice used by most large AFL unions of printing their financial reports in their monthly journals or other type of union publication which go regularly to their members.

His action must be taken as additional evidence that he is determined to crack down on unions whenever an excuse presents itself.

Denham said local unions also are failing to file non-Communist affidavits for each of their officers. He reported, however, that so far 2,176 local and 125 international unions have completed the filing of these forms. They include 1,434 AFL, 108 CIO and 634 independent local unions, and 70 AFL, 20 CIO and 35 independent international unions.



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NATION WILL REQUIRE 500,000 NURSES IN 1960

Washington, D. C.—Estimates of the future need for professional nurses, released by the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor, indicate that 500,000 to 550,000 professional nurses, are some 200,000 more than were available in 1946, will be required by 1960 if current standards of nursing are maintained.

The 1960 needs cannot even be approached, the bureau points out, if training does not proceed at the highest rate reached during the war and if graduates each year from 1951 to 1960 do not number from 43,000 to 45,000.

The bureau report states that the largest graduating class produced as a result of increased training initiated in wartime under the Cadet Nurse Corps has been attained this year, with the graduation of 44,700 nurses. During the next few years, according to estimates of the National League of Nursing Education, the number of graduates will be considerably smaller: 37,700 in 1948, 20,600 in 1949, and 26,700 in 1950.

FEDERAL CIVILIAN ROLLS INCREASE IN OCTOBER

Washington, D. C.—At the beginning of November, 1947, a total

of 1,773,900 civilian employees were in the executive departments and agencies of the Federal Government in continental United States, according to preliminary figures announced by the United States Civil Service Commission. Compared with a month ago, this represents an increase of approximately 7,300 employees.

In Washington, D. C., the total at the beginning of November was 195,400, practically unchanged from one month ago.

HOME BUILDING LOANS AT RECORD \$444 MILLION

Washington, D. C.—Construction loans given to home builders by the 1,477 Federal Savings and Loan Associations increased 41 per cent in the 12 months ended September 30 over the comparable period a year earlier, Harold Lee, governor of the Federal Home Bank Loan System, reported.

He said the large increase was spurred by veterans taking advantage of the GI Bill of Rights.

The \$444,000,000 borrowed from the associations in the 12 months established a record for the federal-chartered institutions. Mr. Lee said state-chartered building and loan companies had reported the same trend.

30,800 HANDICAPPED GOT JOBS IN OCTOBER

Washington, D. C.—Secretary of Labor Lewis M. Schwellenbach reported that 30,800 physically handicapped workers got jobs through the United States Employment Service during October, a peacetime record.

Robert C. Goodwin, director of the service, said that three-fifths of the placements were handicapped war veterans. He said that for the first time the total number of unemployed disabled veterans registered at public employment offices fell below 100,000. October placements cut the disabled veteran registration to 92,000.

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