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FACTORY EMPLOYMENT REGISTERS NEW GAINS

Southern Factories Hire More Workers

Factory employment in the southeast increased again in October to reach a level of 1,346,000 according to Brunswick A. Bagdon, Regional Director of the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics in the South. This marked the sixth consecutive month of gain for the region as increases in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and Virginia more than offset losses in Alabama and Tennessee. Employment held steady in Mississippi and North Carolina. Compared to the same period last year, factory employment in the region is up 160,500. The existence of a work stoppage in the primary metals industry last year tends to exaggerate the over-the-year growth.

The textile mill products industry added approximately 5,000 jobs in October as employment moved to 624,100. All states participated in the growth which appeared to be fairly well distributed throughout the industry. The current level is approximately 40,000 above that of last year and exceeds all months since August, 1948.

Reacting to seasonal factors in vegetable oil milling and increased demand for industrial chemicals, employment in the chemical products industry totaled 115,300 in October. This was an increase of 4,800 over the previous month with each state reporting higher levels. Compared with last year, employment has risen 7,500 and is at the highest point recorded since March, 1949.

The food products industry employed fewer workers in October—a normal condition. The current level of 153,400 is approximately 3,000 under that of the previous month but remains slightly above that of last year. All states except Florida and Virginia reported declines. The opening citrus season contributed to

an increase of 1,000 in Florida which was more than counterbalanced by a decline of 2,300 in Tennessee alone.

The largest October decline occurred in the tobacco industry principally because of the lay-off of 2,000 workers in North Carolina stemmery and redrying plants. South Carolina and Virginia reported smaller losses. The only increase noted was in Florida as cigar factories increased production. The present regional total of 67,500 is slightly above that of last year.

Gross average hourly earnings of factory production workers increased in all states except Mississippi. Increases ranged from two to six cents. While scattered wage increases were reported for several industries, the general increase in the textile industry was the greatest force in raising the all-manufacturing average. There was little change in the factory workweek from September. The all-manufacturing average for the region was approximately 41 hours. All states reported higher average weekly earnings. October earnings in the southeastern states ranged from \$41.26 to \$50.50. Last year the range was from \$36.20 to \$44.84.

Data for the eight southeastern states were prepared by state agencies in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia in co-operation with the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Any person interested in receiving this material may do so by writing to Mr. Brunswick A. Bagdon, Regional Director, Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor, 1020 Grant Building, Atlanta 3, Georgia.

Buy Union and fight the aggressors who would destroy American labor standards.



Community Chest Thanks The Journal

December 20, 1950. Chest appreciate the wonderful cooperation which you have furnished our Community Chest during the past year. The fine publicity which you gave us, particularly in connection with our campaign and the "Red Feather Quiz" articles which you carried (Continued On Page 4)

State Employment Up

RALEIGH, Dec. 27.—Non-agricultural employment in North Carolina increased 1,100 last month, climbing to a total of 907,200, the State Labor Department reported today.

Seasonal employment gains in trade and other non-manufacturing activities canceled out seasonal factory employment losses in tobacco, apparel and food products industries during November, said Labor Department statistician C. H. Pritchard.

All industries except trade reported November hourly earnings as high, or higher, than wages paid in October. Pritchard said. Factory workers' earnings, which averaged \$1.16 an hour and \$46.88 a week, were up slightly from the October level.

Textile mill employment jumped 900 last month with increases of 600 in yarn and thread mills, 200 in full-fashioned hosiery and 100 in seamless hosiery. Hourly earnings increased from one to three cents in most textile lines, bringing the industry's average to \$1.22. The textile workweek held firm at 40 hours and weekly earnings of textile workers averaged \$48.97.

Cigarette factories which hired 500 additional workers during November, reported an average wage increase of four cents an hour. This brought the hourly wages of the State's 12,700 cigarette workers to \$1.34. Their weekly earnings, averaging \$50.52, were \$4.64 higher last month than in October, due partly to the hourly rate increase and partly to the November workweek which was nearly two and a half hours longer than the October workweek.

Other manufacturing industries which reported hourly wage gains in November were: furniture and finished lumber products, food products, pulp and paper mills, printing and publishing, and chemical products—all up two cents an hour above October; and primary metals, apparel, sawmills, wooden container plants, and millwork and plywood plants—up one cent an hour.

A total of 5,400 tobacco stemmery and redrying plant seasonal workers were laid off during No-

Charlotte Area Shows Drop Oct.-Nov. Period

RALEIGH, Dec. 27.—Factory employment in the Charlotte area dropped 200 from mid-October to mid-November, but the work-week and average weekly earnings of factory workers registered slight increases, the North Carolina Department of Labor reported today.

Total factory employment in the area fell from 22,200 in October to 22,000 in November, reported Labor Department statistician C. H. Pritchard.

STATE THEFT BUREAU COLLECTS OVER \$28,000 IN PENALTIES DURING 1950

RALEIGH, N. C.—Theft Bureau inspectors collected a total of \$28,918.48 in penalties and additional license fees during November, the North Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles reported today.

Of the amount, \$3,546.62 came from additional license fees and \$6,536.50 from penalties on privately owned trucks. For hire vehicles brought in \$11,168.05 in additional license fees, with penalties amounting to \$7,667.31.

Members of the Theft Bureau assisted in the recovery of 68 vehicles as processing operations on the 1950 tobacco crop tapered off.

Employment dropped about 200 in North Carolina's non-metallic mines last month. However the miners put in a workweek of 47 hours and their earnings increased \$4.28 a week to an average of \$49.05.

Booming pre-Christmas merchandising caused a seasonal employment rise of 4,000 in retail trade and an increase of 300 in wholesale trade. Weekly earnings of workers in retail trade ranged from a high of \$38.87 in food stores to a low of \$13.21 in "limited price" variety stores.

A continuing substantial level of building construction activity in the State caused employment in the contract construction industry to increase about 500 during November rising to a total of 49,100.

Total textile mill employment dropped about 100, as did employment in food products. Charlotte area textile mills employed 9,500 workers in November. All other industries reported continuation of the high October employment level.

Compared with November a year ago, factory employment in the area was very high. Textile mills were up 10.5 per cent, machinery firms were up 23.5 per cent, printing and publishing 8.3 per cent, metal products 22.2 per cent. All other manufacturing industries combined were up 11.9 per cent over last year.

The Charlotte area's factory workweek increased fractionally last month, rising to an average of 41.6 hours. Hourly earnings dropped a penny to \$1.20. Average factory weekly earnings rose eight cents to \$50.07 due to overtime pay in yarn and thread, broadwoven fabrics, food products, machinery and metals.

Average weekly earnings in the various industries in November were: All textiles \$50.35, down \$1.21 from October; yarn and thread, \$51.07, down 49 cents; broadwoven fabrics \$54.10, down 91 cents; knitting mills \$53.39, down \$1.36; food products \$43.10, up \$2.71; machinery \$57.44, up \$1.41; printing and publishing \$60.81, down 47 cents; metal products \$54.89, down \$1.44.

stolen cars during the month and began investigation into the thefts of 41.

Of the 3,223 trucks stopped, 2,337 were North Carolina trucks and 776 out-of-state trucks. One hundred and ninety-three trucks (Continued On Page 4)

New Anti-Communist Law Is Analyzed

In a last-minute spurt before its pre-election adjournment the 81st Congress on September 20 passed an omnibus Communist-control bill, by a majority of 312 to 20 in the House and 51 to 7 in the Senate. On September 22 President Truman returned the bill to Congress with a lengthy message giving his reasons for vetoing it. The House immediately over-rode the veto, 286-48, and the next day, September 23, the Senate followed suit, 57-10.

The McCarran bill, as it came to be called, had a curious ancestry. Its beginnings go back to the bill introduced in the 80th Congress by Senator Karl E. Mundt (R., S.D.) and Representative Richard M. Nixon (R., Calif.) requiring the registration of Communist and Communist-front organizations. This bill died in committee. It was revived in July, 1949, by Senator Mundt and Senators Homer Ferguson (R., Mich.) and Olin D. Johnston (D., S. C.).

Senator Pat McCarran (D., Nev.) Chairman of the Senate Judiciary committee, which had charge of the above bills, took the registration provisions from the Mundt-Ferguson bill and added a section making numerous changes in the immigration and naturalization laws aimed at keeping Communists out of the country or preventing their becoming citizens.

Meantime Senator Harley M.

Kilgore (D., W.Va.) drew up a bill to give the Government power, in a national emergency, to intern persons suspected of intent to commit sabotage.

The McCarran bill, as it finally passed both Houses, was an amalgam of all the above proposals.

Registration of Communists

Mr. Truman listed his chief objections to the McCarran bill under seven heads.

1. "It would aid potential enemies by requiring the publication of a complete list of vital defense plants, laboratories and other installations."

The President here referred to sections 5(a) and 5(b) of the bill. Section 5(a) forbids the employment of Communists in "defense facilities"; 5(b) requires the Secretary of Defense to draw up a list of plants and other installations which are regarded as defense facilities within the meaning of section 5(a). Of these sections Mr. Truman said, with justice:

Spies and saboteurs would willingly spend years of effort seeking to find out the information that this bill requires the Government to hand them in a silver platter.

2. "It would require the Department of Justice and its Federal Bureau of Investigation to waste immense amounts of time and energy attempting to carry

PRESIDENT HARRY S. TRUMAN Couldn't convince Congress on anti-Red bill

This article, by Father Charles Keenan, is reprinted from America, a national Catholic weekly review.

This analysis is timely and of interest to labor because the smear tactics of Senator McCarthy, Wisconsin Republican, apparently had a big effect in swinging the vote trend in some states.

Father Keenan, the author, has made a close study of proposed anti-Red legislation since the original Mundt Bill was introduced two years ago. In this article, he analyzes the bill and President Truman's objections to it, although the President's arguments didn't impress Congress.

out its unworkable registration provisions."

The registration provisions that the President objected to are those of the Mundt-Ferguson bill (cf. Am. 8-12, pp. 488-490), which was embodied, *hokus bolus*, in Senator McCarran's omnibus measure. Before an organization can be compelled to register as a Communist party or front, it can claim a hearing before a Subversive Activities Control Board, a Federal District Court, and perhaps the U. S. Supreme Court itself. "To estimate the duration of such a proceeding," wrote Mr. Truman, "... we need only recall that on much narrower issues the trial of the eleven Communist leaders under the Smith Act consumed nine months."

One must concede that, if past experience is any criterion, the pinning of the proper label on a Communist or Communist-

front organization is no quick or easy matter. One may concede Mr. Truman's further point that when the pinning-on of the label can no longer be legally delayed, the organization will simply dissolve itself and start up under another name, so that the whole process must begin again "da capo." However, the purpose of the registration provisions is not precisely the outlawing of such organizations but the exposing of them. They are meant largely to deny to the Communists the great advantages they have enjoyed of working through seemingly respectable organizations, and thus beguiling the innocent for subversive purposes. The very first steps taken by the Government to place an organization on the register would turn upon the organization the spotlight of suspicion that the Communists wish to avoid.

A further question suggests it-

self here; what about a legitimate organization falsely suspected as a Communist front? To drag such an organization through the courts, with all the attendant suspicion and unfavorably publicity, would be a real hardship. One must concede that a law of this kind should be so framed as to reduce to minimum the chances of this happening. (It would be almost impossible to frame a law under which an innocent party could never find himself unjustly accused.) But the President contended that the McCarran bill was so drawn as to jeopardize innocent organizations. Here we must take a couple of his heads of objection out of the order he presented them in.

5. "It would put the Government of the United States in the thought control business."

7. "It would give Government officials vast powers to harass all of our citizens in the exercise of their right of free speech."

Elaborating these points the President said:

... the application of the registration requirements to so-called Communist-front organizations can be the greatest danger to freedom of speech, press and assembly since the Alien and Sedition Laws of 1798. This danger arises because the finding that an organization is a Communist front may be based solely upon "the extent to which the posi-

tions taken or advanced by it from time to time on matters of policy do not deviate" from those of the Communist movement.

Mr. Truman is by no means alone in seeing a danger to freedom of thought and speech in this section of the bill. The AFL and the CIO the American Civil Liberties Union and Americans for Democratic Action all expressed the same fear. These organizations have certainly no use for Communists or Communist fronts; and they are wise in the ways of legislation. One does not gainsay them lightly. However, for the record, I should like to make a couple of observations.

The basis of their objection is this. The Communists do, at times, espouse good causes for their own evil purposes. Thus it happens that a genuinely liberal group can find itself upholding a position that is also upheld by the Communists—e.g. against lynching, or racial discrimination in employment, or in favor of low-cost housing. This, say the objectors, might lead to the group's being labeled a Communist front.

I would note first that the criterion laid down by the McCarran bill is not whether a group happens to advocate the same thing as the Communists, but the extent to which its policies do not deviate from the Communist party line. It is practically im-

possible for any liberal program—including, or especially, Mr. Truman's own civil rights program—not to coincide at points with the party line. The Communist will see to that. It is equally impossible for a really democratic program not to deviate from the party line. It is the absence of deviation, not the number of coincidences, that is declared suspicious by the bill.

Second, I would note that this non-deviation from the Communist party line is only one of four criteria which the Subversive Activities Control Board is required to take into account when judging whether an organization is a Communist front. The other three are 1) the extent to which its directors are active in the Communist party or movement; 2) the extent to which its funds are derived from Communist sources; 3) the extent to which funds or personnel are used to promote the objectives of the Communist party or of world communism. Now the bill requires the Board to take all four criteria under consideration, not merely the one to which Mr. Truman objects.

Another objection raised by the President to the registration clauses of the bill is that to enforce them would engage a great deal of time and energy of the Department of Justice and the FBI. Moreover, he added, in trying to establish before a court

(Continued On Page 3)