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LABOR DENOUNCES 'NO LIMIT TO PRICES'

ANNUAL DIGEST OF STATE AND FEDERAL LABOR LEGISLATION

(Enacted January 1, 1950 To November 1, 1950)

During their 1950 sessions, each State of Territorial legislature in 10 States, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands passed at least one labor law, according to the Annual Digest of State and Federal Labor Legislation, issued recently by the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Standards as its Bulletin No. 143.

The most numerous changes were those made in workmen's compensation and unemployment insurance laws. Six States broadened coverage and four others increased benefits under their basic workmen's compensation programs. In the unemployment insurance field, four States increased benefit payments, four changed their experience-rating provisions and three amended their disqualification sections.

Other major changes emphasized prohibition of discrimination in employment, improvement in some child-labor laws, and additions to industrial health and safety laws. Six States passed laws affecting industrial relations, and three States and one Territory revised legislation governing their administrative machinery.

Important amendments to the Federal Social Security Act liberalized benefits and brought under the old age and survivors insurance program several large groups not previously covered. For the first time this program was extended to self-employed individuals, regularly employed farm laborers, certain domestic workers, American citizens employed by American employers outside the United States, and other groups. Congress also approved certain changes in the Wagner-Peyser Act and the Housing Act of 1937.

A limited number of free copies of this bulletin may be obtained from the Bureau of Labor Standards, U. S. Department of Labor, Washington 25, D. C. Sales copies at 20 cents each are available from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. A discount of 25 per cent is allowed on orders of 100 or more. Remittance should accompany the order for sales copies and should be sent directly to the Superintendent of Documents.

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS TOP JUNE OF LAST YEAR

RALEIGH. — The Department of Motor Vehicles reported today that 2,638 accidents occurred in North Carolina during June resulting in the death of 80 persons and injuries to 1,166.

The death toll for June is 18 higher than for the same month last year.

Collisions accounted for the largest number of dead and injured the Department reported. There were 27 killed and another 642 injured in motor vehicle collisions. Sixteen pedestrians were killed when struck by vehicles, 12 of them occurring in rural areas. Pedestrian fatalities jumped 60 per cent over June, 1950.

In rural areas, there were 1,556 accidents reported with 72 persons killed and 869 injured. Accidents in urban zones claimed 8 lives and 297 injured.

The Department said Johnston County lead the State with five fatalities in June. Next, with four each, were Catawba and Northampton counties. Counties reporting three fatalities were, Bertie, Buncombe, Cleveland, Columbus, Guilford and Rutherford.

No fatalities were reported from 50 counties.

Two Million Southern Workers' Pay Raised

SALARIED AND WAGE EARNERS IN 1,600 SOUTHERN ESTABLISHMENTS AFFECTED

Two million salaried and wage earners in over 1,600 establishments in the South received general wage increases during the first seven months of 1951, it has been announced by Brunswick A. Bagdon, Southern Regional Director for the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. These were general wage increases only, affecting all or a majority of employees in the establishments and do not include increases affecting small groups of less than 20 workers or individual merit increases, in large and medium-sized organizations. The number of wage increases may have been much greater but for the "wage freeze" of January 25. The number of wage changes dropped sharply and continuously each month from the high point of January to the low point for the seven month period in June.

MIDDLE-INCOME FAMILIES MAIN BUYERS OF NEW HOUSING

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Purchasers of new houses in metropolitan areas in the latter half of 1949 were predominately middle-income families (\$3,000 to \$5,000) and average price of a new home was \$11,000, the U. S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics reports in its July Monthly Labor Review.

Groups with middle and high income (\$5,000 or more) accounted for about 80 per cent of the new units rented. Average monthly rental was \$93, or more than a fifth of average monthly income. The period was one of increased housing activity due to an expanded demand for "economy" houses, the Bureau says.

SPEED LAW VIOLATORS HAILED BEFORE COURTS

RALEIGH. — Speed law violators took up a lot of time in North Carolina traffic courts during July the Department of Motor Vehicles reported today. A total of 1,668 persons were arrested and convicted for speeding last month and another 1,148 were convicted of reckless driving. Driving without a license placed third on the Department's monthly report of traffic violations; 1,276 were arrested for having no operator's license.

Total number of North Carolina drivers found guilty of moving violations on the highways and streets of the state came to 5,737.

Every increase in prices is a cut in wages except when Union people buy Union-made goods and use Union services.

More than 80 per cent of the total actions involved cash wage increases only; over 15 per cent included both wage and fringe benefits; and about two per cent provided for additional fringe benefits only. Agreement extensions with no changes in wages or supplementary benefits were made in less than one percent of the settlements.

The greatest number of wage changes was in the range of 5 cents to 10 cents an hour; this group accounted for about 50 per cent of the total. Increases of more than 10 cents and up to 35 cents an hour were granted in 39 per cent of the settlements while increases of less than 5 cents accounted for about 9 per cent of the total.

Additional fringe benefits were granted in slightly less than 20 per cent of the settlements. Fringe benefits granted to workers included paid vacations and holidays, shift differentials, job evaluation, liberalized insurance and pension plans, clothing allowances, seniority plans, paid lunch and rest periods, severance pay, reporting and call-in pay, and improved working conditions.

56,411 DRIVERS PERMITS ISSUED DURING JULY

RALEIGH. — The Department of Motor Vehicles issued 56,411 driver's permits during July. Of that number 33,105 were operator's licenses, 3,486 were duplicate operator's licenses, 19,071 were chauffeur's and 6 duplicate chauffeur's licenses.

Net revenue collected from the issuance of licenses was \$107,380.45 of which \$73,285.10 came from original operator's licenses; \$1,467.50 from duplicate licenses, both operator's and chauffeur's; and \$32,629.85 from original chauffeur's licenses.

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September 2-8, 1951

Employment Security News

Col. Graham Back In Army
Lt. Col. Simon (Pete) Graham, manager of the Lexington office since February 1, 1948, has reported for active duty with the Eighth Division, U. S. Army, at Fort Jackson, S. C. He bought a home at 2611 Mills Drive, Columbia, S. C., and will move his wife and two children, Jon, 11, and Joseph Alexander, 9, into their new residence soon.

Fish Lexington Manager
John H. Fish, an old-timer with the agency, has been appointed manager of the Lexington office to succeed Simon P. Graham, in accordance with his high standing on the register following the examination given for managers. He has already assumed his new duties.

Craven Has Heat Attack
Lee J. Craven, manager of the Raleigh local office, suffered an attack from heat exhaustion last Friday afternoon and was taken to Rex Hospital, where he is reported as doing nicely. He had been out to lunch and was hot when he returned. He was able to leave the hospital Monday and is recuperating at his home.

Perry On Extended Leave
A. Roland Perry, claims deputy in the Wilmington area, whose health has been bad for some months, has been advised by his doctor to take a prolonged rest to recover. He has been granted extended leave for that purpose. Claims deputies in surrounding areas will handle his area while he is out.

Interviewer's Husband Dies
Nathaniel McNair Smith, 49, Raeford, husband of Mrs. Rena Woodhouse Smith, interviewer in the Fayetteville office, died last Friday. Funeral services were held Sunday at the Raeford Presbyterian Church and interment was in Raeford Cemetery. In addition to his wife, he is survived by two stepsons, his stepmother, three sisters, one brother and two aunts.

Mr. Smith had practiced law in Raeford for several years, and was prosecuting attorney for Hoke County. He was a mason and a Shriner.

Review Interstate Claims
The four evaluation and training specialists in the Office of Evaluation and Training are engaged in special reviews of the interstate claims in 27 local offices in the State. The specialists are Kathryn Queen, Wm. P. Michie, W. E. Cooper and T. D. Adams.

Editorial On Handling Claims
The Herald, Roanoke Rapids, carried special stories with pic-

tures of the activity in connection with the registration and claims taking of more than 2,000 workers laid off in textile mills in that area recently and followed up with an editorial, headed "An Efficient System." It called attention to the task of handling so many claims in about four days and the dispatch with which it was done through advance planning by the local office with the co-operation of the mill offices.

D. A. McLaughlin, Elizabeth City, and Lloyd Proctor and Richard H. Speight, Rocky Mount, assisted the local staff Monday and Tuesday, and Mrs. Grace Rouse and Charity Holland, both of Kinston, helped on Wednesday and Thursday. W. Alan Knight, manager and his entire staff; Mrs. Lillian P. Grimes, Edith Merritt, Mrs. Janie L. Holloman and James G. Baughman, were stretching themselves on the unusually large task.

On International Committees

Five members of the ESC have been named to membership on as many international committees of the IAPES by the new administration. H. D. Boyles, Hickory manager, is on the Committee on Other Nations Affiliation, which will work largely through the International Labor Office; Frank B. White, field representative, Lenoir, is on the Convention Site Committee, which recommends sites for international conventions; C. P. Rogers, assistant chief claims deputy, is on the Legislative Committee. As already noted, Margaret Carpenter is on the Research Committee and Mrs. Fay D. Harmon was reappointed to the Membership Committee.

Calm Down, Bubber, Calm Down
Little Martha Ann Lauton, 3 1/2 years, of Madison, spent a delightful last week with her uncle, R. Fuller Martin, UC Division director, and Mrs. Martin in their Boylan Apartments apartment. Fact is, she didn't want to go home. On an occasion she was a bit worked up, however, and was talking away. "Calm down, Martha Ann, calm down," her austere uncle advised, patting her on the shoulder. Later Fuller got to talking a bit too, so Martha Ann patted his shoulder and shot back at him: "Calm down, Bubber, calm down."

OPS has declared: "We cannot stabilize the prices of other things if meat prices continue to rise and force living costs up. Meat prices must be stabilized."

LAUNCH NEW FIGHT TO KILL BAD PROVISIONS OF CONTROLS LAW

WASHINGTON.—The cost of living became a one-way elevator, "Going Up!" under the new Defense Production Act passed by Congress and "reluctantly" signed by President Truman.

The United Labor Policy Committee bitterly denounced the "no-limit-to-prices" act and told the President organized labor would support a veto. The President announced he would have vetoed the act except for the fact that it extends vital powers to control production, channel materials and operate the defense program, which otherwise would have expired.

MAN-HOUR OUTPUT UP IN 24 TO 26 INDUSTRIES

WASHINGTON, D. C.—In 24 out of a group of 26 manufacturing and non-manufacturing industries output per man-hour rose between 1949 and 1950, the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics announced in releasing figures showing "Changes in Output per Man-Hour for Selected Industries, 1939-50 and 1949-50." For 16 of these industries output per man-hour was the highest on record. The large volume of investment in plant and equipment since World War II and the high levels of production during 1950 undoubtedly contributed heavily to the increases in man-hour output.

In 9 of the industries, increases were 10 per cent or more over the year before. The beehive coke industry made the greatest gain in man-hour output, amounting to 22 per cent. This rise, which accompanied an expansion of coking activity, represented a recovery from the relatively low 1949 output per man-hour level. The 19-per cent gain made by the rayon and other synthetic fibers industry, on the other hand, was a continuation of a trend of increasing production per man-hour which has characterized the industry throughout its history. Other large gains were made in the full-fashioned hosiery, and paper and pulp industries. Output per man-hour in the full-fashioned hosiery industry advanced 12 per cent between 1949 and 1950 and 63 per cent from 1939 to 1950. The paper and pulp industry experienced an 11-per cent gain during 1950.

Most of the trends indicated strongly support the predictions made by industry, labor, and Government experts during the past several years. The industries included in the report cover a variety of industrial activities, and consequently, many factors have contributed to the generally favorable performance during 1950.

Although the record 1950 levels of production per man-hour cannot be explained by any one factor, the contribution of high postwar levels of output and the large investments in plant and equipment are of prime importance. For instance, 1950 rayon production was 253 per cent greater than in 1939 and 26 per cent above 1949. Beehive coke production was 290 per cent higher than a decade earlier and 66 per cent above 1949. Railroad traffic (freight and passenger) was 72 per cent above 1939 levels and 9 per cent above 1949; and this industry's man-hour output in 1950 was 50 per cent above 1939 and 14 per cent above 1949. The Department of Commerce, dealing with the large investment in plant and equipment, shows that in the 5 postwar years, 1946 through 1950, total domestic non-agricultural business investment amounted to \$84 billion—more than two and a half times the \$31 billion spent in the 5 years 1941 through 1945.

The best seller is a Union Label product. The best buyers' guide is your local labor newspaper.

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

Seldom in history has a President so forcefully condemned a law he felt constrained to sign. "It is a law," Mr. Truman charged, "that will push prices up. It is a law that will increase the costs of business and the cost of air defense program to the taxpayer. It is a law that threatens the stability of our economy in the future. Moreover, it prevents us from giving any price relief to the millions of consumers already penalized by the price rises in the fall of 1950."

As the United Labor Policy Committee recommended, the President promised to keep up the fight for better controls legislation. He supported a move in Congress to restore authority for slaughtering quotas to prevent black markets in meat. He also urged action to repeal the Capehart amendment, which provides cost-plus-profit guarantees to business. The President said this amendment would crash through existing price ceilings "like a bulldozer."

Although the President refrained from public criticism of the reactionary Republican-Dixiecrat coalition which forced passage of the new law, the United Labor Policy Committee was not so reticent. It denounced the coalition for a "disgraceful surrender to those who stand to profit from inflation" and for "calculated betrayal of the consumers of the nation." The committee charged that in the months to come the law may prove as harmful to the nation's defense effort as "the dropping of an enemy atomic bomb upon our territory." The committee pledged "untiring efforts" to expose the record of members of Congress who succumbed to special interest pressure and to seek their defeat in the 1952 elections.

Immediate effects of the new law were far-reaching, but gave only a hint of the disastrous price-boosting which appears to be inevitable in the months to come.

Landlords throughout the nation flocked into rent control offices throughout the nation seeking the 20 per cent increases over the June 30, 1947, level authorized under the new law.

The Office of Price Stabilization was forced to issue orders increasing prices of thousands of items from canned fruits to metal castings. The OPS also cancelled two previously announced roll-backs in meat prices forbidden under the new law. Those roll-backs would have reduced retail meat prices 10 cents a pound. Instead, the OPS announced increases in pork ceilings and an official of the National Association of Meat Processors and Wholesalers predicted retail beef prices would soon go up 5 to 10%.

Government economists foresaw boosts in bread prices from one to 3 cents a loaf; milk, at least one cent a quart and dry groceries, more than 5 per cent. These were considered conservative estimates of immediate effects. In general, food prices are expected to rise about 10 per cent.

Manufactured goods, in some lines, may not increase in price immediately because of surplus supplies with which merchants are overloaded. But the prospect over the next six months is for sharp increases, especially in automobiles. When the defense program begins to take a deeper bite into production and force reduction of output of civilian goods, the market is definitely headed for the stratosphere.