

# Understanding And Lies Add Up To Much Unfounded Criticism For Unemployment Compensation

Articles during the past month in two of the Nation's largest magazines, Saturday Evening Post and Reader's Digest, have most efficiently stirred a great segment of the population up on the subject of Unemployment Compensation and welfare payments.

Added to the facts set forth in these two conservative magazines has been a great amount of misinformation, half truth and outright lying. This has resulted in street-corner criticisms of both these governmental functions lacking in logic and spiced heavily with prejudice or bigotry.

A story typical of the many now making the rounds maliciously or mischievously aimed at Unemployment Compensation runs roughly like this: A tobacco warehouse group needed a laborer for a few hours one afternoon and picked up a man who was hanging around the house. A few weeks later the labor foreman of the warehouse reportedly received a form to sign testifying that this particular individual had been fired, thereby making him eligible for Unemployment Compensation. The story concludes dramatically, but not factually, with the assertion that this fellow who worked a half day was eligible to draw several hundred dollars in the form of Unemployment Compensation.

Unemployment Compensation benefits are available to "covered workers" on a fixed basis of that individual's earnings while working for a "covered" employer during the preceding year. A "covered worker" is any but a government or farm worker, who worked for a firm employing at least one more employee for at least 20 weeks in the pre-

ceding year. The payments to these individuals come from the accounts of their employer. Each business operating in North Carolina with more than eight workers for more than 20 weeks per year has an account with the Employment Security Commission of North Carolina. Each employer meeting these conditions must pay from three per cent to four tenths of one per cent of his payroll into this account.

This payment is split between state and federal governments with the federal government getting a fixed 3 per cent for administrative overhead. The variation in the amounts paid by various employers depends on the frequency with which their employees or ex-employees draw upon their account.

Businesses such as the tobacco industry, perhaps the State's biggest users of Unemployment Compensation, naturally have to pay the maximum three per cent, but businesses with a fixed payroll year in and year out earn the privilege of paying down to the lowest possible rate of four tenths of one per cent.

For an unemployed person to be eligible to draw this compensation he must:

1. Be totally or partially unemployed.
2. Be able to work. (Benefits are not available to sick or disabled workers).
3. Be available for work.
4. Be willing to accept suitable work. (If suitable work is offered and turned down the applicant is immediately dropped from the lists.)
5. Register for work with the nearest office of the commission.
6. Look for work himself.
7. Have earned as much as \$200 during the preceding fiscal year.

Payments to individuals range from \$6 per week up to \$25 per week, depending on the earnings of the individual. The tax is not paid on more than \$3,000 per year income and there is a fixed scale of payments based on the earnings of the individual during the previous year.

A person can draw this compensation for 20 weeks or if partially employed he may draw for a longer period, since during partial employment he may not draw the maximum benefits to his credit.

The maximum amount of money any individual can draw in any one year is \$500, and to get this he must have earned above

\$2,500 during the preceding fiscal year.

A person is disqualified if he does either of the following:

1. If he leaves work voluntarily without good cause.
2. If discharged for misconduct.
3. If he refuses to apply for work or to accept work.
4. If unemployed due to a strike.
5. If guilty of any misrepresentation in applying for compensation.
6. If discharged for theft and found guilty.

Every employer has ample protection against the "professional" compensation drawer and if any individual is guilty of abusing the system he must have had the cooperation of the company he has worked with. Payment can only be made with their full knowledge.

## CHRISTMAS BONUS

The good things under the Christmas tree and on the holiday dinner table will delight the grown folks as well as the children as usual this year, but the youngsters will get their extra bonus as well. School is out for Christmas. The doors will be closed on Thursday before Santa's arrival and stay that way until Monday after New Year's Day—no more school this year, says County Schools Superintendent W. G. Moore.

## VISITING VETERANS FROM PAMLICO SEE TWO JONES FARMS

Last Friday eight veterans and two instructors from Pamlico County visited two Jones County farms with a special eye to studying livestock production methods. Jones County Agent Virgil Thomas accompanied the Tidewater group.

The group saw Randolph Foy's hatchery and his swine lot. Foy now has 3,000 laying hens and 30 hogs at feed. He has sold

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## CLINIC ACTIVITY

Last Thursday at the regular weekly clinic of the Lenoir County Cancer Center, 14 persons appeared for examination and seven for re-examination, with 14 patients referred to their private physician for further treatment. Among the volunteer workers assisting during the day were Mrs. Robert Pipkin, chairman of receptionists, assisted by Mrs. Tom Suddreth. Assisting in the ex-

\$4,000 worth of hogs this year and with the high price of eggs is also doing well with his poultry.

amination rooms were Miss James Joe Simon, Helen Cape, Clara Meadows and Alice Westbrook. The center is staffed by members of the Lenoir County Medical Society, members of the Lenoir County Health Department and Pathologist Dr. J. B. Bullitt from Chapel Hill. At the last clinic of the year patients from Grifton, Ayden, Goldsboro, La Grange, Mount Olive, Beaufort, Farmville, Pink Hill, Deep Run, and Kinston were examined. Persons living more than 25 miles from the clinic who wish to be examined when the clinic reopens January 5th should write in for appointments.

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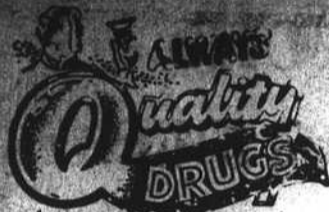
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