

LOCAL 301 NEWS

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FORECASTERS PREDICT PROSPERITY --- 1962

The "crystal ball gazers" are forecasting that this year will be a prosperous one and that the economy will accelerate in tempo.

Let's hope that in their prognostication they have figured out a solution to put over 4 million presently unemployed to work, to find jobs for thousands of workers now employed who will be displaced as a result of automation and other technological changes and to employ thousands more who will be entering the Labor Market this year.

The elimination of distressed areas of unemployment will be one of the major problems to be solved. Statistics show that in December the number of major market areas with six percent or more of their work force unemployed remained unchanged. There was at least a substantial unemployment in sixty areas the same as November. The major areas for purposes of the count total 150.

In 1961, the highest level recorded was a 101 figure in March and April whereas the lowest level reached was the 60 figure.

Not one area reported a labor shortage...the same has held true in recent years. Four areas recorded relatively low unemployment and all others had joblessness which could be described as moderate to relatively substantial.

Out of the 446 areas officially classified as areas of substantial or persistent unemployment 20 are major areas; 100 smaller cities, and 325 very small areas.

Although the figures reflect an improvement in the job situation, they, nevertheless, point out a glaring fact that distressed areas are still a source of major concern. If the forecasters can find a way to eliminate this one problem, they will be well on their way in making their predictions come true.

F. D. R. GREAT AMERICAN PATRIOT

January 30th marks the birth of a man whom historians rank as one of our greatest presidents.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt was inaugurated President of the United States on March 4, 1933. This was a period in American history when this nation was suffering the worst depression since its existence.

In those dark depressing days facing the Nation, many people seriously doubted whether the President or anyone else could do or say anything that would halt the economic doom that had been predicted.

Fear was rampant in all segments of the American society as to what the future had in store. To allay those fears, President Roosevelt pledged himself to a dynamic program of action for the "general welfare". He asked the people to join with him in a "National Consecration" to do their share by working together in an unselfish spirit to restore prosperity

Social, economic and industrial reforms were enacted on his recommendations. They were all vital in bringing about a gradual recovery.

By January 1935, signs of returning prosperity were evident in many facets of the economy. This same year saw the enactment of several history-making laws. Noteworthy among them was the "National Labor Relations Act" (Wagner Act), hailed as "Labor's Magna Carta". It gave the American workers the right to organize. It compelled the employers to bargain collectively with their employees, forbidding employers to interfere with or dominate such unions.

The Social Security Act was passed in August. President Roosevelt proclaimed this act to be the "supreme achievement of his administration."

In June of 1938, Congress passed the "Fair Labor Standards Act", better known as the "Wages and Hours Act". It affected employees in industries dealing in Interstate Commerce, establishing minimum wages and hours. (cont'd. reverse side)

PENSIONERS HOSPITALIZATION

by Allen E. Townsend

Due to the many questions asked, I will discuss hospitalization for pensioners in detail this week.

A pensioner who retired at age 65 (normal retirement age) prior to Dec. 1, 1955, qualifies for the following benefits while in the hospital:

1. Room and board \$13.00 per day.
2. Special hospital services while he is in the hospital including anaesthesia and ambulance service up to a maximum of \$100.
3. A maximum amount of \$175. for a surgical operation.

In addition to the above, on Dec. 1, 1955, the total hospital expense a pensioner could collect for the balance of his life was raised to \$2,000 for those with 10 years in the medical plan prior to retirement and to \$3,000 to those with 15 years in the medical plan prior to retirement.

In the case of pensioners who have retired at normal pension age since Dec. 1, 1955, or are going to retire in the future, the \$3,000 and \$2,000 maximum amounts as set forth above would also be the maximum amounts of hospital benefits that they could collect in behalf of themselves and their wives during the balance of their lives.

People retiring after Dec. 1, 1955, qualify for the "Type A Covered Medical Expenses" in the hospital. They would be required to pay the first \$25.00 of hospital expense. The plan would pay the next 100% of the next \$225, and 85% of any additional expenses as follows:

1. Expenses for room and board up to an amount equal to the full semi-private room rate.
2. Special hospital services, such as operating room, drugs, dressings, blood transfusions including blood or blood plasma and administration thereof, received during a hospital confinement of at least 18 hours. This 18 hours period is waived in the case of emergency treatment or if an operation is performed requiring a stay of less than 18 hours in the hospital.
3. Anaesthetics and administration thereof in the hospital, at home or elsewhere.
4. Surgery performed by surgeons or asst. surgeons in the hospital, at home or elsewhere.
5. Local professional ambulance service.
6. Diagnostic X-rays in a hospital at home or elsewhere.

F. D. R. (Cont'd)

The work week was reduced to 40 hours.

As a result of these laws, the American worker began achieving the human dignity he had sought for so long.

President Roosevelt was a wealthy man, but he was always sympathetic to the needs and desires of the common man. He will long be remembered as the greatest friend Labor and the American people ever had.

SAFETY CONDITIONS IMPROVING BLDG. 16

Recently a Union representative in Bldg. 16, LM&G, charged the Company with maintaining and tolerating unsafe conditions to exist in many of the aisles and surrounding areas within the building.

Stator frames, parts and material and overflowing scrap barrels were allowed to accumulate in these passageways and areas so much so that employees were jeopardizing life and limb trying to negotiate a simulated obstacle course.

At the first and second level of the grievance procedure, Union representatives tried to emphasize the safety hazards involved working under such unsafe conditions; however, their arguments fell on deaf ears at both levels of negotiations.

The case was prepared for a third level hearing and was argued at that stage of the procedure.

Since then, a Union representative has reported that management in LM&G is considering this problem in a more serious vein and indications at the present time are that measures are being taken to eliminate these hazards in this area.

For the sake of all the workers concerned, we strongly suggest that the elimination of these safety hazards be of a permanent rather than a temporary nature so that these same intolerable conditions do not occur again in this area at some future time.

"Type B Medical Expenses", the most common of which are visits to the doctor's office and bills for drugs incurred outside of the hospital are not paid for pensioners after the age of 65.