

Legislature Saves \$150,000,000 For Unemployment Reserve Fund

Results of the recently ended session of the California State Legislature show that corrective efforts applied to Unemployment Insurance Reserve Fund of approximately \$150,000,000.

The savings were made possible by stopping all bills introduced to "liberalize" the Unemployment Insurance Act and the passage of three bills designed to tighten up present loopholes in the act, which, however, must be signed by Governor Earl Warren to become effective. The governor has 30 days from June 23rd in which to act.

"Liberalizing" bills were supported, mostly, by the California State Federation of Labor, (AFL) and AF of L lobbyists strenuously opposed the reform program.

BEFORE GOVERNOR

The bills now before Governor Warren for signature or veto are:

AB 2502, which would curb the "lag-quarter" racket, whereby individuals have been collecting a total of 52 weeks (1 year) unemployment insurance benefits, although the Act limits unemployment insurance benefits to 26 weeks or six months. This bill would require that before a claimant could collect a second six-months' benefit on the same job, he or she must earn the minimum base earning requirement, which is \$300.

AB-1715 also is before the governor. This bill will restrict the growing practice of married women voluntarily quitting a job to follow their husbands to another city, and collecting unemployment insurance benefits, although they are not thereafter in the labor market as intended by the act. The act provides that benefits should not be paid voluntarily "quits" unless they quit for "good cause." The lack of a definition of what constitutes "good cause" has made possible this racket, and a definition of this point is an article of unfinished business that should be completed at the next legislative session.

BETTER PROTECTION

AB 676 also is before the governor. This bill gives a former employer who has discharged an individual for cause or the individual has voluntarily quit, a better chance to protect his (employer's) reserve account by better notice and seven days more time in which to file a protest. It would apply when the worker has secured a subsequent job and been laid off, in which case the worker is entitled to benefits. If the former employer protests that he should not be charged a portion of the worker's benefits on his reserve account, and the Department agrees, the employer's reserve account is not charged and his merit rating which determines the tax he pays, is thereby protected.

Many people do not know that employers pay the entire amount of unemployment insurance tax, employees paying a tax only for disability insurance.

BILL DEFEATED

AB 2501, which would have raised the minimum base earnings necessary for benefits from \$300 to \$450, was defeated in the Assembly. The minimum in the state of Washington is \$600, and this bill would have accomplished a needed reform without hurting any worker actually available for work. A corollary bill, AB3376, applying to disability insurance only, was enacted and signed by the

governor. It raised disability benefits from \$25 to \$30 a week and allows benefits to be paid workers on strike, provided the disability does not arise out of the strike.

A COSTLY WEEK

One bill would have eliminated the one-week waiting period. During 1950 a total of 640,000 claims were filed and if each claimant had received pay for this necessary waiting period, the fund would have been depleted by about \$100,000,000.

Another bill would have raised unemployment insurance benefits from a maximum of \$25 a week to \$40 a week. This bill, had it been enacted, would have cost the fund an estimated \$25,000,000 a year.

Another bill would have included agricultural workers under unemployment insurance, although due to the migratory nature of most agricultural workers in California, administrative problems would be tremendous. It was estimated that had this bill been successful, farmers hiring agricultural workers would have had to pay a 6 per cent tax on their payrolls.

MERIT RATING STAYS

Another bill would have abolished the "merit rating" system for employers. This system, which rewards a employer who holds a steady work force with the least turn-over of workers, is regarded as a potent force in stabilizing employment. The bill also proposed to tax all employers 3.7 per cent of their payrolls.

Other bills which were defeated by the "reform" forces would have removed all disqualifications in the present act and opened the doors for raids on the fund which would have exhausted it in a few months.

During 1949, a year of high employment, the state unemployment insurance fund paid out \$118,000,000 more than it collected in taxes from the employers.

During 1950, until this year of highest employment in California's history, the fund paid out in unemployment insurance benefits \$100,000,000 more than it received in taxes.

During the first 3 months of 1951, with "full employment" and industry begging for workers, the fund paid out in unemployment insurance benefits almost \$43,000,000.

Despite the good work done during the 1951 legislative session, it therefore is apparent that the job has only begun. If the unemployment insurance fund is to be protected for the honest workers of California who honestly are out of work through no fault of their own, the fight must be carried on without cessation to curb chiselers and rackets.

Scouts In Plea For all Types Unwanted Scrap

Troop No. 315 of the Boy Scouts of America "wants" that "unwanted" scrap found around most homes.

The boys, under Troop Chairman Lynn Dane, are eager to build up their treasury and hope to do it by collecting scrap metal—copper, brass, iron or any other kind of metal.

Funds raised through the sale of the scrap will be used to finance 8-day trips at the Camp Arrowhead Boy Scout Camp next summer.

The Scouts will collect the scrap if the giver will call Torrance 293-M. No newspapers are wanted.

Constitution Day Program Planned

In commemoration of the drafting of the U. S. Constitution, the Torrance-Lomita Realty Board will sponsor a program in the Torrance Civic Auditorium on Constitution Day, September 17.

The board is planning to bring to Torrance a well-known speaker who will speak on the drafting of the Constitution under the presidency of George Washington in the year of 1787.

SHOT HALTS BURGLARY SUSPECT

"Am I shot?" asked a burglary suspect early last Thursday morning of Officer Archibald Jackson, who had just fired a shot at the fleeing suspect.

Lying face down and afraid to move was Edward Glenn Kruger, 13609 Willowbrook, Compton, who was held to answer subsequently on a burglary charge.

Jackson saw Kruger carrying out an electrical appliance from the DeVore Home Appliance Store, 1575 West Carson, at 3:15 in the morning. Suspecting he was no shopper, Jackson ordered Kruger to halt. Kruger started to run, Jackson fired. Kruger halted—nose down in the dirt.

Escaping, police believe, is an accomplice who was with Kruger.

The store, now owned by Fred Ruff, was the victim of another robbery on July 24 when the owner was bound and robbed of \$637 as he was closing down the store for the night.

Kruger was held to answer to City Judge Otto Willett on Friday. Bail was set at \$1000.

Man Hot Over Matchless Deal

Don't ask Pat Palmieri: "Have you got a match, Buddy?" unless you smile.

After paying a man who gave his name as W. E. Myers, of 9842 Culver City boulevard, some money to pay for an order of book matches, Palmieri told Torrance police he started waiting for the matches to arrive from San Jose.

He is still waiting, he told the police.

Police in Culver City said: "Yeah, we're burned up about him too."

Badger State Picnic Set

Former residents of Wisconsin were invited to attend the "Badger" picnic slated for August 25 in Sycamore Grove Park in Los Angeles by Oscar Redemann, Wisconsin State Society president. A program will start at 2 p.m.

HEIGHT DIFFERENCE

There is a range of about 11,000 feet or more between the lowest and the highest points in the Colorado mountain range region.

Week End Strike Causes No Loss Of Time, Work

There was no loss of man-hours or production during a week-end strike at the Carson street plant of the International Derrick and Equipment Company.

Twelve hours after pickets were placed around the plant on Saturday, union officials recalled the picket line after a vote by the 200 members of the United Steel Workers Union favored postponement of contract negotiations until October 25.

An interim boost in wages was agreed upon. The strike started after work hours on Saturday and ended before the first shift started on Monday. The plant is shut down during the weekend.

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Rape Suspect Hearing Set

A preliminary hearing for a 37-year-old Lomita father charged with the statutory rape of a 12-year-old Torrance girl, is scheduled for this afternoon at 2 o'clock in the Torrance City Court.

Free on \$500 bail is Robert D. Crean, of 25217 Pennsylvania avenue, a father of two children. He was picked up, booked and held for a hearing last week after the mother of the girl signed a complaint against

the suspect, according to Sgt. Percy Bennett, who made the arrest.

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