

Business Executives Left Jobless as Firms Combine

By REYNOLDS KNIGHT

You wouldn't think an executive who calls the boss by his first name, has more than 20 years of service with the company, and possesses an impeccable management record has anything to worry about as far as job security is concerned. Well, the "pink slip" is, in the minds of more than a few executives today, and one word does it: merger.

The growth of mergers between companies has been accelerating in recent years. More and more executives of companies involved are faced with the threat of being eased out. Particularly vulnerable is the executive whose counterpart in the "other company" makes less money.

Management consultants advise executives to get some sort of "protective" contract,

one that assures them a guaranteed term of employment. More executives — especially in smaller companies — are insisting on contracts that are legally binding in case of a merger.

HOWEVER, it is also advised to obtain a contract covering only two or three years. This is suggested because the company assuming control may be so diverse it needs the special skills of certain executives, and an executive who has tied himself down for a long period might miss other opportunities.

In cases where a tender offer is made for companies, management consultants advise executives to start looking for new positions right away. Generally speaking this kind of takeover usually re-

sults in complete eradication of the taken-over company's top management.

LIMESTONE-like deposits in water mains and pipes, an ailment that can slowly choke off a city's water supply, can be prevented by treating the water with carbon dioxide, reports the Cardox division of Chemetron Corporation, Chicago.

Water softened with lime becomes saturated with calcium carbonate. At the water is supplied to homes and industries, the carbonates precipitate out and coat mains and pipes with layers of lime. Cardox says that this can be the water.

Cities such as Topeka, Kan., and Minneapolis, Minn., use the invisible, tasteless gas to treat their water and estab-

lish a stable water condition that is slightly alkaline. The division says that this condition is desirable because it enables water to deposit a light coating on pipes, preventing rust, and does not corrode them as slightly acidic water and neutral water does.

EXPLAINING the system, Cardox said that after water has been softened with lime it is piped to a recarbonation chamber. On the bottom of the chamber are diffuser tubes that break up gaseous carbon dioxide into tiny bubbles, increasing the gas' surface contact with the water. The carbon dioxide changes the remaining lime and some of the carbonates back to soluble bicarbonates to prevent

excessive encrustation or scale forming in pipes.

A New York Travel agency is turning travel tax into a selling point. If a tax on tourist spending abroad goes through, the company says, it will reduce tour costs other than air and ship fares to keep such costs at their pre-tax levels. A dog food company has published a directory of those hotels and motels in the United States and Canada that take in dogs as well as people.

Steel company profits and production declined in 1967, but the industry scored notable gains in other key areas. Major companies, and some not so big, beefed up their competitive muscle; heavy investment in new technology put the industry in better shape to regain business lost

during the year to overseas producers.

UNITED STATES Steel, the industry leader, reported "nearly a thousand modernization and improvement projects on the fire," including the nation's first large-scale production unit for the continuous casting of 40-foot slabs.

There were other far-reaching innovations. Selas Corporation of America, Dresher, Pa., which supplies heat-process systems to the steel and other industries, developed a revolutionary furnace that wraps giant steel slabs in a protective gas blanket at temperatures approaching that of Dante's Inferno. When the white-hot slabs move on to the rolling mill, they are completely free of the damaging

and hard-to-remove oxide scale treated by conventional heating methods.

Several large steel producers installed a Selas-designed furnace that prepares steel strip for galvanizing for a multitude of uses; it enables one galvanizing line to process as many different kinds of steel as two or three lines of less advanced construction.

A NEW physical fitness toy has been developed for kids from 6 to 60. Called the "Twist 'n Pop," the device consists of a handle with a paddle at each end. A ball is suspended from the center of the handle, and the idea is to pop it from one paddle to the other. A pushbutton door closer is available for the executive who wants instant privacy. The system al-

lows the executive to close his door by means of a pushbutton on his desk. The system can be installed in minutes; it plugs into a standard 110-volt AC wall outlet.

Area Educator Conducts Class

Dr. Frank Tyrrell, principal of Edison Elementary School, is one of three professors conducting a two-day seminar at the University of Michigan.

Topic of the seminar, which ends today, is "An Executive Development Program." Attending the two-day meet are management leaders in hospital administration throughout the midwestern states.

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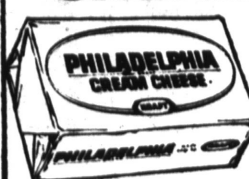
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