

The Social Front

Jobs and Workers

EMPHASIZING again the ability of organized labor to contribute more than its time and skill to defense production, R. J. Thomas, president of the United Automobile Workers-CIO, has sent to the Tolan Committee a summary of a survey of machine tools in the Detroit area, made by his union. The memorandum, submitted to the congressional committee which is investigating migration of labor, charges that machine tools in the Detroit area adaptable for defense production are running at only 35 percent of capacity. The union survey revealed, the memorandum states, that of 1,577 machine tools in thirty-four Detroit plants, 337 are idle throughout the week. Mr. Thomas urged that immediate steps be taken to place this idle equipment in use to help meet the problem of unemployment as automobile production is curtailed, and "to produce arms in sufficient quantities to frustrate Nazi designs for world domination." The memorandum calls attention to the fact that the CIO program drawn up last December by Walter Reuther, head of the General Motors Division of UAW, included the conversion of these machine tool facilities to defense work. [See "Labor Puts in Mind and Muscle," by J. Raymond Walsh, *Survey Graphic*, November 1941.]

ILO in New York—Two significant reports will serve as the agenda for the conference of the International Labor Organization which will be meeting in New York as this issue comes from the press (see page 328). One is the report of Edward J. Phelan, acting director of the International Labor Office, on "The ILO and Reconstruction." The report analyzes changes due to the war in economic controls, international finance, wages, hours of work, employment, and a variety of other labor questions, and describes the life of the ILO against the background of these changes. In future reconstruction, Mr. Phelan points out, the ILO is prepared to play an important part because of its equipment of technical knowledge and experience. The second report covers a study of "War-time Developments in Government-Employer-Workers Collaboration." It is a supplement to an earlier report, prepared for the 1940 conference which could not meet because of world conditions that year. The main purpose of the present report is "to describe the

institutions and procedures which have been set up or have developed during the war, for the furtherance of the war effort and national defense, in the field of collaboration between public authorities and employers' and workers' organizations." On the basis of these two documents, the conference will review the work of the ILO, and shape the future policy and program of the organization.

Jobs for Women—A rapid increase in the number of women workers both in defense and in non-defense industry is reported by the Federal Security Agency. In many sections of the country, employers are "experimenting" with women in jobs formerly held by men, frequently to replace men who have been drafted. On the West Coast, aircraft plants are beginning to employ substantial numbers of women in production jobs. One California aircraft maker began in August to take on fifty women a day, without pre-employment training, for riveting, spray painting, pasting and gluing, spot welding, arc welding, automatic drill press operation, automatic turret lathe operation, wiring, and other production jobs. This company estimates that eventually about a third of its employees will be women. A San Diego plane maker has announced that 2,500 women will be employed as detail assemblers, with the wives and mothers of present employees having first preference, and other relatives of present employees as second choices. A Maryland company making textile machinery has notified the local employment office that it would hire women who have had five weeks intensive training in light sheet metal work at a vocational school. In Milwaukee, so many taxicab drivers are going into the army or taking production jobs that women drivers are being hired. From New York and Connecticut the Federal Security Agency has received reports of difficulty in getting women recruits for preemployment courses, partly because of the unwillingness of girls and women to prepare for machine shop occupations, and partly because of their unwillingness to take training without pay.

Priorities Unemployment—Curtailed production of passenger automobile production in January 1942, by at least 51 percent below last January's output, has been decreed by OPM in a further effort to conserve steel and other vital defense

materials. Even this cut, it is pointed out by Leon Henderson, head of the Division of Civilian Supply, does not establish a production quota, but merely "a maximum limit to which the manufacturers can produce—if they are successful in obtaining sufficient materials." It is announced that every effort is being made by OPM to divert automobile production capacity to defense uses. Similarly steps are being taken to meet the major problem of priorities unemployment created by the reduction in automobile output. To this end, representatives of labor and management in about twenty of the larger firms in the St. Louis area met with Sidney Hillman, associate director general of OPM, in late October, to plan for defense re-employment and retraining of some 10,000 St. Louis and Kansas City automobile workers. The General Motors plants are expected to lay off 7,000 to 8,000 workers in the St. Louis area, and 4,000 to 5,000 in Kansas City.

Record and Report—The Industrial Relations Section of Princeton University offers a selected bibliography, "Problems and Policies in Industrial Relations in a War Economy," the third of these useful supplements. Price 25 cents from the university. . . . The third report dealing with young people in St. Louis, Mo., based on the materials of the WPA "Survey of Youth," is available through the St. Louis Youth Commission. This publication covers the wages and hours of employed youth in St. Louis. While the data were collected in the summer of 1938, the commission feels that wages and hours have changed "only in degree, and that their relationship to controlling factors, such as education, sex, age, occupation of the youth, occupation of the youth's father, and similar ones will be fundamentally the same."

Nursing

NATIONWIDE expansion of the home nursing classes of the American Red Cross to teach a half million women in the next year the home care of the sick is announced by Norman Davis, Red Cross chairman. The new program, six times the number trained last year, will require 15,000 registered Red Cross nurse instructors. Olivia Peterson, director, Division of Public Health Nursing, Minnesota Department of Health, has been "loaned" to the Red

Cross to administer the program. The course takes six weeks, with twenty-four hours of class instruction, 70 percent of which is made up of practice work using only such equipment as is to be found in the average home. Positive health measures are emphasized, as well as such subjects as the care of infants, children, and the aged. The home nursing certificate, presented on completion of the course, under no circumstances qualifies the recipient to nurse outside her home for remuneration; nor does this instruction eliminate the need for professional medical or nursing service. But the women receiving this instruction, the Red Cross states, "will form a vital adjunct to the overtaxed medical, nursing, and hospital facilities, and will be of inestimable value to the nation in the event of epidemics or widespread national defense emergencies."

The Red Cross also has undertaken a program to train 100,000 women to serve as volunteer nurse's aides. The curriculum, worked out by the Office of Civilian Defense, the Red Cross, and the Federal Security Agency, includes a period of intensive classroom instruction followed by a period of supervised practice in a hospital. The duties of these trained volunteers will be to perform the variety of routine tasks which ordinarily fall on the graduate nurse, thus freeing the latter for duties requiring her professional skills.

Volunteers—The increasing need for volunteer workers as assistants to public health nurses, because of the national emergency, has led the National Organization for Public Health Nursing to produce a Handbook on Volunteer Services, giving clear and specific information on every phase of this type of service. The handbook, prepared by Evelyn K. Davis, is particularly for the use of public health nursing organizations which have, or are organizing, a volunteer program, and for the public health nurse using volunteers in her work. Its contents include sections on supervision, volunteer jobs and their requirements, recruiting and placing, training, special training, follow-up of volunteers, substitutes, promotion. Price 50 cents from the NOPHN, 1790 Broadway, New York City.

Nurses Needed—A drive to recruit 50,000 qualified girls as student nurses during the current school year is being carried forward by a number of women's organizations under the leadership of the American Nurses Association. The need for more nurses in the defense emergency was presented to representatives of nursing associations from seventeen states by Major Julia C. Stimson, chairman of the Nursing Council on National Defense, at a conference held

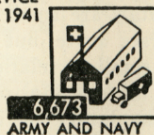
in New York City in September. Virginia Dunbar, assistant director of the nursing service of the American Red Cross, pointed out at the same meeting that 8,700 more nurses will be needed for the army in about a year's time, to meet the quota of 13,700 that has been set. This number represents one nurse

to every 270 men in the army. . . . Dr. Willard C. Rappleye, commissioner of the Department of Hospitals in New York City, announces an increased enrollment in the number of nurse students in the seven schools of nursing owned and operated by the city of New York. The total of new students admitted for

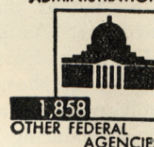
WHERE NURSES ARE NEEDED

REGISTERED NURSES

IN SERVICE
AUG., 1941



ADDITIONAL NURSES NEEDED FOR 1942



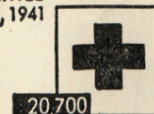
STUDENT NURSES

ENROLLED
JULY, 1940



FIRST RESERVE OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

IN SERVICE
AUG., 1941



Each symbol represents 2,500 nurses needed

PICTOGRAPH CORPORATION, FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, INC.

Many factors contribute to the growing demand for professional nursing service and the need for more nurses, chief among them, the expansion of the armed forces and of defense industry, the national public health and nutrition programs, the rising standards of medical care, the larger percentage of illnesses hospitalized because of reemployment and hospital insurance. These, and many other aspects of the nursing profession, are discussed in a new Public Affairs Pamphlet, "Better Nursing for America," by Beulah Amidon, based on materials prepared by the American Nurses Association, the National League of Nursing Education, and the National Organization for Public Health Nursing. Price 10 cents from the Public Affairs Committee, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City.

the current term is 373, as compared with 254 in 1940. The total enrollment of the seven schools at present is 1,359.

NYA—The National Youth Administration will cooperate with schools of nursing in giving financial assistance to student nurses, it is announced from NYA headquarters in Washington. The decision is based on the success of an experiment in Kentucky where, since February, NYA has carried out such a program in St. Joseph's Hospital and Good Samaritan Hospital in Lexington. In September, the City Hospital and SS. Mary and Elizabeth Hospital in Louisville began similar programs, which pay approximately \$16 a month to each NYA student, in exchange for about fifty hours of service, preferably at "sit-down" jobs.

School Funds—Approximately two hundred of the five hundred schools of nursing that were eligible have applied to the U. S. Public Health Service for aid in expanding their schools to give basic training to more student nurses. Preliminary applications indicate that four hundred additional instructors, supervisors, and head nurses will be needed to carry out these plans. This federal aid to schools of nursing is made possible under the Labor-Federal Security Appropriation Act, signed by Presi-

dent Roosevelt on July 1, which provides \$1,250,000 for nursing education, to increase the number of students in basic nursing education courses, to provide postgraduate instruction in special fields, and to prepare inactive graduate nurses for active service. Those administering the program have received some protests against the regulation limiting federal aid for basic courses to schools connected with hospitals having a daily average of at least 100 patients. The Public Health Service recognizes that the rule works a hardship in certain areas where hospitals are small and the shortages of nurses acute, but it is felt that, with funds small in relation to the need, it will be more economical to limit grants to the larger institutions. . . . Speaking before the annual convention of the New York State League of Nursing Education, held in Brooklyn, October 21-4, Dr. Bancroft Beatley, president of Simmons College, urged the need for financial support of schools of nursing comparable to that now enjoyed by schools of medicine. "As long as hospitals must depend in large degree on nurses to get the work of the hospital done," he declared, "nursing education will be handicapped in producing a truly professional product." He urged the importance of relieving student nurses from all duties in the hospital which lack definite educational value.

The Public's Health

MORE than 3,000 persons met at Atlantic City last month for the annual meeting of the American Public Health Association. During their five-day stay they were apprised of the findings of recent research projects, many concerning experiments with various types of vaccines—influenza, rabies, and probably the most spectacular of all, a "double-barrelled" variety which simultaneously creates immunity against diphtheria and whooping cough. The health workers also listened to explanations of federal plans for medical care in an emergency and for the care of mothers and children in defense "boom" areas. Dr. George Baehr, chief medical officer for the Office of Civilian Defense, pleaded for cooperation with the OCD's emergency medical plan in the interests of "uniformity of organization and equipment." A guest at the conference was Sir Wilson Jameson, chief medical officer of the British Ministry of Health, who told of the new coordination of county, city, and voluntary hospitals in England and of the progress in diphtheria immunization, spurred on by war conditions. Before they disbanded the health workers publicly denounced political domination of health activities,

resolving that "health personnel should be based solely upon professional qualifications." In other resolutions they urged the U. S. Director of the Census to conduct an annual sample census as a guide to vital statistics and public health progress; called upon federal, state, and local authorities to take "such extraordinary measures as may be necessary" for protection against the introduction and spread of communicable diseases which might result from the overcrowded transportation facilities bringing persons to this country from abroad. The new president, who took office at Atlantic City, is Dr. John L. Rice of New York. President-elect is Dr. Allen W. Freeman of Baltimore.

The Fight Goes On—The recent epidemic of infantile paralysis has brought about the allotment of an additional \$100,000 for the care and treatment of children afflicted with the results of the disease. The money, which comes from the U. S. Children's Bureau, will be distributed among the states hardest hit by the epidemic—Alabama, Florida, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, Pennsylvania, Tennessee. Of the 5,800 cases reported in the country since January 1

of this year, 75 percent were in thirteen states. . . . A laboratory for the study of infantile paralysis and other virus diseases is about to be set up at the University of Michigan under a grant of \$30,000 from the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. . . . A new theory that flies are involved in the spread of infantile paralysis was advanced in last month's meeting of the American Public Health Association (see column 1). The theory, so far based largely on circumstantial evidence, points the finger of blame particularly at the green-bottle fly. At the same conference the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis demonstrated a scientific method which is expected to speed research in the disease a hundredfold since it is based on the use of white mice instead of Indian rhesus monkeys, formerly the only animals to which the disease could be transmitted. Exactly 100 mice can be obtained for the price of one monkey.

All to the Good—The use of the Los Angeles County Hospital for teaching purposes by two medical schools recently has been studied by a special committee, made up of physicians and laymen, of the Council of Social Agencies. The committee's report effectively answers periodic criticisms that teaching puts the patient's welfare second to the needs of student training and that it adds "taxpayer expense." The committee found that the association with the schools actually effects a considerable saving in expenditures, that it has improved the caliber and value of the medical care provided to patients, and that it has contributed to a rise in the general quality of medical care in the community. The committee urges that the association be continued and encouraged, "particularly in the present era of national emergency and in the continuing interest of total health defense."

School Services—"School Health Services," by W. Frank Walker and Carolina R. Randolph, a recent publication of the Commonwealth Fund, reports on a detailed survey of the school health records of 58,000 Tennessee children over a period of six years. The study was undertaken with the view to finding evidence of the value of various procedures followed in school health programs. Tennessee, with programs "typical" of those of several other states, was chosen as the setting, the basis of the study being the school health records of six counties in various parts of the state. Most important findings were: evidence that frequent school medical examinations are unproductive; that service to younger children is of relatively greater importance than service to the older group; that the presence of a parent at