

# Layoffs, Strike Slice County's Employment

WHITE PLAINS—Seasonal layoffs in the construction and service industries, plus effects of a strike in the transportation equipment industry, accounted largely for a drop in the amount of nonagricultural employment in Westchester in October.

The State Department of Labor, in its monthly Labor Market Letter, reports that employment declined to an estimated 205,600 in mid-October. Much of the drop, according to the division, was attributable to the strike.

The total nonagricultural employment was the lowest since May and 3,200 less than for mid-September when 208,800 were employed. The figure was, however, only 300 less than the number employed in October 1957.

Manufacturing employment in Westchester during October—except for the transportation equipment field—was up 1,000 from September and 2,000 from August. However, the "complicating factors of a retooling layoff and the strike" in the auto field outweighed employment gains in other industries.

Gains in employment were registered in the electrical equipment, apparel, printing and publishing and almost all other manufacturing groups, the department reports.

Registered unemployment was at 7,340 in mid-October, "a normal seasonal low for the year," however, 41 per cent more per-

sons were receiving regular unemployment benefits in October as against October 1957.

The department reported that in mid-October white collar workers were experiencing more difficulty in obtaining jobs within the county than those following other trades. It said Employment Service files in Westchester reveal a growing number of white collar applicants for relatively fewer job offers from Westchester employers.

County employers draw a salute from the department for hiring handicapped persons. It said that handicapped job seekers are being placed by Employment Service offices in Westchester at a better rate than in New York State as a whole. "Westchester employers apparently realize that these people can and do make good workers," says the Labor Market Letter.

On the average, production workers in Westchester averaged one hour less on the job in mid-September, 39.2 hours versus the 40.2 hours weekly of August. This was attributed to layoffs in the auto industry, where assembly lines were being adjusted for 1958 models.

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# Lighted Christmas Trees Brighten Business Areas

The last of the 232 Christmas trees which flank the illuminated arches in South Yonkers and Getty Square have been installed. Mrs. Helen Rogers of the Chamber of Commerce reports.

Each of the 53 arches is standing with four evergreens, anchored from six to seven feet tall in red buckets.

The arches themselves glow from 4:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. and are set on and off by automatic time clocks. Sometimes, because of the freezing weather, the clocks become a bit erratic, but in general, according to Mrs. Rogers, Yonkers is colored by electric arches on schedule.

The merchants associations of Getty Square and of South Yonkers are footing the bill for the Christmas lighting program, which comes to \$8,000.

Men most responsible for the program are Robert Schaub, chairman of the retail council of the Chamber of Commerce and head of the Christmas Lighting Committee; Philip Klein, president of the Getty Square Merchants Association; and Theodore Fingerman, who heads the South Yonkers Merchants.

Block chairman in the business areas where the arches and trees were installed conducted a house-to-house canvassing for funds for the lighting program. The chairmen are: David Knepper, Aaron Greenberg, Martin Lavalle, J.W. Hannigan, Curt Newman, Norman Cohen, David Adlerblum, Harry Spar, Samuel Mauskopf, Frank Peretz, William Hellowell, Milton Hanft, Robert O'Connor, Philip Stein and Robert Stephenson.

# Council Vote Reaffirms Housing Need

With only one dissenting vote, that of 11th Ward Councilman Arthur W. Richardson, the Common Council has reaffirmed that a need still exists for low rent public housing in Yonkers and has adopted a resolution approving the Municipal Housing Authority's application for such housing.

Adoption of the resolution came after a move to table for two weeks by 8th Ward Councilman William J. Tully, Republican, was defeated 9-4 along strict party lines.

In committee of the whole Emmett Burke, secretary-director of the Housing Authority, told the Councilmen that the reaffirmation of the need for housing is one of the documents required by the Public Housing Administration in connection with the latest projects on which the Authority is seeking approval.

He said that while the original resolution of 1949 specified 3,000 such housing units, this was cut to 750 by the federal government. Subsequently the Schlobohm Houses project containing 415 units was built, leaving a balance of 335 units. Mr. Burke said that in the three pending projects he expects the Authority will get approval for approximately 400 units.

# White House Reply About Pacifist Hit

NEW YORK (AP)—A clergyman said yesterday a White House statement concerning a pacifist Presbyterian Minister jailed in Cincinnati "doesn't really deal with the issue."

The comment came from the Rev. John Swomley of Nyack, national secretary of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, which describes itself as an interdenominational, anti-Communist pacifist organization.

Swomley was one of 13 ministers who, with Norman Thomas, veteran New York Socialist, had appeared in a telegram to President Eisenhower to free the Rev. Maurice F. McCrackin.

The Rev. Mr. McCrackin declines to pay taxes because, he says they help pay for war weapons and he believes war is evil. He was jailed for contempt and went on a fast that he continued until Tuesday. He will be tried tomorrow on income tax charges.

The petitioners said the jailing "takes on the appearance of persecution."

The reply, signed by David W. Kindall, special counsel for the President, and addressed to Thomas, said:

"In reply to the telegram from you and 13 ministers, dated Dec. 4, 1958, the Justice Department advises the contempt action against Maurice McCrackin was imposed on the Court's own motion.

"Prompt action under indictment on charge of failure to obey summons insured setting trial for Dec. 12, 1958."

The Rev. Mr. Swomley said the reply "told us what we already knew."

Swomley said that in the three pending projects he expects the Authority will get approval for approximately 400 units.

# Pasqua Auxiliary To Give Party For Children

Movies will be shown and gifts distributed at a Christmas party to be given by Ernest Pasqua Post Auxiliary, American Legion, for members' children Sunday afternoon at 8 Bennett Ave. Mrs. Christian Dahmke is chairman.

Mrs. Thomas Houricane reported the auxiliary sent to the Roosevelt V.A. Hospital in Montrose \$80 worth of gifts for the servicemen's gift shop, 90 magazines, 200 pounds of clothing, 10 electrical appliances and a \$25 coupon book.

Mrs. Patrick Gannon said 250 cancer pads have been completed and will be sent to Rosary Hill in Hawthorne.

# Police Arrests 2 In 2-Month Old Met Wigs Theft

NEW YORK (AP)—The strange hair theft case at the Met was solved yesterday. Police arrested two men on charges of stealing 33 wigs.

Disappearance of the wigs from a fifth-floor costume room of the Metropolitan Opera House had been under investigation for two months. They were valued at \$3,000.

Detectives accused Robert Perez, twenty-three, a hairdresser, and Claudio Diaz, twenty-two, a waiter, of taking the wigs and selling them.

Nine young men also were seized and charged with possession of stolen property. Others are being sought. Seventeen of the wigs have been recovered.

# Radiologists Arrange Insurance Discussion

PURCHASE—The Westchester Radiological Society, a division of the County Medical Society, will meet at 2:30 p.m. tomorrow at the Pforzheimer Memorial Building, Purchase St., for a panel discussion on medical insurance coverage.

The subject is "Blue Cross, Blue Shield and Their Philosophy with Regard to Insurance Coverage for Auxiliary Service. Particularly X-Ray and Other Laboratory Procedures."

Dr. John Pileggi of Ossining, a radiologist, is in charge of arrangements for the panel. Dr. Jack Brown of the Northern Westchester Hospital, Mount Kisco is president of the society.

BUGLES WOULD HELP MOUNT VERNON Tardiness in this city's schools has come to the attention of the Board of Education. A monthly superintendent's report notes 205 latecomers—52 per cent of the enrollment—at Edison High, and 267—37 per cent—at Fulton School. The reason, as explained by board president Anthony Scarpino: "They just can't get up in the morning."

# Payoff Figure Leaves Jail, Balks Again

BUFFALO (AP)—Raymond F. Brayer, central figure in an investigation of reported payoffs in city paving contracts, refused yesterday for the second time to answer questions before an Erie County grand jury.

His first refusal three months ago resulted in a 30-day jail term for contempt after he was directed by a judge to testify.

The grand jury, held over from September for the investigation requested that Asst. Dist. Atty. Carman Ball direct Brayer to appear before State Supreme Court Justice John S. Marsh tomorrow. Marsh directed Brayer to testify at his previous appearance and found him in contempt when he refused.

In each case, the grand jury offered Brayer immunity from prosecution.

The case began with an investigation of Brayer's tax liability for 1954-56. The Internal Revenue Service claimed Brayer, president of a paving company, told an IRS agent his firm spent nearly \$50,000 in those years to pay off city officials.

# Yonkers Income, Savings Look Good In Comparison

New figures, recently released, throw the first light on just how Yonkers held up during the 1957-58 recession. The answer, in a nutshell, is—better than most communities.

Retail business locally continued at a surprisingly good pace. Although personal income declined during the second half of 1957, it came back well in the first six months of this year, due in part to increased unemployment insurance payments and Federal old-age pensions. Contributing to it also was a 10 per cent hike in pay to Government employees, automatic raises in some industries and the improvement in farm receipts.

Survey County-wide

The survey, which measures the economic strength of localities throughout the country, is for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1958. It was compiled by the Standard Rate and Data Service.

Residents of Yonkers, it shows, had a net income in the year, after payment of taxes, of \$457,606,000. This was actually higher than the amount available to them in fiscal 1957, the prerecession year, when it was \$434,474,000.

Per household, determined by

dividing this amount by the number of households, it represented spendable income of \$8,410.

It was more than the \$5,983 per household reported for the United States and the \$7,025 for the Middle Atlantic States.

In Yonkers, as in most other places, a considerable amount of this purchasing power was withheld from the market. People hesitated going into big item buying, such as automobiles and large electrical appliances, which are usually bought on the installment plan.

They spent more on food and soft goods and put the rest of it into savings. At the same time, they were working down their accumulated debt, putting themselves into a sounder financial position.

Even so, retail stores locally accounted for a sturdy \$182,380,000 in the year, notes the SRDS report. It was not much below the volume done in the prior year, \$185,925,000.

The buyer caution of a year ago is gradually turning to buyer enthusiasm as the fear of recession wanes. The restored confidence is seen in the brightening sales picture.

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