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MERRY CHRISTMAS

Labor News

Industrial output rose in October for the second consecutive month, while housing starts slipped a bit, but remained near the high level of recent months. The Federal Reserve index of industrial production last month was 165% of the 1957-59 base, up from 164.4% the prior month and 157.2% in October 1967. Work was begun on private dwellings in October at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1,548,000 units, down 3% from September, but well above the 1,496,000 pace of 1967.

Personal income in October rose to a record \$702.2 billion seasonally adjusted annual rate, \$2.5 billion ahead of September's pace, the Commerce Department said. The latest increase, it noted, was "less than half as large as the monthly gains between May and September," with the slowdown centered in private payrolls. In a separate report, the department said an October survey of 11,500 households showed "no evidence of any slackening in plans to buy major hard goods."

Corporate profits are likely to decline sizably in the current quarter, Government analysts say, after a faint rise to a record pace in the September quarter. If the drop materializes, officials noted, it would probably keep the Federal budget in the red in the final three months this year. At a \$92.2 billion seasonally adjusted annual rate, pretax corporate earnings in the September quarter were up \$400 million from the June period, the Commerce Department reported.

ABC Convention Outlines Labor Aims: At 11th Annual convention, Associated Builders & Contractors recommends that Congress enact statute placing anti-trust restraints on unions to counter their "monopoly status," and urges repeal of federal laws "detrimental to free enterprise construction industry"—including Davis-Bacon Act and Taft-Hartley proviso permitting agreements restricting subcontracting of job-site work.

Right To Sue Upheld By Federal Court: Federal district court in New York rules that former members of union have right to sue under Section 301 of Taft-Hartley Act over alleged violation of bargaining agreement stemming from complaint that union-management trustees improperly diverted money from annuity, welfare, and pension funds. Plaintiffs have standing to sue as individuals, court says, and fact that they are former employees and union members makes no difference in their legal right to seek contract enforcement.

Arbitration Case Denied Review: Supreme Court declines to take up case in which lower courts ruled that plumbing contractor in Chattanooga was bound by decision of arbitration panel affirming right of union to cancel his contract on grounds he had violated its provisions.

Nixon faces rising unemployment in early 1969, most economists believe.

A nationwide survey of private economists produces an almost-unanimous verdict: The national jobless rate, now 3.6%, will increase to between 4% and 4.5% by mid-1969. LBJ's economic policies don't leave Nixon much room to maneuver" to avoid higher unemployment, contends New York Stock Exchange economist William Freund. Stanford's Ezra Solomon predicts the jobless rate could go "as high as 4.5%" because of the deflationary impact of the income surtax, the Federal spending slowdown, a coming boost in Social Security taxes.

Analysts agree unskilled Negroes will be hit hardest. Manufacturers Hanover's Tilford Gaines anticipates a "disproportionate increase" in the Negro jobless rate, now 7.4%. Even if Nixon steps up defense and space spending, says the University of California's Richard Bailey, it won't help much because black workers "really haven't made many inroads into the skilled markets."

Much of the rise in unemployment, some analysts predict, will result from the economy's inability to absorb new workers rather than from outright layoffs.

Union chiefs distrust members' ability to help make policy, a study finds.

A survey of 110 local and regional union officials indicates that most advocate rank-and-file participation in policy-making but doubt that it results in better decisions. The study, by two business professors at the Universities of California and Michigan, shows union leaders especially doubt members' ability to set reasonable bargaining goals. A typical comment: "They don't seem to comprehend the economics of collective bargaining."

The local and regional leaders "see themselves as virtually equal to those above them," such as national officers, but "attribute much less capability" to members, the study says. They rate themselves more aggressive and willing to change than their superiors but see the rank-and-file as far less dedicated, dependable and responsible.

One revealing quote: "Our union officers feel that the less the members know, the more secure jobs the business agents will enjoy."

September Construction Outlays Up Slightly: Spending for new construction during September fell less than normal for time of year, thus seasonally adjusted annual rate rose less than one-half of 1 percent to \$85.5 billion.

NIMA REPORTS ON SAFETY

Mr. R. L. Strickland, President-Elect of NIMA, spoke at the IDCNA 13th Annual Convention regarding areas of extreme interest to both the manufacturers and contractors in the insulation industry. "Strick" is with Certain-teed St. Gobain Insulation Corporation and he stood in for NIMA's President, Dick Henry, who was unable to appear. Mr. Strickland's remarks follow:

"As we all know, the Federal Government is becoming more and more involved in business. One area that is popular today is the health and safety of the American public. Building codes are becoming more restrictive. Fire requirements more stringent.

One notable example of the Federal Government's intervention is in the automobile industry. We are all familiar with the results of Mr. Nader's publicity and the subsequent investigation into the safety of automobiles.

As a result we have automobiles with seat belts, shoulder harnesses, head rests, collapsible steering columns, and padding on everything from knobs and sun visors to dashes and consoles.

In fact, there is so much safety gear in an automobile today, it is almost a safety hazard. The other day I got tangled in the shoulder harness getting out of my car in a parking lot and darn near broke my neck.

All kidding aside, health and safety is a problem all industry is becoming more and more involved in.

We in the insulation industry have a mutual problem regarding the health and safety of employees both in shops and at job sites. As the automobile industry has their Mr. Nader, the insulation industry has Dr. Selikoff.

One way the National Insulation Manufacturers Association can help the industry is to inform and educate the users of its products in their safe handling and application.

We have published and made available to the industry two brochures on health and safety practices:

1. RECOMMENDED HEALTH SAFETY PRACTICES FOR HANDLING AND APPLYING THERMAL INSULATION PRODUCTS CONTAINING ASBESTOS.
2. RECOMMENDED HEALTH SAFETY PRACTICES FOR HANDLING THERMAL INSULATION PRODUCTS CONTAINING MINERAL FIBERS

Copies of these brochures are available.

Both the NIMA Health and Safety Committee and the IDCNA Committee on Occupational Health felt that factual information on the health aspects of insulation products was of such great importance that in 1967 eight presentations were made to regional contractor association meetings throughout the country.

Follow-up presentations were made in 1968 by a team of three men representing NIMA and IDCNA. Cliff Shickler discussed asbestos fibers; John Vyverberg discussed mineral fibers; and Ted Brodie discussed activities and programs the regional associations could put into effect.

Three of these presentations were made in May to the Midwest Insulation Contractor Association, the Central States Insulation Association, and the Southwest Insulation Contractors Association. One was made in June to a joint meeting of the Northeast Insulation Contractors Association and the New York State Thermal Contractors Association. Two more are scheduled for this month: October 17 to the Mid Atlantic Insulation Contractors Association and October 23 to the Associated Insulation Contractors of Western States. (And both were excellent—Editors Note)

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MAICA Fall Meeting

by V. JEANNE CECILIA, Executive Secretary, MAICA

The Middle Atlantic Insulation Contractors Association held its annual fall meeting at the Lakeview Country Club, Morgantown, West Virginia, October 17-18, 1968.

The NIMA-IDCNA Health Team consisting of Ted Brodie for IDCNA and F. H. Edwards of Owens Corning Fiberglas and Cliff Shickler of Johns-Manville for NIMA presented their program on the health and safety problems of the industry, spelling out details as to what the industry faces from possible compensation claims, what it should do individually and collectively to reduce the hazards of the industry.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to general business and the election of the following:

T. G. STEWART, *President*, (Philip Carey Mfg. Co., Philadelphia)

WILLIAM A. BAYER, *Vice President*, (Atlas Insulation Co., Pittsburgh)

WALTER G. LIEBERT, *Treasurer*, (Mechanical Insulation Co., Philadelphia)

EDWARD RATCLIFFE, *Secretary*, (Culp Industrial Insulation, Kingston)

Directors:

WM. W. ARMSTRONG, *Past President*, (W. W. Armstrong Co., Carnegie)

WILBUR H. MORRIS, *Director to 1969*, (Porter Hayden Co., Newark)

A. M. GIBBONS, *Director to 1970*, (W. E. Campbell Co., Washington)

C. B. WHEATLEY, *Director to 1970*, (Philadelphia Asbestos, Philadelphia)

J. K. SHIPE, *Director to 1970*, (Asbestos Covering & Roofing, Washington)

R. MCCORMICK, *Director to 1971*, (McCormick Asbestos, Baltimore)

Committee Chairmen appointed were:

JAMES SULLIVAN, *Labor Relations*, (Johns-Manville Corp)

J. K. SHIPE, *Occupational Health*, (Asbestos Covering & Roofing Co.)

C. B. WHEATLEY, *Apprenticeship Training*, (Philadelphia Asbestos Co.)

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NIMA REPORTS ON SAFETY

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As I mentioned earlier, there is a very active investigation of asbestos fibers being conducted by Dr. Selikoff. Also, a study is under way in California by Dr. Cooper under the sponsorship of the San Francisco Local of the Asbestos workers and AICWS.

Let me urge you to work jointly as an industry on this problem. If at all possible, maintain communication with the Union and Dr. Selikoff. The problem isn't going away nor is Dr. Selikoff going to stop his study. It would be far better if you had a voice in formulating safety practices than possibly being faced with negotiating a labor contract having a health and safety package as a part of the union's working conditions.

One of the worst things to combat is fear as well as misunderstanding—misunderstanding from a lack of knowledge. We intend to make available to the industry as much information as is possible to keep you and your employees informed on the safety of the product you are using. Considerable research has been done in the past and is continuing to be done on this problem by NIMA and individual companies of the insulation industries. Currently, a very exhaustive research program is under way with the Industrial Hygiene Foundation of the Mellon Institute in Pittsburgh.

Another study is being carried out by the U. S. Public Health Service.

In addition to the health and safety programs under way, NIMA's Technical and Research Committee helped develop the technical data contained in the IDCNA Manual. This manual should be most helpful to engineers as source information to guide them in specifying materials and application methods.

NIMA has been very active with Governmental agencies in upgrading their specifications. This is a continuing program, which is gradually getting Government specs revised and updated in keeping with methods currently being used by the insulation contractors.

During 1969 we will continue to work closely with IDCNA in developing programs to further the use and acceptance of insulation, to continue our programs on health and safety, and to educate and inform users in the proper application of insulation using safe environment methods.

The business outlook for the construction industry looks good for 1969. Will we grow and prosper as an industry?"

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