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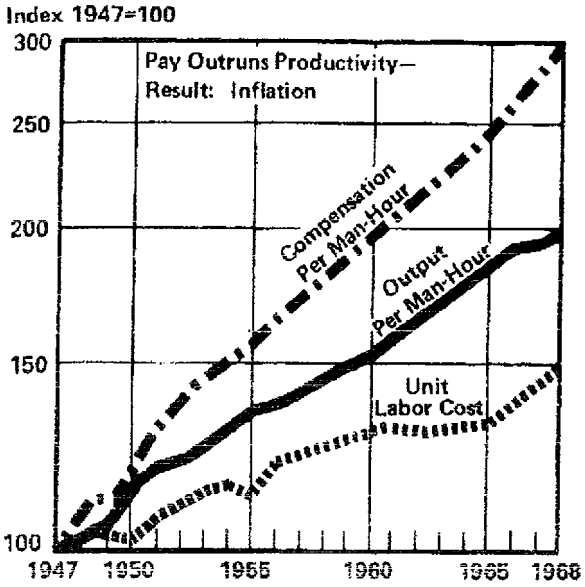
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It's your ECONOMY



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

By CARL H. MADDEN, Chief Economist
Chamber of Commerce of the United States

GETTING MORE PAY, BUT ENJOYING IT LESS—People's money-pay is going up, but rising prices eat into money gains. This is a familiar happening during "cost-push" inflations. Wage gains are outrunning productivity. Average hourly compensation—including Social Security and other employee benefits—in private industry rose 7.5 per cent last year, compared with 6.1 per cent in 1967 and an average of about 5 per cent annually between 1947 and 1966. But our ability to produce is not rising so fast. Last year output per man-hour for all persons in the private economy rose 3.3 per cent—matching exactly the long-term average. Result. The cost of labor per unit of output has been rising, and last year rose 4 per cent. This is one reason why prices rise and eat into your higher pay.

Drive For Health-Safety Standards

AFL-CIO intends to make "a very major issue" of occupational health and safety legislation, but getting it passed will take "every ounce of energy" the labor movement has. Andrew Biemiller, director of the AFL-CIO legislative department, tells a health-safety conference sponsored by the Industrial Union Department.

Congressman James O'Hara (D-Mich.), who conducted hearings on job safety last year, says he fears the Nixon Administration will support legislation that would place enforcement and administration under an independent board rather than the Labor Department, with the result that responsibility for failure to act will be diffused. He also expects the Nixon Administration to buy the idea that employers with good safety records should be exempted from the new standards for one year, which he compares with the "old legal principle that every dog is entitled to one free bite."

Dr. David Goldstein, medical director of the New York Times, urged unions to drop demands for sanctions in order to overcome the opposition of the National Association of Manufacturers and the Iron and Steel Institute. However, Senator Schweiker (R-Pa.) predicted Congress will pass a health-safety bill with penalties this year.

In Memoriam

EMOS M. YOUNT

It is with deepest sorrow that we learned of the passing of "Pat" Yount's father, Emos M. Yount, at the age of 82, on June 27, 1969. The greatest tribute that can be said is "he had a son like 'Pat'." Our sympathies to "Pat" and his family.

WILLIAM MURFIN

The industry lost a true friend and champion in the passing of William Murfin on June 28th. Bill, founder of the B & B Engineering Company, Houston, Texas, one of the larger independent insulation contractors, was instrumental in the organization of IDCNA and SWICA, and he gave much of his time and talents in the formative years of the two groups. He was Vice President of IDCNA 1957-1960. Though inactive for the past few years, Bill never lost his belief in the need for a strong national association and a united insulation industry.

AND AT PRESS TIME—

CONSTRUCTION SAFETY BILL MODIFIED—The Senate Labor Subcommittee has modified S. 1368, the Senate version of the bill that would set federal safety and health standards for workers on Government projects. Language in the House-passed version (H.R. 10946) would permit the Labor Secretary to hold hearings on the promulgation of standards at his discretion. The Senate change would require the Secretary to hold hearings, and to do so in compliance with the Administrative procedures Act.

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LABOR NEWS

To enforce the year-old law that bans employers from discriminating against older workers, the new administrator will authorize field personnel to order on-the-spot corrections of violations.

Moran urges private groups such as the National Council of Senior Citizens to help publicize the age bias law.

Resistance To Outsized Settlements Lauded: President Carl H. Vorson of Associated General Contractors of America commends employers who are taking strikes rather than giving in to "inflationary" economic demands. He says bargaining power is on union side and calls on government and public for support in keeping costs from escalating.

Examiner Upset In Struck Work Case: Disagreeing with examiner's view of struck work ally doctrine as applied in Appleton, Wis., dispute, NLRB holds that contractor who knowingly or unknowingly performs work for employer whose own workers are striking becomes part of primary labor dispute and loses protection against secondary boycotts accorded by law to neutral parties.

Holiday Trends—Twice as many collective bargaining pacts as five

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