FORECASTERS PREDICT PROSPERITY -- 1960

The "crystal ball gazers" are forecasting that this year will be a prosperous one and that the economy will accelerate in tempo.

Let's hope that in their prophesies they have figured out a solution to put over 4 million presently unemployed to work, to find jobs for thousands of workers now employed who will be displaced as a result of automation and other technological changes and to employ thousands more who will be entering the labor market this year.

The elimination of distressed areas of unemployment will be one of the major problems to be solved. Statistics show that in December the number of major market areas with six percent or more of their work force unemployed remained unchanged. There was at least a substantial unemployment in sixty areas the same as November. The major areas for purposes of the count total 150.

In 1961, the highest level recorded was a 101 figure in March and April whereas the lowest level reached was the 60 figure.

Not one area reported a labor shortage...the same has held true in recent years. Four areas recorded relatively low unemployment and all others had joblessness which could be described as moderate to relatively substantial.

Out of the 446 areas officially classified as areas of substantial or persistent unemployment 20 are major areas; 100 smaller cities, and 325 very small areas.

Although the figures reflect an improvement in the job situation, they, nevertheless, point out a glaring fact that distressed areas are still a source of major concern. If the forecasters can find a way to eliminate this one problem, they will be on their way in making their predictions come true.

F. D. R. GREAT AMERICAN PATRIOT

January 30th marks the birth of a man whom this nation tends to rank as one of our greatest presidents.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt was inaugurated President of the United States on March 4, 1933. This was a period in American history when this nation was suffering the worst depression since its existence.

In those dark depressing days facing the nation, many people seriously doubted whether the President or anyone else could do or say anything that would halt the economic doom that had been predicted.

Fear was rampant in all segments of the American society as to what the future had in store. To allay those fears, President Roosevelt pledged himself to a dynamic program of action for the "general welfare". He asked the people to join with him in a "National Conservation" to do their share by working together in an unselfish spirit to restore prosperity.

Social, economic and industrial reforms were enacted on his recommendations. They were all vital in bringing about a gradual recovery.

By January 1935, signs of recouping prosperity were evident in many facets of the economy. That same year saw the enactment of several history-making laws. Noteworthy among them was the "National Labor Relations Act" (Wagner Act), hailed as "Labor's Magna Carta". It gave the American workers the right to organize. It compelled the employers to bargain collectively with their employees, forbidding employers to interfere with or dominate such unions.

The Social Security Act was passed in August. President Roosevelt acclaimed this as the "supreme achievement of his administration."

In June of 1938, Congress passed the "Fair Labor Standards Act" better known as the "Wages and Hours Act". It affected employees in industries dealing in Interstate Commerce, establishing minimum wages and hours, (cont'd, reverse side)
The work week was reduced to 40 hours.

As a result of these laws, the American worker began achieving the human dignity he had sought for so long.

President Roosevelt was a wealthy man, but he was always sympathetic to the needs and desires of the common man. He will long be remembered as the greatest friend Labor and the American people ever had.

SAFETY CONDITIONS IMPROVING

BILoxi, Miss.

Recently a Union representative in Biloxi, 16, LWG, charged the Company with maintaining and operating unsafe conditions to exist in many of the aisles and surrounding areas within the building.

Stator frames, parts and material and overflowing scrap barrels were allowed to accumulate in these passageways and areas so much so that employees were jeopardizing life and limb trying to negotiate a simulated obstacle course.

At the first and second level of the grievance procedure, Union representatives tried to emphasize the safety hazards involved working under such unsafe conditions; however, their arguments fell on deaf ears as both levels of negotiations.

The case was prepared for a third level hearing and was argued at that stage of the procedure.

Since then, a Union representative has reported that management in LWG is considering this problem in a more serious vein and indications at the present time are that measures are being taken to eliminate these hazards in this area.

For the sake of all the workers concerned, we strongly suggest that the elimination of these safety hazards be of a permanent rather than a temporary nature so that these same intolerable conditions do not occur again in this area at some future time.

*Type B Medical Expenses*, the most common of which are visits to the doctor's office and hospital expenses incurred outside of the hospital are not paid for pensioners after the age of 65.