

NEW PLAN WOULD SPUR SUIT OUTPUT

Added Pay, Diversion of Cloth From Women's Wear And Use of Rayon Considered for Program.

By JIM G. LUCAS
Script-Howard Staff Writer

WASHINGTON, April 22.—The civilian production administration is expected to approve a five-point program giving industry the green light in its drive to turn out 28 million men's suits in 1946. Production now is 25 to 30 per cent behind schedule.

At the same time, the commerce department has decided to establish export controls on men's suits, following disclosure more than one million were exported in January and February, according to the New York Journal of Commerce.

Commerce spokesmen still contend commercial shipments are negligible, but they agreed on controls to "eliminate complaints."

Seek New Program

John Lake, assistant CPA textile director, has worked out a program to increase suit production. He was to offer it to Textile Director Herbert Rose today. The men also were to confer with Maj. Gen. G. B. Erskine, retraining and re-employment administrator, who last week demanded "an end to half-way measures." CPA's plan differs only slightly from Gen. Erskine's, which includes:

ONE: Diversion of enough material from women's to men's clothing to restore the normal division of 60 per cent for men's clothes and 40 per cent for women's.

TWO: Freezing of machinery used in manufacturing men's clothing during a "selected base period," probably 1942. In 1942, most machines were used to fill army and navy orders.

THREE: Absorption of overtime into an increased manufacturers' selling price. This would encourage overtime and draw skilled labor from women's clothing trades. Substantial overtime likewise would compensate for a \$10 weekly wage advantage now paid women's garment workers.

FOUR: Channelling of rayon lining to suits.

FIVE: Similar channelling of cotton pocket material.

Mr. Rose and CPA Administrator John Small are reported lukewarm to General Erskine's "overtime absorption" proposals, which might increase medium-priced suits by \$5 to \$7.50 each.

They may recommend, as an alternative, certification of men's suits as a "critical product," thereby qualifying suit manufacturers for No. 1 labor priorities.

Remedy Called Temporary

Those who back this plan claim raids for skilled workers on women's clothing manufacturers at best, would be only a temporary remedy, since the average age of clothing workers is about 55 and many are near retirement.

Industry advisory committees will meet this week to draft plans for attracting younger workers. Labor controls may wait until their parts are ready. Many manufacturers already have set up apprenticeship training programs.

CPA proposes to channel rayon and cotton by setting up preferences for men's suits. Purchasers would be required to certify that the material will be cut only for men's suits, and violators would be subject to heavy penalties. At present, there is a "set aside" policy for rayon and cotton, but CPA reports a "poor delivery accomplishment."

Urge Drastic Control

Lt. Col. Paul S. Lawrence, CPA veterans advisory official, will recommend even more drastic controls. He will demand all manufacturers who made men's goods under contract for the army and navy between 1941-45 be required to continue—or if they have switched to women's clothing, to return—their looms to that work for the duration of the emergency. Skilled labor affected would receive the \$10 wage differential plus overtime.

Colonel Lawrence claims to have discovered another diversion. He charges suppliers get up to 44 per cent higher profits by cutting up material and selling it to custom tailors in 11½-yard lengths, sufficient to make two \$90 to \$100 suits. This, he said, has been a heavy drain on medium-priced suits. He will demand the practice be outlawed by CPA.

ERIC JOHNSTON TALKS AT SOUTH BEND TODAY

SOUTH BEND, Ind., April 22 (U.P.)—Eric A. Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America, Inc., was scheduled today as guest speaker at a luncheon meeting of the South Bend Chamber of Commerce.

Johnston's subject was the nation's post-war business and industrial outlook.

IN INDIANAPOLIS

BIRTHS

Girls
At St. Francis—Leland, Opal Osborne.

At City—James, Elizabeth Patrick; Aaron, Pauline; Wagner and Calvin, Mary Harris.

At Calvary—Leland, Louise Hawkins and

At Methodist—Loren, Lenora Sims; William, Edna Convey; Larin, Ann Catron.

At First—Papernick and Temple, Ruth Wilson.

At St. Vincent's—James, Dorothy McCall, Robert, Donald, John, and Jane Gladys Wynn; Samuel, Lillian, Pauline, George, Emmeline, Brenner; Edgar, Evelyn, Dorothy, Jack, Martha Jean, Rich and Norma, and others.

At Home—Marion, Ruth Mayo, 261 N. Capitol.

Boys

At St. Francis—Herschel, Margaret Lowe; Paul, Norma Green; Edwin, Arthur Bowman, and Robert, Angie Bear.

At First—William, John, and Venita.

At Calvary—Fred, Ruth, Preston; Arnold, Mary Agnes Nelson, Jay Hall, and others.

At Methodist—Albert, Mary Janowitz; Robert, Mary Bayless; Robert, Catherine Von Soden; John, John, and others.

At First—Thomas, Helen, and others.

At Methodist—Albert, Mary Janowitz; Robert, Mary Bayless; Robert, Catherine Von Soden; John, John, and others.

At First—John, John, and others.