

Jobless Rate, Prices To Rise

Even under the most favorable circumstances, the economic outlook for 1969 calls for a rise in unemployment and little abatement in the present rate of price increases, according to University of Michigan economist Daniel B. Suits.

Suits said that unemployment, which in 1968 has averaged 3.7 per cent of the labor force, is projected at about 4.3 per cent in 1969. This will be accompanied by a continued four per cent per year rise in prices.

The forecast also calls for a rise in the gross national product (GNP) from \$368.4 billion to \$390.7 billion in 1969. This is a growth of nearly six per cent, although when allowance is made for the continued growth in prices, the real increase is about 1.5 per cent.

The figures are part of the Michigan Economic Forecast, prepared annually under a National Science Foundation grant by Suits and a research team of graduate students. They have successfully forecast economic movements over the past 18 years.

SOME VARIATIONS in the economic figures are possible, the Michigan forecast suggests, depending on government policy—in particular whether the proposed minimum expenditure for goods and services can be effected.

Also unknown is whether the 10 per cent surcharge on personal and corporate income taxes, enacted last July, will be allowed to lapse at midyear as Richard Nixon has proposed, or whether legislation will be introduced to continue the surcharge.

"The 4.3 per cent unemployment and four per cent inflation are likely anyway," Suits explained. "Continuation of the tax surcharge would reduce the

lien holder. Hare said the volume of impoundments "depends on how strictly judges administer the law."

"It's a revolutionary new concept in dealing with bad drivers and our Department doesn't know what volume of impoundments to expect around the state."

It has been estimated, Hare said, that if the law is administered "rigidly" it could result in some 6,000 vehicles impounded annually.

OCC Receives Grant

Oakland Community College has received a grant of \$51,535 as partial payment of a \$113,515 allotment for a practical nurse program presently being conducted by the college.

The 48-week session is funded under the provision of the Manpower Development Training Act (MDTA). The first class of 50 students began in September and will meet through August. A second class of 50 will begin in March and extend through February 1970.

"MOST OF THE pure inflation to be felt in 1969 is being carried forward from increases in the prices of goods and materials from as far back as early 1968. Substantial slowing of the growth rate in output will exert only a modest immediate impact."

To slow the rate of price increase, Suits said, would require that growth of real national product be held down for several years, and this would imply an ultimate rise in unemployment to five or six per cent.

The U-M economist said the bulk of the projected increase in GNP is in consumer spending, particularly for nondurable goods and for services. Auto purchases are expected to be down slightly. Business spending for new plant and equipment is projected to rise eight per cent, but a slight decline in residential construction is expected and the accumulation of inventories is expected to fall substantially.

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Ceramics Teacher Honored

A ceramic piece by Schoolcraft College art instructor Robert Black has been selected by a regional jury for exhibit in the 25th Ceramic National which opened Sunday in the Ely-

erson Museum at Syracuse University. Considered the nation's top exhibit for potters and ceramists, the show will continue through December, after which

selected pieces will be sent on a tour of the country. Black's work is a three-foot-high slab-built cylindrical form titled, "Protoplasmic Adaptation."

Other pottery and ceramic pieces by the Schoolcraft instructor will appear in two other exhibits closer to home and both of which opened Nov. 24.

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