

Federal Grants May Help Ease Unemployment

AN OBSERVER ROUNDUP

Some relief for increasing unemployment in Observerland communities may be in effect by early 1974 if the U.S. House and Senate can reach agreement on a bill which has passed both houses.

The House version of the bill, which was passed last week by a vote of 369 - 31 under the co-sponsorship of Rep. Marvin L. Esch (R-Ann Arbor), would reform the existing manpower training act.

The House bill received support from all Michigan

representatives, including Martha Griffiths (D-Detroit) and William Ford (D-Taylor).

A system of block grants would be given to cities or counties with a population of 100,000 or more. This means that such cities as Livonia and Ann Arbor, and counties like Washtenaw would be allowed to design their own training programs with the grants.

In addition the Title II Emergency Employment Act would be continued for the four year duration of the new bill. Municipalities or their

combinations with a population of 50,000 or more would qualify for this aid.

Thus in areas where there is seven per cent unemployment or pockets of unemployment above that figure, local governments could provide public service jobs.

Funding for the bill is "open ended" which would allow the appropriations committee to fund the bill extensively as unemployment rises.

Further provisions of the bill would give monetary incentives for vocational edu-

cation programs geared to manpower needs in each locality. Needs would be decided on a local level.

The House bill received unanimous support from all Michigan representatives in the House including U.S. Reps. Martha Griffiths (D-Detroit) and William Ford (D-Taylor).

According to Esch's legislative assistant, Nathaniel Semple, the bill has the general support of the administration, the AFL-CIO, governors and city and county leaders.



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JOE LEWIS

Joe became an owner of Independent Floor Covering in Westland at its opening in April of 1969. Independent was established in the Detroit area back in 1944 and has been satisfying customers all over southeastern Michigan for all of their 30 years in business. Joe, and family: wife, Linda; daughter, Stacey, age 10; and son, Brian, age 6, have been residents of West Dearborn for the past four years, and are active in the Parkside Church of Christ. Joe started in the carpet business in 1958 with Montgomery wards. From there, Joe spent five years with J. L. Hudson's. Three if those years were at the Westland store; after that, Joe spent four years as a carpet representative for such companies as Wunda Weve and Pat Craf Carpet. If you see Joe, ask him about the sale, or just stop in and say hi.



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