

Jobless Rate, Benefits Increase In Redford

REDFORD probably reached the highest level ever hit in the Redford branch of the Michigan Employment Security Commission (MESC), 2444 West Seven Mile Road.

Unemployment Insurance claims are more than double this year what they were last year, and last week they

"It's been going on this way ever since the first of the year," explained Edward Dowling, district manager of the unemployment insurance division at the Redford office. "As far as I can tell the claims for last week are the highest ever in this office."

Dowling outlined figures showing for comparable periods in Jan., 1969 and 1970 an increase from 1,700-2,971 claims. Claims in the week ending July 17, 1969, numbered 3,942 while claims for the same period this year numbered 6,701.

THE NUMBER of registered job seekers at the Redford office has also risen from 2,204 in Dec., 1969, to 4,668 in June, 1970. A high peak of 5,437 was reached in May due to the large influx of students seeking jobs.

The Redford office covers an insurance claims area (employment benefits) which also includes parts of Oakland and Livingston counties. Its boundary to the east is Evergreen, south to include all of Redford Township, west to South Lyon and North to 14 Mile Road. While anyone seeking a job can go to any office, those living south of Six Mile are generally directed to the Plymouth branch.

Neither Dowling nor Victor J. Mayette, district director of the

manpower division, was able to pinpoint Redford Township's unemployment rate since the Redford Office covers such a wide area. They did estimate that the township's rate was about the same as in Detroit, 7.6 per cent.

Although "In Michigan everything is related to autos and when they're slow the rest is affected," Dowling added that the number of claims "can't all be attributed to factory changovers. For a good part they are permanent separations."

MAYETTE ADDED that many people were in jobs unrelated to the auto industry, and are now indefinitely laid off.

"The jobless rate 'covers a wide spectrum. We're getting them from all ranges: unskilled to skilled," explained Mayette. He added that the white collar and blue collar segments include professional and clerical people as well as the unskilled. Engineers, draftsmen, auto designers, company vice-presidents, tool and die men, and skilled building tradesmen such as carpenters and painters are now among the unemployed.

Despite the bleak employment picture, there is help readily available at any MESC office. In Redford the tempo-

rary summer staff has been increased from eight, people last year to 24 this year in order to quickly process increased claims and job seekers.

More than \$50,000 in unemployment benefits was distributed from the Redford office alone during May. During June this figure rose to more than \$60,000.

BENEFITS CAN vary from maximums of \$53-\$77 in weekly benefits depending on the number of dependents an average weekly wage. A single man or woman formerly earning more than \$94.55 a week would receive a maximum of \$53. A wage earner with four dependents formerly earning more than \$156.37 would receive a maximum of \$77 per week.

Those wishing to file claims should report on their (digit) reporting day of the week which is determined by the last number of their social security number. For instance if the digit number was 3, then person would report on Wednesday.

Pamphlets explaining at

individual's rights and responsibilities for unemployment benefits in "layman's language" are available at any MESC office.

"UNEMPLOYMENT benefits are not charity or welfare," stressed Dowling. "It is an insurance policy paid for by the employer. The employer is taxed to help his employees find another job and pay for the unemployment insurance."

Besides unemployment insurance, the MESC is making every effort to find employment for the jobless. Forms and statistical information are now being compiled which will be fed into a new, computerized job bank system. The new system will provide an applicant with more exposure to all job openings he is capable of filling.

"There are always jobs open regardless of the economic market," said Mayette. "Clerical and service jobs are available, but at low pay. Perhaps that's why they're open. Skilled jobs are also open, but these require some sort of

training or apprenticeship."

MAYETTE ADDED that there are "practically no jobs for students during the summer months," and that jobs for the unskilled are also scarce.

When a job seeker reports to the reception center, he is given an application, and after completing the application, he is directed back to an interviewer. This interviewer then assigns him a code based on what jobs he can fill, and tries to assist the job seeker in finding an opening.

If no job is available, the application is placed on file for 30 days, and the applicant is

advised when an opening becomes available. After 30 days the job seeker must renew his application.

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Set Final RU Swim Classes For Summer

The final summer swimming registration at Redford Union pool is scheduled for 10 lessons from July 27 to Aug. 7. Registration is daily from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and Saturday 9 to 5 in the pool lobby. The fee is \$5.

There are openings in classes at all levels, including beginners, advanced beginners, intermediates, and swimmers.

OPEN SWIMMING continues daily Monday through Saturday, from 4 to 5 p.m., 6 to 7, 7:15 to 8:15, and 8:30 to 9:30 p.m., with added sessions on Saturday afternoons from 1 to 2, 2:15 to 3:15, and 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Admission is 25 cents for students and 50 cents for adults.

Approximately 600 RU area students enrolled in the first three summer swimming sessions, according to Ralph Deetz, who is in charge of the RU summer swimming program.

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