

Annual Wage May Be Bargaining Weapon, Business Reporter Says

DURING ALL the furor over the guaranteed annual wage, a small group of skeptical observers has been contending that the vast and indeterminate obligation this would amount to has been put forward only as a tactic to induce employers to come through with larger immediate dollars-and-cents payments.

This may yet turn out to be wishful thinking. GAW could erupt into a bitter battle in steel, or autos, or both. Yet it is true that one major contract has been signed, with GAW being traded off for an immediate 14-cent raise.

The CIO Glass and Ceramic

Workers and the flat glass industry have signed for an immediate 8-cent hourly wage boost and another 6 cents an hour in fringe benefits. A joint study group of the industry and the union will study GAW and report back next year.

The automobile companies are the biggest customers of the flat glass industry, and this event might be the tipoff that a 14-cent package could buy off the auto workers as well. That will be more difficult, because of the extreme position the auto workers have taken, but it isn't impossible.

As a 14-cent package spreads out from mass-production in-

dustry into smaller plants, it may bring some hardships. If past history is a guide, the small shops will still have to pay it if the big ones do.

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SHORT AND SWEET—Despite women's reputation for gabbiness, today's teenage girls can come to the point when it pays them. If the outcome of the nation's biggest writing competition can be taken as a guide.

There were 78 first prizes among nationwide Scholastic Writing Awards sponsored by a pen company, with 48,000 high school students competing. Girls won 46 of them, almost

half-again as many as the boys—32.

In the short-short story competition which was one phase of the contest, girls won eight prizes and a boy one! Poetry, drama, article writing and essay composition also saw the boys outscored, but not so badly.

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Apparently television, movies and comic books haven't destroyed the young one's urge to do some creative writing themselves.

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THINGS TO COME—A new industrial vacuum cleaner has a caboose coupled on to haul along its various attachments

... This summer's beach umbrellas will have not only a spike to hold it in the sand, but a clamp to affix it to a boat. . . . A new fire control gadget lifts domes on the roof to help flames rise instead of spreading. . . . If you have a space 2 1/2 feet high for it to stand in outdoors, you can install a new weather-vane in a variety of designs. . . . Plastic cigarette cases which will stand erect on your desk are offered for imprinting with an ad.

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SUCCESS STORY—Demand for bottled-in-bond whiskey in the U. S. is reported to be leveling off, but there's one distiller happily ignoring that supposed trend.

According to a nationwide survey of alcoholic beverage sales made by Business Week, sales of one brand totaled 725,000 cases in 1954. That is a 20.8 per cent step-up from 1953, and a total increase of 107.2 per cent since 1952. The brand is the only bond to place among the nation's two top-selling whiskeys since repeal.

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THOSE GAY AUTOS—Whatever your attitude toward those grape-juice-purple-and-buttercup-yellow, fire-engine-red-and-morning-after-gray two-toned automobiles, they won't be coming off the assembly lines in the same rainbow profusion next model year.

Automobile manufacturers say they do help distinguish cars from one another, for the individual who wants to be different. At the same time, these very differences force the dealer to carry more cars to satisfy every taste, and make life more

complicated for the manufacturer.

There are now 400 pigments for painting cars, and as many as six assembly lines grow where one stretched before, to shunt the gay cars to where they can be given matching interiors.

Detroit thinks it was a good thing to get away from Henry Ford's insistence on "any color so long as it's black" but now it's catching up to the ancient truth that there can be too much of a good thing.

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BITS O' BUSINESS—The Texas Railroad Commission, which has cut back allowable oil production by 250,000 barrels a day from March's high mark, plans another cut of nearly 80,000 barrels a day for June. . . . Industrial production in April, as measured by the Federal Reserve Board, was less than 1 per cent below the post-war high mark set in March, 1953. . . . Coal production to mid-May was up 25 million tons from the output in the like period of 1954.

INSURANCE MEET SET

Seventeen members of the South Bay District Agency of the Prudential Insurance Co. will attend the company's President Club business conference at the Hotel del Coronado, June 10-11.

Accompanying Harry C. Harper, manager of the conference, will be William J. Bryant, William D. Hanger, Franklin T. Fletcher, James J. Trani, staff managers; an Joseph Ambrosi, Paul S. Blankinship, Robert D. Cowley, E. E. Curran, Keith E. Fowler, Norman L. Neelands, John B. O'Leary, Morgan B. Simmons, Fred C. Stapp, Richard K. Stewel, William L. Trent, and Harry W. Walker Jr., agents.

The Torrance delegates will meet with more than 230 leading Prudential life underwriters from throughout Southern California. Business sessions will be devoted to discussions of life insurance and ideas for added service to local policyholders.

Hearing Postponed

Preliminary hearing for Mrs. Alice Elaine Summers, 24, of 1220 Cota Ave., on bad check charges has been postponed from June 3 to June 24.

Mrs. Summers pleaded not guilty on May 31 in South Bay Municipal Court.

Her bail of \$500 was revoked

because of her previous record of bad check convictions and she is being held in jail.

At the time of her arrest here on charges of passing numerous bad checks in amounts of about \$25, she was already on probation from a Michigan conviction on the same charge.

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