

Between October 1973 and October 1974, the rate of unemployment increased a full 51 per cent; by Dec. 1, the rate of unemployment jumped another 20 per cent. For youth, the increase is an even higher 36 per cent between October and Dec. 1.

Official unemployment figures are grossly miscalculated at 650,000, based upon the situation in October. Since then, production has suffered a brutal breakdown. A conservative estimate, advanced by the French Communist Party, puts present unemployment at 900,000. In addition, 2,300,000 industrial workers are slated for end-of-the-year vacations, during which they will receive only \$30-40 a week in unemployment benefits. Ten per cent of the country's small and middle-sized firms, which employ over half the non-agricultural labor force, will be closing shop for the same period.

But the worst is yet to come. So far, employers have attempted to keep layoffs down to a minimum, preferring instead to use other more insidious measures such as a reduced work week, early retirement, and temporary layoffs from one week to a month, scheduled on a rotating basis. These measures are intended to break down the resistance of workers who don't know if they're coming or going. In addition, they hide the real level of unemployment and underemployment.

As France's production has shifted away from domestic consumption goods and toward the transfer of heavy industry to Third World labor-intensive projects, a 32-hour work week has already become the norm in the collapsing textile sector for Boussac's 15,000 employees; the Rhone-Poulenc synthetic fabric producer has laid off its 21,000 man workforce for two to four weeks. Auto sales this November have gone down by 27 per cent; a corresponding drop in employment is expected. The same is true for 60,000 housing units planned to be built in 1974 and cancelled because of lack of credit to the construction sector.

DAVIS APPOINTMENT SIGNALS INCREASED CIA ACTIVITY IN SOUTH AFRICA

NEW YORK, N.Y., Dec. 26 (IPS)--Nathaniel Davis, U.S. Ambassador to Chile at the time of Allende's overthrow, will probably replace Chester Easum as Assistant U.S. Secretary of State for Africa, according to a report in the London Observer Dec. 22. Davis, a member of Rockefeller's Council on Foreign Relations, was field marshal of the CIA overthrow of Allende.

Such an appointment would signal that the acceleration of low-intensity counterinsurgency operations inside South Africa is imminent. Now that South Africa's isolation as a white minority government is nearly complete and South Africa has been coopted to take a major role in reorganizing the southern Africa

region for fascist "development" schemes, the remaining obstacle to Rockefeller's Fourth World slave-labor plan is the white working-class population inside South Africa. The whites will not easily accept a turn toward labor-intensity projects, which in their eyes "benefit" the black working-class majority.

An experienced agent like Nathaniel Davis, operating in concert with another CIA Chile veteran, current U.S. Ambassador to Zaire Deane Hinton, and South Africa's own Army Chief Magnus Malan could, however, skillfully shake up these racial politics by organizing black terrorism and militancy inside South Africa.

In an interview today by Ray Seitz, Special Assistant to Nathaniel Davis--now Director General of the Foreign Service--confessed "there is a lot of credibility" to the Observer story that Davis is U.S. Secretary of State Kissinger's present choice to replace Easum. Seitz said his boss would decline to be interviewed until he had been appointed and had read a book about Africa!

The exclusive Observer leak, authored by Bruce Oudes--who also contributes to the CIA magazine Africa Report--is designed as a trial balloon, to see if Rockefeller can get away with appointing Davis, whose CIA role in Chile is widely known. Another rumor runs that Kissinger is replacing Easum with Davis because Easum has been leaning on South Africa's apartheid government too hard!

MURDER ATTEMPT AGAINST SEATTLE LC MEMBERS

SEATTLE, Dec. 26 (IPS)--Over the past three days, cars belonging to Seattle Labor Committee members have been sabotaged in three separate incidents. Fortunately, the murderous intent of these actions--to cause fatal "accidents"--was averted.

In the first incident, the as-yet unidentified saboteurs loosened a car tire. In the second, metal filings were put in another car's gas tank, ruining the engine. The saboteurs also tampered with the brakes of a third car in such a way that they would give out if the car were driven for only a short distance. In all three incidents, the cars were parked in front of the homes of their Labor Committee owners at the time they were tampered with.

Although the Labor Committee has fully briefed the Seattle Police Department on these attacks, there is strong reason to believe that the LEAA-controlled police will fail to conduct a serious investigation. Furthermore, recent police harassment of Labor Party organizers in the Northwest reveals that the police departments are heavily infiltrated by CIA-controlled right-wing groups.