

The United States employment service is supposed to regulate the areas in which industries can recruit new workers. Boeing for instance at one point was told they could recruit only in Florida and adjacent areas of the far southeastern United States -- at the absolute extreme opposite end of the nation, so Boeing did. Now they have been permitted to search for new workers in Wisconsin and Minnesota - a more logical quarter for recruitment for this Pacific Northwest. But, now, just why the Higgins people of New Orleans should be campaigning for workers in what is probably the most labor-short region of the nation, seems to be one of the unfathomable mysteries of this strange chaotic age.

Local officials of the United States Employment Service have not been reached for comment, and some local officials are curious as to why newspapers which have been doing everything possible to relieve the local situation should suddenly seem to undermine it by publishing the advertising for far off employers. There is a rumor afloat that Higgins officials from New Orleans are due in Seattle this week to implement their recruiting advertising. It will be interesting to see the results.

If this is another bungle of the U.S. Employment Service, it is one of the curious errors probably resulting from card files and paper inventories of manpower without an accompanying check into the conditions as they really are. If it is not such an official error, it must be the competition of free enterprise, free enterprise which we like and approve, of course, but which in such demonstrations as this seems destined to contribute to the possibility of greater regimentation - the conscription of industrial labor.

There is another reason for my visit to the Pacific Northwest -- which is concerned with the future rather than the present -- with the possibility that this area will be even a greater industrial center after the war than it had become under the pressure of the production of ships for sea and air for the fighting against our enemies abroad. The possibilities of this greater industrial activity will be centered in the fight against other enemies -- the enemies of want and unemployment and undevelopment.

There are men here in the Pacific Northwest area, stretching from the state of Oregon and through Washington and British Columbia, Canada to the Yukon Territory and Alaska, who are thoroughly excited about some dreams which they think can be translated into reality -- dreams of economic development in one of the richest areas in all the world. An area of more than a million square miles, with less than four million population, has resources so vast that engineers wander off into astronomical figures when they talk about the possibilities. The area could easily support 20 to 25 million people and still contribute far more to the rest of the world than it does now.

But beyond the physical and financial possibilities is the very important fact that such economic development can take place despite the political boundaries which divide the Canadian from the United States portions. It is clear that the development for prosperity is possible without changing the political status of either country. It is obvious that the development has been prevented in the past because of the political barrier - the boundary, which though unfortified still presented a barrier in the thoughts of the peoples on each side of it. Today they realize that the barrier is only in the minds of men, and there is no need for it to prevent the prosperity which economic co-operation can bring. If such cooperative development can be worked out here - it can provide a pattern for the economic plans for a new Europe -- for that matter, for a new world. Nations can cling to their own desires in political affairs -- their own types of government -- and still cooperate in economic development and trade, for the well being of all in a peaceful world.

An article in a recent issue of the magazine MINING WORLD had this to say - I quote:

"The Douglas fir recognizes no international boundary, nor does the sockeye salmon, and Americans have not hesitated to cross the border to help British Columbia build her forest industry to the point where it yields more than \$100,000,000 a year, and her fisheries more than \$25,000,000. And Americans