

a similar but larger flurry of activity surrounding oil discoveries on the North Slope.

OSHA INFORMATION

Beginning in February, the Bureau of Labor Statistics and cooperating States will be surveying some of the employers covered by the William-Steiger Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA). In Alaska approximately 100 employers will be reached by this survey and were so notified in December.

The purpose of the Williams-Steiger Act is to assure safe and healthful working conditions for the nation's wage earners. The provisions of the law apply to every employer engaged in a business affecting commerce. Each employer has the responsibility to provide employment conditions and place of employment free from hazards likely to cause physical harm. The employer has the specific duty to comply with safety and health standards promulgated under this Act. Each employee has the duty to comply with these standards, and all rules, regulations, and orders issued pursuant to the Act.

Each year only a portion of the nation's employers will be surveyed although nearly all employers will be required to keep employee occupational injury and illness records at the location where the employee usually reports to work. Employers should already have received their booklets from the Bureau of Labor Statistics which include the three basic records (log, supplementary record and summary) on which to record the required employee data. During February, those employers in the survey will receive an additional form on which to report employee injuries and illnesses recorded since July 1971, to the Department of Labor.

The new Alaska Workmen's Compensation report Form No. 07-ADL210 R/12-71 may be used as a substitute for the OSHA supplementary record. Employers may request copies of this form from the Alaska Workmen's Compensation Board, Box 1149, Juneau, or the Department of Labor offices in Anchorage and Fairbanks.

Obviously, a comprehensive statistical and research program is necessary to implement the requirements of OSHA. Data are needed initially to provide the Secretary of Labor information that describes the safety record of American industry in 1971, the first year after the passage of the Act. A continuing statistical and research program is essential to provide data needed by the Secretary of Labor for the administration of the inspection, enforcement, and standards development provisions of the Act; for the evaluation of progress in reducing work injuries and

illnesses; and for inclusion in the Secretary's annual report to Congress.

A Federal-State cooperative program is planned as the best means of eliminating unnecessary duplication of efforts and minimizing the burden upon employers. To encourage this cooperation, a comprehensive program of technical assistance and financial support will be provided states in planning and operating their statistical programs.

Since the Department of Labor is the administrative agency for the Act in Alaska, employers who have not received the BLS booklet or need assistance concerning it should contact:

Alaska Department of Labor
Research and Analysis Section
Box 3-7000
Juneau, Alaska 99801
(Phone 586-1347)

ALASKA'S ECONOMY IN DECEMBER

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT: Total estimated employment decreased seasonally during December as 2,100 fewer persons were employed in relation to November estimates. Employment has shown modest growth during 1971, increasing 3.5% or 3,600 positions. The employment increases are concentrated in government, trade, and services categories, and hence the overall employment picture is only mildly encouraging. No substantial growth trend is seen in any Alaskan industry, only mild expansion due to an increasing population. Largest losses during December were in the construction and logging industries.

Mining: The seasonal drop in mining employment continued during December, but at a rather slow rate as the industry approached the lower limits of employment. Approximately 100 positions were lost over-the-month. The lack of activity on the North Slope has dropped estimated employment 500 positions below 1970 levels.

Construction: The month of December saw a continued rapid decline in employment in this industry as 1,200 positions were eliminated, a 21% decline. As in mining, employment in construction is lower than in the comparable month of 1970, down by 600.

Manufacturing: Employment in this industry is declining slowly due to seasonal and extenuating factors. Normal declines were noted in the logging, lumber and pulp and other manufacturing sectors, but a decline in food processing was not expected.