

Stateside jobs Transition 'great and growing,' official says at Heidelberg fair

By GLEN DOSS
Staff Writer

HEIDELBERG (S&S) — While some commanders obstruct and oppose Project Transition in USAREUR, the program has been an "unquestionable influence" on the declining unemployment rate of veterans, James F. Oates Jr. declared here Wednesday.

Oates, a retired life insurance executive and chairman of the President's National Committee on Jobs for Veterans, was en route from the United Kingdom to open the Job Information Fair at Wuerzburg Thursday.

Project Transition is the Department of Defense program designed to aid servicemen with little or no job skills who are about to return to civilian life. Oates told newsmen that Transition is "a great and growing program which is never going to be cut off in Europe. . . ."

He said he would "be sorry" for the company commander who "makes an outright effort" to impede the workings of Transition.

Unemployment among veterans has declined from 379,000 a year ago to 285,000, he said and added that much of this is due to the Transition effort.

'Virtually disappeared'

Further, the gap between the unemployment ratio of veterans and nonveterans has "virtually disappeared . . . with only a .5 per cent difference," he said.

Oates said Lt. Gen. A. S. Collins Jr., USAREUR deputy commander in chief, told him he realized there is a practical problem in implementing Project Transition because "the company commander, who has the first responsibility of maintaining and performing effectively with his unit, doesn't like . . . the interference.

But Collins said, "We know that and, believe me, we are going to overcome it."

This problem of relieving soldiers for Transition training never will be completely solved, Oates conceded, "although that doesn't mean that people . . . are not wise enough to realize that Gen. Collins and Gen. Davison (Michael S., USAREUR CINC) mean it when they said this is to be done."

Targets of efforts

Major efforts at the Job Information Fair are aimed at "that 20 per cent of the servicemen who have been drafted into the service and trained in combat specialties but do not have a high school education or experience in civilian endeavors and therefore face difficulties in finding a job when they are discharged," he said.

Representatives of 19 U.S. firms, who are traveling with

the fair, are sincere in their efforts to provide information and guidance to soon-to-be vets, Oates said.

"The employers as well as the nation as a whole need the productivity and the contributions these men will make in civilian life to the provision of goods and services to the people of the country."

Result of tests

He said the Job Fair is back in Europe for the second time partly because of the result of tests on servicemen who attended the pilot Job Fair last March and April.

"We found that 97 per cent were enthusiastic with the experience and were delighted by the prospect of having a repeat fair to help them in finding employment."

However, a follow-up study has not been completed on the

6,000 men who attended the pilot fair to find out whether they got jobs as a result of meeting with employers, he said.

"It's extremely difficult to follow each man. Many of those men are still in the service," Oates explained.

The representatives traveling with the fair now have more than 9,000 jobs "they have been authorized to refer people to back home . . . although there won't be, except in rare circumstances, any specific job filled by a specific man as a result of these meetings," he said.

"We are not in a position to fill jobs in Kokomo, Indiana, by conversation with a man in Germany. The man learns from the representative the employment opportunities last known to exist in the community in which he is interested."

U.S., Russian venture

Space link-up study starts next spring

MOSCOW (AP) — American and Soviet astronauts will begin training next year for a joint docking mission designed to lead to rescue operations in outer space, it was announced Wednesday.

The mission, the first of its kind, was being planned for "the second half of 1975," Dr. Glynn S. Lunney of NASA said. Lunney, director at the American side of the project, was flanked at a news conference by astronaut William Stafford, two Russian scientists and two veteran cosmonauts.

Reporting the U.S. team's working mission here, they said a number of technical decisions

had been taken and that a schedule had been drafted which would include selection of the U.S. and Soviet spacemen by next spring.

The mission will involve the launching of a Soviet Soyuz space craft with three cosmonauts aboard. An American Apollo craft with two Americans will chase it, rendezvous and dock with the Russian vessel.

The Soviets said a final decision on whether the Soviet and American crews would exchange visits through the tunnel linking their craft would be taken at the next meeting of experts.



'Topper' dies

Actor Leo G. Carroll, whose best known role was the television comedy character of the 1950s Cosmo Topper, has died in Hollywood at the age of 85. The British actor also played in movies and was Mr. Waverly on TV's "The Man from U.N.C.L.E."

Meinhof-Al Fatah ties described

BERLIN (UPI) — A prosecution witness said Wednesday that members of a left-wing anarchist band that terrorized West Germany had close contact with Al Fatah, the Palestine guerrilla organization.

The witness, Peter Homann, 31-year-old artist, himself a member of the band until he gave himself up to police a year ago, said the band's leaders spent five to six weeks at an Al Fatah camp in Jordan in the summer of 1970.

"I did not see any training going on but they all carried machine pistols, naturally," he told a West Berlin court.

Homann was testifying at the trial of Horst Mahler, 36-year-old West Berlin lawyer accused of organizing the so-called Baader-Meinhof band.

Over a period of more than two years, the gang staged

bank robberies, store burnings and police shootings in its campaign to overthrow the West German capitalist system. It staged bomb attacks at two U.S. Army headquarters in West Germany in May that killed four American servicemen and injured 30 other persons.

Homann testified he fled West Berlin because he was sought by the police two years ago and went to Jordan where he joined other members of the band in

the Al Fatah camp.

He said among those in the camp were Mahler, Mrs. Ulrike Meinhof, 37, and Andreas Baader, 29. Mrs. Meinhof and Baader gave the gang the name by which it was known in West Germany.

Baader and Meinhof were arrested in West Germany in June during a nationwide manhunt that followed the bombings of the American headquarters. Mahler was arrested in West Berlin, Oct. 8, 1970.

Damage \$50,000 at Frankfurt High

FRANKFURT (S&S) — A ceiling light fixture may have started the \$50,000 fire in the American high school here Tuesday night, an Army spokesman said.

Facilities engineer firemen were making further inspection Wednesday, but the fixture was the chief suspect, he said.

The blaze, earlier reported to have caused a \$12,400 loss, gutted a typing classroom, destroying books, typewriters, desks

and other furnishings, charring walls and ceiling. The corridor outside the room was streaked by smoke and water but there was little other damage.

Classes were conducted as usual Wednesday, school officials said. But temporary quarters for classes, involving about 220 students, had to be arranged.

Officials had no estimate of how long it would take to repair the room.

Greeks tortured her, freed American says

LONDON (AP) — An American woman charged Wednesday she was beaten in a Greek prison, denied food, water and sleep and threatened with rape by 20 Greek soldiers.

Mrs. Athena Psychogios also claimed an interrogator warned he would pull out all her teeth unless she gave him details of a plan to help a convicted would-be assassin of the Greek premier to escape from jail.

She spoke at a London news conference after her release from custody earlier this month. (Related story on Page 4.)

The plot to free Alexander Panagoulis, convicted of trying to blow up a car carrying Greek Premier George Papadopoulos in August 1968, was foiled when a bribed prison guard informed Greek authorities.

Born in Detroit

Mrs. Psychogios, 42, the daughter of Greek immigrant parents who was born in Detroit and is an American citizen, admitted she was to drive the getaway car in the escape plot. She served just under 14 months in a Greek prison and stopped in London on her way back to the United States to join her three children in Minneapolis.

A spokesman for the Greek Embassy here denied Mrs. Psychogios was mistreated in prison.

Mrs. Psychogios admitted she had made no claim during her trial of ill treatment by prison authorities. "Of course, I was afraid," she explained. "I was threatened with 20 years in jail

if I said anything. I wanted to go back to my children."

She was arrested on Aug. 1, 1971, outside the Goudi military barracks near Athens where Panagoulis is held.

Mrs. Psychogios said 20 soldiers were present in the interrogation room. She said a prison officer told her "they will all rape you." He also threatened to pull her teeth out and to torture her in front of her young daughters unless she confessed details of the plot. The daughters were later allowed to return to the United States.

For six days, Mrs. Psychogios said, she was denied food, water and sleep, kept under bright lights and subjected to loud banging noises whenever her eyes closed.

Ground hunt begins for Boggs

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (UPI) — A ground search was mounted Wednesday in a rugged mountain pass southeast of Anchorage where a light plane carrying House majority leader Hale Boggs and three others was last reported.

Ten Alaska rangers hiked into Portage Pass, where the plane carrying Boggs, Alaska Rep. Nick Begich, his aide and a pilot made its last radio report Monday before it vanished.

The pass has remained shrouded in heavy overcast, with freezing drizzle around the 6,000-foot peaks through which the plane was flying, making an air search impossible.

The rangers went by truck and the Alaska Railway to Whittier, where they began the first ground search for the plane under heavy skies and some rain.

Another focus of the search was to the south near Juneau where unidentified emergency radio signals were heard.

Despite the bad weather, officials at Elmendorf Air Force Base expressed hopes of finding the twin-engine Cessna.

Sleepwalking a tall story

LEEDS, England (UPI) — Anthony Caden, a 35-year-old window cleaner, told a court that he was sleepwalking when he climbed a ladder into the bedroom of 25-year-old Beverly Adams and lay down beside her. He drew a two-year suspended sentence for indecent assault.