

Bureaucracy Spurring Joblessness

THE job situation is getting serious. A lot of people who want to work are being laid off, and if a real depression develops some who don't want to work might have to start.

The government will do all that it can to prevent the latter from happening, however. To hedge against anyone having to work against his will, Congress has enacted umpteen unemployment programs and set up borrowing procedures to finance them.

Congress and federal agencies know how to put people on relief and welfare but they do not have the ability to create productive employment. Government bureaus can generate unemployment by adverse laws and regulations but only free enterprise can make jobs that people need to survive in either inflation or depression.

An Oklahoman who operates a small processing and wholesale industry recently closed out one branch of his business. He said "OSHA wanted us to change so many things to get into compliance and they would cost so much we couldn't afford them, so we just shut that part of our business down."

This shutdown involved only six or eight people, but if it happens a hundred times, that's 600 or 800 people out of work and a thousand times means 6,000 families losing their incomes.

Before the most recent jobless programs were enacted by Congress, a tabulation showed that a total of 72.5 million persons were getting checks or other assistance as employees of federal, state and local government, military services, social security, family welfare or other programs.

This compared to only 71.9 million persons who were employed in the private sector of our economy. Just

before it went home, Congress provided money for payroll subsidies for 133,000 new municipal jobs, plus a 13-week extension of unemployment benefits.

Many young people today do not acquire enough work experience and observation of occupations to qualify them even to choose a career. Many others who came through the anti-work campaign of the 1960s remain convinced that work is mindless, boring, servile and hateful. Some may never recover from this spurious teaching.

There may be hope for others. A lecturer at one of the nation's large universities made headlines a few weeks ago when he told students, "You live in a world where work is

the name of the game. To make it in a job is to make it as a person."

It is unfortunate that excessive government regulation of business, industry, agriculture and finance is resulting in fewer work opportunities becoming available, while the practice of relying on government support for not working is being increased.

It is a waste of manpower, money and talent to train young people for careers and then have them shunted onto federal jobless payrolls because Congress makes and allows federal bureaus to make such stringent rules that businesses cannot provide the opportunities for honest work that should be the fundamental right of every citizen.