

Subsidies Inhibit Business Efficiency

THE MORE business, industry, agriculture and individuals depend upon government financial support the weaker our economy.

Many businesses and industries have been noted for profitable efficiencies. Political entities have not.

The reason is obvious. When a business, large or small, is allowed to make its own decisions and manages effectively to serve a market that demands certain goods or services it will find ways to meet competition or close its doors.

When government subsidizes a business the drive for efficiency often is lost. Management becomes less vigorous and there is less urgency to turn out quality products.

These factors account largely for our loss of leadership in manufac-

turing and loss of great numbers of jobs to other nations. Restrictive laws that hamper management, together with laws that favor exorbitant demands of labor unions, have made this nation less competitive in both domestic and world markets.

Recently 200 American Airlines employees in Tulsa lost their jobs as computer keypunchers to workers in Barbados. The reason: Tulsa workers weren't satisfied with \$6.50 an hour and Barbados workers were happy to be paid \$2.50 an hour.

Individuals have a right to sell their services for as high a price as the market will pay. If they insist on more the result is like a manufacturer who prices his product out of the market. Demand declines with every price increase.

The National Planning Assn., a non-profit research group in Washington, D.C., predicts that half of all new jobs to be created in the next 15 years will develop in 30 metropolitan areas. Houston tops the list with six times as many as Oklahoma City, which ranks 30th.

We might not get that many unless legislators and other public officials overcome their greed for more taxes to spend on more government. It might take the next 15 years to live down the failure of Oklahoma to keep promises made to General Motors, even if a tax exemption bill for new industries is enacted.

In any case, if Oklahoma is going to compete for jobs and profits we will have to do things as well as anybody else and better than most.