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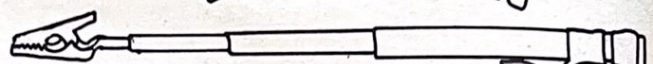
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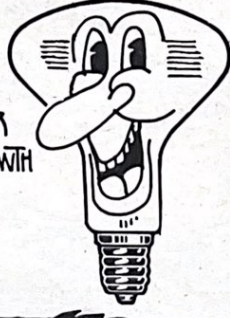


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HARD TIMES

Missed the "Economic Upswing?"

DESPITE GOVERNMENT CLAIMS to the contrary, the recession is as serious as ever, particularly for the hard-core unemployed. The official figure for unemployed workers in Los Angeles County today is 9.7 percent. Actual figures—including those workers not eligible for unemployment benefits—are probably double that. This means nearly 650,000 out of a total workforce of 3,231,000. And high unemployment makes life hard for everybody but the employer, as workers fight each other for scarce jobs at low wages. Many of the county's unemployed are reaching the end of the line now, since even those fortunate enough to have received unemployment checks are about to exhaust their extended benefits. The State Employment Office says 20,192 L.A. workers' benefits have run out since the office began collecting the figures last September, and the number of people getting their last check has been rising each month. What comes after that last check? Odd jobs at exploitation wages, eviction, and general hard times.

What happens to the thousands of county workers whose unemployment benefits have expired? pired?

"Search me. We lose track of them. They drop out of our system." Tom Smith, Research Division official in the State Department of Employment Development.



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