

# Action on job front

At the onset of summer, California's and the Bay Area's job picture was following the same old pattern, reflecting the impact of automation and discrimination. There was record employment and high unemployment, but there were also indications of efforts to resolve the paradox. For instance:

## Employment

June employment set all-time records with 6,507,000 working in the state and 1,212,200 in the Bay Area. Meanwhile, 440,000 Californians including 75,300 in the Bay Area were hunting jobs.

The statewide seasonally adjusted jobless rate was 6 per cent, one-tenth of 1 per cent below the May rate, and the Bay Area's rate was 5.2 per cent, down two-tenths of one per cent.

Both jobless totals represented numerical increases over May, but economists were encouraged because the statewide boost in unemployment was only 39,000, which was less than expected in the month when thousands of students start looking for jobs.

## Minorities

On-the-job training courses aimed at supplying skills needed by modern industry were underway here with a five-to-two majority of Negroes enrolled, reflecting automation's burden on discriminated-against minorities.

The U.S. Labor Department's office of Manpower, Automation and Training, administering the courses under the new Federal Manpower Development Act, pointed out that only one in 10 San Franciscans is a Negro, contrasted to the 59 per cent Negro composition of the skill classes.

Despite their training, Negroes still were having more difficulty getting jobs, than were white people, a Department of Employment survey disclosed. "The agency could single out no special reasons for this," a Labor Department press release said, apparently with tongue not in cheek.

## Training

An agreement for more on-the-job skill training was signed with the Federal government by Governor Brown who said the skill courses would be especially helpful to youths and young members of minority groups.

## Apprenticeship

California appealed for Federal action which would open up more opportunities for minority persons to learn skills by apprentice training. The request by the Department of Industrial Relations was made as the department disclosed a nearly 30 per cent increase in new apprentices in the last 12 months over the previous two years' average.

Department Director Ernest E. Webb asked the government to require defense contractors given Federal funds for training to devote some of the training program to apprenticeship,