

from the CAPITOL

By GOV. GRANT SAWYER



NEVADA WORKMEN numbering 486, disabled because of industrial accidents and occupational diseases, received increases in their compensation checks this month. The raise amounted to eight percent for both permanently disabled pensioners and those temporarily disabled as authorized by the 1965 legislature and signed into law effective July 1.

Funeral benefits were boosted from \$500 to \$650, silicotic (lung disease) pensioners or their beneficiaries who had depleted their maximum awards received supplemental compensation not to exceed \$3000, and other disability awards were increased ten percent. Administrative changes will facilitate rehabilitation and provide broader coverage.

The result is that Nevada can boast of a benefit schedule equal to the top seven in the nation. Equally important is the fact that the cost of the new program is not expected to be a burden on employers who directly pay the price of administering our state workmen's compensation program.

IT IS HOPED that there will be no overall premium rate increases; that the Nevada Industrial Commission's investments, together with an intensified rehabilitation program, will be able to offset the additional expenses. Nevada rates currently are among the lowest in the nation among states offering comparable benefits.

It is an endless duty in a rising-cost economy to establish a compensation schedule which will meet the needs of the disabled and yet not make the cost prohibitive. Workmen's compensation insurance, administered in our state by the Nevada Industrial Commission, operates on long-established principles and serves a long-standing social need. That need is to provide workers a measure of economical protection against occupational hazards which cannot

be avoided in our present-day industrial society. It must be administered to provide prompt payment of indemnity benefits, without litigation, with the best medical care available. All this must be obtained at a minimum cost to industry. Increased emphasis on the rehabilitation of injured workmen has been termed the most (See SAWYER, page 12)

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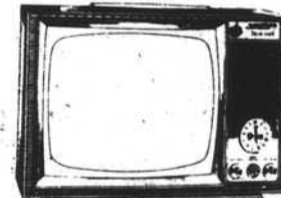
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