EUROPEAN COMMUNITY INFORMATION SERVICE

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT WARNED THAT COMMON MARKET UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION SHOWS SIGNS OF WORSENING IN 1972

WASHINGTON, D.C., February 10 -- Only an active Community policy can prevent the already substantial unemployment problem in the Common Market from becoming worse, a Community official said in Strasbourg yesterday.

Speaking before the European Parliament, Albert Coppé, member of the Commission of the European Communities, said that the number of persons without jobs in the Community rose from 1.7 million in 1970 to 2.1 million in 1971. During that same period of time, job opportunities in the Community decreased by 25 per cent, Mr. Coppé said.

He predicted a deterioration of the employment picture during 1972 if employment policies of the member states remained uncoordinated.

Mr. Coppé praised the establishment in December 1970 of a Community

Permanent Committee on Employment. He also lauded the reform of the

European Social Fund making the Fund a flexible instrument of employment

policy. Despite such Community action, however, there is still danger that

divergent member states' employment policies will aggravate the unemploy
ment problem, he said.

For instance, without far-reaching corrective action at the Community level, migratory movements of labor across national borders and licensing

of foreign workers might be curtailed. This would force many laborers to return to their home countries where the employment situation might be even worse, Mr. Coppé warned.

"The exporting of unemployment is not an acceptable solution," Mr. Coppé said, adding that such action would be contrary to the Community spirit.

The total number of foreign workers employed in the Community was more than 2.7 million in 1969 and 3.8 million in 1971. During those years, the number of Italian migrant workers in the Community rose from 600,000 to 750,000, an increase of 25 per cent.

Mr. Coppé pointed out that the volume and structure of Community employment depend on effective and well-coordinated industrial, agricultural, and regional policies among the member states.