

THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

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EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY • EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY • EUROPEAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMUNITY

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND CONSIDERS FIRST CONVERSION AID PROPOSAL;

1964?

FORD MOTOR PLAN WOULD SWITCH TO TRACTOR ASSEMBLY

WASHINGTON, D.C., January 30 --- The Common Market's European Social Fund is studying the first proposal submitted to it for business conversion aid, it was reported from Brussels today.

The proposal, made to the EEC Commission by the Belgian government, would convert a Ford Motor Company plant in Antwerp from motor-vehicle assembly to production of mechanical parts for farm tractors and their assembly.

If the proposal is approved by the EEC Commission, the Fund will contribute 50 per cent of the total \$1,080,000 cost to maintain the wage level of approximately 2,000 workers, whose employment will be suspended while the plant is converted. The Fund will also contribute to the cost of retraining some of these workers.

The European Social Fund began effective operation in 1961 to increase the possibilities of employment in the Community and to promote geographical and occupational mobility of workers. As stipulated by the Rome Treaty, the Fund reimburses 50 per cent of expenses incurred by member states for the occupational retraining and resettlement of unemployed workers, and the maintenance of the same wage level for workers affected by conversion operations. The total aid granted by the Fund to date has been \$19,853,275 for resettlement and retraining of workers. Assistance extended by the Social Fund to workers and industries affected by changes in the Common Market economy is similar to assistance authorized by the U.S. Trade Expansion Act of 1962 for U.S. workers and industries affected by changing world trade patterns.