INSTALMENT CREDIT  Consumers boosted instalment debt in June more rapidly than they did in any preceding month this year, the Federal Reserve Board reported. Instalment credit outstanding jumped $443 million in June, exceeding the preceding peak of $369 million reached in May. A year ago in June, instalment debt increased by $321 million and by $772 million in the same month of 1955. At the end of June, instalment debt totaled $32.3 billion, or nearly $2.3 billion above the year-ago figure. All components of outstanding instalment credit increased in June. The largest increases were in automobile paper and personal loans. (Amer. Bkr., 8/5 p.3)

MANUFACTURERS' SALES, ORDERS FELL IN JUNE  Incoming business fell 4% during June for manufacturers, the Department of Commerce has reported. Sales declined 1%, and inventories rose slightly. After adjustment for seasonal factors and trading day differences, manufacturers received $27.2 billion of new orders in June. This was $1.2 billion below the May level with most of the decline coming in the durable goods industries. Manufacturers sold $28.4 billion of goods in June, on a seasonally adjusted basis. This was $200 million less than in May, the decline being shared equally by durable and non-durable goods producers. Manufacturers added about $100 million to the book value of their inventories from May to June. After seasonal adjustment, end-of-June inventories totaled $54 billion. (Wall St. J., 8/2 p.8)

STEEL RATE FORECAST HIGHER  The steel industry will likely produce at an average of 87% to 89% of rated capacity in the fourth quarter. This forecast is based on expectations of companies that turn out 65% of the nation's steel. Production is running at around 80% of capacity and the average operating rate for
the third quarter is expected to hold near that figure. An 80% pace in the current quarter, coupled with a rate of 87% to 89% in the final three months of 1957, would result in total steel output for the year at more than last year's 115.2 million tons and possibly above 1955's record 117 million. (Lancaster, Wall St. J., 8/5 p.3)

ANDERSON SWORN IN AS TREASURY HEAD

Robert B. Anderson, one-time vice-chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, today became the 54th Secretary of the Treasury at a time when the Administration's debt management policies are under Congressional fire. He succeeds George M. Humphrey, who resigned after four and a half years in the post. Mr. Anderson had said beforehand that the policies he would follow would be his own. He said he believed in "operating the Government as economically as possible, consistent with the national defense; in maintaining the integrity of the currency; and in providing, if at all possible, balanced budgets and some surplus which might be applied against the national debt." (Amer. Bkr., 7/30 p.1)

EARNINGS BREAK THROUGH 'COST BARRIER'

Combined net income of 741 corporations analyzed by the First National City Bank of New York for the half-year ended June 30 showed a rise of $6.2 billion after taxes. About three of every five corporations scored gains, reflecting mainly high production levels, distribution, employment, national income and other over-all measures of economic activity. According to the bank's survey, contained in its monthly letter, a majority of industry groups had increases in both sales and net. However, in some lines, higher costs absorbed all the increased sales revenue. A few lines had a substantial decline in earnings because of higher costs or a lag in sales. (J. of Comm., 8/2 p.4)

STOCKS FAILED TO 'RALLY'

The long-heralded summer rally in the stock market is not much in evidence. Last Monday, stocks scored the widest decline since February; thereafter they eased irregularly. Trading slowed to a snail's pace. Prices declined on balance for the third consecutive week. July proved disappointing for investors after an impressive start. Among the unfavorable items that helped to build up the barrier were a number of first-half earnings reports. While not bad, nor entirely unexpected, they were hardly encouraging. Easier tendencies continued through the month. However, as measured by the New York Times combined average for fifty stocks, the market showed little change for July. The index was up 1.42 points--the smallest advance since December 1955. (Forrest. N. Y. Times, 8/4 III p.1)
NON-CALLABILITY  The first major new issue of non-callable corpo­rate debt securities since the Great Depression is on the market today. The offering consists of $50 million of 5-1/4% debentures of Associates Investment Company, one of the nation's leading automobile finance companies. The new debentures represent a senior obligation of the company. They will come due on August 1, 1977, and are priced at $100. They can not be redeemed before maturity except through the operation of a sinking fund. (N. Y. Times, 8/1 p.33)

REGULAR MORTGAGE  Most of the weakness in housing has been centered in the Government-backed sector of the mortgage market, the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia declared in an analysis of the fading housing boom. Veterans Administration guaranteed financing has fallen sharply since late 1955 with starts for the first quarter of 1957 down 45% from a year earlier. The Federal Housing Administration program has slowed perceptibly. Starts under conventional mortgages, however, have hardly slipped at all and since 1951 have ranged between 600,000 and 700,000 units annually. The bank said that lenders have found more profitable opportunities and have drifted away from the relatively low yielding Government-backed mortgages, especially the 4-1/2% VA's. (J. of Comm., 7/30 p.4)

BUILDING CONTRACTS  Construction contract awards in the U.S. this year will climb above the record $31.6 billion let in 1956. Thomas S. Holden, vice-chairman of F.W. Dodge Corporation, building industry statisticians, made this forecast on the basis of first half awards. They rose to nearly $17 billion—up 5% from the like 1956 period. Contracts let in June totaled $3.2 billion—10% higher than a year earlier. Residential construction contracts were below 1956 levels in both June and the first six months of this year. (Wall St. J., 7/30 p.1)

VOLUNTARY CUT  President Eisenhower called on oil importers to cut back their imports of foreign crude oil by 10% below their average crude oil imports for the years 1954, 1955 and 1956, except in the Pacific region, where no cutback was requested. The 10% cut is to apply to the second half of this year and the first half of 1958. Mr. Eisenhower called for the reduction by approving the recommendations of the "Special Committee to Investigate Crude Oil Imports". (J. of Comm., 7/31 p.1) Domestic production of crude oil will probably rise about 200,000 barrels a day to compensate for a voluntary cutback in imports called for by the Eisenhower Administration. Total im
ports to U.S. from all foreign countries would be held to 1,031,000 barrels a day, or more than 200,000 barrels a day less than importing companies had planned to obtain from outside the U.S. (Wall St. J., 7/31 p.13)

ALUMINUM UP Aluminum Co. of America will boost the price of pig aluminum a cent a pound on Thursday, August 1, to help offset higher labor costs taking effect the same day. This 4% increase brings the price of pig--primary form of the refined metal--to 26¢ a pound. Other producers are expected to follow the lead of Alcoa, which turns out 44% of this metal in the U.S. On an industry-wide basis, a penny hike would tack on upwards of $30 million annually to the price of aluminum. (Vartan. N.Y. Herald Trib., 7/30 II p.3)

Aluminium, Ltd., large Canadian producer, followed the price rise on aluminum previously announced by the "big three" U.S. companies--Aluminum Co. of America, Reynolds Metals Co. and Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corp. (Wall St. J., 8/2 p.14)

CEMENT STRIKE ENDS, SHIPMENTS BEGIN Following the end of the cement strike at many plants, mills, which have been shut down between one and two months, began heavy shipments to permit construction to be resumed on many projects. Insufficient freight cars and handling facilities at the plants will make it impossible, at some points, to take care of all shortages immediately. Heavy inventories of finished cement remain at the plants which were struck, and these stocks will be drawn upon to relieve the shortages. Cement producers believe that after strike-caused shortages are taken care of, cement supplies will be in balance with the demand for the rest of the year. As a result of the labor cost rise and other increases in production costs, pressure will be strong for an offsetting price increase of 15¢ to 25¢ a barrel. (Fish. J. of Comm., 7/30 p.1)

GOODYEAR BOOSTS TIRE PRICES The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. took the lead in what is expected to be an industry-wide price increase for tires and other rubber products. Good- year said "a price increase of 3% on tires and from 3% to 6% on its other products" would go into effect immediately. The increases will affect footwear, molded rubber products, conveyor belts, rubber fabrics, foam rubber and rubber tile. The increase means that the consumer will pay from 50¢ to $3 more for tires, depending on size and quality of construction. Goodyear was the first major rubber firm to grant a 15-cent hourly wage increase to the United Rubber Workers of America (AFL-CIO) in recent negotiations. The wage increase hikes average wages in the industry about 6%, to about $2.55 an hour. (Marshall. Cleve. Plain Dealer, 8/1 p.1)