

3,000 Montanans Lose Jobs in ABM Cutback

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By the AP

The end of antiballistic missile construction in north-central Montana has caused considerable problems already.

An estimated 3,000 people who were employed in construction of facilities around Conrad, Montana before the signing of an Arms Limitation Agreement between the US and Russia Friday are now out of work.

A meeting was planned for Tuesday at Great Falls by the operating engineers to discuss the job situation and try to find some solutions. A spokesman for the engineers said, however, they had no idea yet what could be done for all the now jobless.

The governor's manpower advisory council also was to meet in Helena, with the top item on the agenda expected to be the closing down of ABM construction and its resulting unemployment. The meeting had originally been called to discuss problems arising from the coming closure of the Bonner Lumber Mill at Missoula.

Lt. Governor Thomas Judge, meanwhile, called on the Nixon administration to take all necessary steps to indemnify Conrad residents for the losses suffered from the ending of ABM construction.

Judge, who is campaigning for the Democratic nomination for governor, said residents of Conrad who have invested in facilities that would have been required by ABM workers could be bankrupted if adequate assistance is not provided by the federal government.