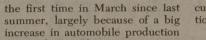
## Page 10 THE BATTALION Economy Industry output saw sixth month of decline

WASHINGTON (AP) — The output of the nation's industry fell 1 per cent in March, the sixth straight month of decline but the smallest drop since last October, the government reported Tuesday.

"This may very well be the beginning of the end of the decline," said Henry Wallich, a member of the Federal Reserve Board, which prepared the report.

Wallich told newsmen that the March figures on industrial output show the economy may be starting the turnaround expected by midyear from the current recession.

since a drop of six-tenths of 1 per



during the month. But the one per cent decline in over-all output by the nation's factories, mines and utilities meant the nation's industry was producing 12.1 per cent less in March than it

was a year earlier. The nation's industrial production index in March stood at 109.6 per cent of the 1967 average of 100, down from the record production levels of 125.8 in June of last year. The March decrease was the

smallest since a six-tenths of one per cent decline in October, when the

current six-month slide in production began.

The reduced rate of decline appeared largely due to an increase in auto assemblies during March, which increased 24 per cent to an annual rate of 5.6 million units. The rate in February was 4.6 million units The board said that although total

sales of new domestic autos declined following the end to the industry-wide auto rebate program in February, sales nevertheless exceeded output in March and dealers' stocks were reduced even further from February Output of other durable goods,

such as appliances and furniture, was little changed in March following steep declines in previous months. Production of nondurable goods, such as food and clothing, also showed little change.

But production of business equipment and industrial materials continued to decline, with production of metals, equipment parts, paper and chemical materials all dropping. The March decline in over-all

output, following February's drop of 2.6 per cent and January's decline of 3.4 per cent, put the annual rate of production decline during the first three months of 1975 at 33 per

cent, compared to a rate of decline in the fourth quarter of 1974 of 13.1 invoke emergency action to block a and Ford. per cent.

Government economists have predicted that the worst of the recession may have occurred in the first three months of 1975 and that the recession will end in the current quarter, with a turnaround in the economy beginning about midyear.

However, the nation's unemployment rate is expected to rise higher than the 8.7 per cent level for March and industry will not begin hiring back workers until several months after the economic recovery has started.

tomakers reported April car sales In other major economic news:

Clerks.

dairy price supports and the price

-Three of the nation's major au-

floors for cotton, wheat and corn.

-President Ford is expected to They are General Motors, Chrysle national strike threatened Friday -The stock market kept its latest against the railroads by the

upsurge going with a solid advance Brotherhood of Railway and Airline in heavy trading. -A presidential spokesman said F

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the Ford administration opposes a -A circuit court in Omaha, House-passed bill aimed at protect-Neb., ruled that the Agriculture Department will have to wait at ing the unemployed from losing least 45 days before it can impletheir homes through mortgage ment new beef grading standards./ foreclosures. -Senate and House conferees

-The Department of Housing and Urban Development said the administration has taken so long approved a new farm bill raising launching a new program of housing assistance for the poor that about 160,000 families have lost their chance to take part.

