

the greater life expectancy of women, which had lengthened by 23.0 years during the first half of the century compared with an increase of 19.4 years for men.^{3/}

2. In California

The "population explosion" which came to California with the gold rush swelled the number of inhabitants 310 percent in the ten years between 1850 and 1860.^{4/} California has not always been the fastest growing state, but her population has grown at least three times as fast as the total population of the United States in most decades since 1900.^{5/} From that year to 1950, the California population increased six-fold, while the nation's population did not quite double.

In the decade from 1950 to 1960 the older age groups stayed at approximately the same proportion of the total California population while the proportion at younger age levels mounted.

- . Women remained at about 50 percent of the total population, and increased in number by about 49 percent. Unlike the national pattern,^{6/} the greatest rate of increase in the number of women (70.6 percent) was in the under 25 group.^{7/} Women in the 65-plus group gained in numbers by over 55 percent, attaining a ratio to men of 127 to 100.
- . Although the age group 25-44 grew by about 29 percent in numbers, its proportion to the State's total population dropped from 32.0 percent to 27.8 percent.
- . Similarly, the age group 45-64 gained 37 percent in size, but dropped from 21.6 to 20.0 percent of the State's population.

B. EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG OLDER WORKERS

1. United States

Persistent unemployment continues to be one of the nation's most vexing problems. In spite of large increases in output and employment during recent years, an average of 4.2 million persons were unemployed throughout the nation in 1963.^{8/} During that year, the nation's gross national product approached 600 billion dollars^{9/} and the civilian labor force went over the 72 million mark.^{10/} Nevertheless, 5.7 percent of the civilian labor force was unemployed. Another 3.6 percent of the labor force was employed part time, although desiring full-time work.

About a quarter of the unemployed were out of work for 15 weeks or longer during 1963, and more than half a million