



FATHER JOSEPH M. BECKER, SJ

(DECEASED)

**PRIEST, ECONOMIST, PROFESSOR, AND
AUTHOR OF NUMEROUS BOOKS RELATED
TO UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (UI)
POLICY**

ACHIEVEMENT: Providing state and federal policy makers with rigorous analysis and articulate explanations of issues related to unemployment insurance financing and benefits. He is most known for his analysis of experience rating of employers' unemployment taxes, an approach which is unique to the U.S. system of UI taxation.

As a young priest, Father Becker was faced with the choice of working directly with those in need or working to help them through support of social benefit programs. He was a strong supporter of the UI program and the adequacy of the benefits it provided. His doctoral dissertation, which was published in 1961, focused on the problem of abuse in the payment of UI benefits. One of Father Becker's objectives was to correct social injustice, and he worked diligently to do this in the area of unemployment insurance. A theme in his books was the need to help the unemployed, and how to build and strengthen the mechanisms that achieved that goal.

In his most renowned book on UI financing (*Experience Rating in Unemployment Insurance*), he provided what is still considered one of the finest philosophical and quantitative defenses for varying a business' tax rate based on its level of layoffs.

In his role as Vice Chairman of the Federal Advisory Council on Unemployment Insurance, Father Becker is widely remembered for his ability to make complex issues understandable for everyone.