

Opinions

Lower summer wage considered

By Cliff Blue
Secretary of Labor Raymond Donovan is asking Congress again this year to approve a lower wage for youth in summer.

Instead of paying them the minimum adult wage of \$3.35 per hour, he suggests \$2.50. Donovan calls this wage a "summer youth opportunity" wage. He thinks it would translate into many jobs for the young this summer. He doesn't think it would displace regular workers.

Donovan says the minimum wage should not be raised at the present time. Those who would suffer most, he says, are those at the bottom of the wage scale ladder.

If millions of young people are helped, and regular workers aren't displaced as a result, summer minimum wages might become a permanent feature of the U.S. economic system. It could also help bring prices down and make some U.S. products more competitive.

MAJORITY OR MINORITY?
... The Rev. Jesse Jackson is currently advocating abolishment of runoffs. Jackson says the runoff system often prevents minority candidates from winning seats in Congress and other offices. If the leading candidate were the winner, with no runoff, a minority or black candidate would win more state and federal elective jobs when several candidates run, Jackson points out.

But many members of Congress say the runoff is a democratic feature. If it allows the majority candidate to win, that's what elections are all about, they argue.

Jackson thinks fifteen or more black members of Congress might

People and Issues

be elected if congressional district election runoffs are abolished. But that would be a long constitutional process; chances of any such change are considered thin!

SMOKING DOWN... According to a poll commissioned by the American Cancer Society the number of American adults who smoke dropped to 29 percent in 1983, down from 37 percent three years earlier.

Middle-aged men who are heavy smokers will suffer an average of \$59,000 each in extra medical bills and lost earnings during their lifetime, according to a study of the hidden costs of cigarettes.

MONEY... The Federal government spent \$2,932 per American in 1983, with Virginia residents doing the best and North Carolina collecting the lowest amount per person, the Census bureau reported recently.

ONE IN FIVE... One out of five children and one out of two black children now live in poverty stricken families in America, according to a study released recently by a House committee.

THE WEATHER... Do inverted air masses cause tornadoes? Is the cause of tornadoes known and understood?

The varied causes of tornadoes are not fully understood -- even with all the modern scientific

knowledge at our disposal. The theory that inverted air masses produce tornadoes is one of several. This theory holds that heavier air, pouring down, gets turned or twisted in a whirlwind manner and creates one or more tornadoes.

The inversion and the air masses might cover an area of a hundred miles or more, while the small tornadoes created might be separated by many miles, each less than a mile in diameter and some never touching the surface of the earth.

The tornado which came upon Eastern North Carolina on March 28, 1984, was the most destructive ever known in North Carolina within the knowledge of living Tar Heels.

JEFFERSON... Thomas Jefferson, one of the giants of the nation's founding fathers, was born April 13 (old Style April 2) in 1743, at Shadwell Virginia. Jefferson, more than any other man, drafted the Declaration of Independence -- as a member of the Continental Congress.

Letters Policy

Letters to the editor are encouraged and welcomed. Writers should keep letters as short as possible. Names, addresses and telephone numbers should be included and all letters must be signed. Names will be printed, however, other information will be kept confidential. We reserve the right to edit letters for good taste and brevity. Letters should be received by *The News-Journal* by noon on the Monday of the publication week.

Letters To The Editor

Help for Red Springs was appreciated

To the Editor:
On Wednesday evening March 28, Red Springs, along with several communities in North and South Carolina, suffered terrible losses. It's so hard to imagine the devastation a natural disaster can carry, unless you are there to experience it.

We are now in the process of trying to pull our lives, homes and businesses back together. Without

your support it would have been a much longer process. Your prayers, clothing, money and contribution of time was and is greatly appreciated. There are good people everywhere, and they all came to the aid of Red Springs during our crisis.

A simple thank you seems so insignificant. It is so hard to express, in words, the gratitude that we in Red Springs feel.

From the bottom of our hearts we sincerely thank you.
Red Springs
Chamber of Commerce

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AT Hoke County Public Library

Hoke County Heritage Hobnob Arts Festival		
Monday	9:00 until 8:00	Arts and Crafts Display 7:30 Jazz Concert Reception following concert sponsored by Hoke County Public Library Board of Trustees
Tuesday	9:00 until 5:30	Arts and Crafts Display 7:30 Concert by Diane Upchurch Guthrie and Joy Coswell Reception following concert sponsored by Chaminade Music Club
Wednesday	9:00 until 5:30	Arts and Crafts Display 8:30 until 10:30 Performance by storyteller and dramatist for all kindergarten, first and second graders in the Hoke County School System. 11:00 until 11:30 Performance by storyteller and dramatist for community - children and adults welcome
Thursday	9:00 until 5:30	Arts and Crafts Display 12:15 until 12:45 Blue Grass Band Concert on lawn of Hoke County Public Library. Sandwich plate catered by Mrs. J.W. Walker on sale for \$1.00. Bring a lawn chair and picnic to music.
Friday	9:00 until 5:30	Arts and Crafts Display 10:00 until 2:00 Music provided by Olive Jenkins, harpist from Durham, North Carolina.

RE-ELECT

John C. "Pete" HASTY

N.C. State HOUSE

on May 8, 1984

VOTE HASTY



"Like everything else, They got off to a great start."

Farmers share of market slipping

During 1983, consumers spent \$312 billion for foods produced on U.S. farms -- about 4% more than in 1982. This amount included purchases of farm foods both in foodstores, roughly two-thirds of the total, and at away-from-home eating places.

For several years, statistics showed that farmers got an average of 32 cents out of every dollar we spend in the supermarket or restaurant. That was bad enough when you consider what each individual farmer has invested. However, government data for 1982 indicated that the 32 cents

had dropped to only 28 cents. Now, government statistics for 1983 show that this figure has now slipped to 27 cents.

The remaining \$228 billion -- the marketing bill -- that we spent on food went to the food industry for handling, processing, and retailing foodstuffs after they left the farm. The marketing bill was up by \$12 billion in 1983, and thus accounted for virtually all of the year's increase in expenditures for farm food.

About \$6 billion of the \$12 billion rise in the marketing bill can be traced to labor costs. Packaging, transportation and

energy added another \$2 billion.

Farm value percentage vary greatly among foods. The farm value contributes more to the retail price of meats, poultry, eggs and dairy products than it does for most other foods.

The farm value of most foods that come from crops represents a small share of the retail price. For example, the farmers' share of a 54.2 cent one pound loaf of bread amounts to about a nickel.

Unfortunately, the farm-to-retail price spread continues to widen with the difference between farm prices and retail prices rising 2.5% in 1983.



PICTURE NORTH CAROLINA 1984

A Juried Black and White Photography Show

Sponsored by The News-Journal

Picture North Carolina will be held May 5 in conjunction with the Hoke County Heritage Hobnob Festival. The event will be open to both professional and amateur photographers who are residents of North Carolina.

The contest will include five categories: Landscape (including seascapes) sponsored by **United Carolina Bank**, Historical North Carolina (sponsored by **Heritage Federal Savings**), Wildlife (sponsored by **Southeast Production Credit Assoc.**), Creative (sponsored by the **Hoke County Chamber of Commerce**), and People (sponsored by the **Hoke County Public Library**).

- All photographs must include, on the back, the name, address and phone number of the maker, and must be signed by the maker and titled. No photographs will be accepted which have been signed and titled on the front of the print.
- All historical category photographs must give the location and description of the subject.
- All prints must have been exposed by the maker, but can be processed either personally or commercially.
- All prints must be matted, but not framed. Mat boards should be no larger than 16x20 and not smaller than 8x10. Photographers are limited to six prints. A fee of \$1 per print should accompany each entry.
- All entries must include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with enough postage to cover the return of the prints.
- The Southern National Bank \$150 Purchase Award will be awarded to the photograph judged to be the best entry in the show.
- Prizes of \$50 each will be awarded to photographers judged to have the best print in each of the categories. A photographer may win the purchase award and a category award for the same print.
- Honorable Mention awards of \$10 will also be given.
- All entries must be received by April 30.
- Judging, by three members of The Photographic Society of America or other qualified judges, will be conducted May 5. Winners will be announced May 5.
- All entries will be displayed at the Hoke County Library, May 6 to June 1.
- The News-Journal assumes no liability for prints which are lost or damaged.
- The News-Journal also reserves the right to publish any or all of the winning or honorable mention prints. Maker's name will be included in that publication.

For further information, write or call
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