

Commissioner Of Labor Crane Favors Minimum 75-Cent Hourly Wage Bill

Says Law Will Raise Living Standards In State

The administration-sponsored State Minimum Wage bill (Senate Bill 157), which would establish a 75-cent hourly wage floor for Tar Heel workers in intrastate industry, has the solid support and endorsement of State Labor Commissioner Frank Crane.

"Such a law will raise the standard of living of some 90,000 North Carolina employees who currently receive less than 75 cents an hour and will benefit the economy of the State by increasing available purchasing power," Commissioner Crane declared today.

The bill was introduced in the Senate on March 21 by Senators R. Lee Whitmore of Hendersonville, John G. Dawson of Kinston, Richard G. Long of Roxboro and J. Spencer Bell of Charlotte.

"We have been interested in a State Minimum Wage Law for North Carolina during several past legislative sessions," Crane said. "We have observed increasing interest and favorable sentiment toward such a statute on the part of members of the General Assembly."

"Many groups, such as the State Legislative Council with its 300,000 members in affiliated clubs and organizations, have supported efforts to secure the enactment of a Minimum Wage Law. For many years past the press of North Carolina has done much towards educating and enlightening the public concerning the pressing need for such a law."

Crane recalled that on March 1, 1956, the minimum wage moved up from 75 cents to \$1.00 an hour for employees working in interstate industries covered by the Federal Wage and Hour Law. Of the 600,000 or more Tar Heel workers covered by the Federal law, about 160,000 received pay increases at that time, he said.

"Many employers who in the past have looked askance at such legislation have reappraised its effects and are now lending their full support to its enactment," Crane stated.

"A minimum wage of 75 cents an hour for those workers not covered by the Federal law would not bring undue hardship upon the affected industries. It would not have an unfavorable impact upon the local service and retail establishments which would be principally affected. On the contrary, it would work to eliminate unfair competition."

"This bill is practical and realistic. Its effects would not be disruptive. The minimum wage figure it sets is not so high that it would tend to curtail employment opportunities. Nor would the bill as introduced cause any change in the hours of work permitted or entail any additional record keeping besides that which has been required by law in North Carolina for the last 20 years."

"This measure should be one of the real factors in helping to raise the low per-capita income of North Carolina," Crane continued. "An employee working 40 hours a week under the minimum wage set by this bill would earn at least \$1,500 per year. His earnings would be \$264—or 21 per cent—higher than our State's 1955 per capita income of \$1,236 which placed us in 44th position among the States."

Uniquely among State Labor Departments, said Commissioner Crane, the North Carolina Department of Labor has had the experience of administering the Federal Wage and Hour Law in this State for the last 18 years and thus has rolled up a long background of experience and training in administering wage legislation.

"The effective date of this bill being January 1, 1958," Crane added, "this will allow time for affected industry to become fully informed and acquainted with the application of such a law and to make advance plans for necessary wage adjustments."

"ROYAL WEDDING" FRIDAY

"Royal Wedding" will be presented at the Kadesh A.M.E. Zion Church Friday, night, March 29, at 8 o'clock. A small admission will be charged and the public is cordially invited.



NOT IN NEMO'S WILDEST DREAMS—A deadly thing beneath the ocean's surface will be this first atomic submarine capable of firing guided missiles. This sketch shows the vessel shooting one of the weapons from its deck. The Westinghouse Electric Corporation, under contract with the U.S. Navy, is designing the nuclear propulsion plant, the same company which supplied the power plant for the first atomic sub, the USS Nautilus. The ship will be 346 feet long and have a beam of 29 feet.

PTA Meeting Held Demonstration Club Schedule For April At White Oak School

The Parent-Teacher Association of White Oak School held its regular meeting Tuesday, March 19, with many parents present. The social activity for the evening was an "Age Rally." Each member paid a penny per year, and fun was had by all.

On Saturday morning, March 30 at 10:30 o'clock the White Oak School will appear on the "Kiddie Corner" program — Channel 9, Greenville, N. C. N. C. TV, under the direction of Mrs. Elizabeth Woodruff Paul.

Demonstration Club Schedule For April

Miss Maired Morris, Chowan home demonstration agent, announces the following calendar for April for Chowan County home demonstration clubs:

- April 1—2:30 P. M.: Advance Club, Community Building.
- April 2—7:30 P. M.: Rocky Hock Club, Mrs. O. C. Long, Jr., hostess.
- April 3—7:30 P. M.: Gum Pond Club, Mrs. Z. T. Evans, hostess.
- April 9—7:30 P. M.: Beech Fork, Mrs. Linwood Layton, hostess.
- April 10—2:30 P. M.: Wards Club, Community Building.
- April 11—2:30 P. M.: Enterprise Club, Community Building.

Club, Community Building. April 12—7:30 P. M.: Benefit barbecue supper, Oak Grove Community Building.

April 15—2:30 P. M.: Chowan Club, Community Building.

April 16—7:30 P. M.: Center Hill Club, Community Building.

April 17—2:30 P. M.: Byrd Club, Mrs. Jim Swindell, hostess.

April 23—7:30 P. M.: Rocky Hock Club, Mrs. Kermit Perry, hostess.

April 23—2:30 P. M.: Ryland Club, Mrs. John E. Copeland, hostess.

April 24—2:00 P. M.: Pickle demonstration, Chowan Community Building.

April 25—7:30 P. M.: Oak Grove Jr., born Saturday, March 23.

Club, Community Building. April 23-May 4: National Home Demonstration Club Week.

Edenton Firemen Answer Three Calls During February

Fire Chief W. J. Yates reports that three fires occurred during February, one of which was in Edenton and two out of town.

For the Edenton fire the firemen were out one hour, and were out three hours for the out-of-town fires. In Edenton the firemen traveled two miles and out-of-town 55 miles. While no hose was laid in Edenton, 300 feet were laid in the county.

For the Edenton fire 23 volunteers responded and 46 responded for the rural fires. Property involved in town was estimated at \$18,000 and \$16,000 in the county. Insurance in Edenton was \$10,000 and out of town \$12,000.

Damage amounted to only \$25, which was caused by the rural fires. Firemen were on the air 10 seconds for the Edenton fire and 20 seconds for the out-of-town fires. They held three fire drills, extended two courtesies and assisted at the recent plane crash at Hertford.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Davenport announce the birth of an 8-pound, 9-ounce son, Linwood Earl Davenport, born Saturday, March 23.

State Employees To Meet On April 5th

There will be a special joint meeting of the North Carolina State Employees' Association and the State Highway Employees' Association at 8:00 P. M., Friday, April 5, in the court room of the Pitt County Court House, Greenville, N. C.

This meeting is being called in order that all state employees may be brought up to date on happenings in the Legislature with regards to salary increases.

Speakers will be Ralph Monger, president, North Carolina State Employees' Association; Ivan Hardisty, president, State Highway Employees' Association; Clifton Beckwith, executive secretary, North Carolina State Employees' Association; and Otis Banks, executive secretary, State Highway Employees' Association.

This is a most important meeting inasmuch as each state employee is affected.

Alike

Mrs. Chatterton — I hope you have enjoyed this afternoon as a guest of the Superwoman's Club.

Mr. Grimm—I have, indeed! It reminds me so much of my camp in the woods. Out there the brooks babble, too.

It is error alone which needs the support of government. Truth can stand by itself. —Thos. Jefferson

Five Top Teams In Bridge Marathon

At the conclusion of round 15 in the bridge marathon sponsored by the Chowan Hospital Auxiliary, Mrs. Earl Goodwin and Mrs. J. W. Davis continue to hold the lead.

Scores of the five top teams at the end of the 15th round are as follows:

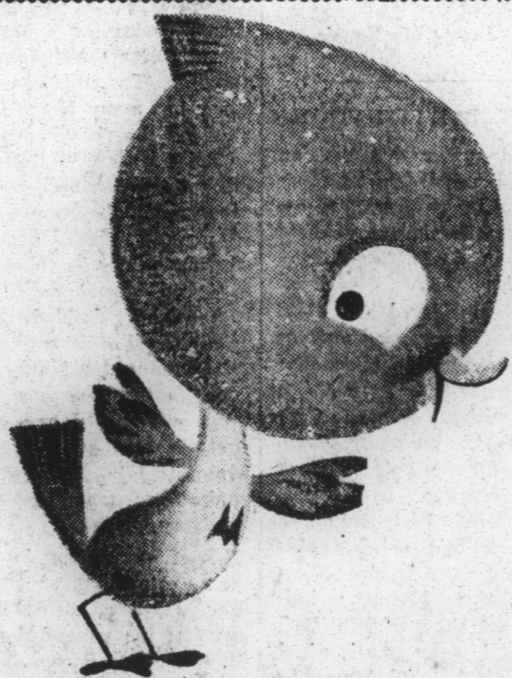
- First—Mrs. Earl Goodwin and Mrs. J. W. Davis. Score, 53,020.
- Second—Dr. Richard Hardin and Joe Thorud. Score, 50,620.
- Third—Medlin Belch and Al Phillips. Score, 49,110.
- Fourth—Mrs. L. A. Patterson and Mrs. W. B. Rosevear. Score, 47,360.
- Fifth—Mrs. A. M. Forehand and Mrs. H. A. Campen. Score, 45,550.

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