

Complicated Provisions Of New Wage-Hour Act Require Interpretation By Courts

By JAMES MARLOW

WASHINGTON, (AP)—You're an employer. There's a new minimum wage-hour law. You want to know right now precisely what each item in it means and how it affects you, your business, your employees.

At this moment no one can give an answer saying what the law means in every possible case. Generally, this much is true:

Most employees, employers and businesses covered by the old law, which was passed in 1938, are covered by the new law. But the new law has removed some people from coverage and has made some other changes as well.

The outstanding change: Every employee covered by the law now must be paid a minimum of 75 cents an hour. Under the old law the minimum was 40 cents.

But there were other changes, some of them stated in such clear language by congress that no one can misunderstand them. For example:

A public telephone exchange, and its operators, are exempt from the minimum wage and overtime provisions of the law if that exchange services less than 750 stations.

A number of other businesses and their employees are also exempt, clearly, under the new law.

But the law's effect on other businesses and their employees is far less clear. It's so unclear, in fact, that it probably will take years before court decisions say precisely what the effect is in different cases.

That's why—because of lack of clarity in the law—the wage-hour administration experts, who interpret the law and lay down the rules, can't at this time give opinions covering every possible case.

So, if you have any doubts as to how this new law affects you, your business or your workers, do one of two things:

1. Ask the wage-hour administration for a ruling in your case.
2. Ask your lawyer.

In the Revolutionary War the city of Norwalk, Conn., now an important hat making center, was almost completely burned by the British.



DEMOLAY COUNCILLORS, named Thursday night, at a selection of officers, include (front row, left to right), Dave Taylor, Dwight Raines Sr., Clyde Chitwood, Back Row, Bill Unrath, A. C. McGehey, Andy Anderson, Byron Stearns.—(Picture by Paul Jenkins).

American Is Accused Of Beating Chinese

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 31.—(AP) The Chinese communists today accused U. S. Consul General Angus Ward and other members of the Mukden consulate of brutally beating a Chinese workman and declaring they must answer to a communist "people's court."

Ward and his staff of nine have been virtual prisoners since the communists captured Mukden last November.

The State department last May ordered him to close the consulate, and he has been able to acknowledge the order but has been unable to get transportation.

The charges today were aired by the communist radio in Peiping and heard in San Francisco by the Associated Press.

The broadcast said the beating occurred Oct. 10 and that the man beaten was a Chinese employe. Besides Ward, it named as participants "R. Rehberg," an Italian, "F. Ciogna," a Japanese-American Shiro Yatsumi, and "a Krista," not otherwise identified.

Rehberg is Ralph C. Rehberg, a consular clerk from Rochester, N. Y.

reporting this today, said the prices of all major items contributing to city living costs went up except clothing.

The rise, however, still left the price level three percent below the all-time peak of September a year ago. It was 27 percent higher than in June, 1948, and 72 percent above August, 1939.

Red Barber, nationally known as a sports announcer, began his

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Dried Oregon Prunes To Be Shipped To Norway

PORTLAND, (AP)—Norway will get 310 tons of dried Oregon prunes, to leave here on the motorship Abraham Lincoln which is bringing Norwegian fertilizer to Oregon farms.

The vessel is expected with a cargo of calcium nitrate fertilizer, produced by the Norsk Hydro plant in Norway.

W. J. Broadhead, Department of Agriculture representative here, said the prunes are being exported under the government's dried fruit program.

Both the incoming fertilizer and outgoing prunes are the first such cargo to be exchanged between Norway and the port here in 15 years.

radio career as a student announcer at station WRUF of the University of Florida.

GAS PRICES TO DROP

SPOKANE, Oct. 31.—(AP)—A drop in retail gasoline prices is in the offing for Inland Empire points, Sydney Cackette, secretary of the Washington State Gas dealers' association, said Thursday.

Cackette was not able to say if the reduction would affect points outside the eastern Washington northern Idaho area, or how much the reduction would be.

Several oil companies have promised a reduction, Cackette said, and dealers have agreed that the decrease will be passed on to the driving public.

LOGGER KILLED
GRANTS PASS, Oct. 31.—(AP)—Charles Derflinger, 55, of Medford, was crushed to death while bucking logs in the Willimas creek area Thursday. His body, jammed between two logs, was found by another workman.

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September Living Cost Rise Heaviest Of Year

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31.—(AP)—The cost of living rose one-half of one percent in September, the largest monthly increase in consumer prices for a year.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics,

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