



Mitchell May Ask Minimum Wage for Workers on Farms

Washington—UPI—Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell says he may ask Congress in January to approve a minimum wage for farm workers. He said he is now awaiting a report from labor department experts, due by Jan. 1, on the feasibility of a federal floor under wages in agriculture.

If the study shows that such a procedure is practical and sound, Mitchell said, he will recommend that Congress approve it.

Any such suggestion is bound to run into roadblocks erected by farm-state con-

gressmen and the powerful American Farm Bureau federation.

Mitchell already has incurred the opposition of farm organizations and his fellow cabinet member, Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson.

Regulations Tightened

He recently ordered a tightening of regulations governing the U.S. employment service designed to improve wages and housing and transportation for migrant workers recruited across state lines.

His opponents asserted the directives were "illegal, im-

practical and immoral" but Mitchell stuck by his guns and got backing of Attorney General William P. Rogers in a legal ruling.

Mitchell told United Press International that hired farm workers, whose average income in 1957 was less than \$900, have no one else in government to look out for their interests if the secretary of labor doesn't speak up.

"Yet the political pressures on me are just terrific," he said, "I've never seen anything like it."

Minimum Wage Necessary

Mitchell said dozens of congressmen, mostly Democrats but including a few of his fellow Republicans, tried to talk him into abandoning his campaign to improve conditions of the migrants and other farm hands.

"The migrant farm worker can never take his place as a partner in American life unless he enjoys the protection of a minimum wage of some kind," he said. He said he does not know what kind or amount of a minimum would be feasible yet, however.

Mitchell said he has found that extreme competition between growers of beans, cotton, beets and similar crops tends to keep wages depressed.

"If any single employer tries to improve conditions too dramatically he puts himself in a weaker competitive position," he explained.

The outspoken cabinet officer has the support of the AFL-CIO, all major church groups, social agencies and some employers in his help-the-migrants campaign. But he still faces a battle within the administration.

Practical Results Stressed

He stressed the practical results of such a policy in his discussions with farm groups and congressmen. For example, he pointed out that higher wages for farm workers would be a boon to the economy of cities and towns in the farm belt.

He also said a minimum wage for hired hands also would help the small family farmer, since he now must compete with the low-paid labor used on big, corporation-owned farms.

Mitchell's efforts on the farm front have won him praise from unexpected quarters. A union official who frequently has denounced him for failure to act in this area recently wrote:

"You are the first public official of cabinet rank who has even dared to speak about those who are at the bottom of the agricultural ladder.

"The complacency of government officials about the problems of farm workers, including some of your predecessors, has been harder to take than the greed of large farm employers and the stupidity of the smaller farmers."



A BOY AND HIS DOG—Lost and lonely, a boy sits silently with his dog at Santa Monica, Calif., police headquarters after officers found him wandering near the city yards. After an hour, his mother came for him and explained that Christopher Petticoat, 3, had strayed from the family's trailer home. —(UPI Telephoto)

Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn M. Watkins

Elimination of Productive Land Can Be Costly

In today's world we insist on the construction of super-highways, but we may have to pay a price—a cost above and beyond the cost of construction and maintenance.

A super highway, with four or more lanes and wide shoulders running from one state line to the next and on beyond, takes millions of acres of tillable land out of production. Back of the shoulders and along the entire length of the road, other millions of acres will be developed into subdivisions—more land out of production. Every road, regardless of how long or how short, must cross fertile land somewhere along its course.

Can't Get Larger

We have, within the limits of our country, our state or our county, all the land area we will ever have. We can't make it any larger. We are going to have to get along forever with what we now have. Basically, all life, man or animal, must depend on the good earth and what it can produce. We may kid ourselves into believing that our bread comes from the bakery, our beef and pork from the deep-freeze, our milk from the dairy. But they don't. All must come from the land. Without the productivity of the soil, all of humanity would starve to death.

In some sections of America today, city and state governments are beginning to look with startled eyes at the destruction of productive land.

Many other sleepy civic agencies are going to awaken some day to find our natural resources gone beyond recall.

There are many thinking people who foresee the outcome, and agree that some sort of drastic control is badly needed to prevent the wholesale destruction of farms and pasture land that is productive, and can better serve future America if it is left as it is, rather than fall under the axe or bulldozer. There are many areas unsuited for farms or pasture that can be used for the construction of shopping centers, oil stations, hot dog stands or subdivisions.

It's Basic

But there are many fertile areas that certainly should be left as they are. Industrialization of the corn fields may sound like a big deal to those making a profit from the industry, but no one can eat the product of any machine. Food is a pretty basic thing. So far, Nature alone has been able to produce it.

Whether you manufacture aspirin tablets or shoe laces, balance figures in a book, repair automobiles or build houses, it makes no difference at all—the land, and what it produces, dictates whether you, as well as the rest of the human race, survives or perishes. Over development, in a gland, a tree, a heap of yeast, a highway, or even a community can become an abnormality.

(Released by The Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1959)

Stations Involved In Payola Said in Serious Jeopardy

Washington—UPI—Federal Communications Commissioner Robert E. Lee has warned that radio and television station owners who have condoned payola practices are in "serious jeopardy" of losing their licenses.

Lee, one of the seven-member board which polices the broadcasting industry, said that under-the-table payments to disc jockeys for "sneak" commercials would be a direct violation of FCC regulations.

He said an avowal by station owners of "well, I didn't know," would not be an excuse.

In addition, there have been charges that "sneaky commercials" have crept into broadcasting whereby a performer is paid for plugging non-sponsored product on his show.

trying to avoid these abuses." Lee noted the FCC has jurisdiction only over the station owner, but added: "We do however require that he know what's going on. What I am trying to say is we do not let him say, 'Well, I didn't know' as an excuse."

On the subject of TV quiz scandals, the FCC official said "In retrospect, I honestly say we should have moved faster." He also said he is now changing his mind and believes Congress should legislate to correct abuses revealed by house investigators.

Lee said it might be advisable to give the FCC greater control over the networks. However, he expressed "very serious concern about getting into any degree of censor-

County Health Officer To Annual Convention

Dr. C. I. Drummond, Jackson county public health officer, plans to attend the annual convention of county and city health officers in Portland Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Questions of public health and sanitation will be discussed at the meeting. The various public health officers are required by law to attend the meeting, Dr. Drummond explained.

In Serious Jeopardy

In discussing payola, Lee said: "I consider this a direct violation of the communications act... which requires that sponsorship be announced, and this would put the stations involved in serious jeopardy."

The commissioner acknowledged, however, that various factors will be considered by the FCC in imposing penalties, including "the reasonableness of management in

Pickin' Pears News and Notes From Camp White

By SID HOLLINGSWORTH

The Christmas season is the one time of the year that is always remembered by those who have established and supported the program of aid and comfort to the men who carried the burden of battle in time of war.

The institution of distributing gifts to veterans is one that has been carried out consistently since the first Veterans administration hospital was opened.

Service organizations were first to recognize the Christmas season as an occasion for visiting the sick and disabled and distributing special gifts to the many whose home ties were severed by the great "misfortune" of war.

Today this spirit of recognition is manifested in the elaborate programs worked out by the VA Volunteer Services.

Camp White is no exception to this rule and starting Dec. 7, the period finds some special event scheduled up to and including Christmas Day, when the VFW auxiliary visits each building to distribute their unique fruit basket to all the members.

On Monday, Dec. 21, the various units of the VAVS distribute the gifts which have been prepared by them, at 7 p.m. At this time, Caesar Muzzioli furnishes Christmas music with his accordion group. Appropriate music is also provided by other visiting singers and musical groups.

To most of the men living at the domiciliary, this one event means more than any other celebration during the entire year, with its sentiment as well as its significance in reminding them that they are not forgotten.

Some of the special events include Christmas wreath and swag making by Garden club members. Addressing Christmas cards by Gold Star Mothers, Christmas Gift shop, Veterans of Foreign Wars auxiliary, wrapping gifts by special committee, Polly Offut, American Legion auxiliary in charge, distribution of trees by engineering division for decoration by VAVS representatives, annual visit of Dorris, Calif., VFW delegation, visit of Junior Red Cross group with decorations, and Christmas party for children living on the station.

Time limits on special benefits for Korea and World War II veterans are emphasized by S. T. Brannock, VA contact officer here. WW II veterans must apply for their GI loans by July 25, 1960. Korean veterans have until 1965, but for training under the GI bill, they must be in school within three years of discharge.

Although there have been a number of changes in chaplains here, both Catholic and Protestant denominations have been represented respectively by the same schools of religion.

Catholic chaplains have been supplied by the Mt. Angel Abbey since the domiciliary was opened in 1949. The Rev. Lawrence Eskay, the present chaplain, has been here five years.

Four Protestant ministers

have officiated as chaplains, under the evangelical wing of the Baptist church. The Rev. Roger Pryor, incumbent Protestant chaplain, served in both world wars and studied for the ministry at Baylor university, Waco, Tex.

Veterans at the domiciliary do a considerable amount of worrying about their weight. Some are trying to reduce while others think they are losing too much.

A penny weighing machine handled by the canteen service shows an average of 40 persons out of 1,000 population, check their weight daily. This does not include those using scales available at the domiciliary clinic.

Teen-agers have joined the ranks of VA volunteers throughout the country in training for hospital activities, according to a recent announcement.

During the past summer, thousands of high school children served as volunteers in VA hospitals from coast to coast, receiving a special diploma for this extra-curricular work, Manager H. C. Herzog explained.

At the Camp White domiciliary, youngsters contribute in entertainment and interest with art and music throughout the year, he added.

There are three or four members who like to review various phases of all the wars, with "General" Jackson, who speaks not only with authority but at times as an actual participant.

They were discussing the Revolutionary War. "Now there was the time that Washington crossed the Delaware—"

"I remember the occasion well," Jackson interposed.

"I was living along the Delaware then, had a boat house, and was doing a good business. It was a bitter cold night. How well I remember.

"But you know, Washington never did pay me for those boats he borrowed."

Medford Health Club Closed for Business

The Medford Health Club, 3 West Sixth st., closed for business Saturday, Dec. 5, for an indefinite period, club officials reported today. Closure was due to lack of patronage, it was explained.

The club has been operated by the BW Company, Eugene, who took over its operation in mid-March.

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ship." He also raised the possibility of giving the FCC greater latitude in imposing punishments on stations for violations. At present, either outright revocation or refusal to renew licenses for a full three years are the only punitive courses open to the agency.

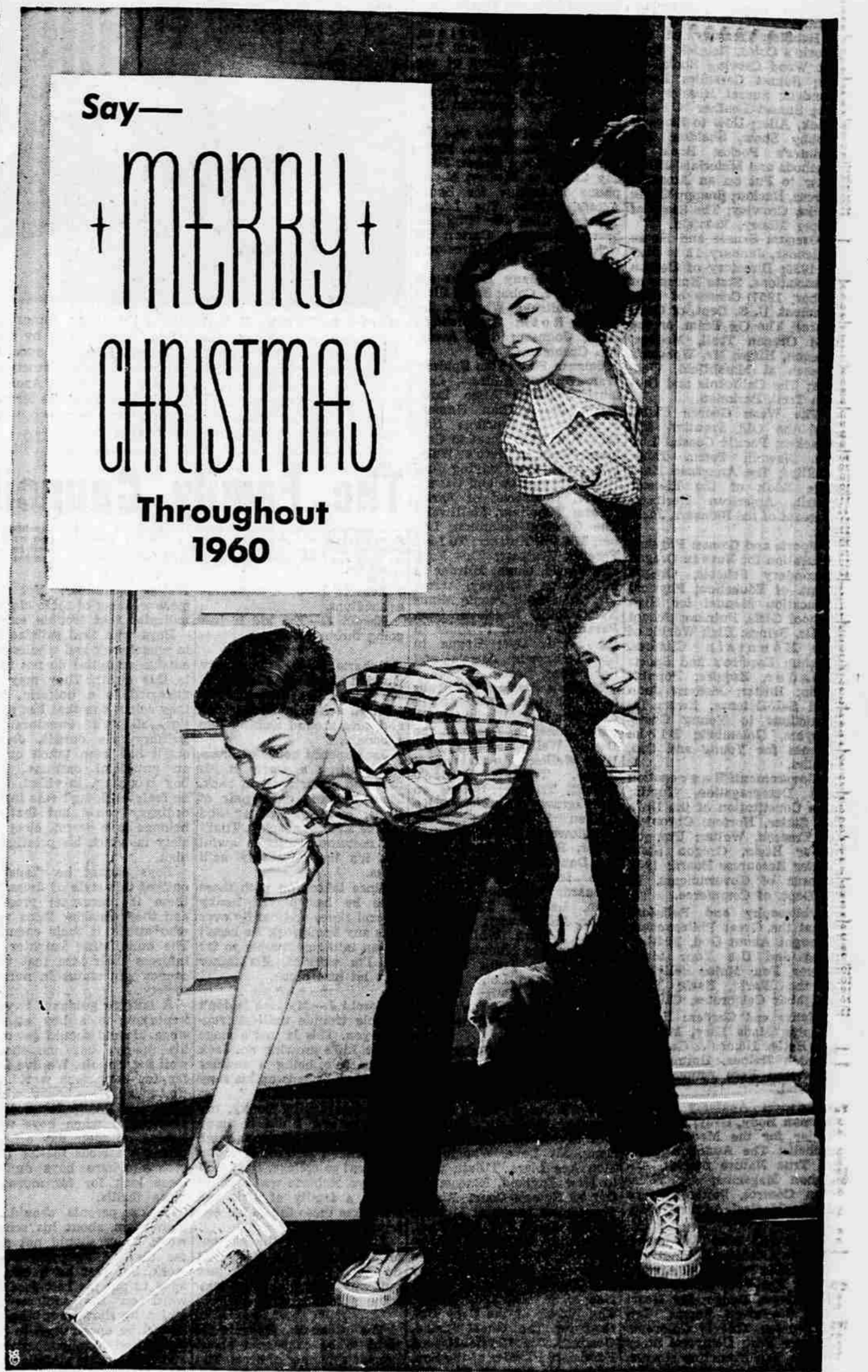
Lee said he favored a possible probationary action or a short-term renewal of license for one or two years with a warning that the station must take clean-up measures. He also suggested the possibility of fines against station owners where it would "have a pretty drastic

effect on their pocketbooks." Lee recommended greater insistence that more stations sign the television and radio code of good practices.

Of the general picture of broadcasting abuses, he said: "I know that this industry will come out of this thing better than when they went

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into it." "I don't think it's quite fair to condemn what I call a juvenile, or rather a teenage industry, for the delinquency of a few individuals," Lee said.



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