

Ellender Plans To Oppose Hike In Minimum Pay

Washington (UP) - Sen. Allen J. Ellender (D-La.) says today he will fight against passage of legislation to boost the federal minimum wage gradually from \$1 to \$1.25 an hour.

"By and large," he said, "I see absolutely no reason for passage of this measure."

Ellender said that congressional approval of such a bill would only add to the nation's "inflationary spiral."

Thus, he said, in the end, it would not bring any benefits to those it is designed to help.

Sponsored by Kennedy
The legislation, sponsored by Democratic presidential candidate John F. Kennedy (Mass.), was approved by the Senate labor committee this week. It would boost the hourly minimum in steps of three to four years and extend coverage of the wage-hour act to about 4 million new workers.

Ellender said he thought some provisions of Kennedy's bill were "so vague and apparently so broad that it could conceivably cover every private employee in this country."

Another southerner, Sen. John Stennis (D-Miss.), already has announced he will try to organize Senate opposition to the measure.

Stennis promised a stiff floor fight but Senate Democratic leaders have served notice that the bill is "must legislation" in this national election year.

Mental Deficiency Rate of Twins Said To Be Higher

London (Science Service) - A child born as a twin has a greater than usual chance of being mentally defective, a study reported here indicates.

Drs. J. M. Berg and Brian H. Kirman found that among 1,390 mental defectives receiving care in the home or in institutions in the London area, about 6.4 per cent were members of twin pairs. Twins make up only about 2.1 per cent of the general population.

The study also showed: The twin born last is more often mentally defective; 61 per cent of the mentally defective twins were second-born. The second born are also more frequently the victims of stillbirth.

Lower Birth Weight
Whether twins or singletons, mentally defective babies usually had a lower-than-usual birth weight. Two thirds of the defectives studied had additional physical abnormalities. These ranged from a small head to heart defects and deformed feet.

In one way, twins are the luckier group. Mongolism, a deformity usually accompanied by idiocy, is six times more common among singletons.

Reason Unknown
The reason for the higher incidence of mental deficiencies among twins, ranging from idiocy to subnormal learning ability, is unknown. In autopsies on nine twins who died during the study, there were no gross brain malformations indicating that something had gone wrong in embryonic life. The brains did show pathological changes that appeared to be the result of damage late in pregnancy, at birth or shortly after birth.

The doctors, reporting in the British Medical Journal, pointed out that the greater risk in multiple births is indicated in a stillbirth-rate comparison. For all births there are 23 stillbirths per 1,000 births. In twins the rate is 53 per 1,000.

Mixup Increases Pay; Solution in Ordinance

Santa Ana, Calif. - A slight mixup in paper work gave a \$2,500-a-year pay raise to the new Orange county administrator before he was even hired.

The board of supervisors last year decided the job called for a \$22,500 salary and budgeted this amount. However, the county personnel director pointed out that the board previously had set the salary at \$25,000 and had included it in an ordinance which took precedence.

The ultimate solution was that the supervisors decided to draft a new ordinance setting a monthly salary for the job at \$2,085 - which adds up to just over \$25,000 a year.



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