

Alcoholics Become Involved in Interstate Commerce

By ROBERT BUCKHORN
United Press International
 Washington - (UPI) - A fighting priest whose job is reforming alcoholics says the government has told him to keep his drunks out of interstate commerce or sober them up under the federal minimum wage law.

The priest is Msgr. William N. Wall, who heads the Mount Carmel Center and Hospital for Alcoholics in Paterson, N.J.

His charge against the government: It's guilty of a "reactionary, nonsensical attitude that will assure this nation of a skid row in every city from New York's Bowery to San Francisco's Market street."

The government's answer: The law is the law, and must be enforced.

The Monsignor's rebuttal: This is "totally Caesar's law, and none of God's law. This is bureaucracy at its worst. . . I cannot, on moral grounds, have any part of it."

The thing that brought on the collision was the minimum wage law and its application to the Monsignor's home for alcoholics.

Simply put, the Labor department said the Monsignor must pay his alcoholics the \$1.15 minimum wage if this work brings them into interstate commerce.

If he does not, the Labor department said, he may, since his alcoholic center falls in a special category, accept a designation as a "sheltered workshop for handicapped people." This would exempt him from the provisions of the wage law.

The Monsignor told UPI he couldn't accept either choice. "The first one either very well put me out of the business of rehabilitating alcoholics," he said in an interview. "The center couldn't afford it."

And in a letter to the Labor department, he said he might be forced "to call in the city, county and state relief people and enroll every last one of

these alcoholics. This way, they can get relief, but no work; they can get money but no sobriety; they can get food and booze, but not God's grace."

The Monsignor's objection to the department's second choice is both moral and medical. He said his center is not a shelter, nor are the alcoholics handicapped. He added:

"Jails are shelters, mental institutions are shelters, flophouses are shelters. . . alcoholics need not shelter, but hope; not shelter, but compassion; not shelter, but love and understanding."

As for an alcoholic being handicapped, the Monsignor says it isn't so. Sick, yes, handicapped, no. This designation "may be expedient and administratively efficient - but it is guaranteed to maintain the role of the social outcast for addicted alcoholics," he declared.

What triggered the dispute between the clergyman and

what he terms the case of "Charity Versus the United States," was a contract to deliver rags to a New York City firm.

Rag-picking is one of the main sources of income for the alcoholic center, but in reselling the rags out of state, the Labor department said.

Based on Progress

Each of the 92 men currently in the center is paid from \$30 to \$60 weekly, but the Monsignor said the pay scale is based "progress toward sobriety," not the minimum wage law.

"To manipulate" these men's allowances by law is "bureaucracy, not rehabilitation," he said. If he did pay the men as much as the government asks, he said, they would only "go slow it all," and the rate of dropouts at the center would increase by "several hundred per cent."

The Monsignor told Clarence T. Lundquist, administrator for the wage and hour division of the Labor department, that "he doesn't pretend" to pay his alcoholics who fall under interstate commerce a minimum wage.

"Frankly, we don't separate the men," he said. "They are all alcoholics; all get the same therapy, the same medical attention, regardless of their federal status. All men get full coverage under God's law of brotherly love - no partial coverage under Caesar's laws of interstate commerce."

Picture, Black

The Labor department says the Monsignor is painting too black a picture. Lundquist said other centers similar to Monsignor Wall's conform to the law, but he admits the Monsignor "really believes"

there is a matter of principle involved. Describing the men in his center, which he said, in contradiction of the Labor department, is like no other, the Monsignor painted this picture:

"They are homeless, tired, sick, weary. Most have histories of skid row living and have been in the revolving door of short term jail sentences for drunken offenses. Most are over 45. They have an employment record that scares off anyone, even the employer of the most menial and their only companionship is a constant inner sense of doom."

Unlike other shelters, the Monsignor says, he does not recruit alcoholics. They must come to him. They do all the work to keep the center running.

In his fight, he has picked up some allies in Congress. Sen. Clifford P. Case (R-N.J.) asked Labor Secretary W. Willard Wirtz to look into the battle.

Rep. Frank J. Becker (R-N.Y.) reported to Congress that he thought "our great Department of Labor would have other important and serious problems to handle, rather than spending time and energy, at the taxpayers' expense, to harass institutions of this nature."

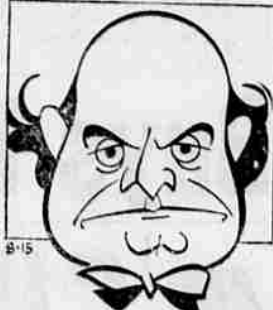
Lindquist says "no firm policy decision" has been made. The case could be taken to court, he said, "or no action could be taken at all."

He told Labor department officials "My health is good. . . my zeal is great. . . I welcome the debate."

Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

ONE DAY William Jennings Bryan was posing for his portrait—to be presented to his wife on their thirtieth wedding anniversary. The artist suggested that Mr. Bryan have his hair cut before he posed. "No sir," was the answer. "When I was courting Mrs. Bryan, she complained that my ears stuck out, so I let my hair grow this long purposely to cover them. She was very pleased, too." "But Mr. Bryan, protested the artist, "that was over thirty years ago." "So it was," agreed Bryan. "But the romance is still going on!"



Touring army bases one Christmas season, a famous TV comedian found native soldiers in South Korea, with an audience composed largely of himself who didn't understand a word of English. Fortunately, a Korean major volunteered to translate the comedian's monologue.

The performance was a riotous success. When he left the stage, the comedian admitted, "That old routine of mine never got half that many laughs before. Thanks for your wonderful translating job."

The major registered acute embarrassment. "You talked so fast," he admitted, "that I lost you completely after your first three sentences. I was telling the boys a few stories of my own."

A fakir in Delhi cried out, "I've discovered two socks of brand new nails." "Hurray," cheered an even bigger fakir nearby. "Let's have a pillow fight!"

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They'll Do It Every Time

By Jimmy Hatlo



Small Worlds Around Us

By LYNN M. WATKINS

Poisoned Insects Spelled End for Hungry Birds

Because natural food in the form of worms, insects and their eggs were difficult to find and in short supply, she wouldn't eat one herself. Instead she fed them all to her hungry youngsters; she substituted solely on weed seeds, and an occasional handout of crackers or bread, dropped on the ground by some kind hearted householder.

In spite of constant care and diligent feeding, her first brood of the summer sickened and died. One by one the anxious bird mother pulled the little bodies from the nest and dropped them over the side. When the last one was gone she rested a little while, then selected another nesting site and began again. She moved a little in the construction of this nest, it had a more solid support, was better protected from the elements and seemingly safer. She laid and incubated the eggs.

Hungry for Food

Three gawky, naked birds broke out into the world and opened their pink-lined mouths with impatient anticipation, hungry for food. Again began the frantic search for worms, insects and insect eggs, sufficient to fill those three hungry mouths and gaping throats. Both parent birds, neglecting their own appetites, struggled to supply food to the gawky youngsters.

Worms, and plenty of insect food was the way it was intended to be, and every bird - parent, with patience and dawn-to-dark perseverance, sought the wherewithal to feed their family. In the original and overall plan it was arranged that baby birds and the hatching and abundance of insect food should coincide.

Parent birds, to survive themselves and to feed their young, were one of the natural agencies to hold the insect population within reasonable limits. Given a chance, they would have succeeded; but a dark shadow cast its ominous form over the land.

Touched Baby Birds

That shadow touched those growing baby birds; one after another they died; each in turn was cast from the nest, and the worried parent birds concentrated all their attentions to develop pin feathers. Mr. and Mrs. Bird must have

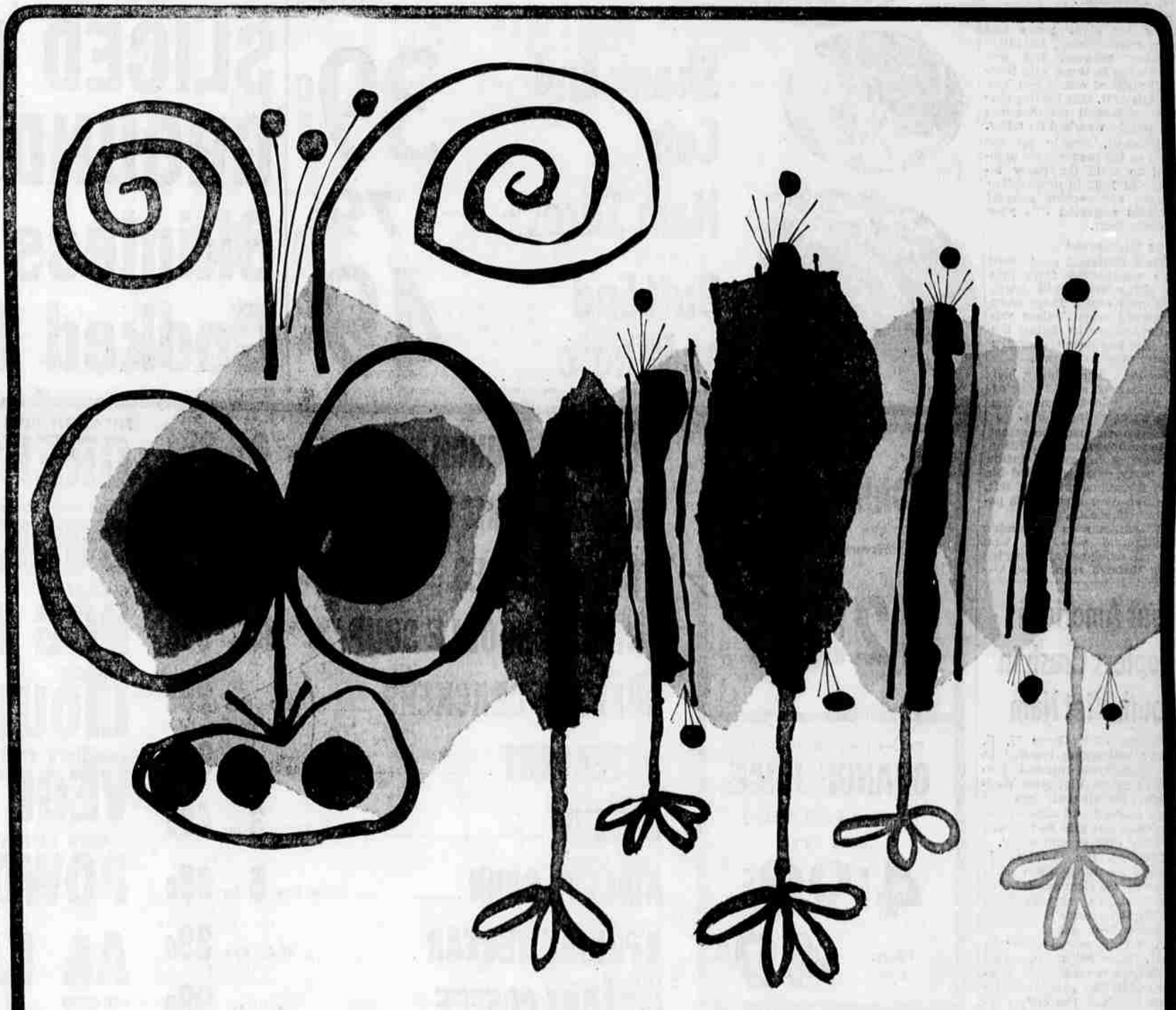
Two Accidents Are Reported To Police

Two vehicle accidents were investigated by Medford police late Tuesday. Two citations were issued, but no one was reported injured.

At 5:30 p.m. near the intersection of Main and Kenwood sts., a vehicle operated by James Robert McCormack, 21, of 903 South Third st., Jacksonville, hit a pickup truck operated by Marion Ray Hull, 37, of 345 Hanley rd., Central Point, which was forced into a sedan attempting to turn left. The third vehicle did not remain at the scene, police said. McCormack was cited by police for violation of the basic rule.

In the second accident about 6 p.m., vehicles operated by Kelly Burns Caskey, Longview, Wash., and Herman Weston Pearson, 245 Windsor ave., collied on Willamette ave. between Ninth and Tenth sts., according to police. Caskey was cited for failing to yield right of way, police said.

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