SATURDAY, JANUARY 4 1946

A State Minimum Wage Law?

FORREST SHUFORD, North Carolina's Commissioner of Labor has been cona sort of one-man stump campaign tate minimum wage law for so nor a sate minimum wage law nor some months now. How many converts Mr. Shin-ford has made we don't know, but at least there does not seem to be any organized aid vocal opposition to his proposal, even though it is certain that a bill incorporat-ing it will be introduced at the coming session of the Legislature.

seasion of the Legislature.

What Mr. Shuford wants to do, essentially, is, extend the provisions of the Federal Wages and Hours Law to those North Carolina workers not now covered by it because they are employed in intra-state commerce. This would guarantee them a manufacture was a substantial to the state of the commerce of the contains now for contains the commerce of the commerce. The Federal law, according to Department of Labor estimates, now covered by the concentrated primarily in minor industries, the service trades, and retailing. Neither the Federal law nor the bill proposed by Mr. Shuford affect farm workers, or workers employed in such seasonal enterprises as fishing.

One reason, apparently, that Mr. Shuford

or praces as issuing.

One reason, apparently, that Mr. Shuford has met with so little open opposition to date is that most employers are now paying a minimum wage of \$16 a week or close to it. Many of them, however, require a work week in excess of 40 hours, and the Labor Department estimates that about 80 per cent of North Carolina's intra-state workers would receive a modest up-

acted.

Mr. Shuford argues, with considerable logic, that the present lack of a state wage-hour law establishes an unfair differential between two classes of workers in North Carolina engaged in tasks calling for the same energies and skills. If 80 per cent of the workers are given the protection of a wage floor and a work limit, he insists, there is no good reason why the other 40 per cent should be denied it. our quickly and simply by the passage of a law which would require no employer

to maintain any special records or make any additional reports to Raieleth. Nor would it subject employers to any inspections to which they are not now liable; present state laws set a 48 hour week for women workers and a 52 hour week for women workers and a 52 hour week for males (this limit for men would be repealed, incidentially, by the proposed bill) and empowers Labor Department inspectors to inspect employment records. Mr. Shuford insists that a wage-hour law would create no new bureacracy; he could enforce the believes with a few additional inspectors and a clerk or two.

Certainly the proposed deserves serious

inspectors and a clerk or two.

Certainly the proposal deserves serious consideration by the Legislature. Whatever readjustments we may expect during 1947, it seems cértain now that we are in for a period of sustained high prices. Few legislators could honestly argue that 316 a week constitutes anything more than a bare subsistence wage in these times, or ever will this side of an out-and-out depression. And few employers could argue that such a minimum wage would constitute an undue hardship when it is being met successfully by all those engaged in interstate commence.

interstate commence.

That there will be some opposition, however, is inevitable. And to meet it we can thinked no better argument than the best of the control of the cont wages and a ceiling on hours has helped stabilize their operation and has protected them against unfair competition.

them against unfair competition.

There is nothing daring, original, experimental or radical about Mr. Shuford's proposal. The record shows that a minimum wage law has worked to the general satisfaction of both employers and employees in the case of 60 per cent of North Carollina's workers; there is, little reason to doubt that it would work 'equally well in the case of the other 40 per cent.

The Schools Are Also Business

tical as they make 'em and with a head as hard as granite, operates a free enterprise in North Carolina with 150 iches employing some thousands of workers. And let us suppose that the books didn't look so healthy at the end of the year, and that he has ordered a survey to find out why.

to find out why.

And when the results come in let us suppose that he finds that in the last as much 86 per cent of 'bit branches as much 86 per cent of 'bit branches are now to be supposed to be suppo

What do you suppose our hypothetical usinessman would do once he had rebusinessman would do once he had re-covered from his shock and dismay and gotten past his first burst of unseemly language? Certainly he would conclude that he was only one jump away from the bankruptcy courts and that he had better do something about it. He would either have to curtail his operations dras-tically, or attract more and better people to work for him. And he would know, being both practical and hard-headed, that the way to attract more and better people is to pay them more money.

well, this is exactly what has happened to one of the most important businesses in North Carolina—the public schools. The figures we have here translated into terms of a businessman's employment problem are Gaken from the latest report of the North Carolina Education Association, based on a survey covering 150 of the 181 administrative units of the North Caro-lina public school system.

We commend this analogy to all those in Raleigh who will be wrestling with the achool problem in the weeks ahead. Bank-ruptcy is not too strong a word for the prospect facing the schools; it is, if any-thing, inadequate. The fatal weakness of the biggest business in the state would be accuracy of these conventions of the property a source of direct concern to only a limited number of North Carolinians, but the de-generation of the school system is a grave threat to every citizen.

We hear a lot tizal:
We hear a lot of talk about the business
approach to Government these days. (What
ever became of the Silent Citizens, by the
way?) And we, certainly, would like to
see a businessman's approach to the school
problem, one which recognized two of the
fundamental principles of any sound business
operation: (1) No enterprise is any
better than the people who make it up,
70 up and the spect to get any more than
70 up ap for.

It Doesn't Compare With Sherman's

SPECULATION on the possible Presiden-SPECULATION on the possible Presiden-by tila aspirations of IRE Elsenhower may have reached the ultimate absurdity when The Washington Times-Herald published a copyrighted report that the General had remarked to a fishing companion that he wouldn't mind being President some day, wouldn't mind being President some day, wouldn't mind being President some far, Fordia retreat to ask travered at his Pordia retreat to ask travered at his wouldn't be said: "You know that a lie."

Well this dispose of The Times-Herald report, but we are not all certain that it disposes of the Eisenhower boom. As a quotation from a general we could hardly rank it alongaide, if you'll pardon the expression, W. T. Shermain, "In nominated I will not accept, and if elected 1 will not serve."

Mrs. Eisenhower also had some observa-tions designed to discourage political spe-ulation concerning her husband. She pointed out that neither she nor Ite had ever voted, or had any affiliation with any political party. She had never, she said, heard the General discuss politics or politicalians, favorably or unfavorably, (Well, of course, Mrs. Eisenhower want in Eu-rope when the visiting firemen from Con-gress used to arrive in droves at SHAEF to tell the General how to deploy his armies.)

We fear, however, that General Eisen-cower's lack of Party affiliation only makes im doubly vulnerable. If might commend im to both Mesars. Hannegan and Reece, the going gets as rough as we think it. Ill around nomination time. A certified

hero with 100-proof charm is the best of all conceivable compromises in either a G.O.P. or Democratic convention.

At this reading the General certainly must be written down as a little 'd' demo-crat. That 'd' could still grow tailer or disappear altogether in the months ahead, however; it probably won't be safe to count out General like until the nomina-tions are closed at both Party conventions.

Henry Wallace envisages a world free of want by 1986. Unlike Hank, we have unshakeable faith in our posterity, and its ability to cook up_new wants.

"I wonder if there's a thought in this for bottle manufacturers," mused the old rounder, as he looked over the new foun-tain pen that never runs dry.

About understanding the Russians—which; we are urged to do: is it O. K. if we don't try to fathom those soldier chorus groups that stand about hollering songs to a flea?

"Motor traffic to increase 65 per cent in 15 years."—Item. As in the case of the Cambridge lady who started up the four-foot alley with a car five feet wide, we don't see how.



1921 And 1947

Lights, Benches, Busses toms. And it is a condition that has caused a lot of

Editors, Tur News:

ONE year ago today, the writer took up his restoptent in relatively high roution on the crime lists of the control of the

ally have the successful sufficient or towns you think you are?" If sufficient or town they eventually will learn to leave the crosswalks clearly the waiting for a bus at the Preshyterian Hoopital a few nights ago, I wrote down the bus schedules which are posted on the street theke, and on reaching home I gleefully typed them and posted them on the back of a door for ready reference by the entire family. Chees I'll have to burn it, because the control of the control

The Ego

Editors, THE News:
WHILE inflation is occupying our attention, what about the inflated egos, otherwise known as the swelled heads? That seems to be a very difficult condition to check because the owners seldom recognize the symp-

The People's Platform is available to any reader who cares to mount it. Communications possible, and on only one for the properties if possible, and on only one state of the blatter of the possible, and suppose the properties and obscently will be deleted—otherwise anything ones. Each letter must be signed inhough, in exceptional cases and upon request, we will withhold the writer's name.—Editors, we will withhold the writer's name.—Editors.

Quote, Unquote

REAL disarmament cannot be achieved without adequate measures of inspection to insure efficient enforcement.—Senator Tom Connally (D) of

It might oe an evidence of intelligence to adopt as a alogan for this atomic age, "WATCH YOUR HEAD."

None of the men who have made this country great were motivated by the lust for individual power.

—R. O. VANDERCOOK.

a tear-sheet and note or newes, cation.

Please accept my appreciation for your prompt and courteous response. Since the publication of my letter in The Charlotte News, I have heard from some of my North Catolina friends, who likewise value your giving prominence to the corrected statement.

President, Onle WCTU, Vice-President, National WCTU.

iltors, The News:

NNOUNCEMENT has been made concerning my
resignation as director for the North Carolina
sociation for Wine Control.

- resignation as director for the North Carolina Association for Wine Control.

Generally speaking, I have found the press froughout the State very co-perative and helpful for the Wine Indiance of the State of the Wine Indiance of the Indiance of Ind

that we have some measure of success in these three undertakings.

—JOHN W. CAFFEY.

COLUMBUS, O.

Appreciation

Resignation

Marquis Childs ...

Future Of Defense

mmediate concern is the necessity to live up to our occupation comminents in Germany, Japan and Congress is waiting ready to widel the economy knife.

In a compromise to Congress is waiting ready to widel the economy knife.

In the program the War Department will present to Congress. Number 1, at any rate from the pint of the program to wait of the program of the

Harold Ickes

Wallace's Liberals

Wallace S

NEW "liberal" simulacrum was an enable so the Commodore Hotel in New York which was fulsomely baptized "Progressive Citizens of America." The greatest citizens of America. "In the Commodore Hotel in New York which was fulsomely baptized "Progressive Citizens of America." The Secondary of the American people as active members of NG-PAC and/or the American people as active members of NG-PAC and/or the American people as active members of NG-PAC and/or the American people as active members of NG-PAC and/or the American secondary for the American active and the American active the American active the American active the American secondary the American Secondary of the American Secondary Sec

gives an impression or vanishing and not of steenth Any army is and not of steenth Any army is real than privates. Moreover, no liberal movement can prosper that, from its very Moreover, no liberal movement can prosper that, from its very against the charge of Communistic taint. The cornerstone of the organization should have been a stern injunction to the community of the comm

NON-ASSIMILABLE

for the sole purpose of causing conrunton, with rutility resulting.

At an earlier conference, Mr. Phil

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Drew Pearson's: Joe Martin Spurned Race For Presidency Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON
WIEN Joseph Williams Martin Jr. was 21 years old he
he staged a three-way declaion between a career of politica,
he staged a three-way declaion between a career of politica,
because the professional baseful. He had been star
shortatop on the North Attleboro semi-pro team, and had
begun a career on the North Attleboro Chronicle. In the end,
however, he chose politics, When this decision was announced to his father, the elder Martin advised:

"You'll be better off Joe, if you stick to newspapering, Politics is dirty business."

gotten days of Nick Longworth.

Sauch, Joe Martin will be a popular, unspectacular, the state of the state of

sions to changing times.

When Roosevel was idding the crest of New Deal reforms, for rode and the control of t No Dictator, Martin

TRAT was why he has championed labor's right to organize, supported Social Security, voted for the FEPC and many Roosevelt reforms. Once when Martin was approached by Wall Street mogulis with a proposal to weaken the Securities and Exchange Commission on the pretext of helping business,

he replied that he wouldn't touch their proposition "ten-foot pole."

During the pre-Pearl Harbor days when many Republicans were under-cutting Roosevelt's preparedness policies, Martin swung his weight vigorously behind the President. He voted for national defense, against bolation, and when the question of lend-lesse came before a secret GOP caucus, he advised:

"Read the testimony. Listen carefully to the discussion.
Go home and think it over. Use your judgment, but vote

Coolidge's Friend

Loolidge's Friend
IT was Galvin Coolidge who gave Joe Martin his first real
lift in politics. At the age of 23, Joe had been elected to
the Massachusetti Senate where he met Coolidge, then chairtary of his committee and the two became lifelong friends.
In 1924 when Coolidge ran for re-election, Martin
climbed on his band-wagon and was easily elected to Contraction of the Coolidge ran for the coolidge of the coolidge
In two Presidential elections, Martin played important
backstage roles. One was in the Landon campaign, whom
he helped nominate—but could not elect. The other was in
conflicting wings of the Republican Party as National Chairman.

In 1940, shortly before Willkie was nominated, several friends urged Martin to run for President himself, and one wealthy Pittsbush backer offered to put \$85,000 behind him.

There are no strings attached to this," Martin was told, "My friends and I just think you are the best White House timber in the field."

'I have no ambitions in that direction," Martin replied. "I am perfectly satisfied to remain in the House. My one ambition is to be Speaker.

one ambition is to be Speaker.

Friendly Enemies

FOUR years ago, that ambition was almost fulfilled. Rolling up an unexpected vote in the 1942 off-year election, it looked for a moment as if the GOP would control the

House of Representatives. In the end, the Democrats won out by a few votes, however, and when it came time to swear in the Speaker, Joe went into the office of Sam Rayburt to excort him to the Speaker's rostrum.

"Sam," said Joe, "I've got bad news for you. I hope you can hold up under the shock, You've been re-elected Speaker," occurred to the same properties of the same properties of the same properties. Both are bachelors, both are good friends, both have somewhat the same middle-of-the-road, square-shooter point of view.

Like most because it is a support to the same properties of the same properties.

point of view. In the most bachelors, also, the new Speaker is very fond of children and keeps trinkets in his office to give to Irlendo children and keeps trinkets in his office to give to Irlendo from the control of the control o

in his desk.
"I can't go without it and my train leaves in twenty ites," he explained. ne explained.

rushed the package to the train just in time,
what's in this, anyhow?" he asked. "Sure must be
t. I haven't seen you so agitated about anything
election."

"It's very important," said the Speaker-elect. "It's a doll for my little grandniece."

Martin's Big Opportunity

BACK in the days when Martin was 21 and his father advised him not 5 so into politics because "politics is "That's why I'm setting into 10 days have because "politics is "That's why I'm setting into 10 days have a politic because "politics in the life of the politics in the polit

dirty business. Joe replied:

"That's why I'm getting into it, dad. It needs to be cleaned up and you can't do that by holding your nose sat sanging on the sidelines." See that observation is supthing but on the sidelines. He is right in the thick of things, a leader who can, if he wishes, do great things to clean the rotten applies out of the Congressional barrel and lift the rotten applies out of the Congressional barrel and lift the of greed and crondendess, for Martin can do much to purge the pockshook Congressmen out of our legislative temples—it he really leads.