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THOMAS L. ROBINSON, Publisher
J. E. DOWD, General Manager
B. S. GRIFFITH, Executive Editor
C. A. MCKINIGHT, Editor

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STATE MINIMUM WAGE LAW NEEDED

IN HIS inaugural address last week, Gov. William Unstated urged the enactment of a state minimum wage law to cover industrial and service workers who do not come under the Federal Wage and Hour Law.

The Governor did not say so, but we presume he is concerned over the low wage levels in intrastate commerce. If so, he will find strong supporting evidence in a current report by *Congressional Quarterly* which shows that average wages for non-farm workers in North Carolina compare most unfavorably with wages elsewhere in the nation.

Here are comparative figures for the South, as of the end of September, 1952:

State	Avg. Weekly Earnings	Avg. Hourly Wage
Louisiana	\$50.48	\$1.54
Virginia	\$46.71	\$1.34
Tennessee	\$52.40	\$1.34
Alabama	\$44.65	\$1.32
Florida	\$53.45	\$1.27
Georgia	\$49.25	\$1.21
North Carolina	\$44.82	\$1.20
Arkansas	\$49.02	\$1.14
Mississippi	\$42.12	\$1.09

The non-farm employees covered by these figures include those in mining, contract construction, manufacturing, transportation and public utilities, trade, finance, service businesses, and government.

Several things are quickly apparent from the report. Although North Carolina has the largest number of non-farm employees of any Southeastern state (998,100), the average weekly earnings figure is the lowest of any state in the nation. Furthermore, there are only two states with a lower average hourly wage.

Non-farm workers in interstate commerce are protected by the same law that applies everywhere, it is obvious that North Carolina averages are drawn down by low wages in intrastate commerce. It is those wages that should have a floor placed under them by a state minimum wage law.

A look at some of the leaders will show how far North Carolina workers have to go.

State	Avg. Weekly Earnings	Avg. Hourly Wage
Oregon	\$52.85	\$2.08
Michigan	\$52.27	\$2.04
California	\$77.78	\$2.18
Ohio	\$71.62	\$1.98

Not only will higher wages for Tar Heels give our people a higher standard of living by enabling them to buy more of the goods and services available, but it will also mean greater revenue for a state that woefully needs to expand its basic services. No recommendation made by Governor Unstated merits more careful consideration by the General Assembly than his appeal for a "reasonable and fair" state minimum wage law.

PROHIBITION IS A FARCE IN MISSISSIPPI

IF ONE WANTED to be cynical about it, the Mississippi Prohibition law should suit everybody. The Drys have a Prohibition law on the books. The bootleggers are in business openly. Those who want a hotel can buy it most anywhere. And the State of Mississippi is collecting a chunk of tax revenue from the illicit traffic.

According to Kenneth Toler's story elsewhere on this page today, a fourth effort to eliminate the tax on bootleg whiskey will be made at the next General Assembly. And, as so often occurs, the interests of the bootleggers and those of sincere Prohibitionists seem to coincide in this effort. The bootleggers say the tax is an unfair tribute exacted from them and ask its repeal. The Prohibitionists say the state makes mockery of its own laws when it takes a product it has theoretically outlawed.

Three times Mississippi governors have asked that the tax be lifted; three times the General Assembly has refused to lift it.

Gov. Hugh White may have better luck this time, though we doubt it, for while the Mississippi liquor system appears to be in a highly ridiculous state of affairs, it expresses one hard fact: No Prohibition law will ever work in Mississippi. And that is quickly evident if liquor is not sold openly it will be sold clandestinely.

The law has worked out in Mississippi like this. Some sections where Prohibition sentiment is so overwhelming that it can require local sheriffs and police to enforce the law, bootleggers handle the product secretly. In other sections, where wet sentiment predominates, bootleggers display their wares openly on shelves and racks. That is quickly evident in the county county ABC system of the only bootleggers left are a few pin-poppers who operate when the stores are closed; in dry counties, bootleggers reap a bonanza.

We invite the careful attention of N. C. Prohibitionists to Mr. Toler's article describing the hypocrisy of the Mississippi dry law.

THREE REASONS FOR GETTING A CHEST X-RAY

CONFRONTED with a large red, gray and black billboard reading "Get A Chest X-Ray" the other day, we fell to thinking on the matter of the chest and all the ills which affect that portion of the torso.

Tuberculosis, of course. But didn't we read just the other day that the death rate from tuberculosis had declined 90 per cent in only 40 years? And lung cancer is pretty bad, but how many people have "Heart disease?" The heart's just flesh and you can't find out much about flesh with an X-ray.

These were the first thoughts to come to me as I stood before the billboard, and checking, thought brought forth the other side of the picture.

Certainly TB mortality has declined 90 per cent since 1910, but there hasn't been a decline in the number of reported cases of tuberculosis. For instance, there are now about 1,200,000 cases of TB in the United States. There are about 250,000 tubercular people in the country who are not in hospitals. These are the reported cases of TB that cause most of the trouble.

Since TB is contagious, and since you seldom know about a "hidden case," you get TB from those unsuspecting victims. The people who put up that "Chest X-Ray" sign say that the best way to find the "hidden case" is by a chest X-ray.

They're conducting a Mecklenburg Chest X-ray survey beginning tomorrow and consider believe that X-ray the survey immediately 145,000 adults in this county, they can significantly reduce the number of cases and the number of deaths from TB in this county.

And what about lung cancer? They're looking for that, too. And while lung cancer may be of secondary importance, it is the most rapidly increasing variety of cancer. We expect to find up to 60 tumors in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg survey.

Heart disease? Surveys expect to turn up between 350 and 500 sick, malformed or misplaced hearts in the month-long program. A lot of people have done a lot of work to make it possible for those of us in Mecklenburg to have an opportunity for a no-cost look into our chests. You've done your part, from The Christian Science Monitor.

WHY UNIONS LOSE FRIENDS

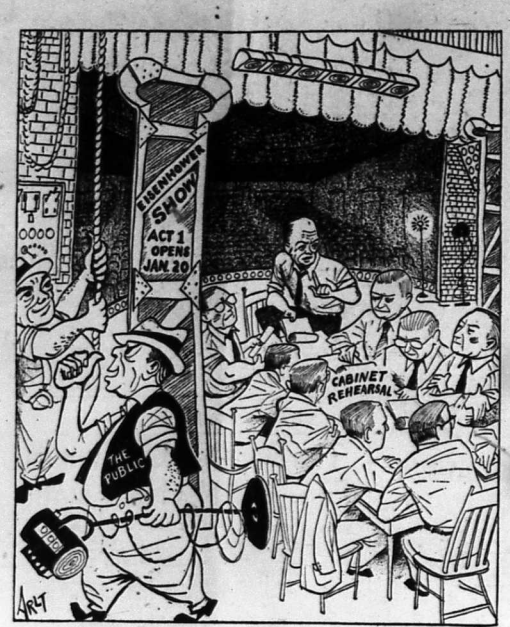
IN AND AROUND New York has taken down one more of those incidents which give anguish to earnest friends of trade unions.

The Army, in its efforts to house troops manning anti-aircraft batteries and other troops against the growing chill of winter, has had to give up the erection of prefabricated winter huts by the soldiers themselves. This was due to the refusal of union construction workers to do other needed

work unless allowed also to put the huts under contract labor.

As a result, men of the anti-aircraft command are belatedly putting up for themselves on Quonset frames, which afford poor protection and warmth than the intended huts. Soldiers will sleep colder, taxpayers will pay more, and unions will lose friends because of another insistence on "made work" and on resistance to construction progress at a time when there are in general more jobs than there are carpenters.

'Good Casting, Good Directing—Looks Like A Sure-Fire Hit'



Fight Brews In 'Dry' Mississippi

Bootleg Liquor Tax May Go

By KENNETH TOLER

In The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

MISSISSIPPI'S 10 per cent black market liquor tax, termed "hypocritical" in view of the state's prohibition laws, is under fire in anticipation of an extraordinary session of the Legislature.

Gov. Hugh White, who as a member of the Legislature voted for the levy when it was enacted in 1944, plans to recommend its repeal to the Legislature in the next session. The repeal is being urged largely by pressure from the drys who contend the tax gives liquor quasi-legal status and causes judges to acquit known bootleggers.

The Governor wants about 1,600 retail and wholesale liquor dealers who the tax is enacted and there is still that number operating—and paying the black-market tax to the state.

Legislation Defeated
GOVERNOR WHITE also interprets last Summer's defeat of a referendum for legalization of liquor on a county-by-county basis as carrying with it a majority sentiment against the black-market tax. He said he will include the issue among subjects to be presented to the extraordinary session because the original intent of the tax to "curb bootlegging by making outlets a matter of public record for enforcement purposes has failed of its purpose."

Looking over Mr. Humphrey's record and his prospective colleagues in the Cabinet, you came to this conclusion: General Eisenhower has picked a conservative businessman's Cabinet, but he has picked the first team.

The general chairmanship of his appointees is far ahead of other GOP administrations under Hoover, Coolidge, Harding and a conservative government survive in this country it won't be because Eisenhower has picked second-rate.

Big Holding Company
THE new Secretary of the Treasury typifies the first team. With no other fanfare, he has built up one of the biggest holding corporations of the nation. The M. A. Hanna Co., which he heads, controls the biggest coal company in the world, steamship companies, steel mills, rayon factories, vast ore deposits, a sugar company, and one of the biggest banks in Cleveland.

This background has the advantage of bringing great ability to government, but it also puts a Cabinet member under constant fire for possible favors to his own family companies. In the past three weeks, for instance, two companies owned by the future Secretary of the Treasury received tax write-offs of more than \$22 million.

One tax write-off was on an ore project in Michigan, on which the Hanna Coal & Ore Co. got a 75 per cent tax amortization on a \$11,248,000 investment. The other was a 70 per cent write-off on \$22 million to the Hanna Coal & Ore Co. in Douglas

requires proof of actual sales. The fact that the state recognizes the contraband by taxing it has also served as a deterrent to prosecutions.

Incidentally, the widow of the late Governor Bailey is now collecting the tax. Mrs. Thomas L. Bailey is the state tax collector and receives a 10 per cent "fee" or commission for collecting the levy. Out of the approximately \$120,000 in "fees," she must pay all expenses because no state appropriation for operation of the state's long fore-closed is provided.

It has been reported that the state tax collector nets about \$30,000 a year as salary. The governor gets \$15,000. The remainder is paid out to office help, field agents and others in keeping tabs on the bootleggers. An agent is maintained in Louisiana to check federal records on shipments to legal dry Mississippi and this information is the state basis for assessment of the tax on the bootleggers.

Although intended as a 10 per cent levy on the sales, it is based on an assessment of about \$3 a case, collected at the wholesale outlet. In some sections the bootleggers ignore the tax and apparently "get by."

The state tax collector in some cases uses an old statute which permits the collector to "seize" property for non-payment of the tax. Under that act, the injunction is based on failure of the bootlegger to pay a privilege tax of \$500 to the county of operation, and \$500 to the state—a total of \$1,000.

One chancery court judge has refused to entertain the injunction processes on grounds it is being used only on those bootleggers who refuse to pay the tax. He is Chancellor Lester Clark of Hattiesburg.

Refused Injunction

CHANCELLOR Clark has also refused to issue injunctions on the state level filed by Attorney General J. P. Coleman on grounds that local law enforcement is the jurisdiction of local law enforcement.

The attorney general has also incurred the "re" of other local law enforcement officials who were when Mr. Humphrey began life as a small town lawyer, came to Cleveland where he joined the M. A. Hanna Co., founded by the famous—sometimes infamous—Ohio politician who was the power behind President McKinley. At that time the Hanna Co. was primarily engaged in hauling ore down from the Mesabi Range in Great Lakes ore country with the title-holding companies of Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Humphrey, however, saw no reason why his company should be as well as so diverse it is, just before the depression, he put together the National Steel Co. There couldn't have been a worse time to start a new enterprise. Nevertheless, he did it, and the company weathered the storm better than any other steel company, but was generally admitted to have been ably managed.

About this time it became apparent that General Humphrey was an extraordinary man. In fact, some of his competitors claimed it was a gift of prophecy. During the depression, for instance, the most profitable part of the average steel company was the plate division. And National Steel, of all the steel companies, had the greatest percentage of in-plate capacity in the country. The company's in-plate capacity was in mind.

The steel industry also works up to find that their biggest customer was the Detroit automobile industry. But they also were up to find that Humphrey was ahead of them. He had set up his Great Lakes Steel Corporation right in Detroit for that purpose.

A Brief History Of American Secrecy Regarding H-Bombs

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON
PRESIDENT TRUMAN has now lifted a corner of the paper curtain of meaningless official secrecy that has surrounded the strategic facts of life from the American people. Referring to the hydrogen bomb test at Eniwetok, he has at last warned us that "from now on, man moves forward in a new era of destructive power."

We should all be grateful, no doubt, rather for this vague and limited disclosure, which incidentally, even though it does not dramatically confirm previous reports in this space, but a possibility cannot be excluded that the people of this nation should be made aware of the national interest, and to hide from them facts of the utmost national significance.

The theory of the hydrogen bomb, it must be remembered, was fully published by the Australian scientist, Hans Bethe, in 1939, shortly after the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. In Vienna, with access to classified American information of any kind, Thiering told the world the story in 1941. At that time, of course, the theoretical possibility of a hydrogen bomb was also known in this country. At the end of the war, the question arose whether to launch another great hydrogen bomb project, comparable to the Manhattan District project which developed the atomic bomb. President Truman referred the question to a committee of distinguished scientists, headed by Dr. Vannevar Bush.

The nature of the weapon inspired Bush and his colleagues with the deepest moral horror. They rightly considered that it would be wasteful to attempt such an ambitious new step in that day of the atomic bomb. They also expected our monopoly of atomic weapons to endure for a long period; and so long as we enjoyed this atomic monopoly, a hydrogen bomb seemed needless.

Hence the committee recommended that the bomb be kept secret, which was a secret bomb, recommended against the project.

It was, except on one side, where it bore a portrait of President-elect Eisenhower, with pink cheeks, a red necktie, and a description in lay terms, "Clean up with it."

My man identified himself as Harry, a resident of the Pictograph Co., of Pittsburgh, Pa., and he said he was in town on the day that a job of Republicans should be interested in watching themselves with his illustrated soap.

He said as a matter of fact, where it bore a portrait of President-elect Eisenhower, with pink cheeks, a red necktie, and a description in lay terms, "Clean up with it."

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