

# LOW WAGE CODE FOR NEGROES OF NATION PLANNED BY SOUTH

(Continued from p. 1)

work. The letter stated a committee was leaving for Washington immediately and wanted the "entire support of the leaders of the colored race in Selma."

It was the plan of the white committee to have the provisions for licensing inserted in every code so that employers who were already employing Negroes or who wished to employ them might apply for permission to do so at the lower wage rates.

The letter stated the code would apply to "white people who are old, young or infirm in any way, and would also apply to the colored race."

So far, one of the codes adopted by the N. R. A. has this licensing section.

In a letter to General Johnson, N. R. A. chief, the NAACP commends the reported efforts of the administration to enforce the minimum wage for all, regardless of race, creed or color, and calls attention to the proposed code from Selma, Alabama. The association also again urges the appointment of a colored member of the Labor Advisory board and Consumers' Advisory board as the best method of securing fair treatment for colored workers.

The complete letter from the Selma Manufacturing Company to the Rev. Mr. Hughes, containing the code follows:

Dear Sir:

In accordance with your request, I would say that it is proposed to send a committee to Washington composed of three white men and three colored men to request a specially licensed

"A minimum rate for a 40 hour week is hereby established for men at \$8.50 per week, South; \$10.50 per week, North, Women, \$8.00 per week; South, \$9.50 per week, North. Boys and girls over sixteen, not over nineteen, \$6.00 per week, South, \$7.00 per week, North.

"All industries employing — which desire to employ this specially licensed class under above conditions shall apply to — for permission to do so, which body shall license each employer whose claim to operate under the above rates is justified.

"This code shall be an integral part

of each industrial or blanket code and shall not in any way annual the provisions of any industrial or blanket code."

"This code would be applicable to white people who are old young or infirm in any way, and would also apply to the colored race.

"Any person desiring to use this code would apply for permission to do so and agree to maintain the wage specified; also the weekly hour rate. No one could operate under this code except by special permission and for giving proper reasons for doing so.

"The adoption of a licensed code of this character will enable people desiring to employ the colored race to do so at a price which will give them a fair chance of securing employment, and I am convinced this is the only plan that will accomplish the result desired and permit the employment of the colored race on an equality with the white race.

"It is my opinion that this matter is the most important matter you or your people have ever been called upon to consider, and I trust you will realize that the suggestion to put in this code is for only one reason, and that is to see that the colored race receives its proper opportunity of securing employment.

"The committee is expected to leave for Washington immediately, and I earnestly request that you approve this plan so that the committee in going to Washington may feel that they have the entire support of the leaders of the colored race in Selma."

Yours very truly,

SELMA MANUFACTURING CO.

N. A. A. C. P. BRANCH, FRESH DENT DELIVERS RADIO ADDRESS

Radio Address, delivered September 25th, 1933, over Radio Station W. O. W. at 10:30 p. m., by the president of Omaha Branch R. O. Price

"The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, is an interracial, national organization, working to secure for the Negro the same economic, political, educational, and civil rights that other citizens in this country enjoy. It uses as its methods: education of public opinion the spoken and printed word; the use of legislation to crystallize and enforce public opinion; the use of the courts; the intelligent use of the ballot; educational and cultural stimulus."

"The ideals of the Negro, are the ideals of America. The two races are educated to one standard. While the white man would have the Negro adopt his standard, there are those who would impede his progress, and deny him the same rights, and privileges, as other citizens, such denial, based not on his fitness and qualifications; but on the color of his skin. True manhood knows no color. While the ideals are the same, the standard the same, let all, black and white, aim to attain, to that kind of manhood, that would impress itself upon mankind, and make men more and more, to see the ideal, shine in the lives of all true men."

"For years, the Negro has read the white man's literature, his books and newspapers. We know lawlessness is running rampant in this County today. We know kidnappers, and mach-

ine bandits, have our National Government at work overtime, and at the same time, crimes my race continue and the offenders unpunished. To suppress lawlessness in this Nation, it should be suppressed in all its forms. Status and proclamations, by the score will not help the Negro, unless citizens take a definite stand to enforce the law. It is the desire of The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, that white people read more from the pens of Negro publishers. I am certain such printed matters, as you will find published in the Crisis, the official organ of The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, will serve to enlighten, you and inspire your children, thereby, giving them a larger and more sympathetic view of all human problems."

"October 2nd, we shall open our annual membership drive. It is to be the greatest membership drive ever anticipated in the history of this Branch. Our workers will call on you at your business places, your offices and your homes. Once again, our workers will call on you at your business places, your offices and your homes. I shall repeat, "We want you to read more from the pens of Negro publishers."

"Please give our workers, a listening ear. I thank you."

LICENSING OF ALL INDUSTRY URGED BY LABOR LEADER (Special to The Omaha Guide)

WASHINGTON—Organized labor's official analysis of the recovery act began Wednesday with a recommendation to one department of the American Federation of Labor for study of a federal licensing system applicable to all business and industry.

It was embodied in a report submitted to the metal trades department by John Frey, secretary treasurer. While he was making that suggestion, the building trades branch of the federation made ready to start its convention near by.

Their conclusions and proposals will be presented to the general federation convention next week.

William Green, federation president, and other officials are hopeful the convention will bring a greater unification of labor to take advantage of its opportunities under the recovery act. Frey said in his report:

"The recovery act constitutes a beginning rather than an end. A federal regulation has placed definite curbs upon the rampant rugged individualism of the industry, which, in practice, had too frequently degenerated into ruthless exploitation."

NRA experience, Frey reported had supplied additional evidence of the necessity for a federal license law which would make it possible for the government to secure reports from all industries doing an interstate commerce business.

Frey spoke, too, the oft-reiterated warning of labor leaders that the workers must, and will, be organized.

A 40-hour week, generally is too long to take up the slack in unemployment, Frey said.

NEGRO ADVISORY BOARD FOR 'LONG RANGE PLANNING'

WASHINGTON—(CNS)—A committee which will constitute itself into a study group and clearing house for the Department of Commerce relative to those problems which immediately effect the business and economic life of the colored people, has just been announced by the Secretary of Commerce.

The press summary under date of September 9 reads as follows:

Negro Advisory Board Formed

As a part of the program of the Department of Commerce for long-range planning and for the intensive study of its work with the aid of advisory groups, Secretary of Commerce, Daniel C. Roper, on Thursday and Friday of this week conferred with twelve of the prominent leaders of the colored people of the country. The Secretary said to those present that he recognized that thirteen million Negroes representing one tenth of the population of the country were entitled to be consulted about the general program of the Department, especially with relation to those problems which immediately effect the business and economic life of the colored people.

As a result of this conference, the leaders present organized themselves into an Advisory Board to consider and report on Negro economic problems, and the best means of establishing a proper cooperative relationship with the Department in the study of their problems. The committee

will constitute itself into a study group and clearing house on their problems for the Department of Commerce, meeting at certain intervals and considering subjects referred to them by other groups or by the Department of Commerce for proper study and recommendation.

Secretary Roper stated to those present at the conference that it was necessary that such advisory groups should have such vision, experience and standing as to be able to think both for themselves and for others. Consequently, he was hopeful that in studying their problems they would think of the interest of the colored people as such and also at the same time of their relationship to the entire economic structure of the country and hence to the entire population involved.

The committee as formed is as follows: Robert L. Vann, Pittsburgh, Pa., Chairman; Harry H. Pace, President, Supreme Liberty Life Insurance Company of Chicago, Ill., Vice Chairman; G. David Houston, Principal, Armstrong High School, Washington, D. C., Secretary; Rev. Marshall A. Talley, Indianapolis, Indiana; Benjamin F. Hubert, Savannah, Georgia; Mrs. Helen W. Grossley, State College, Dover, Delaware; Eugene Kinkle Jones, Executive Secretary, National Urban League, New York City; William H. Lewis, Attorney, Boston, Mass.; Garnet C. Wilkinson, First Assistant Superintendent of Public Schools, Washington, D. C.; and Mrs. Mary F. Waring, M. D., Chicago, Illinois.

NEGRO STEEL WORKERS LOSE MILLION IN PAY UNDER NRA CODE

WASHINGTON—(CNS)—Negro workers in the steel industry faced the loss of a cool million dollars a year in wages as result of the action of the National Recovery Administration and President Roosevelt in establishing minimum rates of pay of 25 and 27 cents an hour in the Southern and Birmingham districts of the industry, when employers in this industry had publicly offered to pay a minimum rate of 80 cents an hour.

The Joint Committee on National Recovery composed of officially designated representatives of national organizations and church bodies, registered a strong protest against such action on the part of the NRA, through John P. Davis, executive secretary of the Committee.

Mr. Davis under the date of September 6, sent on behalf of the committee letters to President Roosevelt, Secretary of Labor Perkins, General Hugh S. Johnson, NRA Administrator and Dr. Leo Wolman, chairman of the Labor Advisory Board of the NRA. His letter to President Roosevelt was in part as follows:

"We are deeply concerned over your approval of the code of fair competition for the iron and steel industry by your executive order of August 19, 1933. We wish to call your attention to the fact that the wage scales for the Southern and Birmingham districts approved by you are actually lower than those agreed to by the employers in those areas as representing what they would be fairly able to pay."

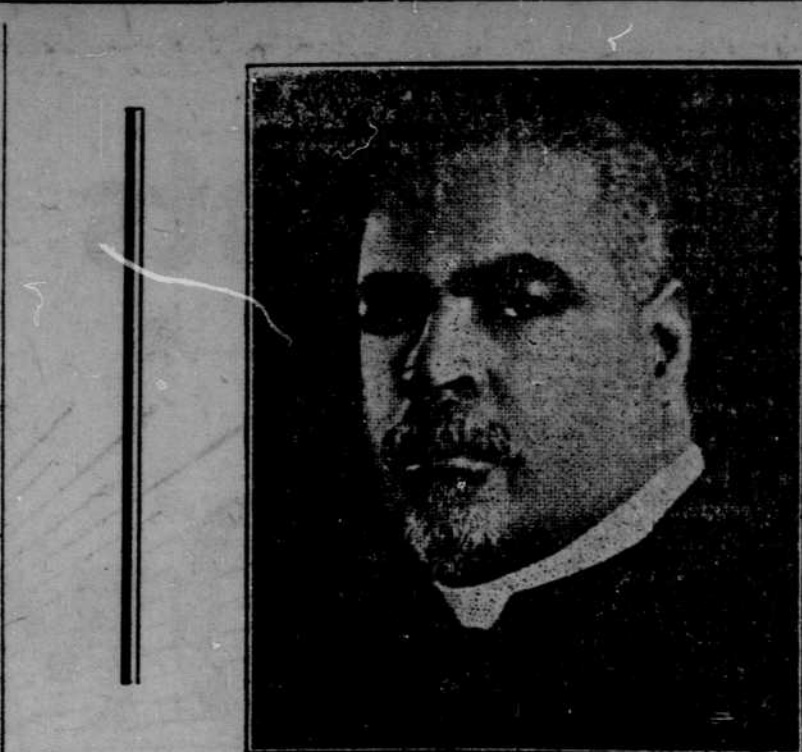
"We call your attention specifically to the statement of Mr. Robert P. Lamont, representing the employers in those districts, which we quote in full from page 20 of the Transcript of Proceedings, First Day, Afternoon Session:

Statement of Mr. Robert P. Lamont  
Mr. Lamont: Mr. Administrator, this morning I stated a southern minimum for consideration, and that it would be possible to make another announcement and more definite announcement this afternoon.

"I am able to state that the representatives of the various interests have met and have agreed to the minimum rate of 30 cents in the Birmingham and Southern districts."

"It is the sense of our committee at least to the limit acceptable to the that the failure to raise the wage scale employers in that field represents a grave injustice to Negro labor which predominates in those areas. In support of our contention we wish to call your attention to the speech made by your Secretary of Labor and by the Negro Industrial League to be found in the transcript of proceedings.

"We feel very certain that it is not your intention to allow the low minimum already suggested by the employers interests in those areas to be further depressed by administrative fiat. Certainly a lower minimum than one which the employer groups readily admit that they can pay, cannot be said to be in keeping with the purposes of the National Industrial Recovery Act as expressed by your public



## Bishop John A. Gregg, Presiding over Kansas-Nebraska Annual Conference of the A. M. E. Church Fifth Episcopal District.

lie utterances.

"Because of this condition, we respectfully urge then in keeping with your authority under Section 10 (b) of the National Industrial Recovery Act, you issue an appropriate executive order which will bring up the minimum wage scales of workers in these areas at least to a 80 cents an hour minimum, already announced by Mr. Lamont as acceptable to the industry."

Estimates of the research department of the Joint Committee, headed by Dr. Robert C. Weaver, Harvard economist, indicate that in Jefferson County Alabama alone losses totaling \$482,000 annually will be suffered by black labor in the steel workers in other sections of the South.

In addition to their protest in the steel code, the Joint Committee filed, last week, strong briefs in the code of fair competition on structural clay products and fertilizer industries. Gross discriminations in the pay rates of the 4,000 black workers in the clay industry and the 15,000 more in the fertilizer industry were criticized in these briefs.

"Continued discrimination in this and other codes," said the brief filed by Meers, Davis and Weaver in the fertilizer industry sharing, "against workers in the South, inevitably spells a breakdown of the entire recovery program. The failure to include the South under any code has been aggravated by the exclusion of industry workers among Negroes from any benefits also. The net result of such a policy will map the existence of a pauperized class of Negro workers in the midst of highly paid white labor."

And consequently merchants in the South will find that they have no Negro market for the purchase of goods made by expensive white labor."

Support from every corner was asked by the Joint Committee on National Recovery in the fight they are waging for Negro labor. All letters of inquiry and information should be addressed to the committee, 717 Florida Avenue, northwest, Washington, D. C.

"NO COLORED TRADE WANT ED" SIGN ILLEGAL IN NEBRASKA

OMAHA, Neb. — Posting of signs reading "No colored trade solicited" in shops selling beer is in violation of the Nebraska civil rights law, according to an opinion received here by R. C. Price, president of the Omaha NAACP, branch from Attorney General Paul Good. Mr. Price had complained that such signs were posted in Omaha beer gardens. Mr. Good

held that establishments selling beer came the classification of restaurants or inns and could not exclude colored persons.

WHAT ALABAMA THINKS OF HER LATEST LYNCHING

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — (CNS)—There is "blood on the great seal of Alabama."

Those words from the Montgomery Advertiser represent the indignation and sense of shame on the part of the press of Alabama, following the lynching of two Negro boys a few miles from the Metropolis of the State.

"Alabama bows its head in shame," "A stain has been placed on the record of Alabama," Alabama stands disgraced in the eyes of the civilized world; and "there is never any excuse for lynching;" are some of the expressions sensing the deep indignation of the editorial writers of the violence near the Metropolis; and its State at the recent outbreak of mob leading paper the Birmingham Age Herald says: "Those sinking dastards who committed the lynching should be hunted down relentlessly."

N. A. A. C. P. WORKS ON SECREET CRIMINAL CASES

NEW YORK—Use of the expression "darky churches" by Helen Warden, society writer for the New York World Telegram, was surely "a slip," as the paper's style calls for the use of the word "Negro," Lee B. Wood, executive editor, has written the N. A. A. C. P.

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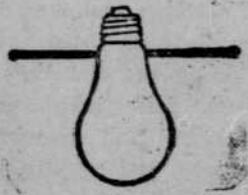
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