DAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1977



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## Carter signs wage bill

ing the minimum wage to \$3.35 an hour by 1981—a \$1.05 increase representing the biggest pay hike for lowwage workers in history.

Government officials estimate the bill, providing an initial raise to \$2.65 next Jan. 1, will put an additional \$9 billion into the pockets of some 5.3 million American workers over the next four years.

It represented a major victory for organized labor. Never before has Congress approved a minimum wage increase as big as \$1.05 an hour. Big business strenously fought the increase, warning it would contribute to inflation and unemployment.

Labor Department analysts predicted 4.3 million persons would enjoy increased wages totaling \$2.6 billion from the initial 35-cent-anhour increase provided in the bill

Subsequent increases promise \$2.90 an hour in 1979, \$3.10 in 1980 doctors she can see "lights, shadows and \$3.35 in 1981 — affecting and movement" for the first time another 1 million workers at a cost of \$6.3 billion over a three year period.

The measure also provides a better deal for workers who depend on tips. Hotel and restaurant workers also would get better overtime coverage. But an estimated 800,000 jobs in small businesses will be removed from minimum wage protection.

Tipped employees - including other service employees - cur-

United Press International

-WASHINGTON — President
Carter today signed legislation raisprovides them with at least 55 percent by Jan. 1, 1979, and 60 percent

> Some 2.4 million hotel and restaurant workers currently must work 46 hours in one week to get overtime rates. The limit would be reduced to 44 hours next Jan. 1 and

under \$250,000 currently are not required to pay the minimum wage That exemption will be increased to \$275,000 by July 1, 1978, and \$325,000 on July 1, 1979, and \$362,500 on Dec. 31, 1981.

The current minimum wage is

\$2.30 for non-agricultral workers and \$2.20 for farm workers. The new bill provides an identical minimum wage for both farm and non-farm workers.

## Girl, 19, can see again

PHILADELPHIA — A 19-year-old Mexican girl blinded by disease 10 years ago has regained her sight thanks to a fairly new suction in-strument used by doctors at Wills Eye Hospital.

Marie de Jesus Rodriquez Hernandez, who was flown to Philadel-phia with funds raised by residents since she contacted uveitis and lost her sight at age 9.

The surgery performed on the woman was a success, said Dr. Jay Federman of Will's Retina Service. But it is not known how much sight she will regain. Federman said it would take months of care and special training

'If we're lucky, we might be able restaurant workers, porters and to get her to the stage where she can walk through a room using her eyes

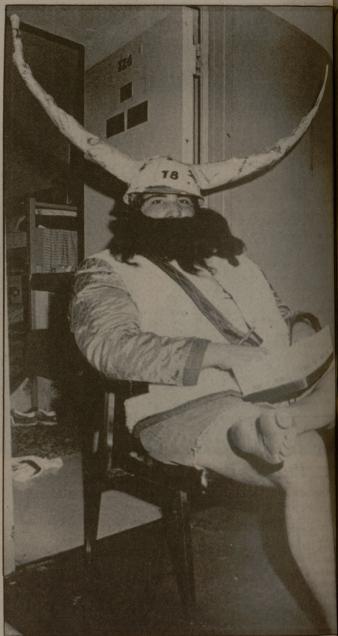
without bumping into things," he said. "The only thing preventing her seeing is the functional state of her

"I doubt the time will come when she can read, print or anything like that, but for a person who has been blind, just to be able to see someone in front — that represents a whole new world to that person," he said.

Federman developed the suction infusion tissue extractor, or SITE instrument, which was used in the surgery to suck the vitreous "de-bris" from the delicate retina sur-

Federman said the eye disease formed cataracts and clouded the colored part of Rodriquez' eye.

"The disease had caused the vitreous, which is the jelly part of the eye, to become opaque, completely white like a frosted win-



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Scott Farthing, a biochemistry major, relaxes after a ment of b

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