

Rules for longer teen work hours postponed

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The administration, under pressure from organized labor and educators, Tuesday backed off controversial new regulations that would allow some teenagers to work longer hours and for less than the minimum wage.

Just before House hearings on the proposed changes, Deputy Undersecretary of Labor Robert Collyer sent a letter to labor standards subcommittee chairman Rep. George Miller, D-Calif., announcing a five-month extension of the period for public comment and his intention to revise the revisions.

Collyer said extending the comment period from one month to six months would allow the Labor Department to consult more extensively with

business, labor and educational groups, with an eye toward modifying the proposal.

Under the July 16 proposal, 14- and 15-year-olds would be allowed to work one extra hour a night, and the night-time hours they are allowed to work would be extended from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. It also would let stores seeking permission to pay a subminimum wage to student workers get approval for more than the currently allowed one year at a time.

Fast food stores, convenience stores and amusement parks, which rely heavily on teenage labor, would be the main beneficiaries of the proposed changes.

The minimum wage is \$3.35 an hour, but under law, employers can seek Labor Department approval to pay \$2.85 to

full-time students.

In testimony prepared for the hearing, AFL-CIO official Robert Harbrant said the purpose of the original proposal was "so that McDonald's and Marriott can 'have it their way.'"

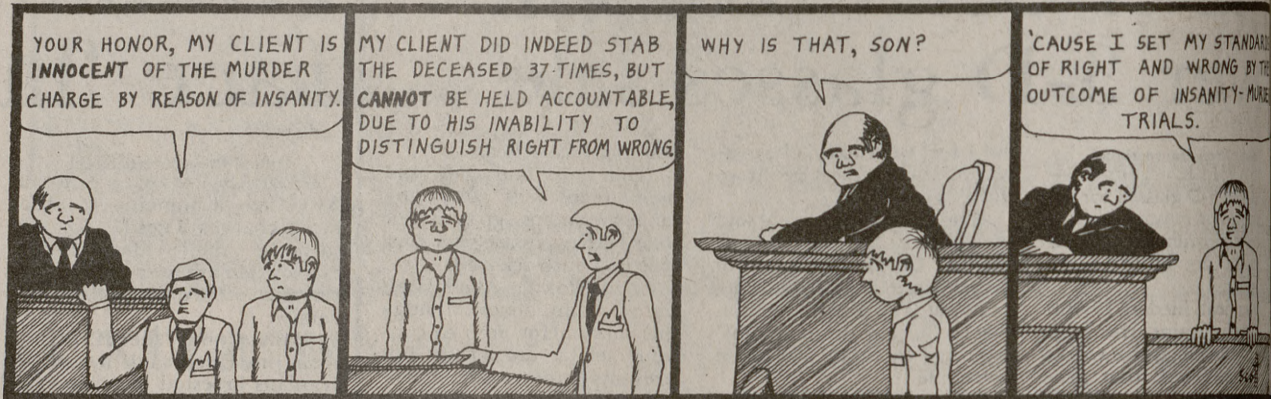
Harbrant, president of the AFL-CIO Food and Beverage Trades Department, said making it easier for 14- and 15-year-olds to work takes jobs away from 16- to 60-year-olds.

"The question then becomes one of priorities — do we give jobs to kids or their parents?" he said.

Education groups have complained that extending night-time work hours for young teenagers will harm their school performance and social lives and could lead to greater alcohol, tobacco and drug use.

Warped

By Scott McCullar



Bid-rigging conspiracies prosecuted nationwide

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The Justice Department is concerned that competition for construction projects will be scarce because it has banned so many firms from bidding for the jobs because of bid rigging.

But Assistant Attorney General William Baxter wrote letters to the attorneys general of 13 states — Texas, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, Nebraska, North and South Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Virginia — saying the department will continue to step up investigations, despite its concern.

"In the past two months, we have filed 14 cases against 14 companies and 10 individuals and have added three states —

Maryland, Oklahoma and Iowa — to the list of states where we have charged bid-rigging conspiracies," he said Monday.

"Less competition could be the result if debarment of many firms within a region during the same period left only a handful of firms eligible to bid," said Baxter, who is in charge of the department's antitrust division.

The letter was dated July 1 and the 13 states Baxter named were the only ones where jury investigations were in progress at the time. Currently there are investigations in 17 states, Baxter said.

"I can assure you those investigations will continue and be vigorously pursued," he said.

Job-placement specialist has advice for '80s job-hunters

United Press International
NEW YORK — Many persons hunting jobs during the current recession are using "shotgun" methods that would have been fine around 1964 but succeed only in antagonizing prospective employers today, says Robert L. Swain.

Swain heads Eaton-Swain Associates Inc., a New York outplacement firm which helps displaced supervisory and middle-management people to find new jobs.

Some weeks ago, Swain and his colleagues began to suspect that employers are increasingly impatient at getting floods of resumes, many of them quite irrelevant to their needs and often actually irritating in their presumptuous or uninformed tone.

Eaton-Swain subsequently surveyed 507 hiring executives in 21 states and 24 industries with a 31.9 percent response.

Swain said the responses showed clearly that a lot of people are hunting jobs on the basis of advice contained in books on the subject published in the relatively affluent mid-1960s when companies were eagerly hunting new management and supervisory workers and the "shotgun" approach worked.

"Today you definitely need to use rifle shot tactics," Swain said, "because employer attitudes have changed drastically."

The most important changes the Eaton-Swain survey turned up concern resumes. Not too many years ago employers did not assume anyone who sent them an unsolicited resume was out of work; he or she might be just casting around for a better job. Today about 90 percent of employers who receive unsolicited resumes assume those who send them are jobless.

For many years, the resume has been considered the main key to job-hunting and professional resume preparers do a substantial business. Responses to the Eaton-Swain survey indicate, however, unsolicited re-

sumes can do more harm than good.

"The results indicated the resume is far more important to the jobhunter than to the prospective employer," Swain said. He said he is inclined to suspect that unless a help-wanted ad asks for a resume, a personalized letter is far more effective. If a resume is sent it should not be over two pages; one page is better.

"The big effort should be put on the personalized letter, not the resume," Swain said. He recounted a lot of mistakes made in personalized letters because not enough attention is devoted to them.

"One executive complained that jobhunters often misspelled his name when they sent him personal letters," he said. "Others complained that many jobhunters started nearly every sentence in the letter with 'I,' including such boastful and exaggerated remarks as 'I have saved my company millions of dollars' or patronizing remarks such as, 'I have selected your company because ...'"

Then there was the executive of a non-profit institution who got naive letters from jobhunters referring lyrically to his company's products.

On the opposite side of the fence was a chap who said, "It is remarkable that an \$80,000-a-year executive doesn't bother to read a prospective employer's annual report or visit the supermarket to see the company's products." Remarks in a letter such as "I'm a self-starter" or "I enjoy a challenge," brand the writer a boring platitudinarian.

"The approach executives find most distasteful is the letter that asks them for advice in job hunting," Swain said the survey indicated.

Finally, he said, most employers don't want to be called on the telephone by jobhunters so don't suggest in your letter that you'll make a follow-up call. One thing that hasn't changed is

the old bromide, "Don't call us, we'll call you."

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Pac-Man gobbles his way into court

United Press International
CHICAGO — The manufacturers of the ever-hungry "Pac-Man" game have been barred from gobbling up a book that instructs game fans how to beat the popular video game.

U.S. District Judge John Grady rejected an attempt by Midway Manufacturing Co., the makers of Pac-Man, to ban the book "How to Win at Pac-Man,"

which tells how to rack up points on the machine.

About a dozen books on the market claim to show players how to successfully maneuver their way out of Pac-Man's jaws, but this dispute was the first to go to court.

Midway Manufacturing sought to stop sales of the book and recall it from bookstores.

Illinois truck stop has a losing streak

United Press International
MARION, Ill. — Some days are best forgotten.

That's what the people at the Marion Truck Plaza on Interstate 57 are thinking since Dame Fortune turned her back on the folks there.

The business was heavily damaged when a tornado ripped through the area May 29. Then lightning struck the building July 4.

Early Monday two women in

a yellow pickup truck got some gasoline at one of the gasoline islands and drove off without removing the nozzle from the tank.

The gasoline pump was ripped from its base, touching off a fire police say caused about \$8,000 in damage.

"Well, I don't know what else can happen to us now," said a spokeswoman at the truck stop.

"I guess we'll have to wait for the flood."