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The Battalion WORLD & NATION

Friday, June 16, 1989

Study: Bush's wage veto greatly affects minorities Impact sharp on earnings of Hispanics, blacks

WASHINGTON (AP) — Presi-dent Bush's veto of legislation raising the minimum wage will have an especially sharp impact on black and Hispanic workers, who have seen their earnings erode over the decade, according to a study released Thursday

According to the study by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Hispanics and blacks are 40 per-cent more likely to be paid at the minimum wage than white workers. Yet a full-time, year-round worker earning the minimum wage and supporting a family of three falls \$2,900 below the poverty line, the study said. In 1979, the minimum wage put a family of three at 104 percent of the poverty level.

Today, one in every four black and Hispanic workers paid by the hour now receives a wage too low to

lift a family of three out of poverty, even if the worker is employed fulltime, the study said.

The minimum wage has been set at \$3.35 an hour since 1981.

"The dramatic drop in the value of the minimum wage has compounded the earnings problems of poor and minority workers and increased their poverty rates," study author Isaac Shapiro said. "To these workers, the president's veto of leg-islation boosting the minimum wage is ominous news

Last year, 21 percent of Hispanic workers and 21 percent of black workers made less than \$4.50 an hour, compared with 15 percent of all white workers, Shapiro said.

Rep. Albert Bustamante, a San Antonio Democrat and former migrant worker, said the minimum wage keeps workers "enslaved at a

U.S. Ag secretary: Drought relief bills will spark public ire

WASHINGTON (AP) - New drought legislation in the House includes provisions that Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yeutter says could raise taxpayer complaints.

"In my judgment, some of the present drought proposals are, at best, on the margin of acceptability to the American public," Yeutter said Wednesday.

The Senate Agriculture Committee, meanwhile, unanimously ap-proved a rural development pro-gram and agreed to take up drought

wheat farmers should come before rural development legislation. Large areas of the Great Plains

and western Corn Belt have still not recovered from the devastating 1988 drought. The winter wheat crop in Kansas, for example, is down by more than a third from last year.

Yeutter, in an interview with recially embraced any drought legis-lation" and will "give an official response when the time comes.'

version in the House, which he described as "too open-ended, with far in a very significant way through a too much taxpayer exposure and variety of programs, including defivulnerability. Further, he said, the House bill is bill "is far more acceptable in that re- should take up on behalf of Ameri-

Dole's drought bill would extend terms of last year's drought relief to crops planted in 1988 for harvest in 1989, mostly winter wheat, which is normally Kansas' biggest crop.

The House bill, which was approved by the agriculture committee on May 25, is basically an extension of the \$3.9 billion 1988 drought relief law. Under it, if farmers qual-ified, they could get federal aid for any affected crop or livestock operation

Rep. Kika de la Garza, D-Texas, relief on July 19. Senate Republican leader Bob Dole of Kansas had argued before the committee on Tuesday that quick action on drought relief for winter wheat formars about a committee of the House committee, said the bill "provides the thinnest of safety nets for farmers around the country who have suffered signifi-cant financial losses because of the continuing drought and other types of weather damage

De la Garza said the committee "acted in a compassionate and budgetarily sound manner" to deal with the tragedy of these farmers.

But Yeutter said there are limits on measures the federal government porters, said that "we have not offi- can or should take to remove risk from the nation's agriculture.

'We are already covering price risk in agriculture in a very signifi-Yeutter said he preferred Dole's cant way through a variety of pro-drought-relief bill over a broader grams," he said. "We are already covering income risks to agriculture

Copter crashes in Panama; kills 3 U.S. soldiers

Vol. 8

PANAMA CITY (AP) -U.S. military helicopter crashed Thursday near the Panama G nal, killing three U.S. soldiers

U.S. Embassy spokesman said U.S. Embassy spokesman Te rence Kneebone said "we do know why or how" the accide occurred, adding that it "appa ently was an accident" and di not involve any hostile fire. The OH-58 helicopter war

down about 1 p.m. EDT, Kne bone said. The helicopter and those aboard belonged to the in Light Infantry Division from For Ord, Calif

The names of the victims we withheld pending notification of their families, Kneebone said. The division was among abo

,900 troops sent to Panama lowing the government's nulli cation of the May 7 elections an post-election violence in whi some opposition candidates were beaten

When the helicopter crashed, was serving as an escort for ami tary convoy transporting tro between Fort Clayton, on the cific side of the Canal, to R Sherman, on the Atlantic, Kneebone said

He said the accident caused th temporary suspension of trai linking Panama City with the nearby city of Colon.

Study suggests senators abuse free mail privilege

WASHINGTON (AP) -Sen. Lloyd Bentsen spent \$2.8 million updating Texans on the latest developments in Washington in the two years before his re-election, while Sen. Phil Gramm's franked mass mailings cost taxpayers \$1.6 million, according to a study Thursday by Common Cause.

level that they really don't survive, they just exist. They barely get by." "It has an impact on all working Americans, and in many of the pock-

ets of Hispanic America, it has a tre-

mendous impact," Bustamante said.

In those "pockets of Hispanic America" are many young people in menial, service jobs that pay the min-imum wage, "young kids that sup-port their families," Bustamante

said. "And most of the people are on

food stamps, housing vouchers, on everything they really don't want to

be on; the wages just keep them

"And unless you've been there, people really don't know what it is to live under those conditions," Busta-

Earlier this week, Bush vetoed legislation that would raise the mini-

mum wage to \$4.55 an hour by

1992, insisting that the new mini-mum wage not exceed \$4.25 an hour. The House on Wednesday was not able to muster the votes required

"Instead of lending a helping

hand to America's low-wage and mi-

nority workers, the president has turned his back on those who work but remain poor," Robert Greens-tein, director of the center, said.

there.

mante said

to override the veto.

Although the two Texans were among 15 senators who spent more than \$1 million each for franked, or free, mass mailings in 1987 and 1988, the per-household cost amounted to less than the price of two stamps for either Gramm or Bentsen

Common Cause, a public interest lobbying group, said Bentsen's government-paid mass mailings cost 46 cents per Texas household, while Gramm's per-household total was 27 cents.

Sen. Kent Conrad, D-N.D., had the highest cost per household — \$1.27 — but his total cost was \$315,943, while Sen. Alan Cranston, D-Calif., had the greatest total cost - \$3.87 million, but a cost per household of 37 cents.

ent by name. Gramm's mass-mailings a sent pre-sorted by carrier route,2 go third class, the cheapest wa mail, Neal said. "They're the last thing on

mailings in 1987-88 and criticat the practice.

Franked mass mailings are us for campaign purposes by mem of Congress and provide incum with an unfair and discrimi advantage over their challen Common Cause President Wertheimer said. "The use frank for mass mailings sho eliminated or sharply curtailed In February, the Senate ch

its policy and expanded from to to six the number of franker mailings senators can make to a address in their state. Spokesmen for Gramm and Be

the judge to prison sen said the Texans use fran mass mailings to reach constitute who have written them about \$ presiden shows no as "abov cific issues. Gramm spokesman Larry N said the Republican has never de proach.' In a m North's

a statewide mailing addresseds to "postal patron.". Gramm in targets his mailings to specific ences — such as Texans who urged U A. Gese "breach c public po written him about the need forat of his crip anced budget amendment - a each letter is addressed to the red tioning o

jury and countera North ha

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ciency payments (subsidies).

Yeutter added: "If we're now also "far too subject to attack by the gen- to cover weather risks in a very sigeral public" because of its costs and nificant way, one must wonder just other features. Yeutter said the Dole what additional role government can agriculture - and at what cost."

In total costs, Bentsen, a Democrat re-elected to a fourth term in November, was ranked fourth among all senators, while Gramm ranked eighth.

Common Cause said senators truck... and it's the last thing" spent \$53 million for franked mass delivered," Neal said.

Women's Journal, the most popu-

lar weekly, put a painting by Cara-vaggio called "Burial" on its cover. It

portrays a Christ-like figure being

At Heroes Square, a platform was

built on the steps of the art museum for coffins bearing the remains of

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Hungary honors martyr of 1956 uprisin Pe

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magazines.

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — Imre Nagy, martyr of the 1956 uprising, will be reburied Friday as an "outstanding statesmen" by the communist regime that executed him for treason 31 years ago.

Only a year ago, before Hungary's more liberal leadership changed the official view of history, police used clubs to break up a memorial demonstration.

Kiosks did a brisk business Thursday in Nagy buttons and in blackrimmed armbands bearing his picture or "56" on the national colors of red, white and green.

The city government said all pub-lic buildings would display black flags Friday.

Nagy was premier in 1956, when a popular uprising began Oct. 23 and was crushed by Soviet tanks on Nov. 4. He and his close associates fled to the Yugoslav Embassy, but later were seized by the Soviets while traveling outside the embassy with diplomatic escorts.

They were tried and executed in Budapest on June 16, 1958. Nagy's rehabilitation began in February of this year, when the Communist Party leadership decided the anti-Soviet revolt began with a popular uprising and was not a counterrevolution after all

Exiled survivors of the military crackdown and reprisals returned to Budapest for Friday's funeral, many for the first time.

Bela Kiraly, who commanded the paramilitary national guard under Nagy and now lives in New Jersey, said it was hard to believe he was in Budapest "with my past" for the first time in 33 years.

He declared to journalists Nagy's leadership was "absolutely" right, that the liberal changes made then

were an "absolute, total victory" and "the bastions of the old regime . . . were wiped out.

Asked whether he thought the leaders of 1956 were ahead of their time in trying to meet the people's demands for more democracy, Kiraly replied: "We were behind the times because changes were due in 1945," before the Communist Party had consolidated power. Kiraly said the revolt was an "ex-

pression of popular will" and would have continued if the Soviets had not intervened.

A commemorative plaque was un-

Settler patrols battle Arabs on West Bank

borne by mourners.

HEBRON, Occupied West Bank (AP) — As soon as a stone landed near his car, patrol leader Meishe Mish-kan hit the brakes, popped a 25-round clip into his Uzi submachine gun and led other Jewish settlers on a chase of a dozen Arab teen-agers.

Moments later, a short, chubby settler with a white, knitted skullcap was stoned from a rooftop. "I'm under attack," he yelled, crouching low, pivoting on one foot and raking a nearby rooftop with bullets.

No one was hurt in Wednesday's clash. But the controversial settler patrols of the occupied lands have spurred accusations the settlers are taking too much of the law into their own hands.

The organizer of the Wednesday patrol, Bella Gonen, said the settlers began the patrols in April after losing faith in the Israeli army's ability to end the 18month Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule.

"The army is becoming more like a group of United Nations observers," said Gonen of Kiryat Arba, a settlement of 4,700 Jews that overlooks Hebron, a city with 50,000 Arabs

"They don't protect the Jews, all they do is separate the two sides," she said.

Army officials have ordered the settlers to end their patrols in Palestinian areas. "It's illegal and each time the army comes across such a patrol it's dispersed immediately," a spokesman said.

veiled Thursday at the Budapest prison where Nagy and the others an empty one symbolizing all perished. Most newspapers and periodicals carried articles, documents and pho-At a news conference with tographs about the uprising. Nagy's picture was on the cover of several

ernment leaders Wednesday, bers of the independent group known by its initials FID asked about last year's events in light of the changed official view.

Nagy and four of his associates.

Foreign Minister Gyula Hom sponded that "no one in the Ce Committee could have known year ago what would happen. the conclusions that would lead

said. "Ca tolerant? Since t ing to cru more that arrested

Israen civilians, most often settlers, were involve sentence Wester Chinese

19 shooting deaths since the uprising began. Gonen said Kiryat Arba settlers began car patro week, which they officially refer to as "archaeolog people w expeditions" to circumvent official objections.

Wednesday's patrol slowly cruised through the ing streets of Hebron for about a half-hour und stone landed near Mishkan's car outside the Foi University campus.

During the clash, Yaakov Ben-David, a tall, thin By Kelly in his 20s who is a Moslem convert to Judiasm, care took aim before letting loose with a burst of trounds. "They're rounding the stone wall," he she SENIOR as he charged up a hill.

Other settlers stood behind him, firing their Un the Palestinians who were running up the hill, behived wall. Sharp pops could be heard as the bullets cheted off the stones.

The encounter lasted about three minutes, which the settlers withdrew to their cars and the teens stood on a stone wall beyond gunfire range, ting Palestinian slogans and flashing "V" for vio

"The problem here is the media," said settler Cohen as he climbed into his mud-spattered blue and rolled up the reinforced glass windows.

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