Federal minimum wage to rise to \$3.35

LANCASTER - A new federal minimum wage of \$3.35 goes into effect on January 1, entitling an estimated 5.6 million workers covered by the fair Labor Standards Act to pay increases, the Labor Department said.

The January 1 increase. from \$3.10 to \$3.35, was provided for in 1977 amen-

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dments to the act.

"The minimum wage increase is a matter of equity for low wage workers and assures that they are not forced to bear a disproportionate share of the burden of inflation," Secretary of Labor Ray Marshall noted.

Approximately 60 million workers are subject to provisions of the act, which also establishes overtime pay and child labor standards.

In addition, the FLSA allows for the payment of wages below the statutory minimum in order to prevent loss of job opportunities for certain workers.

Handicapped workers, full-time students and student-learners in specified industries may currently be employed at subminimum wages under appropriate regulations. Employers must apply for authority to pay such wages from the Labor Department.

Certificates are issued by the department permitting the employment of full-time students at not less than 85 percent of the federal minimum wage in retail trade establishments, in agriculture and in institutions of higher education employing their own full-time students.

The act also provides for the payment of subminimum wages to persons employed in sheltered workshops whose earnings or productive capacity is limited by age or physical or mental disability

In fiscal 1980, the department issues 47,517 certificates which authorized payment of sub-minimum wages to approximately 663,699 workers.

There is also a special FLSA provision for tipped employees. Tipped employees are those who customarily and regularly receive more than \$30 a month in tips. The employer may consider tips as part of total amount of business the wage so long as the wage credit does not exceed the percentage of the minimum wage specified by law.

Employers who elect to use the tip credit must inform the employee in advance and must be able to show that the employee receives at least the minimum wage when direct wages and tip credit allowance are combined.

The FLSA amendments also include a three-step increase in the dollar volume test for coverage of certain employers. These employers are required to pay workers minimum wage and overtime pay, in accordance with the FLSA, dependent on the

done in a year.

The "dollar volume test" applies to employers or enterprises comprised exclusively of one or more retail or service establishments whose annual gross volume of sales or business done is not less than the amount specified by the

The current test of \$325,000 went into effect on July 1, 1980, and will increase to \$362,500 after Dec. 31, 1981.

Administration and enforcement of the FLSA is the responsibility of the Employment and Standards Administration's Wage and Hour Division.

State farm labor force increases

HARRISBURG - Pennsylvania's farm labor force was estimated at 115,000 workers during the week of October 12-18 This is an increase of 16 percent above last October's 99,000, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service

Farm operators and unpaid family members throughout the commonwealth numbered 80,000, while hired workers totaled 35,000 during October 1980. This represents a 21 percent increase in hired workers from October 1979 and a 14 percent increase in the family sector

The average workweek for Pennsylvania operators during the survey

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period was 50.8 hours. Other unpaid family workers averaged 38.8 hours and hired workers averaged 42.1 hours National averages are 41.0 hours for farm operators and other family members, and 40.1 hours for hired workers

Family workers include family members who work 15 hours or more without receiving cash wages. Hired workers include all persons working one hour or more for cash wages during the survey week.

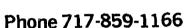
Farm wage rates, for all methods of pay, converted to an hourly rate, totaled \$3.70 in Pennsylvania, up from \$3 12 last year. The national average, \$3.85, was up 28 cents from 1979.

Commonwealth field workers averaged \$3 50 per hour, compared to \$2 97 last year at this time. Livestock workers took home an average of \$3 53 per hour compared to last year's \$2 99

Nationally, the total number of workers on farms October 12 to 18 was 3,790,200 a decline of 153,300 from last October. Family workers and operators totaled 2,484,700 a decline of 40,400

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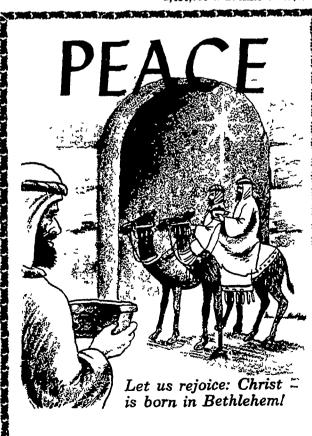
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