

BOARD OF GOVERNORS
OF THE
FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Office Correspondence

Date March 10, 1937

To Chairman Eccles

Subject: General Trend of Thinking of
one Member of the Committee on Shorter
Hours Legislation.

From Lauchlin Currie

LAC

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

In general it is believed desirable to fix a fairly low minimum wage and high maximum hours and then grant an administrative Board wide discretionary powers in setting up reasonable standards, industry by industry, subject to the restriction that the minimum wage established by the Board should not be over, say, \$30 or the maximum hours less than, say, 40 a week. The Board would have power to vary the minimum fair wage or the maximum reasonable work week according to localities and population if such differentiation is necessary or appropriate.

In establishing a maximum reasonable work week, the Board would take into account all relevant circumstances affecting the reasonableness of the period of working time for the character of the work, or class of work performed; may consider the period of working time for work of like or maintained by comparable character employers who voluntarily maintain a reasonable work week in the occupation subject to the order establishing such maximum reasonable work week; and may consider the number of persons available for employment at the work subject to such order and the possibility of alleviating employment among such persons. Public hearings will be held before an order is issued for an industry.

Exemptions from the maximum work week or minimum wage may be granted by the Board in connection with

- (1) The employment of learners and apprentices.
- (2) The employment of persons whose earning capacity is impaired by age or physical or mental deficiency or injury.
- (3) Piece rate work in relation to time rates.
- (4) Deductions for board, lodging, or other benefits.
- (5) Part-time employment.
- (6) Overtime hours and wage rates in periods of seasonal or peak activity or maintenance, repair or other emergency work.
- (7) The averaging of working time in cases of necessity, and
- (8) Other special cases or classes of cases such as herein enumerated.