(New Deal) - Minimum Wage:

In 1912 the minimum wage law covering women and children in private employment was passed in Massachusettes. It was followed by eight different States in the next year. In 1915 Arkansas and Kansas passed it; in 1917 Arizona. Congress has passed a minimum wage law for the District of Columbia, North Dakota, Porto Rico and South Dakata and Texas. Seventeen different states passed the minimum wage law and two, Nebraska and Texas have repealed it. New York passed such a law just before Mr. Roosevelt took office. These Acts differ greatly; they started out with women and children, but most of them now include male minors. As to the flat rate they make the flexible rate/on condition, that is put it up to/Legislature or to the Commission. Public opinion has a great deal to do with the amount of the minimum wage. Certain of the laws have been tested before the Supreme Court and/on the whole Court has been unfavorable in its decision. As a matter of fact, as I understand it, the law is enforced by various States quite regardless of what has been done in the Supreme Court.

Twenty-five years ago when making a Survey of the efforts of our industries to humanize and re-habilitate themselves I found the minimum wage under constant discussion among employers and many of them in favor of it, also other terms

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used, what they call the living wage, of course co-operative bargaining. Then there was the wage decided on the sliding scale, compulsory arbitration. You found the value of labor a keen matter of consideration and I should say that at that time, among all agressive manufacturers in the country, the theory was generally conceded that a low wage was a losing wage, that the high wage under proper management, that is in an efficient factory meant increased output. This is the same about the long and short day; a short day/twenty-five I was told years ago my many factories that they could not afford to have a long day - too expensive. A long day persisted in good industries only as a rule where work was intermittant, like the runs of metal in the steel furnace when a man had twenty to forty minutes of intensive work, then as long a period of idleness in which he did what he pleased, rested, played cards, worked in a garden.

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