

If not, we shall now hear our colleague from Minnesota, Mr. Karth.

**STATEMENT OF HON. JOSEPH E. KARTH, A REPRESENTATIVE IN  
CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MINNESOTA**

Mr. KARTH. Mr. Chairman, I would like to add my thanks to the appreciation you have already expressed to Mr. Donahue and his associates for their fine work in bringing the executive departments. These islands are inhabited by some of the lowest paid individuals in our country. Just think about this personally for a moment: how would any one of us cope with the problem of raising a family on 75 cents per hour—\$30 per week—about \$130 per month. It is my firm belief that we cannot in good conscience tolerate the continuation of these dismal conditions that are so prevalent under Government services contracts.

As one part of the study I mentioned a moment ago, I examined the situation at one large Air Force base. As early as 1962 the Department of Labor began court action against a contractor at this base in an attempt to require compliance with the minimum wage provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act. Mr. Donahue has already described the basis for their court action: attempting to consider military installations as instruments of interstate commerce. But this issue remains unresolved. Similar actions have been taken against two subsequent contractors at the same base; again, the issue is still up in the air—with no prospect of an early decision. In fact, a good guess is that final determination by the courts may well be 2 years off.

...they could drop no lower than \$1.20.

Although I have related a sequence of events that demonstrates confusion, despair, and hardship at one base, the pattern is nationwide. This we cannot accept; rather, we in the Congress must accept the responsibility to destroy the inequities so widespread in Government services contracts by enactment of this legislation at the earliest possible date.

Mr. O'HARA. Thank you, Mr. Karth, for a very fine statement.

The Special Subcommittee on Labor of the House Committee on Education and Labor will now stand adjourned until the call of the Chair.