

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION
Washington

GARMENT MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION COMMENDED

The action of the International Association of Garment Manufacturers in warning its members of the illegality of withholding part of their employees' minimum pay while awaiting an exemption under the Wage and Hour Act for the employment of learners, was commended today by Merle D. Vincent, Chief of the Hearings and Exemptions Section, Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor.

A. F. Allison, Secretary of the Association, had wired Administrator Elmer F. Andrews requesting his review of the advice the Association had given its members. Mr. Vincent, replying on behalf of the Administrator, told Mr. Allison that he was correct in his advice to the manufacturers that no learners' exemptions had been granted in the cotton garment industry. He also informed Mr. Allison that, when and if exemptions are granted, they will not be retroactive, and that withholding any part of an employee's wages in anticipation of such an exemption is a violation of law.

No hearing on exemptions for learners in the garment industry has been scheduled. A hearing on the application for learners' exemptions in the textile industry, to cover four percent of any employer's workers, requested by the Cotton-Textile Institute, Inc., the National Rayon Weavers Association, and the National Federation of Textiles, will be held before Mr. Vincent in Room 3229 of the U. S. Department of Labor Building, Washington, D. C., at

10 o'clock Monday, November 28. The petitioners ask permission to pay the learners 70 percent of the minimum wage rate for a nine week training period.

A similar hearing for the garment or apparel industries will be held early in December.
