

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Wage and Hour Division
Washington

SHOE COMMITTEE TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARING MAY 2, 1939

A public hearing of Industry Committee No. 6 for the shoe manufacturing and allied industries will be held beginning at 10:00 A.M., May 2, 1939, in the auditorium of the Department of Commerce Building, Washington, D. C., to receive evidence bearing on the minimum wage rate which should be established under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Francis J. Haas, Chairman of the Committee, announced today.

At the same time, Burton E. Oppenheim, Chief of the Industry Committee Section of the Wage and Hour Division, made public the following letter addressed to trade associations and labor unions in the industry, inviting them to make appearances at the hearing.

Mr. Oppenheim emphasized that the invitation to appear was not limited to those to whom the letter was addressed but that it was open to any groups or individuals who have information pertinent to the committee's deliberations. Appearances may be arranged as outlined in the letter. The letter:

"Industry Committee No. 6 for the Shoe Manufacturing and Allied Industries is planning to hold public hearings beginning May 2, 1939, in order to receive from interested organizations and individuals evidence pertinent to the committee's problem of determining a minimum wage recommendation for the industry.

"It is requested that the Industry Committee Section of the Wage and Hour Division be advised at the earliest possible moment as to the names of witnesses who wish to appear, and the approximate time required for the presentation of their testimony. Personal appearances are not essential since briefs and written statements submitted to this office will be brought to the attention of the committee and incorporated in the record.

"The committee is charged with the responsibility of investigating conditions in the industry and recommending the highest minimum wage, not exceeding 40 cents per hour, which can be established without substantially curtailing employment. Testimony should be directed, therefore, toward a factual demonstration of the anticipated effect of various minimum wage rates not in excess of 40 cents per hour on costs, selling prices, competitive relationships, and employment.

"Enclosed is a copy of the definition of the Shoe Manufacturing and Allied Industries over which the committee has jurisdiction. Your attention is directed particularly to the fact that this definition includes the manufacture of many items of cut stock and findings as well as shoe patterns, besides the manufacture of footwear as such."

The letter was sent to these trade associations: Athletic Goods Mfrs. Assn., Chicago, Ill.; Eastern Shoe Mfrs. Assn., Lynn, Mass.; Machine Cut Shoe Findings Assn., Haverhill, Mass.; Natl. Assn. of Shoe Findings Mfrs., Morris Plains, N.J.; Natl. Assn. of Slipper Mfrs., New York; Natl. Assn. of Stay Mfrs., Boston, Mass.; Natl. Assn. of Wood Heel Mfrs., Haverhill, Mass.; Natl. Boot & Shoe Mfrs. Assn., New York; Natl. Leather & Shoe Finders Assn., St. Louis, Mo.; Natl. Shoe Pattern Mfrs. Assn., Boston, Mass.; New England Shoe & Leather Assn., Boston, Mass.; Shoe Mfrs. Board of Trade of New York; St. Louis Shoe Mfrs. Assn., Brockton Shoe Mfrs. Assn., Brockton, Mass.; Auburn Shoe Mfrs. Assn., Julius E. Muller, Secy., Auburn, Me.; Boot & Shoe Mfrs. Assn. of Philadelphia; Rochester Shoe Mfrs. Board of Trade, Rochester, N.Y.; Haverhill Shoe Mfrs. Board of Trade, Haverhill, Mass.; Stitchdown Shoe Mfrs. Assn., Brooklyn, N.Y.; Fibre Shoe Counter Mfrs. Assn., Merrimac, Mass.; Wood Heel Mfrs. Board of Trade, Brooklyn, N.Y., and Tanners Council of America, Inc., New York.

The letter also was sent to these labor unions: United Shoe Workers of America (CIO), Washington, D.C.; Brotherhood of Shoe & Allied Craftsmen (Independent), Brockton, Mass.; Cambridge Shoe Workers' League (Independent), Boston, Mass.; and Boot & Shoe Workers Union (AFL), Boston, Mass.