

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

FIRST LEARNER CERTIFICATES GRANTED

The first certificates for the employment of learners, at wages less than the minimum prescribed in the Fair Labor Standards Act, were issued today by Merle D. Vincent, Chief of the Hearings and Exemptions Section of the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor.

The certificates were issued to four employers in the apparel industry and permit employment of a total of 128 beginners for a maximum of eight weeks at wages not less than 75 per cent of the statutory minimum of 25 cents per hour. Employees, or their representatives, and competitors may, however, file objections with the Division within 15 days and obtain a hearing on such objections.

Mr. Vincent then may sustain the objections and cancel the certificate, or he may overrule the objection. The petitioner, if dissatisfied, then may ask Administrator Elmer F. Andrews, of the Wage and Hour Division, for a review of Mr.

Vincent's final ruling. If the certificate is canceled, the cancellation will be effective as of the date it was issued, and the employer will be liable to pay the minimum wage rate from that date.

Notice of the issuance of the certificates, which appeared in the Federal Register today, is in conformity with Section 14 of the Fair Labor Standards Act and Regulations 522.5(b) issued by Administrator Andrews, which permit manufacturers to employ a limited number of learners when no experienced help is available and where curtailment of employment might otherwise ensue.

Of the four companies whose applications were approved, two are in Pennsylvania, one is in Virginia, and the other in Missouri.

Employees, or their representatives, and competitors may, however, file objections with the Division within 15 days and obtain a hearing on such objections.

Mr. Vincent then may sustain the objections and cancel the certificate, or he may overrule the objection. The petitioner, if dissatisfied, then may ask Administrator Elmer F. Andrews, of the Wage and Hour Division, for a review of Mr. Vincent's final ruling. (1529)

Simultaneously, Mr. Vincent announced the denial of similar applications from two garment manufacturers in Pennsylvania, one in New York and one in Virginia.

The Dunhill Shirt Co., of Lexington, Mo., was granted a certificate for the employment of 62 learners. This is a new plant, having operated approximately six weeks.

The Westmoreland Garment Corp., of Norvelt, Pa., was granted a certificate for the employment of 40 learners. This is to provide for plant expansion and creation of additional jobs.

Julius Leventhal & Bros., of Lykens, Pa., was granted a certificate for employment of 20 learners to be used on machines that have been idle, thus creating additional employment.

Metro Pants Co., of Harrisonburg, Va., was granted a certificate for employment of six learners.

All four certificates are limited to a period of eight weeks and apply only to stitching machine operations. At the end of that period learners employed under the certificates must be increased to the minimum wage provided in the Act. If their earnings at piece rates during the learning period exceed the amount provided in the certificate, they will, of course, receive the amounts which they earn.

Additional applications for the employment of approximately 150 learners are expected to be acted upon this week.

#####