

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

ANDREWS DENIES BARDEN AMENDMENTS "COMPROMISE"

Elmer F. Andrews, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, today issued the following statement:

"Reports that the proposed Barden amendments to the Fair Labor Standards Act represent a 'compromise' are inaccurate and unfounded. The Barden Bill goes far beyond any previous amendments and has no economic or social justification, as I pointed out in a statement given today to Mrs. Norton, Chairman of the House Labor Committee, at her request.

"The Barden Bill is inconsistent with the purposes for which the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 was passed. Textiles and apparels aside, the net result of this bill would be to remove from the coverage of the law the great bulk of employees who have had their wages raised by the Fair Labor Standards Act. The textile and apparel industries would have just cause for complaint if singled out in this discriminatory fashion.

"What is proposed in the Barden amendment is the wreckage of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

"The attention of the great majority of employers, who recognize the need for the present Act, of wage-earners and of all liberal and progressive persons is directed to the detailed statement made to Mrs. Norton."

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CIGAR LEARNER HEARING JULY 20, 1939

A hearing in the application of Jno. H. Swisher & Son, Inc., of Jacksonville, Fla., for permission to employ learners in their cigar factory at wages lower than the minimum prescribed in the Wage and Hour Law, will be held before Merle D. Vincent, Chief of the Hearings and Exemptions Section, at 10 A. M. Thursday, July 20, 1939, in Room 304, Wage and Hour Division, 10th and D Streets, Washington, D. C.

The firm has asked for the issuance of special learners' certificates covering more than 600 jobs. Included in those for whom exemptions are sought are workers on cigar-rolling machines, cigar-bunching machines, stemmers, cellophane machine operators and cigar packers.

The application of the Swisher firm is the first to come up for action in a field other than the apparel industry, in which several learners' certificates have been issued. Since the action taken in this case will assist in determining which, if any, occupations in this industry are skilled and require a substantial learning period, Mr. Vincent, who has been designated by Administrator Elmer F. Andrews to pass upon such cases, has invited representatives of the Cigar Manufacturers' Association and other interested parties to be present at the hearing.

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