

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

APPAREL INDUSTRY COMMITTEE REPORT

A subcommittee appointed by Louis E. Kirstein, Chairman of Fair Labor Standards Act Industry Committee No. 2, for the Apparel Industry, met in Washington yesterday to study a draft of the committee's formal minimum wage recommendation to Administrator Elmer F. Andrews of the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor.

In an informal report on June 16, Mr. Andrews was informed that the committee had voted to recommend minimum wage scales ranging from 32-1/2 cents an hour to 40 cents an hour for the several divisions of the industry. Approximately 650,000 wage earners are employed in the apparel industry, and it is estimated that 200,000 of these would receive increased wages should the Administrator approve the recommendation after a public hearing.

In the absence of Mr. Kirstein, on vacation out of the country, Delos Walker, Vice-Chairman of the Apparel Committee, sat as an ex officio member of the subcommittee at Tuesday's meeting. Members of the subcommittee, all of whom were present, are Judge John P. Devaney, Sumner H. Slichter, and Arthur J. Patton.

After the session Mr. Walker announced that a revised draft of the subcommittee's report will be prepared and submitted to its members for approval. It then will be sent to all members of the Apparel Industry Committee for signature.

When the report has been approved and submitted to the Administrator, he will set a date for the public hearing, as provided in the Act, at which all interested parties may appear and testify either for or against the recommendation.

It is anticipated that the Administrator will give at least two weeks notice, after receiving the report, before holding the public hearing. Evidence adduced at the Administrator's hearing, entirely apart from any presented to the Apparel Industry Committee, must be adequate to support any decision the Administrator may finally make. Under the Fair Labor Standards Act, he may accept the committee's recommendation, or he may reject the report and refer it back to the committee or to another committee appointed for further study. But he may not change the recommendation in any manner.

#####