

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

WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION ANNOUNCES FORMATION OF TWO INDUSTRY COMMITTEES  
FOR THE KNIT GOODS INDUSTRY

Appointment of industry committees authorized to recommend minimum wage rates under the Fair Labor Standards Act for the Knitted Outerwear Industry (Industry Committee No. 7) and the Knitted Underwear and Commercial Knitting Industry (Industry Committee No. 8) was announced today by Administrator Elmer F. Andrews of the Wage and Hour Division, United States Department of Labor. These two divisions of the Textile and Apparel industries employ nearly 100,000 workers, more than 60,000 being employed in the Knitted Underwear and Commercial Knitting Industry and more than 30,000 in the Knitted Outerwear Industry.

With the appointment of these two committees the last major textile and apparel operations have been included in the jurisdiction of industry committees for the recommendation of minimum wage rates after investigation of economic and competitive conditions. The total number of workers in this major classification of American industry (textiles and apparels), for whom the machinery of minimum wage designations on an industry basis has been set in motion, comes to about 2,000,000.

Except for the 100,000 workers in the Knit Goods Industry, minimum wage recommendations, all above 30 cents and up to and including 40 cents, have been voted by industry committees for all these workers in the Textile and Apparel Industries. The first wage order based on such recommendations, that for the hosiery industry, went into effect Monday, September 18. The second, that for the textile industry, will go into effect October 24. The remainder are awaiting the filing of formal reports by the committees and the holding of the public hearings prescribed in the

Act. Should the remaining recommendations be approved by the Administrator, they will result in wage rate increases for approximately 500,000 workers, or about one-fourth of those within the jurisdiction of these industry committees. On October 24 the general statutory minimum for all workers engaged in interstate commerce or the production of goods for interstate commerce changes from 25 cents to 30 cents, a change which will mean a wage rate increase for an estimated 550,000 workers, irrespective of industry committee recommendations.

Under the provisions of the Act, the committees appointed today are to make minimum wage recommendations "with a view to carrying out the policy of this Act by reaching, as soon as economically feasible and without substantially curtailing employment, the objective of a universal minimum wage of 40 cents an hour."

The minimum wage determination of Industry Committee No. 7 (the Knitted Outerwear Industry Committee) will be made for employers engaged in:

"The knitting from any yarn or mixture of yarns and the further manufacturing, dyeing or other finishing of knitted garments, knitted garment sections or knitted garment accessories for use as external apparel or covering which are partially or completely manufactured in the same establishment as that where the knitting process is performed; provided that the manufacturing, dyeing or other finishing of the following shall not be included:

- "(a) Knitted fabric, as distinguished from garment sections or garments, for sale as such.
- "(b) Full suitings, coatings, topcoatings, and overcoatings.
- "(c) Garments or garment accessories made from purchased fabric.
- "(d) Gloves or mittens.
- "(e) Hosiery
- "(f) Knitted garments or garment accessories for use as underwear, sleeping wear, or negligees.
- "(g) Fleece-lined garments made from knitted fabric containing cotton only or containing any mixture of cotton and not more than 25 per cent, by weight, of wool or animal fiber other than silk.

"(h) Knitted shirts of cotton or any synthetic fiber or any mixture of such fibers which have been knit on machinery of 10-cut or finer; provided that this exception shall not be construed to exclude from the Knitted Outerwear Industry the manufacturing, dyeing or other finishing of knitted shirts made in the same establishment as that where the knitting process is performed, if such shirts are made wholly or in part of fibers other than those specified in this clause, or if such shirts of any fiber are knit on machinery coarser than 10-cut."

The membership of this Committee is:

For the Public:

Chairman, Charles Ray

Former Chairman, Connecticut Minimum Wage Board for the Laundry Industry, Goodyear, Connecticut

Paul F. Brissenden  
Professor of Economics  
Columbia University  
New York

Jonathán W. Daniels  
Editor, The Raleigh News and Observer  
Raleigh, North Carolina

Harrold English  
Chairman of California State Planning Board  
Los Angeles

Fred Lazarus, Jr.  
Vice President and Treasurer, F. & R. Lazarus Co. Department Store  
Columbus, Ohio

William N. Loucks  
Associate Professor of Economics  
University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia

For the Employees:

David Dubinsky  
President, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union  
New York

Jacob Halpern  
International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union  
Boston

Abraham Katovsky  
International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union  
Cleveland, Ohio

Jennie Matyas  
International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union  
San Francisco, California

Louis Nelson  
International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Local 155  
Brooklyn, New York

Samuel Otto  
International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

For the Employers:

Ingram Bergman  
President, Bergman Knitting Mills  
Philadelphia

I. B. Davies  
Secretary and Treasurer, Bradley Knitting Company  
Delavan, Wisconsin

John Springthorpe  
Pine State Knitwear Mills  
Mount Airy, North Carolina

Louis Sternberg  
President, Sternberg Knitting Company  
New York

E. W. Stewart  
President, Pacific Knitting Mills  
Los Angeles

Roger W. Whitman  
President, American Hosiery Company  
New Britain, Connecticut

Three of the Public Members of this Committee are Public Members of Industry Committee No. 2, the Apparel Industry Committee. They are Charles Ray, Chairman, Jonathan W. Daniels and Harrold English. Fred Lazarus, Jr., is a Public Member of Industry Committee No. 1, the Textile Committee. This interlocking of public members in these committees is in response to a recommendation made by Industry

Committee No. 1, "that some duplication of public membership be arranged to assist in coordinating the wage recommendations as between Industry Committee No. 1 and the committee, or committees, having jurisdiction over knit garments, and also some duplication of public membership between the committees having jurisdiction over knit garments and that which may have jurisdiction over related types of apparel".

The term "knitted outerwear" has been defined to cover a wide variety of external apparel or covering which is made partially or completely in knitting mills. In many cases these garments are knit in sections directly on the machine so that a distinction between the knitting and the garment-making would be artificial and unrealistic. Other types of knitted outerwear are tailored in apparel shops from purchased knitted fabric. In the latter case, the knitting of the fabric is to be classified as commercial knitting, under the jurisdiction of the Knitted Underwear and Commercial Knitting Committee, while the tailoring has been defined as part of the Apparel Industry, and under the jurisdiction of Industry Committee No. 2 (the Apparel Industry Committee).

Industry Committee No. 8 (the Knitted Underwear and Commercial Knitting Industry Committee) will recommend a minimum wage schedule for employees engaged in:

"(a) The manufacturing, dyeing or other finishing of any knitted fabric made from any yarn or mixture of yarns, except:

- "1. The knitting from any yarn or mixture of yarns and the further manufacturing, dyeing or other finishing of knitted garments, knitted garment sections or knitted garment accessories for use as external apparel or covering which are partially or completely manufactured in the same establishment as that where the knitting process is performed; provided that this exception shall not be construed to apply to the garments or garment accessories designated in clause (b) of this definition.
- "2. Fulled suitings, coatings, topcoatings, or overcoatings containing more than 25 per cent, by weight, of wool or animal fiber other than silk.

"3. Hosiery.

"(b) The manufacturing, dyeing or other finishing, from any yarn or mixture of yarns, or from purchased knitted fabric, of any of the following products:

- "1. Knitted garments or garment accessories for use as underwear, sleeping wear, or negligees.
- "2. Fleece-lined garments made from knitted fabric containing cotton only or containing any mixture of cotton and not more than 25 per cent, by weight, of wool or animal fiber other than silk.
- "3. Knitted shirts of cotton or any synthetic fiber or any mixture of such fibers which have been knit on machinery of 10-cut or finer in the same establishment as that where the knitting process is performed.
- "4. Knitted towels or cloths.

The members of this Committee are:

For the Public:

Chairman, John P. Devaney  
Former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Minnesota  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Johathan W. Daniels  
Editor, The Raleigh News and Observer  
Raleigh, North Carolina

Miss Marión Dickerman  
Principal, Todhunter School  
New York

John D. Evans  
Professor of Economics  
Albright College  
Reading, Pennsylvania

Fred Lazarus, Jr.  
Vice President, F. & R. Lazarus Co. Department Store  
Columbus, Ohio

George Fort Milton  
Publisher, Chattanooga News  
Chattanooga, Tennessee

Arthur J. Patton  
Former Buyer for the J. C. Penney chain  
New York

Philip Taft  
Assistant Professor of Economics  
Brown University  
Providence, Rhode Island

For the Employees:

David Dubinsky  
President, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (Independent)  
New York

Charles M. Fox  
President, United Textile Workers of America (A. F. of L.)  
Savannah, Georgia

John S. Martin  
International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union  
Atlanta, Georgia

Ray Reidenbach  
Textile Workers' Union of America (C.I.O.)  
Kenosha, Wisconsin

Emil Rieve  
General President, Textile Workers' Union of America  
New York

Samuel Shore  
International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union  
New York

Harry Wander  
International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union  
Newark, New Jersey

Joseph P. White  
Textile Workers' Union of America  
Cohoes, New York

For the Employers:

L. B. Boynton  
General Manager, Earnshaw Knitting Company  
Newton, Massachusetts

Ralph M. Jones  
Vice-President, Utica Knitting Company  
Utica, New York

E. J. McMillan  
President, Standard Knitting Mills, Inc.  
Knoxville, Tennessee

T. O. Moore  
Assistant Secretary, P. H. Haines Knitting Co.  
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

T. H. Mueller  
Vice-President, Julius Kayser & Co.  
New York

William Rávner  
President, Warburn Knitwear Co., Inc.  
New York

Mitchel Schneider  
Mitchel Schneider Corporation  
New York

H. E. Sims  
Secretary and Treasurer, Atlas Underwear Co.  
Piqua, Ohio

This Committee likewise meets the recommendation of Industry Committee No. 1 (the Textile Industry Committee) for "some duplication of public membership." The Chairman, John P. Devaney, Jonathan W. Daniels, Miss Marion Dickerman and Arthur J. Patton are members of the Apparel Industry Committee (Industry Committee No. 2). Fred Lazarus, Jr. and George Fort Milton are members of the Textile Industry Committee.

The term "knitted underwear and commercial knitting" has been defined to cover the making of knit fabrics for sale and the making of underwear, sleeping wear and negligees from knitted fabric. Certain additional products covered by this definition are described specifically. These consist of certain garments and miscellaneous products which are made predominately in underwear mills, some of them on the same machines as those used in making underwear. These garments are chiefly sweat shirts and polo shirts. The manufacture of other garments from knitted cloth comes under the jurisdiction of the Knitted Outerwear Committee when the cutting and sewing is performed in the knitting mill, and under the jurisdiction of the Apparel Committee when the manufacture is carried out in other

establishments with purchased knitted fabric.

As in the case of the previous committees, the Knitted Outerwear Committee and the Knitted Underwear and Commercial Knitting Committee, Mr. Andrews explained, were formed after consultation and discussion with employer and labor representatives in the industry. These two Committees will meet separately and are independent entities. They will make their own investigations of conditions in their respective industries, and will hear witnesses and receive written evidence. The Economic Section of the Wage and Hour Division will furnish the Committees with information on existing wage rates, competitive conditions, and other factors.

When these Committees have finished their investigations, they will file their recommendations with the Administrator. The Administrator will then give notice to interested persons and allow them to be heard. If, after the prescribed public hearing, he approves the recommendation, he will issue a wage order putting it into effect. If he disapproves he may refer the matter back to the committee or he may appoint another committee. He cannot alter a committee recommendation.

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