

For Release Monday
September 25, 1939

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

BIRMINGHAM REGIONAL ATTORNEY STARTS TO WORK

Conley Merchant reported in Birmingham today as Regional Attorney of the Wage and Hour Division, United States Department of Labor.

Mr. Merchant, who is 48 years old, is a native of Alabama, and was graduated from the University of Alabama with the degrees of B.S. and L.Lb. He has practiced law in Birmingham since 1925. Prior to that he worked for several years in Asheville where he served as Mayor and also as a member of the County School Board.

Mr. Merchant took the oath of office in Birmingham last August 22 and in the period since that time he has been in Washington conferring with officials of the Wage and Hour Division pursuant to his duties here.

As regional Attorney Mr. Merchant will be in charge of the legal work in connection with the enforcement of the Fair Labor Standards Act in the Birmingham region, which includes the states of Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana.

Under the decentralization program of the Wage and Hour Division, announced several weeks ago by Administrator Elmer F. Andrews, the regional attorneys will be in charge of all cases in litigation in their regions. Prior to this all litigation has been handled from the Washington office.

Mr. Merchant's office will be at the regional headquarters of the Wage and Hour Division, 818 Comer Building, Birmingham.

He is married and has two children. The family home is at 832 MacMillan Avenue, Southwest.

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