

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

KNITTED OUTERWEAR COMMITTEE TO MEET OCTOBER 25

The Knitted Outerwear Committee, authorized under the Fair Labor Standards Act to recommend a minimum wage up to 40 cents for that industry, will meet at 9:30 A.M., October 25, in Room 208, 939 D Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., Charles Ray of Holyoke, Massachusetts, the Chairman, announced today.

The Committee will conduct an informal conference on October 26 at the same place, at which time it will receive evidence from manufacturers, trade associations, labor unions, and any other interested persons or groups.

A letter requesting such evidence has been mailed by the Wage and Hour Division, U.S. Department of Labor, to these groups. It was emphasized that the invitation to contribute evidence contained therein was not limited to the groups to which the letter was addressed, but that any interested groups or individuals wishing to appear before the committee may arrange to do so by communicating with Sherman Trowbridge, Acting Chief, Industry Committee Section, Wage and Hour Division, before October 20. The letter:

"Industry Committee No. 7 for the Knitted Outerwear Industry has been appointed by the Administrator of the Fair Labor Standards Act to recommend to him the highest minimum wage (not exceeding 40¢ per hour) which can be established under the provisions of the Act without substantially curtailing employment in the industry. Attached is a copy of Administrative Order No. 29 which sets forth the definition of the industry under the Committee's jurisdiction.

"In order to establish a record upon which to base sound judgment in its recommendation, the Committee plans to conduct an informal conference on October 26, 1939. At this conference the Committee desires to receive evidence from manufacturers, trade associations, labor unions, and any other interested persons or groups which may assist it in coming to a proper conclusion.

"Each person or group wishing to submit evidence to the Committee will be asked to direct the presentation to facts with substantiating analysis showing the possible effect of minimum wage orders on the industry of minimum rates fixed at 30¢ per hour, 35¢ per hour, and 40¢ per hour, and, if the witness desires, at other rates permissible

within the limitations of the Act. Particular attention should be given to the effect of various minimum wages upon employment, to the relationship between various minimum wages and the ultimate cost to the manufacturer and to the consumer, and to the effect of possible increases in costs on the volume of sales. The character of competitive relationships between groups within this industry and between this industry and other industries should be analyzed. The matter of classifications should be considered in the light of Section 8(c) of the Act.

"It is not necessary for an interested party to make a personal appearance before the Committee to record his position. The Committee will receive and give consideration to factual briefs containing pertinent information. All briefs and other written material to be brought to the attention of the Committee must be received in this office by October 20, 1939. Twenty-five copies of such data should be furnished.

"Interested persons or groups wishing to make personal appearances before the Committee at the conference on October 26 should advise this office promptly of their intention to appear, whom they will represent, the particular divisions of the industry to be covered in their presentation, and an estimate of the time to be consumed by their presentation. Upon receipt of this information, agenda will be prepared and the parties wishing to make personal appearances will be notified when to appear.

"Although this letter is being addressed only to those persons and groups whose names appear in our file, it should be clearly understood that any other interested party may avail himself of the opportunity to present evidence to this Committee by communicating with this office."

The industry for which the Committee is authorized to recommend minimum wages defined as:

"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) Fulled 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 percent, 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."

# # # # #