

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

ADMINISTRATOR SIGNS TEXTILE MINIMUM WAGE ORDER

A Wage Order, directing payment of at least 32-1/2 cents an hour to employees in the textile industry on and after October 24, 1939 was signed today by Administrator Elmer F. Andrews of the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor. On the same date the "floor for wages" for all industries engaged in interstate commerce, or in the production of goods for interstate commerce, goes from 25 cents an hour to 30 cents an hour.

It is estimated that about 175,000 employees in the textile industry, as defined in this Order, are presently being paid less than 32-1/2 cents an hour.

The minimum wage rate of 32-1/2 cents an hour was recommended on May 23, 1939, by Industry Committee No. 1 under the Fair Labor Standards Act, Donald M. Nelson, Chairman, after an investigation of conditions in the industry. Administrator Andrews held public hearings on the recommendation in Washington and Atlanta over a period of three weeks, in which more than 100 witnesses were heard in support and opposition, and a record of more than 3,000 pages compiled.

In signing the Order, Administrator Andrews issued his "Findings and Opinion" in which he said, "Upon the whole record I find that the recommendation of the Committee, that a 32-1/2 cent minimum wage rate is the highest minimum wage rate for the Textile Industry which, having due regard to economic and competitive conditions, will not substantially curtail employment in the industry, is supported by the evidence adduced at this hearing."

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