

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Wage and Hour Division
Washington

LEARNERS' CERTIFICATE CANCELLED

A special certificate for the employment of learners at less than the minimum wage, issued to the Thomas P. Taylor Company, underwear manufacturers of Bridgeport, Connecticut, was cancelled today in an order issued by Merle D. Vincent, Chief of the Hearings and Exemptions Section of the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor.

The order of cancellation, Mr. Vincent said, followed submission of proof by the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, and not rebutted by the company, to the effect that there were experienced sewing machine operators in Bridgeport available for employment by the company at the time the certificate was issued.

The learners' certificate permitted the company to employ beginners at a minimum wage less than the 25 cent-an-hour minimum of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

At a hearing held on September 14, on an objection to the issuance of the certificate issued to the company, the union presented evidence showing that at that time two similar plants in Bridgeport had closed down and that numbers of experienced workers had been refused jobs by the Taylor Company. It was also testified that the Taylor Company had refused to hire experienced machine operators sent them by the Connecticut Employment Service.

According to the findings of Mr. Vincent, O. R. Plumb, Treasurer of the Taylor Company "admitted that needle trade workers on other types of garments were available and could attain the proficiency required in the making of cotton underwear within a week or two weeks. He was unable to account for the company being unwilling to take on such experienced workers in preference to learners."

The order of cancellation directs the company to reimburse the employees for the difference between the wages they actually received and those to which they were entitled under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

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