

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION  
Washington, D. C.

HEARING SET ON APPLICATION OF TELEGRAPH COMPANIES FOR MESSENGER WAGE EXEMPTION

A public hearing to determine whether it is necessary, in order to prevent curtailment of opportunities for employment, to permit employment of telegraph messengers at less than 30 cents an hour, will be held in Washington at 10:00 A.M. on October 25, Administrator Elmer F. Andrews of the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor, announced today (Federal Register, October 10, 1939).

Mr. Andrews acted on the application of the Postal Telegraph landline system for permission to employ messengers at wage rates lower than the minimum under Section 14 of the Act and the regulations issued thereunder.

Merle D. Vincent, Chief of the Hearings and Exemptions Section of the Wage and Hour Division, was designated by the Administrator to conduct the hearing, which will be held in Room 208, 939 D Street, N. W. Any person may be heard if he files with Mr. Vincent by noon, October 24, a notice of his intention to appear, indicating the person or groups he will represent, whether he is in support of or in opposition to the application for exemption, and the approximate time he will need for his presentation.

In his notice of hearing, Mr. Andrews authorized Mr. Vincent "to conduct the said hearing and to determine whether it is necessary in order to prevent curtailment of opportunities for employment, to provide for the employment of messengers (employed exclusively in delivering letters and messages) at wage rates lower than the minimum wage applicable under Section 6 of said Act, and if such necessity be found to exist, to determine at what wages lower than the minimum wage applicable under Section 6, such employment of messengers shall be permitted, and with what limitations as to time, number, proportion, and length of service."

The hearing is not limited to the Postal Telegraph landline system, but will cover the entire landline telegraph industry.

In October, 1938, the telegraph companies at a hearing in New York urged the exemption of their messengers from the 25-cents-an-hour minimum which became effective October 24, 1938. Dr. William M. Leiserson, then Chairman of the National Mediation Board, designated by Administrator Andrews to conduct the hearing, found that such exemption was not necessary in order to prevent curtailment of opportunities for employment. The companies applied for a review by the Administrator, and Mr. Andrews received briefs and heard argument on December 19, after which he sustained Dr. Leiserson's finding. The present application has been made in anticipation of the increase in the statutory minimum from 25 cents an hour to 30 cents an hour on October 24.

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