

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

KNITTED OUTERWEAR COMMITTEE VOTES 35 CENT MINIMUM

The Knitted Outerwear Committee (Industry Committee No. 7) today voted to recommend a minimum wage rate for this industry under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 35 cents an hour, Charles Ray of Holyoke, Massachusetts, Chairman of the Committee, announced. This recommendation, if approved by the Administrator after public hearing, will increase the hourly wage rates of 7,500 factory wage earners during the periods of average production. The industry employs an average of 23,000 factory workers and an undetermined number of industrial home workers. The latter are largely engaged in making knitted infants' wear.

The vote on the wage motion was sixteen to one, John Springthorpe, employer representative of Mount Airy, North Carolina, voting in opposition.

The Committee voted against making any special provisions for home workers and against any regional classifications. It also voted to request strict enforcement of the minimum wage of the Administrator and to advise that a labelling device would be helpful in making such enforcement possible.

The industry is concentrated in the Middle Atlantic states and New England. Establishments in New York state employ 20 percent of the total workers; in Pennsylvania, 15 percent; in Massachusetts, 15 percent. It is also carried on in some volume in Ohio, Wisconsin and California. Less than 10 percent of employees in this industry are engaged in the South.

In addition to the Chairman, the members who voted this recommendation were: For the public, Paul F. Brissenden, Professor of Economics, Columbia University, New York; Harrold English, Chairman of California State Planning Board, Los Angeles; Fred Lazarus, Jr., Vice President and Treasurer, F. & R. Lazarus Co., Columbus, Ohio; John C. Evans, Professor of Economics, Albright

College, Reading, Pennsylvania. For the employoes: David Dubinsky, President of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union; and these officers of the same union, Jacob Halpern, Boston, Massachusetts; Abraham Katovsky, Cleveland, Ohio; Jennie Matyas, San Francisco, California; Louis Nelson, Brooklyn, New York; and Samuel Otto, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and for the employers: Ingram Bergman, President, Bergman Knitting Mills, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; I. B. Davies, Secretary and Treasurer, Bradley Knitting Company, Delavan, Wisconsin; Louis Sternberg, President, Sternberg Knitting Company, New York; E. W. Stewart, President, Pacific Knitting Mills, Los Angeles, California; and Roger W. Whitman, President, American Hosiery Company, New Britain, Connecticut.

The industry for which this wage recommendation was voted is 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."

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