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

KNITTED UNDERWEAR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS  $33\frac{1}{2}$  CENTS AN HOUR MINIMUM WAGE

Industry Committee No. 8 under the Fair Labor Standards Act today unanimously recommended a minimum wage of  $33\frac{1}{2}$  cents an hour for the Knitted Underwear and Commercial Knitting Industry, John P. Devaney of Minneapolis, Minnesota, Chairman, announced.

About 16,000 wage earners in this industry, as defined for the Committee, are presently paid less than  $33\frac{1}{2}$  cents an hour, it was estimated by the Economic Section of the Wage and Hour Division. Their hourly wage rate would have to be increased by their employers in order to comply with the law should the Administrator of Wage and Hours approve this recommendation after a public hearing.

The jurisdiction of this Committee covers the making of knit fabrics for sale and the making of underwear and sleeping wear and negligees from knitted fabrics. It also includes the manufacture of sweat shirts, polo shirts and certain other garments chiefly made in underwear mills.

The industry was carried on in 500 establishments, according to the last Census of Manufactures. These are located principally in New York, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, North Carolina, Massachusetts and Virginia. The industry employs some 60,000 workers, and the recommendation, if approved, will increase the hourly wage rate of about one-fourth of these. This industry produces about \$150,000,000 worth of goods a year.

The industry for which this wage recommendation was voted is defined as:

"a. The manufacturing, dyeing or other finishing of any knitted fabric made from any yarn or mixture of yarns, except:

"1. 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 this exception shall not be construed to apply to the garments or garment accessories designated in clause (b) of this definition.

"2. Fulled suitings, coatings, topcoatings, or overcoatings containing more than 25 per cent, by weight, of wool or animal fiber other than silk.

"3. Hosiery.

"b. The manufacturing, dyeing or other finishing, from any yarn or mixture of yarns, or from purchased knitted fabric, of any of the following products:

"1. Knitted garments or garment accessories for use as underwear, sleeping wear, or negligees.

"2. Fleece-lined garments made from knitted fabric containing cotton only or containing any mixture of cotton and not more than 25 per cent, by weight, of wool or animal fiber other than silk.

"3. 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 in the same establishment as that where the knitting process is performed.

"4. Knitted towels or cloths."

The members of the Committee present, all of whom voted for the recommendation, were:

For the Public:

Miss Marión Dickerman  
Principal, Todhunter School  
New York

John C. Evans  
Professor of Economics  
Albright College  
Reading, Pennsylvania

Mary Barnett Gilson  
Assistant Professor of Economics  
Chicago, Illinois

Arthur J. Patton  
Former Buyer for the J. C. Penney chain  
New York

Philip Taft  
Assistant Professor of Economics  
Brown University  
Providence, Rhode Island

For the Employees:

David Dubinsky  
President, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (Independent)  
New York

Charles M. Fox  
President, United Textile Workers of America (A. F. of L.)  
Savannah, Georgia

John S. Martin  
International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union  
Atlanta, Georgia

Ray Reidenbach  
Textile Workers' Union of America (C. I. O.)  
Kenosha, Wisconsin

Emil Rieve  
General President, Textile Workers' Union of America  
New York

Samuel Shore  
International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union  
New York

Harry Wander  
International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union  
Newark, New Jersey

Joseph P. White  
Textile Workers' Union of America  
Cohoes, New York

For the Employers:

L. B. Boynton  
General Manager, Earnshaw Knitting Company  
Newton, Massachusetts

Ralph M. Jones  
Vice-President, Utica Knitting Company  
Utica, New York

E. J. McMillan  
President, Standard Knitting Mills, Inc.  
Knoxville, Tennessee

T. O. Moore  
Assistant Secretary, P. H. Haines Knitting Co.  
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

T. H. Mueller  
Vice President, Julius Kayser & Co.  
New York

William Ravner  
President, Warburn Knitwear Co., Inc.  
New York

Mitchel Schneider  
Mitchel Schneider Corporation  
New York

H. E. Sims  
Secretary and Treasurer, Atlas Underwear Co.  
Piqua, Ohio.