

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

COLONEL FLEMING ANNOUNCES ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE

In the interests of increased administrative efficiency, three important sections in the Wage and Hour Division have been raised to independent branches in the structure of the organization, with their chiefs reporting directly to the Administrator's office, Lieutenant Colonel Philip B. Fleming announced today.

"We are making the Hearings and Exemptions Section, the Economic Section, and the Industry Committee Section integral units in the organization," Colonel Fleming said, "in order to enable these units more quickly to obtain administrative decisions."

The present chiefs of the three sections will become directors of branches and continue in charge of their present personnel. The Economic Section will become the Research and Statistics Branch, Carroll R. Daugherty, Director; the Hearings and Exemptions Section will become the Hearings Branch, Merle D. Vincent, Director; and the Industry Committee Section will become the Industry Committee Branch, Burton E. Oppenheim, Director.

The functions of the Research and Statistics Branch as described in the order authorizing the change is to "(a) compile and analyze data and prepare economic reports required for the proper administration of the Fair Labor Standards Act; (b) furnish industry committees with necessary economic data; and (c) act as economic advisor to the Administrator and all Branches of the Division."

Those of the Hearings Branch are described as to "(a) conduct hearings when authorized by the Administrator; (b) grant or deny applications for exemptions under Section 14 of the Act (learners, messengers and 'handicapped workers'); (c) recommend rulings as to whether industries are

of a seasonal nature and definitions of 'area of production' under Sections 7(c) and 13(a)(10). (The first of these Sections (7(c)) allows exemptions from hour limitation and the second (13(a)(10)) exempts from both hour and wage provisions certain processing of specified agricultural commodities); (d) advise the Administrator on requests for modifications of regulations issued under Sections 7(b)(3), (seasonal industries), 7(c) (area of production, hours), 13(a)(10), (area of production, wages and hours) and 14 (learners, apprentices, messengers, and 'handicapped workers')."

Functions of the Industry Committee Branch are described as to "(a) assist in the selection of industry committees; (b) assist in defining the jurisdiction of industry committees; (c) assist in establishing rules of procedure for industry committees; (d) serve as liaison between industry committees, the Division and other Government agencies; (e) procure from other Branches of the Division such reasonable services as may be needed by the industry committees; and (f) render to industry committees such other assistance as may be proper and necessary."

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