

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

HEARING ON HAT RECOMMENDATION DECEMBER 18

A public hearing on the minimum wage recommendation of the Hat Industry Committee will be held on December 18 at 10:00 A. M. in the Hotel Raleigh, Washington, D. C., the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor, announced today (Federal Register, November 28, 1939).

The Hat Industry Committee recommended a minimum wage of 40 cents an hour for the fur-felt, wool-felt, opera hat and hatters' fur branches of the industry. For straw and harvest hats its recommendation was 35 cents an hour. The committee further recommended 30 cents an hour for the manufacture of straw and harvest hats in Puerto Rico.

The average number of wage earners employed in the hat industry, as defined for the committee, in 1937 was 24,403. Of these, an estimated 4,500 wage earners in the branches of the industry for which 40 cents an hour was recommended were then getting less than that rate. Some 1,000 workers were being paid less than 35 cents an hour in the manufacture of straw and harvest hats.

The report of the committee, containing its formal recommendation, is available for public inspection in the regional and branch offices of the Division, and may be obtained on request from the Wage and Hour Division in Washington.

The hat industry is defined as:

- "(a) The manufacture from any material of headwear for men or boys, except caps and cloth hats.
- "(b) The manufacture of felt hat bodies from fur or wool for men's, boys', women's or children's hats.
- "(c) The manufacture or processing of hatters' furs."

Any interested person may appear at the hearing by communicating with the Wage and Hour Division in Washington not later than December 14, 1939. The presiding officer of the hearing will be designated later.