

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

LEARNER HEARING REOPENED FOR CURTAIN INDUSTRY

Additional Testimony on
Curtain Branch of Textile
Industry to be Heard December 13

At the request of the Curtain Manufacturers' Guild Incorporated, with offices at Brooklyn, New York, representing a large portion of the curtain manufacturing industry, the Wage and Hour Division of the United States Department of Labor has reopened the hearing on textile learners, insofar as it applies to the manufacture of curtains. Additional testimony will be heard by Merle D. Vincent, Director of the Hearings Branch of the Division at 10 A.M., December 13, in his office at 939 D Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

On November 7, 1939, as a result of the hearing in October, a determination and order was issued by the Division allowing employment of as many as five percent of the total number of operators in the curtain branch of the textile industry as learners for turnover if experienced operators are not available. The order allowed employment of learners for a period of eight weeks in curtain manufacturing.

At the same time, a "notice of opportunity to petition for review" was issued by the Division providing for entertainment of petitions for review of the order if filed within 15 days.

On November 14, the Guild wrote the Division restating its attitude "that the curtain manufacturers in the New York area represent approximately 60 percent of the total volume of business done in the entire Nation and that the Guild members felt that whatever necessity there might be for granting of learners exemption in the industry, was far outweighed by the possibility of abuse of the exemption." The letter further stated that at a meeting held on Nov. 9 the members had decided to reaffirm their position against learner exemptions in their industry, "and to take whatever steps necessary to secure a cancellation of the exemption."

Any interested persons may testify at the reopened hearing on Dec. 13 by communicating with Mr. Vincent before noon December 12. (2629)