

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

WILKES-BARRE (PA) HOSIERY MILLS LEARNERS' CERTIFICATES CANCELED

Cancellation of a Special Learners' Certificate, issued to the Wilkes-Barre Hosiery Mills, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., allowing employment of inexperienced workers at less than the 40-cents-an-hour minimum wage order for full-fashioned hosiery mills was announced today by the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor.

A certificate allowing the employment of inexperienced workers to the extent of five percent of factory employees was issued to this firm on September 15. On the firm's representation that it was expanding its plant, a second certificate, allowing the employment of 57 new inexperienced workers, was issued to the firm on October 6. These certificates authorized the payment of learners on a graduated scale, beginning at 25 cents.

On a complaint from the American Federation of Hosiery Workers, an investigator from the Hearings Branch of the Wage and Hour Division was sent to Wilkes-Barre. He reported that the firm was employing 62 experienced workers as learners. The firm was notified by letter on December 2 that it could make an appearance on December 12 and show cause why the certificates should not be canceled. The firm made no appearance at the hearing on December 12, which was before Merle D. Vincent, Director of the Hearings Branch of the Division. The Union was represented.

On the basis of the Union's representation and the Wage and Hour investigator's report, Mr. Vincent found that "the evidence clearly sustained the violation of the certificates," and ordered both certificates canceled.

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