

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

OSCAR R. STRACKBEIN TO PRESIDE AT HAT HEARING, DECEMBER 18, 1939

Oscar R. Strackbein of the Public Contracts Board (Walsh-Healey Act) has been designated to preside as trial examiner at the public hearing on the minimum recommendation of the Hat Committee beginning at 10:00 A.M., December 18, in the Hotel Raleigh, Washington, D. C., the Wage and Hour Division announced today.

The Hat Committee recommended a minimum wage rate of 40 cents for manufacture of hats other than straw hats and harvest hats. The recommendation for these latter products is 35 cents an hour.

This industry sometimes employs about 25,000 workers; of these about 5,000 are getting less than the recommended minimum.

Mr. Strackbein, as a member of the Public Contracts Board since its inception, has taken part in 33 prevailing minimum wage findings to be applied in purchases by the government of manufactured articles among them -- hats.

Mr. Strackbein is a native of Rocksprings, Texas, and a graduate of the state university. Before his appointment to the Public Contracts Board, he had served as an expert for the Tariff Commission on, among other things, the importation of hats. He has served in the foreign service of the Department of Commerce and later was retained as an economist by three labor organizations affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, the Cigar Makers International, the Tobacco Workers International and the Boot and Shoe Workers Union.

At the close of the hearing Mr. Strackbein will turn over to Harold D. Jacobs, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, the record of the testimony, and Mr. Jacobs will hear oral arguments on the record or receive briefs, or both.

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