For Release Afternoon Papers Thursday, December 21, 1939

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

SWISHER CIGAR COMPANY MAKING \$60,000 WAGE-HOUR RESTITUTION

Payment of some \$60,000 to 3300 employees and former employees of the John H. Swisher and Son Cigar Company, manufacturers of Jacksonville, Florida, was going forward today in restitution for wages withheld from employees covered by the Fair Labor Standards Act. Estimates made by the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor, which is supervising the restitution payments, indicated that approximately \$10,000 has already been paid to 600 employees. By Christmas, the total is expected to reach \$18,000 in payments to a thousand employees.

The pay-off, it is expected, will be complete by January 15, each group of employees being reimbursed as soon as the computations covering their back pay are completed.

'Restitution by the company was agreed upon after inspection and careful audit of the company's payroll and time records, and is being made without resort to court action.

#