

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON WAGE RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR KNIT GOODS INDUSTRY SCHEDULED

Public hearings on the minimum wage recommendations of Industry Committee No. 8 for the Knitted Underwear and Commercial Knitting Industry and on the minimum wage recommendation of Industry Committee No. 7 for the Knitted Outerwear Industry have been scheduled to begin on January 16, and on January 22, respectively, Harold D. Jacobs, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, U.S. Department of Labor announced today.

Both hearings will be at the Hotel Raleigh, Washington, and will begin at 10 A.M. on the scheduled dates.

The committee for the Knitted Underwear and Commercial Knitting Industry under the chairmanship of John P. Devaney of Minneapolis, Minnesota, unanimously recommended a minimum wage of $33\frac{1}{2}$ cents an hour for the industry. About 60,000 workers are employed in this industry and 16,000 are estimated to be earning less than the recommended rate.

The Knitted Outerwear Industry, under the chairmanship of Charles Ray of Holyoke, Massachusetts, recommended a minimum wage of 35 cents an hour in this industry. About 30,000 workers are employed in this industry and it is estimated that 7,500 of them are presently earning less than 35 cents an hour.

The reports of these committees, including minimum wage recommendations, are available for inspection at any of the offices of the Wage and Hour Division throughout the country.

Any interested person supporting or opposing either of these recommendations may appear at the hearings to offer evidence provided that notice is given the Administrator to that effect by January 11 for the Knitted Underwear and Commercial Knitting hearing, and by January 18 for the Knitted Outerwear hearing.

Rules which will govern the conduct of these hearings are set forth in the official notices (Federal Register, December 27, 1939).

Presiding officers who will conduct these hearings will be designated in advance. These officials will turn over to the Administrator the record of testimony at the conclusion of their hearing.

The definition of the Knitted Underwear and Commercial Knitting Industry, for which a $33\frac{1}{2}$ cents an hour minimum wage was recommended, is:

"(a) The manufacturing, dyeing or other finishing of any knitted fabric made from any yarn or mixture of yarns, except:

- "1. The knitting from any yarn or mixture of yarns and the further manufacturing, dyeing or other finishing of knitted garments, knitted garment sections or knitted garment accessories for use as external apparel or covering which are partially or completely manufactured in the same establishment as that where the knitting process is performed; provided that this exception shall not be construed to apply to the garments or garment accessories designated in clause (b) of this definition.
- "2. Fulleo suitings, coatings, topcoatings, or overcoatings containing more than 25 per cent, by weight, of wool or animal fiber other than silk.
- "3. Hosiery.

"(b) The manufacturing, dyeing or other finishing, from any yarn or mixture of yarns, or from purchased knitted fabric, of any of the following products:

- "1. Knitted garments or garment accessories for use as underwear, sleeping wear, or negligees.
- "2. Fleece-lined garments made from knitted fabric containing cotton only or containing any mixture of cotton and not more than 25 per cent, by weight, of wool or animal fiber other than silk.
- "3. Knitted shirts of cotton or any synthetic fiber or any mixture of such fibers which have been knit on machinery of 10-cut or finer in the same establishment as that where the knitting process is performed.
- "4. Knitted towels or cloths."

The definition of the Knitted Outerwear Industry, for which a 35 cents an hour minimum wage was recommended, follows:

"The knitting from any yarn or mixture of yarns and the further manufacturing, dyeing or other finishing of knitted garments, knitted garment sections or knitted garment accessories for use as external apparel or covering which are partially or completely manufactured in the same establishment as that where the knitting process is performed; provided that the manufacturing, dyeing or other finishing of the following shall not be included:

- "(a) Knitted fabric, as distinguished from garment sections or garments, for sale as such.
- "(b) Full suitings, coatings, topcoatings, and overcoatings.
- "(c) Garments or garment accessories made from purchased fabric.
- "(d) Gloves or mittens.
- "(e) Hosiery.
- "(f) Knitted garments or garment accessories for use as underwear, sleeping wear, or negligees.
- "(g) Fleece-lined garments made from knitted fabric containing cotton only or containing any mixture of cotton and not more than 25 per cent, by weight, of wool or animal fiber other than silk.
- "(h). Knitted shirts of cotton or any synthetic fiber or any mixture of such fibers which have been knit on machinery of 10-cut or finer; provided that this exception shall not be construed to exclude from the Knitted Outerwear Industry the manufacturing, dyeing or other finishing of knitted shirts made in the same establishment as that where the knitting process is performed, if such shirts are made wholly or in part of fibers other than those specified in this clause, or if such shirts of any fiber are knit on machinery coarser than 10-cut."

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