

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

WAGE AND HOUR APPAREL HEARINGS CLOSED

Public hearings on the recommendation of the Apparel Industry Committee for a schedule of minimum wages of 32-1/2, 35, 37-1/2, and 40 cents an hour for 28 divisions of this industry, which began on November 13, 1939, concluded today (January 10).

Thomas Holland, Trial Examiner for the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor, gave counsel until February 3 to file briefs. At the same time it was announced that there will be an opportunity to present oral argument on the record before the Administrator at a date to be scheduled shortly.

It took 35 days to hear the testimony offered by proponents and opponents of the recommendations. About 150 witnesses were heard and a record of 6,000 pages was compiled.

The recommendations covered practically all cut-and-sew (knitted articles excluded) apparels except footwear. The industry, as defined, is one of the largest divisions of American industry, both as to value of product and number of wage earners engaged. The definition includes 12,500 establishments employing 650,000 wage earners, which produced \$2,700,000,000 worth of apparels in 1937. This industry, as defined by the Wage and Hour Division for the industry committee representative of employers, employees and the public, embraced divisions of the industry which came under the jurisdiction of some 30 code authorities under the N.R.A.

It is estimated that about 200,000 wage earners in the industry are presently being paid less than the minimum wages recommended.

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