

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Wage and Hour Division
Washington

RAW FUR SEASONAL EXEMPTION PROPOSED

A partial exemption from the maximum hours provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act for the raw fur receiving industry as an industry of a seasonal nature was proposed today in a finding made public by the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor, following a hearing on the application of the Raw Fur and Wool Association of St. Louis, Missouri, Inc., and other parties, which was held in Washington December 7, 1939, before Harold Stein, Assistant Director of the Hearings Branch of the Division.

It was found that more than 95 per cent of the pelts is taken and shipped between December 1 and April 1, that the fur trading centers--chief of which are New York and St. Louis--receive the furs between these dates, and that prompt handling is necessary to determine which skins need scraping and drying for preservation and to scrape and dry the unscraped and undried skins. Aside from some sales activity, the raw fur receiving houses cease all operation at the end of the period. The term "raw fur receiving industry" as used herein shall include the receiving, scraping, drying and grading, in raw fur receiving houses, of domestic furs received from country sources and operations immediately incidental thereto.

Unless objection is received by the Division within 15 days, the exemption will be granted. Under the proposed exemption (Federal Register January 12, 1940), raw fur receiving houses might work employees up to 12 hours a day and 56 hours a week without the payment of overtime for a period of not more than 14 workweeks a year. The exemption would not in any way affect the statutory requirement to pay the minimum wage of 30 cents an hour, nor the prohibition against oppressive child labor contained in the Fair Labor Standards Act, nor would it affect union contracts or state laws providing for shorter hours.

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