

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION
Washington, D. C.

WAGE-HOUR INSPECTION RE-ORGANIZATION PROGRESSES

As a further step in the re-organization of the Wage and Hour Division to speed up disposal of complaints, Colonel Philip B. Fleming, who is directing the activities of the Division, today announced a complete re-vamping of the Cooperation and Inspection Branch, to be effective February 5.

Arthur L. Fletcher, Assistant Administrator in charge of Cooperation and Inspection, through whose office direction of the field force has been channeled heretofore, has re-arranged his force to supervise the planning and control of the field and review of actions taken there. Regional Directors and their subordinate inspectors and payroll examiners will be under the direct supervision of the Administrator, under the program of re-alignment Colonel Fleming is carrying out. Increased authority has been given Regional Directors, permitting them to close, without reference to Washington, cases involving restitution of less than \$50,000.

"The changes announced today should further speed up enforcement in line with the policy of Colonel Fleming," Mr. Fletcher said. "At the same time they will eliminate the 'red tape' resulting from the old practice which required approval from Washington before a case could be closed."

Helen Wood, former Deputy Commissioner of Labor of Connecticut, becomes Assistant to Mr. Fletcher under the re-organization. Miss Wood joined the Wage and Hour Division a year ago and has been engaged in planning and organizing the Division's field procedure. Helen Patton, heretofore in the office of Administrator Harold D. Jacobs, has been named Mr. Fletcher's secretary.

Merle K. Wood, Chief of the Fiscal Control Section of the Wage and Hour Division since its organization, will become Chief of the Planning and Control Section. Leland S. Reid, who conducted the early training courses for inspectors and later was supervising inspector in the Texas region, has been recalled to Washington to be Assistant Chief of this Section.

O. J. Libert, now acting regional director in charge of Ohio and Michigan, who has also had considerable experience as an administrative official in Washington and in the field both with the Wage and Hour Division and the Social Security Board, was named Chief of the Field Review Section.

Mrs. Pauline W. Horton, now the representative of the federal government in North Carolina where state labor officers are making inspections under the Wage and Hour law, becomes Assistant Chief of the Field Review Section. Mrs. Horton was for many years an official in the North Carolina Department of Labor before the Wage and Hour Division was organized.

Four Supervising Inspectors will carry out the field training work among additions to the field staff and act as liaison officers in the field, under the new program. They are J. J. Brauner, former Editor of the Federal Register, Cecil Wilson, Bruce Greene and W. H. Cross. Mr. Libert and Mrs. Horton will be assisted in directing the Field Review Section by James E. Jackson and James F. Harrigan. Both came to the Wage and Hour Division by transfer when it was organized--Mr. Jackson from the Social Security Board and Mr. Harrigan from the Treasury Department.

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