

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

COMMITTEE MEETS TO RECOMMEND
MINIMUM WAGES FOR RAILROAD WORKERS

The Railroad Industry Committee authorized under the Fair Labor Standards Act to recommend minimum wages for all railroad employees up to 40 cents an hour, was to meet for the first time today. George E. Osborne, of the Law Faculty of Leland Stanford University, vice-chairman of the committee, was to preside. The committee is comprised of twelve members, equally representative of the public, the railroads and of the lower-paid railway employees. Frank P. Graham, President of the University of North Carolina, who is chairman of the committee, was unable to attend this initial meeting because of illness.

Sessions were to commence at 9:30 A.M. in Room 208, 939 D Street.

While about 90 per cent of the million wage earners employed by American railroads receive more than 40 cents an hour, the highest minimum which the committee can recommend, it is estimated there are about 100,000 railway employees presently receiving less than that rate. Railroad employees are exempt from the maximum hours provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act requiring payment of at least one and one-half times the regular rate for overtime.

Today's meeting was to be a closed session. On Wednesday, February 14, the committee will begin public hearings at which representatives of the Association of American Railroads, the American Short Line Railroad Association, the Railway Labor Executive Association (representing 21 labor unions of railroad employees) and others will testify. It is predicted that taking of testimony relative to wages paid by railroads, and the economic and competitive conditions to which the committee is directed to give due regard, will take at least two weeks. A comprehensive study of wages paid in the railroad industry was mailed to the members of the committee recently.

This definition of the Railroad Industry will apply:

"The industry carried on by any express company, sleeping car company or carrier by railroad, subject to Part I of the Interstate Commerce Act, and by any company which is directly or indirectly owned or controlled by one or more such carriers or under common control therewith, and which operates any equipment or facility or performs any service (except trucking service, casual service, and the casual operation of equipment or facilities) in connection with the transportation of passengers or property by railroad, or the receipt, delivery, elevation, transfer in transit, refrigeration or icing, storage or handling of property transported by railroad, and by any receiver, trustee, or other individual or body, judicial or otherwise, when in the possession of the property or operating all or any part of the business of any such company or carrier by railroad:

"Provided, however, that the term 'Railroad Carrier Industry' shall not include the industry carried on by any street, interurban, or suburban electric railway, unless such railway is operating as a part of a general steam-railroad system of transportation, but shall not exclude any part of the general steam-railroad system of transportation now or hereafter operated by any other motive power."

In addition to Chairman Graham, and Mr. Osborne who are public members the committee consists of the following:

For the Public

Charles S. Johnson, Negro Educator, Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee
William H. Spencer, Dean of the School of Commerce and Education, University of Chicago, Chicago

For the Employees

George Wright, General Vice-President, International Brotherhood of Firemen and Oilers, Roundhouse and Railway Shop Laborers, Chicago
T. C. Carroll, Vice-President, Brotherhood of Maintenance-of-Way Employees, Umatilla, Florida
H. A. Bacus, Research Director, Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks, Freight Handlers, Express and Station Employees, Cincinnati, Ohio
James McNamara, Vice-President, Hotel and Restaurant Employees International Alliance, Washington, D. C.

For the Employers

E. J. McClees, Executive Secretary, Bureau of Information of the Eastern Railways, New York
C. D. Mackay, Assistant Vice-President, Southern Railway System, Washington, D. C.
Edward Murrin, Executive Secretary, Association of Western Railways, Chicago
J. H. Hunt, Assistant to the President, the American Shortline Railroad Association, Washington, D. C.

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