

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

APPAREL ARGUMENT CLOSES

Oral argument on the minimum wage recommendation of the Apparel Industry Committee before Colonel Philip B. Fleming, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor, ended today (Friday).

The industry, as defined, is one of the largest divisions of American industry, both in 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 came under the jurisdiction of some thirty 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.

The argument was on the record compiled in public hearings on the committee's recommendations before Thomas Holland, Chairman of the Public Contracts Board, (Walsh-Healey Act), as presiding officer. This hearing began November 13, 1939 and continued through January 10, 1940. The record compiled contains more than 6,000 pages.

The Apparel Industry Committee of 48 members equally representative of employers and employees of the industry and of the public under the chairmanship of Louis E. Kirstein, a Boston merchant, recommended a schedule of minimum wages of $32\frac{1}{2}$, 35, $37\frac{1}{2}$ and 40 cents an hour for 28 divisions of the industry. It also recommended that apparel manufacture of Puerto Rico be left at the statutory minimum of 30 cents an hour.

Mortimer Horowitz, counsel for the Clothing Manufacturers Association of the U.S.A.; John Abt, of New York, counsel for the Amalgamated Clothing Workers; Elias Lieberman, counsel for the International Ladies Garment Workers Union; William Dubin, counsel for the New Jersey Washable Dress Contractors Association, Inc.;

Henry Greenberg of New York, secretary of the same organization; Anton White of New York, representative of the International Glove Workers Union of America; and Mrs. Elizabeth Bunn of Gloversville, New York, of the Joint Council of Glove Workers; appeared in favor of the minimum wages recommended.

Those appearing in opposition to the recommendations were: Erwin Feldman, of New York, counsel for the National Association of House Dress Manufacturers; Bernard K. Zimmerman, New York, counsel for the Association Manufacturers of Washable Service Apparel; Mrs. Ada Quinn, Ogden, Utah, manager of the Kathleen Quinn Garment Company, and representative of Needle Trades Division of Utah Manufacturers Association; Milton Mound, of New York, counsel for the National Women's Undergarments Association; Samuel A. King, Washington, (Watson, King and Brode) counsel for the Lorraine Novelty Mfg. Co., Bridgeton, New Jersey, and Dan-Dee Belt & Bag Co., Newark; Herbert Wasserman, of New York, counsel for Artificial Flowers Manufacturers Association; Joseph Liff, New York, counsel for Pleaters, Stitchers and Embroidery Manufacturers Association; Gordon McKelvey, Nashville, counsel for the Southern Garment Manufacturers Association; Albert F. Beasley, Washington, attorney for the same association; A. F. Allison, New York, secretary, International Association of Garment Manufacturers; Simon Miller, Philadelphia, representing Jacob Miller & Sons Company, Inc.; Arthur T. Davenport of New York, for the Sweet-Orr Co.; Roy A. Cheney, counsel for the Underwear Institute; Colonel William C. Rigby, Washington, counsel for Puerto Rico, and Colonel Hugh C. Smith, Washington, assistant counsel; and Edward J. Leon of New York, counsel for the Underwear Manufacturers of Puerto Rico.

J. F. Lowe, Baltimore, manager of the B.V.D. Corporation, appeared to ask that any resulting wage order be made effective at the end of a trade season instead of in the middle of a season.