

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

COLONEL FLEMING TO APPROVE MINIMUM WAGE RECOMMENDATIONS  
OF KNIT GOODS INDUSTRY COMMITTEES

Approval of the 33-1/2-cents-an-hour minimum wage recommendation of the Knitted Underwear and Commercial Knitting Committee, and of the 35-cents-an-hour minimum wage recommendation of the Knitted Outerwear Committee was announced today by Colonel Philip B. Fleming, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, United States Department of Labor.

Wage orders will be issued making the knitted underwear minimum effective May 6, 1940, and the knitted outerwear minimum effective July 1.

At the same time Colonel Fleming announced that he will hear oral argument in review of the determination and order regarding employment of learners in the knitted goods industry on April 23, 1940. The Underwear Institute and the National Knitted Outerwear Association petitioned for this review of the learner determination in the knitted wear industry which was issued on October 20, 1939, by Merle D. Vincent, Director of the Hearings Branch of the Wage and Hour Division, who presided at a public hearing on the subject.

In announcing his decision, Colonel Fleming said:

"I have decided to approve the recommendations of Industry Committee No. 7 (the Knitted Outerwear Committee) and Industry Committee No. 8 (the Knitted Underwear and Commercial Knitting Committee). The Knitted Outerwear Committee recommended a minimum wage of 35 cents an hour. The Knitted Underwear and Commercial Knitting Committee recommended a minimum wage of 33-1/2 cents an hour. Minimum wage orders will be issued making the Knitted Outerwear Minimum Wage effective July 1. This date was requested by the Committee. The Knitted Underwear and Commercial Knitting Minimum Wage will be made effective May 6.

"Both these recommendations were the subject of public hearings held in Washington, at which interested persons were given an opportunity to be heard. No one appeared in opposition to the recommendations. I find that these recommendations were made in accordance with the law, are supported by the evidence adduced at these public hearings, and, taking into consideration the same factors as are required to be considered by the industry committees, will carry out the purposes of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

"I am announcing my decision now in order to give the knit goods industries time to adjust themselves to the minimum wage rates. My findings and minimum wage orders will be issued at least 15 days in advance of the effective dates named."

The Knitted Underwear and Commercial Knitting Industry as defined for the committee is carried on in some 500 establishments located principally in New York, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, North Carolina, Massachusetts and Virginia. The industry employs some 60,000 workers and it is estimated that about 17,000 of these are presently paid less than 33-1/2 cents an hour, the minimum rate to go into effect. The industry produces about \$150,000,000 worth of goods a year. The 33-1/2 cent minimum was recommended by a committee of 24 members under the chairmanship of John P. Devaney of Minneapolis, Minnesota. It included Jonathan Daniels of Raleigh, N. C., Marion Dickerman of New York, John C. Evans of Reading, Pa., Mary Barnett Gilson of Chicago, George Fort Milton of Chattanooga, Tenn., Arthur J. Patton of New York, and Philip Taft of Providence, Rhode Island, as public members. The labor representatives were David Dubinsky of New York, Charles M. Fox of Savannah, Ga., John S. Martin of Atlanta, Ga., Ray Reidenbach of Kenosha, Wis., Emil Rieve of New York, Samuel Shore of New York, Harry Wander, of Newark, N. J., and Joseph P. White of Cohoes, N. Y. Employer members were L. B. Boynton of Newton, Mass., Ralph M. Jones of Utica, N. Y., E. J. McMillan

of Knoxville, Tenn., T. O. Moore of Winston-Salem, N. C., T. H. Mueller of New York, William Ravner of New York, Mitchell Schneider of New York, and H. E. Sims of Piqua, Ohio.

The Knitted Outerwear Industry employs an average of 23,000 factory workers and an undetermined number of industrial home workers. The latter are largely engaged in making infants' knitted wear. It is estimated that some 7,500 of the factory workers are presently paid less than 35 cents an hour, the minimum rate which will go into effect July 1. The industry is concentrated in the Middle Atlantic States and in New England. Establishments in New York State employ 20 percent of the total workers; in Pennsylvania, 15 percent; in Massachusetts, 15 percent. It is also carried on in some volume in Ohio, Wisconsin and California. Less than ten percent of the employees in this industry are located in the South.

In addition to Charles Ray of Holyoke, Massachusetts, Chairman of the Committee, the public members included Paul F. Brissenden, New York, Harrold English of Los Angeles, Fred Lazarus, Jr., of Columbus, Ohio, John C. Evans of Reading, Pa. The employee members were David Dubinsky of New York, Jacob Halpern of Boston, Abraham Katovsky of Cleveland, Jennie Matyas of San Francisco, Louis Nelson of Brooklyn, New York, and Samuel Otto of Philadelphia. Employer members were Ingram Bergman of Philadelphia, I. B. Davies of Delavan, Wisconsin, Louis Sternberg of New York, E. W. Stewart of Los Angeles, and Roger W. Whitman of New Britain, Conn.

# # # #