

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

WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF INSPECTORS

The largest number of inspectors to take the field since the start of the Wage and Hour Division of the U. S. Department of Labor, will be actively engaged by April 16, it was announced by the Division today at Washington, D. C.

Appointment of additional inspectors to bring the number up to 441 is in keeping with the policy of Colonel Philip B. Fleming, Administrator, to extend the enforcement machinery as rapidly as possible.

The enforcement program calls for 700 inspectors in the 15 regions of the Wage and Hour Division. The appointments announced today bring the total number of inspectors in the field up to approximately 60 per cent of this number. More inspectors will be added from time to time, until each Region has its quota and the number reaches 700, according to Colonel Fleming. The inspection force is augmented by payroll examiners.

The appointments were made after approximately 40,000 applications had been received in response to announcement of U. S. Civil Service Commission examinations for supervising inspector, senior inspector and inspector, according to Courts D. Rea, Senior Administrative Assistant of the Wage and Hour Division.

Before the final selections were made for the inspector positions, the Division had 325 permanent and provisional inspectors in the field. Of this number 87 failed to measure up to the high standards set by the Division for inspectors or failed to qualify for the positions under the Civil Service examinations.

The 441 inspectors will be assigned as follows:

Region I, Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island, 37; Region II, New York and Connecticut, 53; Region III, Pennsylvania, 37;

Region IV, New Jersey and Delaware, 26; Region V, Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland, 31; Region VI, North Carolina and South Carolina, 16; Region VII, Georgia and Florida, 20; Region VIII, Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi, 15; Region IX, Tennessee and Kentucky, 16; Region X, Ohio and Michigan, 45; Region XI, Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin, 42; Region XII, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota, 12; Region XIII, Missouri, Iowa, Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska and Wyoming, 32; Region XIV, Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma and New Mexico, 28; and Region XV, Arizona, Nevada, California, Utah, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Alaska and Hawaii, 31.

"We are constantly working to bring our inspection branch up to a very high standard," said Major Arthur L. Fletcher, Assistant Administrator in charge of Cooperation and Inspection Branch of the Wage and Hour Division. "The requirements set by the Civil Service Commission, and the qualifications, were unusually severe because we wanted to get the highest type man possible for every position.

"Applicants were required to have from 4 to 6 years of progressive, responsible, successful, full-time, paid employment in an industry or business, in a State or Federal agency administering labor laws, in other agencies or organizations concerned with the promotion of improved labor standards, in a State or Federal agency engaged in the investigation of employer-employee relationships, or engaged in economic investigations relating to wage-earners, or as a recognized employee representative actively participating in the improvement of working conditions through the development of a comprehensive personnel program or through the development of definite employer-employee relations policies."

After the closing date for filing applications for the three positions listed by the Civil Service Commission, began the task of checking each applica-

tion as to experience and qualifications. From the list of approximately 40,000 applicants, about 4,000 were directed to appear at designated places to take the mental examination.

Approximately 2,100 were found to have passed the mental examination when the papers had been carefully checked. About one-fourth of this number were located in Region II -- New York and Connecticut.

After the papers had been checked, teams composed of representatives of the Civil Service Commission and the Department of Labor began interviewing the 2,100 who had passed the mental test. This work took three months. About 10 per cent of those interviewed were found not suited to the duties required or unable to meet the requirements of open-minded, impartial men.

Next, the Civil Service Commission submitted a list of eligibles to the Department, together with the records, statements of former employers, grades and other pertinent data concerning each applicant. This data was sent to the regional directors, who reviewed each case, interviewed former employer and friends of the applicants, and carefully weighed all facts. Then the regional directors made their recommendations to the Department.

The next step was the summoning of all regional directors to Washington to confer with the four members of a selections committee. This group represented the Wage and Hour Division and the Department of Labor. One by one, each application was considered by the selections committee after conferring with the regional directors. Those finally named were the unanimous choice of the selections committee and the appointments were then made in accordance with rules and regulations of the Commission.

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