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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION
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COMPLYING ESTABLISHMENTS TO BE PROTECTED, COLONEL FLEMING ANNOUNCES

In a move to protect establishments paying the 30-cent minimum in low wage industries, Colonel Philip B. Fleming, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, today ordered inspection of competitors whether or not complaints have been filed against them.

"We have inspected an establishment only on a complaint," said Colonel Fleming, "as we have many complaints awaiting attention. From now on, we are not going to await complaints in order to protect establishments in compliance; that is, paying no one less than 30 cents an hour and paying at least time and a half the worker's regular rate for overtime.

"All regional directors have been instructed to this effect. This is another step toward routine inspection of all establishments governed by this Act.

"For some time we have been following this policy to an extent. Whenever an employer in a low-wage industry has protested that he could not comply because his competitors were not complying, we have regarded that as a complaint and inspected the competitors. Now that our field force is growing, we will carry out a policy of protecting the complying employer whether or not he wishes to make a complaint against his competitors.

"Furthermore, we are going to extend this beyond our regional boundaries. It will not be long before a manufacturer may feel certain that the price-cutting he is encountering in his markets, no matter where in the United States the low-priced goods are manufactured, is made possible only by factors other than payment of illegal wages.

"Recently a Pennsylvania manufacturer who had been forced to make restitution to his employees complained that competitors in New York and New England were cutting prices so low as to indicate violation of the minimum wage part of the law. We immediately ordered the regional directors in New York and New England to investigate these competitors. They found that the indicated violations were actual. Now all are complying and all are able to pay the minimum."