

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

COOPERATION AND INSPECTION
BRANCH ABOLISHED

Abolition of the Cooperation and Inspection Branch of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor, was announced today by Colonel Philip B. Fleming, Administrator. The functions and personnel of the Branch will be transferred to the office of the Administrator, to whom all Regional Directors are responsible for the carrying out of the program in the field.

A. L. Fletcher, Assistant Administrator in charge of the Cooperation and Inspection Branch, upon whose recommendation the changes are being made, will become Director of Region VI with headquarters at Charlotte, North Carolina. In addition, he will continue as Special Adviser to Colonel Fleming upon the Division's field operations and its relations with State Labor Departments.

The changes will take effect on June 1, 1940, after Mr. Fletcher has completed arrangements for the Inspector Training Schools which are being held in various sections of the country between now and that date.

Mr. Fletcher pointed out to Colonel Fleming that he had been given a specific job to do, and that it had been practically accomplished--particularly the decentralization program which has greatly increased the responsibilities, authority and functions of the fifteen regions into which the country has been divided, and the training of the inspection force.

"Our method has been based upon years of experience," Mr. Fletcher reported to Colonel Fleming. "I am proud of the results. The inspectors we have turned out are the best inspectors serving any governmental agency. They are careful, tactful and, with few exceptions, energetic and very efficient."

Colonel Fleming, in a memorandum to Mr. Fletcher, said:

"I agree with you that under the plan of organization which we are gradually putting into effect there is no longer need of a C. & I. Branch. While some of its functions are essential and will be continued, those functions can be performed best in the future by our tying them directly to the Administrator's office.

"In addition, I have realized for some time that Mrs. Fletcher's health does not permit her to live in Washington and I sympathize with your desire to return to the South.

"Therefore, in accordance with your recommendation and request, I am going to ask you to accept the post of Director of Region VI, with headquarters at Charlotte. ... I should like to have it understood that in your post as Regional Director, you will be available to me for consultation and advice concerning problems with which you are especially familiar, for example, our operations in the South and our relations with State Labor Departments.

"If it is convenient for you, I should like these changes to become effective on June 1, 1940. Postponing the effective date until June will permit you to attend the Inspector Training Schools."

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