

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

WAGE AND HOUR INSPECTIONS OF LUMBER INDUSTRY
SHOW HIGH PERCENTAGE NOT IN COMPLIANCE

One-fourth of the sawmills and lumber concentration yards inspected in the first three days of the Wage and Hour Division's nation-wide drive for compliance in the lumber industry appear to be violating the Fair Labor Standards Act, Colonel Philip B. Fleming, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, announced today.

News of the first legal action resulting from the drive was received by Colonel Fleming today. An injunction was signed in the Federal Court in Macon, Georgia, against the Elberta Crate and Box Company, which was permanently restrained from violating any of the provisions of the Act and ordered to pay \$2,000 restitution to 700 employees. The company does an annual business of \$1,500,000.

"Reports from 10 of the 15 regions on inspections conducted up to the close of business on Wednesday night show apparent violations of the Act in 136 of the 545 establishments inspected," he said.

"Immediate steps to bring these concerns into compliance and the payment of restitution to employees have been ordered taken. Complying employers will be protected from the competition of law violators in this industry," Colonel Fleming said with emphasis.

The preliminary reports from field inspection forces covered all parts of the country. They came from Missouri, Colorado, Wyoming, Arizona, Georgia, Florida, Minnesota, Tennessee, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Washington, Oregon, Michigan, and northern California.

The highest percentage of violators reported to date was in Arkansas, where inspectors found that one-third of the 195 establishments inspected were