

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

LUGGAGE AND LEATHER GOODS INDUSTRY COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDS 35-CENT MINIMUM WAGE

The Luggage and Leather Goods Industry Committee today sent an informal report to Colonel Philip B. Fleming, Administrator, Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor, informing him that it had voted to recommend a minimum wage of 35 cents an hour for the industry.

The committee also advised Colonel Fleming that it had adopted a resolution requesting the Administrator to call this committee or another together 6 months after the effective date of any wage order for the purpose of reconsidering the minimum wage for the industry.

Should the 35-cent minimum be approved by the Administrator after a public hearing, in which interested parties may appear in support or opposition to the proposal, it would increase the hourly wage rates of approximately 4,900 workers in the luggage and leather goods industry. The total number of workers employed in the industry aggregates 18,250.

The announcement that the committee had reached a decision to recommend 35 cents was contained in a letter received by Colonel Fleming from John J. Murray, Boston attorney, who served as a public member and chairman of the committee. The letter follows:

"Colonel Philip B. Fleming
Administrator
Wage and Hour Division
U. S. Department of Labor
Washington, D. C.

Dear Colonel Fleming:

Industry Committee No. 13 for the Luggage and Leather Goods Industry under the Fair Labor Standards Act today by unanimous vote decided to recommend a minimum wage of 35 cents an hour for employees engaged in the manufacture of luggage and leather goods covered by the definition for the Luggage and Leather Goods Industry.

"The committee also adopted a resolution requesting the Administrator to call this or another committee together six months after the effective date of any wage order for the purpose of reconsidering the minimum wage for the industry.

"Economists of the Wage and Hour Division informed the committee that the 35-cent rate will result in an hourly wage increase for approximately 4,900 workers. The number of workers employed in the industry aggregates 18,250.

"While the committee voted against segregation of the luggage and miscellaneous leather goods divisions of the industry, the 35-cent rate will mean a wage increase for 1,800 workers in the luggage division and 3,100 workers in the miscellaneous leather goods division.

"The 35-cent recommendation was voted Wednesday afternoon, June 26, at the close of a session which opened at 10:00 A.M., Monday, June 24. The session was devoted to the discussion of evidence presented by the staff of the Wage and Hour Division and the Bureau of Labor Statistics as well as the contentions made by representatives of both employers and labor organizations who are members of the committee.

"All the members of the committee attended the meeting at which the vote on the recommendation was taken. They are, in addition to myself:

For the Public:

Harry W. Newburger, New York, N. Y.
George Thomas Brown, Washington, D.C.
Tipton R. Snavely, Charlottesville, Va.
William G. Rice, Jr., Madison, Wisc.
Joseph A. McClain, Jr., St. Louis, Mo.

For the Employees:

Samuel Laderman, Chicago, Ill.
Israel Joseph Levitsky, Philadelphia, Pa.
E. A. Barker, Petersburg, Va.
John Peterson, Racine, Wisc.
Jack Weiselberg, Brooklyn, N. Y.
A. M. Router, St. Louis, Mo.

For the Employers:

George S. Bernard, Petersburg, Va.
Stanley Klein, Cincinnati, Ohio
S. H. Lifton, New York, N. Y.
Robert H. Rolfs, West Bend, Wisc.
Louis Lefkowitz, New Brunswick, N. J.
Milton W. Daub, New York, N. Y.

Yours sincerely,

John J. Murray
Chairman"