

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

CARPET AND RUG INDUSTRY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS 40-CENT
MINIMUM WAGE FOR MAJOR PART OF INDUSTRY

The Carpet and Rug Industry Committee today made an informal report to Colonel Philip B. Fleming, Administrator, Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor, that it had voted to recommend a minimum wage of 40 cents an hour for that part of the industry engaged in manufacturing wool carpet yarns and wool rugs and carpets, and a minimum of 35 cents an hour for workers on carpets and rugs made of other fibers.

Should these minimum wages be approved by the Administrator after a public hearing, in which interested parties may appear in support of or opposition to the proposal, they would increase the hourly wage rates of about 1,100 workers in the carpet and rug industry. About 1,000 of these will be raised to 40 cents an hour. The total number of workers in the industry approximates 31,000.

The announcement that the committee had reached a decision to recommend the 35 and 40-cent minimums was contained in a letter received by Colonel Fleming from Arthur D. Hill, of Boston, 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. 12 for the Carpet and Rug Industry under the Fair Labor Standards Act today, by a majority vote, decided to recommend a minimum wage of 40 cents an hour for employees engaged in the manufacture of wool carpet yarns and wool rugs and carpets, and 35 cents an hour for carpets and rugs made of other fibers, as covered by the definitions for the rug and carpet industry.

"The recommendations were voted Wednesday afternoon, July 10, at the close of the session which opened at 10:00 A.M., Tuesday, July 9. 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 votes on the recommendation were taken. They are, in addition to myself:

For the Public:

Thomas L. Norton, Buffalo, N. Y.
William N. Loucks, Merion Sta., Pa.
Gen. W. I. Westervelt, Chicago, Ill.

For the Employees:

Francis P. Fenton, Washington, D. C.
Frank Middelaer, Thompsonville, Conn.
Emil Rieve, New York, N. Y.
Rolla L. Wallace, Philadelphia, Pa.

For the Employers:

J. L. Eastwick, Bridgeport, Pa.
Luther H. Hodges, Spray, N. C.
R. G. Knowland, New York, N. Y.
Carl E. Steiger, Oshkosh, Wis.

Yours sincerely,

Arthur D. Hill,
Chairman"

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