

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

FLEMING UPHOLDS DECISION ON CIGAR LEARNERS

Denial of permission to employ learners in the cigar industry at wages lower than the minimum of 30 cents an hour fixed by the Fair Labor Standards Act was affirmed today by Colonel Philip B. Fleming, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division.

Colonel Fleming's announcement was made following a review by Henry T. Hunt, Principal Hearings Examiner, of the conclusions reached by Merle D. Vincent, Assistant Administrator in charge of the hearings branch, on January 2, 1940.

In the original hearing on the application of the Cigar Manufacturers Association of America and individual cigar manufacturers, it was shown that there are available at Tampa, Fla., where a large percentage of hand-made cigars are manufactured, 4,000 unemployed cigar makers.

Mr. Hunt reversed Mr. Vincent's determination that an eight weeks learning period in the machine-made branch and a six months learning period is necessary in the hand-made branch, finding that periods of training in either branch is not necessary.

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