

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

EMBROIDERY MINIMUM WAGE COMMITTEE APPOINTED

Appointment of a committee of twelve members to investigate commercial embroidery operations and to recommend a minimum wage for this industry was announced today by Colonel Philip B. Fleming, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, United States Department of Labor.

Max Meyer of New York, Chairman of the Millinery Stabilization Committee and a member of the New York State Mediation Board will be chairman.

Other members are:

For the Public

Kenneth L. M. Pray, Dean of the Pennsylvania School of Social Work, Philadelphia
Miss Elizabeth S. Magee, Executive Secretary, Consumers' League of Ohio, Cleveland
Clyde E. Dankert, Assistant Professor of Economics, Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.H.

For the Employers

Abraham Friedensohn of Public Art Embroidery, Inc., New York City
Louis Knee, Star Binding and Trimming Corporation, New York City
Ernest Mosmann of John Mossman & Sons, Inc., North Bergen, New Jersey
Martin Somers, West Side Braiding & Embroidery Co., Chicago

For the Employees

Frank Colaiuti of the Textile Workers Union of America, New York City
Z. L. Freedman, Manager of the Embroidery Workers Union, Local #66, of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, New York City
Abraham Plotkin, Manager of the Embroidery Workers Union, Local #212, of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Chicago
Frederick F. Umhey, Executive Secretary of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, New York City

Commercial embroidering is carried on both in factory and in the home. Embroidery for the apparel industry was considered by Committee No. 2 under the Fair Labor Standards Act, the apparel committee, which made two recommendations--one that 40 cents an hour be paid in embroidery or in the manufacture of embroidery, pleating, stitching, bonnaz, crocheting, crochet beading, rhinestone trimming, eyelets (except automatic eyelets), nailheads, binding and piping; and 32-1/2 cents an hour for the manufacture of hand-embroidery and hand-machine embroidery, and Schiffli
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In his Findings and Opinion approving recommended schedules for 25 divisions of the apparel industry, the Administrator refused the two embroidery recommendations as being unsupported by the evidence.

The definition drafted for the proposed Embroideries Industry Committee includes not only the field covered by the Embroideries Division of the Apparel Industry but also includes the manufacture of embroideries for any use. Thus included will be the production of embroideries for use in the textile, millinery, and other industries.

Since then a comprehensive wage study of embroidery operations has been made by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the committee will have for its consideration an economic report based on this wage study prepared by the Research and Statistics Branch of the Wage and Hour Division.

For the purpose of establishing a minimum wage, the Embroideries Industry is defined for the committee as:

"The production of all kinds of hand and machine-made embroideries and ornamental stitchings, including, but not by way of limitation, tucking, shirring, smocking, hemstitching, hand rolling, fagoting, bonnaz embroidery, appliqué, crochet beading, hand drawing, machine drawing, rhinestone trimming, sequin trimming, spangle trimming, eyelets, passementerie, pleating, the application of rhinestones and nailheads, Schiffli embroidery and laces, burnt-out laces and velvets, Swiss hand loom machine embroidery, thread splitting, embroidery thread cutting, scallop cutting, lace cutting, lace making-up, making-up of embroidered yard goods, straight cutting of embroidery and cutting out of embroidery, embroidery trimmings, bindings, pipings, and emblems; provided, however, that (1) the foregoing, when produced or performed by a manufacturer of a garment, fabric or other article for use on such garment, fabric, or other article, and (2) the manufacture of covered buttons and buckles, shall not be included."

The working of this definition was explained in a memorandum to Colonel Fleming from Burton E. Oppenheim, Director of the Industry Committee Branch of the Division, as follows:

"Only the production of separate embroidery establishments is covered by the definition. Not covered are embroideries 'produced or performed by a manufacturer of a garment, fabric or other article for use on such garment, fabric or other article.' As an illustration, when a manufacturer of infants' and children's outerwear has embroidery work done by his own employees, such embroidery is not covered by the definition. If, however, he has the work done by a separate embroidery manufacturer that production is included under the Embroideries Industry definition. The manufacture of covered buttons and buckles is excluded from this definition because it is included in the Apparel Wage Order."

"The operations and products specifically mentioned in the definition fall into the following categories: (1) machine made (2) hand made, and (3) machine or hand made. Under these divisions we find:

(1) Machine made

Bonnaz embroidery

Embroideries made on a Bonnaz or Cornely machine which produces embroidery only on the surface, the reverse side being caught by a bobbin.

Schiffli embroidery and laces

Embroideries made on a permanent basic material by a Schiffli machine which produces the embroidery only on the surface, the stitch being caught on the reverse side, by means of a shuttle which forms a loop. The work is similar to Bonnaz embroidery. Schiffli laces (also known as burnt-out laces) are embroideries made by a Schiffli machine on a basic material, which is later chemically obliterated.

Burnt-out laces and velvets

Laces and velvets where the base is chemically obliterated, and not necessarily made on a Schiffli machine.

Swiss hand loom machine embroidery

Embroidery made on a Swiss hand loom machine, which has neither shuttle nor bobbin. The thread is carried through the fabric and the finished product resembles hand embroidery.

Bindings

Narrow strips of material usually cut on the bias, (diagonally to the texture) which may be flat or folded, plain or ornamented.

Pipings

Folded materials, plain or with cord inserted, used as a decorative trimming on edges of apparel, upholstery, lamp shades, etc.

Trimmings

Ornamental edgings made of pipings, braids, gimps (heavy thread), etc., stitched or fagoted into designs.

Machine drawing

The drawing out, by machine, of parallel threads from cloth to create open work designs.

Pleating

Folds laid in cloth by means of a crease, which remains as a permanent part of the ornamentation and is secured by a steam process.

(2) Hand made

Hand embroidery

Ornamental stitching with needle and thread on garment, fabric or other article.

Hand rolling

The rolling and hemming of a fine edge of material.

Hand drawing

The drawing out by hand of parallel threads from cloth to create open work designs.

Crochet-beading

The application of beads by means of a crochet needle which fastens the threads between the beads to the material.

Rhinestone trimming

Brilliant imitation stones, or beads, made of glass and paste, sewn on for ornamentation.

Sequin trimming

A metal disk or spangle stitched on for ornamentation.

Spangle trimming

Small bits of material or any composition that sparkles, which are stitched on to form an ornament.

Passmenterie

The braiding into designs, of pleating, cording or other narrow fabrics.

Lace making-up

The making up of lace on cards for sale to wholesalers or use by manufacturers.

Making-up of embroidered yard goods

The making up of embroideries into bolts of goods, for sale to wholesalers or for use by manufacturers.

Cutting out of embroidery

Cutting out of embroidered motifs, like medallions, chevrons, etc.

(3) Machine or hand made

Ornamental stitching

Stitching, either single or in rows, to form ornamentation. (5013)

Tucking

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Stitching on a narrow fold or pleat, singly or in clusters.

Shirring

Rows of close parallel stitching, the threads being drawn together to create fullness in the material.

Smocking

Ornamental shirring, in which designs are produced by fancy stitches.

Hemstitching

The fastening of the remaining cross threads, after the drawing out process, into small, even and successive clusters, by means of a thread.

Nailheads, and Rhinestones

The application of small decorative motifs of metal or enamel into fabric by means of prongs.

Fagoting

The joining of two finished edges or any number of pieces of material, by decorative stitches, to form an openwork space between the material.

Appliqué

The process of sewing motifs which form a design onto a base material.

Eyelets

Small perforations embroidered for decoration.

Thread splitting

The splitting of the stitches which connect one motif with another on Schiffli embroideries and laces.

Embroidery thread cutting

The removal of the split threads from embroidered material.

Scallop cutting

The trimming away of the material leaving the embroidered scalloped edge.

Lace cutting

The cutting out of lace into edgings or insertions.

Straight-cutting of embroidery

The cutting of embroidered material into strips to be used as insertions or trimmings.

Emblems

Embroidered insignia or motifs for decoration on military, service, fraternal and other apparel, caps and hats, or other articles."

No wage order will be issued for the industry until a public hearing at which all interested parties may appear is held in Washington. (Federal Register; July 19, 1940)

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