

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

WAGE-HOUR DIVISION BREAKS NEW CASE RECORD IN JULY

Swinging into high gear, the Wage and Hour Division in July instituted the largest number of cases in the courts in its history, Colonel Philip B. Fleming, Administrator, said today. At the same time, the Division closed more cases in court than in any other like period since the Fair Labor Standards Act became effective on October 24, 1938, he declared.

A total of 182 new cases were filed during the month, according to Colonel Fleming, who pointed out that this was a greater number of cases than for the entire year of 1939, when an aggregate of 146 cases were filed, 83 civil and 63 criminal. Of the cases instituted in July, 173 were civil suits and nine were criminal prosecutions. This brings the cumulative total of new cases in 1940 up to August 1 to 652 - 552 civil and 100 criminal.

Closed during July were 140 cases, of which 133 were civil and seven criminal. This activity likewise exceeded the figures for the entire year of 1939 when an aggregate of 118 cases were closed, 75 civil and 43 criminal. July cases closed brought the 1940 cumulative total to August 1 to 557, 483 civil and 74 criminal.

The aggregate number of new cases instituted since the law became effective to August 1 is 798, 635 civil and 163 criminal and the aggregate number of cases closed in the same time is 675, 558 civil and 117 criminal.

While the new cases instituted in July cover a wide range of industries, the increase is in part attributable to the concerted drive for enforcement of the Act in the low-paid lumber industry, which began June 10, plus the growing number in the ranks of the inspection forces and the cumulative experience of its members.

When the law became effective in 1938 there was a total of only 21 members of the inspection forces. On December 31, 1939, the number had been increased to more than 400, including all ranks of inspectors and payroll examiners. This staff has been gradually expanded as qualified personnel became available until July 31, 1940, when nearly 650 inspectors and payroll examiners were in the field.