

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Wage and Hour Division
Washington

EMBROIDERIES INDUSTRY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS $37\frac{1}{2}$ -CENT MINIMUM WAGE RATE

A minimum wage of $37\frac{1}{2}$ cents an hour was recommended for the embroideries industry in an informal report by Industry Committee No. 15 to Colonel Philip B. Fleming, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor, today. The action was taken by a vote of ten to one at the Committee's final session last night. This recommended minimum will increase the earnings of 4,400 of the 14,250 workers in establishments in the embroideries industry. Approximately 30 per cent of the total number of wage earners employed in establishments are now receiving less than $37\frac{1}{2}$ cents per hour. Homeworkers, although not included in this figure, are covered by the recommendation. The formal report containing the recommendation will be submitted to Colonel Fleming early next week.

Should this rate be approved by the Administrator after a public hearing in which interested parties may appear in support or opposition to the proposal, it would be an average increase of approximately two per cent in the total wage bill in the New York metropolitan area, Philadelphia, and Chicago; and approximately four per cent in the other areas where the products of the industry are manufactured. These estimated direct increases in the industry's wage bill are equivalent to approximately one per cent increase in the manufacturers' total operating costs in the New York metropolitan area, Philadelphia and Chicago, and to an approximately two per cent increase in manufacturers' total operating costs in the other areas.

The formal report of the Committee will bear the signature of the ten members voting in favor of the recommendation. Abraham Friedensohn of the

Public Art Embroidery Company, Inc., New York, the employer member of the Committee who voted in opposition to the recommendation, said he would file a separate dissenting report.

A wage study was made by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The Committee had for its consideration a comprehensive economic report on the embroideries industry prepared by the Research and Statistics Branch of the Wage and Hour Division. The Committee also received written statements from interested persons from the industry and informally hear others at the meeting.

For the purpose of establishing a minimum wage, the Embroideries Industry was 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, applique, crochet beading, hand drawing, machine drawing, rhinestone trimming, sequin trimming, spangle trimming, eyelets, passemonterie, 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 at the time of the Committee's appointment 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 Committee met all day Wednesday in a session which ended last night--
11 members, four of whom represented the public, four the employees and three the
employers, being present. Max Meyer, of New York, the Chairman, presided. He is
Chairman of the Millinery Stabilization Committee and a member of the New York
State Mediation Board.

Other members of the Committee 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 Mosmann & Sons, Inc., North Bergen, New Jersey
I. Resnikoff, Well-Made Novelty Co., Chicago, (absent)

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 Inter-
national 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

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