

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

INACTIVE

\$60,000 RESTITUTION FOR 300 LACE MAKERS

The finishing of lace in American homes will produce at least  $32\frac{1}{2}$  cents an hour for the homeworkers, Baird Snyder, Deputy Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor, said today. Mr. Snyder was in receipt of word from Providence, Rhode Island, that a consent judgment against ten firms representing 70 per cent of the drawn lace production in the country had been entered in court there today.

The judgment calls upon the lace making firms to pay some 300 industrial homeworkers total restitution estimated at \$60,000, to bring their rate up to the  $32\frac{1}{2}$  cents an hour called for by the Textile Wage Order.

The lace in question is machine-made lace for garments. Large webs from the lace making machines are sent into the homes where women break up the web by "thread drawing" releasing the lace collars, etc., from the design. Lace is made by similar methods in Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey, said Mr. Snyder, and these firms will also be brought into compliance.

The consent judgment was issued by Judge John P. Hartigan of the U. S. Court for the District of Rhode Island at Providence. It was consented to by these firms: American Textile Co., Inc.; Bancroft Lace Co., Inc.; Linwood Lace Co., Inc.; Riverpoint Lace Co., Inc.; United Nets Corp.; Valley Lace Co., Inc.; Hope Valley Dyeing Co.; Harson Dyeing & Bleaching Corp.; Harold H. Hayes, doing business as Hayes Lace Works; and Gilbert R. Bodell, doing business as Ronnie Lace Works.

Today's decree was the result of an investigation extending over six months by Vernon C. Stoneman, acting regional attorney, in the Boston, Mass. Wage and Hour Office. It was found that the women were working on piece work rates established seven or eight years ago which yielded from 5 to 20 cents an hour.

#####