

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

INACTIVE

CITRUS ASSOCIATIONS AND DIVISION AGREE ON ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

Representatives of the packers and canners of citrus fruits were in agreement today after a meeting with the Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division to formulate plans for a cooperative enforcement program beginning October 1. As a result the Division and the trade associations in the citrus industry will work together for the purpose of obtaining in the entire industry, compliance with new regulations redefining the exempt "area of production." The new regulations also provide certain exemptions from overtime pay.

The new regulations, which define the "area of production" for the handling, packing or canning of fresh fruits and vegetables, and go into effect October 1, exempt from the benefits of the Act only persons employed in establishments having ten or fewer employees, and whose commodities come from farms in the general vicinity. Application of this redefinition to the handling of apples and pears has been postponed until December 1 to avoid its occurrence at the peak of the season.

Other regulations also amended the Administrator's definition of what would be considered a "seasonal" industry and entitled thereby to a 14 weeks partial exemption from the hours provisions of the Act. On August 24 the Administrator found the packing, etc., of fresh fruits and vegetables "seasonal," thereby adding another 14 weeks hours exemption to such operations. The additional hours exemption is limited by the requirement that overtime be paid after 12 hours a day or 56 hours in a week. These operations already had one 14 week exemption in the statute as originally passed by Congress. This original exemption contains no daily or weekly limitation as to hours. The Administrator's Findings also gave a 14 week exemption to fresh fruit and vegetable warehouses. This exemption also is limited by the 12 hours a day and 56 hours a week requirement. (5770)

The representatives came from each of the areas in which citrus fruits are packed and canned; namely, California, Texas, Arizona and Florida. Each of the trade associations represented will assist the Division in seeing that the minimum wage is paid throughout the industry and that other provisions of the Act will be fully complied with.

Baird Snyder, Acting Administrator, termed the agreement reached at the meeting a very significant example of full cooperation by employers' representatives with the Division in applying the law. The associations represented and their representatives were as follows:

Ivan G. McDaniel, representing about 300 California and Arizona citrus packers; A. L. Cramer, Edinburg, Texas, President and General Manager of Engelmann Gardens Association; Marvin H. Walker, Secretary-Manager, Florida Citrus Producers Trade Assn., Lakeland, Fla.;; Murl E. Pace, General Manager, United Growers & Shippers Assn., Orlando, Fla.;; C. C. Commander, General Manager, Florida Citrus Exchange, Tampa, Fla.; Glenn G. White, Weslaco, Texas, Director of South Texas Citrus Shippers Assn., President of South Texas Cannery Assn., C. E. Lindsey, Florida Cannery Assn.; and Ralph Polk, Jr., Florida Cannery Association.

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