

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

INACTIVE

PUERTO RICO NEEDLEWORK HEARING OCTOBER 28 IN WASHINGTON

A public hearing on a recommended scale of hourly minimum wage rates for the needlework industry of Puerto Rico will begin at 10:00 A.M., October 28, in the Hotel Willard, Washington, D.C., Colonel Philip B. Fleming, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor, announced today. (Federal Register, October 12, 1940)

The committee, under the chairmanship of Msgr. Francis J. Haas, recently held public hearings on the Island in its investigation of the economic and competitive conditions of this industry.

Under a recent congressional amendment to the Fair Labor Standards Act (Federal Wage and Hour Law), the committee was empowered to recommend a minimum wage below the present statutory wage of 30 cents an hour, providing such wage rate will not give "any industry in Puerto Rico or in the Virgin Islands a competitive advantage over any industry in the United States."

The committee voted these rates for home work: 12-1/2 cents an hour for work on handkerchiefs, household articles, cotton underwear, infants' dresses, needlepoint and tufted rugs; 15 cents an hour for work on silk underwear and fabric gloves; 18 cents an hour for work on leather gloves; and 20 cents an hour for work on children's, ladies', men's and boys' apparel.

For work in factories the committee recommended 20 cents an hour for handkerchiefs; household articles; children's, ladies', men's and boys' apparel; cotton underwear; infants' dresses; needlepoint; tufted rugs; all gloves; and 28-1/2 cents an hour for silk underwear.

Henry T. Hunt, principal Hearings Examiner for the Division, will conduct the hearing. Any interested person may appear and testify. Notices of intention to appear, including estimates of the time required, must be filed with the Division by October 23.

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