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

COURT ORDER TIES UP TONS OF PEANUTS

More than 1,250 tons of peanuts were tied up as "hot goods" through a temporary restraining order issued by Judge Bascom Deaver on file today in United States District Court at Macon, Georgia, against the Farmers Peanut Company of Cairo, Georgia, on petition of Colonel Philip B. Fleming, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor. A hearing was set for October 30.

Colonel Fleming's complaint charges that the company is violating the minimum wage provisions of the law, and that it has failed to keep accurate payroll records.

These violations, the complaint charges, have enabled the company to obtain an unfair trade advantage over its competitors. James G. Johnson, Acting Regional Director, said in a supporting affidavit he has received numerous complaints from other peanut operators that price cutting, made possible by sub-minimum wages paid by the Farmers company, has depressed prices.

Inspector James T. Vaughan of the Wage and Hour Division, in another supporting affidavit, says the company employs about 100 persons and pays wages of 12-1/2 to 20 cents an hour and that Fred Carroll, president of the company, admitted this fact to him, which also was confirmed by interviews with employees of the company. Inspector Vaughan said many of the employees have worked work-weeks as long as 70 hours without receiving overtime pay.

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