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INACTIVE

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

ADMINISTRATOR APPOINTS COMMITTEE TO RECOMMEND MINIMUM WAGE FOR JEWELRY INDUSTRY

A committee to study the jewelry manufacturing industry and recommend a minimum wage was appointed today by Colonel Philip B. Fleming, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, U.S. Department of Labor. (Federal Register October 24, 1940)

The chairman of the committee is Clyde O. Fisher of Middletown, Connecticut, Professor of Economics and Social Science, Wesleyan University.

Colonel Fleming's order appointing the committee, Industry Committee No. 17, defines the industry as follows:

"(a) The manufacturing, processing or assembling, wholly or partially from any material, of jewelry, commonly or commercially so known. Jewelry as used herein includes, without limitation, religious, school, college, and fraternal insignia; articles of ornament or adornment designed to be worn on apparel or carried on or about the person, including, without limitation, metal mesh bags and metal watch bracelets; and chain, mesh, and parts for use in the manufacture of any of the articles included in this definition. Jewelry as used herein does not include cigar and cigarette cases, holders, and lighters, pocket knives, cigar cutters, badges, emblems, military and naval insignia, belt buckles, and handbag and pocket-book frames and clasps, except when made from or embellished with precious metals, or precious, semi-precious, synthetic, or imitation stones; commercial compacts and vanity cases; watch cases; and the assaying, refining, and smelting of base or precious metals.

"The term 'parts' as used in the foregoing paragraph does not include parts which are used predominantly for products other than jewelry, such as springs, blades, and nail files. The term 'commercial compacts and vanity cases' as used means compacts and vanity cases which bear the trade name or mark of a cosmetic manufacturer and are made for the purpose of distributing and advertising said cosmetic.

"(b) The manufacturing, cutting, polishing, encrusting, engraving, and setting of precious, semi-precious, synthetic, and imitation stones.

"(c) The manufacturing, drilling, and stringing of pearls, imitation pearls, and beads designed for use in the manufacture of jewelry."

The definition covers all occupations in the industry which are necessary to the production of articles in the definition, including clerical, maintenance, shipping and selling occupations. The definition excludes employees of independent wholesalers or employees of a manufacturer, assembler, or processor who are engaged exclusively in marketing and distributing products of the industry which have been purchased for resale.

The committee will meet at the call of its chairman. The other members are:

For the Public

George Hurley, Former Chairman of the Rhode Island Minimum Wage Board for the Jewelry Industry, Providence, Rhode Island
La Rue Brown, Former Chairman of the Massachusetts Minimum Wage Commission, Boston, Massachusetts
William J. Mack, Lawyer who has acted as arbitrator and impartial chairman of arbitration boards in many instances, R.K.O. Building, New York
Frank Kingdon, former president of Newark University and now Educational Advisor of Citizenship Educational Service, West Orange, N. J.

For the Employees

Leon Williams, General President, International Jewelry Workers' Union, A.F. of L., Bronx, New York
Samuel E. Beardsley, General Sec.-Treas., International Jewelry Workers' Union, A.F. of L., N. Y.
A. J. Gaul, 1st Vice-President, International Jewelry Workers' Union, A.F. of L., Chicago, Illinois
Anthony J. Sabella, Manager, Novelty Jewelry Workers Local No. 12 of New York, Playthings and Novelty Workers of America, C.I.O., N. Y.
Sam Sandberg, Member of General Executive Board, Playthings and Novelty Workers of America, C.I.O., Providence, Rhode Island

For the Employers

Charles John Simeon, Works Manager, Ostby & Barton Co., Providence, Rhode Island
Sturgis C. Rice, President, Whiting and Davis, Plainville, Massachusetts
Rawson L. Wood, J. R. Wood & Sons, New York
August Kappel, Fallon & Kappel, Inc., New York
Leo F. Krussman, Trifari, Krussman & Fishel, Inc., New York