

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

INACTIVE

FINAL ORAL ARGUMENT ON PUERTO RICAN WAGE RATE NOVEMBER 7, 1940

Final arguments on the recommended scale of hourly minimum wages for the needlework industry, Puerto Rico, will be heard by Colonel Philip B. Fleming, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor, in Room 3229, U. S. Department of Labor Building, Washington, D. C. at 10 A.M. on Thursday, November 7, 1940, it was announced today at the close of a hearing on the recommendations. Today's hearing was before Henry T. Hunt, Principal Hearings Examiner for the Division, but Colonel Fleming attended as an auditor. Mr. Hunt announced that those at the hearing might file briefs before 4:30 P.M., November 4, 1940.

Under a recent amendment to the Fair Labor Standards Act, an investigation was made and hearings held by a special industry committee headed by Monsignor Francis J. Haas. The committee was empowered to recommend a minimum wage below the present statutory rate of 30 cents an hour, provided that such wage rate would 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 homework: 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 22-1/2 cents an hour for silk underwear.

Should Colonel Fleming approve the recommendation of the committee, he will issue a wage order having the force and effect of law.

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