

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

INACTIVE

CHICAGO AND MINNEAPOLIS WAGE-HOUR REGIONAL OFFICES  
AUTHORIZED TO ISSUE HANDICAPPED CERTIFICATES

The Chicago and Minneapolis Regional Wage and Hour offices covering Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Montana, North and South Dakota, were given full power to grant or deny applications for certificates authorizing the employment of handicapped persons at less than the applicable minimum wage under the Fair Labor Standards Act in an order issued today by Colonel Philip B. Fleming, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor. (Federal Register, November 7, 1940). The Raleigh office, headquarters for Region VI, will receive similar authorization shortly. This will complete decentralization of the administrative set-up for handling the problems of handicapped persons begun last spring.

The new plan will facilitate the examination necessary in each case and expedite the handling of applications, with a resultant saving in time to both employees and employers.

The Washington office, under the direction of Louise McGuire, Chief of the Handicap Section, held two training school sessions of two weeks each for Wage-Hour inspectors, and has just held a similar session at the Chicago Regional office. The inspectors attending these training schools are selected by their Regional Directors to handle all the work of their respective regions in connection with handicapped workers. In their two weeks of "school" they receive an intensive training in the special problems and techniques involved in this field.

The handicapped provision was written into the Fair Labor Standards Act by Congress to protect employees, handicapped by age or mental or physical defects, against loss of their jobs, which might result if they had to be paid the full minimum wage. This protection is vital to the existence of persons so handicapped, according to Colonel Fleming, who said, "We want every bona fide handicapped person to enjoy this protection." # # # (6172)