

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

WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION COMPLETES FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF  
ENFORCEMENT CAMPAIGN IN NATION'S LUMBER INDUSTRY

Restitution Totaling \$650,000 Found Due  
Lumber Employees in Back Wages

While the proprietors of the great majority of logging camps, sawmills, lumber manufacturing plants, and associated establishments throughout the United States are now in general compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act, Colonel Philip B. Fleming, Administrator, Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor, declared today that a continued program of inspection activity will apparently be necessary to keep many of them in compliance.

"The results of four months of intensive investigation into the lumber industry and enforcement of the law in lumber plants indicate that most lumbermen are in full accord with the idea of enforcing the Wage and Hour Law on an even, industry-wide basis. There are, however, a number of 'cutwage' operators, not only in the South but in many other parts of the country, who are only awaiting relaxation of our activities. I reiterate, however, that the Wage and Hour Division's drive for compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act in the lumber industry will continue until every worker covered under the law is receiving, and continues to receive, its benefits. Legal action to force compliance of lumbermen has already been taken by this Division in 264 civil and three criminal cases, and legal action will continue to be taken to force compliance whenever and wherever necessary."

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Note to Editors: This release brings entirely up to date the facts in the Wage and Hour Division's drive for compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act in the lumber industry. The Information Branch, Wage and Hour Division, Washington, D. C., would be pleased to supply additional information covering regional and state activities under the lumber drive and other phases of Wage and Hour enforcement. A great deal of live material is on hand in this office which would lend itself to feature writers looking for the "story behind the news", and our lumber files particularly are full of this material.

Colonel Fleming announced that 4,839 actual physical inspections had been made of lumber establishments of various kinds. Since June 11, he said, inspections have been made in virtually 38 states in order simultaneously to eliminate unfair competition on the part of "outwage" operators throughout the industry. Naturally, in states where lumber activities are limited, such as Connecticut, District of Columbia, Nevada, Ohio, North Dakota, Rhode Island, and Utah, inspections were not made under this drive. Idaho, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Missouri, have not yet been entered by inspectors to any extent.

Of the 4,839 firms inspected, 2,458, or about one-half, were violating the Fair Labor Standards Act in some manner. The Act requires payment of a minimum wage of 30 cents to workers employed in interstate commerce, and payment of at least time and one-half the regular rate for all hours worked in any single work-week over the maximum. In the early months of the drive this maximum was 42 hours, but since October 24 it has been 40. So long as the required overtime is paid there is no limitation on the number of hours an employee may work. The Act also requires that certain records be maintained in plants covered by the law.

In compliance with the law were 1,231 plants, and 1,132 were exempt. In 965 concerns, Wage and Hour inspectors found back wages totaling \$650,097 due employees to bring their wages or overtime compensation up to the figure required by the law. Benefiting by this amount, a large part of which has already been paid, were 20,051 employees. Many of these had been receiving wages averaging about ten cents per hour, and some were getting as low as a nickel. Colonel Fleming said that in addition to the restitution already paid or computed, additional thousands of dollars are payable under investigations still underway.

Plants inspected in the lumber campaign include logging camps, sawmills, concentration yards, manufacturers of lumber and lumber products, jobbers, planing mills, lumber and building supply dealers.

In three regions the drive has been completed, but lumber enforcement activities will continue on a routine basis. These regions are: Region 5 - comprising Virginia, West Virginia, and Maryland; Region 9 - comprising Tennessee and Kentucky; and Region 10 - comprising Ohio and Michigan. In all other parts of the country the lumber campaign is still on an intensive "drive" basis.

Failure to keep adequate records, Colonel Fleming said, is the most frequent infraction. The worst cases have no records at all. Other violations include failure to pay the minimum wage, failure to pay required overtime, shipment in interstate commerce of goods manufactured in violation of the Act. In a few cases there have been instances of child labor.

The number of inspections made in each of the 38 States covered is listed here: Alabama, 202; Arizona, 6; Arkansas, 493; California, 15; Colorado, 55; Delaware, 18; Florida, 43; Georgia, 487; Illinois, 16; Indiana, 4; Iowa, 2; Kansas, 47; Kentucky, 148; Maine, 55; Maryland, 187; Massachusetts 14; Michigan, 56; Minnesota, 178; Montana, 91; Nebraska, 6; New Hampshire, 7; New Jersey, 26; New Mexico, 56; New York, 116; North Carolina, 483; Oklahoma, 1; Oregon, 41; Pennsylvania, 395; South Carolina, 104; South Dakota, 45; Tennessee, 166; Texas, 47; Vermont, 9; Virginia, 832; Washington, 68; West Virginia, 175; Wisconsin, 39; Wyoming, 16.

In the 14 regions into which the country has been divided for Wage-Hour operations, the types of establishments inspected and results of inspections are listed below:

REGION 1 (Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island) - total inspections, 85 -- logging camps, 32; sawmills, 21; concentration yards, 1; manufacturers, 21; dealers and distributors (wholesale and retail), 10.

Firms not covered, 5; firms in compliance, 7; firms in violation, 73; restitution cases, 69, in which back wages totaling \$20,931 are payable to 809 employees; 16 consent decrees entered, 3 pending. Drive still underway.

REGION 2 (New York, Connecticut, New Jersey) - total inspections, 142 -- s mills, 3; concentration yards, 1; jobbers and brokers, 27; manufacturers, 32; dealers and distributors - wholesale 41, retail 37.

Firms not covered, 46; firms in compliance, 25; firms in violation, 71; restitution cases, 37, in which back wages totaling \$26,540 are payable to 435 employees; consent decrees pending, 1. Drive still underway.

REGION 3 (Pennsylvania and Delaware) - total inspections, 411 -- logging camps, 33; sawmills, 80; concentration yards, 4; jobbers and brokers, 5; manufacturers, 103 (many of these manufacturers, according to the regional report, are also retail dealers, hence many are listed also among the 213 retail dealers. The actual number of inspections involving plants that only do manufacturing is about 60). Dealers and distributors - wholesale 17, retail 213. Eighteen inspections, unclassified as to type, reported in Delaware.

Firms not covered, 223; firms in compliance, 76; firms in violation, 94; restitution cases, 80, in which back wages totaling \$18,738 are payable to 790 employees. Drive still underway.

REGION 4 (has been combined with other regions and does not report separately).

REGION 5 (Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland) - total inspections, 1,190 -- no breakdown as to types of establishments involved.

Firms not covered, 285; firms in compliance, 518; firms in violation, 387; restitution cases, 169, in which back wages totaling \$68,161 are payable to 3,466 employees; 13 consent decrees entered, 37 pending. Drive completed.

REGION 6 (North Carolina, South Carolina) - total inspections, 587 -- logging camps, 97; sawmills, 242; concentration yards, 14; manufacturers, 159; planing mills, 65; contractors, 10.

Firms not covered, 166; firms in compliance, 76; firms in violation, 345; restitution cases, 94, in which back wages totaling \$28,967 are payable to 2,002 employees; 41 consent decrees entered, 67 pending. Drive still underway.

REGION 7 (Georgia and Florida) - total inspections, 530 -- no breakdown as to types of establishments involved.

Firms not covered, 29; firms in compliance, 42; firms in violation, 459; restitution cases, 46, in which back wages totaling \$115,000 are payable to 1,350 employees; 18 consent decrees entered, 23 pending. Drive still underway.

REGION 8 (Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama) - total inspections, 202 -- sawmills, 190; concentration yards, 12.

Firms not covered, 63; firms in compliance, 4; firms in violation, 135; restitution cases, 135, in which back wages totaling \$189,922 are payable to 3,420 employees; 7 consent decrees entered. Drive still underway.

REGION 9 (Tennessee and Kentucky) - total inspections, 316 -- logging camps, 28; sawmills, 164; concentration yards, 22; manufacturers, 41; dealers and distributors (wholesale and retail), 61.

Firms not covered, 63; firms in compliance, 102; firms in violation, 151; restitution cases, 123, in which back wages totaling \$43,870 are payable to 1,997 employees; 26 consent decrees entered, 7 pending. Drive completed.

REGION 10 (Ohio and Michigan) - total inspections, 56 -- logging camps, 53; manufacturers, 3.

Firms not covered, 2; firms in compliance, 11; firms in violation, 43; restitution cases, 23, in which back wages totaling \$9,882 are payable to 596 employees; 1 consent decree pending. Drive completed.

REGION 11 (Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana) - total inspections, 59 -- logging camps, 7; sawmills, 8; manufacturers, 38; dealers and distributors (wholesale and retail), 6.

Firms not covered, 3; firms in compliance, 16; firms in violation, 40; restitution cases, 27, in which back wages totaling \$20,904 are payable to 427 employees; 1 consent decree entered, 6 pending. Drive still underway.

REGION 12 (Montana, South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota) -- total inspections 314 -- logging camps (estimated), 188; sawmills (estimated), 16; jobbers and brokers (estimated), 16; manufacturers (estimated), 16.

Firms not covered, 71; firms in compliance, 38; firms in violation, 205; restitution cases, 12, in which back wages totaling \$40,080 are payable to 1,021 employees; 7 consent decrees entered, 11 pending. Drive still underway.

REGION 13 (Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Wyoming) -- total inspections, 220 -- logging camps, 26; sawmills, 45; concentration yards, 10; manufacturers, 21; dealers (wholesale), 62; miscellaneous, 56.

Firms not covered, 58; firms in compliance, 86; firms in violation, 76; restitution cases, 51, in which back wages totaling \$19,300 are payable to 627 employees; 12 consent decrees entered. Drive still underway.

REGION 14 (Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas) -- total inspections, 597 -- logging camps, 287; sawmills, 176; jobbers and brokers, 8; manufacturers, 126.

Firms not covered, 105; firms in compliance, 171; firms in violation, 321; restitution cases, 39, in which back wages totaling \$27,752 are payable to 2,211 employees; 120 consent decrees entered, 2 pending. Drive still underway.

REGION 15 (Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Alaska, T. H.) -- total inspections, 130 -- logging camps (estimated), 59; sawmills (estimated), 44; concentration yards, 1; manufacturers (estimated), 22; dealers and distributors (retail), 4.

Firms not covered, 13; firms in compliance, 59; firms in violation, 58; restitution cases, 50, in which back wages totaling \$20,000 are payable to 900 employees; 3 consent decrees entered, 2 pending. Drive still underway.

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