

For Release Friday,
November 29, 1940

R-1178

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

INACTIVE

PUERTO RICAN NEEDLEWORK FIRM GUILTY OF CRIMINAL CONTEMPT

Rose Piazza de Vera, doing business as the Rose Needlework Company of Santurce, Puerto Rico, was found guilty of criminal contempt of court and fined \$500, with five days to pay the fine or serve a jail sentence until paid, according to word received here today by Colonel Philip B. Fleming, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor. Judge Angel R. de Jesus of the U. S. District Court for Puerto Rico imposed the fine.

The Wage and Hour Division had secured an order restraining the Rose Needlework Company from a further shipment of goods worked on in violation of the Fair Labor Standard Act. The company attempted twice to have the restraining order dismissed, claiming that they had paid their employees the back wages due.

The Wage and Hour Division, however, secured evidence showing that employees had signed receipts for wages without knowing the contents thereof, that purported witnesses had not been present, and that wages actually had not been paid. Judge Robert A. Cooper ordered the company to bring its records into court. In the meantime, since the facts disclosed by the Wage and Hour Division indicated contempt of court, the Division brought criminal contempt action which resulted in this fine.

#

(6472)