For Release Monday Afternoon December 2, 1940

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

FIRST BANK CASE BROUGHT BY WAGE-HOUR DIVISION

The first case against a bank on charges of violating the Wage and Hour Law has been filed in the U.S. Court at Charleston, West Virginia, against the National Bank of Commerce of that city, Colonel Philip B. Fleming, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, announced today.

Several banks in various parts of the country have made restitution of some \$20,000 to their employees without the necessity of court action when their violations were brought to their attention by inspectors of the Wage and Hour Division.

The Charleston bank is accused of violating the overtime provisions of the law and of failure to keep accurate and adequate records as required byy the Administrator. An injunction to prevent continued violation of the Act is sought.

Most banks throughout the country are complying with the law, and in many cases large groups of new employees have been added to permit the banks to operate on the 40-hour week without curtailing service to their customers.

The suit was filed by Regional Attorney Beverly R. Worrell of the Wage and Hour Division, and was based on an inspection made under the direction of Regional Director W. C. Cole of Richmond, Virginia.

The National Bank of Commerce of Charleston is a member of the Federal Reserve System and is engaged in general commercial banking business.

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