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

MINIMUM WAGE MEETING FOR PUERTO RICAN INDUSTRIES FEBRUARY 18

A meeting to consider minimum wage rates for Puerto Rican industries, except the sugar, needlework, and tobacco stripping industries, has been called for February 18 in the Department of Labor Building, Washington, by Msgr. Francis J. Haas, chairman of the Puerto Rican Industry Committee.

The committee has already investigated the needlework industry and made recommendations which have been approved by Administrator Philip B. Fleming of the Wage and Hour Division.

The leaf tobacco industry of the Island will not be considered at the February meeting as those interested in tobacco have informed the committee that the harvesting of the crop at this time prevents them from appearing.

Under an amendment to the Wage and Hour Law approved in June, 1940, the committee is empowered to recommend minimum rates for Puerto Rican industries below the 30 cents an hour basic minimum applicable to all industries in interstate commerce.

Msgr. Haas emphasized that the committee will consider only those industries in which the application of the 30 cents an hour minimum wage causes substantial curtailment of employment. It is expected that the committee will investigate these island industries, among others: straw hats, hair nets and knit goods, men's clothing, buttons, canning and hosiery.

Persons wishing to appear should be prepared to give the committee data on economic and competitive conditions in their industries, wage rates paid before the Wage and Hour Law went into effect, number of persons employed, differences in cost of production in Puerto Rico and continental United States, etc.

Written statements of persons who cannot appear personally will be considered by the committee provided that twenty copies are received not later than February 4, 1941, at the office of the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor, Washington, D. C.

Persons wishing to appear are requested to file with the Industry Committee Branch of the Wage and Hour Division at Washington before the same date the following information:

1. The name and address of the person appearing.
2. If he is appearing in a representative capacity, the name and address of the person or persons whom, or organization which, he is representing.
3. A brief summary of the material intended to be presented.
4. The approximate length of time which his presentation will consume.

February 4 has been made the closing date as that is the day on which boat mail leaving the Island on January 30th will arrive in Washington.

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