

For Release Friday
February 14, 1941

R-1273

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

DEFENSE IMPORTANCE OF LABOR RELATIONS STRESSED
IN ANNUAL WAGE-HOUR REPORT

The defense importance of labor relations was pointed out to Congress yesterday by Colonel Philip B. Fleming, Administrator, in the second annual report of the Wage and Hour Division of the United States Department of Labor.

"Employment indices, stimulated by our tremendous defense production program and by the 40-hour week of the Wage and Hour Law, will soon attain new peaks -- higher than 1929 levels and proportionate to our increase in population since those busy days," said Colonel Fleming in making the report public.

"Both employment and payroll indices of factory employment today are higher than at any time since the last war. The index of employment has been steadily rising. It was 103 in July, 107 in August, 111 in September, 113 in October, 114 in November, and 116 in December, and workers for new factories which are rising throughout the land have not yet been recruited.

"Business is hastening to comply with the Wage and Hour Law. The Wage and Hour decisions of the Supreme Court last week confirmed the acceptance of the Act which was becoming universal among the many types of employers who are to some degree engaged in interstate commerce. The realization that time and a half for overtime after 40 hours must be paid to maintenance workers and office workers in most commercial establishments, as well as to production workers in factories, is spreading.