

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

PUBLIC HEARING ON PUERTO RICAN RECOMMENDATIONS MARCH 12

A public hearing on minimum wage recommendations made by the Puerto Rican Industry Committee, Msgr. Francis J. Haas, Chairman, filed today with General Philip B. Fleming, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor, for 12 island industries will be held March 12 at 10:00 A. M. in the Department of Labor Auditorium, Washington, D. C. (Federal Register, February 25, 1941)

Any interested person may appear by filing with the office of the Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division before March 5 a notice of intention to appear.

The Committee studied economic and competitive conditions in twelve Insular industries, and by a majority vote in each case, recommended these minimum rates:

A minimum of 16 cents an hour for the "vegetable, fruit and fruit juice canning industry."

A minimum of 15 cents an hour for the "vegetable packing industry."

A minimum rate of 25 cents an hour for the "manufactured cocoanut industry" which is the manufacture of dessicated and prepared cocoanut.

A minimum of 27-1/2 cents an hour for the "ocean pearl button industry," defined as the manufacture of buttons from mother-of-pearl, ocean-pearl, or sea-pearl.

The Committee recommended two minimums for the "raffia handbag industry," a new industry on the island -- 12-1/2 cents an hour for hand-sewing operations, and 20 cents an hour for other operations including, but not by way of limitation,

cutting, machine operating, stamping, sorting, pinning, washing, finishing, pressing, examining, and packing. The "raffia handbag industry" is defined as the manufacture of women's handbags, pocketbooks, and purses from straw, embroidered or embellished with raffia.

The Committee recommended that at least 25 cents an hour be paid to all workers employed in the seven remaining industries investigated. They are: hosiery; hair net; cigar; cigarette; mattress, quilt and pillow; bay oil, bay rum and aromatic alcohol; and the straw hat industry, which means the manufacture of hats from straw with the understanding that "straw" is used in the trade sense and not confined to materials made from natural fibers

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