

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

ADMINISTRATOR ANNOUNCES NEW TEXTILE COMMITTEE

A new industry committee to investigate the economy of the textile industry (cotton, rayon, silk and certain textiles other than wool) and to recommend a minimum wage rate or rates was announced today by General Philip B. Fleming, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor.

Lessing Rosenwald of Jenkintown, Pennsylvania, former Chairman of the Board of Sears Roebuck and Company, was named chairman of the committee. The committee will meet in Washington, D. C., on April 14.

The textile industry is now operating on a minimum wage of $32\frac{1}{2}$ cents an hour under the Administrator's textile wage order, recommended by the first textile committee. This committee was headed by Donald M. Nelson, now head of the Division of Purchases of the Office of Production Management. This order brought hourly wage increases to about 175,000 employees on October 24, 1939. The industry, as defined, employs about 650,000 workers. The committee is empowered under the Act to recommend minimum wage rates up to 40 cents an hour.

The Fair Labor Standards Act directs the committee to "recommend to the Administrator the highest minimum wage rates which it determines, having due regard to economic and competitive conditions, will not substantially curtail employment in the industry."

A petition of a group of mills located principally in the Deep South to have the textile wage order set aside recently was denied by the Supreme Court of the United States. In denying the petition, the Court upheld the constitutionality of the Fair Labor Standards Act (Federal Wage-Hour Law) and the procedure under which the wage order was issued.

Except for the addition of one paragraph, the definition of the textile industry remains the same as that drawn up by the Administrator for the first textile industry committee under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

The added paragraph is similar to one included in many of the industrial definitions drawn up since the original textile definition was drafted. It makes clear that clerical, maintenance, shipping and selling occupations come under any eventual wage order. It also provides that where an employee comes under two minimum wage rates in the same workweek, the higher rate applies unless records are kept in accordance with Wage and Hour regulations designed to meet this situation.

In addition to the Chairmen, the members of the committee are:

For the Public

Harry Bingham, President and Publisher
Louisville Courier Journal
Louisville, Kentucky

Arthur Raper
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Greensboro, Georgia

Harry D. Wolfe
Professor of Economics
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, N. C.

Colonel Ike Ashburn
Texas Agricultural and Mechanical
Collegeville, Texas

Amy Hewes
Professor of Economics
Mt. Holyoke College
Mt. Holyoke, Massachusetts

Malcolm Keir
Professor
Dartmouth College
Hanover, New Hampshire

For the Employers

Donald Comer, Chairman
Avondale Mills
Sylacauga, Alabama

Charles A. Cannon, President
Cannon Mills
Kannapolis, North Carolina

W. Harrison Hightower, President
Aldora Mills
Thomaston, Georgia

Sam H. Swint, President and Treasurer
Graniteville Company
Graniteville, South Carolina

R. C. Dick, Treasurer and General Manager
Naumkeag Steam Cotton Company
Salem, Massachusetts

Allan Barrows, Treasurer
Gosnold Mills Corporation
New Bedford, Massachusetts

Henry E. Stehli, President
Stehli and Company, Inc.
1372 Broadway
New York, New York

For the Employees

Emil Rieve, General President
Textile Workers Union of America (CIO)
44 East Twenty-third Street
New York, New York

Edward Doolan
T. W. U. of A.
384 Spring Street
Fall River, Massachusetts

Elizabeth Nord
T. W. U. of A.
791 Main Street
Manchester, Connecticut

Roy Lawrence
T. W. U. of A.
1011 Independence Building
Charlotte, North Carolina

Horace White
T. W. U. of A.
Greensboro, Georgia

Frank P. Fenton
Director of Organization
American Federation of Labor
Washington, D. C.

Robert J. Watt
International Representative
American Federation of Labor
Washington, D. C.

Any recommendation of the committee will be the subject of an administrative public hearing at which any interested person may appear and testify.

This industry is defined as:

- (a) The manufacturing or processing of yarn or thread and all processes preparatory thereto, and the manufacturing, bleaching, dyeing, printing and other finishing of woven fabrics (other than carpets and rugs) from cotton, silk, flax, jute or any synthetic fiber, or from mixtures of these fibers; or from such mixtures of these fibers with wool or animal fiber (other than silk) as are specified in clauses (g) and (h); except the chemical manufacturing of synthetic fiber and such related processing of yarn as is conducted in establishments manufacturing synthetic fiber;
- (b) The manufacturing of batting, wadding or filling and the processing of waste from the fibers enumerated in clause (a);

- (c) The manufacturing, bleaching, dyeing, or other finishing of pile fabrics (except carpets and rugs) from any fiber or yarn:
- (d) The processing of any textile fabric, included in this definition of this industry, into any of the following products; bags; bandages and surgical gauze; bath mats and related articles; bedspreads; blankets; diapers; dish-cloths, scrubbing cloths and wash-cloths; sheets and pillow cases; table-cloths, lunch-cloths and napkins; towels; and window-curtains;
- (e) The manufacturing or finishing of braid, net or lace from any fiber or yarn;
- (f) The manufacturing of cordage, rope or twine from any fiber or yarn;
- (g) The manufacturing or processing of yarn or thread by systems other than the woollen system from mixtures of wool or animal fiber (other than silk) with any of the fibers designated in clause (a), containing not more than 45 percent by weight of wool or animal fiber (other than silk);
- (h) The manufacturing, bleaching, dyeing, printing or other finishing of woven fabrics (other than carpets and rugs) from mixtures of wool or animal fiber (other than silk) containing not more than 25 percent by weight of wool or animal fiber (other than silk), with any of the fibers designated in clause (a), with a margin of tolerance of 2 percent to meet the exigencies of manufacture.

3. The definition of the textile industry covers all occupations in the industry which are necessary to the production of the articles specified in the definition, including clerical, maintenance, shipping and selling occupations, provided, however, that this definition does not include employees of an independent wholesaler or employees of a manufacturer who are engaged exclusively in marketing and distributing products of the industry which have been purchased for resale, and provided further that where an employee covered by this definition is employed during the same workweek at two or more different minimum rates of pay, he shall be paid the highest of such rates for such workweek unless records concerning his employment are kept by his employer in accordance with applicable regulations of the Wage and Hour Division.

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