

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

Inactive

SEAMLESS HOSIERY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS 36 CENTS

A 36-cent minimum wage was unanimously recommended by the Seamless Hosiery Industry Committee, under the chairmanship of G. Allan Dash, Jr., of Philadelphia, in its report late Tuesday to General Philip B. Fleming, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, United States Department of Labor.

The committee also adopted a resolution suggesting to the Administrator that September 15, 1941, would be a desirable date on which to make effective a wage order approving the committee's recommendation.

The Seamless hosiery industry is now operating under a 32-1/2 cent minimum hourly wage rate established by order issued by the Administrator of the Division effective September 18, 1939. It is estimated that there are 62,000 workers employed in the industry, 27,000 of whom now receive less than 36 cents an hour.

The committee determined that labor costs will not be affected by the establishment of the recommended minimum to an extent which will substantially curtail employment or cause material dislocation in the industry as now carried on. It found that nothing justified a classification of minimum wages for the purpose of recommending the highest possible minimum wage rate which will avoid substantial curtailment of employment in any branch of the industry. The committee was also convinced that its recommendation will not give a competitive advantage to any group in the industry.

For the purpose of the investigation and recommendation made by the committee, the following definition of the "seamless hosiery industry" was used:

"The manufacturing or processing of seamless hosiery, including among other processes the knitting, dyeing, clocking, and all phases of finishing seamless

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hosiery but not including the manufacturing or processing of yarn or thread."

The recommendation if approved and a wage order issued by the Administrator, will cover 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.

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