

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

Inactive

PUERTO RICAN COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS 20 CENTS AN HOUR
FOR TOBACCO STRIPPING

A recommendation for the establishment of a minimum wage of 20 cents an hour for the leaf tobacco industry of Puerto Rico today was filed with General Philip B. Fleming, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division of the U. S. Department of Labor by the Puerto Rican Industry Committee, Msgr. Francis J. Haas, chairman

A public hearing on this recommendation will be held in Puerto Rico before a representative of the Administrator at a date soon to be announced.

For the purposes of the minimum wage the term "leaf tobacco industry" is defined as:

"The processing of leaf tobacco including but not by way of limitation the grading, fermenting, stemming, packing, storing, drying and handling of tobacco prior to use in the manufacture of cigars or other finished tobacco products."

The committee's report states: "The above minimum wage rate was determined by the Committee to be the highest minimum wage rate which will not substantially curtail employment in such industry or give such industry in Puerto Rico a competitive advantage over any industry in the United States outside of Puerto Rico."

The committee's report adds: "Conforming with the direction of the Administrator this Committee has made an over-all investigation of conditions in the leaf tobacco industry in Puerto Rico covering all employees. The recommendation of this Committee is in no way contingent upon a revision of the regulations defining the term 'area of production'; neither is it contingent upon a failure of revision of such regulations. It is a recommendation which this Committee believes is founded upon such investigation and consideration as to be valid for the industry in any event; that is, whether the 'area of production' regulations are or are not revised." # # #