

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

Inactive

40-CENT MINIMUM WAGE RECOMMENDED FOR MEN'S SHIRTS, SINGLE
PANTS AND ALLIED GARMENTS

A minimum wage of 40 cents an hour was unanimously recommended for the men's shirts, single pants, and allied garments industry, by the committee headed by Frederick H. Harbison of the University of Chicago, after two days' investigations and hearings. The committee suggested that the proposed rate be put into effect September 1.

If the recommendation is approved by General Philip B. Fleming, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor, it is estimated that 89,000 workers, the majority of them women sewing-machine operators, will receive increases in their guaranteed wage rates. Most of them are piece workers. This is the largest percentage of workers in relation to total employment in any industry for which minimum wage recommendations have been made by any industry committee under the Fair Labor Standards Act. Total employment is estimated at slightly over 145,000 and pay raises will be given to approximately 60 per cent of these employees if a wage order is issued on the basis of the committee's recommendation.

A public hearing will be called to consider the recommendation at which time any interested parties may appear.

The industry has been operating under minimum wage orders of 32-1/2 cents, 35 cents, and 37-1/2 cents which were issued by the Administrator upon the recommendations of the apparel industry committee, effective July 15, 1940.

The committee also suggested to the Administrator a modification of the learner employment regulations. Instead of the present 5 percent of total production employment and a training period of eight weeks, the committee suggests

10 percent of the total number of productive workers and a training period of 12 weeks. Rates of pay for learners suggested were as follows:

First four weeks -- 50 percent of the recommended minimum

Second four weeks -- 60 percent of the recommended minimum

Third four weeks -- 80 percent of the recommended minimum

The members of the committee, in addition to the chairman, are:

For the Public

William E. Simkin,
Office of the Impartial Chairman
Full-fashioned Hosiery Industry
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Capus Waynick, Editor
High Point Enterprise
High Point, North Carolina

For the Employees

Joseph P. McCurdy
General Executive Board Member
United Garment Workers (A. F. of L.)
Baltimore, Maryland

Jacob S. Potofsky, General Secretary
Amalgamated Clothing Workers of
America (C.I.O.)
New York, New York

Frank Rosenblum, Vice-President
Amalgamated Clothing Workers of
America (C.I.O.)
Chicago, Illinois

For the Employers

B. E. Kinney
H. D. Lee Mercantile Company
Kansas City, Missouri

Morris Michael, Sr.
Happ Brothers Company
Macon, Georgia

Louis E. Rosensweig
S. Liebovitz & Sons
New York, New York

###

(7872)