

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

Inactive

TEXTILE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS 37-1/2 CENTS MINIMUM

About 300,000 Workers To Get Wage Rate Increase
If Approved

The Textile Industry Committee today unanimously recommended establishment of a minimum wage rate of 37-1/2 cents an hour to General Philip B. Fleming, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division. Lessing Rosenwald, chairman of the committee and former chairman of Sears, Roebuck and Company, will forward the formal report of the committee to the Administrator tomorrow. A public hearing on this recommendation at which any interested person may appear will be held in Washington on May 12.

If approved, this will increase the wage rates of about 300,000 workers. This is the largest number of workers for whom a wage rate has been recommended under the provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act (Federal Wage and Hour Law).

About 650,000 are employed in the industry affected, which as defined for the committee includes the manufacture of cotton textiles; of certain finished products such as towels, sheets and pillow cases; silk, rayon, linen and jute textiles; and cordage and twine.

Largest previous wage orders under the wage and hour law have been the apparel wage order which went into effect July 15, 1940 and which raised the wage rate of about 200,000 workers; and the 32-1/2 cent wage order for the textile industry under the same definition which increased the rate of about 175,000 workers. This went into effect October 24, 1939.

If approved by the Administrator, the 37-1/2 cent rate will bring increases to workers in the different divisions of the industry in this number:

Cotton workers.....	207,000
Textile products (sheets, pillow cases, etc.)....	28,700
Silk and rayon.....	47,000
Cordage and twine.....	5,000
Jute textiles.....	1,500
Total.....	289,200

It is estimated that the number of workers who will be raised in bleaching and dyeing plants, linen mills, and other establishments under the order will bring the total to more than 300,000.

In addition to the chairman, the committee included:

For the Public

Barry 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
Agricultural and Mechanical College of
Texas
College Station, Texas

For the Employers

Donald Comer, Chairman
Avondale Mills
Birmingham, Alabama

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

W. Harrison Hightower
Thomaston Cotton Mills
Thomaston, Georgia

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

Rudolph C. Dick, Treasurer and Genl.
Naumkeag Steam Cotton Co. Mgr.
Salem, Massachusetts

For the Public

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

Malcolm Keir
Professor
Dartmouth College
Hanover, New Hampshire

For the Employers

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.
234 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.

C. M. Fox
United Textile Workers of America (A.F. of L.)
Birmingham, Alabama