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*Inactive*

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

PUERTO RICAN COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS BROADENING OF  
NEEDLEWORK WAGE ORDER

Addition of a "Miscellaneous Handwork Division" to the Puerto Rican Needlework Wage Order was recommended by the Puerto Rican Committee, Msgr. Francis J. Haas, Chairman, in a report filed today with General Philip B. Fleming, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor.

If the recommendation is approved after a public hearing at San Juan, Puerto Rico, on May 20, at which any interested person may appear, the covering of baseballs, the embroidering of clocks on hose, and the hand-quilting of cases and covers for a large variety of articles may be done in Puerto Rico at a rate of not less than 12-1/2 cents an hour.

The formal notice of hearing states, "Pursuant to the rules of the hearing . . . the presiding officer may continue the hearing from day to day or adjourn the hearing to a later date or to a different place." Opportunity will be given if any requests are made prior to the close of the hearing for the presentation of evidence in the United States.

The report of the committee states:

"The Committee recommends the following additional classifications within the Puerto Rican needlework industries, having determined it to be reasonable and necessary for the purpose of fixing for such classification within the industry the highest minimum wage rate (not in excess of 40 cents per hour) which will not substantially curtail employment in such classifications or give a competitive advantage to any group in the industry:

"The term 'miscellaneous handwork division' of the needlework industries shall mean all needlework operations performed by hand on any article not already included in other divisions of the needlework industries, including, but not by way of limitation, sewing, crocheting, knitting, embroidering, appliqueing, quilting, and tufting.

"The Committee by a unanimous vote in each case made the following separable recommendations for minimum wage rates to be paid to employees engaged in the miscellaneous handwork division of the needlework industries in Puerto Rico:

"(a) Wages at a rate not less than 12-1/2 cents an hour shall be paid under Section 6 of the Act by every employer to each of his employees in the miscellaneous handwork division of the needlework industries who is engaged in hand sewing operations, and who is engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce.

"(b) Wages at a rate not less than 20 cents an hour shall be paid under Section 6 of the Act by every employer to each of his employees in the miscellaneous handwork division of the needlework industries who is engaged in other operations, including but not by way of limitation, cutting, machine operating, stamping, sorting, pinning, washing, finishing, pressing, examining, and packing, and who is engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce."

"The above minimum wage rates were determined by the Committee to be the highest minimum wage rates which will not substantially curtail employment in each such classification or give a competitive advantage to any group in the industry and which will not give any industry in Puerto Rico a competitive advantage over any industry in the United States outside of Puerto Rico."

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