

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

KNITTED AND MEN'S WOVEN UNDERWEAR AND COMMERCIAL KNITTING INDUSTRY
COMMITTEE APPOINTED

Appointment of an industry committee for the Knitted and Men's Woven Underwear and Commercial Knitting Industry to meet in Conference Room A, Department of Labor Building at 10 A.M., June 16, 1941, was announced today by General Philip B. Fleming, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor.

Under the Fair Labor Standards Act the committee is instructed to investigate economic and competitive conditions in this industry and to recommend the highest minimum wage up to 40 cents an hour which will not substantially curtail employment.

The manufacture of men's and boys' woven underwear is now carried on under a 32-1/2 cent minimum wage which went into effect July 15, 1940 as a section of the apparel wage order. As a direct result of this minimum, approximately 6,000 of the 9,000 persons employed in the manufacture of men's and boys' woven underwear received pay increases. The knitted underwear and commercial knitting industry has been operating under a 33-1/2 cent minimum wage which has been effective since May 6, 1940. This rate directly increased the wages of about 17,000 workers in the industry which employs approximately 62,000

William E. Simkin, Associate Impartial Chairman of the Full-Fashioned Hosiery Industry, Philadelphia, is chairman of the new committee. Other public members are: Philip Taft, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island; Harry D. Wolfe, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina; Myrtle Brooke, Alabama College for Women, Montevallo, Alabama; John DeQ. Briggs, St. Paul Academy, St. Paul, Minnesota; Mary Barnett Gilson, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois; Dr. William Haber, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan; and Frank V. Morley, Harcourt Brace & Company, New York City.

The employee representatives are: Mrs. Willie M. Watson, Anniston, Alabama, Joseph R. White of Cohoes, New York, Emil Rieve of New York, all of the Textile Workers Union of America; Samuel Shore of New York City, John S. Martin of (8146)

Atlanta, Georgia, and David Dubinsky of New York, all of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union; Dorothy J. Bellanca of New York, of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America; and C. M. Fox of Birmingham, Alabama, of the United Textile Workers of America.

The employer representatives are L. B. Boynton, Earnshaw Knitting Company, Newton, Massachusetts; Ralph M. Jones, Utica Knitting Company, Utica, New York; E. J. McMillan, Standard Knitting Mills, Inc., Knoxville, Tennessee; T. O. Moore, P. H. Hanes Knitting Company, Winston-Salem, North Carolina; T. H. Mueller, Julius Kayser & Company, New York; William Ravner, Warvern Knitwear Company, Inc., New York; H. E. Sims, Atlas Underwear Company, Piqua, Ohio; and Mitchel Schneider, Mitchel Schneider Corporation of New York City.

Persons wishing to appear before this committee at its meeting are requested to notify Burton E. Oppenheim, Director, Industry Committee Branch, Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor, Washington, D. C.

The industry is defined as:

"a. The manufacturing, dyeing or other finishing of any knitted fabric made made from any yarn or mixture of yarns, except:

1. The knitting from any yarn or mixture of yarns and the further manufacturing, dyeing or other finishing of knitted garments, knitted garment sections or knitted garment accessories for use as external apparel or covering which are partially or completely manufactured in the same establishment as that where the knitting process is performed; provided that this exception shall not be construed to apply to the garments or garment accessories designated in clause (b) of this definition.

2. Fulled suitings, coatings, topcoatings, or overcoatings containing more than 25 per cent, by weight, of wool or animal fiber other than silk.

3. Hosiery.

"b. The manufacturing, dyeing or other finishing, from any yarn or mixture of yarns, or from purchased knitted fabric, of any of the following products:

1. Knitted garments or garment accessories for use as underwear, sleeping wear, or negligees.

2. Fleece-lined garments made from knitted fabric containing cotton only or containing any mixture of cotton and not more than 25 per cent, by weight, of wool or animal fiber other than silk.

3. Knitted shirts of cotton or any synthetic fiber or any mixture of such fibers which have been knit on machinery of 10-cut or finer in the same establishment as that where the knitting process is performed.

4. Knitted towels or cloths.

"c. The manufacturing of men's and boys' underwear from any woven fabric."

#

(8146)