

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

*Inactive*

FIRST REPORT OF CITRUS FRUIT PACKING INDUSTRY DRIVE REVEALS  
COOPERATION, GENERAL FLEMING ANNOUNCES

First report of an industry-wide drive now being conducted among the nation's citrus fruit packing plants by the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor, reveals general willingness among citrus operators to comply with provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act, it was announced today by General Philip B. Fleming, Administrator of the Division.

The drive, which follows a six-months' period of self-cleansing in the industry undertaken through cooperation between the industry's associations and the Wage and Hour Division, was begun early in March and will continue until the entire industry has been covered, the Administrator said. Between 45,000 and 50,000 employees are estimated to be employed in the 1100 to 1500 plants in the industry, which is centered principally in the orange, grapefruit, and lemon growing areas of Florida, Texas, and California. A much smaller portion of the industry is located in Arizona and in those regions of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama bordering on the Gulf of Mexico.

"Results of the drive to date," General Fleming said, "indicate that the citrus fruit packing industry is generally cooperating with the Wage and Hour Division in an effort to extend the minimum wage and maximum hours provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act to all covered workers. The type of violations revealed in those plants already inspected indicates only minor instances of non-compliance, and operators are promptly making corrections where pointed out."

An immediate result of the drive of benefit to employees is provided through back wage payments totaling \$9,234, to be received by 562 workers. The back wages, representing restitution to workers who had not been paid the 30 cents per hour minimum and at least time and one half as an overtime rate, as provided by the Wage and Hour Law, are payable by 86 firms.

Results of the drive to date, by areas, follows:

FLORIDA AREA -- Total inspections, 66; firms covered, 65; firms in compliance, 15; firms in violation, 50; firms violating minimum wage provision, 21; firms violating maximum hours provision, 24; firms violating other provisions, 30; firms paying restitution, 26; amount of restitution, \$4,000; number of employees receiving restitution, 400.

TEXAS AREA -- Total inspections, 116; firms covered, 90; firms in compliance, 42; firms in violation, 48; firms violating minimum wage provision, 6; firms violating maximum hours provision, 4; firms violating other provisions, 42; firms paying restitution, 4; amount of restitution, \$4,257; number of employees receiving restitution, 77.

CALIFORNIA AREA -- Total inspections, 216; firms covered, 182; firms in compliance, 28; firms in violation, 154; firms violating minimum wage provision, 39; firms violating maximum hours provision, 35; firms paying restitution, 56; amount of restitution, \$1,027; number of employees receiving restitution, 85.

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