

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

*Inactive*

40 CENT MINIMUM WAGE RECOMMENDED BY JEWELRY COMMITTEE

A report by the Jewelry Manufacturing Industry Committee unanimously recommending a 40 cent minimum wage for the jewelry industry was received today by General Philip R. Fleming, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor.

The recommendation, if approved by the Administrator after a public hearing, will increase the wage rate of approximately 11,500 employees in the industry. The number of workers in the industry is normally about 35,000, employed in over 1000 plants located chiefly in New England and the New York metropolitan areas.

The Administrator disapproved the recommendation made by a previous jewelry industry committee for the establishment of minimum wage rates of 40 and 35 cents an hour. In his "Findings and Opinion" on the first recommendation he stated, "Examination of the record and the terms of the recommendations shows that there are patent inconsistencies in the classifications which cannot be resolved. In the recommendations made today to the Administrator for an overall 40 cent wage the committee states, "It found that nothing justified a classification of minimum wages."

The Committee also recommended that any wage order issued by the Administrator on the basis of their recommendation be made effective November 1, 1941.

The jewelry manufacturing industry is defined as:

"(2) The manufacturing, processing, or assembling, wholly or partially from any material, of jewelry, commonly or commercially so known. Jewelry as used herein includes, without limitation, religious, school, college, and fraternal insignia; articles of ornament or adornment designed to be worn on apparel or carried on or about the person, including, without limitation, cigar and cigarette cases, holders, and lighters; watch cases; metal mesh bags and metal watch bracelets; and chain, mesh, and parts for use in the manufacture of any of the articles included in this

definition. Jewelry as used herein does not include pocket knives, cigar cutters, badges, emblems, military and naval insignia, belt buckles, and handbag and pocket-book frames and clasps, or commercial compacts and vanity cases, except when made from or embellished with precious metals or precious, semiprecious, synthetic, or imitation stones; and the assaying, refining, and smelting of base or precious metals.

"The term 'parts' as used in the foregoing paragraph does not include parts which are used predominantly for products other than jewelry, such as springs, blades, and nail files. The term 'commercial compacts and vanity cases' as used means compacts and vanity cases which bear the trade name or mark of a cosmetic manufacturer and are made for the purpose of distributing or advertising said cosmetics.

"(b) The manufacturing, cutting, polishing, encrusting, engraving, and setting of precious, semiprecious, synthetic, and imitation stones.

"(c) The manufacturing, drilling, and stringing of pearls, imitation pearls, and beads designed for use in the manufacture of jewelry."

This definition covers all occupations in the industry which are necessary to the production of jewelry as defined, including clerical, maintenance, shipping and selling occupations. Not included are employees of an independent wholesaler or employees of a manufacturer engaged exclusively in marketing and distributing products of the industry which have been purchased for resale.

Chairman of the Jewelry Industry Committee was \*Alexander Hamilton Frey.

Other members of the committee were:

For the Public:

Miss Teresa M. Crowley, New York, New York

C. Emanuel Ekstrom, Professor of Education, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island

Robert R. R. Brooks, Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts

Dr. Harry Shulman, Professor of Law, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut

Mrs. Elizabeth B. Raushenbush, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin

For the Employees:

- \*Leon Williams, General President, International Jewelry Workers Union (A.F. of L.),  
New York, New York
- \*A. J. Caul, First Vice-President, International Jewelry Workers Union, (A.F. of L.)  
Chicago, Illinois
- Erwin Spiegall, Vice President, International Jewelry Workers Union, (A.F. of L.),  
Teaneck, New Jersey
- Elias Berkoff, International Jewelry Workers Union (A.F. of L.), New York, New York
- Morris Borodkin, Watch and Jewelry Workers' Union (C.I.O.), New York, New York
- John R. Maurillo, United Novelty and Jewelry Workers' Union (C.I.O.), Providence,  
Rhode Island

For the Employers:

- \*Charles John Simeon, Works Manager, Ostby & Barton Company, Providence, Rhode  
Island
- \*Sturgis C. Rice, President, Whiting and Davis Company, Plainville, Massachusetts
- \*Rawson L. Wood, Vice-President, J. R. Wood & Sons, New York, New York
- \*August Kappel, President, Fallon and Kappel, Inc., New York, New York
- \* Leo F. Krussman, President, Trifari, Krussman & Fishel, Inc., New York, New York
- F. B. Stegeman, Vice President, Wadsworth Watch Case Company, Dayton, Kentucky

Those marked with an asterisk served on the first committee for the jewelry industry.

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