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

PUBLIC HEARING ON JEWELRY MINIMUM WAGE RECOMMENDATION
SET FOR JUNE 24

A public hearing, at which any interested person may appear, on the 40¢ minimum wage recommended by the Jewelry Industry Committee will be held June 24, 1941, at the Washington Hotel, Washington, D. C., it was announced today by General Philip B. Fleming, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor. Henry Hunt, Principal Hearings Examiner, will preside

Also under consideration at this hearing will be the question of "what if any prohibition, restriction or regulation of home work" in the jewelry industry is necessary to safeguard any minimum wage rate which may be issued for the industry.

Minimum wage rates of 40 and 35 cents an hour, recommended by a previous jewelry industry committee, were disapproved by the Administrator and a new committee appointed. The record of the public hearings on the first recommendations, held January 21-24, and February 3, 1941, will be entered in the record of the June 24 hearing.

The jewelry manufacturing industry is defined as:

(a) 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 pocketbook frames and clasps, or commercial compacts and vanity cases, except when made from or embellished with precious metals or precious, semi-precious, 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. (8330)

(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.

Any person interested in appearing in support of or in opposition to the recommendation may do so by filing notice of intention to appear with the Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division not later than June 18 containing the name and address of the person appearing; name and address of person represented, if any; whether the appearance is in support of or in opposition to the recommendation; and the approximate length of time required.

The text of the Jewelry Committee's report is available for inspection at all Wage and Hour field offices, and copies may be had on request addressed to the Washington office of the Division. Copies of three studies relating to the jewelry industry, made by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Research and Statistics Branch of the Wage and Hour Division, also the record of the earlier public hearing will be available for inspection by any interested person who intends to appear at the hearing.

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