

For Release Friday,
June 6, 1941

R-1442

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

NOTICE OF HEARING ON THE APPLICATION OF G. ELFENBEIN, INCORPORATED,
OF NEW YORK CITY, TO EMPLOY LEARNERS AT LESS THAN THE APPLICABLE
MINIMUM WAGE RATE IN THE MANUFACTURE OF "MELES" (DIAMONDS OF ONE-
QUARTER OF A KARAT OR LESS)

AND

TO CONSIDER WAGE RATES FOR APPRENTICES IN THE DIAMOND INDUSTRY
IN PUERTO RICO

WHEREAS, G. Elfenbein, Incorporated, a company engaged in the manufacture of meles (diamonds one-quarter of a karat and less) in New York City has filed an application for a special certificate authorizing the employment of 70 learners in the occupations of diamond cutting, sawing and lopping, for a learning period of one year, at the following wage rates: \$3.00 per week for the first six months and an increase of \$1.00 per week for each succeeding week up to and including the fifty-second week at which time the learners will be paid a wage of \$29.00 per week; (with the understanding that any learner certificate issued by the Wage and Hour Division would cover only that portion of the training period during which the learner is paid less than the minimum of 30 cents an hour or such higher minimum as may be made applicable by a wage order); and

WHEREAS, the Diamond Workers' Protective Union of America, Brooklyn, New York, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, has filed a memorandum in opposition to the application of G. Elfenbein, Incorporated, on the grounds that such application, if granted, would break down present apprenticeship standards in the industry approved by the Federal Committee on Apprenticeship, and for other reasons; and

WHEREAS, the United Diamond Manufacturers Association has joined with the Union in its memorandum of opposition to the aforesaid application.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to Section 522.5 B 3 of the Learner Regulations, notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held on June 27, 1941, beginning at 10 a.m. at the U. S. Court House, Foley Square, New York, New York before Mr. Oscar W. Ross, Examiner, Hearings Branch, as Presiding Officer, for the purpose of receiving evidence on the following and other questions:

1. Whether a learner certificate should issue upon the application of G. Elfenbein, Incorporated.

2. If such a certificate should issue, what terms should it contain?
and

WHEREAS, special certificates have been issued authorizing the employment of

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apprentices in the diamond cutting industry in Puerto Rico for an apprenticeship period of three years at wage rates of \$3.00 a week for the first three months, \$3.50 a week for the second three months, \$4.00 a week for the third three months, \$5.00 a week for the fourth three months, \$6.00 a week for the fifth three months, \$7.00 a week for the sixth three months, \$8.00 a week for the seventh three months, \$9.00 a week for the eighth three months, \$10.00 a week for the ninth three months, \$11.00 a week for the tenth three months, and \$12.00 a week for the eleventh three months, (the apprenticeship agreements continue with a provision for the payment of \$13.00 a week for the twelfth three months); and

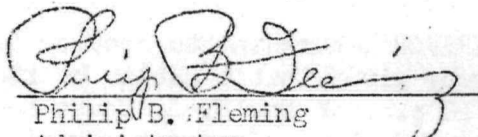
WHEREAS, the Diamond Workers' Protective Union of America has objected to these wage rates and alleges that by reason of such rates an inequitable situation has been created "which threatens the wage scale of the diamond industry in the United States" and has petitioned for a public hearing for the purpose of considering this subject; and

WHEREAS, it has been deemed advisable to hold a hearing on this question at the same time and place as the hearing on the application of G. Elfenbein, Incorporated:

NOW, THEREFORE, notice is hereby given that evidence will be taken on the question of what, if any, adjustment should be made in wage rates for apprentices in the diamond industry in Puerto Rico at 10 a.m., in the U. S. Court House, Foley Square, New York, New York, on June 27, 1941.

Any interested person wishing to appear at this hearing may do so by filing notice of intention and the approximate time required with Mr. Oscar W. Ross, Examiner, Hearings Branch, Wage and Hour Division, United States Department of Labor, Washington, D. C., prior to June 25, 1941, or if unable to appear may file briefs and arguments pertaining to this hearing by July 7, 1941.

Signed at Washington, D. C., this 5th day of June, 1941.


Philip B. Fleming
Administrator
Wage and Hour Division
U. S. Department of Labor

Published in Federal Register, June 6, 1941.

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