

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

Inactive

40-CENT MINIMUM WAGE PER HOUR RECOMMENDED FOR WORKERS
IN WOOD FURNITURE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

Establishment of a 40-cent per hour minimum wage in the wood furniture manufacturing industry is recommended today by an industry committee in a report to be filed with General Philip B. Fleming, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division.

The present minimum wage in the industry is 30 cents per hour, in accordance with provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act. Of the 142,000 workers in the industry, a 40-cent minimum, if approved by the Administrator after a public hearing, would affect some 51,000 workers, principally in the South.

The recommendation, adopted as the majority opinion of a 24-man group named by the Administrator to represent employers, employees, and the public, was submitted following a three-day session here, at which representatives of employer and employee organizations were heard. William Homer Spencer, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, a member of the public group, was chairman.

With few exceptions, it was shown, workers in the industry in the northern, eastern and western sections of the nation now receive more than 40 cents per hour.

The wood furniture manufacturing industry was defined for the committee as:

"The manufacturing, assembling, upholstering, and finishing, from wood, reed, rattan, willow, and fiber, of upholstered and other household, office, lawn, camp, porch, and juvenile and toy furniture, including but without limitation porcelain top breakfast furniture and radio, phonograph and sewing machine cases and cabinets; the manufacturing and assembling, from wood, of furniture parts for the above, separately, set up or knocked down including but without limitation parlor furniture frames and chairs in the white.

"The manufacturing of any products covered under this definition shall be deemed to begin following the delivery of the wood from the kiln or from the air-dried dimension shed."

Members of the committee representing the public, in addition to Chairman Spencer, were:

Leslie H. Buckler, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia
Clyde E. Dankert, Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire
G. Allan Dash, Jr., University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Royal E. Montgomery, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York
George E. Osborne, Stanford University, Palo Alto, California
Arthur F. Raper, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Greensboro, Georgia
William G. Rice, Jr., University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin

The employers group consisted of:

Gilbert H. Bosse, Imperial Desk Company, Evansville, Indiana
C. Arthur Bruce, E. L. Bruce Company, Memphis, Tennessee
T. Austin Finch, Thomasville Chair Company, Thomasville, North Carolina
M. C. Jones, Gettysburg Furniture Company, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
John E. Justice, Oak Furniture Company, North Wilkesboro, North Carolina
F. H. Mueller, Mueller Furniture Company, Grand Rapids, Michigan
R. M. Simmons, American Furniture Company, Martinsville, Virginia
A. H. Stone, Nichols and Stone, Gardner, Massachusetts

Employees were represented by four members each of the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations, as follow:

Robert J. Watt, International Representative, American Federation of Labor, Washington, D. C.
Howard Bennett, Indianapolis, Indiana, and M. A. Hutcheson, Indianapolis, Indiana, both of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters & Joiners of America (A. F. L.)
Sal B. Hoffman, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Upholsterers' International Union of North America (A. F. L.)
Paul R. Christopher, Tennessee State Industrial Council (C. I. O.), Knoxville, Tennessee
Ernest Marsh, Los Angeles, California; Morris Muster, New York City; and Morris Pizer, New York City, all of the United Furniture Workers of America. (C. I. O.)

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