

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

Inactive

KNITTED OUTERWEAR INDUSTRY COMMITTEE APPOINTED

Appointment of an industry committee for the Knitted Outerwear Industry which will meet in Washington, D. C., on August 19, 1941, was announced today by General Philip B. Fleming, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor.

Under provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act the committee is instructed to investigate economic and competitive conditions in this industry and to recommend the highest minimum hourly wage up to 40 cents which would not substantially curtail employment. The industry is now operating under a 35-cent an hour minimum wage order resulting from recommendations of a previous industry committee.

The definition of the knitted outerwear industry as adopted for this committee is identical with that used for the previous committee with the exception that it now includes specific reference to all bathing suits whether knitted or manufactured including those from any purchased fabric, woven or knitted.

The definition follows:

"The knitting from any yarn or mixture of yarns and the further manufacturing, dyeing or other finishing of knitted garments, knitted garment sections or knitted garment accessories for use as external apparel or covering which are partially or completely manufactured in the same establishment as that where the knitting process is performed; and the manufacture of bathing suits from any purchased fabric; provided that the manufacturing, dyeing or other finishing of the following shall not be included:

"Knitted fabric, as distinguished from garment sections or garments, for sale as such; fulled suitings, coatings, topcoatings and overcoatings; garments or garment accessories made from purchased fabric, excepting bathing suits; gloves or mittens; hosiery; knitted garments or garment accessories for use as underwear, sleeping wear or negligees; fleece-lined garments made from knitted fabric containing cotton only or containing any mixture of cotton and not more than 25 per cent, by weight, of wool or animal fiber other than silk; knitted shirts of cotton or any synthetic fiber or any mixture of such fibers which have been knit on machinery of 10-cut or finer; provided that this exception shall not be construed to exclude from the knitted outerwear industry the manufacturing, dyeing or other

finishing of knitted shirts made in the same establishment as that where the knit process is performed, if such shirts are made wholly or in part of fibers other than those specified in this clause, or if such shirts of any fiber are knit on machinery coarser than 10-cut."

It is estimated that when the wage order of July 1, 1940, placed the knitted outerwear industry under a 35-cent hourly minimum, 8,500 of the 26,000 persons employed in the industry received pay increases which resulted directly from establishment of that minimum.

G. Allan Dash, Jr., of the Wharton School of Finance and Commerce at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia was appointed chairman of the committee. Other public members are: Mary Barnett Gilson of the University of Chicago Economics Department; Philip Taft of the Brown University Economics Department, Providence, Rhode Island; Frank de Tyver of Duke University, Durham, North Carolina; and Paul F. Brissenden of the Economics Department at Columbia University, New York City.

The employee representatives are: David Dubinsky, New York City, President of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union; also Jacob Halpern, Boston; Joseph Schwartz, Philadelphia; Abraham W. Katovsky, Cleveland; and Louis Nelson, Brooklyn, New York; all of the same union.

Employer representatives are: Rudolph H. Wyner of the Shawmut Woolen Mills, Stoughton, Massachusetts; Ingram Bergman of the Bergman Knitting Mills, Philadelphia; Arthur J. Reinthal of the Bamberger-Reinthal Co., Cleveland, Ohio; Irving J. Slotoroff of the Sinclair Knitting Mills, New York City; and Edgar W. Stewart, Pacific Knitting Mills, Los Angeles, California.

The committee will meet at 10 a.m., August 19 in Room 3229, Labor Building, Washington, D. C. Persons wishing to appear before it are requested to immediately notify Burton E. Oppenheim, Director, Industry Committee Branch, Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor, Washington, D. C.