

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

CIGARETTE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS 40 CENTS

A minimum wage of 40 cents an hour was recommended for the cigarette and tobacco industry today (Tuesday) by a majority vote of a committee appointed to investigate the industry.

The committee voted unanimously to recommend establishment of a 40 cent minimum wage in the manufacture of cigarettes, snuff, chewing tobacco and smoking tobacco. Five manufacturer members of the committee refused to vote for the establishment of a 40 cent minimum wage in the preparation of non-cigar types of leaf tobacco.

The recommendation will be filed with Baird Snyder, Acting Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor, before the end of the week. He will then schedule a public hearing at which any interested person may appear.

The proposed recommendation would increase the wage of about 5000 workers in manufacturing establishments and about 40,000 leaf processing workers.

Last week a committee for the cigar industry recommended a minimum wage of 40 cents an hour for employees engaged in manufacturing operations and 35 cents an hour for employees engaged in preparation of cigar-types of leaf tobacco.

About half of the workers whose rate would be increased by today's (Tuesday's) recommendation are employed in North Carolina. Most of the remainder are in Virginia and Kentucky.

For the purposes of the minimum wage the industry is defined as:

"The manufacture of cigarettes, snuff, chewing tobacco, and smoking tobacco from any types of tobacco; and the preparation or marketing (including wholesaling) of non-cigar types of leaf tobacco (as defined by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the United States Department of Agriculture) and the scrap tobacco therefrom for use in the manufacture of tobacco products including cigars.

"The term 'cigar' wherever used in this definition comprehends all types of cigars including cheroots, stogies, and little cigars.

"The manufacture of cigarettes, snuff, chewing tobacco, and smoking tobacco from cigar types of leaf tobacco and the scrap tobacco therefrom includes the preliminary processing of such tobacco which is performed at the manufacturing plant as an integral part of the manufacturing operation.

"The term 'preparation' as used herein includes all operations involved in making non-cigar leaf tobacco and the scrap tobacco therefrom suitable for sale or for use in the manufacture of all types of tobacco products including cigars whether performed by employees of warehousemen, manufacturers, leaf dealers, or others. It does not include sales operations that are customarily performed on the sales floor of loose leaf tobacco auction warehouses or the direct loading of tobacco off the floor of such warehouses for shipment. It includes the production of Black Fat, Water Baler, and Dark African. It includes but not by way of limitation the operations of grading, sorting, conditioning, redrying, stemming, packing, and storing. It does not include, however, such preliminary processing of non-cigar types of tobacco and scrap tobacco therefrom as is performed in the manufacturing plant as an integral part of the manufacturing operations attending the production of cigars; nor does it include operations performed by a farmer or on a farm as an incident to or in conjunction with farming operations."

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