

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

WAGE-HOUR LAW MEANS \$200,000 IN BACK WAGES TO DISTRICT EMPLOYEES IN 1941

Enforcement of the Fair Labor Standards Act in the District of Columbia during 1941 has resulted in agreements for more than \$200,000 in back wages to be paid to District wage earners.

This was pointed out today by Thomas W. Holland, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor. Enforcement of the law in the District of Columbia is carried on under a cooperative agreement between the Division and the District Minimum Wage Board, of which Mrs. William Kittle is chairman. Miss Elizabeth Champe is Wage-Hour Law inspector, under the general supervision of Miss Eunice Broyles, executive-secretary of the Board.

Payment of approximately \$137,000 to Smoot Sand and Gravel Co. employees, the largest single payment, was made by the firm as the result of a suit brought by employees. This payment and agreements for other payments cover back wages legally earned, but not paid, under the minimum wage and overtime provisions of the law, which require a wage of at least 30 cents per hour and time and one half the employees' regular hourly rates of pay for work beyond 40 hours per workweek.

The Wage and Hour Division had inspected the Smoot operations and, finding the company in violation, had filed a suit for an injunction against the company in the Federal District court here. The action is still pending.

The report for the District indicates that approximately \$70,000 in back wages payments was agreed to by employers as a result of other inspection and enforcement activities during the calendar year of 1941.

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