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

LUGGAGE, LEATHER GOODS, AND WOMEN'S HANDBAG COMMITTEE TO MEET
FEBRUARY 3

Appointment of a committee to recommend a new minimum wage for the manufacture of luggage, leather goods and women's handbags was announced today by Thomas W. Holland, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor. The committee will meet at 10 A.M., February 3, in Room 3229 of the Department of Labor Building in Washington.

Under the Fair Labor Standards Act, the committee is instructed to investigate economic and competitive conditions in the industry and recommend the highest minimum wage up to 40 cents an hour which will not substantially curtail employment.

The industry is defined as:

"(a) The manufacture from any material of luggage including, but not by way of limitation, trunks, suitcases, traveling bags, brief cases, sample cases; the manufacture of instrument cases covered with leather, imitation leather, or fabric including, but not by way of limitation, portable radio cases; the manufacture of small leather goods and like articles from any material except metal; the manufacture of women's, misses', and children's handbags, pocketbooks, purses, and mesh bags from any material except metal; but not the manufacture of bodies, panels, and frames from metal, wood, fibre, or paper board for any of the above articles.

"(b) The manufacture from leather, imitation leather, or fabric of cut stock and parts for any of the articles covered in Section (a)."

The manufacture of luggage and leather goods has been at 35 cents an hour since January 6, 1941, at which time approximately 4,500 employees of the 17,000 employed in the industry received wage increases. A 35 cents-an-hour minimum wage was established for the manufacture of women's handbags on July 15, 1940, as a division of the Apparel Industry. The rate increased the wages of some 5,000 employees of the 15,000 employed in such manufacture.

Joseph A. McClain, Jr., Dean of the School of Law, Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri, is chairman. Other members of the committee are:

For the Public:

George Thomas Brown, Professor of Economics, Catholic University, Washington, D.C.
Tipton R. Snavely, Professor of Economics, University of Virginia, Charlottesville
Malcolm Sharp, Professor of Law, University of Chicago, Chicago
Leland H. Goodrich, Brown University, Providence, R. I.
Harold Egbert van Delden, Assistant Professor, School of Commerce, Accounts and Finance, New York University, New York

For the Employees:

Samuel Laderman, Chicago, Leather Workers Joint Board of Chicago; Jack Weiselberg, Brooklyn, Luggage Workers Union; Louis Rooney, Chicago; and Charles Mutter, Jersey City, New Jersey, all of the International Ladies' Handbag, Pocketbook and Novelty Workers Union (A. F. of L.)
Philip Lubliner, New York, of the Pocket-Book Workers Union, Local #1 (Unaffiliated)
A. M. Reuter, St. Louis, Missouri, of the Luggage and Leather Workers' Union (CIO)

For the Employers:

George S. Bernard, American Hardware Co., Inc., Petersburg, Virginia
Stanley Klein, Mendel-Drucker, Inc., Cincinnati
Robert H. Rolfs, Amity Leather Products Corp., West Bend, Wisconsin
Milton W. Daub, Boyle Leather Goods Company, New York
George Meyers, Meyers Manufacturing Co., Norwalk, Conn.
Leopold J. Sneider, A. I. Magid Company, Inc., New York

Any person wishing to present evidence to this committee may arrange to do so by writing to Albourne B. Long, Acting Director, Industry Committee Branch, Wage and Hour Division, Washington, D. C.

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