

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

PUERTO RICAN TRANSPORTATION WAGE HEARING
TO BE HELD IN WASHINGTON FEBRUARY 24

A public hearing on the recommendation of the Puerto Rican Railroad and Property Motor Carrier Committee will be held on February 24, 1942 at 10 a.m., in Room 3229, U. S. Department of Labor Building, Washington, D. C., Thomas W. Holland, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor announced today. Major Robert N. Campbell will preside. A report of the committee recommending the establishment of a minimum wage of 20 cents an hour has been filed with the Administrator. The report was signed by four of the six members of the committee. Two members, representing the employers, voted against the recommendation.

The recommendation was made under an amendment to the Wage and Hour Law, authorizing the Administrator to establish minimum wages in Puerto Rico at rates less than 30 cents an hour, the general minimum of the statute, which becomes 40 cents an hour in 1945.

Any interested person may appear at the hearing in favor of or in opposition to the recommendation. A notice of intention to appear at the hearing should be filed with the Administrator by February 20, stating whether the appearance will be in support of or opposition to the recommendation and the approximate length of time requested. The committee made its recommendation on January 20 at San Juan, Puerto Rico, after a public hearing on the Island, extending from January 8 through January 19. Testimony was given at the hearing by representatives of the American Railroad Company of Puerto Rico, The Porto Rican Express Company, trucking firms and by representatives of the employees.

Dr. Arthur F. Raper, Exonomist of Greensboro, Georgia, served as Chairman of the Committee. Justice Martin Travieso of the Supreme Court was the other member representing the public. Members representing the employers were Reinaldo

Ramirez, Chief of the Maintenance of Way Department, American Railroad Company and Manuel I. Vallecillo who is associated with the Cities Delivery Express, Inc. and the University of Puerto Rico. Senator Vicente Geigel Polanco and Jorge Font Saldana served as representatives of employees.

The committee in a separate resolution unanimously requested that the Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division recommend enactment of legislation bringing all common carriers under the Puerto Rican Public Service Commission.

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