

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION
165 W. 46th St.
New York, N. Y.

GRAIN PRODUCTS INDUSTRY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS 40-CENT MINIMUM WAGE

Establishment of a 40-cent per hour minimum wage for the industry handling and processing grain in conjunction with milling operations today was recommended to L. Metcalfe Walling, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor. This is the first industry committee recommendation filed since the Division's offices were moved from Washington to New York.

Approximately 19,500 of the 64,000 workers engaged in the industry would receive direct wage increases should Mr. Walling issue a wage order establishing 40 cents as the minimum hourly wage. Most of the workers who would be affected are employed in the South.

The recommendation is the majority action of a committee of 21 members selected from all sections of the nation and equally representative of employers in the industry, employees, and the public. The group, of which James M. Herring of the University of Pennsylvania, one of the public representatives, was chairman, held a two-day session in Hotel Astor, New York City, where it heard witnesses and considered the possible economic effects upon the industry which would result from increasing the wage level from the 30-cents per hour statutory minimum under the Wage-Hour Law.

The committee was limited by law to a 40-cents per hour recommendation.

The law also provides that the Administrator, after receiving a committee recommendation, shall schedule a public hearing to receive evidence bearing on the approval or disapproval of the committee's recommendation. Mr. Walling is expected to schedule such a hearing shortly.

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