

## BUTTON AND BUCKLE INDUSTRY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS 40-CENT MINIMUM WAGE

An increase in the minimum wage rate in the nation's button and buckle manufacturing industry from the present statutory minimum of 30 cents per hour to 40 cents per hour today was recommended to L. Metcalfe Walling, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor.

It is estimated that an increase to the recommended amount would directly affect approximately 4,500 of the 11,700 persons employed in the industry.

The recommendation was made to Mr. Walling by a committee of 15, equally representative of employers in the industry, employees, and the public. The committee, of which T. L. Norton, professor of Economics, University of Buffalo, Buffalo, New York, a member of the public group, was chairman, studied conditions in the industry during a session held March 26 in New York City.

The committee, by law, was required to recommend the highest minimum wage, not exceeding 40 cents an hour, which it found the industry could pay and "not substantially curtail employment in the industry."

Following a public hearing on the recommendation, which he is expected to schedule in the near future, Mr. Walling will issue a wage order for the industry in the amount recommended or, if he finds the recommendation not fully supported by the evidence, he may refer it back for further study.

In filing its recommendation the committee was guided by the following definition of the industry:

"The manufacture of buttons, buckles, and slides, and the manufacture of blanks and parts for such articles from any material except metal, for use on apparel, but not including the manufacture of products covered by any definition of an industry in any administrative order heretofore issued."