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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
WAGE AND HOUR AND PUBLIC CONTRACTS DIVISIONS
165 West 46th Street
New York, New York

R-1914

BAN ON INDUSTRIAL HOMEWORK IN WOMEN'S APPAREL INDUSTRY
TO BE ENFORCED

Petitions from two trade associations and one manufacturer in the women's apparel industry, requesting that a United States Department of Labor order limiting industrial homework in the industry be made ineffective until after the war, have been rejected by L. Metcalfe Walling, Administrator of the Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions of the Labor Department.

Under the order, which became effective December 1, 1942, only a limited number of homeworkers may be employed at 40 cents an hour with time and one-half for overtime, in the women's apparel industry. The order was issued by Administrator Walling on July 8, 1942 with the effective date set as December 1 in an effort to afford sufficient time for the industry to adjust itself to the limitations of the order.

As it now stands, industrial homeworkers in the industry can be employed only if they come within four definitions and providing they are given working certificates, which are issued by the Regional offices of the Division. The only persons to which certificates will be issued are: Workers who were engaged in industrial homework in the industry prior to March 5, 1942; or workers who are or will be engaged in such homework under the supervision of a State Vocational Rehabilitation Agency or a sheltered workshop; and who are unable to adjust to factory work because of age or physical disability; or are unable to leave home because the worker's presence is required to care for an invalid in the home.

The petitioners were:

National Women's Neckwear & Scarf Association, 570 7th Avenue, New York City.
Association of Adjustable Shoulder Strap Manufacturers, 12 East 31st Street,
New York City
Better Infants' Wear, North Medina Street, San Antonio, Texas.

The general contention of the petitioners was that there was and is a scarcity of labor, that OPA price ceilings prohibit any increase in labor costs and that the limiting of the use of homeworkers would prevent the petitioners from continuing in business. Several conferences were held with Merle D. Vincent, Director of the Exemptions Branch of the Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions. Among others who objected to the petitioners' pleas was the International Ladies Garment Workers Union.

Administrator Walling then ruled that there was no basis for postponing the effective date of the order.

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