

For release Tuesday

December 5, 1944

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions

165 West 46th Street

New York 19, New York

*Short*  
PR-54

*file*

*action*

L. Metcalfe Walling, Administrator of the Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions, announced today that on the basis of the evidence submitted at the Public Hearings held on August 9 and September 12, 1944, on the recommendations of Special Industry Committee No. 3 for Puerto Rico, he will approve the minimum wage rates for the Leaf Tobacco and Sugar Manufacturing Industries.

The wage order incorporating the new hourly minimum of 27 cents for the Leaf Tobacco Industry in Puerto Rico will become effective on April 1, 1945; and the wage order incorporating the new hourly minimum of 35 cents for the Sugar Manufacturing Industry in Puerto Rico will become effective on January 15, 1945. Present minima under the Fair Labor Standards Act are 20 cents and 30 cents for the respective industries.

The effective dates for the Leaf Tobacco and Sugar Manufacturing Industries are being announced at this time because of the seasonal problems in these two industries. Mr. Walling stated that owing to an unusually late tobacco crop this year, it appears that stemming plants will not be able to complete the bulk of their processing operations as early as usual, and in order to allow the Leaf Tobacco Industry to liquidate its old contracts which were negotiated at the present minimum, April 1, 1945 has been selected as the most appropriate dividing line between operations on the old and new crops. January 15, 1945, the date on which the wage order for the Sugar Manufacturing Industry will go into effect, closely corresponds with the start of grinding operations on the present sugar crop.

#####

(02535)