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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions  
Washington 25, D.C.

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A.M. Papers, Friday, June 20, 1947

McCOMB NAMES PUERTO RICAN WAGE RATE COMMITTEE

Wm. R. McComb, Administrator of the Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions, U. S. Department of Labor, today named the members of the industry committee which will assist in the re-examination of minimum wage rates established by wage orders in Puerto Rico under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Known as Special Industry Committee No. 5 for Puerto Rico, the group, representing labor, management and the public, will conduct hearings beginning July 14 in the Chamber of Commerce Building, San Juan, to receive testimony on economic and competitive conditions in 13 Puerto Rican industries.

Employers, employees and the public will be represented on the committee by three members each. In general, the same persons will serve throughout the deliberations except for the successive replacement of one employer member by another in order to give direct representation to each of the 13 individual Puerto Rican industries as it is discussed.

When the railroad, railway express and property motor transport industry is reached, however, all members will be replaced, with the exception of the public members, who will remain the same throughout the sessions.

The membership of the committee at its first session, which will deal with the sugar manufacturing industry, will be as follows:

Public: Dr. Antonio J. Colorado, Dean, College of Social Sciences, University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras, P. R.; Dr. Jose Laracuente, Dean, College of Business Administration, University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras, P. R.; Prof. Paul A. Brissenden, Columbia School of Business, Columbia University, New York, N. Y.

Employees: Mr. Francisco Colon-Gordiany, President, Confederacion General de Trabajadores de Puerto Rico, San Juan, P. R.; Mr. Sergio Kuilan-Baez, Secretary, Confederacion General de Trabajadores de Puerto Rico, San Juan, P. R.; Mr. Saldalio E. Alonso, Secretary, Federacion Libre de los Trabajadores de Puerto Rico, San Juan, P. R.

Employers: Mr. Filipino L. de Hostos, President, Camara de Comercio de Puerto Rico, San Juan, P. R.; Mr. J. A. E. Rodriguez, President, Asociacion de Industriales de Puerto Rico, San Juan, P. R.; Mr. Fernando A. Villamil, Vice Chairman, Asociacion de Productores de Azucar de Puerto Rico, San Juan, P. R.

Other employer members who will serve at some time during the proceedings include:

Mr. J.A. Otero, Manager, Frigorifico San Agustin, Inc., San Juan, P. R.; Mr. Jose Rodriguez, Secretary, Infanzon and Rodriguez, Inc., Caguas, P. R.; Mr. Harry Partridge, Secretary, Pineapple Growers Cooperative Association, San Juan, P. R.; Mr. Jose R. Carreras, Chief Engineer, Sucs. de Abarca, Inc., San Juan, P. R.; Mr. Arthur F. Oetting, Secretary, Red Star Manufacturing Company, Inc., Santurce, P. R.; Mr. Sam Schweitzer, Schweitzer Company, Mayaguez, P. R.; Mr. Santiago Diaz-Pacheco, Economist, Puerto Rico Development Company, San Juan, P. R.

Employers - railroad: Mr. Etienne Totti, General Manager, American Railroad Company of Puerto Rico, San Juan, P. R.

Employees - railroad: Mr. Alberto E. Sanchez, Secretary, Asociacion de Choferes de Puerto Rico, San Juan, P. R.; Mr. Miguel Torres, Vice President, Obreros Unidos de las Ferrovias de Puerto Rico, San Juan, P.R.; Mr. Benigno Ortiz, Santurce, P. R.

On the basis of the evidence presented at the hearings, the committee will recommend to the Administrator the highest minimum wage for each industry--up to the statutory minimum under the Fair Labor Standards Act--which it determines will not substantially curtail employment in the industry, and will not give any industry in Puerto Rico a competitive advantage over any industry in the United States outside of Puerto Rico. A special provision of the Fair Labor Standards Act permits minimum rates below the statutory minimum in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Industries selected for the committee's consideration in the approximate order in which hearings will be held are: Sugar manufacturing, wholesaling, warehousing, and other distribution; pearl button; cigar and cigarette; small leather goods and related products (including leather and fabric-covered base-balls, hand-braided leather buttons, and wallets); full-fashioned hosiery; artificial flowers; hooked rugs; foundry, machine-shop, and fabricated metal products; vegetable, fruit and fruit juice canning; vegetable packing; shoe manufacturing; railroad, railway express and property motor transport (including all for-hire trucking). The full definitions of the industries appear in Administrative Order No. 367 appointing the committee, published in the Federal Register this date. Copies of the Order may be obtained on request.

Any person having a substantial interest in the San Juan proceedings may appear on behalf of himself or others.

Persons wishing to appear are asked to file with Russell Sturgis, Territorial Director of the Wage and Hour Division, 606 Banco Popular Building, San Juan, Puerto Rico, and with Wm. R. McComb, Administrator of the Division, Washington 25, D.C.; a notice of intention to appear not later than July 11.

The notice must contain the name and address of the person, name and address of the person or organization for whom he is to appear, a brief summary of the material to be presented, and the approximate time needed for the presentation. Interested parties who cannot appear personally are invited to present written statements for the committee's consideration. These statements, six copies of which should be sent to Mr. Sturgis, must be filed before July 14. Any person appearing at the hearing who offers written material must submit six copies.

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