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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
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SCHWELLENBACH ANNOUNCES NEW UNIFORM CLOTHING INDUSTRY MINIMUM WAGE DETERMINATION

Effective May 8, the Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act minimum wage determination for the suit and coat branch of the uniform clothing industry will require a minimum of 85 cents an hour, instead of the present 60 cents an hour, with a special provision for certain auxiliary workers establishing a minimum of 65 cents an hour, instead of the present 40 cents.

This was announced today in a determination under the Act adopted by Secretary of Labor L. B. Schwellenbach. His action follows a public hearing on the proposal held January 21, at which no objections, protests, or statements were filed in opposition to increasing the minimum rates.

The Public Contracts Act applies to suppliers on Government contracts for over \$10,000 in value.

According to evidence presented at the hearing, the increased labor cost resulting from the new wage levels would average less than one-tenth of one percent for contractors as a whole. The present minimum wage determination for this industry branch was adopted in 1941.

The determination covers that part of the men's clothing industry which manufactures men's civilian suits and overcoats; tailored-to-measure uniforms, including the pants; uniform overcoats and uniform coats; and tailored short jackets designed to take the place of regular Army issue coats, e.g., the "Eisenhower" jackets. It is estimated that some 135,000 men and women are employed in this type of manufacturing.

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