

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

MCCOMB ADOPTS NEW WAGE ORDERS FOR TWO PUERTO RICAN INDUSTRIES, EFFECTIVE MAY 24

Effective May 24, two new minimum wage orders for Puerto Rican industries under the Fair Labor Standards Act will apply to some 5,000 employees in the "Wholesaling, Warehousing, and Other Distribution Industries" and to about 1,300 employees in the "Hooked Rug Industry".

The orders were adopted today by Wm. R. McComb, Administrator of the Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions, U. S. Department of Labor. Fifteen-day notice of his intention to adopt the orders was announced April 1.

Under the order for the wholesaling, etc., industry, employees will receive a minimum of 40 cents an hour, instead of the present 35 cents. The Hooked Rug Industry new wage order will increase the minimum wage for hand-tufting and hand-sewing operations to 18 cents an hour, from the present 15 cents, and to 27 cents an hour, instead of the present 24 cents, for all other operations, as well as establish a 40-cents-an-hour minimum for the machine-hooked rug division of the industry.

The new wage orders were adopted by McComb under a special provision of the Wage and Hour Law permitting lower minimum rates for Puerto Rican industries than the statutory 40-cents-an-hour minimum the law sets for the continental United States. His action is based on recommendations made by an industry committee he named to study conditions in the industries.

#####