

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

DISAPPROVES COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FOR UNCHANGED MINIMUM WAGE ORDER
FOR VEGETABLE, FRUIT AND FRUIT JUICE CANNING INDUSTRY IN PUERTO RICO

Recommendation of a tri-partite industry committee that the minimum wage under the Fair Labor Standards Act remain unchanged for the Vegetable, Fruit and Fruit Juice Canning Industry in Puerto Rico was disapproved today by F. Granville Grimes, Jr., Acting Administrator, Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions, U. S. Department of Labor.

The committee, after studying conditions on the Island, recommended that the industry, which employs some 2,000 workers, continue at the present 16-cents-an-hour minimum wage. A public hearing on the recommendation was held in Washington on January 8, 1948.

In disapproving the recommendation, in accordance with the provisions of Section 8(d) of the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Acting Administrator said "the minimum wage rate recommended is not the highest minimum which will not substantially curtail employment in the industry on the Island." In a formal findings and opinion, Grimes holds that the committee's recommendation is not supported by evidence adduced at the hearing, at which it was shown that "the industry has been able in actual practice to sustain a higher rate than the current one of 16 cents." It was testified at the hearing that "about 18 cents per hour was the generally accepted minimum for the 'vast bulk of the canneries'."

According to provisions of the Wage and Hour Law, the Administrator, after disapproving a committee recommendation, may refer the matter back to the same committee, or to a new committee, for further consideration and recommendation.

Text of the administrative order disapproving the recommendation is published in the Federal Register today. Copies of the order, as well as of the findings and opinion upon which it is based, may be obtained from the Divisions without charge on request.