

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

PROPOSES NEW WAGE ORDER FOR CIGAR AND CIGARETTE INDUSTRY IN PUERTO RICO

Notice of his intention to adopt a new wage order under the Fair Labor Standards Act which would continue the minimum rate of 30 cents an hour for the Cigar and Cigarette Industry in Puerto Rico was announced today by Wm. R. McComb, Administrator of the Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions, U. S. Department of Labor.

Text of the proposed wage order is published in the Federal Register today. Copies of the findings and opinion upon which it is based are available on request to the Divisions. Interested parties are given 15 days in which to file exceptions and supporting reasons, in quadruplicate, with the Administrator, in Washington, D. C.

Announcement by McComb today follows a public hearing at which interested parties were afforded an opportunity to express their views on the conclusions of a tri-partite industry committee which studied conditions in the industry last summer and recommended that the rate established by the wage order in effect since July 16, 1945, be continued. Under a special provision in the Wage and Hour Law, it has been possible to establish minimum wage rates for Puerto Rican industries lower than the 40-cents-an-hour statutory minimum which has prevailed for the continental United States since October 24, 1945.

The proposed effective date in the wage order announced today is August 9. At the expiration of the 15-day period of notice begun today, the Administrator will give notice of his final action.

#####

(06616)