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

MCCOMB DISAPPROVES COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FOR UNCHANGED MINIMUM  
WAGE ORDER FOR VEGETABLE PACKING INDUSTRY IN PUERTO RICO

Wm. R. McComb, Administrator of the Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions, U. S. Department of Labor, today disapproved a recommendation by a tripartite industry committee that the 15-cents-an-hour minimum wage under the Fair Labor Standards Act remain unchanged for the Vegetable Packing Industry in Puerto Rico.

In disapproving the recommendation, in accordance with the provisions of section 8(d) of the Act, the 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, McComb holds that the committee's recommendation is not supported by evidence adduced at a public hearing February 9, at which it was shown that the industry now is paying most employees more than the minimum of 15 cents an hour, established by wage order May 12, 1941.

Under 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.

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