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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION
Washington

Textile Industry Committee Meets to Begin
Wage Study

Industry Committee No. 1 of the Wage and Hour Division of the Labor Department today holds its first meeting since its appointment by Administrator Elmer F. Andrews to recommend a minimum wage rate for the cotton, silk and rayon textile industry.

Chairman Donald M. Nelson, of Chicago, will convene the meeting at 10 a.m. and thereafter the Committee will conduct its own affairs according to procedures already announced by Administrator Andrews for all industry committees.

At this initial meeting, Industry Committee No. 1 will organize its work and determine what investigations it should make, what information it needs and how it should carry on its studies in order to make a minimum wage recommendation to Administrator Andrews. It will also make arrangements to hear interested parties.

The Committee is obliged, under the Fair Labor Standards Act, to recommend the highest minimum wage schedule which it determines will not substantially curtail employment in the industry.

Among the first matters to be taken up by the Committee will be an explanation of its legal responsibilities, duties and functions by a member of the Division's legal staff who will be present to discuss that.

The Committee will also go over the economic requirements upon it in recommending wage rates for an industry spread throughout the nation in large and small communities. Economists will explain the definition of the industry made by Administrator Andrews on September 13.

One of the important early problems of the Committee is to recommend a definition for the related textile operations which are to be included in its jurisdiction, in accordance with a request by the Administrator in a letter to Committee Chairman Donald M. Nelson.

This "open end" of the Committee's jurisdiction in a general way covers the manufacture and finishing of yarn and woven goods having certain percentages of wool fibre and the further processing of woven or knitted fabrics which is substantially conducted in the establishment which did the knitting or weaving.

After the Committee determines upon its plan of procedure, Administrator Andrews will submit to it the information already gathered for its assistance. This will include a study by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the wage structure in the cotton textile branch of the industry.

The first meeting of the Committee is expected to last several days.

The section of the textile industry for which the Committee will make recommendations now employs an estimated 1,300,000 workers.

Members of the Committee are:

Public Members---

Donald Nelson, Chairman, Chicago, Ill.
 Grace Abbott, Grand Island, Nebr.
 P. O. Davis, Auburn, Ala.
 E. L. Foshee, Sherman, Tex.
 Louis Kirstein, Boston, Mass.
 George Fort Milton, Chattanooga, Tenn.
 George W. Taylor, Philadelphia, Pa.

Employee Members---

Paul Christopher, Charlotte, N. C.
 Francis P. Fenton, Boston, Mass.
 Sidney Hillman, New York City, N. Y.
 R. R. Lawrence, Atlanta, Ga.
 Elizabeth Nord, Manchester, Conn.
 Emil Rieve, Philadelphia, Pa.
 H. A. Schrader, Washington, D. C.

Employer Members---

G. Edward Buxton, Providence, R. I.
Charles A. Cannon, Kannapolis, N. C.
Robert Chapman, Spartansburg, S. C.
John R. Cheatham, Griffin, Ga.
John Nickerson, New York City, N. Y.
Seabury Stanton, New Bedford, Mass.
R. R. West, Danville, Va.