

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

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LABOR
JULY - NOV. 1943

U.S. CONFIDENTIAL (Equals British CONFIDENTIAL)

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
LABOR SUB-COMMISSION
APO 512

9011/LAB

6 November 1943

SUBJECT: Summary Report of Labor in Sicily from 10 July 1943 to
26 October 1943.

TO : Chief Civil Affairs Officer.

1. Introduction.

a. The original AMGOT Plan provided that Labor should be a section under the direction of the Civilian Supply Division. Later, September 1943, Labor was established as a separate division directly responsible to the Chief Civil Affairs Officer.

b. During the period of planning in North Africa prior to invasion of Sicily, the Civilian Supply Division had been unable to obtain current Italian labor intelligence which could be used as a basis for determining a definite labor policy. Intelligence was limited to:

- (1) Approximate number of Sicilian workers,
- (2) 1939 base wage rates,
- (3) Geographical distribution of workers,
- (4) General theoretical description of the Corporative Syndical System, and
- (5) Type of industries.

c. It was decided that in view of the lack of information, study would be limited to theory; that labor principles would be tentatively established along general lines; and that definite decisions would be made in the field after contact with live problems and opportunity to study and evaluate them.

d. A wage scale was proposed for use of the Seventh and Eighth Armies (Ex. A). This scale was to govern pay of civilians employed by the Armies during invasion and was submitted to the Armies as a tentative guide which would probably need correction.

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d. A wage scale was proposed for use of the Seventh and Eighth Armies (Ex. A). This scale was to govern pay of civilians employed by the Armies during invasion and was submitted to the Armies as a tentative guide which would probably need revision after experience in the occupied territory. Sicilian pay levels of that period. The Seventh Army adopted the wage Guide in toto and issued it in the form of a directive (Ex. B). The Eighth Army also adopted it, but made some revisions and additions. In the main, the guide was based upon the experience of the British wage classifications and rates in Tripolitania plus the available indefinite intelligence which had been received from Italy.

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e. Promulgation of the wage scale was the only specific labor action taken by the Division prior to D-Day.

2. The Sicilian labor experience.

a. First Phase. 10 July 1943 (D-Day) to 22 July 1943 (date of Allied Occupation of Palermo).

(1) During this phase the Labor Section had not yet commenced to function in Sicily. Labor was handled by Civil Affairs Officers of AMGOT who were attached to tactical troops. This duty was in addition to others, and in view of the pressing nature of other problems, received minimum attention. Proclamation No. 8, which froze wages and prices to the 9 July 1943 level was posted in every occupied town and city (Ex. C). Employment offices were opened in cities where labor was handled by the Army or Navy, and notices posted inviting the public to register for work. Fascist Syndicate Offices were taken over and utilized for this purpose.

(2) The Allies had no difficulty in procuring labor. Large surpluses were available where required. In addition, the AMGOT wage scale was particularly attractive to workers in view of Proclamation No. 8 and the fact that the scale paid was in many cases 70% above the scale prevailing prior to occupation.

(3) In each occupied city where offices of Fascist trade unions and associations were located, records were impounded and left for subsequent examination.

(4) There was one development which indicated trouble ahead. While the Seventh Army had adopted the AMGOT wage scale, the Eighth Army had adopted it only in part, and the Air Force and Navy paid wages without careful consideration of existing wage rates or the AMGOT scale, falling back on the expedient of paying whatever they thought should be paid, and using the American or British standards of payment as a criterion. The lire had been devaluated. Thinking was in terms of the lire being worth one cent.

b. Second Phase. 22 July 1943 to 26 October 1943.

(1) During this phase a definite labor policy for Sicily was established. A study was first made of the labor situation in Palermo.

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b. Second Phase. 22 July 1943 to 26 October 1943.

(1) During this phase a definite labor policy for Sicily was established. A study was first made of the labor situation in Palermo Province. As the Allied tactical situation improved, the study was enlarged to include newly acquired territory, until finally on 19 August 1943 the entire island was in Allied hands. 5241

(2) Certain immediate general observations were made which should be recorded in this report for background purposes. First, immediately before D-Day every important labor and trade association official on the island had fled to Rome. It was apparent that they had left in a hurry, because in many cases personal possessions and correspondence were found intact, some of which disclosed that by date their departure was in the main from

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8 to 10 July 1943. This left labor and trade associations and their offices leaderless, though in each instance clerical staff remained at work, and records were found intact. Second, pre-invasion statistics were confirmed in that island employment was found to be approximately 50% agricultural, 26% industrial, and 24% miscellaneous. In these categories, agricultural employment was least affected by invasion. Workers remained, and as circumstances permitted, continued their daily duties. Industrial employment was at a standstill. Pre-invasion bombing had completely disorganized and dislocated industry. Many cities had been reduced to ruins and industrial workers feared the personal physical risk incident to further employment. This was especially true in sea port cities like Palermo, Catania, Siracusa, Messina, and Agrigento. Miscellaneous employment which included shop-keepers, domestic workers, and government employees was in varied state of disorganization. The shop-keepers and domestic workers were not working, while government employees of all levels, except those who had fled to Rome, remained at their work waiting to learn whether or not the Allies would permit them to continue in their employment. Third, there was no evidence of pre-invasion sabotage by workers. Fourth, during Fascism, there was general non-compliance by employers, employees, trade unions and associations with wage conventions or wage provisions stipulated in collective labor contracts. (This did not apply to government employees. Their wage scale was statutory and not covered by collective contracts.) The level of wages depended largely upon labor supply and demand. The black market had become an accepted institution, and official Fascist commodity price lists were respected only in their breach. Cost of living was high and presented a problem with which the Fascist Government had not been able to cope.

(3) Labor was divided into the following broad classifications for preliminary study and action:

Procurement and Supply of Labor.

Wages, which included the question of cost of living.

Trade unions, associations, and labor relations.

(a) Procurement and Supply of Labor for Branches of the Allied Armed Forces.

(1) This was given A-1 priority. The

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Trade unions, associations, and labor relations.

(a) Procurement and Supply of Labor for Branches of the Allied Armed Forces.

(1) This was given A-1 priority. The various S.C.A.O.'s in each province had done their jobs well. In each province the main Fascist trade union office was taken by the S.C.A.O. and opened as an employment office. The clerical and executive staffs (except known Fascist leaders who were removed on the spot) who were familiar with the office records, and registration of workers under Fascism, were directed to continue at work under A.M.G. supervision. The public was invited to register for work and the offices were immediately overrun by men, women, and children of all ages who desired employment. Compulsory registration was not required. The problem was not one of procuring sufficient labor, but in finding enough work for the thousands of persons who for the moment were out of employment because of disorganization of trade, industry and commerce. In Palermo city alone, over 1,800 persons were registered for work the first day. Headquarters of the Allied Forces were notified of the location of the employment offices. The offices were kept open 24 hours a day un-

til the latter part of August when the pressure was relieved as a result of fulfillment of the larger military labor requirements. The offices were then put on a 10 hour a day working schedule. An employee was always kept on duty to handle emergencies. The military made its own arrangements for transportation of workers to work areas.

(ii) Certain fundamental rules were established for the employment offices. (a) Registration was voluntary under Fascism it had been compulsory. (b) Persons were classified for work by skill with full listing of all skills; under Fascism they were classified under one skill and could only work in that classification. (c) Preference in employment to members of the Fascist party abolished. Persons were to be employed on an equal basis regardless of race or creed. (d) Preference for employment was to be given to political prisoners who had opposed Fascism and had been imprisoned by the Fascists for that reason; individuals who had been denied employment opportunities under Fascism because of religion, anti-Fascist activity, or refusal to join the Fascist party; and to heads of families who could show great economic need.

(iii) Actual statistics on the number of workers employed through these offices are not available at this writing, though the figures will be compiled at a later date. It can be said generally, however, that labor was well absorbed in the larger coastal cities -- the balance being taken care of by temporary relief or city "clean-up" projects. However, in areas which had previously depended on operation of one specific industry as, for example, sulphur and asphalt mining (Agrigento, Brna and Caltanissetta) there were totally unabsorbed workers of such industries. Approximately 40,000 miners were in that category. They received temporary relief and some work with city "clean-up" projects pending reopening of the mines which were as yet not operating because of lack of power and vital equipment parts. At this writing a few lines have reopened, and A.M.G. has made arrangements for the reopening of others.

(b) Wages and Cost of Living. This problem fell into the following employment categories: Civilians employed by the Armed Forces, government employees, and persons employed by private employers. First, Civilians Employed by the Armed Forces. This category presented problems of an emergency nature because the military was at the time the largest single employer of labor on the island; wage rates paid were not uniform between the various branches of the service; and it was obvious that the

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uniform wage scale was adopted (Ex. D). The scale was promulgated by A.L.G. and issued to all of the branches to be reissued in routine military orders or directives. The scale became effective 1 October 1943, and included 17 working categories. In addition, it was agreed that periodic joint conferences would be called by A.L.G. for further revision of wages and addition of job classifications. It was also agreed that if between conferences a branch had to establish a rate for a job not covered by the uniform scale, that it would be submitted to A.L.G. for study and determination and when fixed would be made uniform for that job throughout the Island. Basic conditions of employment were also established and made part of the wage publication. An effort was made to eliminate the wide discrepancies between wages paid by the military and those prevailing in other fields. It was borne in mind that the scale would establish an Island Wide precedent which would eventually be reflected in wages paid to Government and private employees. The result was that approximately 50% of the then existing military rates of pay were reduced from L 10 to L 30 per day, while in other cases rates were left unchanged, and in some cases increased. (Comparison of Exs. A, B, and D will disclose the adjustments made.) While the uniform scale was not the answer to the wage problem as such, it was of constructive value since it established a uniform wage scale and policy; stabilized wages and wage procedure; and revised rates to a more economically desirable level. Second, was the question of Governmental Employees, and third, Private Employees. This question was complicated by an elaborate Italian wage structure which had been confused during Fascism by the addition of many indemnities (more than 38 in the case of Governmental employees) which were in each instance proclaimed as socially desirable government grants, but were actually attempts to meet the rise in cost of living without admitting the fact. When cost of living increased, the State would add an indemnity for workers, but instead of calling it a cost of living adjustment, or wage increase, they would call it an indemnity for bombing, "comandamento", or appearing at work "presenza", and thus hide its true purpose. The result was a "hidden wage" structure which started with a low base rate and concluded with an accumulation of indemnities which in many cases represented between 60 to 70% of a worker's total income. There was no relation between base pay, indemnities, and the job. Not only was the situation confusing to the workers, but universally resented because the wage was not stable, was in such form that it could be altered by the State at any time, and hence, threatened the worker's sense of security. It was found that neither employees nor employers were able to calculate the cost of the wage structure.

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and the Italian Government before making changes which would so vitally affect the basic financial and economic structure of the country. (Ex. E - Rough draft of summary report.)

(c) Trade Unions and Labor Relations.

(i) There was no free labor movement or industry association under Fascism. State labor-industry control was the key to the Fascist theory of Government and was accomplished through the Corporative Syndical System. The syndicate was the basic cell of the Fascist social and economic concept. Workers and employees within certain occupations were organized into separate syndicates and permitted to function by positive law. The economic field (except government) was divided into industry, commerce, banking, and agriculture. In addition there was the group known as artists and professional men. Each of the aforementioned economic divisions had a separate independent organization for employees and employers, except artists and professional men, who were combined into one organization. Each province had 9 such organizations known as provincial "Unions". Syndicates were constituent members thereof. Provincial Unions then selected representatives which composed the Federations, and the Federations selected representatives for the Confederations. The Federations and Confederations were situated in Rome and represented the Unions involved, but at different levels. All representatives of each unit starting with the basic syndicate and ending with Confederations had to be members in good standing of the Fascist party and approved by Mussolini. That was the syndical structure. On top of that was the corporative superstructure. This was composed of 22 Corporations, the members of which were Confederation delegates and Fascist party members appointed by the Ministry of Corporations. Each Corporation represented a whole cycle of an economic activity. At the head of these Corporations sat the Minister of Corporations -- Mussolini.

(ii) Workers and employers paid dues in the form of syndical taxes. Dues were deducted from payrolls by employers and sent directly to the Ministry of Corporations in Rome, not to the syndicates. Rome decided how much was necessary for the next annual budget of the syndicates, and sent some to the Provincial Unions for allocation to itself and syndicates, and kept the balance. Collective labor agreements were negotiated by the Federations and approved by Mussolini, after which they became the law of the industry involved. Members had no voice in them, or right of ratification. Contracts stipulated hours, wages and working conditions. Strikes and lockouts were prohibited and

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(iii) After examination of the Corporative Syndical System, conferences with pro-Fascist labor leaders, anti-Fascist groups, government representatives, employers, and workers; and after an intensive survey of the Island, it became

clear that the system should be abolished. Revision was impossible. It would have meant appointing administrators of syndicates, financing them, and hence complete government regulation and control. Continuation of the system meant continuation of Fascism. (This view was concurred in by the Finance Division, which had already abolished the syndical tax.) The situation demanded a new start with an assurance to both employers and employees that they would not be coerced by government into any particular organization. Collective bargaining had been a mockery. Collective contracts were imposed by decree. The Corporative Syndical System was openly resented and protested against by the great majority of employers and employees. Syndicates were not labor organizations or trade associations, but rather agencies of the Fascist party. The system to the public meant abject slavery, and they literally asked to be freed from it -- not by half measures, but by a clean sweep which would leave them free to digest their new liberty and decide on a fresh course of action. It was, therefore, decided that each group should be left to build for itself what it thought would best serve its purposes, the social and economic welfare of the Island, and its sense of freedom and liberty. To this end, the Fascist Corporative Syndical System was dissolved and all Fascist officials removed.

(iv) Various plans were drafted to accomplish the objective stated above. Plan "B" was finally approved (Ex. F) and was signed on 24 September 1943 to become effective 1 October 1943 as General Order No. 8 (Ex. G). This plan dissolved the Corporative Syndical System, established a system of Provincial Labor Offices, a Regional Labor Office for Sicily, method of adjusting labor disputes, and assured a free labor movement for Sicily. Rules and Regulations were issued to aid in effectuating the order (Ex. H), and a covering letter of preliminary instructions to all S.C.A.O.'s to emphasize its importance (Ex. I).

(v) To assure stability during the period of transition from the old system to the new freedom, Administrative Instruction - Labor No. 2 was issued (Ex. J). It provided for continuation of the substantive hour, wage, and condition of employment provisions of existing collective agreements pending opportunity for revision.

(vi) The Ispettorato Corporativo which was a direct representative of the Ministry of Corporations in Rome and functioned in Sicily for the purpose of inspecting health, hygiene and safety laws.

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(vi) The Ispettorato Corporativo which was a direct representative of the Ministry of Corporations in Rome and functioned in Sicily for the purpose of inspecting, health, hygiene and similar laws for workers was continued, though transferred for administrative and other purposes to the new Regional Labor Office for Sicily (Ex. K).

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(vii) On 10 October 1943 labor proposal No 3 was prepared and submitted for approval (Ex. L). The purpose of this proposal was to clarify the question of whether or not General Order No 8 actually gave employees the right of selection of representatives for purposes of collective bargaining, and to round out the labor program. The proposal was submitted to AFHQ, MCS for instruction. No reply to date.

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3. Conclusion.

a. Part I. By 26 October 1943 AMGOT had accomplished the following in the field of labor:

- (1) Established a uniform wage scale for Sicily governing civilians employed by branches of the Armed Forces.
- (2) Completed a study of the Italian wage structure and system with recommendations for revision and adjustment.
- (3) Completed a cost of living study for Sicily (Ex. M).
- (4) Concluded the task of procuring and supplying labor to branches of the Armed Forces.
- (5) Abolished the Fascist Corporative Syndical System.
- (6) Substituted civilian Government Agencies for handling labor problems subject to A.M.G. guidance and supervision.
- (7) Consolidated under the Regional Labor Office for Sicily previous Fascist functions which were found to be of benefit to workers and the public; having eliminated those which were found objectionable.
- (8) Provided a machinery for present and future self determination of labor disputes and contracts.
- (9) Assured a framework for a free labor and trade association movement.
- (10) Initiated a study of cooperatives, workmen's compensation, and public health systems.

b. Part II. As of 26 October 1943 there was considerable unrest among the workers who were asking for wage increases to meet the higher cost of living. Several unions had been organized on the island. The most prominent in Palermo (Ex. N). The public was voicing itself in the first free press that they have had in 25 years, on questions relating to labor. There had been no strikes or lockouts. There had been 4 important labor disputes between employers and employees, all of which were resolved by agreement between the parties after reference by employer and employee representatives to the new Regional Labor Office. The outstanding grievances were scarcity of food, the growing black market, and rising cost of living.

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c. Part III. A framework for democracy in labor and industry has been established in Sicily. The third phase will answer the question of whether or not the Sicilians will responsibly accept their new challenge of freedom. Much will depend upon the ability of the population and the Allies to meet the need for current and supply of food, eliminating the black market, and arresting the rise in cost of living.

DAL/tlw

David A. Morse
DAVID A. MORSE,
Capt., A.C.,
Labor Division.

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

24 November 1943

LABOR CONFERENCE
22 November 1943MinutesOfficers Present:

Colonel G. B. Gordon-Smith
Colonel Moery
Lt. Col. J. H. Hiron
Lt. Col. W. N. Lapper
Lt. Col. O. E. Limberg
Lt. Col. Robert W. Reuter
Lt. Col. R. H. Wilmer
Major A. S. Brereton
Major Dickie
Major David A. Dwyer
Major H. A. Mayne
Capt. Joel Earnest
Capt. A. S. Farrar
Capt. Rex Northland
Capt. Jeff A. Robertson
Capt. E. Scicluna
Capt. Temple
Lt. H. A. Dudley, Jr.
Lt. J. H. Moffitt
Lt. (Jr) M. S. Tobey, U.S.N.R.
Lt. R. R. Woodleigh

- D.D.L. No. 1 District, Unit 56 Area
- Public Safety
- Asst. Financial Advisor, No. 1 District
- Public Works and Utilities
- Internal Transportation Sub-Commission
- Base Purchasing Agent, I.B.S.
- Legal Sub-Commission
- Fuel Sub-Commission
- Agriculture Sub-Commission
- Office of Base Purchasing Agent, I.B.S.
- D.A.D.L., Civil Labor
- Public Health & Welfare Sub-Commission
- Inland Transportation
- Economic Directorate
- Labor Sub-Commission
- Labor Sub-Commission
- Labor Division, Region I
- U.S. Navy Ship Yard
- Labor Sub-Commission
- Shipping Sub-Commission
- Interior Sub-Commission

Convened at 1005 hours.

2. The job classifications and rates of pay presently in effect were reviewed to determine whether or not adjustments or reclassifications should be made at this time. Col. Reuter of I.B.S. suggested that notwithstanding the wage increase provided by General Order No. 14, there would still be a discrepancy between the rates of pay as between private civilian and Army civilian employees. It was urged that the rates of pay for private civilian employees be increased so as to conform with what is being paid to civilian employees of the Army.

I.B.S. requested that wage rates be established for:

a. Tailorers renovating clothing. This service is now being compensated at the rate of 60 lire under the classification of "sox and woolen repairs". Since it is described as very hard and difficult work, I.B.S. suggested that a rate of 70 lire be approved.

Colonel Keary
 Lt. Col. J. H. Hiron
 Lt. Col. W. M. Lapper
 Lt. Col. O. H. Lindberg
 Lt. Col. Robert W. Reuter
 Lt. Col. R. E. Wilmer
 Major A. S. Breerton
 Major Dickie
 Major David A. Dyer
 Major H. A. Wayne
 Capt. Joel Earnest
 Capt. A. S. Farrar
 Capt. Rex Northland
 Capt. Jeff A. Robertson
 Capt. E. Scicluna
 Capt. Zemple
 Lt. R. A. Dudley, Jr.
 Lt. J. H. Moffitt
 Lt. (Jg) M. S. Tobey, U.S.N.R.
 Lt. R. R. Woodleigh

- D.D.L. No. 1 District, Unit 20 Area
 - Public Safety
 - Asst. Financial Advisor, No. 1 District
 - Public Works and Utilities
 - Internal Transportation Sub-Commission
 - Base Purchasing Agent, I.B.S.
 - Legal Sub-Commission
 - Fuel Sub-Commission
 - Agriculture Sub-Commission
 - Office of Base Purchasing Agent, I.B.S.
 - D.A.D.L., Civil Labor
 - Public Health & Welfare Sub-Commission
 - Inland Transportation
 - Economic Directorate
 - Labor Sub-Commission
 - Labor Sub-Commission
 - Labor Division, Region I
 - U.S. Navy Ship Yard
 - Labor Sub-Commission
 - Shipping Sub-Commission
 - Interior Sub-Commission

Convened at 1005 hours.

2. The job classifications and rates of pay presently in effect were reviewed to determine whether or not adjustments or reclassifications should be made at this time. Col. Reuter of I.B.S. suggested that notwithstanding the 50% increase provided by General Order No. 14, there would still be a discrepancy between the rates of pay as between private civilian and Army civilian employees. It was urged that the rates of pay for private civilian employees be increased so as to conform with what is being paid to civilian employees of the Army.

I.B.S. requested that wage rates be established for:

a. Tailors renovating clothing. This service is now being compensated at the rate of 60 lire under the classification of "sox and woolen repairs". Since it is described as very hard and difficult work, I.B.S. suggested that a rate of 70 lire be approved.

b. That job classification be clarified and wage rate be established for stenographers.

c. That an increase in rate for Chief Civilian Clerk be approved. I.B.S. formerly paid 125 lire, and reduced to 100 lire to conform to scale, but believes present rate is too low.

d. That motion picture projectionist now being paid 60 lire per showing be increased. It is alleged that Seventh Army is paying a much higher rate.

3. General Order No. 14, effective as of 1 November 1943, was explained. Under the terms thereof employees permanent or temporary of the State, Province, Communes, Enti Para-Statale, and Public Institutions and agencies, administered by any of the foregoing governmental units, were granted a "temporary wage adjustment" equal to:

5234

Private employers are permitted to grant increases in both salaries and wages in accordance with the above schedule.

4. Lt. Tobey of Shipping Sub-Commission submitted the following rates of pay to the Conference for consideration:

Master	150 lire	These are daily rates plus food on voyage.
1st Engineer	120 "	
2nd "	110 "	
Seaman, cook, or deck hand	50 "	

5. Region I Labor Division is interested in and desires all information available with respect to discrepancies in wage rates. Labor Sub-Commission files reflect unrest on account of such discrepancies.

6. Shipping Sub-Commission raised question as to uniformity of marine workers' pay, stating they had information to the effect that private shipowners were paying double the Navy rate. There was no tangible evidence submitted. Consideration should be given to this matter. There is no cargo insurance at this time.

7. Capt. Zampella, Labor Division, Region I, then read schedule of interim rates fixed since former meeting, and invited suggestions as to pay classifications and rates.

a. It was proposed that electrical engineers, being skilled, be paid at an hourly instead of a fixed daily rate. I.E.S. requested uniform rate for foremen in various trades. It was decided that foremen should be paid 10 lire per day over and above the highest paid worker.

b. Telecommunications called attention to the fact that a hotel linen keeper received as much salary as a first class office worker, and that radio operators' rate provided for alternative rate with rations. There was much discussion as to value of rations.

c. Naval Operating Base raised questions with respect to rations in addition to scheduled pay. It was stated that the Navy does not provide rations to workers, but that A.M.G. gives ship yard workers 150 grams of bread when they can, and that General Electric has been contributing 13 cents of a total cost of 23 cents with which their employees can purchase Army "C" rations through I.E.S.; that Naval Operating Base has 1,600 workers who have threatened to strike in order to obtain such rations, and with so many ships to repair they cannot afford a work stoppage.

7.a. Shipping Sub-Commission reports that although men have been paid a satisfactory wage, they have been unable to procure enough food on the local market. Food strikes at ~~Mingulad~~ ~~from labor disputes~~ are resulting.

b. By General Orier, Col. Polatti authorized increase from 200 to 300 grams to the Carabinieri, but in reality their ration is not being increased for the reason there is not enough food available.

c. The question of drafting a resolution with respect to food, for consideration of higher authority was proposed and discussed. No action was taken when it was shown that a Food Committee is functioning at Headquarters, and has been meeting daily to make distribution of food to the Island.

d. Naval Operation Base suggested possible distribution of "C" rations, but I.R.S. stated there are not enough "C" rations for general distribution.

e. Major Alexander, Civilian Supply, explained that imports were not up to schedule, and that expected grain had not arrived. He stated further that civilians have not brought in their grain in sufficient quantities; that all we can afford to furnish at present is 100 grams per day, but that when supplies arrive, those doing heavy manual labor should get 300 grams daily. Carabinieri were being supplied captured German and Italian rations. This supply is probably now exhausted. 95% of all ration card holders are getting at least 100 grams per day.

f. Col. Gorden-Smith reported that the people of Messina were not getting but 70 grams per day; that they were formerly getting 150 grams, and that it was difficult to live even on that. He suggested 300 to 350 grams per day as the proper amount to be distributed in proportion to type of work done.

g. Explanation was made that Region I has authority to establish interim wage rates. Each employing unit desiring new job classification should apply to Labor Sub-Commission giving a description of the job, previous rate of pay, if known, for similar work in the Community, and all pertinent information. The local Provincial Labor Office may be helpful in supplying such data.

h. No agreement was reached on a regular meeting day. It was agreed to meet when emergency required.

i. Questions concerning accident compensation should be referred to Mr. Hansen, I.R.S. building.

j. Meeting adjourned at 1:50 hours.

JAR/tbw

John R. Smith
JUNIOR R. SMITH,
Lt. Col., Q.M.G.,
Deputy Director, Labor Sub-Commission.

DISTRIBUTION:

D.C.D.A.O.	1	I.S.S.	6
Vice Chief of Staff	1	No. 1 District	6
Deputy Chief of Staff	1	N.O.R.	4
Director of Economics	6	R.A.P.	4
Director of Administration	1	12th A.S.S.C.	4

civilians have not brought in their grain in sufficient quantities; that all we can afford to furnish at present is 100 grams per day, but that when supplies arrive, those doing heavy manual labor should get 300 grams daily. Carabinieri were being supplied captured German and Italian rations. This supply is probably now exhausted. 95% of all ration card holders are getting at least 100 grams per day.

7. Col. Gordon-Smith reported that the people of Messina were not getting but 70 grams per day; that they were formerly getting 150 grams, and that it was difficult to live even on that. He suggested 300 to 350 grams per day as the proper amount to be distributed in proportion to type of work done.

8. Explanation was made that Region I has authority to establish interim wage rates. Each employing unit desiring new job classification should apply to Labor Sub-Commission giving a description of the job, previous rate of pay, if known, for similar work in the Community, and all pertinent information. The local Provincial Labor Office may be helpful in supplying such data.

9. No agreement was reached on a regular meeting day. It was agreed to meet when emergency required.

10. Questions concerning accident compensation should be referred to Mr. Hansen, I.R.S. building.

11. Meeting adjourned at 1150 hours.

JAR/tbw

John R. Smith
JUNIUS R. SMITH,
Lt. Col., Q.M.C.,
Deputy Director, Labor Sub-Commission.

DISTRIBUTION:

D.C.C.A.C.
Vice Chief of Staff
Deputy Chief of Staff
Director of Economics
Director of Administration
Chief Staff Officer, Comm.
Heads of all Sub-Commissions
Executive Officer
Information Officer
Public Relations Officer
Adjutant

1	I.R.S.	6
1	No. 1 District	6
1	N.O.S.	4
6	R.A.P.	4
1	12th A.P.S.C.	4
1	A.F.H.Q., M.C.S.	4
15	R.C.A.O., Region I	6
1	R.C.A.O., Region II	6
1	15 A.G.	6
1	Naval Officer i/c Syracuse	2
1	File	1
1	Spares	15

5232

Ady. Gen. Lt. Col. Clough

22 November 1943

HEADQUARTERS
ARMED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

LABOR CONFERENCE
22 November 1943

Minutes

Officers Present:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Colonel G. B. Corliss-Smith | - D.D.L. No. 1 District, Unit 56 Area |
| Colonel Meary | - Public Safety |
| Lt. Col. J. H. Hiron | - Asst. Financial Advisor, No. 1 District |
| Lt. Col. W. N. Lapper | - Public Works and Utilities |
| Lt. Col. C. H. Lindberg | - Internal Transportation Sub-Commission |
| Lt. Col. Robert W. Reuter | - Base Purchasing Agent, I.B.S. |
| Lt. Col. R. H. Wilmer | - Legal Sub-Commission |
| Major A. S. Brereton | - Fuel Sub-Commission |
| Major Dickie | - Agriculture Sub-Commission |
| Major David A. Dryer | - Office of Base Purchasing Agent, I.B.S. |
| Major H. A. Wayne | - D.A.D.L., Civil Labor |
| Capt. Joel Earnest | - Public Health & Welfare Sub-Commission |
| Capt. A. S. Farrar | - Inland Transportation |
| Capt. Rex Northland | - Economic Directorate |
| Capt. Jeff A. Robertson | - Labor Sub-Commission |
| Capt. E. Scicluna | - Labor Sub-Commission |
| Capt. Temple | - Labor Division, Region I |
| Lt. H. A. Dudley, Jr. | - U.S. Navy Ship Yard |
| Lt. J. H. Moffitt | - Labor Sub-Commission |
| Lt. (Jg) M. S. Tobey, U.S.N.R. | - Shipping Sub-Commission |
| Lt. R. R. Woodleigh | - Interior Sub-Commission |

Convened at 1005 hours.

2. The job classifications and rates of pay presently in effect were reviewed to determine whether or not adjustments or reclassifications should be made at this time. Col. Reuter of I.B.S. suggested that notwithstanding the wage increase provided by General Order No. 14, there would still be a discrepancy between the rates of pay as between private civilian and Army civilian employees. It was urged that the rates of pay for private civilian employees be increased so as to conform with what is being paid to civilian employees of the Army.

I.B.S. requested that wage rates be established for:

- a. Tailorers mending clothing. This service is now being compensated at the rate of 60 lire under the classification of "sox and woolen repairs". Since it is described as very hard and difficult work, I.B.S. suggested that a rate of 70 lire be approved.
- b. That job classification be clarified and wage rate be established for stenographers.
- c. That an increase in rate for Chief Civilian Clerk be approved. I.B.S.

Lt. Col. Robert W. Reuter
 Lt. Col. R. H. Wilmer
 Major A. S. Brereton
 Major Pickle
 Major David A. Dryer
 Major H. A. Mayne
 Capt. Joel Barnest
 Capt. A. S. Farrar
 Capt. Rex Mortinland
 Capt. Jeff A. Robertson
 Capt. E. Soiceluna
 Capt. Zemple
 Lt. H. A. Dudley, Jr.
 Lt. J. H. Morrill
 Lt. (jg) W. S. Tobey, U.S.N.R.
 Lt. R. R. Woodleigh

- Internal Transportation Sub-Commission
 - Base Purchasing Agent, I.R.S.
 - Legal Sub-Commission
 - Fuel Sub-Commission
 - Agriculture Sub-Commission
 - Office of Base Purchasing Agent, I.R.S.
 - D.A.B.L., Civil Labor
 - Public Health & Welfare Sub-Commission
 - Inland Transportation
 - Economic Directorate
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 - Labor Division, Region I
 - U.S. Navy Ship Yard
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 - Shipping Sub-Commission
 - Interior Sub-Commission

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I.R.S. requested that wage rates be established for:

a. Tailors renovating clothing. This service is now being compensated at the rate of 60 lire under the classification of "sox and woolen repairs". Since it is described as very hard and difficult work, I.R.S. suggested that a rate of 70 lire be approved.

b. That job classification be clarified and wage rate be established for stenographers.

c. That an increase in rate for Chief Civilian Clerk be approved. I.R.S. formerly paid 125 lire, and reduced to 100 lire to conform to scale, but leaves present rate is too low. **5231**

d. That motion picture projectionist now being paid 60 lire per showing be increased. It is alleged that Seventh Army is paying a much higher rate.

3. General Order No. 14, effective as of 1 November 1943, was explained. Under the terms thereof employees permanent or temporary of the State, Province, Communes, Enti Farm-Statali, and Public institutions and agencies, administered by any of the foregoing governmental units, were granted a "temporary wage adjustment" equal to:

70% increase over the 1st L 1,000 per month or fraction thereof (of present total wage)				
60%	"	"	2nd	"
30%	"	"	3rd	"
20%	"	"	4th	"
10%	"	"	5th	"

There shall be one maximum increment of L 1,900 per month for salary or wages which exceed L 5,000 per month.

This order is effective throughout Sicily, but does not apply to persons directly employed by branches of the Allied Armed Forces or by contractors rendering services to said Forces.

Private employers are permitted to grant increases in both salaries and wages in accordance with the above schedule.

4. Lt. Tolley of Shipping Sub-Commission submitted the following rates of pay to the Conference for consideration:

Master	150 lire	These are daily rates plus food on voyage.
1st Engineer	120 "	
2nd "	110 "	
Seaman, cook, or deck hand	60 "	

5. Region I Labor Division is interested in and desires all information available with respect to discrepancies in wage rates. Labor Sub-Commission files reflect unrest on account of such discrepancies.

6. Shipping Sub-Commission raised question as to uniformity of marine workers' pay, stating they had information to the effect that private shipowners were paying double the Navy rate. There was no tangible evidence submitted. Consideration should be given to this matter. There is no cargo insurance at this time.

7. Capt. Sample, Labor Division, Region I, then read schedule of interim rates fixed since former meeting, and invited suggestions as to new classifications and rates.

a. It was proposed that electrical engineers, being skilled, be paid at an hourly instead of a fixed daily rate. I.R.S. requested uniform rate for foreman in various trades. It was decided that foreman should be paid 10 lire per day over and above the highest paid worker.

b. Telecommunications called attention to the fact that a total lines keeper received as much salary as a first class office worker, and that radio operators' rate provided for alternative rate with rations. There was much discussion as to value of rations.

c. Naval Operating Base raised questions with respect to rations in addition to scheduled F. J. It was stated that the Navy does not provide rations to workers, but that A.C.C. gives shipyard workers 150 grams of bread when they can, and that General Electric has been contributing 13 cents of a total cost of 23 cents with which their employees can purchase Army "C" rations through I.R.S.;

4. Lt. Toloy of Shipping Sub-Commission submitted the following rates of pay to the Conference for consideration:

Master	150 lire	These are daily rates plus food on voyage.
1st Engineer	130 "	
2nd "	110 "	
Seaman, cook, or deck hand	80 "	

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b. Telecommunications called attention to the fact that a hotel linen keeper received as much salary as a first class office worker, and that radio operators' rate provided for alternative rate with rations. There was much discussion as to value of rations.

2. Naval Operating Base raised questions with respect to rations in addition to scheduled pay. It was stated that the Navy does not provide rations to workers, but that A.C. gives shipyard workers 150 grams of bread when they can, and that General Electric has been contributing 13 cents of a total cost of 25 cents with which their employees can purchase Army "C" rations through I.B.S.; that Naval Operating Base has 1,500 workers who have threatened to strike in order to obtain such rations, and with so many ships to repair they cannot afford a work stoppage.

7.A. Shipping Sub-Commission reports that although men have been paid a satisfactory wage, they have been unable to procure enough food on the local market. Food rations as distinguished from labor disputes are resulting.

b. By General Order, Col. Polotti authorized increase from 200 to 300 grams to the Carabinieri, but in reality their ration is not being increased for the reason there is not enough food available.

c. The question of drafting a resolution with respect to food, for consideration of higher authority was proposed and discussed. No action was taken when it was shown that a Food Committee is functioning at Headquarters, and has been meeting daily to make distribution of food to the island.

d. Naval Operation Base suggested possible distribution of "C" rations, but I.B.S. stated there are not enough "C" rations for general distribution.

e. Major Alexander, Civilian Supply, explained that imports were not up to schedule, and that expected grain had not arrived. He stated further that civilians have not brought in their grain in sufficient quantities; that all we can afford to furnish at present is 100 grams per day, but that when supplies arrive, those doing heavy manual labor should get 300 grams daily. Carabinieri were being supplied captured German and Italian rations. This supply is probably now exhausted. 95% of all ration card holders are getting at least 100 grams per day.

f. Col. Corlan-Smith reported that the people of Messina were not getting but 70 grams per day; that they were formerly getting 150 grams, and that it was difficult to live even on that. He suggested 100 to 350 grams per day as the proper amount to be distributed in proportion to type of work done.

g. Explanation was made that Region I has authority to establish interim wage rates. Each employing unit desiring new job classification should apply to Labor Sub-Commission giving a description of the job, previous rate of pay, if known, for similar work in the Community, and all pertinent information. The local Provincial Labor Office may be helpful in supplying such data.

h. No agreement was reached on a regular meeting day. It was agreed to meet when emergency required.

i. Questions concerning accident compensation should be referred to Mr. Hansen, I.B.S. building.

11. Meeting adjourned at 1150 hours.

JLR/tbw

James R. Smith
JUNIOR R. SMITH,
Lt. Col., Q.M.C.,
Deputy Director, Labor Sub-Commission.

DISTRIBUTION:

I.B.S. 1
Vice Chief of Staff 1
Deputy Chief of Staff 1
N.O.R. 1

I.B.S. 6
No. 1 District 6
N.O.R. 4

8. Major Alexander, Civilian Supply, explained that imports were not up to schedule, and that expected grain had not arrived. He stated further that civilians have not brought in their grain in sufficient quantities; that all we can afford to furnish at present is 100 grams per day, but that when supplies arrive, those doing heavy manual labor should get 300 grams daily. Carabinieri were being supplied captured German and Italian rations. This supply is probably now exhausted. 95% of all ration card holders are getting at least 100 grams per day.

9. Col. Corden-Smith reported that the people of Messina were not getting but 70 grams per day; that they were formerly getting 150 grams, and that it was difficult to live even on that. He suggested 200 to 350 grams per day as the proper amount to be distributed in proportion to type of work done.

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13. Meeting adjourned at 1:50 hours.

JAR/tow

James R. Smith
JUNIUS R. SMITH,
Lt. Col., Q.M.C.,
Deputy Director, Labor Sub-Commission.

DISTRIBUTION:

D.C.C.A.O.
Vice Chief of Staff
Deputy Chief of Staff
Director of Economics
Director of Administration
Chief Staff Officer, Comm.
Heads of all Sub-Commissions
Executive Officer
Information Officer
Public Relations Officer
Adjutant

I.B.S.
No. 1 District
N.O.P.
R.A.P.
12th A.F.S.C.
A.I.O., M.C.S.
R.C.A.O., Region I
R.C.A.O., Region II
15 A.G.
Naval Officer i/c Syracuse
File
Spares

1
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5229
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15

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

24 November 1943

LABOR CONFERENCE
22 November 1943MinutesOfficers Present:

Colonel G. B. Gordon-Smith
Colonel Meary
Lt. Col. J. H. Hiron
Lt. Col. W. N. Lapper
Lt. Col. O. E. Lindberg
Lt. Col. Robert W. Reuter
Lt. Col. R. H. Wilmer
Major A. S. Brereton
Major Dickie
Major David A. Dryer
Major H. A. Wayne
Capt. Joel Earnest
Capt. A. S. Farrar
Capt. Rex Northland
Capt. Jeff A. Robertson
Capt. E. Scicluna
Capt. Zemple
Lt. H. A. Dudley, Jr.
Lt. J. M. Moffitt
Lt. (jg) W. S. Tobey, U.S.N.R.
Lt. P. R. Woodleigh

- D.B.L. No. 1 District, Unit 56 Area
- Public Safety
- Asst. Financial Advisor, No. 1 District
- Public Works and Utilities
- Internal Transportation Sub-Commission
- Base Purchasing Agent, I.B.S.
- Legal Sub-Commission
- Fuel Sub-Commission
- Agriculture Sub-Commission
- Office of Base Purchasing Agent, I.B.S.
- D.A.D.L., Civil Labor
- Public Health & Welfare Sub-Commission
- Inland Transportation
- Economic Directorate
- Labor Sub-Commission
- Labor Sub-Commission
- Labor Division, Region I
- U.S. Navy Ship Yard
- Labor Sub-Commission
- Shipping Sub-Commission
- Interior Sub-Commission

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2. The job classifications and rates of pay presently in effect were reviewed to determine whether or not adjustments or reclassifications should be made at this time. Col. Reuter of I.B.S. suggested that notwithstanding the wage increase provided by General Order No. 14, there would still be a discrepancy between the rates of pay as between private civilian and Army civilian employees. It was urged that the rates of pay for private civilian employees be increased so as to conform with what is being paid to civilian employees of the Army.

I.B.S. requested that wage rates be established for:

a. Tailors renovating clothing. This service is now being compensated at the rate of 60 lire under the classification of "sox and woolen repairs". Since it is described as very hard and difficult work, I.B.S. suggested that a rate of 70 lire be approved.

b. That job classification be clarified and wage rate be established for stenographers.

That an increase in rate for Chief Civilian Clerk be approved. I.B.S.

Lt. Col. Robert W. Reuter
 Lt. Col. R. H. Wilmer
 Major A. S. Brereton
 Major Dickie
 Major David A. Dryer
 Major H. A. Wayne
 Capt. Joel Earnest
 Capt. A. S. Farrar
 Capt. Rex Northland
 Capt. Jeff A. Robertson
 Capt. E. Scioluna
 Capt. Temple
 Lt. H. A. Dudley, Jr.
 Lt. J. H. Moffitt
 Lt. (jg) M. S. Tobey, U.S.N.R.
 Lt. R. R. Woodleigh

• Internal Transportation
 • Base Purchasing Agent, I.R.S.
 • Legal Sub-Commission
 • Fuel Sub-Commission
 • Agriculture Sub-Commission
 • Office of Base Purchasing Agent, I.R.S.
 • D.A.D.L., Civil Labor
 • Public Health & Welfare Sub-Commission
 • Inland Transportation
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 • Labor Sub-Commission
 • Labor Sub-Commission
 • Labor Division, Region I
 • U.S. Navy Ship Yard
 • Labor Sub-Commission
 • Shipping Sub-Commission
 • Interior Sub-Commission

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- That job classification be clarified and wage rate be established for stenographers.
- That an increase in rate for Chief Civilian Clerk be approved. I.R.S. formerly paid 125 lire, and reduced to 100 lire to conform to scale, but believes present rate is too low.
- That motion picture projectionist now being paid 60 lire per showing be increased. It is alleged that Seventh Army is paying a much higher rate.
- General Order No. 14, effective as of 1 November 1943, was explained. Under the terms thereof employees permanent or temporary of the State, Province, Communes, Enti Para-Statali, and Public Institutions and Agencies, administered by any of the foregoing governmental units, were granted a "temporary wage adjustment" equal to:

5228

70% increase of the 1st L 1,000 per month or from thereof (of present total wage)

60%	"	"	2nd	"	"	"	"
30%	"	"	3rd	"	"	"	"
20%	"	"	4th	"	"	"	"
10%	"	"	5th	"	"	"	"

There shall be one maximum indemnity of L 1,900 per month for salary or wages which exceed L 5,000 per month.

This order is effective throughout Sicily, but does not apply to persons directly employed by branches of the Allied Armed Forces or by contractors rendering services to said Forces.

Private employers are permitted to grant increases in both salaries and wages in accordance with the above schedule.

4. Lt. Tobey of Shipping Sub-Commission submitted the following rates of pay to the Conference for consideration:

Master	150 lire	These are daily rates plus food on voyage.
1st Engineer	120 "	
2nd "	110 "	
Seaman, cook, or deck hand	50 "	

5. Region I Labor Division is interested in and desires all information available with respect to discrepancies in wage rates. Labor Sub-Commission files reflect unrest on account of such discrepancies.

a. Shipping Sub-Commission raised question as to uniformity of marine workers' pay, stating they had information to the effect that private shipowners were paying double the Navy rate. There was no tangible evidence submitted. Consideration should be given to this matter. There is no cargo insurance at this time.

6. Capt. Sample, Labor Division, Region I, then read schedule of interim rates fixed since former meeting, and invited suggestions as to new classifications and rates.

a. It was proposed that electrical engineers, being skilled, be paid at an hourly instead of a fixed daily rate. I.B.S. requested uniform rate for foremen in various trades. It was decided that foremen should be paid 10 lire per day over and above the highest paid worker.

b. Telecommunications called attention to the fact that a hotel linen keeper received as much salary as a first class office worker, and that radio operators' rate provided for alternative rate with ratings. There was much discussion as to value of ratings.

c. Naval Operating Base raised questions with respect to rations in addition to scheduled pay. It was stated that the Navy does not provide rations to workers, but that A.M.C. gives ship yard workers 150 grams of bread when they can, and that General Electric has been contributing 15 cents of a total cost of 25 cents with which their employees can purchase Army "C" rations through I.B.S.

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b. Telecommunications called attention to the fact that a hotel linen keeper received as much salary as a first class office worker, and that radio operators' rate provided for alternative rate with rations. There was much discussion as to value of rations.

c. Naval Operating Base raised questions with respect to rations in addition to scheduled pay. It was stated that the Navy does not provide rations to workers, but that A.M.C. gives ship yard workers 150 grams of bread when they can, and that General Electric has been contributing 13 cents of a total cost of 23 cents with which their employees can purchase Army "C" rations through I.B.S.; that Naval Operating Base has 1,600 workers who have threatened to strike in order to obtain such rations, and with so many ships to repair they cannot afford a work stoppage.

7.a. Shipping Sub-Commission reports that although men have been paid satisfactory wage, they have been unable to procure enough food on the market. Food strikes as being inadequate from labor disputes are resulting.

b. By General Order, Col. Poletti authorized increase from 200 to 300 grams to the Carabinieri, but in reality their ration is not being increased for the reason there is not enough food available.

3. The question of drafting a resolution with respect to food, for consideration of higher authority was proposed and discussed. No action was taken when it was shown that a Food Committee is functioning at Headquarters, and has been meeting daily to make distribution of food to the Island.

4. Naval Operation Base suggested possible distribution of "C" rations, but I.E.S. stated there are not enough "C" rations for general distribution.

5. Major Alexander, Civilian Supply, explained that imports were not up to schedule, and that expected grain had not arrived. He stated further that civilians have not brought in their grain in sufficient quantities; that all we can afford to furnish at present is 100 grams per day, but that when supplies arrive, those doing heavy manual labor should get 300 grams daily. Carabinieri were being supplied captured German and Italian rations. This supply is probably now exhausted. 95% of all ration card holders are getting at least 100 grams per day.

6. Col. Gordon-Smith reported that the people of Messina were not getting but 70 grams per day; that they were formerly getting 150 grams, and that it was difficult to live even on that. He suggested 300 to 350 grams per day as the proper amount to be distributed in proportion to type of work done.

8. Explanation was made that Region I has authority to establish interim wage rates. Each employing unit desiring new job classification should apply to Labor Sub-Commission giving a description of the job, previous rate of pay, if known, for similar work in the Community, and all pertinent information. The local Provincial Labor Office may be helpful in supplying such data.

9. No agreement was reached on a regular meeting day. It was agreed to meet when emergency required.

10. Questions concerning accident compensation should be referred to Mr. Hansen, I.E.S. building.

11. Meeting adjourned at 1150 hours.

JAR/thw

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Lt. Col., G.M.C.,
Deputy Director, Labor Sub-Commission.

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