

acc 10000/146/88

LSC/419

WORKING WEEK ALLIED FORCES EMPLOYEES

Sept. 1945

785021

TRANSLATION A. de Chanaz

GENERAL ITALIAN CONFEDERATION OF LABOUR

LC/419+203
Rome, 4 September 1945
Via Boncompagni 19

FROM: Secretariat

REF : 12592

SUBJECT: Working Hours in Government Offices

TO: Mr. W.H. Braine
Director, Labour Sub-Commission
Rome.

Dear Mr. Braine,

Following your request, I wish to inform you that the working hours for State employees, which are generally followed by a large number of private firms, has been the following:

During the 1st World War, from 8 to 12 and 15 to 19 - total 8 hours

After the 1st World War, from 8 to 12 and 16 to 19 - total 7 hours

Beginning of 2nd War, from 8 to 12 and 16 to 19.30 - total 7 1/2 hours

During the 2nd part of the War, from 8 to 14 - total 6 hours

Still in practice, from 8 to 14 - total 6 hours.

There are also holiday shifts from 8 to 12 - total 4 hours.

While considering the possibility of a reduction of the working week to 5 days, with a proportional reduction of wages, one must bear in mind that the present wage level is so low and out of proportion to the real cost of living that any kind of decrease in global wages, both for office workers and workers in general, could not materially be borne.

Yours very sincerely,

/s/ GIUSEPPE DI VITTORIO

616

CONFEDERAZIONE GENERALE ITALIANA DEL LAVORO

Ufficio Segreteria

ROMA, li 4 settembre 1945

Prot. N. 12592

VIA BONCOMPAGNI, 10
Telefono 480-131-2-3-4

Allegati N.

OGGETTO: Orario negli uffici statali.-

usc / 419 + 203

Mister WILLIAM H. BRAINE
Director, Labor Sub-Commission

ROMA

Gentilissimo Signor Braine,

Ad analoga richiesta la comunico che l'orario degli impiegati statali, che generalmente serve di base anche per numerose aziende private, è stato il seguente:

durante la prima guerra mondiale dalle ore 8 alle 12 e dalle 15 alle 19 - totale ore 8
dopo la prima guerra mondiale dalle ore 8 alle 12 e dalle 16 alle 19 - totale ore 7.

principio della 2° guerra dalle 8 alle 12 e dalle 16 alle 19,30 - totale ore 7,30
in un secondo tempo - dalle ore 8 alle 14 - totale ore 6
ancora oggi - dalle ore 8 alle 14 - totale ore 6

Vi sono poi dei turni festivi che vanno dalle ore 8 alle 12 - totale ore 4.

Circa l'eventualità di ridurre la settimana lavorativa a cinque giorni, con la proporzionale riduzione del salario, si deve tener presente che il livello salariale attuale è talmente basso e così sproporzionato al costo reale della vita, che una riduzione qualsiasi della remunerazione totale degli impiegati e lavoratori in generale non potrebbe essere materialmente sopportata.

Gratisca, Signor Braine, i saluti più cordiali.

(Giuseppe Di Vittorio)

321

Orario negli uffici statali.-

15c / 419 + 203

Mister WILLIAM H. BRAINE
Director, Labor Sub-Commission

R O M A

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(Giuseppe Di Vittorio)

G. Di Vittorio

321



LSC/H19

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LABOUR SUB-COMMISSION.

3 September 1945.

Subject: Duration of Working Week for Italian
Civilians employed by Allied Forces.

1. Sig. Barbereschi, the Italian Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, discussed this question on 3rd September, 1945. He stated that, before the war, the working week in Italy was, in general, a 48 hour week. In some industries a shorter working week had been introduced as some measure of relief against unemployment, because extra men were engaged in the establishments concerned in order to share out the work. At the present time it can be stated, in the Minister's opinion, that the 48 hour week is still the standard working week for Italian workers. As evidence of this, he referred to the Italian Decree on the question of make-up of pay for under-employed workers. The working week for which pay is made up by special payments, as stated in that Decree, is a 48 hour week.

2. The Minister would not consider it advisable to reduce from 48 to 40 hours per week the duration of the working week of the Italian civilians employed by the Allied Forces, if it is to be understood that this would result in approximately the same number of workers being engaged but receiving a smaller week's pay.

W.H. BLAINE.

Director,
Labour Sub-Commission.

61A

GREAT BARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APG 834

LABOR SUB-COMMISSION

VHP/1007

3 September 1945

MEMORANDUM

AFFH, Col. Pierson, G-4 (A), telephone Freedom 1114, telephoned G-45, Monday, 3 September, requesting information to enable him to reply to an urgent signal from the United States regarding the introduction of a 40-hour week or a week of 5 working days. The opinion of the Italian Government and of Allied Commission is requested to enable AFH to reply.

Director, Labor Sub-Commission expressed the opinion that while it is open to the Allied Governments to apply a 40-hour week, or a 5 working day week to Allied nationals in their service, it appears desirable that as regards Italian civilian employees the Allied authorities should conform to the practice of the country. At present the general practice is to work a 48-hour week -- during war conditions it has been necessary to work on Sundays and also to work overtime, but it is recognized that overtime should be avoided as much as possible in the interest of the workers themselves. The principle of following the practice of the country has generally been followed instead of introducing practices found in America or in Great Britain. To introduce improved conditions from those countries as regards the comparatively small number of civilians working for the Allies would upset the general structure in Italy as a whole; on the other hand, where the Allied authorities have found better conditions enjoyed by Italian civilian workers than are enjoyed by comparable workers in Allied countries, they have not insisted on withdrawal of such conditions merely because they represented improvement over Allied practices. As regards the introduction of a 40-hour working week in particular, this would affect Italian workers adversely at this particular moment because it would imply a reduced wage packet at the end of each week at a moment when Italian workers find themselves in need of a regular and steady income up to normal standards. The liberty to work elsewhere on one or two days of the week in order to bring up the income would be of little avail in present circumstances in Italy where opportunities of alternative employment on a day-to-day basis are very few. It would embarrass the Allied authorities, as employers, if the workers drifted away to seasonal and better pay work, such as harvesting, because the Allied authorities require the workers to continue to be regularly available for a working week, whatever the duration of the work may be. Director, Labor Sub-Commission, recognizes that if Allied nationals worked a 40-hour week while the Italian civilians worked a 48-hour week this would cause difficulties of supervision, but these should be overcome by organization. The foregoing opinions were expressed as a matter of urgency, prior to seeking the opinion of the Italian authorities.

- 2 -

Director, Labor Sub-Commission, undertook to obtain the views of the Italian Government and of organized labor, particularly as regards:

- (a) The standard working week at the present time;
- (b) What was the standard working week before the war?
- (c) What are the reactions of CGLI and Italian Government to the proposal that the Allied establishments should work to a 5-day week, bearing in mind that it will not necessarily increase the number of workers, but definitely reduce the pay packet?

It is necessary, in giving their opinions, that the Italian Government and Italian organized labor should have regard to the larger issues of their own work and industry structure and not necessarily only the smaller number of people employed by the Allied authorities. In effect, we should like to know what their general policy is so that we may be in line with their general policy.

V. H. BRAINE
Director
Labor Sub-Commission

612

COPY

COPY

INCOMING MESSAGE.

Originator's Reference: C 16575
Date/Time of Origin: SEP 031757B

4 Sep 45

Message Centre No: F/6384
Date Time Rec'd: SEP 040915B
Precedence: PRIORITY

FROM: AFHQ

TO : AFLRS INFO PBS MAIN. PBS SOUTH. 5 ARMY. ABC. RAAC. DMRS CINC MED.
ALCOM. CINC RAF MED/ME. AAFSC AAFSC/MTO. HQ NO 1 DIST. HQ NO 2 DIST
HQ NO 3 DIST. HQ 13 CORPS

UNCLASSIFIED

At special meeting of Labour and GES Control Committee to be held at 1000 hrs 5 September 1945 in ROME request consideration be given to and recommendation for the forces in this theater be developed in regard to policy of Secretary of War stated in following War Dept cable:

"Subject: hours of work for civilian employees.

The Secretary of War in orders now (now?) dated 27 August 1945 in accordance with the desires of the President adopted a 5 day 40 hour work week effective 9 September 1945 for all activities in the zone of interior with the provisions that: when such a work week proves a serious detriment to essential operations additional hours may be scheduled for the 6th and 7th days until 14 October 1945 without requesting approval of the Commanding General of the appropriate force. Approvals of temporarily additional hours as a regular schedule beyond 14 October 1945 as well as the numbers and amount of OT worked will be reported by the forces to the Director of Civilian Personnel and Training Office of the Secretary of War.

The commanding generals of the forces were urged to keep approvals at an absolute minimum and to encourage the use of skeleton staffs instead of complete staffs as a means of reducing the numbers of those who may required to be employed in excess of 40 hrs per week.

The 40 hrs of regular scheduled work will wherever possible be confined to the period of Monday to Friday inclusive. No work schedules for the basic 40 hours week will, therefore, be established which provide for a shorter work day than 8 hours so as to extend the 40 hours into the 6th day.

The reduction in hours will not be considered as justification for any increase in total civilian strength in any force or War Dept group.

Finally the foregoing will not operate to change the tours of duty of on - call employees established in accordance with applicable regulations. Request this office be advised by cable immediately if it will not be possible for your command to conform to this policy;"

Recommendation of committee should be cabled to AFHQ at earliest.

Dist

Info-Action - Labor SC

Info - Chief Commissioner

Econ Sec 2

Est Sec

G 1 Civ Pers (Iti) - File 2 - Float -

785021

INCOMING MESSAGE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

14 calls + 906

Labour

Originator's Reference: C 16575

Date/Time of Origin: SEP 031757B

Message Centre No: F/6384

Date Time Rec'd: SEP 040915F

Precedence: PRIORITY

FROM: AFHQ

TO: AMERS INFO PBS MAIN. PBS SOUTH. 5 ARMY. ABC. FAAC. DARS CINC MED.
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VHR/rmw

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