

Boulder Dam Wage Situation To Be Aired On November 22

The troublesome wage situation on Boulder dam which has been under fire of local labor organizations ever since adoption of the 40 hour week and a lower weekly wage several months ago, will be thoroughly aired on November 22 before a special representative of the department of labor who will receive evidence on prevailing wage scales in this section.

Purpose of the hearing is twofold, it was indicated in correspondence received here by local labor leaders.

First, evidence will be taken as to wage scales being paid on heavy construction work at Boulder dam and other similar work in the vicinity of states of Arizona and Nevada. This is expected to have a distinct bearing on the insistence of the various crafts that in keeping with the policy of the administration, wages paid for the shorter 40 hour week should be the same as those paid for the 48 hour week previously in force.

Secondly, the evidence will be taken as to prevailing wages being paid mechanics and laborers employed on grading and surfacing work on highway construction work in this area.

This data is expected to provide a basis for setting the rates of pay to prevail on the new government highway from Overton to Boulder lake in the Boulder dam recreational area.

Labor leaders are expected to introduce evidence which will

substantiate the "prevailing wage" scale recommended by a local committee several months ago and later rejected by State Labor Commissioner James J. Fitzgerald as too high.

Charts showing the highway scale in various adjoining sections are expected to be introduced in evidence in an effort to establish the same scale on the Overton highway job and also to support the contention that the original "prevailing wage" for this area was not excessive.

Following the establishment of the 40 hour week on Boulder dam under a lower weekly wage than before, labor organizations were successful in reopening the question and the hearing next Monday is expected to provide evidence which may result in establishment of a higher wage on Boulder dam and associated work.

The hearing will be held in the municipal building at 10 o'clock November 22 before Vahan Moushegian, special representative of the federal department of labor, and all persons interested in presenting evidence on the wage scale questions outlined have been invited to attend.

Evidence will be received relative to present wages paid all crafts, helpers and laborers employed on the dam and in highway construction in this area. Local labor leaders have been advised.