hours standard to 40 in steps over several ensuing years. Initially the Act applied to 12 to 14 million workers, but as the result of an expanding workforce and extension of coverage to employees in certain large enterprises by the 1961 amendments to the Act there are now 29.6 million workers subject to the Act's provisions. The 40¢ per hour minimum wage was increased to 75¢ effective January 25, 1950 and to $1.00 per hour March 1, 1956. The 1961 amendments increased the minimum wage by steps to $1.25 per hour and that rate is currently applicable to all covered employment. The statutory non-overtime workweek is 40 hours. The most recent amendment to the FLSA was enactment of the Equal Pay Act which prohibits wage discrimination on the basis of sex. This provision was generally effective on June 11, 1964.

Another important part of the program is based on the Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act enacted in 1936 which establishes minimum wage, hours of work, child labor, safety and health standards and forbids convict labor. Application of this act is limited to workers on Government supply contracts amounting to more than $10,000.

Also included in the program is the Service Contract Act of 1965 which, effective January 20, 1966, requires payment of the minimum wage provided in section 6(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act to employees working on all Government service contracts and where such contracts are in excess of $2,500 the minimum wage determined by the Secretary of Labor to be prevailing for such employees in the locality, fringe benefits found by the Secretary to be prevailing for such employees in the locality, and compliance by contractors with statutory safety and health provisions.

Since the inception of the program there has been great emphasis on obtaining voluntary compliance through the issuance of comprehensive interpretative bulletins and regulations, where rule making authority was granted in the statute. These publications plus the issuance of informational pamphlets in non-technical language and intensive use of the mass media of communication have resulted in an informed business community and a high level of compliance which makes possible an enforcement program geared to reach annually only a small fraction of the 1.1 million establishments in the country to which the Fair Labor Standards Act applies. In investigations emphasis has been given to obtaining voluntary agreement for future compliance and correction of past violations through payment of back wages found due employees.

Litigation has been necessary in only slightly over 2% of the cases investigated. Such litigation includes criminal actions where willful violations are found, civil actions to restrain employers from future violation and from further withholding of wages due employees, and actions on behalf of employees to recover unpaid wages to which they are legally entitled.

With the expansion and diversification of industry over the years and the extension of coverage by amendments to the Act it has been necessary to develop improved investigative techniques and better methods of directing the enforcement effort to those areas and industries in which violations are occurring. At present wide dispersal of field staff stationed in approximately 300 towns and cities across the country contributes largely to the latter objective and makes it possible for the public to easily obtain answers to specific inquiries.