

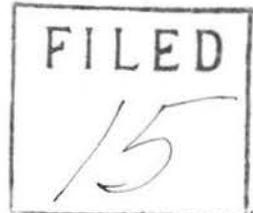
N. R. A:

President's temporary code does not require operators of Beauty Parlors to adopt any fixed schedule of prices.

September 14, 1933. ✓

9/18

Mrs. Mabel C. Church,  
204 South Ohio Street,  
Sedalia, Missouri.



Dear Mrs. Church:

We are acknowledging receipt of your letter in which you inquire as follows:

"Will you please advise me if it is necessary or compulsory to join a city organization whose chief aim is to fix prices using the N. R. A. to boost prices when a city is as hard hit as ours.

I have a shop with four regularly employed operators and two apprentices beside myself. I have raised on all lines of work a little, 25¢ to 50¢ on each item of work and felt that was sufficient to pay my raised salaries, but a certain few shops try to insist upon a higher price which at times like this would cut our work until it would be necessary to lay off part of our girls.

It seems to me to raise prices so much at this time until things are adjusted better would be defeating the N. R. A. Please advise as to fixed prices."

We are informed that a national code has not been adopted for the operators of Beauty Parlors. The temporary N. R. A. pledge which you have signed did not carry with it any attempt to regulate prices to be charged by Beauty Parlors. This temporary code will eventually be superseded, no doubt, by the national code to be adopted by all of the operators throughout the country. This code may carry with it a provision providing for a minimum price scale. Up to the present time, however, there is no obligation upon anyone who has signed the President's temporary code to adopt any scale of prices, as such code does not carry with it any such provision.

Any effort made by any local organization in Sedalia attempting to regulate and fix the charges which you will be compelled to ask for the services rendered at your Shop, would not be under the authority of the President's code. Any such agreement or a conspiracy seeking to raise prices would not

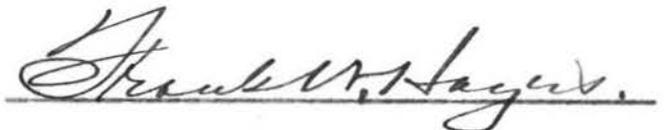
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only be unauthorized under the temporary code, but would be in violation of the anti-trust laws of the State of Missouri, and any attempt made by any organization or individuals to coerce you into charging a certain fixed price would be illegal.

The prices which you desire to charge for the services which you render are to be determined in your own judgment. Such prices, no doubt, will be somewhat influenced by competition, and the demands of the public. Those things are matters, however, which at this time must be determined solely by you as manager of your business, just as other problems of business arising in your business must be likewise determined. No one at this time can compel you to charge a particular price, nor are you violating any law in failing to adopt any price previously adopted by any organization.

It is therefore the opinion of this Department that even though you have signed the President's temporary code, you are still free to fix such charges for your services as in your judgment good business requires. You are not required to, nor can you be compelled to adopt any scale of prices supported by any groups of your competitors. The President's temporary code does not cover the question of prices, and although we cannot advise you as to the scale of prices, we do advise you that that is a matter which is solely within your own judgment. A failure to adopt certain prices in accordance with the schedule adopted by others may subject you to criticism, but certainly such failure is not a violation of the law. At the present time you cannot be compelled or coerced to adopt any fixed charges in your Shop.

Very truly yours,



Assistant Attorney General.

APPROVED:

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Attorney General.

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