

REPORT FROM THE SELECT  
COMMITTEE ON  
**TOP ASSISTANTS**

Vol. I.—REPORT  
TOGETHER WITH THE PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE COMMITTEE

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*Ordered by The House of Commons to be Printed  
18th September, 1931*

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## ORDERS OF REFERENCE.

[*Wednesday, 19th November, 1930*]:—Shop Assistants,—*Ordered*, That a Select Committee be appointed to consider and report upon proposals for limiting the hours of work of shop assistants and improving the conditions of their employment, and for that purpose to inquire—

(1) what are the hours at present usually worked in the various distributive trades, both retail and wholesale;

(2) what would be the probable economic effects of a statutory 48-hours week (with a limited amount of overtime) upon the distributive trades as regards organisation of work, wages, employment, and prices; by what methods it could be applied to various kinds of trade; and what arrangements would be feasible for enforcing it;

(3) whether conditions of employment exist in any classes or descriptions of shops in respect of matters affecting the health and welfare of the assistants which make it desirable that powers of regulation and supervision should be given by statute.

*Ordered*, That the Committee do consist of Eleven Members.

Committee accordingly *nominated* of,—Major Braithwaite, Mr. Charles Buxton, Mr. Rhys Davies, Colonel Gault, Mr. William Hirst, Sir Alfred Law, Mr. Philip Oliver, Sir Gervais Rentoul, Mr. James Stewart, Mr. Arthur Taylor, and Mr. Womersley.

*Ordered*, That the Minutes of Evidence taken before the Select Committee on Shop Assistants of last Session be referred to the Committee.

*Ordered*, That the Committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records.

*Ordered*, That Three be the quorum.—(*Mr. Kennedy.*)

[*Tuesday, 24th March, 1931*]:—Shop Assistants,—*Ordered*, That Mrs. Manning be added to the Select Committee on Shop Assistants.—(*Mr. Kennedy.*)

## NOTE ON ABBREVIATIONS.

The following is the explanation of the abbreviations used in the marginal references in the Report:—

Dep. Inv.=Departmental Investigation, and refers to an Investigation by the Home Office and the Ministry of Labour into Hours and Conditions of Employment in Shops. The Reports of the Investigators are published as Appendix A to this Report, and the marginal references are to the pages of the Appendix. (*See Vol. II: Appendices.*)

S.R.=Special Report, and refers to the Special Report, together with Minutes of Evidence, of the Select Committee on Shop Assistants appointed last Session, on 8th May, 1930. Throughout, the references are to the number of the question, where it is not specifically stated that the number of the page is referred to. Where a reference is not followed by the abbreviation (S.R.), it is taken from the Minutes of Evidence of the present Session. (*See Vol. III: Minutes of Evidence.*)

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