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STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF Industrial Relations

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CHINATOWN WAITERS PAID $7,376.90 IN BACK WAGES

A San Francisco Chinatown restaurant owner has paid $7,376.90 in wage claims to six waiters who received less than the State minimum wage of $2.00 an hour during 1974 and 1975.

State Labor Commissioner James L. Quillin says that the employer had deducted tips left by customers from the waiters' hourly wages without posting a sign informing the public that their tips were to be used as a part of the waiters' minimum wage.

Since this complaint was filed, State law has been changed to prohibit any deductions from employees' wages because tips are received. Under AB 232, effective January 1, 1976, tips and gratuities are now the sole property of the employee and employees to whom it was paid, given, or left for.

The wage claim was investigated by Ernest Haeusslein, deputy labor commissioner, San Francisco office of the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement, State Department of Industrial Relations.

The Division of Labor Standards Enforcement serves workers with specific problems concerning payment of wages, the minimum wage, conditions of employment, compliance with compulsory workers' compensation, equal pay for equal work, and other State labor laws protecting working adults and children.

Headed by State Labor Commissioner James L. Quillin, LSE has responsibility for enforcing these rights under the State Labor Code.

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