

Gutierrez Files Wage Rate Suit

Sen. Carl T. Gutierrez filed suit in direct District Court yesterday against the local Labor Department officials who refused to grant the lawmaker certification of alien construction workers here.

Department of Labor Director John Palomo, in a letter, informed Gutierrez that there would be no certification of alien labor for construction workers from DOL until Gutierrez agreed to pay the prevailing wage scale—a wage much higher than the \$2.05 minimum level.

At the heart of the matter is a law enacted by a legislative veto override. It overturned the present labor regulation of prevailing wage rates for temporary alien help here.

Both the governor and federal labor officials have condemned the law as unconstitutional and have refused to execute the provisions.

Gutierrez, who owns a construction company here, filed a request for more alien laborers Aug. 27 and was subsequently turned down because he did not agree to pay the prevailing wage rate.

The prevailing wage applies only to alien workers here and not local citizens. The rate this year is now more than \$3 an hour.