

COPY

January 25, 1935.

Donnelly Garment Company,

1828 Walnut Street,

Kansas City, Missouri.

Gentlemen:

As the accredited representative of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, which represents 225,000 workers and is the third largest union in the American Federation of Labor and as the accredited representative of the Donnelly Garment Workers Local No. 124 of that union, we take the privilege of addressing this letter to you.

Last year, with the birth of the new deal, a number of the workers in your shop began to apply for membership in the above mentioned organization. Various groups of your workers constantly applied for membership and finally our International granted them a charter.

Following their organization, these members have experienced a decided change in the attitude and action of your executives toward them. They complain that they have been unfairly propagandised to abandon their union; given veiled threats of discharge should they fail to do so; discriminated against; isolated from other workers by transfer to a separate building and transferred to other than their usual type of work; so that their earning power has been materially reduced; and workers of proved efficiency and long experience in your employ have been discharged without cause. That these complaints are not vague and imagined is evidenced by the fact that they have taken definite form in cases pending before the Regional Labor Board. That they are not without merit is evidenced by the fact that your executives have interposed every artifice and technicality to delay a full and fair hearing and that the cases still pend.

There is a voiced feeling among these workers that the special concessions made to your firm by certain administrators of the National Recovery Administration have resulted in great benefit to you at the expense of and without corresponding benefit to the workers. The Administration undoubtedly, in permitting you to manufacture a higher priced garment, acted upon a belief that the workers would benefit by this concession

proportionately; but the contrary has proved to be the fact.

Let us at this point assure you that it is not the

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purpose of our union to either disrupt or run business. Our activities are predicated upon the principle of co-operation between employer and employee for the fair and mutual benefit and profit of all. All we ask is for an opportunity, through our organization, to present and submit labors' views, and to work out peaceably and equitably the problems of uniform and adequate wage scales, protection for the experienced workers, the determination of piece-work rates and all other problems jointly affecting your organization and our members.

We desire to accomplish these ends peaceably. There should be no need to resort to methods resulting in cessation of work and economic loss in order that the worker may in 1935 gain that equality in his inalienable rights in the economy of the nation which he in 1776 obtained politically.

Surely the founders of your firm are fair enough to concede that we have reached a stage in our civilization where the worker, through his labor union, must be recognized as having a voice in industry and the conditions of his employment.

We address this letter to you in the sincere hope that it will form the basis for co-operation between the members of our organization in your employ and your firm. The success of industry depends upon such co-operation. We stand ready to do our part toward creating the machinery for a mutually co-operative relationship.

Through your prompt response to this communication there can be averted the necessity for a more direct drawing of the issues and the possible precipitation of industrial turmoil.

The power for peaceful action is in your hands and we trust you will pursue this course.

Most sincerely yours,

International Ladies Garment Workers Union by - Meyer Perlstein, Special Rep,
Donnelly Garment Workers Union No. 124 by - Virginia Stroup, Pres.