

INTERNATIONAL PRINTING PRESSMEN & ASSISTANTS' UNION NORTH AMERICA
C. C. MORANVILLE, Representative 11 Williamson Building 225 West 12th Street
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

General Headquarters PRESSMEN'S HOME, TENNESSEE

Kansas City, Mo., Oct. 8, 1935.

Mr. George O. Pratt,

Scarritt Bldg.,

Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Mr. Pratt,

I am sending to your office herewith, information having to do with what I believe to be a case of discrimination in the discharge of one of my members by the Waxide Paper Company, located at 20th St and Tracy.

I want to give you this personal information. This plant was originally owned by Maurice Berkowitz, now deceased. His son, who has changed his name to Berkley, is now the president of the firm. He is very antagonistic to organized labor, as was his father before him, and only because of the fact that bakeries who he prints the bread wrappers for, are union, is the reason that he runs a union shop.

This information is confidential and is given with the idea that it may be of some assistance to you in making your investigation.

Assuring you of my hearty and undivided support in the office that you now hold, I am, as ever,

Your friend, Representative.

CCM:B

KANSAS CITY PRINTING PRESS ASSISTANT'S UNION NO. 20.

Phone Harrison 8780

ROOMS 11 AND 12, 225 WEST TWELFTH STREET "We Open at 7:00 A.M."

Kansas City, Mo.,

October 8, 1935.

Mr. George O. Pratt,

District Director Government Labor Board,

Scarritt Bldg.,

Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Mr. Pratt:

IN THE CASE OF JOHN LAYTON, MEMBER OF K.C. PRINTING PRESS ASSISTANT'S
UNION.

vs.

THE WAXIDE PAPER COMPANY OP KANSAS CITY, MO.

John Layton, a printing press assistant and member of Kansas City Press Assistant's Union, contends that he was unjustly discriminated against in his discharge from the Waxide Paper Company, August 17th, this year.

John Layton herewith contends that because of his union activities in the capacity of chapel chairman, was the grounds for his discharge from the Waxide Paper Company, after a continued service of thirteen years.

John Layton contends that because of his capacity as chairman of the chapel that it was his duty to take up with the proper officers of the firm any and all violations of the working agreement between the Kansas City Press Assistants Union and the Waxide Paper Company.

John Layton further contends that some time back, he was approached by the management of the firm asking that the men whom he represented in the plant, accept a ten percent reduction. He opposed such a move, saving that any reduction in wages would have to be a universal proposition, agreed to by all of the employing printers of Kansas and his organization, the Kansas City Press Assistants Union.

John Layton contends that his refusal regarding this matter and because of many other small controversies, that he was continuously threatened by the office that if he continued this union activity that his services would be dispensed with.

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John Layton contends further that upon the day before his dismissal he had made some remarks regarding the sanitary condition of the plant. The information will show that he was discharged through the mail, that after he had worked on Friday, the last day of the work week for him in that plant, he received a letter from Mr. Edgar Berkley, which is herewith filed with the information and is self explanatory.

John Layton contends that the laws for the International and local organization, which is a part of the contract by and between the employing printers and his organization, specifically states that before a chapel chairman can be discharged, just cause must be shown.

The information will show further that after his discharge, the secretary of his organization, C. C. Moranville, withdrew the men, but after finding out later in the day that Mr. Berkley had left the city and that no one was left in the plant with power of attorney, that Representative Moranville then sent the men back to work.

The information will show further that since the discharge of John Layton, Representative Moranville has petitioned his International President and Board of Directors for the right to withdraw the men from the Waxide Paper Company, until such time as Mr. Layton is reinstated with pay for the time that he has lost because of his unjust discharge from the plant.

The information will show further that there was correspondence between Representative Moranville's office and the Pressmen's Union, parent organization employed in the press rooms at the Waxide Paper Company, and affiliated with the same International Union as the Kansas City Press Assistants union.

The information will show further that upon August 31st. a conference was held by and between representatives of Pressmen s Union No. 16 and Press Assistant's Union No. 20, making every effort possible to abridge the controversy between Mr. Layton and the Waxide Paper Company. The brief will show that in this conference the Press Assistant's Union offered evidence that tended to show that any officer of that union who was sent into this plant to work was sooner or later discharged because of their union activities.

If and when, the hearing is granted upon the subject matter, we propose to produce evidence that will show that the men now working at the Waxide Paper Company are fearful that if they attend their union meetings, that they will

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jeopardize their positions with the Waxide Paper Company.

For your information, may we make mention of the fact that for the past 25 years we have maintained an office which has been opened at seven in the morning and continued open throughout the day, in order that we may supply employing printers, (which includes the Waxide Paper Company) with pressroom help. The foreman is the recognized official who calls for and discharges all help, however, in the case of the Waxide Paper Company, for the past several years, they have fired any number of men through the mails.

Included in this information, you will note that one Mort Grogger, foreman of the Waxide Paper Company, makes affidavit to the fact that he, personally, dictated the letter for the discharge of Mr. Layton. This is not a fact, for the following reasons: upon the day of Mr. Layton's discharge, Representative Moranville personally talked with Mr. Grogger and he said that he knew nothing about why Layton was discharged, that he had been fired through the office. The original letter of discharge, which is a part of the file, reputes Mr. Groggers affidavit, which shows that Mr. E. L. Berkley personally dictated and signed the letter.

The information will show further that Representative Moranville, under date of September 5th, wired Major George L. Berry, President of the International Pressmen's and Assistants Union, as follows: "Hold decision on the Waxide until you hear from me. Signed C. C. Moranville." This wire was sent with the full desire and purpose to stay any drastic action that the International President and the Board of Directors might have had in mind, thinking that it would be possible to bring about a reconciliation without any drastic action.

Mr. Layton, through his organization, is not asking the Government Labor Board to rectify any violations of any contract that may be in existence between the Waxide Paper

Company and his union. His full contentions are that there was discrimination because of his union activities and in his humble way, has tried to set up the fact that if his services were unsatisfactory, that surely such facts would have been very much in evidence during his service of 13 years in this plant.

For your further information, and as before mentioned in the petition to the Government Labor Board, for the now

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employed workers in the Waxide Paper Company to take any active part in favor of their respective unions or in favor of Mr. Layton, would bring about capitol punishment so far as their employment was concerned with that firm.

We are petitioning your honorable board to make a careful survey of this case and if, in your opinion, we have a case, we are asking that the regular procedure be followed out and may we further ask that the enclosed information be held as confidential for the reason that the brief will show that there is one man still employed at the Waxide Paper Company, who testified before this hearing, and if this information reaches the office of the Waxide Paper Company, we believe he would be summarily discharged.

Awaiting your advise and thanking you for your indulgence regarding the subject matter, I am,

Sincerely yours,
C. C. Moranville
Representative.

CCM: B