

STATE OF MISSOURI  
SS  
COUNTY OF JACKSON  
(COPY)

ESTHER E. SMITH, of lawful age, being duly sworn, makes oath  
and says:

My name is Esther E. Smith; I am twenty seven years of age and for twelve years have been a resident of Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri. I am married and reside at 458 Marsh Avenue in Kansas City, Missouri. I am at the present time and for some time have been employed as an operator at the Missouri Garment Company at 2617 Grand Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri.

I joined Local 118 of the International Ladies Garment workers Union in 1935 and have been a member in good standing since that time. In April, 1937, I was elected vice-president of Local 118. At the same time Mrs. Goldie Gibson was elected president of Local 118 but Mrs. Gibson has been quite ill since the election and by reason of her illness has not been able to serve as president of the local and I have been acting president since April, 1937. Local 118 meets monthly at the office of the Kansas City Joint Board at 1022 Baltimore Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri, we have seven hundred twenty four members at present, when I joined Local 118 there were approximately sixty five members. The membership of Local 118 is made up of operators working in many of the cotton dress shops in Kansas City and includes in its membership the operators who formerly belonged to Local 124, which was made up of operators formerly employed at the Donnelly Garment Company.

I have worked as an operator in various cotton shops in Kansas City and about five years ago I was employed for a short time as a pressed by the Donnelly Garment Company at 26th and Walnut Streets. While I was there in the capacity of presser I worked from eight in the morning until five in the afternoon every day, including Saturdays and Sundays. I felt that I could not work seven days a week and when I was notified that I would be required to work on the third Sunday in succession I quit the employment.

I did not join the International Ladies Garment workers Union until after I had attended several meetings and given the question considerable thought. The reason I joined was that I became convinced that in the shops where members of the union were employed, the wages were higher, working conditions better and the hours shorter.

I formerly worked as an operator in the cotton dress industry in Kansas City forty five hours a week and received as low as \$6.00 a week for ray work. Since the unionization of the cotton industry in Kansas City the hours have been shortened and we never work more than forty hours per week on a five day schedule and my average earnings have been \$19.00 per week. This is for the same type work for which I was formerly paid \$8.00 per week, working forty five hours.

In the factory in which I are employed we have price fixing committees which meet with the officials of the company and agree upon piece work prices. In my opinion the increase in the wages is largely due to the activities of the price fixing committee and the willingness of the employer to co-operate with members of the union in fixing fair prices.

The Missouri Garment Company signed a contract with the union in April, 1937, and has been operating under the contract ever since. There is complete harmony between the officials of the company and the local union officers and a much better spirit of cooperation prevails among the employees and employer since the contract was executed.

By reason of being acting president of Local 118 and attending the various shop meetings I have had actual contact with many operators employed by various cotton dress manufacturers in Kansas City. The information I receive from talking with the operators leads me to conclude that the same spirit of harmony and good will which exists in the Missouri Garment Company is also present at all of the cotton factories where union contracts have been made.

Further affiant saith not.

(Signed) Esther E. Smith.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 20th day of October, 1937.

My commission expires April 26, 1941.

(Signed) Anna M. Feltenstein, Notary Public, Jackson County, Mo.

(SEAL)

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DIVISION, WESTERN DISTRICT OF  
MISSOURI.

NO. 2924

DONNELLY GARMENT COMPANY, a corporation and DONNELLY GARMENT SALES  
COMPANY, a corporation, Plaintiffs,

v.

INTERNATIONAL LADIES GARMENT WORKERS' UNION, et al, Defendants.

AFFIDAVIT OF ESTHER E. SMITH (COPY)

FRANK P. WALSH JEROME WALSH

ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANTS