

AFFIDAVIT OF LILLIAN WALES

STATE OF MISSOURI

SS

COUNTY OF JACKSON

(COPY)

LILLIAN WALES, of lawful age, being duly sworn, on oath states:

My name is Lillian Wales. I am 26 years of age and reside at 3226 East 9th Street, Kansas City, Missouri. I am now employed at the Eppy Coat Manufacturing Company as a special operator and have been so employed for the past 15 months. Prior to June, 1935, I was in the employ of the Donnelly Garment Company for approximately 5 years. I joined the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union on January 8, 1935, and have been a member in goodstanding in said union ever since that time. At the time I joined the union I was working from 7:30 in the morning until 4:30 in the afternoon with a half hour off for luncheon. My work was on the higher priced garments and the minimum wages at that lime were . \$15.00 a week. My work was all piece work. On account of the piece rate pricesit was very difficult to reach the minimum and sometimes we had to work a part of the luncheonhour to do so. To reach the minimum the amount of work that I had to do was very exhausting, and I was usually terribly tired at night.

After discussing conditions many times with other girls in the shop, I made up my mind that might improve our conditions by Joining the union. At that time there was a good deal of talk going on in the shop among the girls and several of them had already joined the union.

Mrs. Allison was one of the managers who instructed the girls how to make the garments and handed out the work that we were to do. Before I Joined the union Mrs. Allison talked to the group in which I worked. She said that some of the girls in the shop had joined the union and that she was very much surprised to he that they had done so. She said "There is one thing sure, that any girls that Join this union will not be working for Mrs. Donnelly. At the time I joined the union the shop of the Donnelly Garment Company was at 19th and "Walnut Street. After the union was formed the company opened another floor in a building in 2609 Walnut Street, and the girls, as they joined the union, were sent over to that building. The girls protested to Mrs. Reeves, who was the

manager of the Donnelly Garment Company, and the building at 2609 Walnut Street was called the Isolation Ward. Afterwards there was a small number of non-union girls also sent over there.

Mrs. Mary Coppowycz who was the assistant to Mrs. Allison, came to me after I went to 2609 Walnut and said "I am surprised at you, Lillian, I thought you and Frances had more I don't give a darn about anybody else in the union except you two. Of course you can expect that of Virginia (meaning Virginia Stroup who was the president of our union) because she is that type. What made you do it? what do you expect to get out of it? There aren't any unions my more. You know you will just lose your job and you can't get a job any place else."

Upon the Monday following Mrs. Allison came to me and said "I would Just like to whip you." I said "Why?" "For joining the union and giving your money to those damn dirty foreigners like Dubinsky to set up there and take you little girl's money. There is not a girl that has joined this union that is an experienced operator. You can't expect to come over from the other building and get Joining." Joining was the name of the type of work that I was doing at the time I joined the union. It means joining together the skirt and waist of a dress and the plaquets. Mrs. Allison said "Haven't you been treated right here? As long as you behave yourself you have a Job here as long as there is a Donnelly Garment Company. If it hadn't been for you and Flossie would have been out long ago. May Innes, I begged for her because I felt sorry for her. The union is not going to hold your job, and as soon as you do something they don't like they will kick you out. Then where will you be?" The May Innes she was talking about was a girl who Joined the union and who was laid off and never taken back. She also said to me that "If you get out of here you can't get a Job anywhere else in town." I worked over at 2609 Walnut until the hearing before the National Labor Relations Board ended. Shortly after the close of the hearing 2609 Walnut Street was closed down and all the girls, union and non-union, were told they could take a vacation for two weeks. At the end of two weeks all the non-union girls were put to work and none of the union girls were taken back except one girl, Katie McKenzie, who gave up her card in the union.

Further affiant saith not.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this day of 1937.

My commission expires
Notary Public.

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 LILLIAN WALES (COPY)

FRANK P. WALSH JEROME WALSH

Attorneys for Defendants