

(COPY)

AFFIDAVIT OF ELLEN FRY

STATE OF MISSOURI

ss

COUNTY OF JACKSON

ELLEN FRY, of lawful age, being duly sworn, on oath states:

My name is Ellen Fry. I reside at 1432 Summit Street, Kansas City, Missouri. I am 45 years of age. I am married and have four children. My husband is an elevator operator for the Kansas City Wholesale Grocery Company. I am a garment maker by trade. I worked at that occupation for 5 years before I became organizer for the union.

Before the M.R.A. Code was established for the Ladies' Garment Industry we had no minimum wage scale at the Donnelly concern. The regular working week was 53 or more hours per week, and in many instances in the busy season we were required to work on Sundays from 8 o'clock in the morning until 3 o'clock in the afternoon. During the slack season we were required to be at our machines steadily during the allotted working hours whether there was any work to do or not; and during such periods I frequently earned as low as \$4.00 or \$5.00 per week.

In 1933 a minimum was fixed for us at \$15.00 a week. All of the work was piece work and the prices were so low that it was very difficult for most of us to reach the minimum, and to do so we had to work very speedily. The effect was that I was always in a highly nervous condition and many of the girls had nervous breakdowns. Frequently Mrs. Allison, our instructor and Mrs. Reeves, the production manager, told us that if we didn't make the minimum we would be discharged, and many girls during that period were discharged for that reason. On account of the conditions in the shop when I heard that there was a union being organized I went to the union hall to a meeting. No person asked me to go. I went entirely on my own accord, and after hearing the union plan presented I joined and paid my dues. I mentioned to a number of the girls in the shop that I had joined the union and many of them then came to me to get information about it. On March 15, 1934 there was a mass meeting at which President Dubinsky spoke. With some of the other girls I attended this mass meeting. A day or two after that Mrs. Reeves,

the manager, called me to her office and questioned me for three hours about ay ideas on the union. She said I was a good girl and she had no complaint to make about my work. She looked at my records and sent me back to the machine. A group of us girls who had heard about the union met at one of the girls' homes one night and talked it over. All the girls who met that night were laid off in a short time, except one. My instructor, Mrs. White, after my interview with Mrs. Reeves, began to change my work. She changed me as much as seven times in one day, and became very unpleasant in her demeanor towards me. I was laid off in July, 1934, and told that the lay-off was only for two weeks. I went back in two weeks and asked Mrs. Reeves if I could go to work and she said I could not, and she did not know when I could go back again. I told her I might lost my home and she laughed and said that the Donnelly was not a charitable institution and that I could go to the union and let them put me to work. I noticed that when the girls would make a particularly large pay check the firm would out the price on that particular operation. Later on I became an organizer for the union, and with the exception of working at the trade from time to time I am still so engaged.

Further affiant saith not.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this day of 1937.

Notary Public.

My Commission expires

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 ELLEN FRY (COPY)

FRANK P. WALSH JEROME WALSH

ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANTS