

DIES -- CHICAGO -- ARMOUR ELECTION

Note: the report of the Dies Committee issued January 3, 1940, does not refer to the P.W.O.C. and specifically there is no allegation of any Communist connection of this union in the report.

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS
COUNTY OF COOK)

C
O
P
Y

My name is Herbert March. I am President of the Packinghouse Workers Council of Chicago, a member of the Executive Board of Local #347 of the P.W.O.C. (Armour Local in Chicago) and Chairman of the Organizing Committee of that Local. My office address is 4758 South Marshfield, Chicago, Ill.

Concerning one Alphonso Malachi. While Malachi was President of the above mentioned local #347, he often collected union dues from the members of the union. When a check-up was made, it was discovered that Malachi had collected at least \$95 in dues which he had not turned in to the financial secretary. On a number of occasions when he was questioned, he said that he would settle up the next payday and the amounts (approximately \$95 in aggregate) were marked on the financial books of the union as "loans" to Malachi. On one occasion, Malachi suggested to Peter Shields, financial secretary, that each of them take \$10.00 a week of union money for "expenses." Because the union was engaged in a concerted organizing drive, it was thought best not to press the issue at that time.

Other circumstances which aroused question as to Malachi's integrity as President or member of the union were: first, he consistently refused to mention in union meetings anything concerning the employers' (Armour & Co.) use of the speed-up system, discrimination against union members refusal to bargain collectively in good faith, and general oppressive conditions of labor; Second, Malachi contacted at least 12 of the CIO stewards

in the Armour plant and asked them to "go down and talk with Pat Gorman," International President of the AFL Local #661 of the AFL Local #661 of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workers of North America. These stewards, being loyal to the CIO, asked for advice. A few were advised to talk with Pat Gorman and report back to the representatives of the union. In conversations with Gorman they learned that he was attempting to cause disaffection in the CIO and to split the union ranks by building local 661 in the Armour plant. And it should be noted here that United States attorney William Campbell has informed us that he is supervising an investigation of the illegal collusion between the Company officials and the Amalgamated Meat Cutters & B. W. of N.A. representative (AFL) - following our well substantiated charge of collusion. (A letter of U. S. Attorney Campbell assuring us that the investigation was in process was introduced as evidence when I testified before the Dies Committee in Chicago on November 18, 1939.)

In June of 1939, the Executive Board of Local 347 of the PWOC discussed these incidents in its regular meeting. I was present at this meeting. Malachi was also present. When the above mentioned charges were made against Malachi, he admitted them, explaining that he had withheld the \$95 as "expenses" (although he had no expenses other than those of his voluntary attendance at meetings) and that he was opposed to the policy of the union, that he was opposed to strikes and that he would walk through any picket line if he could. The Executive Board voted to recommend to the union that Malachi be expelled.

As Malachi left the above mentioned meeting of the Executive Board, he said to me -- "I warn you, March; you'd better not publish anything about me." Shortly after, I was shot at and wounded.

The union expelled Malachi.

When Malachi testified before the Dies Committee, he said that he had once been persuaded to make a radio speech that was prepared by him with the help of the Editor of the MIDWEST DAILY RECORD (which is described in the recent report of the Dies Committee as "the Communist Party's newspaper" -- P. 11). A good deal of sentiment had been shown by the men accusing Malachi of attempting to swing the CIO union over to the AFL. He agreed to deny this rumor in a radio broadcast. The person who helped him prepare his talk was Les O'Rear who was then and still is Editor of the Packinghouse Workers edition of the CIO News and who has never been connected with the MIDWEST DAILY RECORD.

Malachi quit working for Armour & Company one week before the aforementioned Dies Committee hearing in Chicago, and since has been employed by the Amalgamated Meat Cutters (AFL) working out of its Chicago office. By those with whom he has associated, he is known as a very heavy drinker and always was pressed for funds on this account.

About October 20, 1939, in the course of settling a grievance of a union member, I met with W. O. Edwards, secretary-treasurer of the Agar Packing & Provision Company in Chicago. I was accompanied by Ken Collins, president of the local. Edwards said to me: "You know, Herb, a group of prominent citizens have invited Dies to investigate you and Johnson." (Meaning Henry Johnson, Ass't. Nat'l. Director of the PWOC). I then asked: "Who is the group of prominent citizens?" For sometime he refused to disclose the names, but finally answered, "the Chicago Association of Commerce." One month later, both Johnson and I were called before the Dies Committee.

It is pertinent to know that the following "packers" are among the officers and Executive Board of the Chicago Association of Commerce.

1. Oscar Meyer, President of the Chicago Association of Commerce and President of the Oscar Meyer Packing Company.

2. Harvey G. Ellerd, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Chicago Association of Commerce and Vice President of Armour & Company in charge of labor relations.

3. John J. Holmes - member of the board of directors of the Chicago Association of Commerce and President of Swift & Co. packinghouse.

(Signed) _____

Subscribed and sworn to before me

this _____ day of _____, 1940

Notary Public

OMITTED IN MARCH AFFIDAVIT

Further on in our conversation mentioned in paragraph nine, W. O. Edwards said, "Some of us are worried about subversive activities on the South Side (the Negro district) and we are planning to launch a reform movement among the colored people."

I told him that any real reform movement would be directed at improving the terrible and "un-American" housing conditions on the South Side. He answered, "Yes, I agree that is a problem."

(Signed) _____