

Armour Vote Today

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Page*

CIO and AFL Unions

Ballot to Decide Bargaining Agent

Approximately 7,000 employees of Armour & Co. began casting their votes today in a labor board election to determine whether the American Federation of Labor or the CIO will serve as their collective bargaining agent.

Two polling places, both under the supervision of the NLRB, opened at 6 o'clock this morning and will remain open until 7 p. m.

The workers are being asked to choose between the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America, an AFL affiliate; the Packinghouse Workers' Organizing Committee, CIO affiliate, or no union at all.

Spokesmen for both unions today predicted victory. A neutral zone has been established around each polling place in which no electioneering will be allowed.

NEW VOTE ORDERED.

A labor board election held at the plant last year was won by the CIO, which polled 2,840 out of a possible 6,000 votes. The election was contested by the company on the grounds that the CIO had less than a majority of employees eligible to cast ballots.

Several months ago the AFL union demanded that a new election be held and charged an incorrect payroll list was used. The labor board ordered the new election last month.

Both groups immediately began an intensive organizing campaign.

The AFL charged that the PWOC was being dominated by Communists. The CIO union denied the charges.

UNDER DIES SCRUTINY.

An investigation is now being made by the Dies committee. Last week Alphonso Malachi, former president of the Armour PWOC local, testified before Congressman Martin Dies here that the union constitution had been written at Communist headquarters.

Labor board officials supervising today's election are G. L. Patterson, regional director; Russ Miller, special examiner from Washington; I. F. Dorfman, assistant to Patterson; ten regular employees of the board and twelve extra employees who were hired for the election.

Production and maintenance department employees who have been on the payroll since October 28 are eligible to vote in today's election.

The CIO drive to gain control of the packing industry was begun two years ago by John L. Lewis. As the union began organizing the Armour & Co. plant trouble developed.

"SPEED-UP" CHARGED.

On August 24 members of the CIO group in the plant halted work for an hour, claiming they were staging a "protest strike" because the company had tried to "speed up" production.

Company officials denied any "speed-up" had been planned or put into practice.

Last July the PWOC membership voted their executive committee power to strike, and several times since then strike threats have been made by the union officials as they made efforts to be named exclusive bargaining agents