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LOUIE MARQUARDT, sworn, testified:

EXAMINATION BY MR. DALY.

Q Where do you reside?

A Atlanta, Georgia.

Q What is your business?

A I am assistant building inspector of the city  
of Atlanta.

Q How long have you been assistant building inspector?

A For four years past.

Q That position is an appointive place?

A Yes Sir.

Q Who appoints that officer?

A The head of the department, Ed R. Hays.

Q Are you connected with Union labor in any way?

A I am Secretary of the central body, the Atlanta  
Federation of Trade.

Q Were you or not appointed on a committee by the  
United Textile Workers Local 886 to go to the Elsas mills  
to try to adjust the troubles there, or some similar committee?

A I was appointed as a substitute in the place  
of Mr. Marks who had been appointed at the other meeting.  
He asked me to go for him which I did.

Q Who went with you?

A One man named King, the other man I don't know.

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Q Did Jerome Jones go?

A Not with me.

Q Where did you go?

A To the office of the mill, the Fulton Bag & Cotton Mills.

Q Who did you see there?

A I don't know his name. He did not give me his name. One of the attendants there, however.

Q What was his position?

A I do not know that.

Q Is he the man you went to see?

A No, I went to see Mr. Elsas.

Q You went in the mill?

A Yes Sir, I went in the mill, was in the reception room of the mill.

Q Was Mr. Elsas in the mill?

A Yes Sir.

Q You sent word you wanted to see him?

A Yes Sir, I sent word by this attendant I wanted to see him.

Q What word did he bring back?

A He brought back word that Mr. Elsas was busy at that time and could not see us.

Q What did you do then?

A We insisted that we see him if there was any

possible chance, and he told us it was useless, that he was busy and could not see us at that time. We went away and came back and he told me to call him over the phone at 1:30.

Q The attendant?

A Yes Sir.

Q Did you do that?

A I did, I called him twice at 1:30 and then about 2:00.

Q Did you get him over the phone?

A I did not at either time.

Q When was that? Before the strike or after?

A That was the 20th of May. They decided to call the strike on the 20th of May. Wednesday night or Monday night, I think it was, I believe the 20th of May, whatever day that fell on. I disremember whether it was Monday or Tuesday night, but it was the morning following that they had voted to strike.

Q This committee was to go?

A This committee was appointed for the purpose of making one more attempt to see Mr. Elsas and see if the trouble could be adjusted without resorting to the strike and the final calling out of the people in the mill hinged upon the report of this committee. So we went

in and when we came out we met some 15 or 20 on the outside that were anxious to hear the report, and when we made the report they insisted that it was only a stall on the part of Mr. Elsas, and that they were going to continue with the purposes outlined the night before, or so.

Q You advised them that you thought Mr. Elsas would see them, did you?

A I advised them to wait until I had a chance to follow out his request in calling him over the phone but they did not heed the advice and went on and called the strike.

Q Were you down there when they went out?

A Yes Sir, I was around there.

Q Did you see them come out?

A I saw 100 or 150, I did not count them. They came right at the time. It is a well known fact that many others would have come just at that time but they were prevented from coming out by the locking of the doors and closing the gates and otherwise, but at noon they came out and stayed out. At night still more. Before the week was up there were still more. The number was augmented from day to day. There were 700 or 800 that left the mill finally who had been working. They came

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and joined the strikers and this was augmented from time to time by others who came out.

Q Some went back?

A Some went back and some were brought in there to take their places?

Q Were you present at the meeting the night the strike was called?

A No Sir, I was not present.

Q Were you present at any of the other meetings before that?

A No, none of their regular meetings.

Q Were you not out with any of the leaders and men before that?

A I was in touch with the situation.

Q From your conversations with these textile workers what seemed to be their chief grievance?

A It may be well to go back right here to October of the year before when they first had the strike there. That was brought about through the fining and docking system prevailing in the mill. They struck there with it dead against them.

Q Had the Council been put in before that?

A No, the organization grew out of that.

Q Then do you know what happened to those menn

who had joined the Union in their work or not?

A They were discharged. That is they claim as many as 85 were discharged in all from October to May.

Q About all of them were Union men, is that true?

A Yes Sir.

Q Did you ever talk with any of the men themselves that were discharged?

A Oh yes, I talked with a great many of them after that meeting.

Q What type of men were discharged there?

A Some of the best men. I always considered them a very good type of man. Good men. Illiterate, as far as learning is concerned, but men possessed with common sense.

Q Were you familiar with the conditions in the mill village?

A Not previous to the strike. I learned of them afterwards.

Q How did you learn? Did you go down there?

A By observation principally.

Q Did you go down yourself?

A I was down in the mill section myself.

Q What kind of toilets did you see there?

A That part of it I did not particularly investigate myself.

Q Did you go in any of the houses?

A Not any, so far as looking in.

Q You don't know how many families were living in a house?

A Not from my own observation I could not tell.

Q What other grievances did the workers complain of then besides these discharges of the Union men?

A Well, the fining and docking system and the signing of this contract principally, were their grievances. There were a lot of things incident to that, but those things in particular, the fining and half-paid work.

Q Did they talk about the housing conditions there?

A No Sir, not before the strike.

Q They did not complain about that before, that was after, was it?

A Not as far as I know.

Q Did they complain about the wages that were paid to them?

A Yes Sir, they felt that the wages were too small, and the hours they claimed were too long. They had to work long hours and the conditions under which they worked were bad.

Q Have you any information as to the cause of the strike, Mr. Marquardt? All told? Approximately?

A Only up to August 12th, when the Atlanta Federation

withdrew their support, up until that time it had cost approximately \$12,000.

Q Who had charge of it after that?

A The United Textile Workers took complete charge of it.

Q Have they supported it ever since?

A They have.

Q You don't know what it has cost?

A No Sir, I don't. In fact I do know this, that the cost has been reduced from week to week until this time. I suppose they had it at about as low a figure as it could possibly be conducted.

Q Were you there for awhile?

A It cost over a thousand dollars a week. Of course, in that I think should be considered, too, they were bringing many people in here at that time. The mill was bringing people in here and as fast as we would keep them from going to work we did so and took care of them in the meantime, some for a day, some for two or three days, some for a week, as the case may be, until we could move them from there. We had over 1200 people feeding off the commissary at one time.

Q You do not know how many they have now, do you?

A No Sir.

Q You never talked to anybody in authority at the mills, did you?



A Mill people?

Q Yes.

A No, never did. I never was granted that privilege.

Q Do you know what the religion of these people is that own this mill?

A I suppose they follow the Jewish religion, being Hebrews.

Q Does the fact that they are Hebrews, in your opinion, have anything to do with the troubles they have had?

A I have always had an opinion of my own about that.

Q What would your opinion be?

A In a way, right there, I feel it is best to say that I have felt all along that through the interference - I cannot call it an interference either -- but through the position taken by the Men and Religion Movement in that strike it had its inception, that that did a great deal to antagonize the men right in there, Jews and Christians. I have always felt that way. I don't know whether there is any foundation to the belief or not; but I never could see how they could reconcile these two elements, don't you see? There is one class of people representing Christ and His teachings endeavoring to convince a man who was not a believer in Christ of his wrongs.

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Q Is there any other information along this line  
you would like to give?

A No Sir.

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