DETROIT BUTCHERS WANT AID OF AAA

They Would Have Processing Taxes Explained as the Cause of High Prices.

WOMEN ENLARGE FIGHT
Leader Threatens Boycott to Force Inquiry Into Milk and Other Food Costs.

DETROIT, Aug. 5 (UP)—Harassed Detroit butchers threatened last night to demand aid from the Agricultural Adjustment Administration to explain existing meat prices to the army of women who were conducting a meat packing strike that has cost them thousands of dollars in spoilage and lost sales.

"Housewives are paying over high prices," Emil Schwartz, director of the National Association of Retail Meat Dealers, told United Press today, "but we are going to try to get a government man in here to give an official explanation."

Both dealers and packers have asserted repeatedly since the boycott was begun two weeks ago, by several hundred hair-pulling, face-slapping women pickets that AAA processing taxes are largely responsible for the prices which the strikers demand shall be reduced at least 20 per cent.

Mr. Schwartz predicted that almost all Detroit butcher shops would be closed after Thursday unless the strike were terminated. He said almost complete suspension of meat sales was being planned throughout the city.

"Lack of butchers tells me they will try to sell their existing stocks, close up and take a vacation," he said.

Mrs. Mary Zuki, leader of the strikers, declared tonight that the boycott was spreading rapidly today, and reiterated her statement that the boycott would be extended to other commodities.

"We are not going to be satisfied with investigating meat prices, not when we are being starved to death," she said. "Once organized, we will look into milk prices, and from that start and go on through all prices."

In the present strike we don't want the meat prices to continue to suffer. We want to get results from the big packers.

Both butchers and packers planned meetings for tonight, and the plan may be to send a committee to the strikers' meeting tonight and try to explain the economic factors involved in the meat price advance.

Mrs. Emily White, the first of ten pickers to go on trial on charges of disturbance, was convicted by a Recorder's Court jury today and given a three-months probation.

Picketing was suspended today in line with the strikers' policy of concentrating their efforts on the week-end shopping days.

Heinrich A. Plebeks, police commissioner, said he believed the strike was started as a protest by housewives, but that communists have moved in on it. He was told that a meeting of several butchers that the National Guard be asked to protect dealers, saying the police were able to cope with the situation.

Mrs. Zuki retorted to the Communist charge by denying there were any Communists in the movement it is on. "We either have to eat and want prices reduced.

Most meat, except pork, has declined slightly since the 1st of June, an official of a chain-store organization said today, but prices are still "considerably above'' last year. He said pork prices had increased 28 cents a pound and declared that the AAA processing taxes and the shortage of hogs were responsible.

Retail prices for medium-grade meat today were: Round steak, 35 cents a pound; beef pot roast, 35 cents; veal roast, 35 cents; lamb, 27 cents; pork loin, 29 cents; standard ham, 25 cents.

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