

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 (AP).—Harassed Detroit butchers want the Agricultural Adjustment Administration to explain existing meat prices to the army of women whose buying strike has cost them thousands of dollars in spoilage and lost sales.

"Housewives are naturally upset over high prices," Emil Schwartz, director of the National Association of Retail Meat Dealers, said 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 imminent throughout the city.

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

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

"We are not going to be satisfied with investigating meat prices alone," she said. "Once organized, we will look into milk prices, and from that start on gas and electric rates. In the present strike we don't want the small butchers to suffer. We want to get results from the big packing houses."

Both butchers and strikers planned meetings for tonight. The butchers were to send a committee to the strikers' meeting to attempt to explain the economic factors involved in the meat price advances.

Mrs. Emily White, the first of ten pickets to go on trial on charges of disturbing the peace, was convicted by a recorder's court jury today and placed on three months' probation.

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

Heinrich A. Pickert, police commissioner, said he believed the strike "was started as a protest by housewives, but now Communists have moved in on it."

He ridiculed the suggestion of several butchers that the National Guard be asked to protect the dealers, saying the police were able to cope with the situation.

Mrs. Zuk retorted to the Communist charge by asserting that if there were any Communists in the movement it is only because "they 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 higher" than a year ago. He said pork prices had increased 26 per cent in a year, 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, 21 cents; veal roast, 27 cents; leg of lamb, 27 cents; pork loin, 29 cents; standard ham, 31 cents.