

In the Matter of J. & L. STEEL BARREL COMPANY and UNITED STEEL-
WORKERS OF AMERICA, C. I. O.

Case No. 15-R-1116.—Decided June 24, 1944

Mr. James C. Beech, of Pittsburgh, Pa., for the Company.

Mr. Will Watts, of New Orleans, La., for the Union.

Mr. Louis Cokin, of counsel to the Board.

DECISION
AND
DIRECTION OF ELECTION

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

Upon petition and amended petition duly filed by United Steelworkers of America, C. I. O., herein called the Union, alleging that a question affecting commerce had arisen concerning the representation of employees of J. & L. Steel Barrel Company, Gretna, Louisiana, herein called the Company, the National Labor Relations Board provided for an appropriate hearing upon due notice before Laurence H. Whitlow, Trial Examiner. Said hearing was held at New Orleans, Louisiana, on June 8, 1944. The Company and the Union appeared, participated, and were afforded full opportunity to be heard, to examine and cross-examine witnesses, and to introduce evidence bearing on the issues. The Trial Examiner's rulings made at the hearing are free from prejudicial error and are hereby affirmed. All parties were afforded opportunity to file briefs with the Board.

Upon the entire record in the case, the Board makes the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

I. THE BUSINESS OF THE COMPANY

J. & L. Steel Barrel Company is a New Jersey corporation and a wholly owned subsidiary of Jones & Laughlin Steel Corporation. The Company operates a plant at Gretna, Louisiana, where it is engaged in the manufacture of steel barrels. During 1943 the Company purchased raw materials valued in excess of \$200,000, for use at its Gretna plant, about 98 percent of which was shipped to it from points

outside the State of Louisiana. During the same period the Company sold products from its Gretna plant valued in excess of \$200,000, about 2 percent of which was shipped to points outside the State of Louisiana.

The Company admits that it is engaged in commerce within the meaning of the National Labor Relations Act.

II. THE ORGANIZATION INVOLVED

United Steelworkers of America is a labor organization affiliated with the Congress of Industrial Organizations, admitting to membership employees of the Company.

III. THE QUESTION CONCERNING REPRESENTATION

On March 28 or 29, 1944, the Union requested the Company to recognize it as exclusive collective bargaining representative of the employees at the Gretna plant. The Company refused this request.

A statement of a Field Examiner of the Board, introduced into evidence at the hearing, indicates that the Union represents a substantial number of employees in the unit hereinafter found to be appropriate.¹

We find that a question affecting commerce has arisen concerning the representation of employees of the Company, within the meaning of Section 9 (c) and Section 2 (6) and (7) of the Act.

IV. THE APPROPRIATE UNIT

We find, in substantial agreement with a stipulation of the parties, that all production and maintenance employees at the Gretna plant of the Company, excluding clerical employees, watchmen, salaried employees, the maid, and all supervisory employees with authority to hire, promote, discharge, discipline, or otherwise effect changes in the status of employees, or effectively recommend such action, constitute a unit appropriate for the purposes of collective bargaining, within the meaning of Section 9 (b) of the Act.

V. THE DETERMINATION OF REPRESENTATIVES

We find that the question concerning representation which has arisen can best be resolved by means of an election by secret ballot. The Union urges that the pay-roll of June 15, 1944, be used to determine eligibility to vote. Inasmuch as no reason appears for departing from our usual practice, we shall direct that the employees eligible to vote shall be those in the appropriate unit who were employed during

¹ The Field Examiner reported that the Union presented 19 authorization cards bearing apparently genuine signatures of persons whose names appear on the May 25, 1944, pay roll of the Company. There are about 28 employees in the appropriate unit.

the pay-roll period immediately preceding the date of the Direction of Election herein, subject to the limitations and additions set forth in the Direction.

DIRECTION OF ELECTION

By virtue of and pursuant to the power vested in the National Labor Relations Board by Section 9 (c) of the National Labor Relations Act, and pursuant to Article III, Section 9, of National Labor Relations Board Rules and Regulations—Series 3, it is hereby

DIRECTED that, as part of the investigation to ascertain representatives for the purposes of collective bargaining with J. & L. Steel Barrel Company, Gretna, Louisiana, an election by secret ballot shall be conducted as early as possible, but not later than thirty (30) days from the date of this Direction, under the direction and supervision of the Regional Director for the Fifteenth Region, acting in this matter as agent for the National Labor Relations Board, and subject to Article III, Sections 10 and 11, of said Rules and Regulations, among the employees in the unit found appropriate in Section IV, above, who were employed during the pay-roll period immediately preceding the date of this Direction, including employees who did not work during said pay-roll period because they were ill or on vacation or temporarily laid off, and including employees in the armed forces of the United States who present themselves in person at the polls, but excluding any who have since quit or been discharged for cause and who have not been rehired or reinstated prior to the date of the election, to determine whether or not they desire to be represented by United Steelworkers of America, C. I. O., for the purposes of collective bargaining.