

In the Matter of AMERICAN FURNITURE COMPANY, INCORPORATED and
UNITED FURNITURE WORKERS OF AMERICA, C. I. O.

Case No. 5-R-1593.—Decided July 18, 1944

Mr. Kennon C. Whittle, of Martinsville, Va., for the Company.

Mr. Bernard Hiatt, of High Point, N. C., for the Union.

Mr. Louis Cokin, of counsel to the Board.

DECISION
AND
DIRECTION OF ELECTION

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

Upon petition duly filed by United Furniture Workers of America, C. I. O., herein called the Union, alleging that a question affecting commerce had arisen concerning the representation of employees of American Furniture Company, Incorporated, Martinsville, Virginia, herein called the Company, the National Labor Relations Board provided for an appropriate hearing upon due notice before Herman Goldberg, Trial Examiner. Said hearing was held at Martinsville, Virginia, on June 24, 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

American Furniture Company, Incorporated, is a Virginia corporation operating a plant at Martinsville, Virginia, where it is engaged in the manufacture of wooden furniture. During 1943 the Company purchased raw materials valued at about \$1,500,000, approximately 86 percent of which was shipped to it from points outside the State of Virginia. During the same period the Company manufactured prod-

ucts valued at about \$3,000,000, approximately 95 percent of which was shipped to points outside the State of Virginia.

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

II. THE ORGANIZATION INVOLVED

United Furniture Workers 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

The Company refuses to recognize the Union as the exclusive collective bargaining representative of its employees.

A statement of the 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 Martinsville plant of the Company, excluding watchmen, clerical employees, general superintendent, foremen, assistant foremen, the truck boss, and any other 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 shall direct that the question concerning representation which has arisen be resolved by means of an election by secret ballot among the employees in the appropriate unit who were employed during 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.

¹ The Field Examiner reported that the Union presented 423 membership application cards. There are approximately 480 employees in the appropriate unit.

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 American Furniture Company, Incorporated, Martinsville, Virginia, 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 Fifth 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 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 Furniture Workers of America, C. I. O., for the purposes of collective bargaining.