

# THE OFFICE WORKER

Official Organ of the Office Employees International Union of the A. F. of L.

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## ELECTION SOUGHT AT BIG INSURANCE CO.

Galveston, Texas.—A substantial majority of the close to 700 office and clerical workers employed by the American National Insurance Company's home office in this city have signed up with OEIU Local 27 and the NLRB has been requested to conduct an election among this group to determine the exclusive bargaining rights of the union, according to Business Representative A. G. Wilson of Local 27.

The National Labor Relations Board recently ordered the American National Insurance Company to cease and desist from interfering with, restraining or coercing its employees in the exercise of their rights to self organization and to join a union of their own choosing.

This order of the NLRB was issued as a result of a settlement stipulation entered into by the NLRB, the company and the Industrial and Ordinary Life Insurance Agents Council, AFL.

Under the terms of the settlement four insurance agents were awarded back pay of \$5,500 each because of their discriminatory discharge.

The company was ordered to post notices in its Dallas, El Paso, San Antonio and Texarkana offices affirming the fact that it would not question its employees about union membership or about those who are active in soliciting union membership.

The company also promises in such notices that it will not issue veiled threats against employees who are members of or active in a union and that it will not threaten to discharge employees because of their union membership.

It also promises that it will not discourage membership in any labor organization of any of its employees, and affirmatively states over the signature of its Executive Vice President W. L. Vogler that "all our employees are free to become or remain members" and further "We will not discriminate in regard to hire or tenure of employment or any term or condition of employment against any employee because of membership in or activity on behalf of any such labor organization".

## DUN & BRADSTREET WORKERS ORGANIZE

Boston, Mass.—Employees of the Dun & Bradstreet Boston operations are rapidly turning toward organization, according to AFL Organizer Aaron Velleman.

He reports that a substantial number of the workers have signed up with OEIU Local No. 6, and that the local is presently seeking exclusive bargaining rights through the NLRB for the group involved.

## Throngs Visit OEIU Booth At Union-Industries Show



Shown in the booth of OEIU Local No. 9 at the big Union-Industries show in Milwaukee are: (left to right) Fred Schmitz, committee member of Local 9; Alice Holz, committee chairman of Local 9 and an international vice president of OEIU; Paul R. Hutchings, international president of OEIU, and Harold Beck, business representative of Local 9. More than 50,000 copies of *The Office Worker* and other organizing literature were given visitors to the attractive booth.

Milwaukee, Wis.—A substantial number of the more than 300,000 persons who filed through the doors of the Auditorium to view the exhibits at the Union-Industries Show held in Milwaukee, May 12-16, received their initial introduction to the Office Employees International Union.

The show, breaking all attendance records in the history of the Milwaukee Auditorium, was sponsored by the Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor and was a living example of its theme "Good Relations Between Labor and Management". Hundreds of exhibitors, both manufacturers and A. F. of L. unions, displayed their products and services with many of the booth displays becoming actual workshops with union members engaged in the operations.

### Speed Contests

Spectators at the show were attracted to the booth of OEIU Local No. 9 by the clack of typewriters as members of the local competed in daily speed typing tests conducted by the local. Prizes were awarded to the winners.

Having once had their attention called to the booth by the operation of office equipment, the spectators paused to look at the background sign bearing the insignia of the Office Employees International Union and office employees engaged at their work. Organizational cartoons and pictures of office workers at their desks or other office equipment lent an office atmosphere to the booth.

Paul R. Hutchings, OEIU International President attended the opening of the show. The Interna-

tional Union cooperated with Local No. 9 and supplied organizational literature, cartoons and posters.

### Distribute Paper

The *OFFICE WORKER*, official publication of the Office Employees International Union as well as other organizational leaflets distributed by the tens of thousands, carried the message of the accomplishments of the organized office worker and drew such comments as: "Never knew office workers had their own union"; "That's what we need"; "Oh, boy, a five dollar week raise"; "Never knew union people could be so nice".

The committee for Local No. 9's exhibit comprised Alice Holz, chairman, Tom Arnold, in charge of the speed typing test, Wanda Bilinski, X. Papachristou.

## ELECTION WON

Galesburg, Ill.—The office and clerical workers of the Gale Products Co. have, by an NLRB election, voted out the so-called independent union through which they have been represented and established the exclusive bargaining rights of OEIU Local 221, according to International Vice President L. G. Nygren and AFL-OEIU Representative Frank E. Morton who have been assisting this group.

Plans are currently underway for the drafting of a proposed collective bargaining agreement for negotiation with the company.

## ELECTION WON AT DEPARTMENT STORE

Washington, D. C.—OEIU Local No. 2 has obtained exclusive bargaining rights for the office and clerical workers of the Goldenberg Department Store as a result of an NLRB election held among this group, according to W. R. Probey, business representative of the local.

The election was held some months ago, but final determination of the union's bargaining status was held up pending the disposition of challenged ballots on which a subsequent hearing was conducted by NLRB.

The disposition of the challenged ballots clearly sustained the union's majority vote and exclusive bargaining rights have therefore been won.

The local is presently working with a committee of employes on a draft of a proposed collective bargaining contract for negotiation with the company.

## Seek Pay Boost From 34 Stores

Tacoma, Wash.—Approximately 350 members of Local 23 are girding for negotiations on renewal of their agreement with their 34 retail store employers represented by the Tacoma Industrial Conference Board. The employers involved are department stores and specialty shops, including such firms as Sears, Roebuck and Company; J. C. Penney Co.; Rhodes and Fishers.

C. C. Newell, OEIU vice president, and Secretary-Treasurer E. A. Cleveland of the local have announced that the principal objectives of the negotiations consist of an across-the-board increase of 10 cents per hour, and a job classification program to insure proper relationship between positions in the offices of the stores.

The two union leaders stated that on the basis of past practices employed by the firms, a fair job classification plan would result in substantial increases in pay for virtually all office employees.

In addition, the union is seeking pay for all time employees are required to spend on premises of the companies, an adequate sick leave provision and improved vacation allowances.

The remaining employes of the stores are members of the Retail Clerks International Association and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

## To Rule On Closed Shop Ban

Washington.—The Supreme Court agreed to rule on validity of an amendment to Nebraska's Constitution which prohibits union closed shops. Validity of the ban was challenged by the American Federation of Labor.

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Official organ of the  
OFFICE EMPLOYEES  
INTERNATIONAL UNION



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## REFUSES TO SHARE ECA JOBS WITH CIO

Milwaukee, Wis.—The AFL Ex-  
ecutive Council refused to share  
administrative posts in the Eco-  
nomic Cooperation Administration  
with the Congress of Industrial Or-  
ganizations, as long as the CIO  
remains affiliated with the Soviet-  
dominated World Federation of  
Trade Unions.

The council's decision followed a  
consultation with Paul G. Hoffman,  
ECA administrator, on labor's role  
in the implementation of the Eu-  
ropean Recovery Program.

AFL President William Green  
told newspaper reporters that AFL  
participation in the administration  
of ECA, along with the CIO, would  
be completely inconsistent.

### Attempted Sabotage

He explained that the CIO has  
maintained direct relations with the  
WFTU which has sought to sabo-  
tage the Marshall Plan.

The AFL, he said, was one of the  
staunchest supporters of the for-  
eign recovery program and has  
steadfastly refused to join the  
Communist-inspired WFTU.

In other fields the council drafted  
a series of recommendations for  
platform planks on labor and eco-  
nomic questions to be submitted by  
AFL President William Green to  
both the Republican and Democratic  
national convention in Philadelphia.

Contents of the recommendations  
were not made public and will not  
be released until they are pre-  
sented to the conventions.

Earlier Green announced that  
both parties would be asked to  
adopt planks urging repeal of the  
Taft-Hartley act.

### 105th Union Chartered

The council also voted to extend  
an international union charter to  
the American Federation of Grain  
Millers, which will become the  
105th national or international  
union affiliated with the American  
Federation of Labor.

The new international union,  
with a membership of 28,000 work-  
ers employed in the nation's grain



## Report Highlights Factors Leading to Industrial Peace

Princeton, N. J.—A recent re-  
port issued by Princeton University  
emphasizes the fact that industrial  
peace and prosperity can be and  
are actually attained whenever la-  
bor and management work jointly  
toward that end.

It is regrettable that newspa-  
pers, always anxious to give great  
publicity to the comparatively few  
examples of strife between unions  
and employers, gave little or no  
mention of this significant publi-  
cation.

"Constructive Labor Relations"  
is the document's title. It's based  
on a study of four large eastern  
plants with "model" union-man-  
agement relations, selected from a  
list of 70 recommended by labor  
and industrial leaders.

The four are: R. Hoe & Co.,  
printing press manufacturers,  
New York City; Alexander Smith

milling and processing plants, was  
formerly organized as a national  
council of the federal labor unions  
chartered in the industry.

The American Federation of  
Grain Millers, headed by Sam Ming,  
president, maintains headquarters  
in Minneapolis.

This year the regular spring  
meeting of the AFL council was  
held in Milwaukee rather than  
Washington in order that the mem-  
bers might participate in the open-  
ing of the Union-Industries Show  
staged here by the AFL's Union  
Label Trades Department. The  
show served as the national high-  
light for the observance of Union  
Label Week throughout the nation.

& Sons Carpet Company, Yonkers,  
N. Y.; Brown Instrument Com-  
pany, Philadelphia, and H. Daroff  
& Sons, Philadelphia, makers of  
men's clothes. Each has had a  
record remarkably free of strife  
ever since union contracts were  
signed years ago.

The principle reasons for the  
success of these companies, as re-  
ported by the authors of the study,  
Richard A. Lester and Edward A.  
Robie, are as follows:

"Managements in all four com-  
panies are determined to live with  
the union rather than contest its  
existence or leadership.

"Proposed actions affecting em-  
ployees are discussed in advance  
with the unions and attempts are  
made to reconcile differences.

"In each of the companies, in-  
dustrial relations are handled  
largely by operating executives,  
who spend much of their time on  
such matters.

"A considerable degree of mu-  
tual trust and confidence exists be-  
tween the parties.

"Grievances are handled expedi-  
tiously . . . the emphasis is on  
solving problems rather than ad-  
hering to legal rules or rigid  
principles.

"The union in each case has had  
considerable strength, stability and  
unity . . . the leadership is con-  
structive, not revolutionary . . .  
and each local union follows demo-  
cratic procedure."

The story at the Hoe plant is  
particularly illuminating. After  
over two decades of good relations

## UPHOLDS CHECK-OFF OF FEES AND LEVIES

Washington.—The check-off of  
union initiation fees and assess-  
ments may be included with the  
check-off of regular union dues  
under the Taft-Hartley law, ac-  
cording to an interpretation of the  
law's provisions issued by the De-  
partment of Justice.

This opinion, of great interest to  
unions and to individual trades un-  
ionists, was given by the Assistant  
Solicitor General, George T. Wash-  
ington, in response to a request by  
William S. Tyson, solicitor of the  
Department of Labor.

The clarification of the law's pro-  
visions regulating the check-off of  
union dues is prohibited unless the  
employer has given to the employer  
a written consent to such deduction.  
The authorization for the check-off  
may not be made irrevocable for  
more than one year or for the dura-  
tion of the collective bargaining  
agreement, whichever is the short-  
er, according to the law.

In his interpretation, the Assis-  
tant Solicitor General concluded  
that the term "membership dues"  
as used in the law also includes  
initiation fees and assessments  
since they are incidents of mem-  
bership in a union.

He also expressed the view that,  
as long as the check off authoriza-  
tion could be revoked at a desig-  
nated period each year, it does not  
appear to constitute a willful viola-  
tion of Section 302 (c), and that a  
case involving such a form of  
check-off authorization should not  
be considered an adequate basis for  
prosecution.

Tyson, in his letter asking for the  
Department of Justice opinions on  
these points, said they would "do  
much to assist in settling difficult  
labor-management controversies  
and to remove significant causes of  
industrial unrest."

## Educational Service

### For Labor Wins "Okay"

Washington.—Organized labor  
won the first round in a battle for  
legislation to establish a "labor ex-  
tension service," which would pro-  
vide educational facilities for work-  
ers similar to that given farmers.

A subcommittee of the Senate  
Labor Committee gave its "okay"  
to the bill, which is sponsored by  
Morse (Ore.) and Thomas (Utah).  
The measure is backed by all unions.

between the Machinists and the  
company, a strike over wages  
broke out in 1923, which the  
management smashed. It got an  
antistrike injunction, hired an  
army of strikebreakers and estab-  
lished the "open shop."

But the company lost money al-  
most every year thereafter and  
went into receivership in 1935.

A year later, it signed with the  
Machinists again, and thereafter  
the company's books quickly  
turned from red to black. Now,  
according to the report, the com-  
pany is "convinced that collective  
bargaining is superior to an open  
shop policy for efficient, profitable  
and harmonious operation."

## KINCAID SUCCEEDS ENNA IN PORTLAND

Portland, Ore.—T. M. "Tom" Kincaid was recently elected to succeed Irving Enna as secretary-treasurer of Local 11, according to an announcement made by Arthur J. Gulley, president of the local union.



Kincaid

Kincaid was elected to serve the balance of Enna's unexpired term following the resignation of the latter to accept the position of executive secretary of the Portland Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Kincaid, who has been a member of the local for a number of years, was in the midst of his third successive term as an executive board member when elected secretary-treasurer.

He has long been interested in the unionization of office and clerical workers and welcomes the opportunity which his new position affords to be of service to them in their climb to better salaries and working conditions.

Employed by the Portland Gas and Coke Company for the past 25 years, Kincaid was given an unlimited leave of absence and continued full participation in employee benefits by the company. He is married and the father of two grown sons.

All local laborites, including officers of the Oregon State Federation of Labor and the Portland Central Labor Council, have pledged Kincaid their full support and cooperation in the fulfillment of his new duties. The ability with which Kincaid will handle his new duties has already become evident and the membership of Local 11 will benefit greatly as the result of his selection.

## UNANIMOUS

Oswego, N. Y.—Without a single dissenting vote, the office and clerical workers of the Ames Iron Works Division of the Pierce Butler Radiator Corp. and the Fitzgerald Iron Works all voted for a union shop provision in the recently conducted NLRB union shop election, according to A. Goewey, President of OEIU Local 125, which holds bargaining rights and agreements for these two groups.

The local union has also organized a substantial majority of the office force of the Taggart Bag Company, a subsidiary of the St. Regis Paper Company, and has requested that an NLRB election be held to establish its exclusive bargaining rights.

## RETROACTIVE BOOST

Boston, Mass.—The members of OEIU Local No. 6 employed at the Liquid Carbonic Co. have negotiated a \$5 a week general increase which is retroactive to November 1, 1947, according to AFL Organizer Aaron Velleman who handled the negotiations for the local union.

## Consumers Rooked Again As Retail Prices Advance

Washington.—Carried along by the continued business boom, the cost of living soared again in the period from mid-March to mid-April and made it more difficult for the average American worker to make ends meet.

Retail prices of goods and services purchased by moderate income families in large cities advanced 1.4 per cent on the average, more than offsetting the decline that occurred from January to March, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

The consumers' price index for April, 1948, reached an all-time high of 169.3 percent of the 1935-39 average; 8.4 percent higher than a year ago, 27 percent above June, 1946, and 71.7 percent above August, 1939. Retail prices of foods advanced 2.8 percent, while prices of other goods, rents and services averaged 0.5 percent higher over the month.

The increase of 2.8 percent in food prices brought the food index for large cities combined to 207.9 percent of the 1935-39 average, less than 1 percent below the mid-January, 1948, peak.

Food prices normally advanced about 0.5 percent from March to

April average increases of 6.6 percent in prices of fresh fruits and vegetables, 5.2 percent for meats and 2.3 percent for dairy products were mainly responsible for the rise in the food index. Prices of cereals and bakery products and coffee showed no change on the average. Canned and dried fruits and vegetables, fats and oils and sugar decreased fractionally.

Egg prices declined less than 1 percent despite seasonally liberal supplies. The price of butter, which usually declines at this time of year, increased 7.6 percent, more than offsetting fractional decreases in prices of milk and cheese.

Increases in the various cuts of meats ranged from 3 percent for bacon to 7.3 percent for leg of lamb; chicken was about 2 percent higher than in mid-March. Fresh fish and salt pork prices dropped.

Apparel prices rose 0.1 percent. Housefurnishings averaged that much lower.

## WAGES INCREASED BY RENEWAL PACT

Vancouver, Wash.—The recent renewal of the agreement between Local 68 and the Public Utility District of Clark County resulted in a 25 percent across-the-board increase for all members of the local employed by the PUD, according to C. C. Newell, business representative of the local. These members enjoy rates of pay ranging from \$168 to \$437 monthly under the renewed agreement.

Newell, who is also an OEIU Vice President, praised the good work of the committee assisting him on negotiations including President Guy Burch of the local, Tom Jones, Robert Davies and E. M. Rautio.

In addition to the salary increases won through negotiations, a retirement program participated in jointly by OEIU Local 68; Local 125, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; and the PUD will result in further benefits to members of the two unions.

The retirement plan calls for a deduction of 1½ percent from the earnings of all members of both unions with PUD making a corresponding contribution. The plan is to be administered by four trustees. Each union will select one trustee from its membership and the remaining two will represent the PUD.

## OEIU WINS

St. Louis, Mo.—OEIU Local No. 13 was victorious in a recent NLRB election ordered among the production clerical workers at the Busch-Sulzer Diesel Engine Division of the Nordberg Manufacturing Co., according to the local President Leonard Amrhein.

A union shop election also requested by the local was later won by a substantial vote.

The local is presently commencing negotiations for a collective bargaining contract covering this group.

## ELECTION WON AT SAVAGE ARMS CO.

Chicopee Falls, Mass.—By a vote of 98 to 6 the office and clerical workers of the Stevens Arms Division of Savage Arms Company voted for representation through OEIU Local 228 in a recent NLRB consent election, according to AFL-OEIU Representative Frank E. Morton, who assisted in the organization of this group.

The members of the new local are very enthusiastic and are presently giving thought to various items which they desire to propose in contract negotiations with the company.

The full support and cooperation of the AFL federal labor union representing the production employes in this plant has been of great assistance, as has also the splendid efforts of AFL Organizer William Malone.

## Wins Bargaining Rights at Wards

Longview, Wash.—The winning of bargaining rights for local office employes of Montgomery Ward and Company by Local 231 has been announced by Victor W. Snyder, secretary-treasurer. In the same NLRB consent election, retail clerks and truck drivers employed by the company also voted for representation by their respective organizations. Working with Snyder on this project was Eva Shirah, president of Local 231.

According to Snyder, plans are moving ahead rapidly for preliminary meetings with company representatives on the negotiation of an agreement. Representatives of each of the three unions will participate in the negotiations.

Other organizing prospects are being eyed by the local according to Snyder and a full-scale organizing program will be mapped and aimed at a number of large local firms. Support from the balance of the AFL movement has been extended Local 231 and it is expected that much aid will be forthcoming in the planned activities of the new local union.

OEIU Vice President C. C. Newell and officers of Local 68, Vancouver, Washington, where a number of the present members of the new local union formerly held membership, are giving all possible assistance.

## Urges Oleo Tax Repeal

Washington.—Lewis G. Hines, national legislative representative for the American Federation of Labor, declared that if Congress really feels "true concern for the pocketbooks and health of millions of people in America," the repeal of the federal taxes on oleomargarine would be the best step it could take to demonstrate that feeling.

Hines said: "Laws such as the antimargarine act fetter free competition, impose a hardship on the low-income family, bolster inflation, and are no longer of significance even to the selfish monopoly-minded pressure group they were originally designed to protect."

## AMERICAN SMELTING WORKERS JOIN OEIU

Tacoma, Wash.—The office and related workers employed in the local operation of the American Smelting and Refining Company have all turned from the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers (CIO) in their desire for competent and straightforward union representation.

The more than 50 workers in the group led by Gustav W. Fischer and E. P. Titus have all joined OEIU Local 23 and it is anticipated that an NLRB election will soon be held to establish the exclusive bargaining rights of Local 23 for this group, according to International Vice President C. C. Newell, who has assisted the local union on this case.

Members of the group employed by American Smelting have expressed keen satisfaction over the strong anti-communist policy of the OEIU and the American Federation of Labor and are looking forward to active participation in Local 23.

## Simplifies Tax Refund Process

Washington.—In this year of 1948, you can claim refund of social security taxes deducted from wages over \$3,000 you earned in 1947, and you do not have to support your claim with affidavits from your employers — affidavits stating that they have paid these taxes to a Collector of Internal Revenue according to the Social Security Administration.

Adoption of a streamlined process for recovering excess social security taxes has long been advocated by persons who worked for more than one employer during the course of a calendar year and whose total wages exceeded \$3,000. Originally the worker had to back up his claim for the tax refund with a sworn statement from each employer declaring (1) that the tax had been withheld from the wages and (2) that the tax had been paid to a Collector of Internal Revenue. And it was up to the claimant to get these statements from his employers.

The 79th Congress amended the Internal Revenue Code relative to social security taxes and abolished the requirement for the affidavits, beginning with claims filed for refund of excess taxes on wages earned in 1947. In support of claims for excess social security taxes paid in the year 1947, you need only fill in two Internal Revenue forms (843 and SS 9A) which can be had from the office of any Collector of Internal Revenue.

All claims for refund must be filed within two years after the calendar year in which the wages were paid. That means that, during 1948, you can still claim refund of excess social security taxes which were deducted, by more than one employer, in excess of a total of \$3,000 during the year 1946 too.

But note this. The new streamlined process of claims filing starts with respect to wages earned in 1947. Claims for refund of excess taxes on wages earned in 1946 still

## Broader Social Security With Higher Benefits Urged

Washington.—In a special message to Congress, President Truman reiterated his former requests for a broadening of the nation's social security system with increased taxes to finance the changes.

Mr. Truman declared that the present period of high employment and earnings is an "opportune" time to improve the program by extending the law's coverage to some 20,000,000 more persons and increasing the present average of about \$25 a month paid to retired workers.

To assure an excess of income over outgo in the social insurance trust funds, Mr. Truman recommended:

1. That the ceiling on earnings taxed for social security purposes be raised from the present \$3,000 to \$4,800 a year.

2. That the date for increasing the tax rate from 1 percent to 1½ percent be moved forward from January 1, 1950, to January 1, 1949.

The net effect of raising the taxable earnings ceiling would be to increase the tax from \$30 to \$48 a year for persons earning \$4,800 and more. This would climb to \$72 when the 1½ percent rate becomes effective.

Urging adjustments in benefits to keep pace with rising living costs, the President proposed that women become eligible for old-age benefits at 60 instead of 65. He proposed that pensioners be permitted to earn up to \$40 a month in part-time employment, instead of \$15 as at present, without losing benefits.

Mr. Truman's other recommendations provide:

Unemployment insurance coverage for federal government workers and now-excluded employees of small firms. He said: "It seems absurd that the federal government does not provide to its employees the same protection that private em-

ployers are required to furnish to their employees."

More adequate unemployment insurance benefits, particularly for jobless persons with families to support. He said some states already have raised benefits and extended duration of payments to meet present conditions and all states should do so.

A new type of social security insurance providing protection against loss of earnings due to lasting disability of 6 months or more. In addition, the government would offer a strong financial inducement to all states to provide insurance for loss of income during temporary illness or disability.

Increased federal benefits to match "more fully" state aid for dependent children, the needy, aged and blind. Mr. Truman said federal grants should be related "more equitably to the financial resources and needs of each state."

## Utility Workers Vote Union Shop

Newark, N. J.—Office and clerical workers in the electric distribution division of the Public Service Electric & Gas Company gave an impressive affirmative vote of over 96% to the union shop in an election conducted by the National Labor Relations Board.

Included are clerical workers at Camden and Burlington (Southern Division); New Brunswick, Perth Amboy, Plainfield and Bound Brook (Central Division); and the Essex Division including Maplewood.

OEIU Locals 96, 91 and 104 are the exclusive bargaining representatives for these workers. AFL Organizer Samuel R. Isard assisted the locals in the election.

## One Family In Four To Live On Credit Or Savings In '48

Washington. — The devastating effect of inflation upon American families was highlighted in a report by the Federal Reserve Board showing that one out of every four families will overspend its income this year.

This conclusion was based on a board survey of consumer finances which figured that Americans plan to keep spending freely for new homes and goods—using their credit or savings if necessary.

The survey, a sampling undertaken annually by the board for the last three years, showed the "general financial status of consumers" is still strong, but that it developed in 1947 "the first signs of weakening." Among those signs are these significant items:

Those overspending income last year included large numbers in the \$3,000 - to - \$5,000 - a - year income class, whereas overspending in

require the employers' affidavits. Do not confuse this explanation with anything concerning income tax refunds; that's an entirely different matter. For further information ask the nearest Collector of Internal Revenue.

1946 was concentrated in the under-\$3,000 class.

There was a "particularly significant rise" in the number of overspenders with annual incomes running up to \$7,500.

Also, about 3 million more families or individuals completely cashed out their holdings of savings bonds.

Out of the 17 million persons buying furniture, refrigerators, radios, washing machines, ranges and other appliances, 9 million did so on the instalment plan—nearly twice the number who did so in 1946.

On the other hand, consumer incomes as a whole rose more than 10 percent last year.

"Almost 50 percent of all spending units (family groups or individuals) reported higher money incomes in 1947 than in 1946, but a considerable number felt that because of the higher cost of living they were worse off financially at the end of the year than at the beginning," the report said.

## ORGANIZE FOURTH OFFICE OF PAPER CO.

Georgetown, S. C.—The office workers employed by the Southern Kraft Division of the International Paper Company in this city have overwhelmingly signed up for membership in the OEIU and a local union charter has been applied for, according to International Union Vice President A. R. Carson, who is working with the group.

The organization of the Georgetown mill office will add another office to those presently covered under OEIU's master agreement with the Southern Kraft Division of this company, which presently covers the Mobile Paper plant and bag factory, the Panama City, Fla., mill, and the mill at Kreole, Miss.

## Yellow Cab Co. Pact Is Signed

San Francisco.—The office and clerical workers employed by the Yellow Cab Company have obtained substantial benefits under the terms of a recently negotiated collective bargaining agreement between OEIU Local 36 and the company, according to Secretary-Treasurer Eleanor D. Murphy of the local union who, together with Business Representative Ed. McCall, assisted this group with their negotiations.

Under the terms of the agreement wage increases ranging from \$17 to about \$40 per month have been obtained, effective April 1, with each employee receiving a cash payment of \$20 to cover the months of February and March.

The agreement provides for the 8-hour day, 5 consecutive day week, with time and one-half for all hours worked in excess of the daily or weekly hours. Employees are granted 8 holidays with full pay and double time for work performed on such days. Two weeks' vacation is provided for all employees with one or more years' service. The agreement also provides for 4 hours' reporting pay, two 15-minute rest periods per day and the continuation of past practice with regard to sick leave.

## State Workers Win Boost

Salem, Ore. — Efforts of the AFL's American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees met with success here when \$20 monthly cost-of-living bonuses were approved for all state employees.

The bonuses, which will be effective in June, will go to about 4,000 persons on the state's payroll.

## AFL Council Urges Federal Pay Hike

Milwaukee.—Backing up its stand taken at previous meetings, the AFL Executive Council called for immediate action by Congress to authorize an \$800 salary increase for U. S. postal workers and other federal employees.