

THE OFFICE WORKER

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

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17

ASK TAX RELIEF FOR MOTHERS

475 WIN RAISES AT CURTISS-WRIGHT

Paterson, N. J.—Pay raises, job protection and important fringe benefits have been won by 475 members of OEIU Local 279 in a first contract with the Curtiss-Wright Propeller Division.

A six-man union negotiating committee, assisted by OEIU Vice President L. G. Nygren, won 11 major gains after rejecting management's original offer.

The contract, signed this month after ratification by the membership, includes pay raises of at least \$2.40 a week for all employees, with additional raises resulting from upgrading of several job classifications.

Other gains include:

- Sick leave doubled, going up to four weeks after one year. Leave with pay for illness or death in the immediate family.

- A union shop.

- Eight paid holidays, regardless of the day of the week on which they fall.

- Interval between automatic raises cut from 13 and 17 weeks to 8 and 10 weeks.

- Union stewards allowed 30 hours a month on company time to adjust grievances.

- All night shift employees get a 10 per cent bonus and a 30-minute paid lunch period.

- Time-and-one-half for Saturdays as such; double time on Sundays.

- Equal distribution of overtime

- Improved retirement and health insurance plan.

Negotiations are now under way for nearly 200 additional office employees at the company's electronics division, OEIU Vice President Nygren, reports.

Francis X. O'Neill is president of OEIU Local 279, which includes Curtis-Wright office employees at both the propeller and electronics divisions of the company.

First Contract at Propeller Plant



A first contract covering office employees at the Curtiss-Wright Propeller Division is signed at Caldwell, N. J. Seated, l to r, Robert Ingram, Local 279; OEIU Vice President L. G. Nygren; Francis O'Neill, Local 279 president; F. R. O'Leary and J. M. Hetherton, company executives, and James McKnight and George Tierney, Local 279 officers. Local 279 members standing are Ernest Kimble, left, and Lawrence Morris, Jr., third from right.

The \$64 Question

Has Leopard Changed Spots?

New York, N. Y.—Has the leopard changed its spots or have they just been covered over by a coat of whitewash?

That is the big question in labor circles following the announcement that the CIO will welcome back the Distributive, Processing and Office Workers of America.

Buffalo Division Votes for OEIU

Buffalo, N. Y.—Still another group of Curtiss-Wright office workers has voted for OEIU representation.

OEIU Vice President George P. Firth reports that office employees of the Metal Processing Division at Buffalo gave OEIU Local 212 a decisive majority in an NLRB election this month.

Of 75 votes cast, 54 were for OEIU Local 212, 16 for the CIO Steel Workers, who represent plant production workers, and only five for no union.

Contract negotiations are scheduled to get under way in the very near future.

BACK ROBERTS BILL OEIU LOCALS URGED

OEIU members in the United States can help end a long-standing injustice to working mothers.

A bill is before Congress to exempt working mothers from paying federal income taxes on the portion of their salary that goes to pay for the care of their children while the mothers are at work. The bill, H. R. 2861, was introduced by Rep. Kenneth Roberts of Alabama and is to be considered by the House Ways and Means Committee.

OEIU President Paul R. Hutchings called upon union members in the United States to sponsor a letter-writing campaign in support of the Roberts bill.

Hutchings said:

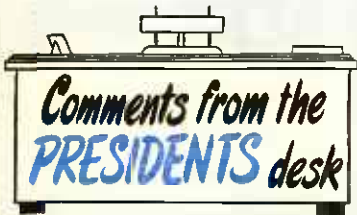
"Thousands of working mothers are members of the OEIU. Many more work in still-unorganized offices. Because working mothers have no organized lobby, the Roberts bill faces an uphill fight in Congress. Our union can render a real public service by championing this cause. Passage of the Roberts bill in the United States would also make it easier to bring similar tax relief to Canadian working mothers."

Copies of the Roberts Bill are being mailed to all OEIU locals in the United States, Hutchings stated.

Congressman Roberts said he welcomes the support of the OEIU. He pointed out that employers can deduct all expenses even remotely connected with their business, including "entertainment."

But a mother—even if she is the sole support of her children—can't deduct the cost of their care while she is at work. She may pay half of her salary for a maid to look after them. The maid pays income tax on the money. But the working mother also pays income tax on the same money.

Members who feel this is unjust are asked to turn to page 2 for the OEIU Blueprint for Action.



Our Convention

For many locals, sending a delegation to the OEIU Convention this June will present no serious problems. Convention issues will be discussed, elections will be held and the delegation will be on its way.

But there are other locals where the problems are much greater. When the local treasury is small and the distance to be traveled is great, it is a strong temptation to pass up the convention as a luxury.

The full participation of all locals in shaping the policy of the OEIU is no luxury. It is a bread and butter necessity if our union is to remain true to its democratic traditions.

In previous convention years, many small locals proved it could be done. They held dances and bazaars to raise money. They made it a matter of pride for the local to be represented at the OEIU convention.

Important issues have been decided by a very few votes. There is nothing wrong with that. Honest differences of opinion are a sign of health and vigor. What is important is that all opinions and all local unions be represented.

A local that passes up its right to a voice and vote in shaping the policies of the Office Employees International Union places itself in the same class as the citizen who fails to use his right to vote.

Both weaken our democracy.
See you in Cleveland.

P. R. H.

AFTER HOURS



"I know we're members of the same union, but can't you stop calling me 'Brother'?"

The Double Standard



"Don't be bitter, Mrs. Smith. I have a family also."

Working Mothers' Bill

OEIU Blueprint for Action

Success or failure of the OEIU campaign to end tax discrimination against U. S. working mothers depends on the willingness of individual members to write letters and ring doorbells.

The local union can start the ball rolling. A local can pass a resolution supporting the Roberts bill and see that the newspapers get the story. The local can send letters to their Congressmen and both Senators.

But the rest is up to the individual working mothers.

Here's a suggestion:

Set up a working mothers' committee, starting within the local and expanding it to include as many others as possible.

Their job will be to write letters and get other working mothers to write letters. Most effective is the personal letter to your Congressman, telling him in your own words of your economic problem and asking him to use all his influence to get the Roberts bill, H. R. 2861, reported out favorably by the House Ways and Means Committee.

Letters to newspapers will also help. But most important of all, personal letters to Congressmen.

If you belong to other organizations, try to interest them in the bill. It has received a lot of support. But it will take a big push to bring action.

At the last session of Congress, a similar bill never got to a vote because there was no pressure on Congressmen to act. Working mothers had no organization to present their case.

This year, it can be different. It's up to us.

25 Congressmen Hold Tax Power

OEIU members in 25 key Congressional districts have the best opportunity to help pass the Roberts bill providing tax relief for working mothers. These are the districts of members of the House Ways and Means Committee, which must approve the bill before Congress can act.

A letter to one of these Congressmen will be doubly effective.

The committee members, their Congressional districts and home towns are as follows:

- Republican—Daniel Reed, Chairman, 43 CD, Dunkirk, N. Y.; Thomas Jenkins, 10 CD, Ironton, Ohio; Richard Simpson, 18 CD, Huntingdon, Pa.; Robert Kean, 12 CD, Livingston, N. J.; Carl Curtis, 1 CD, Minden, Nebr.; Noah Mason, 15 CD, Oglesby, Ill.; Thomas Martin, 1 CD, Iowa City, Iowa; Hal Holmes, 4 CD, Ellensburg, Wash.; John W. Byrnes, 8 CD, Green Bay, Wis.; Angier Goodwin, 8 CD, Melrose, Mass.; Antoni Sadlak, at large, Conn.; Howard Baker, 2 CD, Huntsville, Tenn.; Thomas Curtis, 2 CD, Webster Groves, Mo.; Victor Knox, 11 CD, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.; James Utt, 28 CD, Santa Ana, Calif.

- Democrats—Jere Cooper, 8 CD, Dyersburg, Tenn.; John Dingell, 15 CD, Detroit, Mich.; Wilbur Mills, 2 CD, Kensett, Ark.; Noble Gregory, 1 CD, Mayfield, Ky.; A. Sidney Camp, 4 CD, Newnan, Ga.; Aime Forand, 1 CD, Cumberland, R. I.; Herman Eberharter, 28 CD, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Cecil King, 17 CD, Los Angeles, Calif.; Thomas O'Brien, 6 CD, Chicago, Ill.; Hale Boggs, 2 CD, New Orleans, La.

19 MILLION JOBS HELD BY WOMEN

Nineteen million women now hold jobs in the United States, the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor reported in its 1952 handbook. This represents an increase of 500,000 over the 1951 figure.

The increasing feminine role in the labor force is shown by the fact that one-third of all women 14 years of age and over are at work. They constitute 30 per cent of all working people.

Director Frieda Miller of the Women's Bureau said, "The revised facts and figures brought together in this handbook give impressive evidence of the growing importance of women's work in this country."

About half the female workers, the survey revealed, are in clerical work; one-fifth are in service occupations; and one-tenth are in professional or technical fields.

More than 600,000 women hold positions in state and Federal governments, including 3,000 who serve in U. S. embassies.

The study also showed that women workers earn about half as much as men. The median annual wage in 1950 averaged \$1,230 for women and \$2,659 for men.

Public Relations Man Named to OEIU Staff

A public relations specialist has been added to the OEIU staff, President Paul R. Hutchings announced.

He is David L. Perlman, recently on the staff of "The Machinist" newspaper. Brother Perlman has also been a reporter for Transradio Press Service, the Beaumont, Tex., Journal, and the Jennings, La., Daily News.

In addition to publicity coverage of the Cleveland convention, his work will include the development of a long-term public relations program for the OEIU.

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Wage rate GAINS

Wholesale Distributors—Westinghouse Electric Supply Co., Local 29, Oakland, Calif., \$15 to \$60 per month, average of \$30.

Rosenberg Brothers Dried Fruit & Nut Packing Co., Local 29, Oakland, Calif., \$20 month average.

Wholesale Grocers—Tanner and Daly, Inc., Local 10, Detroit, Mich., 10 cents per hour.

Utilities—Portland Gas & Coke Co., Local 11, Portland, Oreg., \$14 per month.

Service—Raytheon Employees Credit Union, Local 6, Boston, Mass., nine to 16 cents per hour, retroactive to Nov. 1.

Fraternal Order of Eagles, Local 9, Milwaukee, Wis., \$10 per month.

Retail—Flynn Furniture Store and Carter's Jewelry, both Local 68, Vancouver, Wash., 10 per cent increases.

Paper Mfg.—St. Regis Paper Company, Local 29, Oakland, Calif., \$35 per month average increase.

Ladies Hose—Berkshire Knitting Mills, Local 36, San Francisco, Calif., \$15 to \$23 per month increase.

Hardware—Saginaw Hardware, Local 10, 5 to 20 cent hourly raises.

Insurance—Health Insurance Plan of Greater New York, Local 153, New York City, \$2 per week for office, \$10 per week for salesmen.

Retail Fuel—Staples Coal Co. d/b/a City Fuel Co., Local 6, Boston, Mass., \$3.90 per week for salesmen unit.

24-Cent Hourly Raise In St. Louis Contract

St. Louis, Mo.—Office employees at the Frisco Transportation Company received increases averaging 24.5 cents an hour in their new OEIU contract.

Margaret J. Ritch, president of OEIU Local 13, reports that the minimum increase was 23 cents an hour, with some as high as 30 cents.

Other contract provisions include three days paid leave for a death in the immediate family, time-and-a-half for the first four hours on Saturday and double-time thereafter. Sick leave may be accumulated up to 30 days.

TAMIAMI TOURS

Tampa, Fla.—Tamiami Trail Tours Inc., with headquarters at Tampa, has agreed to include employees at Orlando, Bradenton and Fort Myers in its contract with Local 46, OEIU Vice President J. O. Bloodworth reports.

Visitors from Canada



The top officials of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, with which the Office Employees International Union is affiliated, stopped in at OEIU headquarters in Washington during their recent visit to the United States. L to r are C. G. Cushing, secretary-treasurer of the Congress; Percy R. Bengough, president of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, and OEIU President Paul R. Hutchings.

Victoria Island Office Union Votes to Affiliate with OEIU

A union of office employees on Victoria Island, B. C., has voted unanimously to affiliate with the OEIU. The union, whose 160 members work at the British Columbia Electric Company, has been issued a charter as OEIU Local 300.

A. S. Harris is the president of the union, which had been known as the Victoria Island branch of the British Columbia Office Employees' Association, affiliated with the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.

Harris, in a letter to OEIU President Paul Hutchings, had this to say about his group's decision to seek affiliation with the Office Employees International Union.

"Our organization feels that it is the only satisfactory action that any office employe group could take, and trust that we will be the start of a mass movement into the OEIU in the Province of British Columbia."

Members of the new local were warmly welcomed into the OEIU in letters from International President Hutchings and Secretary-Treasurer J. Howard Hicks.

British Columbia now has the oldest and newest OEIU locals in Canada. Local 15, at Vancouver, was the first Canadian local chartered by the Office Employees International Union.

Local 300 officers said their local will also affiliate with the OEIU's Northwest Council.

Utah Local Wins \$18.50 Pay Raise

Bingham Canyon, Utah—Pay raises of \$18.50 a month, part of which is retroactive to last July, were won for 100 clerical and technical employees of Kennecott Copper in a first contract negotiated by OEIU Local 286.

In addition to the pay increase, the contract includes standard OEIU seniority protection, grievance procedure and a job bidding system for all promotions.

Eight paid holidays, up to three weeks vacation and accumulation of sick leave to 90 days are other features of the agreement.

Equal distribution of overtime and a requirement that the company furnish lunch to employees who work more than two hours overtime are also included in the contract.

ONTARIO CONTRACT

Hamilton, Ont.—Employees of the Credit Union National Association at Hamilton, Ont., are working a 37½-hour week under their first OEIU contract, negotiated recently by Local 290. Other features include sick leave accumulative up to 65 days and eight paid holidays.

to the Ladies

Hamburger again?

It's a familiar complaint in households where a woman comes home after a full day at the office and has half an hour to prepare a full meal.

Sure, steaks don't take long. But how often can you afford steaks these days? And those fancy low-cost menus you see in newspapers often take a long time to prepare.

That is the problem of an OEIU member who asks OFFICE WORKER readers to send in interesting recipes for one-dish meals which can be prepared and put on the table within half an hour.

How about it? Send your recipe to: OFFICE WORKER, 625 Bond Building, Washington 5, D. C. And if you want a recipe for a particular dish, we'll be glad to print your request in this column.

Freezer Food Plan

A good freezer is a handy thing to have around—if you really need it and if you can afford it. Otherwise you may be letting yourself in for trouble.

Better Business Bureaus in many cities have been getting complaints about the heavily advertised freezer food plans, often sold by door-to-door salesmen. The buyer gets a freezer stocked with what is supposed to be a six-month supply of food and pays for both freezer and food on the installment plan. The sales argument is that the money you save on food bills will pay for the cost of your freezer.

It isn't so, consumer organizations report. In most cases, there is little or no saving on the actual food purchased. For example, a side of beef at 65 cents a pound will contain a few expensive cuts of steak. But it will also contain many more cheaper cuts which sell for considerably less at retail.

In addition, supplies which the salesman says will last six months often run out at the end of four months.

You are also paying a high interest rate for your installment purchase. Add that to the cost of the food before you convince yourself that you are getting a bargain.

As we said, a freezer is a nice thing to have. But make sure you really need one. A sales talk should sometimes be taken with a grain of salt.





"You have a grievance, Miss Bentwhistle?"

"Yes, sir. You said all your secretaries got married and left within six months, and here it is two years and I'm not even engaged yet."

She—Time separates the best of friends.

He—Quite true. Fourteen years ago, we were both 18. Now you are 23 and I am 32.

"I lent Jones \$10 yesterday. He told me he was stranded high and dry."

"That's strange. I lent him ten because he could hardly keep his head above water."

He—If you hadn't taken so long, we wouldn't have missed that bus.

She—Yeah, and if you hadn't hurried me, we wouldn't have had to wait so long for the next one.

When an accused man behind the Iron Curtain sees his "confession" for the first time, the usual reaction is: "Well, I'll be hanged."

Mrs. Bim: "Do you know I caught my husband flirting?"

Mrs. Sims "Well, of all things, that's the way I caught mine, too."

Girls, if men criticize your new new swim suit, don't try to laugh it off. You might!

A doctor received an urgent call from a concerned parent who said, "Doctor, my little boy just swallowed my fountain pen."

"I'll be right over. What are you doing in the meantime?"

"Using a pencil."

"Why do you call your boy friend Pilgrim?"

"Because every time he comes over, he makes a little progress."

At Atomic Energy Base

What a Big Difference a Union Makes!

HUNDREDS of office workers at the Hanford, Wash., atomic energy project know the difference a union contract can make. They found out the hard way.

Office employes of several construction companies operating at the Hanford installation were members of OEIU Local 100. Some months ago, the work handled by these companies was largely taken over by the Kaiser Engineering Company.

Most of the office employes then went to work for Kaiser. But they found conditions were a lot different at a company not covered by OEIU contract.

The non-union wage scales were as much as \$10 a week below the rates in their old OEIU contracts.

In addition, vacation time and sick leave

benefits were only half as good as the Local 100 contracts had provided.

You can guess what the next step was. The office employes who had worked under OEIU contracts went ahead and signed up the Kaiser Engineering office workers in Local 100. Recently, Local 100 won recognition as collective bargaining representative for the Kaiser office workers.

Now the fight is to bring Kaiser working conditions up to union standards and to continue the forward progress towards better conditions. As this issue of THE OFFICE WORKER went to press, the Local 100 members were determined to win their case.

After experiencing OEIU working conditions, they have no desire to move backwards.

Union Label Exhibit

An OEIU booth is one of the attractions of the AFL Union Label Industries Show, now being held in Minneapolis.

Business Representative Arthur J. Fritz heads the Local 12 committee which is staffing the OEIU booth at the Municipal Auditorium. The show opened on April 18 and runs through April 25.

OEIU members in the Minneapolis area are invited to attend.

Delegates to Cleveland Convention Can Expect Everything but Sleep

If any delegates average more than five hours sleep a night during the OEIU Convention, which opens at Cleveland June 22, it won't be the fault of the convention planners.

Between the business agenda being drawn up in Washington and the social agenda planned by Locals 17 and 49 at Cleveland, it will be a crowded week. That's the report from Edward C. Trausch, chairman of the convention arrangements committee.

A special attraction this year will be a pre-convention forum on contract negotiations, scheduled for 1 p. m. on Sunday, June 21.

S. Herbert Unterberger, OEIU research consultant, will lead the discussion which will be devoted to practical problems of negotiations and wording of contracts.

Special emphasis will be given to the study of health and welfare and pension programs.

Although the convention does not formally open until Monday, June 22, delegates are urged to make every effort to arrive in time for the pre-convention contract forum.

Locals are reminded that all resolutions to be considered at the Convention should reach the office of the International Secretary-Treasurer not later than 21 days before the convention opens.

Housing Project Named After Samuel Gompers

New York, N. Y.—A housing development here will be named after Samuel Gompers, founder and first president of the American Federation of Labor.

To be located on New York's lower East Side, the Samuel Gompers houses will replace nine acres of city slums. It is being developed with federal aid to house more than one thousand low income families.

The buildings will occupy less than 15 per cent of the project site, with the remaining space set aside for lawns, walks and park areas.

Company Too Late With Too Little

Aiken, S. C.—When OEIU Local 294 began signing up office and clerical employes of the Miller Electric Company at the Savannah River H-bomb project, management got worried.

The company started handing out \$2.50 a week raises and, for the first time, announced a vacation policy.

OEIU Vice President J. O. Bloodworth reports that the organizing committee of employes wrote the company that the raise was appreciated.

But, they pointed out, it was much too small and there are a lot of other grievances that have to be ironed out. This could all be taken care of in negotiations for a union contract, they said.

Bloodworth commented: "The company got there too late with too little."

