



# WHITE

# COLLAR

("The Office Worker"—Official Publication

of the Office Employees International Union)



# OEUU Wins Transit Vote

## New Organizer Appointed



Arthur Lewandowski has been appointed as a conference organizer for the North Central Organizational Conference.

Art Lewandowski is by no means a stranger to OEUU members in the North Central Organizational Conference area. He has been an organizer for Local 9 in Milwaukee, Wis., working with former Vice President Harold E. Beck.

We feel sure that because of the many connections Organizer Lewandowski has in the area and his record of organizational success in the past, he will prove of great help to OEUU local unions in the North Central Organizational Conference.

## Conferences

A Northern New York-New England Organizational Conference is being called for Saturday, April 3, 1954, at the DeWitt Hotel, Albany, N. Y.

A second meeting of the Eastern Organizational Conference is called for Saturday, April 24, at the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel in Philadelphia, Pa.

All local unions in the above-mentioned areas are urged to send delegates to these meetings.

## Rep. Roberts Victim of Shooting

Congressman Kenneth Roberts of Alabama, who introduced legislation to allow income tax deductions to working mothers for their child care expenses, was one of the unfortunate victims of the recent outburst by Puerto Rican national fanatics.

While the present tax bill does not in any way give Mr. Roberts credit for his hard-working efforts to enact this progressive legislation, members of the OEUU will remember Mr. Roberts for his bill on behalf of working mothers. An OEUU letter-writing campaign, in conjunction with the work of Congressman Roberts, has practically assured working mothers of tax credits in this session of Congress.

We are glad to report that Mr. Roberts is resting comfortably and is well on the mend. He is expected back in Congress shortly.

## Baltimore Transit Co. Employees Reject A Non-clerical Union



COUNTING THE BALLOTS AT BALTIMORE NLRB ELECTION Seated, l. to r.: W. E. Steward, OEUU Observer; Mrs. M. Hawkins, Company Observer; Joseph Ackers, B. of R. T. Observer. Standing: William Mosca, OEUU Organizer; W. F. Lester, B. of R. T. Rep.; William H. Green, V.P., Local 301, OEUU; Mr. Robert W. Knadler, NLRB.

By a vote of 111 to 7 the clerical employes of the Baltimore Transit Company who had previously been members of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, voted against that union and for collective bargaining by the Office Employees International Union.

These white collar workers, like so many others in similar instances, became convinced that they were the "tail on the kite" of a non-clerical union. Consequently, they sought representation by our union which is traditionally and by experience a specialist in serving white collar interests.

### Mosca Initiated Drive

William Mosca, Eastern Organizational Conference Organizer of the Office Employees International Union, initiated the campaign which led to the ultimate National Labor Relations Board election victory.

"Bill Mosca, in announcing the victory, gave full credit to officials of the Baltimore Federation of Labor and, in particular, to Sam Dryden, Secretary-Treasurer of the Amalgamated Street & Electric Railway Employees of America, Division 1300; Harry Cohen, President, Maryland State Federation of Labor; Larkin Birmingham, President, Baltimore Federation of Labor; Edward Johns, Secretary, Baltimore Federation of Labor; and Joseph Gillis, A. F. of L. Organizer.

Mosca stated that Sam Dryden was a tower of strength during the organizational campaign through that period of time when the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen attempted to delay and obstruct the election.

### Aided by Miss Reuwer

Miss Dorothy Reuwer, member of OEUU Local 22, was also a great help during the entire campaign. She prepared many stencils after her regular hours of work at home. She helped draft and prepare stencils calling meetings and at the meetings she addressed the employes of the Baltimore Transit Company and encouraged them to become members of the OEUU.

The employes of the Baltimore Transit Company are also to be commended for their determination to select a white collar union as their collective bargaining agent. They became convinced that the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen was a union representative of trainmen and not of clerical workers. They knew from experience that the usual white collar protective clauses were not contained in their

(Continued on page 2)

## Hicks Announces Expansion of Auditing Practice

Washington, D. C.—An expansion in the practice of inspecting local union records at frequent intervals has been announced by Secretary-Treasurer J. Howard Hicks of the International Union. The new policy is aimed toward helping local union secretary-treasurers maintain adequate records. In the future, all OEUU local

unions can expect more frequent scrutiny of their records with the view of implementing the activities of the trustees of the local union. In announcing the new program, Hicks pointed out that it resulted from favorable response received from local unions where such inspections had been made in the past.

## Craft Bargaining Units Established By Labor Board For First Time Since 1948

For the first time since 1948 the National Labor Relations Board has agreed to grant separate recognition in collective bargaining for (1) units of craft employes and (2) certain departmental units of employes who have traditionally had separate bargaining.

The rule on severance of craft units was stated by the Board as follows: "A craft group will be appropriate for severance purposes in cases where a true craft group is sought and where, in addition, the union seeking to represent it is one which traditionally represents that craft."

At the same time that the Board announced this new craft policy, it emphasized the fact that it will not be applied in four industries. These are the basic steel producing industry, the basis aluminum producing industry, the lumbering industry and the wet milling industry. These new rules were announced in a deci-

sion involving the Trona, Calif., plant of the American Potash and Chemical Corporation.

This decision does not mean that these craft units cannot be represented by unions representing overall units. The decision simply provides that craft employes will have an opportunity to decide in separate elections whether or not they want such separate representation.

The American Federation of Labor, which is predominantly a craft organization, will receive much impetus by virtue of this decision.

The Office Employees International Union will also be helped by this decision. In too many instances in the past, by virtue of a prior history of collective bargaining, the National Labor Relations Board has not allowed these employes to be severed from existing overall units. We believe, without a doubt, that this is the first really constructive decision made since the advent of the new national administration, in so far as the administration of the Labor-Management Act of 1947 is concerned.

## New Twist To Old Story

Seattle, Wash.—You have heard of the boss marrying his secretary, but have you ever heard of a local union president marrying the recording secretary of the same local?

It happened here recently when President Robert E. Ryan and Recording Secretary Betty Muenter of Local 8 became "Mr. and Mrs." Other officers of the local union had suspected something more than a mutual interest in the welfare of Local 8 between the two and were not surprised when the wedding announcements were issued.

## St. Regis Paper Contract Signed

Yvon Dansereau, special representative of the Office Employees International Union, announced the signing of a contract between OEUU Local 265 and the St. Regis Paper Company at Three Rivers, Quebec.

This new agreement covering OEUU members provides for a general increase of 3 per cent, with a minimum of \$8 per month in addition to individual adjustments which average \$5 per month. All of these increases are retroactive to August 15, 1953.

The workweek was reduced by one hour, with all overtime hours to be compensated for by the equivalent of time off. This is in accord with Canadian practice. Good Friday has been added as a paid holiday to the holidays already contained in the prior agreement. A contract term of two years is contained in the new agreement, with reopening on August 15, 1954, for a discussion of further salary adjustments and a job evaluation program.



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A woman had taken great pains to conceal the bottle of perfume she was trying to smuggle into this country from her vacation trip to France, and all seemed to be going well. The customs official had nearly finished searching her last suitcase and she was trying to look unconcerned when her little five-year-old daughter said excitedly:

"Oh-h-h, Mummy! He's getting warm, isn't he?"

★

"A daily bath will give you a beautiful figure," she coaxed her little daughter. Then, noticing the little girl's skeptical look, she questioned:

"Don't you believe me?"

"Yes," the little lady promptly answered, "Only, mother, have you taken a good look at a duck lately?"

★

The pretty school teacher was trying to tell her pupils about the advent of spring.

"As I stood on the station platform one sunny April morning waiting for my train I felt something lightly caressing my cheek. Can anyone tell me what it was?" she asked.

"The station-master's moustache?" suggested the small bad boy of the class.

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Jones, a good family man, had been inveigled into a poker game, and experienced growing apprehension as the hand of the clock moved relentlessly on toward morning. Finally, at 3 a. m. he had a sudden inspiration. He called his home and when finally the little woman answered the phone, he shouted in frenzied haste, "Don't pay the ransom; I'm back!"

★

A confirmed bachelor and an elderly spinster found themselves seated side by side at a concert. The selections were apparently unfamiliar to the man. But when Mendelssohn's "Wedding March" was played he pricked up his ears.

"That sounds familiar," he exclaimed. "I'm not very strong on classical pieces, but that is very good. What is it?"

The spinster cast down her eyes. "That," she replied demurely, "is the 'Maiden's Prayer.'"

★

Four card sharps got together on the train and a tense, hard-fought game ensued. Suddenly, the dealer tossed his cards down and said: "This game is crooked."

"What makes you think so?" queried the card sharp on his left.

"Because that guy isn't playing the same hand I dealt him."

★

Lady customer: "I see this medicine is advertised as good for man and beast."

Druggist: "Yes."

Customer: "Gimme a bottle. I believe it's the right combination to help my husband."

★

A young couple, arm in arm, walked into a jewelry store.

"How can I help you?" asked a clerk.

And the young man replied: "I want to buy a good \$10 diamond ring."

★

Artist: "In a few years people will look at this house and say, 'Cobalt, the painter, used to work here.'"

Landlady: "If you don't pay your rent by tonight, they will be able to say it tomorrow."

## Erie Organizational Conference Session



The Erie Organizational Conference held its second meeting at the Carter Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio, recently. The meeting was attended by Director of Organization Douglas, Vice Pres. Geo. Firth, Vice Pres. John Finnerty, Representatives Henderson and Polo of the OEIU as well as the officers and delegates to the Erie Conference. The delegates seemed very pleased with the progress made so far by the Conference and predict greater activity in the future.

## Pre-Election Rally At Baltimore



Secretary Ed Johns of the Baltimore Federation of Labor addressed the pre-election rally of the Baltimore Transit Workers explaining to them the operations of the A. F. of L. and urging them to vote for the OEIU.

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collective bargaining agreement. They knew too, that unless a change was made, their collective bargaining future was indeed bleak.

The Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen used every available tactic before the National Labor Rela-

tions Board to delay and obstruct our petition for certification before that body. During this period of delay Organizer Mosca and the committee of the employees involved, confident of victory, devoted much of the intervening time toward preparing collective bargaining proposals which will

now without delay be submitted to the Baltimore Transit Company.

This is a step forward for the Eastern Organizational Conference recently established at a meeting in the City of Philadelphia. This Conference embraces the eastern coast area from New York City to and including Washington, D. C.

## Gains Reported By N. Y. Local 153

Business Representative Ernest Ettliger of New York Local 153, announced the signing of a renewal agreement with the Union Health Center. This contract contains the following gains: a 37-hour, 5-day week; \$4.00 per week general increase retroactive to August 8, 1953, and a \$3.00 weekly increase to be added to the minima and maxima of the rate ranges for each classification.

Ettliger also reported on the signing of a new agreement with the Bruce Richards Corporation, a premium mail house in the same city. This contract provides for increases ranging from 5 to 10 cents per hour for the various classifications of covered employees. In addition, these increases, which are retroactive to January 1, 1954, also included a 4½ per cent welfare fund payment which provides life insurance, sickness and disability benefit payments, Blue Cross hospitalization for the member and family, and a surgical schedule for the member and family. The welfare fund payments are paid solely by the employer without any employee contribution whatsoever.

Brother Ettliger further reported that a 5-cent per hour increase was secured at Wells Fargo, and a \$3.40 per week increase was attained at the J. J. Newberry company in accordance with wage reopenings within the terms of the existing agreements.

## New Organizers



Eugene Dwyer has been appointed as a conference organizer for the Mid-Western Organizational Conference.

Mr. Dwyer has been active in the United Association of Plumbers and Steam Fitters. He formerly worked for the FBI and served on the National Wage Stabilization Board in Washington. He is a graduate of Georgetown University and attended National Law School.

At the present time Organizer Dwyer is operating from the office of OEIU Local 28 in Chicago. It is anticipated that with the assistance of Organizer Dwyer the membership in the Chicago area will increase rapidly.



President Coughlin announced the appointment of Carl Shugaar as a conference organizer for the Western Organizational Conference.

Mr. Shugaar has had many years experience as an organizer. He was employed by the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union, the CIO and by a non-affiliated airline union in Southern California. At the present time Mr. Shugaar will make his headquarters in San Francisco.

In announcing this appointment, President Coughlin expressed the opinion that Organizer Shugaar would be of great help in the speedy growth of our Western Organizational Conference.

## Three-Week Vacation, Other Improvements Won

Portland, Oreg.—Those members of Local 11 employed by retail grocery firms, recently won an additional week's vacation and salary increases in renewal of the agreement with their employers, Secretary-Treasurer James E. Beyer of the local union reported.

In addition to two weeks' vacation with pay after the first year of service, office workers in the industry are now assured of three weeks with pay after fifteen years' service. A sizable number of Local 11 members employed in the industry are affected by this improvement which was hailed as a major achievement on the part of their local union.

In renewal of the same agreement, wage increases of 6½ cents an hour were negotiated for the vast majority of the members affected. Pay increases of slightly less were negotiated for the remainder.

## Archdiocese Agreement Renewed

Beyer also reported a 10 per cent salary increase for members of the local union employed by the Archdiocese of Oregon as a result of agreement renewal negotiations.

An across-the-board increase of 8½ cents per hour was recently gained in renewal of the agreement between the local union and the Asbury Transportation Company, a motor freight carrier. It is expected that the gains won in renewal of this agreement will reflect favorably in later negotiations with the balance of the motor freight industry.

Renewal of the agreement between Local 11 and the Portland Gas and Coke Company is underway and Beyer indicated that he expects to report on substantial gains when this is concluded.

## Great Lakes Paper Agreement Signed

The negotiating committee of OEIU Local 81 in Fort William, Ontario, consisting of F. W. Revell, McLure R. Perry, V. Maloney, J. P. Flynn, and W. Storozuk, assisted by OEIU Canadian Representative A. F. MacArthur, announced the signing of an initial agreement with the Great Lakes Paper Company.

The committee reports that wage increases as high as \$55 a month were negotiated, along with a job evaluation and a merit rating plan to be worked out during the contract year.

## Retroactive Increase

The contract also includes a clause protecting privileges existing prior to the formation of the union. A 3 per cent increase, retroactive to May 1, 1953, plus certain individual adjustments from January 1, 1954, also resulted from these negotiations.

The new contract outlines an excellent plan for sick leave, statutory holidays and annual vacations with pay.

The members of Local 81 covered by this new contract have expressed their satisfaction and appreciation of the gains won through collective bargaining.

One of the members made the remark that "if we could just let non-union office employees know of the advantages to be gained through membership in the OEIU, there would be no question that all office employees would want to become members."

White Collar—THE OFFICE WORKER

Official Organ of  
OFFICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION  
Affiliated with the American Federation of Labor



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Machine Revolution

A RECENT Gallup Poll showed that 70 per cent of all office employes favor unions. This was a surprise to many who thought white collar workers were difficult to organize.

Increased mechanization of office operations may be one reason. Years ago the office workers were not seriously affected by the industrial revolution which turned all-around mechanical craftsmen into production line factory workers. But, now, elaborate high-speed electronic machines are causing the same kind of revolution in the life of white collar workers.

There will always be a place in smaller establishments for people "who can run the whole office." But in the larger offices expensive and elaborate machines operated by narrowly specialized operators are replacing the office worker with all-around skill and knowledge.

The results are both good and bad. Good—that much of the detailed drudgery is taken out of office work, and productivity is vastly increased. Bad—that this increased productivity is not reflected in the pay envelopes of the fewer number of employes required to turn out the same volume of work. In fact the specialized machine operator usually winds up getting less pay.

That is the same thing that happened long ago to manual workers. That is why factory workers became unionized. Mass production methods greatly increased the wealth-producing capacity of the nation but reduced the demand for all-around craftsmen and the pay their skill could demand.

For office workers the answer must be the same as for manual workers. The only way for white collar machine operators to get their fair share of the increased production is through union representation. That is why more and more office employes are joining the Office Employees International Union.

Tax Cut For Wealthy

LESS than one per cent of the people own 80 per cent of the common stock in this country. For this select group of citizens the President recommended and the House of Representatives voted a special tax cut of 850 million dollars. A proposal to reject this loophole and substitute a \$100 raise in income tax exemptions for every taxpayer was turned down by a vote of 210 to 204 on March 18. If the personal exemption had been raised, it would have put 2.3 billion dollars in additional consumer purchasing power in the hands of all the people.

The question voters should ask is why the Administration says it can't afford a cut of 2.4 billion dollars in income taxes for all the people when it is fighting tooth and nail to shove through the 850-million-dollar tax cut on dividends and an additional 1.8-billion-dollar cut in corporation taxes—or a total of 2.65 billion dollars. In the middle of a recession "the trickle down" theory of taxation is not only bad economics but may well be bad politics next November.

Lessons on Cake Eating

THE "Wall Street Journal" of March 19 carried the sad news in a front page story under the heading: "Corporate Earnings Flatten Out After Big Rise of Recent Years . . . the corporate profits boom of the early 1950's is leveling off." It is the old story that you can't have your cake and eat it too. Corporations can't have millions of unemployed and high profits too.

The giant investment banks of Wall Street and their big business associates were behind the Administration's "hard dollar" policy last year. They said business would be healthier with a pool of unemployed and sharper business competition. Evidently they thought they could cut back business and still rake in the profits. It didn't work.

New Organizer



J. E. Corum, who has been active in union business for the past several years, has been appointed as a conference organizer for the Pacific Northwestern Organizational Conference.

Mr. Corum is a graduate of Garfield High School and attended the University of Washington. He spent three years in the Seabees in the South Pacific during the Second World War. After the war, Corum became labor representative of the Seattle-King County Community Chest and Council, representing the A. F. of L., CIO, and independent unions.

The International Union is very happy in obtaining the services of J. E. Corum.

Additional Gains For S. F. Members

San Francisco, Calif.—Renewal of the agreement between the Ray Oil Burner Company and Local 36 was recently announced by Secretary-Treasurer H. L. Sander of the local union.

The new agreement provides a 10-cent an hour across-the-board increase for all members of the local union employed by the company retroactive to September 1, 1953. The three-year agreement contains a cost-of-living escalator clause providing for adjustment of

A Member Writes On LLPE

"DEAR PRESIDENT COUGHLIN:

"Recently I received notice to attend a meeting of Local 153 shop stewards, which had on its agenda discussion of Labor's League for Political Education.

"I had a general idea of the aims and purposes of LLPE. However, it wasn't until you addressed the meeting on the subject that I realized what a live and vital issue it really is. After the meeting I purchased a membership. But I felt this wasn't enough. I was planning a weekend visit to friends in Connecticut so I took a book from one of the Committee in service. I talked LLPE to whoever would listen. I sold memberships to friends, including a prominent local attorney and an advertising executive.

"I have since heard you speak again on LLPE at the last membership meeting of Local 153. Your reiteration of the arguments for this all-important issue, your success in conveying your personal deep belief in its long-reaching effects on the life of every worker, should result in an overwhelming desire to support LLPE on the part of workers throughout the land wherever you are able to reach them.

Sincerely and fraternally yours,

/S/ ELLA HOLDER,  
2325 Ryer Avenue,  
New York 58, N. Y."

212 Strike Ends In Recognition

A two-day strike of office employes of OEIU Local 212 against Everybody's Publishing Company, Inc., ended on March 18 with the signing of a memorandum of agreement in which the company agreed to recognize the union as the collective bargaining agent for all employes within our jurisdiction. The company and the union also agreed to begin contract negotiations not later than April 1.

The strike was authorized and began after the company continued to stall proceedings at the National Labor Relations Board. After numerous postponements the company began to discharge some of the union employes. The picket line was observed by all other A. F. of L. mechanical union members.

Everybody's Daily is a Polish and wage rates each September based on local cost-of-living statistics.

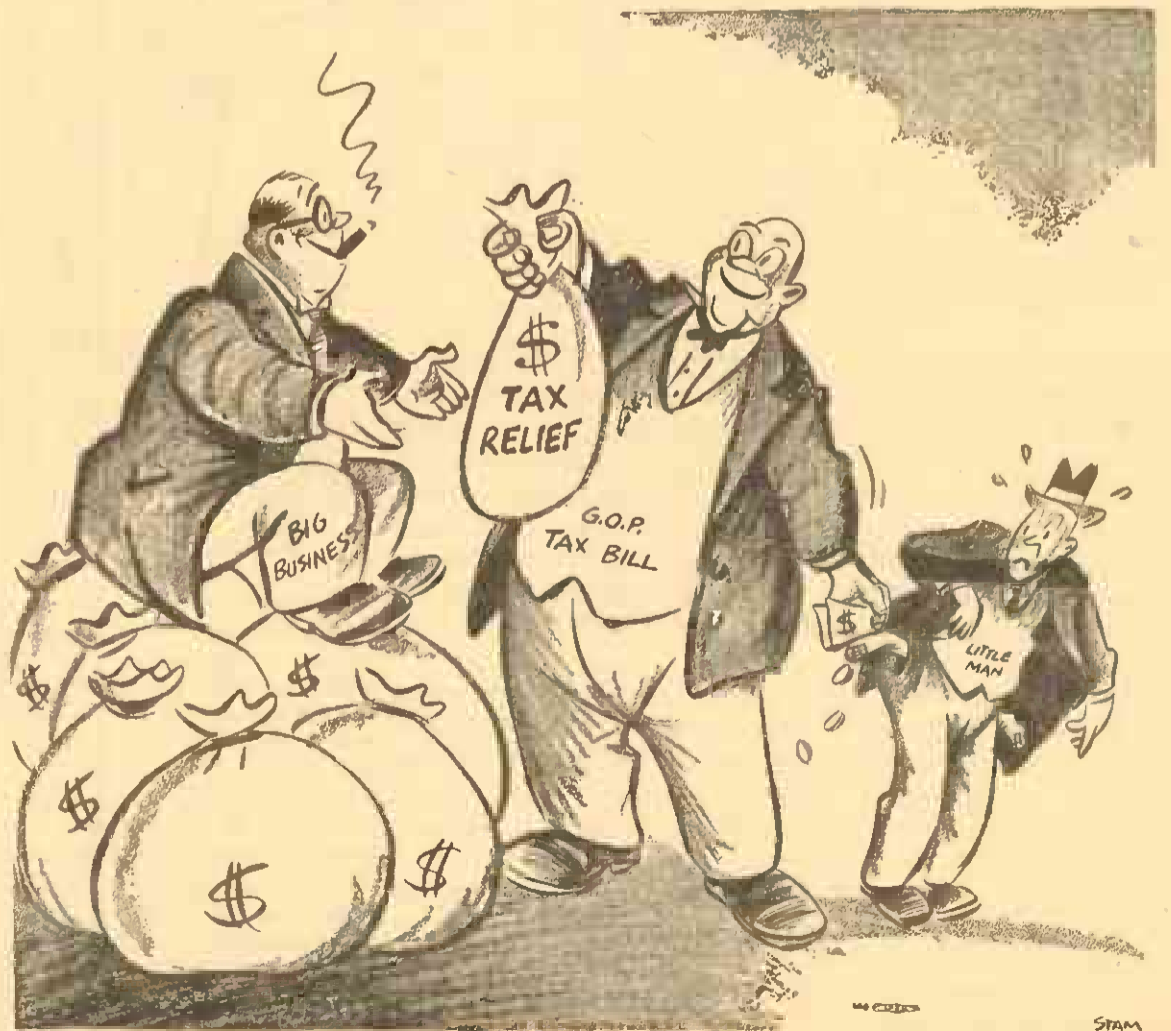
Members of the local union employed by Henry Budde Publications recently obtained their first union agreement through Local 36. In addition to gains won as a result of union representation, employes of the firm will divide \$1,170 in retroactive salary payments.



English language newspaper. By virtue of this strike the newspaper suspended publication for the first time in its 47-year history. In addition to its own suspension the strike caused the suspension of three other smaller newspapers which are printed by Everybody's Publishing Company.

Local Union Secretary-Treasurer Dick Coles and President Frank Roberts are to be commended on their forthright action on behalf of the 35 clerical employes of this company. We are grateful to the members of the other A. F. of L. unions who cooperated by refusing to cross our picket lines. This is only another example of what can be accomplished through true unity.

'New Look' Tax Policy?



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from the desk  
of the  
**PRESIDENT**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**HOWARD COUGHLIN**



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**American Potash Decision**

FOR the first time, the National Labor Relations Board has recognized separate bargaining for craft employees. In the NLRB rules dated March 2, 1954, the Board made a ruling in a case involving the American Potash and Chemical Corporation, which established new rules governing the granting of separate representation elections for (1) units of craft employees and (2) certain departmental units who have traditionally had separate bargaining.

Prior to this new policy, the National Labor Relations Board has consistently declared as appropriate only those collective bargaining units which were all-encompassing, regardless of the many specialized crafts which were contained therein. This decision for the first time, particularly since the advent of the new national administration, gives us some comfort and hope for the future.

Since this decision was announced and we had an opportunity to study its implications, we sought and obtained a meeting with Guy Farmer, Chairman of the National Labor Relations Board.

**Meeting with Guy Farmer**

On Thursday, March 18, Director of Organization Douglas, Attorney Joseph Finley of the firm of Woll, Glenn & Thatcher, and your President met with Guy Farmer, Chairman of the Board. We inquired as to the implications of that decision where office or clerical workers are involved. While Mr. Farmer made it clear to us that there are many factors concerned in each case brought before the Board which could influence the Board's thinking in directions other than craft units, he felt that the Board would sever clerical workers in each and every instance. He feels that it is the new Board policy to grant to clerical workers an opportunity to select a union of their own choosing whenever a choice of this type of unit or an all-worker unit is presented to the Board.

We presented our reasons to Mr. Farmer as to why we felt that plant clericals should also be severed. We explained that the place of employment, whether it be an office separate and apart from the plant or whether it be in the plant itself, is discretionary with management. In many cases plant clericals work in the production area because of lack of adequate working space.

We explained the lack of mutuality of interest between so-called plant clericals and production workers. We pointed out that promotional progression paths for plant clericals are the same for clericals who may be housed in a separate office in the same company.

We explained, too, that we believed plant clericals very seldom, if ever, took production jobs in the production plant. Further, that in the event of layoffs, plant clericals are treated the same as office clericals and under no circumstances are considered jointly with production workers for the purpose of bump-backs or transfers. We pointed out particularly what we felt was an unjust decision in the General Electric case.

**Compelling Arguments**

Mr. Farmer stated that in his opinion we presented compelling arguments in furtherance of our point of view. He said he was not sure whether or not this new policy would have an effect on severance of the plant clericals from production workers. However, he didn't discourage in any way our efforts to bring about a change of Board thinking in so far as plant clerical severance is concerned. He suggested that in the event of a case in the future involving plant clericals, we submit evidence along the lines of our conversation.

We had some further discussion with Mr. Farmer regarding the question of office worker severance where there had been a history of association-wide collective bargaining. We further discussed the possibility of localizing collection bargaining units as opposed to the Board's policy of setting up extensive geographical units covering in some cases two or more states.

All in all, we feel that the new Board policy will be a spur to office worker organization. Mr. Farmer was friendly, cooperative and attentive to our problems. We feel that this new craft severance decision is one of the really progressive decisions in the life of the N.L.R.B.

**Wages Boosted by Contract Renewals**

Oakland, Calif.—Negotiations recently concluded on renewal of existing agreements brought substantial pay increases and improvements in working conditions to a number of members of Local 29, reports John B. Kinnick, business representative of the local union.

Westinghouse Electric Supply Company members have gained wage increases averaging \$14 monthly, effective January 1, and improvement in pay for holidays falling on Saturday and sick leave allowances.

Wage increases of \$8.50 monthly, retroactive to January 1, were won in renewal of agreements with local appliance companies. Two additional days' sick leave with pay and full pay for holidays falling on an employee's day off were also gained for members in this industry.

Highlight of agreement renewals with local printing firms is provision for a three-week vacation after one year's employment. In addition, wage increases of \$7.50 monthly, retroactive to July 1, 1953, were won for members of the union.

Kinnick also announced that Local 29 had added Harold Stearn to its staff as an organizer. A native of Michigan, Stearn has in the past been associated with the AFL Leather and Novelty Workers' Union in Chicago and more recently with Retail Clerks' unions in Santa Monica and Oakland. Stearn's activities will augment those of Richard Groulx who has served the local union for several years as business representative and organizer.

**Barbara Bell Pattern No. 1416**



A basic dress does wonders to stretch a wardrobe. This handsome version is enhanced with a tiny turn-down collar, a large over-collar in crisp contrast, or scarves or ribbons to be added to the buttonhole style.

Pattern No. 1416 is in sizes 10, 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20. Size 12 requires 3¾ yards of 39-inch fabric.

For this pattern send 35 cents in coins, your name, address, pattern number and size wanted to Barbara Bell, Labor Press Associated, P. O. Box 99, Station G, New York 19, N. Y.

**YOUR "How to Buy" QUESTIONS ANSWERED**  
by Sidney Margolis

**Suit Prices Tumble**

You'll find new low prices on men's suits and other good buys in family clothing this spring. However, you'll get even more for your money if you postpone all but essential buying of clothes until after Easter when the big clothing sales offer sharp reductions.

But despite lower prices for clothing and some appliances, the cost of living is going up and will go up still further in the months immediately ahead. Storm signals are out showing higher food prices are on the way. The Dun & Bradstreet wholesale food index reached its highest level in three years in March and your family will feel the pinch of this rising trend early this summer.

Here are tips on buying opportunities in spring clothing needs:

**MEN'S SUITS:** Prices of some men's suits, especially the more expensive ones, have tumbled. Suits made of blends of worsted and Dacron are now available at \$55 compared to \$75 and \$80 last year. Worsteds suits in general are reasonable this year, so much so that the clothing trade expects prices will go up again when (or if) demand improves. Worsteds are the smooth-finish materials like serge, gabardine and worsted cheviot. They are especially desirable for men who wear a suit daily, for they wear harder than the softer woolen materials (tweed, covert, wool cheviot, etc.) and also hold their press better.

**Lower-Cost Woolen**

But a man who buys a suit for only occasional dress-up use, will do as well with a lower-cost woolen. In fact, you can get a rayon worsted with 15 per cent nylon content for under \$30 that will be wearable from mid-spring to fall. The nylon in the blend adds wear resistance but not crease resistance. So a man who wants a similar three-season suit for daily or frequent wear should consider the rayon-Dacron blend in approximately 50 per cent ratio. Dacron is probably the most shape-retaining and wear-resistant of the synthetic fibers, although it has its own disadvantages, which is why it is preferably bought in a blend with wool or rayon.

**WOMEN'S WEAR:** The price tags on women's wear are also more moderate now. We'd like to suggest the two-piece dress or suit in acetate, rayon or a blend with nylon as a good buy for spring into autumn use. A two-piecer is always more versatile than a one-piece dress for about the same cost. Shop the sportswear departments as well as dress departments for two-piecers, since the sportswear manufacturers sometimes produce these at lower prices than the dress manufacturers.

You can buy rayon or acetate two-piecers in attractively simple styles for as little as \$6-\$7 this year. If the garment is rayon or acetate, perhaps with only a little nylon, make sure it is labeled 'crease resistant,' because of rayon's tendency to wrinkle. Or a blend of close to 40-50 per cent nylon with rayon or acetate will produce a more wrinkle-resistant suit or dress.

One-piece nylon dresses and blends with acetate, or orlon-nylon and orlon-cotton blends, are now available for as little as \$10-\$12. But we want to tip you off to care-

fully examine the seams on dresses, blouses and skirts made with synthetic fibers like nylon and orlon. Because of their slippery nature, garments made of the synthetic fibers tend to yarn shifting and to slip, ravel or burst at the seams. So look for generous seams with over-cast edges, not merely pinked.

Don't be misled by all the sales claims for the easy washability of synthetics into thinking you can toss one of these garments into a washing machine. Many women have been thus misled, or have hung a synthetic in the sun to dry. They found the garment was damaged by such treatment. Certainly the synthetics wash and dry easily—but by mild laundering methods.

Also watch out for spun nylon goods, often used for accessories like gloves. Spun nylon tends to "pill"—form little fiber balls which become a weak point in the fabric. Articles made of smooth filament nylon are safer.

Gored skirts are generally a more economical choice than pleated—for children too—not only because pleats require extra material but because of the additional cleaning expense or home labor. If you want pleats, orlon garments may retain

their pleats through cleaning, but not always if the manufacturer has not properly pre-set the allegedly permanent pleats.

Crepe print dresses are a dubious choice for a woman who needs to get fairly long wear for her expenditure. Prints on crepe are hard to dryclean properly. Crepe tends to shrink in cleaning anyway, so the durable and expensive crepe dress is often unwearable while still new-looking. In general, flat weaves like chiffon wear well, don't soil as readily as crepe and are easy to clean.

Girls often like taffeta dresses but it is a tricky material that tends to harden in use and lose its strength.

April is the month when eggs are most abundant and cheapest. Use them in all possible ways at this time to replace meat as sandwich fillings, in salads and in combination with small amounts of meat for dinner dishes.

Beef remains best buy in meat, especially lower and medium grades suitable for braising, stewing or making into hamburger. Some cuts of veal are also comparatively reasonable, especially leg and rump, and shoulder roasts.

But with milk products in seasonal abundance, cottage and cheddar cheese are among the best of all values in protein foods, and prices of cheddar cheese will drop further because of heavy supplies and the forthcoming lower government support price on butter.