

# THE OFFICE WORKER

Official Organ of the International Council of Office Employees Unions of the A. F. of L.

Vol. 1, No. 3

WASHINGTON, D. C., MAY, 1943

## 3,800 Workers Gain Representation Under International Council Pact Largest Number Covered By Any Agreement Signed By Oakland.

Oakland, Calif., April 20.—Climaxing their 4-month-old campaign in a whirlwind of activity Local No. 20744 of this city today negotiated an agreement covering 3,800 office and clerical workers employed in the administrative offices of shipyards of the Permanente Metals Corp., Kaiser Co., Inc., and Kaiser Cargo, Inc., the former a Kaiser Co. operation. These companies are all located in nearby Richmond.

The campaign was undertaken by this local the middle of last January on the suggestion of President J. Howard Hicks of our International Council, who was here at that time. Hicks, officers of this local and the executive board of the local formulated plans for the conduct of this campaign. Two additional organizers were hired for the prosecution of the program and these were joined by Organizer John J. Sweeney from the San Francisco office of the American Federation of Labor.

This local has had an agreement covering the production office and clerical workers of these companies for the past 15 months. The subsequent organization of the balance of the office workers was a step to be expected in the face of gains made for the former group. Because of the previous fine agreement negotiated

with the companies, little opposition to organization was encountered in the campaign just concluded.

Entering today's negotiations with bargaining cards from 2,500 of the 3,800 workers, Local 20744 was readily recognized by company officials as the proper agency to represent all of these workers.

### Union Shop Gained

A union shop agreement was arrived at providing for union affiliation of all workers hired under the agreement. The agreement runs for the duration of the national emergency or for a period of 2 years "whichever is the longer," and continuously "thereafter from year to year."

Work in excess of 8 hours per day or 40 hours per week is compensated for at the rate of time and one-half the regular hourly rate. The length of the day shift is 8 hours, which is reduced to 7½ hours for the first night shift, with 8 hours pay being allowed plus a premium of 10 percent the last or graveyard night shift is a 7-hour working period with 8 hours pay being allowed, plus a 5 percent premium. Not less than 4 hours pay will be paid all employees reporting for work on instructions

(Continued on Page 2)

## Council Represented At State Meeting

Harrisburg, Pa., April 30.—At one of the best attended conventions in recent years of the Pennsylvania State Federation of Labor added recognition was tendered our International Council, which was represented by President J. Howard Hicks. State federation officers praised the fine start of the International Council during the few short months of its existence and assured us the complete support of their body.

The convention was marked as one of the most harmonious yet held with definite desire shown by all delegates for wholehearted cooperation and constructive action among all American Federation of Labor unions in the state.

Local No. 20959 of Pittsburgh was represented by Bert Monroe, Local No. 18049 of Philadelphia, by Edward P. Springman, and Local No. 22259 of Harrisburg by Hulda Coble and Warren A. Jones, Jr. Progress of these locals was discussed by their delegates on the closing day of the convention with President Hicks.

Probably the outstanding feature of this convention was the labor forum conducted by the Central Labor Union of Harrisburg at which regional officials of the War Labor Board, Office of Price Administration and Robert J. Watt, international representative of the American Federation of Labor, were principal participants.

The forum was also participated in by several hundred delegates from the convention who applauded loudly the blunt criticism leveled at the WLB and especially OPA by Brother Watt. Representatives of both agencies pointed out the various difficult problems with which their agencies are faced.

## Ordnance Plant Drive Planned

Minneapolis, Minn., April 30.—Plans were discussed today by International Council Vice President Lawrence G. Nygren, A. F. of L. Organizer William F. Wright, President Robert Olson and Secretary George Lawson of the Minnesota State Federation of Labor for the organization of office and clerical employees employed at the Twin Cities Ordnance Plant located at nearby New Brighton.

While plans for the launching of this campaign have not as yet been announced it is known that approximately 5000 office workers are involved.

A. F. of L. affiliates hold exclusive bargaining rights for all production and maintenance workers as a result of recent NLRB elections which is expected to bring the demand from those employed at our craft for similar representation and collective bargaining privileges.

## Green Reaffirms No-Strike Pledge

### AFL Chief Says Workers Will Serve Faithfully Until War Is Won

St. Louis.—In ringing tones, AFL President William Green reaffirmed labor's war-time no-strike commitment here as "an unconditional pledge, with no strings attached to it."

Addressing the convention of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, Mr. Green declared:

"Come what may, the 6,000,000 members of the AFL will live up to their word and give faithful and continuous service to the fight for freedom and democracy until this war is won."

At the same time, Mr. Green assailed the reactionary forces which are determined to deprive all of organized labor of its basic rights because of the transgressions of a small minority.

While the loyal members of the American Federation of Labor will not break their no-strike pledge, Mr. Green said, they are determined to

(Continued on Page 2)

## Portland Local Wins Increase

Portland, Oreg., April 14.—Announcement was made today by Irving Enna, secretary-treasurer of Local No. 16821, that the San Francisco regional office of the War Labor Board had awarded members of this local employed in the office of Pacific Fruit & Produce Co. wage increases of from \$2 to \$7 per week retroactive to last December 15.

The brief filed with WLB by Local No. 16821 stressed the fact that the company had never allowed wages equal to those paid by its competitors in this city and that as a result "inequities and inequalities existed in that the former scales paid the employees of the Pacific Fruit & Produce Co. were not on a par with the scales paid to employees of other wholesale firms in the same area for the same type of work.

This company has outlets in principal cities west of the Mississippi River and is connected with midwestern and eastern companies in the same business. It is believed that office and clerical workers in the employ of the company in any locality would welcome unionization should they not be presently organized. The labor history of the company in Portland during the past five years has been one filled with strikes by office employees, wholesale salesmen, warehousemen and teamsters' unions, with each giving wholehearted support to the others.

"Our victory in this case demonstrates only too clearly that collective action through their proper union is the only weapon at the disposal of all workers to gain redress against low, substandard wages and poor working conditions," Enna is reported to have stated upon learning of the decision of WLB.

## Brown & Sharpe Drive Mapped

Providence, R. I., April 23.—Plans were mapped today by officers of our International Council and representatives of Machinists Union No. 1142, for the organization of office and clerical employees of Brown & Sharpe Co., manufacturers of machine tools.

The campaign is to be launched immediately by A. F. of L. organizers from the office of Regional Director John J. Murphy in Boston, with the invaluable assistance of the members and officers of Machinists Lodge No. 1142.

Organization of the approximately 1,000 office and clerical workers of this company will greatly accelerate the movement of our craft in this city and will prove a real boost for future activities in this field here as well as other sections of New England.

The International Association of Machinists have found the Brown & Sharpe Co. one of the most difficult employers to deal with in recent annals of labor history. The company has for many years employed a piecework system in the payment of wages to its employees. This has resulted in extremely low earnings and correspondingly low living conditions for its workers. This piecework system has been carried to the office where office and clerical workers are paid on the basis of their productivity, with standards and rates being set arbitrarily by the management.

Arden desire for organization has been shown among office workers as they have watched with interest the achievements of the plant workers in breaking the shackles which have for many years bound them to their machines and substandard living conditions.

## Milwaukee Hears Austrian Leader

Milwaukee, Wis., April 29.—Officers of Local No. 16456 of this city today announced that members of this local will have the opportunity and pleasure of hearing an address by Dr. Joseph Mire, who, for 14 years was connected with the Austria Chamber of Labor in Vienna. Dr. Mire will address the May 3 meeting of the local.

During his long years in Europe Dr. Mire witnessed the Nazi yoke of oppression fall upon the shoulders of workers on the continent, depriving them of the right of collective bargaining which they had previously enjoyed and placing them under virtual slave conditions. Dr. Mire was in England at the time of Dunkirk and will doubtless touch upon the splendid contribution organized British workers are making in the war against oppression.

Prior to coming to this country Dr. Mire taught in England at Ruskin College, Oxford, and is presently with the School for Workers on the campus of the University of Wisconsin.

The Austrian Chamber of Labor played a part, prior to the war, comparable to that of the National Labor Relations Board in this country.

THE OFFICE WORKER  
Official organ of the  
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF  
OFFICE EMPLOYEES UNIONS



J. HOWARD HICKS, *President*  
PAUL R. HUTCHINGS, *Sec.-Treas.*  
827 Fourteenth Street N.W.  
Washington, D. C.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY  
Entered in the Post Office at Washington, D. C.,  
as second-class mail matter.  
Subscription price, \$1 per year.

## We Are On The Move

Judging from the increased attention being given office and clerical workers by government officials and industry management it is clear that we are gaining further recognition of the increasingly important part we are playing in the economic and industrial welfare of our nation. Gone are the days when those of our craft were looked upon by other workers and by management as a necessary, yet indispensable, evil. Office and clerical workers are attaining, with equal rapidity, the strength and fortitude with which to push their problems to the front as have other craftsmen for past generations. We are learning from our "brothers in production" that through union there is strength—strength to wrest from management that part of profits which so rightfully belongs to us.

Wayne L. Morse, public member of the National War Labor Board, said in a recent address, "If the clerical employes of banks, insurance companies, war production plants, railways, hospitals, public utilities, and salaried employes of the federal and state governments were to be withdrawn suddenly and irreplaceably from their occupations, the disastrous effect upon our economy would be indisputable." We, as office and clerical workers, have realized this for long past—government and industry management are now beginning to acknowledge the correctness of our position—not because they desire to do so but because we are challenging them in our demands to be heard—challenging them through our trade unions over the length and breadth of the land.

Indirectly urging unorganized office and clerical workers to organize, Morse, also dean of the University of Oregon School of Law, had this to say: "It is true that this same salaried group usually suffers more than any other during the period of adjustment from a peacetime to a wartime economy. It is the salaried employes of the middle or low income brackets who are the last to receive an increased income. While they await this increase, living costs rise, purchasing power decreases, and, if inflation becomes severe, their savings are jeopardized. An unreasonable decline in the living conditions of this group will have an adverse effect upon the war effort whether it be direct or indirect."

The Washington (D. C.) Post, in making editorial comment on Morse's address, had this to say: "Unorganized, the white-collar worker lacks the bargaining power of workers belonging to trade unions. He is not in position to offer much resistance to salary cuts when times are bad or to

## Vacations Favored For War Workers

Washington, D. C.—Chairman Donald M. Nelson of the War Production Board gave his official blessing to vacations for war workers this year. He said:

"I believe that the granting of vacations to industrial workers this year will be helpful to war production. Experience has shown that the volume of production is increased if the workers can restore their energies through periods of physical and mental rest, change and relaxation. After a brief vacation a worker should be in better shape to contribute to the increased effort which our war program makes necessary.

Management and labor can and should plan the release of workers for vacations by working ahead in some departments, by arranging for staggered vacation schedules, by training substitutes and, where necessary, by working additional overtime. There must be no shutdown of any department of a war production plant if that would curtail production.

"Wartime vacations of course cannot be like peacetime vacations. The wartime vacation will probably be briefer than usual; it should involve little or no travel.

## AFL Forces Job Restoration

New Orleans, La., May 8.—Announcement was made today by George L. Googe, Regional Director of the American Federation of Labor that 11 office employes of Higgins Industries, Inc., of this city had been returned to their jobs with the company through the efforts of local AFL representatives.

These employes had been discharged from their positions early in April because of their alleged favorable attitude toward the organizational efforts of the AFL among office and clerical workers of the company. All employes received full payment for time lost and restoration of their previous positions without loss of seniority.

While it is rumored that the attitude of the management of the Higgins Co. is somewhat favorable toward collective bargaining with its employes, the original action in the discharge of these workers was that of subordinate supervisors.

As has been the case in similar instances, the discharge of these employes proved an added incentive for organization among fellow workers, rather than discouraging it.

push demands for salary increases when times are good."

Those of us who are members of local unions affiliated with the International Council of Office Employees Unions realize the necessity of collective action to improve and maintain decent living standards not only now but in the postwar period of economic readjustment. However, realizing this is not enough, we must push our organizing campaigns through our local unions and bring this message of security through organization to others of our craft, thereby helping them and adding to our present strength so we can better fight the economic battles ahead.

Let us all, individually, contribute in bringing this message of better living through collective bargaining to our fellow office and clerical workers.



WILLIAM GREEN

## Green Reaffirms No-Strike Pledge

(Continued from page 1)

press for economic policies which are vital to victory on the home front.

He insisted that the War Labor Board must retain the power to deal with wage inequities and that it must not be bound in the future by rigid and inflexible rules which cannot be successfully applied to practical problems of every-day life.

He also emphasized that the Government must take new and drastic steps to bring down the cost of food prices. "Once this is done," he said, "there will be less pressure for wage increases and it will be possible for the Government to 'hold the line' against inflation.

The convention of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks was the largest in the union's history. President George M. Harrison reported that in the four years since the organization's last convention in Toronto membership had increased 40 per cent to a new high of a quarter million. Twenty-five years ago the union had only 6,000 members.

Since the last convention, 81 more carriers and railroad-owned properties were brought under contract with the Brotherhood.

Gains in membership and financial resources "have shattered all previous records" and today the Brotherhood is "sound as a whip."

These and many other phenomenal advances were made known to the delegates in the officers' reports. Significantly, the documents also contain 30 pages of the most minute details of the organization's finances—convincing refutation of the slander by labor-haters that unions keep their finances a secret from members.

## NOTICE

Attention of all locals is called to Section 5, Article VI of the constitution of our International Council, which provides:

"To be entitled to representation in a convention, a local union must have been affiliated with this council at least sixty (60) days prior to the convention and have its tax paid for the same period."

Applications for affiliation must be in the hands of council officers not later than June 15 to insure all locals representation at the forthcoming convention planned for mid-August.

## Oakland Signs New Agreement

(Continued from Page 1)

from their immediate superiors. Vacations are allowed all workers on the basis of that allowed employes of the U. S. Maritime Commission, which in past years has been 2 weeks. Workers may waive their vacations, but receive pay for same, if they so desire, for the duration of the war. The companies agreed to steps in the settlement of grievances and complaints, first, with department heads, then, with the personnel department, and finally, by bringing the offices of the Bay Cities Metal Trades Council into the picture. In the event these steps fail the services of the Conciliation Bureau of the U. S. Department of Labor are to be invoked.

### Arbitration Provided

Both parties agreed that no lockouts or strikes will be tolerated at any time. In the event of a dispute, arbitration machinery is provided in the form of a committee composed of a company representative and a representative of the local metal trades council, who in turn will select a third, disinterested party. Should the company and union representatives be unable to agree on a third party, the senior district judge of the United States District Court shall select 5 additional arbiters to be considered by these 2 committee members. The findings of a majority of this committee of 3 shall be final and binding on both parties to the agreement.

The agreement, signed by representatives of the local and the president of our International Council as well as officers of the Bay Cities Metal Trades Council, provides wages probably in excess of those provided employes of any other similarly large company and will provide a mark for other locals of office employes affiliated with the International Council to strive for in the future. Upon approval by the U. S. Maritime Commission or the shipbuilding committee of the War Labor Board, the premium pay and increased hourly rates will become effective retroactively to May 3. At the conclusion of negotiations Frank F. Randall, business representative of Local No. 20744, in charge of defense plant agreements, stated: "It is believed that this is the largest single group of workers to be covered by an office employes union contract" and added, "it will be of tremendous value in stabilizing wages and working conditions for our craft in shipyards throughout the entire country."

### Congratulations Extended

President Hicks and Secretary-Treasurer Paul R. Hutchings of our International Council sent felicitations and commendation to Secretary-Treasurer Evelyn Tanzillo and other officers of Local No. 20744 for the splendid achievement in the negotiation of this agreement. Similar words of praise were sent Business Representative Carl F. Nelson of the local in charge of non-defense agreements for the part he played in the beginning of the campaign. Nelson is also a vice president of our International Council.

Keen interest was evidenced in the signing of this agreement by Local No. 16821 of Portland, Ore., which has been endeavoring for the past 3 months to negotiate a similar agreement with the Kaiser Co. in that city. Negotiations on this agreement have been withheld pending the outcome of the CIO endeavor in that city to invalidate American Federation of Labor union agreements with the company.



GEORGE MEANY

## Meany Urges Price Reductions

Washington, D. C., May 9.—On a nationwide radio broadcast today George Meany, secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Labor, called upon the government for quick action in bringing about a better balance between wages and cost of living and thereby eliminating "a most distressing problem." Within a few hours after Mr. Meany's broadcast Price Administrator Prentice Brown publicly admitted that food prices have never been under "effective enforcement."

Speaking of a recent survey of food prices made by the American Federation of Labor in many communities throughout the United States Mr. Meany, in his radio address earlier today, said "Our survey of food prices in these communities shows that, taking into consideration all the basic, staple articles of food which the American wage-earner needs for his table, the average increase of items listed ranges from a rise of 60.5 percent in Milwaukee to a rise of 108 percent in Cumberland, Md."

"In the city of St. Louis our survey covered 69 items, a full range of the things the worker must put on his table. Forty of these 69 food items have increased more than 50 percent, and the average increase of all 69 items is 87.4 percent. In Atlanta, with a total of 59 items of a similar character, we find that 37 items have increased more than 50 percent. The average increase for all 49 items in Atlanta is 75 percent," said Mr. Meany in referring to specific instances of the country-wide increase in living costs.

Referring to the Little Steel formula allowing but 15 percent increase in wages from the level of January 1, 1941, Mr. Meany said, "The common people of this nation don't want food prices held at their present fantastic levels. . . . We want them rolled back to the levels of May 1942. Under the President's orders to the War Labor Board, the maximum wage increases which any worker can receive is that established by the Little Steel formula, adopted one year ago. This formula is based on the assumption that wages and living costs were in balance on January 1, 1941, and that between January 1, 1941, and May 15, 1942, there was a rise in the cost of

(Continued on page 4)

## D. C. Local Aids Labor Rally

Washington, D. C., May 1.—A demonstration of the strength of A. F. of L. unions in Washington will be given on May 21 in Constitution Hall when a "Labor for Victory" rally will be staged under the auspices of the local Central Labor Union. A splendid program is being planned which will include talks by President William Green of the A. F. of L. and Assistant Secretary of War Robert Patterson, the presence of war heroes, color guards of the various branches of the armed forces, prominent stars of the theatrical profession, and an All-Union Glee Club of 40 voices. The addresses by President Green and Assistant Secretary Patterson will be broadcast by the NBC at 10:30 p.m. E.W.T.

The purpose of the rally is to evidence to friends and anti-labor forces alike the solidarity of the A. F. of L. membership in the nation's capital, as well as its unrelenting will to work for final victory. It is expected that the membership of Office Employees Union No. 11773 of this city will be out in full strength for this splendid rally.

### Hutchings Urges Attendance

Secretary-Treasurer Paul R Hutchings of our International Council, and past president of Local No. 11773, said: "I sincerely hope that all members of Office Employees Union No. 11773 will make definite plans to attend the big A. F. of L. Labor for Victory rally on May 21. Let's show official Washington and the country at large that organized office workers form an important part of the labor movement of this city. We have a marvelous opportunity to demonstrate through our attendance at the Victory rally that we join with our brother and sister members from the various other crafts and trades in standing firmly behind our leaders and our pledge for 'all out' production to speed the day of victory."

"It is the sacred duty of each of us not only to work ceaselessly for victory but also to work ceaselessly to preserve our rights to collective bargaining through our union and the American Federation of Labor. Our members in the armed services of our country are counting on us to fight tirelessly all attempts to destroy our trade union movement. Let's show everyone that we are 'on the job.'"

The Glee Club is being promoted by Sister Margaret Schroebel, of Local 11773, who is a delegate to the Central Labor Union. The program of music by this group is under the supervision and direction of President Paul Schwarz and Secretary Alfred Manning of Musicians' Local No. 161. The local Musicians' Union will also provide a large orchestra for this occasion.

Guests of the Central Labor Union will include the membership of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, as well as cabinet officials, and many members of Congress.

WHAT'S HE WAITING FOR?



## Film Exchange Local Affiliates

New York, N. Y., April 27.—Local No. 23169, composed of office and clerical workers employed in film distributing houses in Greater New York City, today affiliated with our International Council. This local embraces virtually all New York film exchange office and clerical workers in its membership. During recent months the local has made great progress in winning wage increases and improved working conditions for its members.

It will be recalled by delegates to our Chicago convention last year that during our convention this local took strike action against Warner Bros. Pictures, Inc. This strike, of 10 days' duration, brought results in the form of a signed agreement benefiting all members. Wage increases of \$4 to \$8 per week were obtained, also a modified closed shop, severance pay, and recognition of seniority in promotions and layoffs. The local has recently obtained further upward wage adjustments of from \$2 to \$15 per week for 185 members, under that provision of the agreement giving the local the right to request adjustment of wage inequalities.

Prior to obtaining their local charter from the A. F. of L. these New

York film exchange workers attempted to function independently. It has only been since receiving their A. F. of L. charter, however, that they have made the substantial gains which they today enjoy.

Affiliation of Local No. 23169 will be of major interest to other affiliated locals who are interested in the organization of film exchange office and clerical workers in their localities.

## Organization Continues At Walsh-Kaiser Yards

Providence, R. I., April 23.—The remaining unorganized office and clerical workers of the Walsh-Kaiser Shipbuilding Corp. of this city are marching into the fold of the AFL and the International Council under the guidance of Organizer E. A. Raleigh of the American Federation of Labor.

Those being organized at this time can see the benefits of organization through the increased wages, shift premium pay, improved working conditions and means of handling grievances achieved by their organized fellow workers employed in the time-keeping and warehouse offices. Outstanding gains were made by the latter workers upon completion of unionization and negotiation of their present agreement and it is felt the administrative office workers can make comparable gains.

This company, until recently known as the Rheem Shipbuilding Corp., is today one of the interests of Henry F. Kaiser, famous Pacific Coast shipbuilder, and it is reported that because of this influence production in this shipyard has greatly increased and many of its previous cumbersome methods have been replaced by the faster methods used by Pacific Coast yards.

# Your Union Membership is a Symbol of Strength

Make this paper do extra duty.

Pass it on to a friend.

## Social Security Plan Favored

Washington, D. C.—“Congress must enact the President's new social security program now,” Robert J. Watt, International Representative of the American Federation of Labor, declared in a “Labor for Victory” broadcast, “especially the provisions for decent, adequate and uniform unemployment insurance to tide over those who will lose their jobs when the war ends and to carry over those discharged from the armed forces until they can find private employment.

“The government should invite leaders of industry and labor to sit down together to work out plans for a tremendously expanded postwar production program. There will be a huge market in America after the war for the things we can't buy now because production has ceased during the war. There will also be tremendous export markets to replenish the starved and shattered nations torn by war. It seems only common sense for us to make a planned and concerted effort to take advantage of these opportunities. That's what an immediate conference on postwar production with the government, private industry and organized labor participating could accomplish.

“Organized labor is ready to act. So are many of the forward-looking leaders of business, such as Eric Johnston, president of the United States Chamber of Commerce, and big industrialists, such as Henry Kaiser. The will to do is there, the opportunity to act is at hand, but perhaps a spark-plug is needed, an initial push to get the wheels rolling. I'd say it is up to the leaders of our government to provide that push and to do it now.”

## Bethlehem Steel Employees Organizing

Jersey City, N. J., May 7—Announcement was made today that office and clerical employes of Bethlehem Steel Shipbuilding Corp. at Hoboken, N. J., are making fast headway in the organization of their numbers employed in the local shipyard of this company.

The original movement for organization was led by a group of administrative office workers who realized that such action would not only benefit them personally but would also bring equal advantages to others of their fellow workers employed by this company. Low wages, overtime without proper pay and working conditions in need of correction were the prime factors in prompting the move.

An NLRB petition has been filed by Local No. 22244 of Jersey City asking bargaining rights for administrative office workers. The movement for organization is spreading rapidly throughout the production offices and it is felt that by the time the hearing is held on the original petition, bargaining rights can be claimed for all office and clerical workers employed in this yard of the company.

American Federation of Labor Organizer Charles J. Jennings, who is cooperating on the drive, expressed pleasure that the office workers of this company preferred organization under the AFL despite the fact that all other organized workers of the company are covered by agreements with the CIO.

## New York Office Workers Inaugurate Canteen For Servicemen



New York City, April 29.—Office Employees Local 23076 inaugurated a canteen for service men in the Capitol Hotel on April 2. This local, realizing that labor organizations can never do too much for the war effort and also taking into consideration the fact that organized office workers should participate in war activities as well as other organized trades, adopted the idea of a Service Men's Canteen at the March meeting of their war activities committee.

In conjunction with this activity, Local 23076 has unanimously gone on record pledging a day's pay to the New York Labor War Chest. The splendid action of the Soldiers Wel-

fare Committee in taking upon itself a drive for blood donors, scrap collection, service men's correspondence, as well as gifts to their own members in service is highly praiseworthy.

Sister Lavina Michl, chairman of the soldiers welfare committee, announced that these canteens will be held twice a month. She also thanked the local for subsidizing the first evening's entertainment and reported that the members of the Soldiers Welfare Committee will finance this undertaking in the future.

Since the inception of the service men's canteen, refreshments and entertainment were provided to approximately 500 service men.

## Oakland Launches New Campaign

Oakland, Calif., April 1.—Under the direction of Evelyn Tanzillo, its secretary-treasurer, Local No. 20744 today launched an organizing campaign calculated to bring the benefits of unionization to office and clerical workers employed by the Moore Dry Dock Co. of this city. This company employs approximately 900 such workers.

In response to the interest which employes of this company have shown, Local No. 20744 has commenced its present drive to bring these workers into membership and to assist them in obtaining the benefits of collective bargaining.

While some few employes of this company have been receiving shift premium pay, it is believed that this treatment was meted out by the management as a possible means of forestalling organization among these workers. Nevertheless, standard, industry wages, hours of employment, overtime and other conditions of employment are in store for the employes of the company at the conclusion of organization into Local No. 20744.

Experience gained in past successful endeavors will prove a big asset to field representatives of the local in this campaign.

## Price Reductions

(Continued from Page 3)

living amounting to 15 percent. But since May 1942 the cost of living has increased enormously. Wages, however, as they relate to the cost of living, are held at the May 1942 level. Therefore, we call upon the OPA, in simple and obvious justice to the American people, to roll prices back to May 1942."

Giving assurance to the farmers of the nation and to others employed in the handling of foodstuffs that the American Federation of Labor wants not just wage earners but everyone to be treated fairly, Mr. Meany said: "We do not want the farmer to suffer, we do not want any squeeze placed on the distributor or the retailer. We are asking for justice for the consumers of the nation and we believe equally in justice for everyone else."

Lashing out at the forces endeavoring to bring inflation to the United States, Mr. Meany stated: "We of labor favor economic stabilization. We know that all the people, and especially the working people, would suffer from inflation. Economic stabilization is necessary and desirable, but it must be applied with even-handed justice to both sides of the line."

Judging from the furor which it caused, Mr. Meany's speech augurs well for the cause of the working people and their fight against higher and "above ceiling" prices.

## Locals Affiliate With Metal Trades

Washington, D. C., April 27.—Further close collaboration between affiliates of our International Council and local metal trades councils affiliated with the Metal Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor is evidenced by the recent affiliation with the Bay Cities Metal Trades Council of the San Francisco Bay area by Locals No. 20744 of Oakland and 21320 of San Francisco.

Local No. 22222 of Tampa, Fla., which holds agreements covering office and clerical workers in defense industries in that city as well as the Tampa Shipbuilding Co., has had wholehearted support from the Tampa Metal Trades Council during its short affiliation. It is anticipated the experience of this local will prove typical of that of other International Council affiliates in the near future.

The affiliation of these locals with their metal trades councils is but another indication of the responsible position rapidly being gained by affiliates of our International Council from metal and building trades unions who recognize office and clerical workers as an increasingly important factor in dealings with employers employing members of their unions.

## Newark Local In Organizing Campaign

Newark, N. J., May 6.—Amid rumblings of dissatisfaction from office and clerical workers of the Crocker & Wheeler Electrical Manufacturing Co., because of their inadequate representation by an independent, company dominated, organization, Local No. 19846 of this city has been requested by leaders of this group to bring about an NLRB election so proper collective bargaining may be maintained with their employer.

With upwards of 400 members of our craft being employed by the company President Gertrude Lubin of Local No. 19846 announced today that immediate steps are to be taken to bring the advantages of free, unhampered representation to these workers. Interested employes of the company will cooperate in securing the necessary bargaining rights from fellow workers in behalf of the local and it is expected that shortly thereafter the National Labor Relations Board will be petitioned for an election which will result in subsequent affiliation with the American Federation of Labor and Local No. 19846.

## Baltimore Labor Official Speaks

Baltimore, Md., April 19. — The membership of Local No. 20048 gave enthusiastic applause to Vice President Max Orlowe of the Baltimore Federation of Labor at the conclusion of his address to their regular monthly meeting this evening. Brother Orlowe spoke on the necessity of this local increasing its organizational activities and pointed out various ways in which steps could be taken to accomplish such action.

Greater attendance at meetings of the local was also urged by Brother Orlowe as one of the best ways of building a solid, aggressive membership.

With the Baltimore Federation of Labor holding a bond rally later this month the local voted to devote a portion of its funds to this cause.