

# THE OFFICE WORKER

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

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## NEW SS SAMUEL GOMPERS PROPOSED

San Francisco, Calif., Apr. 1.—Action by the National Organization of Masters, Mates and Pilots of America, West Coast Local No. 90, may lead to a new Liberty ship being named in honor of Samuel Gompers, first president of the American Federation of Labor, according to Captain C. F. May, president of the local union.

The new vessel would be known as the SS Samuel Gompers II, thus supplementing the original vessel by this name which was launched on Labor Day 1942, but which was sunk by enemy action on its maiden voyage.

Following the action inaugurated by Local No. 90 the California State Federation of Labor and the San Francisco Central Labor Council have joined hands in urging the naming of another vessel in honor of the first president of the American Federation of Labor. Resolutions urging this action are now in the hands of President William Green of the AFL.

It is proposed that the new vessel be paid for through the purchase of war bonds by American Federation of Labor members and local unions.

It is reported that Emory S. Land, administrator of the War Shipping Administration, is in accord with the proposal and that it has been indicated that the ship could be launched from the ways of the Kaiser Co., Inc., at Richmond, Calif., on July 4.

Construction of the vessel at this shipyard would insure its construction by American Federation of Labor members, which would be another way of paying further homage to the first president of the federation.

## INTERNATIONAL UNION CHARTER PROGRESSES

Washington, D. C., Apr. 8.—A conference was held yesterday between President Green and the resident officers of the American Federation of Labor Executive Council and officers of our International Council.

The conference, which was called by President Green, was for the purpose of discussing jurisdictional lines preparatory to the issuance of an international union charter to our International Council.

It is anticipated that this matter will be the subject of consideration at the May meeting of the American Federation of Labor Executive Council, which is to be held in Philadelphia commencing May 1.

## SOUTHERN WORKERS ORGANIZE NEW LOCAL IN RECORD TIME

Charleston, S. C., Apr. 12.—Under the guidance of AFL Organizer J. B. Warren office and clerical workers employed by the Charleston Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Co. have virtually completed full unionization, according to International Council President J. Howard Hicks who is visiting this city at the request of leaders of the group.

Spurred into activity several weeks ago by the realization that they were not receiving wages and working conditions commensurate with those being accorded fellow workers of other trades who are members of AFL unions, this group of more than 500 workers today stands on the threshold of collective bargaining with their employer. On the basis of existing rates of pay in the shipbuilding industry in other areas, many workers in the group should gain

substantial wage increases as well as additional benefits which can be gained only through collective bargaining.

Marking the establishment of the first office employees union charter in this city leaders of the group, with the assistance of Organizer Warren, have applied for a local union charter from the American Federation of Labor. It is expected that the charter will be installed within the next few weeks following which affiliation with our International Council will be requested, according to those leading the campaign.

Strong indications have been given by W. M. Holcombe, temporary president of the group, that this new local union will not restrict itself to the shipbuilding industry but will rapidly branch out into other fields of industry in Charleston and vicinity, following satisfactory consummation of its agreement with the management of the Charleston Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Co.

Aided not only by local laborites but also armed with information and data as well as suggested contract provisions supplied by our International Council a committee will begin within the next few days to draft the proposed agreement which the union will submit to company management as a basis for negotiations. Of particular interest to leaders of the group are the wages and other provisions contained in existing agreements between local unions affiliated with our International Council and shipyards in the Gulf and Pacific Coast shipbuilding zones.

Although the determination and initiative displayed by these workers during their unionization program would indicate that a minimum of outside assistance will be needed their leaders have been advised that the fullest possible support of International Council representatives will be forthcoming.

The desire for unionization evidenced by these office workers as well as similar action of fellow workers in other sections of the Southland during recent years would indicate that collective bar-

(Continued on page 4)

## BELL BOMBER PLANT ORGANIZING

Atlanta, Ga., Apr. 21.—The several thousand office and clerical workers employed at the Bell Aircraft Corp. plant at nearby Marietta are rapidly evidencing their desires for organization and are signing membership application and authorization cards, according to reports received from Organizer George H. McGee, who is handling this drive.

The present campaign is under the general direction of Regional Director George L. Googe of the AFL, and cooperating in the drive are Grand Lodge Representatives Summers, Krunk and Chipman of the International Association of Machinists, the officers of Office Employees Union 19903 of this city, and an active organization commit-

tee of office and clerical workers from the plant.

At the present rate of progress, it is anticipated that within the immediate future a sufficient number of the office and clerical workers will have signed membership application or authorization cards so as to enable us to request and obtain exclusive collective bargaining rights for this group.

## FOUNDRY WORKERS SEEK RECOGNITION

Chattanooga, Tenn., Mar. 20.—Failing to gain recognition from the U. S. Pipe & Foundry Co. following unionization of the office workers employed by the company, E. Houston Fritts, International Council Vice President, has requested the U. S. Conciliation Service for assistance in establishing the right of Local 22990 to represent the workers involved.

Management representatives of the company have contended that several of the office and clerical

(Continued on page 4)

## LOCAL 23555 CERTIFIED AT YALE & TOWNE

Washington, D. C., Apr. 3.—The National Labor Relations Board today announced that it had certified Office Employees Union 23555 as the exclusive bargaining agency for all office and clerical employees of the Yale & Towne Manufacturing Co. at Stamford, Conn.

The NLRB certification was based upon the results of an election held on March 22, in which election more than 76 percent of all votes cast by this group favored representation through Local 23555, thus establishing its exclusive bargaining rights.

There are approximately 400 office and clerical workers in the certified bargaining unit.

## INGALLS SHIPYARD DRIVE PLANNED

Pascagoula, Miss., Apr. 17.—The office and clerical workers employed by the Ingalls Shipbuilding Co. in this city are showing interest in organization, according to reports received from Secretary Robert W. Bateman of the Pascagoula Metal Trades Council.

It is anticipated that the interest presently shown by these workers in the benefits to be derived from collective bargaining will result in the establishment of a substantial local union of office employees in this city in the near future.

## Says White-Collar Workers Are "Forgotten Men and Women"

Washington, D. C., Apr. 5.—Labeling as "incontrovertible" the testimony given by representatives of our International Council and other AFL "white-collar" spokesmen before the subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Education and Labor last January, Senator Elbert D. Thomas of Utah, a member of the committee, completely substantiates the position taken by the AFL representatives at that time in an article appearing in the May issue of The American Magazine.

Admittedly impressed by the testimony to which he listened during the hearing Senator Thomas states in his article "20,000,000 Americans and their dependents are living as best they can on incomes that have not risen appreciably since Pearl Harbor." Referring to this huge section of the citizenry of

our nation as "forgotten men and women" the Senator points out in unmistakable language that the only practical solution to the economic problems of this group lies in their turning to their proper trade unions.

Counseling his fellow Congressmen that "we must keep the cost of living from rising any higher. If possible, we must reduce it," Senator Thomas adds further credence to the position of American Federation of Labor spokesmen who have long argued that the government's stabilization program is not working out as planned because of the stringent control on wages and the less effective stabilization of prices with the former.

(Editor's Note.—For further comment on Senator Thomas' article see editorial on page 2.)

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



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## An Informed Senator Speaks His Mind

From the pens of many writers and from the tongues of probably an equal number of commentators much has been written and said during recent months regarding the economic and employment plight of millions of "white collar" workers in this country. Possibly no expression on this subject from one outside the realm of the trade union movement has been made with the authoritativeness and understanding of Senator Elbert D. Thomas of Utah, who, in an article appearing in the May issue of *The American Magazine* refers to workers of our trade as "forgotten men and women . . . mostly because they are unorganized."

With these few words Senator Thomas, an ardent supporter and champion of the welfare of the working people of our nation, places his finger firmly and squarely upon the solution to the economic and employment problems confronting tens of thousands of office and clerical workers. The Senator from Utah tells the unorganized workers of our trade in these words what many responsible and intelligent men and women in all walks of life have tried to convey to office workers in the past.

In comparing the organized office worker with the unorganized worker of the same trade Senator Thomas makes the following observation regarding the latter, "No experienced negotiators plead their case. Their 'collective bargaining' usually is a brief session in which the employe stands before his employers desk and, shaking in his shoes, asks for a raise which he doesn't get. He enjoys his work, likes his associates, has been on the job for years, is in a groove, and he stays on the job. They're fine, upstanding patriots and are being kicked around, forced to make more than their share of sacrifices for the war effort, mostly because they are unorganized."

"When you drive these workers

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD

Washington, D. C., Apr. 8.—The full Executive Board of our International Council today concluded a 3-day meeting in this city. Among the matters considered by the Executive Board were the various questions surrounding the issuance of an international union charter to our Council.

Other matters also received the board's attention, including the dates and details of our 1944 convention scheduled to be held in St. Louis this August.

In view of the present-day problems in obtaining adequate hotel accommodations, the board authorized Council President J. Howard Hicks and Secretary-Treasurer Paul R. Hutchings to fix the convention dates during the month of August after the officers had had an opportunity to thoroughly check on available accommodations for our St. Louis convention.

into a bare existence living you retard the development of music, of literature, of the arts; you stop the progress of education; you block the development of better homes and of the decent living of which the United States has been so proud."

"You can't have schools, churches, hospitals, or federal, state or municipal government; you can't operate stores, offices, hotels, or restaurants; or publish magazines, newspapers, or books; you can't get your mail delivered or your checks cashed at the bank, or make a long-distance call on the telephone," said Senator Thomas in pointing out the importance of "white collar" workers to the livelihood of the nation.

"How much could be accomplished by executives of great banks, insurance companies, and industries if even one fourth of their white collar assistants decided to don overalls and go to work in war plants?" asked the Senator with added emphasis.

"Our white collar workers are taking more than their share of punishment. Those in this class who are in the better-income brackets have tightened their belts, set their teeth, and probably will manage to get the necessities of life throughout the war. But in most areas now a white-collar family cannot exist upon much less than \$50 a week, an independent business girl needs \$30 a week, and millions of these low-salaried workers and their dependents will suffer dire poverty if the cost of living continues to rise."

We believe Senator Thomas has very aptly answered the many questions raised by unorganized office and clerical workers who are today caught in the vicious whirlpool of increasing living costs and who are being pushed further into its grasp by continued low incomes.

We cannot force these workers into union membership but we can, and are, showing them the solution to their present and postwar economic problems. We are prepared through competent leadership and experience to lead them from the darkened realm of "the forgotten man and woman" to the doorway of united, collective action from which they can behold a brighter and more promising future.

## ST. LOUIS CONVENTION PLANS MAPPED

St. Louis, Apr. 15.—A. L. Rex, president of Local No. 17707 of this city, announced today that he had received word that International Council President J. Howard Hicks would be in St. Louis April 24-26, inclusive, for the purpose of mapping plans for the 1944 convention of the International Council.

## WLB CHAIRMAN GIVES ADVICE

Detroit, Mar. 13.—Asserting that he favored a minimum of governmental interference in the problems of labor relations, Chairman Davis of the War Labor Board said today that he believes management and labor advantageously could begin now a careful study of the scope of collective bargaining in its non-wage aspects.

Addressing a meeting of the Economic Club of Detroit, he said:

"There is no doubt in my mind that one of the greatest impediments to collective bargaining between management and workers is fear in the minds and hearts of both sides."

Mr. Davis offered general suggestions to help "speed victory in the war at the same time build up sound industrial relations for the postwar period." He summarized them as follows:

"1. Live up to your contracts and make them work.

"2. Install arbitration as the final stage in your contract's grievance procedure.

"3. If you already have grievance machinery be sure you utilize it in all disputes.

"4. If your contract is about to terminate, extend it until you have negotiated a new one or until the regional board has rendered its decision.

"5. Employers should not cause dissension in their plants by challenging the right of a duly certified union to represent their employes in collective bargaining."

The convention, which will be held in August, has been receiving the attention of officers and members of the local union for the past several months and final plans have awaited the arrival of an International Council representative. While it is hoped that the convention can be held early in August final determination of specific dates will be dependent to a large degree upon the availability of suitable hotel accommodations.

Local No. 17707 has expressed keen pleasure that the 1944 convention will be held in its city and officers of the union have indicated that delegates attending the conclave will find ample facilities at their command.

Cooperating with officers of the local union in mapping plans for the convention have been AFL Organizers E. P. Theiss and Mary E. Ryder and Secretary-Treasurer John I. Rollings of the St. Louis Trades and Labor Union.

## VINSON UNBOUND BY LITTLE STEEL

Washington, D. C.—Fred M. Vinson, director of economic stabilization, has received much publicity in recent months as a staunch defender of the 15 percent Little Steel formula when it applies to working people.

It will be remembered that Director Vinson is the man with the power to veto wage awards of the National War Labor Board. He has exercised that power, also, has issued a freeze order for farm workers.

But, for himself, personally—Vinson has received a 25 percent salary boost, plus a "cost of living bonus" amounting to \$628 voted by Congress for federal employes.

This information comes from Comptroller General Lindsay Warren, who reports that Vinson's salary was upped from \$12,000 to \$15,000, making the grand total \$15,628, including the "bonus."

## Women's Bureau Drafts Protective Clauses For Women

Washington, D. C., Apr. 17.—The Women's Bureau of the U. S. Department of Labor has prepared six protective clauses which it recommends for inclusion in collective bargaining contracts for the protection of women workers. These clauses generally are designed to guard against discrimination against women workers with regard to wage rates and seniority, and to provide for proper rest periods, lunch periods, and to provide for maternity leaves of absence.

In connection with these suggested clauses Miss Mary Anderson, director of the Women's Bureau, stated:

"While national unions have endorsed the principle of equal pay for equal work with regard to their women members, we found that these unions do not make many contracts. Far more contracts are made by local unions. It was, therefore, necessary for us to contact these unions and work out with them the clauses that ought to be

inserted into the union contract to safeguard women's interests."

Miss Anderson also stated that in the course of the long survey made by her bureau on this subject, it was learned that women are joining unions in greater numbers and taking a more active part in them. In some unions, she stated, women had also found it necessary to shoulder official responsibility.

She added that "in some locals the women membership is as high as 80 to 90 percent. Almost one-third of the working population are now in unions and women are now more active in them than at the beginning of the war."

The six suggested standards for inclusion in union contracts as recommended by the Women's Bureau and which were worked out in cooperation with union representatives, are available upon request from the Women's Bureau of the U. S. Department of Labor at Washington, D. C., or from International Council headquarters.

## WORKERS' SCHOOL TO CONVENE

Madison, Wis., Apr. 2.—Observing its 20th anniversary the University of Wisconsin's School for Workers is scheduled to convene June 26. Classes are to be spread over an 8-week period and will terminate August 19, according to announcement made today by E. E. Schwartztrauber, director.

The School for Workers as sponsored by the university is recognized as one of the leading institutes of its kind in the nation. A large number of labor leaders have in past years attended its sessions and many have returned for additional study in later years. Officers of local unions affiliated with our International Council have attended the school and it is anticipated that additional numbers may be present at the approaching convocation.

Supplementing the general 2-week study period from July 9-22 will be additional courses of vital interest to workers and union leaders interested in industrial relations as applied to church leadership and another course devoted to the problems of union business representatives and organizers. The general 2-week course, which has proven most popular, will be devoted to a study of a wide range of subjects of vital interest to all workers and trade union officers.

Special 2-week schools are being sponsored by the American Federation of Teachers, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees of the AFL. These international unions are conducting such special classes as a means of bringing together members and officers of their affiliated local unions for study and discussion of their particular craft problems.

## WLB WILL NOT SETTLE INDIVIDUAL GRIEVANCES

Washington, D. C., Apr. 3.—The National War Labor Board today announced that it does not propose to settle individual grievance cases arising under collective bargaining contracts and that it expects plants to have adequate machinery for settling such disputes.

The board's unanimous resolution pointed out that if individual grievances reach the board, it will consider them, if at all, "primarily from the point of view of the establishment of effective grievance machinery within the plant."

It also stated that "it is the established policy of the National War Labor Board to require that grievances which can be settled under the established procedure of a collective bargaining agreement be settled in that manner without recourse to the procedures of the board."

The board's resolution also asserted the fact that the board expects all parties "even in the absence of established grievance procedures to settle grievances through direct negotiations and, if necessary, voluntary arbitration."

## PORTLAND LOCAL GIVES \$1000 TO RED CROSS

Portland, Ore., Apr. 5.—Establishing what is likely a record contribution of its kind for unions of our trade Local No. 16821 voted at a recent membership meeting to double the \$500 donated to the American Red Cross in recent years, according to Arthur J. Guley, president, and Irving Enna, secretary-treasurer. With many members in the armed forces both home and abroad enjoying the worthwhile services of the Red Cross members of the union on the home front realized that the \$1000 voted as the local's contribution to the 1944 campaign provides the most suitable method of bringing recreation and comfort to their sister and brother unionists in uniform.

## Wholesale Grocery Negotiations Speeded

Pushing previously deadlocked negotiations on a renewal of its agreement with Associated Food Distributors, Inc., local wholesale grocers' association, officers of the union have announced that additional meeting between both parties have been arranged by a representative of the U. S. Conciliation Service. With the local Central Labor Council adding its weight on the side of the union it is believed that additional progress will be made in future meetings between union and management representatives despite the previous adamant and uncooperative attitude taken by representatives of the latter.

## Willamette Iron Organization Progresses

Unionization of the office and clerical workers employed by the Willamette Iron & Steel Corp., which was undertaken by the union several weeks ago is progressing satisfactorily, according to Secretary-Treasurer Enna and Business Representatives Clyde Clement and Paul Walker who are working on the project.

Meetings held for workers of our trade employed by the company are well attended and it is expected that the need for unionization realized by many workers in the company offices will be reflected in complete unionization in the near future.

## AMERICAN RADIATOR CAMPAIGN PUSHED

Pittsburgh, Pa., Apr. 1.—Office workers employed in the local plant of the American Radiator & Standard Sanitary Corp., are rapidly organizing into the American Federation of Labor, according to Organizers Harry Flaugh and P. A. Trant.

Leaders among the office workers state that their group has expressed a strong preference for unionization under the AFL, and it is believed that the results of an NLRB election scheduled for a week from today will bear this out.

## Construction Workers Organizing

Also receiving the attention of Organizers Trant and Flaugh are workers of our trade employed by the Dravo Construction Co. It is reported that strong indications for the need of unionization among this group of workers may lead to a quick conclusion of the current campaign.

# Improved Conditions Won At McCloskey Shipyard

Tampa, Fla., Apr. 3.—Announcement was made today by J. O. Bloodworth, Jr., financial secretary of Local 22222 that notification has been received from the Shipbuilding Commission of the National War Labor Board, advising of favorable action taken on a case in which approval was requested of an agreement previously negotiated to include the office and clerical workers under the terms of the existing agreement between the Mc-

Closkey Company and the Tampa Metal Trades Council covering the shipbuilding operations of the company at its Hooker's Point yard.

The agreement, as approved by the commission, provides for the payment of time and one-half for all work performed on holidays and likewise for all work performed in excess of 8 hours per day or 40 hours per week. Double time has been ordered for work performed on Sunday when such proves to be the seventh consecutive day. Shift premiums as applicable to the other unions employed in the yard were approved, as were vacations with pay. These provisions are retroactive to November 20, 1943.

An added feature of the agreement which received approval was the closed shop provision which provides union membership for all workers of our trade employed by the company.

Of all the operations engaged in by the McCloskey Co., this agreement is the first instance where office and clerical employes in the employ of the company have turned to union membership and subsequent collective bargaining with their employer. M. H. McCloskey, Jr., president of the company, following receipt of the Shipbuilding Commission's decision, expressed keen appreciation to local union representatives for the splendid relationship which had been built up between the company and Local 22222 and stated that he saw no reason whatsoever why office workers should not deal through their union with employers as the most satisfactory means of establishing harmonious labor-management relationships.

A further decision is expected from the Shipbuilding Commission with respect to wages agreed to at the time the contract was negotiated. It is anticipated that little difficulty will be encountered in gaining approval on the wage structure.

## Minneapolis Local Adds Organizers

Minneapolis, Minn., Apr. 17.—In order to more adequately meet the demands for unionization from unorganized workers of our trade in this city in their desire for collective bargaining, members of Local No. 17661 tonight voted to increase their dues for the forthcoming several months to provide additional union representatives, according to L. G. Nygren, financial secretary and business representative of the union.

Action taken by the membership of the union will result in additional organizers being placed in the field locally at the earliest possible date and will relieve the pressure being felt from the unorganized groups due to the union's present limited staff, it is reported.

Other AFL unions locally have assured officers of Local No. 17661 full cooperation and support in the speedy unionization of office and clerical workers in industries where they have members employed. It is expected that the local Central Labor Union will lend valuable and appreciated aid to the undertaking.

While final plans for the conduct of the campaign mapped by the membership of the union have not been announced it is anticipated that Nygren, who is also a Vice President of our International Council, will be placed in charge.

## Hearing Scheduled on American Ship Case

Cleveland, Ohio, Apr. 10.—Pearl A. Hanna, business representative of Local No. 19366, announced today that the local union had been advised by the Shipbuilding Commission of the National War Labor Board that a public hearing will be held on May 23 on the disputed points of an agreement which the union has been endeavoring to negotiate with the American Shipbuilding Co. of Lorain, O. The

hearing will be held in Washington, D. C.

Negotiations on an agreement between the union and the company were begun last January with the assistance of International Council representatives. Slow progress was made as a result of the uncompromising attitude of company representatives and it was necessary to call upon the U. S. Conciliation Service for aid in the last meetings between representatives of both parties.

Major issues to be argued before the Shipbuilding Commission include wages and job classifications together with less important points. International Council officers have indicated that they will assist the union in preparation of the case to be presented before the Commission.

Local No. 19366 won by an overwhelming vote the collective bargaining rights for a large majority of the office and clerical employes of the company as a result of an NLRB election held late last year.

## PEARL RIVER ORGANIZING

Pearl River, N. Y., Apr. 4.—The office employes of the Dexter Folder Co., Inc., and the Lederle Pharmaceutical Co. are rapidly applying for membership in the new local union which is being formed in this city, according to the reports of Council Vice President Howard J. Coughlin.

It is anticipated that an office employes charter will be applied for at a nearly date.

## SAN FRANCISCO ORGANIZING DRIVE PROVING MOST SUCCESSFUL

San Francisco, Calif., Apr. 14.—With a large block of production clerical employes of the Marinship Corp., Sausalito, on the verge of demanding collective bargaining rights through Local No. 21320 and with workers in the administrative offices of the company evidencing ever-increasing desire for unionization, officers of the union are giving immediate attention to the drafting of an agreement to be negotiated with company management which will result in improvements in wages, working conditions and other elements of employment for these workers.

Unionization of workers of our trade employed by the Marinship

### Revision of RWLB Wage Policy Asked

San Francisco, Calif., Apr. 14.—Heeding demands of local unions affiliated with our International Council for a revision of its wage structure policy and job classifications the Tenth Regional War Labor Board has scheduled hearings for April 20 at which time arguments will be presented by our unions for alterations to the RWLB's method of determining job classifications and prevailing rates of pay as they pertain to office and clerical workers, it has been announced by Daniel V. Flanagan, western representative of the American Federation of Labor.

Upon the request of Flanagan, meetings have been held under the direction of Frank F. Randall, special representative of the western office of the AFL and a member of Local No. 20744, Oakland, at which representatives of affiliated unions in the San Francisco Bay area have formulated the attack upon the policies of the RWLB. Actively assisting Randall in the preparation and presentation of the case for our unions is Fred Miller, business representative of Local No. 21320 of this city.

Much of the credit for bringing about the approaching hearing is given to Western Representative Flanagan who also serves as a labor member on the RWLB, and who has shown great interest and cooperation in the problems of our local unions in this area.

### SOUTHERN WORKERS

(Continued from page 1)

gaining by workers of our trade in the Southern States may soon outstrip that attained in other regions where collective bargaining has been looked upon as a prevailing practice for a longer period of time.

Besides Holcombe, other temporary officers of this new union include: Edward A. Hyer, vice president; William A. Leonard, financial secretary; M. M. Rivers, treasurer and Alma Long, secretary.

**HELP**  
**"BACK THE ATTACK"**  
Get ready for the  
**FIFTH WAR LOAN**

Corp. is but one phase of a campaign being conducted by Local No. 21320 in San Francisco and vicinity. The campaign, which is under the direction of Frank F. Randall, is meeting with success in other fields where activity has been launched previously and is rapidly spreading to other industries where later action was planned.

### Matson Navigation Demands Action

Evidence of the drive of this campaign is shown in the demand of office and clerical workers employed by the ship repair division of Matson Navigation Co. for immediate assistance in unionization from the local.

Immediate attention was given these workers and it is reported that rapid progress is being made and that they likewise are nearing full organization and subsequent requests upon their employer for collective bargaining rights.

The campaign being conducted by Local No. 21320 was made possible through the joint cooperation of the American Federation of Labor, the San Francisco Central Labor Council, the Bay Cities Metal Trades Council and other aggressive labor groups in this city. The undertaking is under the direct supervision of Daniel V. Flanagan, western representative of the AFL, and Randall was selected to spearhead the drive.

## AFL FORUM ADOPTS POST-WAR PROGRAM

New York City.—At a significant Postwar Forum which attracted nation-wide attention, the American Federation of Labor adopted a far-reaching program for the establishment of lasting world peace and the development of economic prosperity and security in America.

More than 500 AFL union representatives from every part of the country united in support of a crystal-clear plan for safeguarding the peace which will follow the victory of the United Nations in this war through an international organization armed with police powers and supplemented by international agencies to adjudicate disputes among nations, to raise world labor standards, to deal with international economic and financial problems and to promote health and education.

At the same time the delegates joined in favoring a domestic program which called for utmost cooperation of labor, industry, agriculture and the Government to attain maximum production and full employment in the postwar period. The program urged immediate action to speed the reconversion process, to strengthen the nation's social security system, to give workers, farmers and employers a greater voice in the determination of practical postwar policies and to extend every assistance to demobilized soldiers and war workers in obtaining well-paid jobs when the war ends.

William Green, AFL President, discussed the international and domestic aspects of postwar problems in two addresses and stressed the desirability of united and voluntary action by all groups in American life for the winning of the peace, as well as the war. He declared that the forum had helped to stimulate earnest consideration of postwar problems by the American people and to influence their thinking along constructive lines. His conclusion that the meeting had been one of the most successful ever held by the AFL was shared by all present.

George Meany, AFL Secretary-Treasurer, pointed out that labor supports the kind of free enterprise which is of service to the country and not the monopolistic ambitions of greedy reactionaries. Other speakers, including the top representatives of organized business, took heed of this warning and renounced any allegiance to the shameful failures of unbridled capitalism in the past to provide an economy of plenty for the American people as a whole.

Leaders from many walks of life participated in the discussions at the forum and presented their views to the labor delegates.

## Improved Contract Planned for Westinghouse Electric Plant

Canton, Ohio, Apr. 18.—At a meeting this evening officers of Local No. 23107 conferred with International Council President J. Howard Hicks on matters relating to a revision of the union's agreement with the Canton Ordnance Division of the Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing Co. During the past year several weaknesses have been realized in the current agreement, which expires in mid-June, and it was for the purpose of assisting the local in planning alternatives for the new contract that

Hicks was requested to visit Canton to discuss the drafting of the new agreement with officers of the union.

Chief of the improvements to be contained in the new agreement which will supplement the present one will be the overhaul and consolidation of job classifications, adjustment of inequities in present salary payments and improvements in the grievance handling procedure contained in the existing contract. All matters of importance were discussed fully by those attending the meeting and Hicks assured officers of the union that our International Council would give the greatest possible assistance in the drafting of the new agreement and in gaining approval by the War Labor Board.

In the negotiation of the initial agreement a year ago Local No. 23107 achieved salary adjustments in excess of 25 percent for some workers and following approval by the WLB the company made retroactive salary payments exceeding \$150 to several members of the union. It is anticipated that substantial salary adjustments will be in store for some members following conclusion of the renewed agreement.

Cooperation between the union and the management of the local operation of the company has been at a high level as is indicated by the part which members of the local have been requested to play in the sale of war bonds and solicitation of Red Cross donations among fellow workers employed by the company.

### OFFICE WORKERS LAUNCH SHIPS

Oakland, Calif.—Office worker personalities of the Richmond shipyard hiring hall dominated recently when Frances Gluck, secretary to Charles Foley, cracked the champagne bottle on the prow of the "Julia L. Dumont" at Richmond Shipyard No. 2. Shop steward Laura Remmers of Local 20744 was the matron of honor and Jean Johnson was flower girl.

Brother John Kinnick delivered the keynote speech on the activities of labor-management committees at the launching of the U.S.S. "Casper" at Yard No. 4 on December 27. John Kinnick is the representative to the labor-management committee of Yard No. 4, and is the chief shop steward for Office Workers Union No. 20744.

Feminine charm was added to the occasion by our union members, Ruth Waddell and Millie Abello, who attended the sponsor.

### FOUNDRY WORKERS SEEK RECOGNITION

(Continued from page 1)

workers do not properly fall within the unit claimed by the union. Commissioner Peek of the Conciliation Service is handling the meetings between union and company representatives and it is anticipated that little delay will result from the attitude of the company.