

# THE OFFICE WORKER

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

Vol. 2, No. 3

WASHINGTON, D. C., MAY, 1944

## States Rights Insurance Bills Opposed by International Council

### Local Unions Urged to Oppose Bills

#### H. R. 3270 and S. 1362

Washington, D. C., May 22.—The International Council is taking vigorous steps to assure the defeat of bills presently pending in both the House of Representatives and the Senate, and commonly referred to as the "States Rights Insurance Bills."

These bills, if passed, would have the effect of relieving the insurance companies of anti-trust acts and of removing from the employes of insurance companies the protections which they have presently enjoyed under the terms of the National Labor Relations Act and the Fair Labor Standards Act.

The House bill, H. R. 3270, introduced by Congressman Walters of Pennsylvania, has been favorably reported out by the House Judiciary Committee and is now awaiting action by the House. The bill as reported out by the committee provides as follows:

"To affirm the intent of the Congress that the regulation of the business of insurance remain within the control of the several states, and that the act of July 2, 1890, and October 15, 1914, as amended, be not applicable to that business.

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that nothing contained in the act of July 2, 1890, as amended, known as the Sherman Act, or the act of October 15, 1914, as amended, known as the Clayton Act, shall be construed to apply to the business of insurance, or to acts in the conduct of that business, or in no wise to impair the regulation of that business by the several states."

Although this House bill as reported out of committee and quoted above appears merely to be an attempt to relieve insurance companies from compliance with the antitrust laws and from a pending action against them for violation of the same, its actual effect, if enacted into law, would be far broader than this.

The twin bill in the Senate, known as S. 1362, and sponsored by Senator Bailey of North Carolina, is still before the Senate Judiciary Committee. The subcommittee of this Judiciary Committee has twice recommended passage of the bill but, principally through the efforts of Senator O'Mahoney of Wyoming, the bill has been sent back to the subcommittee for additional testimony.

It now appears that the American Federation of Labor and its interested affiliates will have an opportunity to testify in opposition to the bill on Friday, May 26. Secretary-Treasurer Paul R. Hutch-

ings will testify on behalf of our International Council.

Should either bill, H. R. 3270 or S. 1362, be enacted by Congress, the effect of such legislation would unquestionably be that employes of insurance companies would lose the protections which they now enjoy under the National Labor Relations Act.

Of equal far-reaching importance is the fact that the passage of either of these bills will effectively result in the removal of insurance companies from the jurisdiction.

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## JACKSONVILLE MEMBERS WIN \$110,000 RETROACTIVE PAY

Jacksonville, Fla., May 18.—As a direct result of the success of their collective bargaining efforts through Office Employees Union

23133, more than 1,400 members of our trade employed at the St. Johns River Shipbuilding Co. in this city will shortly receive back pay checks totaling close to \$110,000, according to reports received from Lorraine S. Rhodes, president of the local.

### Pratt-Whitney Organizing

Kansas City, Mo., May 18.—Under the leadership of AFL Organizer Vernon A. Mallot, Local 21612 of this city is contemplating early action in a campaign directed toward the unionization of office and clerical workers employed in the local operation of the Pratt-Whitney Corp., according to Louese Headrick, president, and Emily Burns, secretary, of the union.

Local labor circles view this undertaking with satisfaction as it indicates a further favorable trend toward American Federation of Labor unions by workers employed by the company.

These payments constitute wage adjustments retroactive to November 6, 1943, as negotiated in our contract with the company as recently approved by the Shipbuilding Commission of the War Labor Board. Also calculated in the back wage payments are amounts covering night shift premiums, shift differentials, overtime, and sixth and seventh day rate clauses as contained in the Gulf Coast Zone Standards and the agreement between the company and the Jacksonville Metal Trades Council, to which our local has become a party.

The office and clerical workers at the St. Johns yard commenced organizing about one year ago, and the services of the NLRB were invoked to establish our local union's majority among the group. The NLRB election held on Sept. 19, 1943, disclosed the fact that more than 87 percentage of all votes cast favored collective bargaining and

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## Do It Now!

All local unions are urged to immediately write or telegraph the Congressmen from their districts urging that they oppose and vote against H. R. 3270.

All local unions are urged to immediately write or telegraph the Senators from their states urging that they oppose and vote against S. 1362.

These twin bills, the so-called "States Rights Insurance Bills," if passed, would effectively serve to destroy the rights of the many thousands of office and clerical workers and other employed in the insurance industry to organize and bargain collectively under the protections established by the National Labor Relations Act, and would also destroy the rights of such workers to participate in the benefits gained through the application of the Wage and Hour Law to such companies.

Each local union member can materially assist by writing individual letters to his or her Senators and Congressman, urging them to oppose such bills.

### COURT DECISION AWAITED

Washington, D. C., May 20.—The decision of the U. S. Supreme Court is expected shortly in the case pending before it involving the question of whether an insurance company must comply with the provisions of the National Labor Relations Act. This case, known as "Polish National Alliance vs. National Labor Relations Board," arose out of unfair labor charges which were filed against this insurance company by our Chicago Local 20732 early in 1942, after the company had persistently refused to bargain with the union and had engaged in many other types of unfair labor practices in an attempt to break the organization of its office force.

The charges filed by Local 20732 were sustained by the board in its

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### 100 PERCENT UNION

Pearl River, N. Y., May 17.—At a consent election held on May 8, all eligible voters among the office force of the Dexter Folder Co. voted in favor of representation through Office Employees Union 23641 of the A. F. of L. according to reports received from Vice President Howard J. Coughlin of our International Council.

A. F. L. Regional Director William Collins, together with Vice President Coughlin, today formally installed the charter of this local union, and Vice President Coughlin is assisting the local in its negotiations with the company which are now in progress.

This local, having gotten off to a 100 percent start at the Dexter Co., is also organizing among the office and clerical employes of the Lederle Laboratories, Inc.

### ALCOA Pact signed

Mobile, Ala., May 8.—An agreement between the Aluminum Ore Co., a subsidiary of the Aluminum Co. of America, and Office Employees Union 23595 has recently been signed, according to reports received from Organizer Walter L. Mitchell, who handled these negotiations. The agreement applies to all offices and clerical workers at the Mobile plant of the company, as covered by the NLRB certification of January 22.

The agreement establishes a 40-hour week and provides for the payment of time and one-half for all hours worked in excess of 40 per week, and for all time worked on 6 legal holidays. Paid vacations up to two weeks are provided. Any employe who is selected by the local to work on a full-time basis for it, shall be granted a leave of absence with no loss of seniority status. Seniority is recognized and it is also provided that newly created or higher paid jobs are to be bulletined and filled in accordance with the seniority provisions. Maintenance of union membership is also provided.

The question of job classifications and wage rates are presently being studied by the local and will become the subject of wage negotiations with the company.

Assisting Organizer Mitchell on this contract was the local committee, consisting of M. A. Jolis, Key Semple, J. H. Goldman and B. T. Roberts. Local 23595 is a good standing affiliate of our International Council.

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



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**INTERNATIONAL UNION  
CHARTER PROGRESSES**

Washington, D. C., May 17.—President William Green at the close of the Executive Council meeting in Philadelphia announced that the AFL plans to issue charters to 3 International Unions "in the near future" according to the report contained in the AFL Weekly News Service out today.

"The proposed new unions comprise the Chemical Workers, the Office Workers and the Fabricated Metal Workers. Mr. Green said that the charters would be granted to the new International Unions as soon as a few jurisdictional matters are straightened out. He expressed the hope that the charters would be issued before the next convention of the AFL in November."

**T. V. A. MEMBERS HONORED**

Knoxville, Tenn. — Members of the Public Safety Service Employees Unions on the Tennessee Valley Authority were honored recently when their group was awarded guidons by the United States Army for being outstanding in training, appearance and efficiency, according to reports received from Council Vice President E. H. Fritts, who is also secretary and business representative of the Tennessee Valley Council of Office, Technical and Service Employees Unions.

Receiving the awards on behalf of the public safety service employees were union members Clifford W. Sheridan, E. M. Freeman, Rosemary Cross, James O. Burleson, Glen Ray and Thos. W. Rowlette.

The Public Safety Service employees of the Tennessee Valley Authority are represented in all collective bargaining matters with the Authority by the Public Safety Service Unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor and our International Council.

**NEGOTIATIONS PUSHED**

St. Louis, Mo., April 24.—Despite dilatory tactics employed by the company in the prolonging of negotiations between Local No. 17707 and the Keasby-Mattison Corp., manufacturers of asbestos building materials, officers of the union are utilizing every possible means to bring increased wages and improved working conditions to office and clerical workers employed by the company at the earliest date, according to A. L. Rex, president of the union.

In an NLRB election held last September, workers employed by the company voted by a decisive majority for representation by Local No. 17707. Despite the many obstacles encountered in contractual dealings with company management headway has been made and improvements for members of the union are being wrought.

With the office workers employed in the plants of the company in this city looking to their representatives in utmost confidence Rex and AFL Organizer Mary E. Ryder, who are working jointly in behalf of the union, have stated "negotiations will be continued to a conclusion or the disputed points will be submitted to WLB for decision."

It is reported that the negotiations currently under way in this city have aroused considerable interest in unionization among the office and clerical workers employed in the home office of the company at Ambler, Pa., which may lead to subsequent organization of this group.

**PLANS FOR 1944 CONVENTION IN ST. LOUIS COMPLETED**

Washington, D. C., May 15.—Following complete formulation of plans for the 1944 convention of our International Council with officers of Local No. 17707 and other St. Louis labor officials, President J. Howard Hicks and Secretary-Treasurer Paul R. Hutchings of the Council announced today that the forthcoming convention will be held in the air conditioned Hotel Jefferson at St. Louis, Mo., beginning Monday, Aug. 14. The business of the convention can probably be completed within three days, thus permitting adjournment on Wednesday, Aug. 16.

It is anticipated that this convention will be the largest yet held by our International Council and representatives from affiliated unions in all sections of the United States and portions of Canada are expected to be in attendance in considerable numbers.

**Important Matters to be Considered**

Many important matters will be presented to the delegates for their consideration at this conclave and it is anticipated that numerous forward steps will be initiated which will prove to the utmost advantage of our affiliated local unions.

Possibly meriting chief consideration will be the granting of an International Union charter to our International Council by the American Federation of Labor at some later date. Preliminary steps for the acceptance of this charter and the various problems associated with the installation of same when it is granted will be discussed.

Indications are strong that added emphasis will be placed on future aggressive steps to be taken in the organizing of the unorganized workers of our trade throughout its entire field. The need for such increased activity to surmount all others has been expressed from many sources and is evidenced in the constantly growing desire for the establishment of collective bargaining rights by those workers not yet members of our unions in many fields of industry in every section of Canada and the United States.

Legislative and economic issues closely associated with the war effort and the postwar period insofar as they affect workers of our trade and the relationship of our locals with the balance of the American Federation of Labor will doubtless receive consideration. Wage and price stabilization are matters of grave concern to all office workers as is the economic trend of government in the postwar production period.

It is hoped that President William Green, Secretary-Treasurer George Meany, Director of Organization Frank P. Fenton and other

notables within the American Federation of Labor will honor our convention with their presence and remarks. Officers of the Missouri Federation of Labor as well as the St. Louis Trades and Labor Union will be invited to address the gathering, together with other prominent figures closely aligned with labor in various phases of government and economics.

**Local No. 17707 to be Host**

Host to this convention will be Local No. 17707 of St. Louis which has been affiliated with our International Council practically since its inception. President A. L. Rex of the union has expressed keen pleasure at the opportunity afforded the St. Louis labor movement and his local union to extend the hospitality of St. Louis to the visiting delegates.

Heading the convention arrangements committee of the local union is Laura Nesbitt, treasurer of the local and delegate from the union to the 1943 convention of our International Council in Detroit. While little time will be afforded the delegates for their pleasure during the convention Local No. 17707 is planning an adequate entertainment program which will meet with the approval of all in attendance.

**Executive Board to Meet**

A meeting of the Executive Board of our International Council will be held at St. Louis prior to the convening of the convention. The board will also meet the day following adjournment of the convention for a discussion of matters referred to it by the delegates.

**All Locals Urged to Participate**

The official convention call will be issued to all affiliated local un-

ions within the near future and all such unions are urged to have delegates in attendance at the convention. Locals not yet affiliated have been notified that they must be affiliated by June 14 if they desire to participate in the convention.

With St. Louis a most suitable location for this convention officers of our International Council anticipate that the number of delegates in attendance and the number of unions represented will exceed those of any previous convention.

**CONVENTION HEADQUARTERS**



Hotel Jefferson, St. Louis Mo.

## DULUTH LOCAL PLANS NEW DRIVES

Duluth, Minn., May 19.—Realizing the greatness of their field of endeavor within this city and surrounding territory officers of Local No. 21276 today advised International Council President J. Howard Hicks, who is now here, that the membership of the union had taken favorable action directed toward an expansion of its operation to a degree which will permit full participation in the opportunities for unionization of workers of our trade who are presently unorganized.

With the bulk of its membership employed in local operations of the American Steel & Wire Co. and the Walter Butler Shipbuilders, Inc., Local No. 21276 finds itself in a most advantageous position to carry additional unionization to office and clerical workers employed in other industries in this city. With the support of other AFL unions wholehearted and readily forthcoming the union anticipates that rapid progress can be made in organizational drives now under consideration.

Accompanied by AFL Organizer William F. Wright and Representative E. L. Slaughter of the Minnesota State Federation of Labor President Hicks has devoted several days to the handling of negotiations and other matters in behalf of the local union, as well as meeting with the officers and membership of the union and in surveying present organizational opportunities in which assistance was readily forthcoming from representatives of other trade unions in the city.

Following a meeting with representatives of nearby Superior (Wisconsin) Federation of Labor the three visiting laborites expressed the hope that the increased expansion in the activities of Local No. 21276 could likewise be reflected among unorganized office and clerical workers in that city. Arrangements are being worked out for the joint participation in the forthcoming drives by labor circles in both cities.

## WAGE INCREASES WON BY OAKLAND LOCAL

Oakland, Calif., May 16.—Wage increases for upwards of 30 office and clerical workers ranging from 6.6 to 11.7 percent have recently been negotiated with McKesson & Robbins, covering the workers in the company's Oakland, Calif., office, according to the report of Vice President Carl F. Nelson of our International Council, who is also a business representative of Local 20744 at Oakland.

The increases as negotiated have been submitted to the War Labor Board on Form 10, and it is provided and agreed to by the parties that the same will take effect as of September 1, 1943.

Vice President Nelson also reports that the War Labor Board has approved the \$4 per week increase negotiated for the office and clerical workers employed in the laundry industry in the Oakland area. This laundry case was processed through the War Labor Board in only 7 weeks elapsed time.

## American Radiator Election Won

Pittsburgh, Pa., May 15.—The office and clerical workers employed by the American Radiator & Standard Sanitary Corp. in this city have recently overwhelmingly voted for representation through Office Employees Union 23647, according to reports received from Organizers H. G. Flaugh and P. A. Trant.

In a recent consent election under the auspices of the NLRB the clerical force in this plant by a more than 75 percent vote expressed their desire for collective bargaining through their A. F. of L. organization.

It is anticipated that negotiations on a collective bargaining contract will shortly be commenced.

## Supreme Court

(Continued from Page 1)

decision of August 11, 1942. The company, however, refused to comply with the board's order and immediately appealed to the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals for review of the same. On June 5, 1943, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals handed down its decision and entered its decree by upholding the application of the National Labor Relations Act to the company and enforcing, with some modifications, the NLRB's order against the company.

The Polish National Alliance still would not comply and petitioned the Supreme Court for a writ of certiorari. The Supreme Court granted this request, limited to the question of whether the National Labor Relations Act applied to the company. This question has been argued before the court and briefs were filed last December.

A court decision is expected before the summer recess. On the basis of the facts in this case, we have every reason to believe that the court will sustain the order of the board and the decree of the Seventh Circuit Court to the effect that the insurance operations of this company constitute interstate commerce and that the company is therefore properly subject to the jurisdiction of the NLRB. Such a decision will undoubtedly accelerate and stimulate organization among the office and clerical workers employed in the insurance industry.

## Improved Contract Expected

Louisville, Ky., April 23.—Contemplating vastly improved wages and working conditions as a result of renegotiation of their agreement, members of Local No. 22906 employed in the local Naval Ordnance Division of the Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing Co. are marshaling their forces for meetings with company management in the near future, according to Kenneth C. Jasper, president of the union.

Correction of the maladjustments in present wage rates will prove the principal objective during negotiations and it is anticipated that alterations will be effected in job classifications and working conditions which will be to the benefit of all members of the union employed in the company's offices.

With the local agreement expiring at approximately the same time as the agreement held by Local No. 23107, Canton, Ohio, which

## SEATTLE-TACOMA SHIPYARDS SIGN NEW AGREEMENTS

Tacoma, Wash., May 15.—A contract has now been signed with the Seattle-Tacoma Shipbuilding Corp. by Office Workers Union 20360, acting through the Tacoma Metal Trades Council, with which it is affiliated. This contract covers the approximately 1,500 general office and clerical workers employed at the Tacoma yard, according to George P. Firth, executive secretary of Local 20360 and Vice President of our International Council. Under the terms of the newly negotiated contract Local 20360 has

gained for these workers the application of most of the provisions of the Pacific Coast master agreement. Wage rates are set forth in an attached schedule and range from a 70-cent per hour minimum rate for junior messengers to a minimum rate of \$1.65 per hour for principal statistician, principal accountant and principal buyer. The wage rates negotiated are, of course, subject to approval by the Shipbuilding Commission of the National War Labor Board.

The office and clerical workers employed in the yard payroll and timekeeping departments are all covered under agreement with Local 20360 since last October. The signing of the present agreement, therefore, completes organization and coverage of our craft employed by this company at its Tacoma yards.

## Seattle Agreement Also Signed

It has been reported that a similar agreement has also been signed with this company by Seattle Local 16304 covering the company's operations at its Seattle yards. While full details are not presently available, it is understood that the Seattle agreement is substantially similar to the agreement signed at Tacoma. The signing of the Seattle agreement also completes the organization and coverage of the members of our trade employed by the company in that city, according to Mildred Erickson, business representative of the local and Vice President of our International Council.

## Insurance Bills

(Continued from page 1)

diction of the Fair Labor Standards Act, commonly known as the Wage and Hour Law.

The many thousands of office and clerical workers employed in the insurance industry would thus lose their present rights under the Wage and Hour Law to receive time and one-half for all hours worked in excess of 40 per week, and they would also lose the protections established by the minimum wage requirements of such law.

## Baltimore Active

Baltimore, Md., May 19.—Office Employees Union 20048 is planning increased organizational activities among the unorganized members of our trade employed in this city, according to Secretary-Treasurer Paul R. Hutchings of our International Council, who met with the officers and members of the local tonight.

The local is engaged in negotiation of renewal agreements in each of the offices where agreements presently exist and substantial progress is being made in rapidly concluding such renewals, according to the report made by Local Secretary Estelle Morrisette to tonight's meeting.

It was also indicated that the local is planning a series of interesting programs commencing with its September meeting next fall.

## Fifth War Loan

Sure, it's hard for us over here to get the picture of air warfare.

We can't see the faces on those kids . . . our kids . . . as they punch the big bombers through the ack-ack.

We can't know what's in their heads and their hearts when a shell cracks through and one of them slumps in his seat.

And we never will know. For they'll never be able to tell us all of it . . .

But we can pray . . . and hope . . . and help in the small ways we can . . . like buying war bonds.

Will we do it?

## Standard Oil Campaign Planned

Reporting that office and clerical workers employed in the local office of the Standard Oil Co. have evidenced strong desire for unionization, Vice President Otto E. Kriete of Local No. 22906 is preparing to embark upon a campaign of unionization among these workers. AFL laborites in the city view this undertaking with great favor and it is anticipated that more than minor support will be forthcoming from this source.

## SCRAPPING OF LITTLE STEEL FORMULA FOR LOW INCOME WORKERS ASKED BY THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE

Washington, D. C., May 1.—The Subcommittee on Wartime Health and Education of the Senate Committee on Education and Labor has just released its first report dealing with white-collar and fixed-income groups in the war economy.

Highlighting this report is the recommendation of the subcommittee that the War Labor Board cease applying the Little Steel formula on all wages and salaries of \$200 or less per month for heads of families and \$150 or less per month for single persons. The committee urges that increases in wages and salaries up to those levels should be allowed without application of any kind to the War Labor Board.

In this report the committee stated that it had found "that some 20,000,000 Americans have not enjoyed rises in income commensurate with the most conservative estimate of the cost-of-living increase." The committee also declared that "before the war a large proportion of these people were at substandard or below-subsistence-level incomes" and that "the hardships imposed upon them by the war greatly exceed those borne by other groups." The committee stated that "such inequality of sacrifice is unjust, unnecessary, and detrimental to the health, morale, and efficiency of a nation at war."

Declaring that the "plight of these 20,000,000 Americans is the weakest link" in the nation's economic chain, the committee added: "Without prompt measures to provide them a way out of their predicament the war effort will be weakened and the future of our nation placed in jeopardy."

Fully sustaining the contentions of representatives of our International Council and of other AFL white collar and Government workers unions who testified at its public hearings several months ago, the Wartime Health and Education Subcommittee of the Senate Labor Committee submitted as its chief recommendation "that the National War Labor Board cease applying the Little Steel wage formula to substandard wages and that a sound, simple and expeditious procedure for raising such wages and salaries be developed." The procedure recommended by the Senate Committee follows:

1. That employers be permitted to raise wages to \$200 monthly for family heads and \$150 for unmarried persons without application of any kind to the War Labor Board.

2. That state, county and municipal governments increase salaries of low-paid workers, especially salaries of teachers.

3. If local governments fail to make salary adjustments to meet higher living costs, the federal government should provide relief through higher income tax exemptions for such workers.

4. That social security and public assistance benefits be increased and extended in scope, "in accordance with the recommendations made by the Social Security Board."

5. That the Bureau of Labor Statistics be given funds to pre-

pare a "cost-of-living index which will accurately reflect changing living standards."

One of the most significant findings of the Senate Committee was that at present price levels an income of even \$50 a week provides a "very narrow margin of living." Nevertheless, the committee's investigation disclosed that many million American families received an income far below this subsistence standard.

Its report said that 4,500,000 white collar workers last year averaged \$28.69 a week; 3,500,000 retail trade workers average \$23.88 a week; 1,000,000 financial employes \$38.84; 2,000,000 nonschool local government employes, \$23.85. School teachers averaged \$32 a week, but the report said at least 5 percent of the nation's teachers are paid less than \$600 a year.

In its report the committee also recommended "that the present inflationary trend be checked by institution of even more rigid price controls and that the Office of Price Administration be granted funds necessary to assure strict enforcement of such controls."

### QUICK WORK

Washington, D. C., May 15.—At the request of Office Employees Union 11773, Washington Central Labor Union tonight unanimously approved a resolution submitted by this local endorsing the recommendations of the Senate Subcommittee on Wartime Health and Education, according to the report of W. R. Probey, president and business representative of the local, who presented this matter to the Central Labor Union.

The resolution as adopted, endorsed all six of the recommendations of the subcommittee and instructed the Central Labor Union officers to "take appropriate steps to bring about the realization of such recommendations through the enactment of necessary legislation and otherwise."

Copies of the resolution as adopted are being sent to President Roosevelt, Economic Stabilization Director Vinson, War Labor Board Chairman Davis, to the members of the Senate subcommittee, the members of both houses of Congress from adjacent states, and to the national legislative committee of the American Federation of Labor.

Business Representative Probey advises that Local 11773 is sponsoring a similar resolution at the Maryland State and District of Columbia Federation of Labor convention, which convenes in Cumberland on May 22.

The action taken by Local 11773 was in response to the recommendations made to all local unions by the executive officers of our International Council in connection with this matter earlier this month.

### New Local Chartered

Pasco, Wash., May 8.—Office Employees Union No. 23661 was today chartered by the A. F. of L. for the office and clerical workers employed in Pasco-Kennewick and vicinity.

## WAGE BRACKETS UPPED BY WEST COAST WLB

San Francisco, Cal., May 18.—The Tenth Regional War Labor Board, in response to urgent pleas made through our local unions in the San Francisco Bay area, with the able assistance of Barney Mays of the California Federation of Labor, today announced a revision in its clerical wage and salary brackets

allowing upward adjustments ranging up to \$15 a month over the previous bracket rates. This action of the Board brought about through the demands of organized labor will result in average monthly increases for all classifications of office and clerical workers of approximately \$3.50 based on a 40-hour work week. It is estimated that 193,500 office workers in the San Francisco area stand to benefit directly from this wage bracket revision.

### AIRCRAFT DRIVE MAPPED

Indianapolis, Ind., April 27.—Spurred into action as a result of the benefits gained by production workers through collective bargaining office and clerical workers employed in the local plant of the Curtiss-Wright Corp. are seeking affiliation with our International Council, according to President J. Howard Hicks of the Council, who met with representatives of the group this evening.

Future meetings have been scheduled and an aggressive campaign has been worked out which will adequately fulfill the needs of this group in their drive toward full unionization. Spokesmen for the workers employed by the company have reported that the high degree of demand for organization among their constituents heralds a short but effective campaign in their plant.

Collaborating closely with representatives of our International Council in the organization of this group is William J. Layton, business representative of District 90 of the International Association of Machinists. With production workers presently enrolled within the membership of the IAM, unionization of the office and clerical staffs will result in full representation through the American Federation of Labor of all but a few of the employes of the company who fall within other trades yet to be organized.

### TRANSIT WORKERS JOINING

Minneapolis, Minn., May 15.—Assisted by representatives of the local union of the Amalgamated Association of Street & Electric Railway Employees of America, organizers of Local No. 17661 are presently unionizing office and clerical workers employed by the local city transportation company, according to L. G. Nygren, financial secretary and business representative of the union.

Interest in the undertaking is reportedly widespread among employes of the company and it is anticipated that Local No. 17661 will shortly be in position to demand collective bargaining recognition from management of the concern.

### ORGANIZATION PLANNED

Nashville, Tenn., May 19.—As a result of the interest for unionization evidenced by office and clerical workers employed in the local plant of the Consolidated-Vultee Aircraft Corp., Vice President E. Houston Britts of our International Council is conferring with representatives of the local labor movement regarding the establishment of an active campaign in response to the requests of these workers.

### Ford Motor Hearing

Washington, D. C., May 11.—The National Labor Relations Board today announced that it would hear oral argument in Washington on May 30, in connection with the exceptions filed by the Ford Motor Co. to the intermediate report issued by Trial Examiner Peter F. Ward in an unfair labor practice case filed against the company by Jacksonville Local 23133.

Local 23133 will be represented at the May 30 argument by its President, Lorraine S. Rhodes, and by Secretary-Treasurer Paul R. Hutchings of our International Council, who will present argument to the board as to why it should sustain the recommendations of the Trial Examiner.

The report of Trial Examiner Ward, which was issued some weeks ago, fully sustained the contentions of Local 23133 to the effect that the Ford Motor Co. at its Jacksonville branch was engaging in unfair labor practices in the treatment of its office force and particularly in its action in demoting and discharging J. B. Coles because of his union membership and activity.

### Jacksonville

(Continued from Page 1)  
representation through Local 23133.

Negotiations on a contract were commenced shortly thereafter, with assistance rendered by Regional Director George L. Googe of the American Federation of Labor, and Organizer George McGee, in addition to the assistance of Secretary-Treasurer Paul R. Hutchings of our International Council who worked with local President Rhodes throughout the negotiations.

Negotiations were concluded and an addendum to the Metal Trades contract was signed on Dec. 6, 1943. The agreement was processed through the necessary Government agencies by the company, our International Council and Local 23133, with the result that the office and clerical workers in this yard are now receiving \$110,000 in retroactive wage and overtime payments, in addition to the present continuous benefits of improved wage, overtime and night shift rates as provided in the contract.

The office and clerical workers of the St. Johns yard are now reaping results of their organization and collective bargaining. The tangible accomplishments of these members of our trade through their trade union organization is concrete evidence to similar workers in other industries and other shipyards of the benefits which can be obtained through organization and collective bargaining.