

# THE OFFICE WORKER

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

No. 31

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## BIG GAINS AT GULF REFINERY

### BARGAINING RIGHTS ON GREYHOUND LINE

Lexington, Ky.—Exclusive bargaining rights covering all office and clerical workers employed on all the lines of the Southeastern Greyhound Lines have been obtained, according to reports from OEIU Vice President A. R. Carson and Mrs. Lorraine S. Rhodes, President of Local 73 at Jacksonville, whose local previously has held bargaining rights for the operations of the company in that city.

In the recognition agreement signed by OEIU Vice President Carson and First Vice President C. G. Schultz of Southeastern Greyhound on June 19, it was agreed that the company recognized the OEIU as representing a majority of all office and clerical workers carried on the office payroll of the Southeastern Greyhound Lines, and that the company would bargain with OEIU as the exclusive bargaining agency for all such employees.

The Southeastern Greyhound Lines operates in the States of Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama and Florida, and employs well over 200 office and clerical workers who are now represented by the OEIU, which has for the past several years represented and bargained for the office employees at Jacksonville, Florida operations of the company. The rapid organization of the office force of the company employed in its large Lexington, Kentucky office, as well as in its offices at Nashville, Chattanooga, and its other smaller offices in these states, made possible the establishment of line-wide bargaining rights.

The agreement negotiations with Southeastern Lines will commence in Jacksonville this month with members from each of the local operations of the company participating, together with OEIU Vice President A. R. Carson.

### DEPARTMENT STORE WORKERS ORGANIZE

Washington, D. C.—A preponderant majority of all office and clerical workers employed by the Goldenburg Company retail department store have signed up for membership in OEIU Local 2, according to local President W. R. Probey who has been assisting this group in its organization. Formal demand for exclusive bargaining rights has been made upon the Goldenburg Company and the local union has filed an election request with the NLRB. It is anticipated that an early election will be held, thus establishing its exclusive bargaining rights for this group.

### Wage Boost and Other Gains Secured at Brokerage House

New York City—Wage increases, ranging up to \$11.50 per week, retroactive to March 1, were secured by UFE Local 205 of the OEIU in settlement of the dispute with A. M. Kidder & Co., brokerage concern which threatened to tie up the Wall Street Stock and Curb Exchanges.

When negotiations with the company deadlocked, the workers voted to strike and the local served notice on the Exchanges of cancellation of contracts so that employees of the latter would not be forced to handle Kidder work.

Then Mayor O'Dwyer intervened and appointed a conciliation committee composed of William A. Galvin, labor representative; Arthur A. Whiteside, management representative, and Grover A. Whalen, chairman and public representative.

It was agreed to submit the Kidder wage questions to arbitration and to reinstate the Exchange contracts. A settlement of other matters in dispute brought these further gains:

Overtime after 36½ hours; weekly pay instead of semi-monthly; \$1.50 supper allowance in addition to overtime; three-week vacations after 5 years; severance pay up to 10 weeks for any worker laid off; automatic rehiring of laid-off personnel; union security and checkoff of dues; equitable distribution of bonuses; grievance machinery.

"In today's uncertain volume, with retrenchment rapidly becoming a common practice, Kidder's employees are assured of wage increases that cannot be cut and of working conditions that cannot be changed," emphasized President M. David Keefe of Local 205. "The security of employment standards in A. M. Kidder stand out like the Rock of Gibraltar in comparison to the instability in unorganized firms."

Keefe also announced that workers of two more brokerage firms, Drysdale and Ward, Gruver, have selected Local 205 as their collective bargaining representative by large majorities.

### ELECTION WON AT INGALLS SHIPYARD

Pascagoula, Miss.—By a vote of almost two to one the office and clerical employes of the Ingalls Shipyards voted on June 20 in an NLRB election to select OEIU Local 204 as their exclusive collective bargaining agency, according to International Vice President J. O. Bloodworth, Jr., who worked with the officers of the local union in the conduct of this election campaign.

The various AFL trades at Pascagoula and their officers and representatives gave splendid assistance to Vice President Bloodworth and our local union in this election campaign, and President W. L. Hines of the Mississippi State Federation of Labor personally assisted and played an important part in the success of the campaign.

This successful election culminates efforts on the part of the office and clerical workers of this company during the past several years to obtain organization and the benefits of collective bargaining. Considerable resistance was encountered in an attempt to defeat the employes' desire for organization.

Vice President Bloodworth is assisting the local union in the drafting of its agreement proposals, upon which negotiations with the company will shortly commence.

### Secure Raise at Struthers-Wells

Titusville, Pa.—Across-the-board increases in wages of 11½ cents per hour were obtained in the new joint agreement negotiated between the iron works division of the Struthers-Wells Corp. and OEIU Local 85 and Technical Engineers Local 52, according to George P. Firth, OEIU representative, who handled the negotiations together with the local union's committee.

All previous working condition benefits gained in the old contract were maintained, and several clauses were further strengthened as a result of the recent negotiations, according to Firth.

### UP NEWSPAPER WAGES

Washington, D. C.—An across-the-board increase of 15 cents per hour was won for all office and clerical workers employed by LABOR, the weekly newspaper of the standard railroad labor organizations, according to W. R. Probey, President of OEIU Local 2, and Mrs. Belle Burrows, shop steward of the local, who handled the negotiation of this increase.

### AVERAGE BOOST IS \$54 PER MONTH

Port Arthur, Tex.—Close to 200 office workers employed at the large Gulf Oil Corp. Port Arthur Refinery will receive approximately \$55,000 in retroactive pay under the wage classifications and increases provided by a new contract just negotiated with the company by OEIU Local 66, according to International Vice President C. A. Stafford who assisted Local President J. L. LeMaire and the negotiating committee in its conferences.

Under the terms of the agreement all office workers received a 22¢ per hour cost-of-living adjustment retroactive to March 1, in addition to classification increases of from \$14 to \$28 per month, which likewise are retroactive to the same date.

Vice President Stafford reports that the cost-of-living adjustment and the increases combined will average over \$54 per employee per month and that the retroactive payments will approximate \$55,000.

### Other Benefits

Other important gains in the current negotiations included a substantial revision of the seniority provision so as to assure a senior employe of a trial period on an open higher rated position where the union maintains that such employe is qualified for such position. In other cases of promotion, as well as in layoffs, rehiring, etc., seniority prevails.

Improvements were also won in the classifications and an additional 14 jobs were up-graded with provisions being made for additional up-gradings to be secured during the contract year, with regular meetings with management to be held on this question at least every four months.

Other improvements included the bettering of the vacation plan so as to provide two weeks paid vacation for all employes with one year of service and three weeks paid vacation for employes with 15 or more years of service with the company.

### Took Strike Vote

The negotiations with the company extended over a number of months and the final agreement was reached only after the membership employed in the refinery, with the approval of the membership of the entire local union, had taken a strike vote and had received strike sanction from International President Hutchings, who had personally participated in some of the negotiation conferences while in Port Arthur last May.

With regard to the new agreement President Hutchings stated: "The worth while gains and benefits

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Official organ of the  
OFFICE EMPLOYEES  
INTERNATIONAL UNION



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J. HOWARD HICKS, *Sec.-Treas.*

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## ZOOMING PRICES WIPE OUT SAVINGS

Washington, D. C.—The workers' losing battle against last year's rising prices caused the exhaustion of all or a large part of their war-time savings, according to a Federal Reserve Board study.

The board's report warned that unless purchasing power of workers goes up, the nation's economy is headed for a slump.

Its report showed a lopsided trend during the year. Among those in the lower and moderate income brackets, aggregate savings fell off by 10 billion dollars. On the other hand, among top incomes, assets rose sharply.

What were the savings spent for? In the lower income levels, the board said, such funds were withdrawn "primarily for living expenses, medical care, emergencies and other consumption purposes."

About one-fourth of the consumers who had to dip into their savings "used up all of their holdings," the board said. Many went into debt.

"It is significant," the report added, "that even within the middle and upper income groups very substantial numbers drew upon holdings of liquid assets for living expenses."

In consequence, there has been a marked drop from a year ago in the number of purchasers who expect to buy such "durable goods" as refrigerators, furniture, radios and washing machines. The demand for new automobiles alone is holding up, the report showed.

A particularly heavy decline has occurred in the market for homes, because of staggering prices.

"Many consumer units, and more particularly in lower-income brackets, have disappeared from the list of prospective purchasers of houses," the report pointed out.

Some bright spots in the picture were cited. For example, there were fewer family units with incomes of less than \$2,000 than a year ago, the board declared. A "moderate shifting" to somewhat higher income levels took place.

## The Roll Call Vote

Washington, D. C.—The vote by which the Senate overrode President Truman's veto of the Taft-Hartley Bill follows:

### FOR OVERRIDING—68

#### Republicans—48

Aiken	Dworshak	Reed
Baldwin	Ecton	Revercomb
Ball	Ferguson	Robertson (Wyo.)
Brewster	Flanders	Saltonstall
Bricker	Gurney	Smith
Bridges	Hawkes	Taft
Brooks	Hickenlooper	Thye
Buck	Ives	Tobey
Bushfield	Jenner	Vandenberg
Butler	Kem	Watkins
Cain	Knowland	Wherry
Capehart	Lodge	White
Capper	McCarthy	Wiley
Cooper	Martin	Williams
Cordon	Millikin	Wilson
Donnell	Moore	Young

#### Democrats—20

Byrd	Hoey	Overton
Connally	Holland	Robertson (Va.)
Eastland	Maybank	Russell
Ellender	McClellan	Stewart
Fulbright	McKellar	Tydings
George	O'Connor	Umstead
Hatch	O'Daniel	

### AGAINST OVERRIDING—25

#### Republicans—3

Langer	Malone	Morse
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#### Democrats—22

Barkley	Kilgore	Myers
Chavez	Lucas	O'Mahoney
Downey	Magnuson	Pepper
Green	McCarran	Sparkman
Hayden	McFarland	Taylor
Hill	McGrath	Thomas (Okla.)
Johnson (Colo.)	McMahon	
Johnston (S. C.)	Murray	

Senators Wagner and Elbert D. Thomas did not vote but were announced as being against overriding. Senator Wagner was prevented from voting by illness and Senator Thomas is in Geneva, Switzerland, attending the International Labor Conference.

## Green Hits Congress

President William Green of the American Federation of Labor announced that the AFL will undertake an immediate drive for the repeal of the new anti-labor law. He said:

"Congress has made a tragic mistake by enacting the Taft-Hartley Bill over the President's veto.

"The new law will not promote industrial peace. On the contrary, it will force widespread warfare.

"The consequences are likely to be heavy and costly in terms of reduced production. The chaotic conditions produced by the Taft-Hartley Act will endanger our national economy.

"Labor will never become reconciled to this law. The free working men and women of our country will never acquiesce in the abridgment of their fundamental rights and freedoms.

"The American Federation of Labor will launch an immediate campaign for the prompt repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act. We believe that the law will prove such a boomerang that its sponsors and supporters will be voted out of office by the American people next year."

## LABOR DEPARTMENT REVAMP DEFEATED

Washington, D. C.—The Senate killed President Truman's plan to reorganize the Labor Department, ignoring warnings that the action would leave the Secretary of Labor little to do but collect statistics.

Mr. Truman had proposed that the United States Employment Service be placed permanently in the department and that the Wage-Hour Administration be made subject to control of the Labor Secretary.

As a result of the Senate action, the Labor Department, already

stripped of the United States Conciliation Service by the Taft-Hartley Labor Law, loses control of USES to the Social Security Board.

Rejection of the plan also freezes with the Wage-Hour administrator authority to issue rules and regulations under the Wage-Hour Law. The plan would have transferred administrative functions of the Fair Labor Standards Act to Secretary of Labor Lewis B. Schwellenbach.

Administration of the Wage-Hour Law remains under the Labor Department "for housekeeping purposes," but the administrator, not Schwellenbach, will continue to have chief responsibility for its operation.

## Unions Urged To Establish Co-ops

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor called upon its members to establish co-operative stores, credit unions, and factories as the only effective means of reducing prices.

Citing the need for lower prices and increased purchasing power for workers to maintain "full production" and "full employment," the AFL's Labor's Monthly Survey declared, "By organizing as consumers in cooperatives we can mobilize our buying power to achieve these goals."

The AFL report said, "We cannot afford to wait. Almost every AFL member spends at least \$800 a year on living necessities. These dollars, spent in cooperative stores, will fight for fair prices and good quality. Our 7,500,000 members, buying in consumer cooperatives and saving in credit unions, can be an immense power for good."

"The AFL has repeatedly said that the forces of competition would reduce prices when enough goods are produced to meet the demand," the Survey said. "But today many factories are cutting production while prices hold at high levels.

"This year's experience has proved beyond a doubt that talk alone will not bring prices down. There has been no significant decline in the general level of either industrial or consumer prices this year."

In support of its position, the Survey cited the experience of farmers in holding fertilizer prices down through the organization of consumer cooperatives to produce and distribute that commodity. Significantly, the report declared, the price of fertilizer stayed down relatively while other prices were rising. During the year ending in March, 1947, it rose only 11 percent in the face of a 28 percent increase in general industrial prices.

## Minimum Wage Hike Proposed

Washington, D. C.—Senator Pepper, on behalf of 10 other Senators, introduced a bill to raise the minimum legal wage for workers in interstate commerce from 40 cents an hour to 65 cents immediately, to 70 cents at the end of one year and to 75 cents a year later.

Coauthors include Senators Wagner, Murray, Chavez, Green, Magnuson, Myers, Taylor, Langer, Morse and Elbert D. Thomas.

Pepper said in a statement the proposed bill "carried out the suggestion of President Truman that the minimum wage under the Fair Labor Standards Act be raised to 'at least 65 cents an hour' when he signed the portal to portal pay bill.

"In our opinion," the statement continued, "the ultimate minimum wage of 75 cents under our bill would bring economically defenseless workers, who are grossly underpaid, a step closer to a decent American standard of living."

Congressmen McCormack and Madden introduced a companion bill in the House.



## BIG MAJORITY FOR OEIU AT TRANE CO.

LaCrosse, Wisc.—By an overwhelming vote of 55 to 8 the production clerical workers employed by the Trane Company of this city voted for representation through the OEIU and its Local No. 44, according to OEIU Vice President Alice Holz who handled the organization and election campaign for the International Union.

The full cooperation and assistance of the production workers AFL federal labor union and its officers was an important factor in this achievement, according to Vice President Holz.

Work has already commenced on the drafting of proposed clauses for a working agreement to be negotiated with the company. The employees are enthusiastic and it is anticipated that as a result of the organization of the production clerical workers, the general office of the company will show interest in obtaining the benefits of union representation.

## WAGES INCREASED

Warren, Pa.—General wage increases of 11½ and 12½ cents per hour for the general office force and production clerical force of the Struthers-Wells Division of Struthers-Wells Corp. were won in a new agreement recently negotiated between OEIU Local 186 and the company, according to OEIU Representative George P. Firth who assisted the local union in its negotiations.

## NEW RADIO SERIES

Washington, D. C.—Beginning July 5, the American Federation of Labor inaugurated a new series of radio broadcasts over the nationwide network of the American Broadcasting Company.

The first nine programs will originate each Saturday evening at 6:45 P.M., Eastern Daylight Time, from the nation's capital. Beginning Sept. 2, the program, known as "Labor-USA," will be shifted to Tuesday nights at 10:30 P.M. Please be certain to consult your local newspaper for the exact time of these broadcasts in your own community as some local stations may be forced by earlier commitments to re-broadcast the programs at some later time.

This is the third successive year that the American Federation of Labor has conducted the "Labor-USA" series for twenty-six consecutive weeks—the last half of the year. In previous years, the program consisted of a combination of news and discussion under the subtitle, "The American Federationist of the Air."

A new format will be tried out this year. The first nine programs will be devoted to round-table discussions, completely extemporaneous and unrehearsed, of major topics in the news of interest to the nation's workers. If these discussions prove popular, they will be continued throughout the series.

Make sure to listen to each of these programs to keep informed on labor news and views!

## Kick Off For Label Show



—MILWAUKEE JOURNAL PHOTO

Initial plans for the elaborate Union-Industries Show, to be held in Milwaukee, May 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 1948, were inaugurated recently by I. M. Ornburn, Secretary-Treasurer, AFL Union Label Trades Department, which sponsors the unique exhibition. Preliminary arrangements were made by (from left) I. M. Ornburn, Director of the Union-Industries Show; Harold J. Fitzgerald, President of Fox Wisconsin Amusement Corporation (industry member); George A. Haberman, President of the Wisconsin State Federation of Labor (labor member), and Mayor John L. Bohn, representing the City of Milwaukee.

## Leaders of AFL Unions Map Taft-Hartley Fight

Washington, D. C.—National and international officers of A. F. of L. unions mapped a militant program of action against the anti-labor Taft-Hartley act at a special conference here.

The Office Employees International Union was represented by International President Paul R. Hutchings.

Copies of the act have been sent to all OEIU locals and these are being supplemented by memoranda from the general counsel advising locals of their new obligations and of the various steps they should take to protect their interests.

The conference, holding the law to be "a strike and strife-provoking measure," declared:

"The following shall be our pledge and uncompromising purpose:

"1. Because we believe many of the provisions of the Taft-Hartley Bill are unconstitutional, we will challenge the validity of said sections in the courts. In doing so, we shall avail ourselves of the opportunity to appeal in accordance with court procedure to the Supreme Court of the United States. We shall exhaust every legal recourse at our command in the efforts we put forth to test the validity of this Act.

"2. The repeal of this notorious legislation shall be our fixed objective. We shall never be reconciled to the acceptance of this legislation. We shall oppose it—fight it at every step and every opportunity—until we succeed in our efforts to bring about its repeal. Our action in this respect will be based upon the fact that we regard the Taft-Hartley Bill as a slave measure, un-American, vicious and destructive of labor's constitutional rights.

"3. We will organize, unite and concentrate our efforts toward

bringing about the defeat of every member of Congress for re-election who voted in favor of the final enactment of the Taft-Hartley Bill.

"4. To protect our organizations against possible suits for damages and other vexatious and destructive litigation under this law, it is recommended that no-strike provisions be omitted from all future agreements, written or oral.

"5. In order that the workers of the Nation may be accorded a full and complete opportunity to vote in National elections, we recommend that our organizations set aside this day as a holiday to be devoted solely to election purposes.

"6. We recommend that the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor give full and complete consideration to the declarations of this conference and in addition, prepare for the consideration of the next Convention of the American Federation of Labor a program giving full effect to these purposes."

## Further Gains At Separator Concern

Poughkeepsie, N. Y.—A second boost in wages, making a total of 11 per cent in the last six months, has been secured for approximately 300 office and clerical workers of the DeLaval Separator Co. by Local 112.

The agreement was negotiated by the following committee: Louis Henderson, president of the local; John J. McNulty, Edward J. Rinkle and Howard Northrop.

A 7 per cent gain was achieved last January and the new pact provides for an additional 4 per cent.

Production workers represented by the International Association of Machinists also secured a 4 per cent increase.

## CHILDREN EXPLOITED IN DANGEROUS JOBS

Washington, D. C.—Shocking child labor abuses, including the employment of children in hazardous occupations, and a 400 percent increase in violations of child labor laws were reported by the Department of Labor.

The Department's Division of Labor Standards issued a report declaring that many of the boys and girls illegally employed are on jobs where they are exposed to dangerous accidents.

The division cited checkups made by both state and Federal inspectors which unearthed some of the abuses.

"Children were found working at too young an age, for too long hours, in hazardous jobs, at night work, or under other undesirable conditions," the division's report declared.

Many of these cases of illegal employment of children are not brought to light until accidents occur, the division pointed out. It told of a typical such "teen-age tragedy" which took place in a toy factory. A 15-year-old boy suffered third degree burns when a fire broke out in the paint shop where he was employed. He had to have six blood transfusions and skin grafting.

An investigation revealed that the firm was employing 15 boys illegally after school hours and far into the night, that it "chiseled" on wages; that payroll records were doctored so as not to show their employment, and that whenever an inspector was expected at the plant the children were sent home. Criminal proceedings were launched against the company.

Similar cases are constantly occurring, the division said. It urged better enforcement of child labor laws, more adequate inspections and rigid inspection as a means of weeding out such evils.

## Stresses Value of The Union Label

Washington, D. C.—In an address over the Columbia Broadcasting System, I. M. Ornburn, secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Labor Union Label Trades Department, stressed the value and importance of the union label in these uncertain times.

"American prosperity cannot be sustained at a high level for all workers unless consumers purchase union-made products and use the union services," Mr. Ornburn declared.

"The official seal of labor-management cooperation is the union label. It gives the consumer assurance that products are made under sanitary and humane working conditions according to American labor standards."

## 11% of 40,000 Employers Violated Wage Law

Washington, D. C.—In a recent discussion Secretary of Labor Schwellenbach announced that Wage and Hour inspectors found minimum wage violations in 11 percent of the 40,000 business establishments visited during the past year.



## SOUTHERN KRAFT INCREASES WON

Mobile, Ala.—A general wage increase of \$26 per month across-the-board for all office and clerical employees in the Mobile Mill and Bag plant and the Panama City, Florida Mill of the Southern Kraft Division of the International Paper Company has been obtained according to OEIU Vice President A. R. Carson who worked out the negotiation of this increase in conjunction with the officers of OEIU Locals 71 and 80, which represent these employees.

The general increase agreed upon goes to all employees covered by the agreement between OEIU and the company, and the minimum and maximum rates in the rate ranges for each job classification are also increased by a like amount.

**New Kraft Plant Organizing**  
Following the lead of their fellow workers employed in the Mobile and Panama City offices of the company, the office and clerical workers employed at the Kreole, Mississippi plant of Southern Kraft have already signed up for membership in the OEIU and have applied for a local union charter for their city, according to Vice President J. O. Bloodworth, Jr., who assisted this group in organizing.

## World Labor Action Proposed by A.F.L.

Washington, D. C.—Urging world labor action to bring about economic recovery and lasting peace, Matthew Woll, AFL vice-president and chairman of the Federation's international relations committee, made public a program calling for the establishment in all countries of labor organizations free of government domination.

Such organizations, according to the AFL program, would cooperate in fighting starvation in all parts of the world, in speeding up the reconstruction of world production and exchange and in securing a "just and enduring world peace."

Mr. Woll maintained that the World Federation of Trade Unions offered no basis for such a program of cooperation because it was manipulated and dominated by the Russian Government, through its agencies, stooges and satellites.

The AFL vice-president ridiculed the notion that the Soviet unions could be outvoted in the WFTU by the representatives of the Congress of Industrial Organizations and the British Trades Union Congress. He said Communists and their sympathizers were most active in determining the foreign policy of the CIO, although he specifically excluded Philip Murray, national CIO president, from sharing the Communist viewpoint. In any case, Mr. Woll added, Russia and its satellite nations could outvote the CIO and the British on any issue in which a contest arose.

He made it plain that the AFL was not proposing the organization at this time of a counter-movement to the WFTU. He said the federation would circulate its program abroad in the hope that free trade union groups would gain sufficient strength to work out a basis for cooperation on a worldwide scale without domination of any nation.

## Attitude of Capitalists Rapped by Big Financier

Chicago.—Calling for the "muzzling of such organizations as the National Association of Manufacturers," Cyrus S. Eaton, Cleveland industrialist and banker, said that "to avoid extinction," capitalists will "have to make immediate and radical changes in our attitude toward labor and our methods of dealing with labor."

In an article, "A Capitalist Looks at Labor" published in the University of Chicago "Law Review," he discussed labor legislation, saying: "Let no business man be naive enough to believe \* \* \* that restrictive legislation will be any more effective in bringing about industrial harmony than the Volstead Act was in discouraging drinking."

Mr. Eaton, who has broad interests in the iron ore, steel, coal and railroad industries, asserted that "capitalism cannot survive without the support of labor." He added:

"The casualness with which we capitalists seem willing—nay even eager—to invite the collapse of our economic system in almost every industrial dispute for the sole purpose of thwarting labor is utterly incomprehensible. Labor not only produces the goods and consumes a large part of them; labor also has the votes. \* \* \*

"Eventually (labor) unity is practically a foregone conclusion. The prospect of labor united should be sobering to even the most embittered and embattled capitalist.

"I also believe we may ultimately see a strong alliance between labor and the farmer, accompanied by a tremendous expansion of the manufacturing and selling co-operatives. The effecting of such a formidable combination awaits only the magic touch of some dynamic personality.

"Then, if capitalism has not already gone by the board, its continued existence will be completely at the mercy of an estranged 95 percent of the electorate."

He credited John L. Lewis, head of the United Mine Workers Union, with exercising "wisdom and restraint" during the soft coal controversy last fall, and accused the mine owners of working "under cover \* \* \* feverishly, night and day, to keep a torrent of abuse turned on the miners and their leaders, through every channel of publicity, and to urge all three branches of government—executive, legislative, and judicial—to crack down on labor."

"Throughout the entire time," he added, "John L. Lewis never uttered a syllable of complaint and never issued a statement criticizing anybody."

Mr. Eaton said the Supreme Court decision against the miners "will be productive of untold evil in the whole field of labor relations."

## Further Threat To Worker's Purse

Washington, D. C.—The nation faces another serious meat shortage which threatens to drive prices upward to unprecedented heights. Flood damage in the corn belt is adding to the already developing shortage.

An indication of the seriousness of the situation is the statement of Edward A. O'Neal, conservative president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, before a joint congressional committee. At best, he declared, the country may have to adopt "voluntary meat rationing" and might even be required to resort to price control.

To this, Senator Robert A. Taft promptly replied, "Not a chance."

The Senate's Republican leader declared "the law of supply and demand will help keep a kind of ceiling on—if prices are too high, people will buy less." He added, "And we can eat something else."

## STANDARD GAS

Baltimore, Md.—A substantial majority of all office and clerical workers employed by the Standard Gas & Equipment Company have signed up for membership in OEIU Local 22, and exclusive bargaining rights have been requested by the local union, according to OEIU representative George P. Firth who is working with the local union officers and AFL Organizer Anne Neary. Organizer Neary succeeded in organizing a majority of this group and at a special meeting held last month President Hutchings obligated the first group of applicants into membership.

## FURTHER GAINS WON AT MAGNOLIA

Beaumont, Tex.—Further gains supplementing those previously established in the current agreement have been obtained in recent negotiations with the Magnolia Refining Co., according to OEIU Vice President C. A. Stafford who assisted Local 169. Another 3½ percent increase in the existing cost-of-living bonus was obtained for all members of the office staff, together with improvements in the seniority schedule, assuring employees of a 30-day trial period to qualify on a new job.

In addition, a number of wage reclassifications were also negotiated.

## GULF REFINERY

(Continued from page 1)

both in wages and in working conditions which have been achieved by our membership employed by the Gulf Oil Corp. at its Port Arthur Refinery give ample testimony of the fact that working together and properly using the principles of collective bargaining we can obtain large and worth while benefits for ourselves.

"The membership here involved and its militant negotiating committee, as well as Local President Lemaire and International Vice President Stafford, are to be heartily congratulated on the splendid results achieved through their many months of negotiations with the company. The office workers in the refining industry are more and more coming to realize the fact that they can really help themselves through OEIU organization."

## GREAT NORTHERN WAGES INCREASED

Millinocket, Me.—Recent negotiations with the Great Northern Paper Co. by OEIU Local 192 have resulted in further wage gains and other contract benefits, according to Raymond J. Jamieson, AFL-OEIU representative, who assisted local President Guptill and the local committee in their negotiations.

Weekly wage increases ranging from \$3 to \$13 and averaging approximately \$7.00 were obtained. Other improvements over the previous contract include the payment of time and one-half for off-shift work, an additional two working days off without loss of pay over and above the 40 hours of personal time off previously enjoyed, and provision for bulletining of new or open positions.

## House Freezes Tax For Social Security

Washington, D. C.—The House passed unanimously a bill to freeze the social security pay-roll tax at 1 percent until 1950.

Representative Reed (R., N. Y.) predicted it is "the last freeze" of present rates that Congress will approve.

The measure will block a two-billion-dollar annual increase in the social security levy beginning next January 1 if passed by the Senate and accepted by President Truman. But it provides increases beginning in 1950.

Without the freeze, the security level would jump automatically from 1 percent against employees' wages and employers' payrolls to 2.5 percent against each starting the first of next year.

The present 1 percent rate collects about \$1,500,000,000 annually and has accumulated \$8,700,000,000 in the security trust fund.

The "freeze" measure was presented after a Ways and Means Subcommittee, of which Reed is chairman, examined the needs of the trust fund from which the Government pays old age and survivors insurance.

The new legislation provides for an increase in the tax to 1.5 percent against wages and payrolls in 1950, and to 2 percent in 1957 and thereafter. With the inclusion of this formula for future increases, the bill had the support of both Republicans and Democrats.

The measure also continues, to June 30, 1950, increases in Federal contributions, to needy aged persons, the blind, and dependent children.

The maximum Federal contribution for each needy case was raised from \$20 a month to \$25. States also contribute to these benefits.

## NLRB ELECTION WON

Cleveland, Ohio.—The office force of the National Automotive Parts Association voted by a more than 70 percent vote in favor of representation through OEIU Local 17, thus establishing its exclusive bargaining rights for this office, according to Business Representative Pearl Hanna of the local union.