

THE OFFICE WORKER

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

No. 97

WASHINGTON, D. C., JANUARY, 1953

17

FINDS COERCION IN PENSION SCHEME

St. Louis, Mo.—An NLRB trial examiner has held that it is discriminatory for a company to condition eligibility of its employees to participate in its retirement plan upon the fact that they do not designate a labor organization to represent them.

The Inter-State Motor Freight System, Inc., in the fall of 1951 established a retirement trust for the benefit of those of its employees who were not members of a collective bargaining unit nor represented for bargaining purposes by any labor organization. Under the terms of the trust a non-union employee would cease to be eligible as a participant if he became a union member.

OEU Local 13 filed charges against the company contending that eligibility to participate in the company's retirement trust plan was so defined as to interfere with, restrain and coerce its employees with regard to their right to join or designate a labor organization for collective bargaining purposes.

Trial Examiner Charles W. Snyder heard the case in November and has issued his Intermediate Report and Recommended Order to the Board in which he finds that the above-referred to conditions of the company's retirement trust constitute a conditional deterrent to the exercise of the employees right to join a labor organization. He finds that the employer has thus engaged in an unfair labor practice and recommends that the company be ordered to cease and desist from conditioning eligibility in its retirement trust upon the fact of non-designation by an employee of a representative for purposes of collective bargaining and affirm that it will not interfere with the employees rights to join or assist OEU Local 13.

The Trial Examiner's Intermediate Report and Recommended Order is subject to NLRB decision.

ASKS ELECTION

Birmingham, Ala.—OEU Local 18 of this city has filed an NLRB representation election petition on behalf of the approximately 350 office and clerical employees of the Hayes Aircraft Corporation. A substantial majority of these employees have designated the local union as their representative.

At Executive Board Session



Miami Beach, Fla.—OEIU officers at the December, 1952, semi-annual meeting of the International Union Executive Board pause to have their picture taken during a short break in their deliberations. Seated, left to right: Harold E. Beck, Winifred Evans, President Paul R. Hutchings, Secretary-Treasurer J. Howard Hicks, Terry Parker, and Walter W. Milne. Standing, same order: Max J. Krug, A. R. Carson, John B. Kinnick, George P. Firth, J. O. Bloodworth, Jr., Howard Coughlin, and L. G. Nygren. Illness prevented Vice President Edward P. Springman from attending the meeting.

Voluntary Health Insurance Plan Proposed By Commission

Washington—The President's Commission on the Health Needs of the Nation has issued its long-awaited report proposing a "nationwide system of voluntary prepaid health plan that will meet all the basic health service needs of all the people."

The proposed system would be voluntary, with individuals maintaining the right to choose their own doctors and physicians. For people who could not afford membership, the Commission proposes that the Federal government and the states together each contribute \$750 million to help meet all their medical expenses.

State Supervision

The health insurance plans would be locally or regionally operated and managed by boards of laymen and doctors. They would be aided by Federal funds, but supervised by participating states. All plans would have to meet standards set up by a proposed U. S. Department of Health and Security. Present voluntary prepaid plans would be encouraged to participate on the basis that they offered comprehensive health insurance to all comers, without excluding anyone for age, sex, employment, race, religion, or previous medical history.

The main weakness of the proposal is that states would be free to participate or stay out. Objecting to this, three members of the Commission said that leaving participation "to the option of the

state" would defeat the primary goal of giving everyone access to complete medical care.

In addition to nationwide voluntary health insurance, the Commission

(Continued on page 4)

Roy Ziemann Is Named Organizer

Washington—International President Paul R. Hutchings announced the appointment this month of Roy M. Ziemann as a member of the regular full-time organizing staff of the International Union.

Brother Ziemann will work out of Madison, Wis., covering organizing and servicing assignments in Wisconsin and adjacent states, with particular initial emphasis on the organization of the clerical staffs in the numerous pulp and paper manufacturing plants in the area.

Organizer Ziemann is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin and won a labor scholarship at Ruskin College, Oxford University in England, where he achieved the two-year diploma in Economics and Political Science in one year. Prior to his appointment to the International Union staff, he was employed as director of the Labor History Project in the State of Wisconsin, which is sponsored jointly by the Wisconsin Federation of Labor, the State Historical Society and the University.

OEU WINS UNIQUE LABOR BOARD CASE

Washington—A unique victory was scored by OEIU in an NLRB decision and direction of election issued in the case of our San Francisco Local 36 and the Construction Device Company.

Local 36 organized the clerical employees of this company and petitioned the San Francisco Regional Office of NLRB for an election. The San Francisco NLRB office dismissed the petition without hearing on the grounds that the company was affiliated with the Northern California Distributors Association and that the local union would have to organize a majority of the 146 members of that Association to obtain bargaining rights.

Appeal by International

Because of the far-reaching harmful precedent of such a decision, the International Union filed an appeal with the National Labor Relations Board urging that it reverse the decision of its regional office and allow this case to go to hearing. The International Union's appeal was supported by a detailed brief citing the reasons why the Board should grant a hearing in the case and thereafter give the employees an opportunity to select Local 36 as their bargaining representative.

Nonetheless, the NLRB acted to dismiss the appeal. Confident that there was merit in the position taken by the International Union, President Paul R. Hutchings directed further effort to get the Board to reverse its position. A motion for reconsideration of the case was filed with the Board with further supporting facts and argument. The Board thereafter granted the motion and directed a public hearing on the case. At the hearing the International Union, through Attorney Joseph Finley, developed in the record the facts supporting its position and a detailed post-hearing brief was also filed with the Board.

Position Sustained

Thereafter, on December 17 the Board issued its formal decision and direction of election, ordering

(Continued on page 4)





Editorial
COMMENTS

Dry Rot

It is real, this dry rot that unionism faces today; and the name of this evil is indifference. What is indifference? It is the thought that has come over a large number of members time and time again, a thought that you hear spoken on every side.

It is the thought that it doesn't make any difference whether or not we go to the meetings, just so the other members go. And when others take the same attitude, the final result is that sometimes we have only a handful of members attending the meetings and conducting its affairs.

Indifference is capable of undermining the ideals and principles of unionism that men have fought and died for.

When people are indifferent to anything it does not require much opposition for them to give up that thing completely. Unionism is no exception. It only requires a little obstacle to make an indifferent person give up.

Through his indifference, he does not understand the issues. Consequently he does not care enough about his union to fight and maintain the conditions that were so dearly bought with toil, sweat and yes, even blood.

He becomes the target and main objective of those who are doing their utmost to destroy the unions through laws, propaganda and lies. These people know that an indifferent union man is one who, not having the information at hand, can be made to believe what they want him to believe.

What is the answer? Simply this: attend your local union meetings and be active. Take the time to find out if the facts are true; also find out who are the friends of labor and who are its enemies. And remember, the life and strength of our free labor movement lies only in its active members.—*The Carpenter.*

Wages of Union Workers Higher

New York City—A survey of Federal government establishments and 179 private firms showed that union workers receive an average of \$1.32 more an hour than non-union employees.

The committee studying wages and gathering data for the government's cost-of-living index includes representatives of 20 trade unions.

The survey, which is not yet complete, showed that union machinists, electricians, sheet metal workers, coppersmiths, and plumbers earned \$3.30 an hour and up, contrasted with \$1.50 to \$2.25 for nonunion workers. The same pattern held true for painters, carpenters, and truck drivers.

In addition, many trade unionists work a 7-hour, 35-hour week with double, or time-and-a-half pay for overtime. The rest operate on

LABOR ODDITIES

BY
KALLAS



IN NORWAY WIVES OF ORGANIZED WORKERS MAY HAVE A TWO WEEK HOLIDAY AT A MOUNTAIN RESORT PAID FOR BY THE UNION'S UNION HOLIDAY ASSOC.

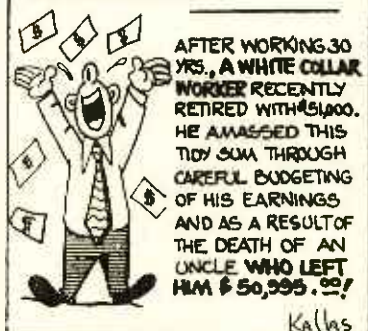


OHIO PRISONERS TO GET 100% TO 800% WAGE INCREASES PRISONERS WITH DEPENDENTS WILL NOW MAKE 10 CENTS AN HOUR. OTHERS WILL MAKE 4 CENTS AN HOUR.

LABOR FEATURES SYNDICATE



WORKERS ON AN EXCAVATING JOB IN CALIFORNIA FOUND THE REMAINS OF A PRE-HISTORIC MAN WITH HIS ARMS OUTSTRETCHED...THEY FAILED TO FIND THE FISH HE WAS DESCRIBING!



AFTER WORKING 30 YRS., A WHITE COLLAR WORKER RECENTLY RETIRED WITH \$1,000. HE AMASSED THIS TINY SUM THROUGH CAREFUL BUDGETING OF HIS EARNINGS AND AS A RESULT OF THE DEATH OF AN UNCLE WHO LEFT HIM \$50,000.

LABOR FEATURES SYNDICATE

NEW PRICE INDEX ISSUED BY CANADA

Ottawa, Ont.—Canada's new consumer price index, which has been constructed to replace its cost-of-living index, has been released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics with the issue of a special report entitled "The Consumer Price Index, January 1949-August 1952," copies available from the Publications Section at 25 cents each. The new index marks the fifth in a series of Canadian retail price indexes, and is said to be the most comprehensive retail price index ever constructed for Canada.

While the Consumer Price Index is an entirely new index from post-war expenditure patterns, it serves the same purpose as the cost-of-living index. That is, it measures the average percentage change in retail prices of goods and services bought by a large and representative group of Canadian urban families. The change in the title has been made to clarify the fact that the index is a measure of price change and is not affected by changes in standards of living.

Explains Construction

The special report on the new index contains an explanation of the construction of the consumer price index and a record of its movement from January, 1949, to August, 1952, and gives detailed information on such aspects of the

an 8-hour day, 40-hour week with overtime provisions. All enjoy such fringe benefits as sick leave, vacations and paid holidays.

A majority of nonunion employees work a 48-hour week with little or no overtime pay and no fringe benefits.

new index as purpose, family coverage, base period, and details of items included as well as their relative importance. It also gives the formula used in calculating the index, outlines methods of price collection and explains special features of the new index such as the methods of incorporating seasonal variations in food consumption, and changes in the price element of home-ownership costs.

In publishing the consumer price index forward from January, 1949, the Bureau has provided a period of nearly four years for which it is possible to compare the movements of the new index with those of the cost-of-living index. Month-to-month movements in the two indexes have been in the same direction except on a very few occasions. Such differences as have occurred are attributable to the more up-to-date weighting system of the consumer price index and other improvements as described in the report.

Reasons for 1949 Base

The year 1949 was selected as a reference level or base period for the consumer price index for a variety of reasons. It was considered the most satisfactory post-war reference, not only for price index comparisons but also for other economic indicators. In addition, prices during 1949 were relatively stable.

Regular monthly publication of the consumer price index commenced with the October 1 index released early in November. The consumer price index and the cost-of-living index will be published jointly for a period of six months.

Tenth of People Have 'Security'

Geneva, Switzerland—A tenth of the world's population now enjoys some kind of social security protection, according to the International Labor Organization's "Year Book of Labor Statistics 1951-1952" made public recently.

The 362-page document shows that both the cost of living and world employment rose during the past two years, but that living costs have now begun to level off or even to drop.

Between June, 1950, and June, 1952, living cost increases ranged from 5 per cent in Lisbon, to more than 70 per cent in Buenos Aires.

The "Year Book" makes the following estimate concerning the number of persons now covered by social security plans:

About 150 million breadwinners in 45 countries have old age, invalidity or survivors' insurance.

About 125 million workers are protected against loss of income from sickness or maternity.

About 90 million are entitled to unemployment compensation.

About 200 million persons have the right to medical care.

Allowances are being paid at present for more than 35 million children in 24 countries.

In addition to the more than 45 countries studied, other nations not furnishing statistics to the ILO have social schemes covering millions of additional persons, and even in the reporting countries many persons have various forms of protection not included in the statistics furnished to the ILO.

Read Your Union Paper

"Were it not for the labor press, the labor movement would not be what it is today, and any man who tries to injure a labor paper is a traitor to the cause."

SAMUEL GOMPERS,
Founder and First President, American Federation of Labor.

THE OFFICE WORKER

Official organ of the
OFFICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION



PAUL R. HUTCHINGS, President
J. HOWARD HICKS, Sec.-Treas.
625 Bond Building
Washington 5, D. C.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY
Entered in the Post Office at Washington, D.C., as second-class mail matter.



Reproduction by the Labor Press of any or all material herein contained is not only permitted, but wholly desirable in the interest of workers' education.

Subscription Price \$1 a Year.

LEGAL Notes

Illegal Contracts—A union and a company had an agreement which contained an illegal union-security clause. Another union petitioned for an NLRB election covering the company's employees. The company and the contracting union then brought their agreement into line with the union-security requirements of the Taft-Hartley Act.

The NLRB says this action came too late. Though the contract was "legalized" before the Board issued its order directing the election, NLRB holds the revamped contract does not bar the election.—(*Continental Carbon, Inc. and Electrical Workers, CIO.*)

Hiring Halls—By refusing to review a case (*NLRB v. National Maritime Union, CIO*) in which NLRB held that union hiring halls were illegal, if they discriminated in favor of union employees, the U. S. Supreme Court has left in effect the Board rule that such hiring halls are outlawed under the T-H law.

Previously, this Board decision had been upheld by the Court of Appeals at New York, and this decision now stands as final. However, this may not be the last word on the hiring problem under T-H law. In making its ruling, NLRB was careful to state that it was not ruling on whether the hiring hall would have been illegal if non-union workers had not actually been discriminated against.

This leaves the way open for hiring halls to continue to operate under the T-H law, if they're not used as closed shop arrangements by which union members get preference for jobs.

Elections—A union that loses a state board election doesn't necessarily have to wait a year before getting an NLRB vote in the same plant if the operation is within NLRB jurisdiction. The NLRB rules that, if the union files an election petition with the Board shortly after the state vote and can show it has the backing of a substantial number of employees by new evidence of employe support, it's entitled to an immediate election, despite the company's attempt to have the NLRB apply the T-H act's limitation of not more than one election in a one-year period.

The Board decides that the state board vote doesn't count to stop an election for a year under these conditions as would an election held by the NLRB itself.—(*Punch Press Repair Corp.*)

Wage Rate Surveys—In contract negotiations, the employer argued that its rates were equal to or higher than those paid by other employers in the area, basing its arguments on its own survey of rates paid in the area. The employer, however, refused to disclose its survey charts and rate figures to the union negotiating committee. The Board holds that the employer did not meet his bargaining obligations under the Labor Relations Act.—(*96NLRB58*)

GREAT DEMAND FOR LEGISLATIVE BOOK

Washington—The 1953 edition of the "Legislative Achievements of the American Federation of Labor" is ready for distribution.

This booklet has reached the level of great demand in recent years because of the even more intense activity of the American Federation of Labor on Capitol Hill in Washington.

This popular volume also includes a statement of the activities of the AFL's National Legislative Committee.

25 Specific Gains

The 82nd Congress including both first and second sessions was one of the most active from organized labor's viewpoint. The AFL counts 25 specific gains for its membership in the form of legislation in the 82nd Congress. In addition, the American Federation of Labor was responsible for blocking 11 proposals for legislation which would have been harmful to labor.

William C. Hushing, chairman, National Legislative Committee, under whose direction the "Legislative Achievements" booklet has been revised, also is chairman of the Administrative Committee of the National Legislative Council of the American Federation of Labor.

Copies Available

This council meets each month during the sessions of Congress. Delegates from international unions and others hear the progress reports submitted by the members

Bankers Unite To Stop Embezzling

Chicago—American bankers have formed the Bank-Share Owners Advisory League to try to halt an increasing wave of embezzlements. From 1934 through 1951, 105 banks were forced to close because of losses due to embezzlement. Although depositors were protected up to a limit of \$5,000 (\$10,000 in 1950 and 1951), the stockholders had little protection.

An FBI study showed that embezzlements and shortages in 1951 increased by 25 per cent in banks and savings associations, with a rise of 188 per cent since 1946. Of the 19 banks assisted by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation in the last five years, the FBI said, 16 suffered from defalcations.

The FDIC said that 600 criminal embezzlements or similar shortages were reported last year. More than 700 bank officers and employees were involved, with most of the offenders consisting of bank officers rather than clerks, tellers and lesser employees. Percentagewise, there were twice as many officers in trouble than minor employees.

There are 496,000 bank officers and employees in the U. S.

Many observers have pointed out that if the same yardstick were used to judge bankers, as a class, that has been used to judge government workers because a comparatively few have been convicted of irregularities, a tremendous smear campaign could be waged against them. No such campaign has been undertaken, nor has the banking business been charged with being a "mess."

of the National Legislative Committee. These reports are fully discussed in line with the general policy laid down by the AFL convention and by the AFL Executive Council.

Copies of the "Legislative Achievements of the American Federation of Labor" may be had in moderate quantities by addressing Chairman Hushing, in care of American Federation of Labor, 901 Massachusetts Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C.

CIO Local Penalized For Officer's Lie

Washington—A local union has been removed from NLRB's list of unions which have met the Taft Act's filing requirements, as a result of the first conviction of a union officer for filing a false non-Communist affidavit.

The Board's action came after a jury in the U. S. District Court in Camden, N. J., decided that Anthony Valentino, a business manager for three local unions, lied when he swore that he wasn't a Communist.

As the compliance status of Local 80-A, United Packinghouse Workers of America, CIO, was based on his affidavit, that local is taken off the compliance list. Loss of its compliance status means that the union cannot utilize the services of the NLRB in election and unfair labor practice cases.

Valentino had filed non-Communist affidavits as Business Manager for Local 80-A and two other CIO unions. All three locals were being asked to show cause why their certifications should not be revoked by the NLRB. These certifications have entitled them to act as exclusive bargaining representative for more than 900 employes in four Camden, N. J., plants.

The Board, after considering the response, briefs, and arguments, concluded that, in the interest of protecting its own processes from further abuse, these certifications should be considered of no further force and effect.

FILMS OFFERED

Washington.—Two films of interest to labor organizations, produced by the Department of the Army, now available from army film libraries for public showings on a non-theatrical, non-profit basis.

One film, "Communism," was designed for internal use in the Armed Forces Information and Education Program, but it is of particular interest to labor because of its comments on labor's determined fight to eliminate the Communists from labor unions.

The second film is Armed Forces Screen Report 113, "Industrial Mobilization." This picture shows the planning phases of national defense necessary to produce the implements of war and to maintain a stable civilian economy.

Organizations may obtain information on how to get the films by contacting Office of Public Information, Department of Defense, Washington, D. C.

to the Ladies

More in 1953

The nation's farms will produce slightly more food this year than in 1952. That is the over-all forecast of the Department of Agriculture.

There should be more beef and veal, chicken, margarine, fresh and frozen vegetables, frozen fruits, fruit juices, and sweet potatoes, but probably less pork, eggs, turkey and butter.

Prices?

It predicts higher prices for turkey, eggs, butter, bread, and some other cereal products, dry beans and canned vegetables. Prices may drop somewhat for beef and veal (particularly the lower grades), lamb and mutton, chicken, fish, frozen fruit juices, and fresh vegetables. Prices of most other foods will remain at 1952's high level.

Rules for Food Buying

Here are some suggestions for food buying which may help you get more value from every food dollar:

1. Make your own selection of perishables.
2. Don't handle fruits and vegetables unnecessarily.
3. Remember that the largest isn't always the best.
4. Of course, look for low prices but observe quality and condition carefully.
5. Try to buy the fruits and vegetables in season in your area.
6. Make sure that containers hold full measure.
7. Try to get the latest information on market prices and available supplies through your newspaper and food programs on radio and TV.
8. Look for U. S. Grades on such products as meats and eggs as helpful guides to quality.

Food Hints

To prevent curdling when cooking with eggs, add hot liquids or mixture to the beaten eggs a little at a time.

When you buy ham, find out from the butcher or the label on the ham whether it needs soaking before cooking. Many hams of mild cure on the market today need no soaking.

You can soften the skin of baked sweet potatoes if you rub a little fat on them before baking.

When you are shopping for turnips, look for those that are smooth and firm with few leaf scars around the crown, and with very few fibrous roots at the base.

We need intelligence at all levels of our national life, so that the responsiveness of our people to the needs of the day may be based on insight and understanding. A mistake caused by narrowness or ignorance may be just as dangerous to our national security as the most careful plotting of a fifth column.—*Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas.*

Marriage—the greatest cause of divorce.



Publications—Henry F. Budde Publications, Inc., Local 36, San Francisco, Calif., \$44 per month.

Filtration Equip.—Oliver United Filters, Inc., Local 202, Hazleton, Pa., 10.5 per cent.

Wholesale Hdwe.—Charles A. Strelinger Co., Local 42, Detroit, Mich., 4 cents per hour plus 2½ cents for 4 years and 2½ cents for 5 years of service retroactive to April.

Grain-Mill Products—General Mills, Inc., Local 28, Chicago, Ill., 5½ per cent.

Heating Equip.—Newark Stove Co., Local 173, Newark, Ohio, 3 cents per hour retroactive to August plus 4 cents effective last month.

Research—National Labor Bureau, Local 36, San Francisco, Calif., \$25 per month.

Paint Brushes—Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co., Local 270, Keene, New Hampshire, 4½ per cent.

Steam Boilers—Ames Iron Works, Inc., Local 125, Oswego, New York, 8 cents per hour.

Electrical Supplies—The Columbian Electrical Co., Local 40, Kansas City, Missouri, 5 to 10 cents per hour.

Machine Tools—Brown & Sharpe Mfg. Co., Local 76, Providence, R. I., 2 and 3 cents per hour.

Title Search—Union Title Guaranty Co., Local 33, Pittsburgh, Pa., \$10 to \$20 per month.

Furniture—Charles Remer Furniture Co., Local 30, Los Angeles, Calif., 11 cents per hour.

Mfg. Bedding & Mattresses—Specialty Mfg. Co., Local 36, San Francisco, Calif., \$5 per week.

Hospitals—The Permanente Hospitals, Local 29, Oakland, Calif., Local 36, San Francisco, Calif., Local 243, Richmond, Calif., \$10 per month.

Spices & Patent Medicines—W. T. Rawleigh Co., Local 12, Minneapolis, Minn., \$2 to \$2.50 per week.

Wholesale Drugs—McKesson & Robbins, Inc., Local 29, Oakland, Calif., 5.94 per cent.

Heavy Machinery—General Iron Works Co., Local 5, Denver, Colo., \$13.50 per month general plus \$5 per month cost of living increases.

Milk Products—Mayflower Milk Co. (Dairy Co-op. Ass'n), Local 296, Salem, Oreg., \$10 to \$25 per month.

Wholesale Groceries—John Sexton & Co., Local 33, Pittsburgh, Pa., \$3 per week.

Soft Drinks—Bireley's Beverages, Local 29, Oakland, Calif., \$15 per month.

Rug Cleaning & Storage—Hamp-ton Rug Service, Local 36, San Francisco, Calif., \$50 per month.

Copper-Ore Mining—Kennecott Copper Corp. (Chino Mines Div.), Local 62, Santa Rita, N. Mex., 61 cents per eight-hour shift.

If you purchase more union label goods on buy-day—you'll have more money on pay-day.

NOTES

from the field

California—Recent organization by Local 29 includes office and clerical employees of Colyear Motor Parts, Cowden Overall Mfg. Co., Culinary Welfare Plan, Drummond's Appliance Store, Good Housekeeping Shop, Kreplin Auto Parts Co., Millmen's Welfare Plan, Pension Consultants, Samuels Jewelers and St. Regis Paper Co. This local has also recently filed an NLRB representation petition on behalf of the nearly 30 office and clerical employees of the terminal office of Pacific Intermountain Express, and has received authorization cards from a substantial number of office and clerical employees of Maxwell Hardware Company and the Hawthorne Answering Service.

The NLRB, in response to a petition filed by San Francisco Local 36 on behalf of the office and clerical employees of Berkshire Knitting Mills, is conducting a representation election this month.

Idaho—Pocatello Local 288 is the petitioner in an NLRB representation election being held this month

among the office and clerical employees of Garrett Freightlines, Inc.

Indiana—The office and clerical employees of Aero Mayflower Transit Company were voting early this month in a representation election resulting from an NLRB petition filed by Indianapolis Local 1.

Michigan—Detroit Local 42 is the intervenor in an NLRB representation election being held among clerical employees of the Chrysler Tank Plant in nearby Centerline.

Missouri—The NLRB has certified St. Louis Local 13 as the bargaining representative of the office and clerical employees of Complete Auto Transit, Inc.

Ohio—The NLRB has, as a result of a petition filed by Toledo Local 19, ordered an election among salesmen at Lownsbury Chevrolet Co.

Ontario—One hundred per cent organization of the office and clerical employees of Grout's Limited, a textile manufacturing firm in St. Catherine's, has resulted in the chartering of our Local 289 in that city.

Oregon—Newly chartered Salem 296 has successfully concluded its first negotiations for a collective bargaining agreement. It is with the Mayflower Milk Company.

Utah—A formal NLRB hearing is being held this month on Salt Lake City Local 31's petition to represent the office and clerical employees of the Garrett Freightlines, Inc., branch in that city.

Washington—An NLRB representation election is being held this month among the office and clerical employees of the Vancouver Radio Corporation, in response to a petition filed on their behalf by Vancouver Local 68.



"So you married that plump little girl that used to giggle so much."
"Yes, I always did believe in a short wife and a merry one."

Woman on telephone: "I sent my little boy to your store for two pounds of cookies, and got only a pound and a half. Your scales must be wrong."

Grocer: "My scales are all right, madam. Have you weighed your little boy?"

He: "I suppose you dance."
She: "Oh, yes! I love to!"
He: "Great. That's better'n dancing."

Voice on the phone: "What kind of members do you have there?"

Warden: "Oh, the usual bunch. Murderers, thieves, bootleggers, hold-up men. Who do you want?"

Voice on the phone: "Say, what local is this?"

Irate Wife: "I'm getting fed up catering to your every whim. Just suppose we wives went on strike. What would you do then?"

Husband, quietly: "Well, you just go ahead and strike. I've got a peach of a strike-breaker in mind."

Voluntary Health Scheme Proposed

(Continued from page 1)

mission proposed a series of steps needed to improve and expand the nation's medical facilities.

Private Plans Lag

Almost as if to support the recommendations of the Commission, the Federal Security Agency released a report indicating that in 1951 private insurance met only about 13 per cent of the personal costs of sickness, leaving 87 per cent to be met individually.

The report, covering each of the four years 1948-1951, appears in the Social Security Bulletin for December 1952. It shows the details of private expenditures for all kinds of medical services and commodities, estimates of income loss due to sickness, and the premium income and benefit payments for all kinds of private health insurance.

High Cost Shown

The combined total of private expenditures for medical care and loss of income due to sickness was \$14.2 billion. The nation paid \$2.4 billion in premiums for insurance against these private sickness costs and got back \$1.8 billion in benefits. The difference of \$600 million, the net cost of the insurance, equalled one-fourth of the premiums or one-third of the benefits.

The study shows that for all kinds of medical care the nation spent \$8,816 million in 1951 and received \$1,353 million in insurance benefits, or 15.3 of these private expenditures. Insurance benefits for medical costs have more than doubled in the four years, but the proportion of the total medical bills met by insurance have not increased proportionately.

Of the income loss due to sickness, amounting to \$5.4 billion in 1951, 8.4 per cent was covered by insurance benefits of \$456 million.

83 Per Cent Uninsured

If the estimated sickness costs are restricted to the kinds which are ordinarily covered by insurance, the total for the nation in 1951 was \$10.6 billion. All private health insurance paid for one-sixth of this amount, leaving 83 per cent uninsured.

The portion that was uninsured varied with the type of sickness cost. For example, hospitalization insurance benefits of \$897 million covered 36 per cent of the \$2,471 million of private expenditures for hospital care, leaving 64 per cent to be paid without insurance. Physicians' services cost \$2,684 million, and insurance payments were \$456 million, leaving 83 per cent uninsured. Income loss insurable through the common types of insurance policies amounted to \$3,562 million, and insurance benefits to \$456 million, leaving 87 per cent not covered by insurance.

WINS UNIQUE CASE

(Continued from page 1)

that an election be held among the office and clerical employees of the company, giving them an opportunity to vote as to whether they desired to be represented by OEIU Local 36. The Board sustained the position of Local 36 and the International Union that the single employer unit of office and clerical employees of the Construction Device Company was an appropriate unit for bargaining purposes and that it was not necessary for Local 36 to organize a majority of all the member firms of the Northern California Distributors Association in order to obtain an NLRB election for the office employees of such of those firms who desired collective bargaining.

Since the decision in the Construction Device case, the NLRB has applied this principle at Toledo, Ohio, where it has directed an election among a unit of employees of

the Lownsbury Chevrolet Company who have signed up for membership in Local 19. The company vigorously opposed the local's election petition, alleging that the unit should include all such employees of all the automobile dealers, members of the Toledo Automobile Dealers Association. The Board sustained the position of Local 19.