



# WHITE COLLAR

Office and Professional Employees International Union, AFL-CIO and CLC

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## OPEIU Joins National Coalition of Unions Seeks Safety and Health Study on Exposure to VDTs

OPEIU has joined a national coalition of AFL-CIO unions requesting the National Institute on Safety and Health (NIOSH) to study health effects of exposure to cathode ray tubes (CRTs), also known as video display terminals.

VDTs—which look like television screens—are used in banks, newsrooms, computer operations, and offices. Tied to computers, VDTs are built around cathode ray tubes. They emit extremely bright lights and, some fear, radiation. Although NIOSH reports, that in all cases evaluated, no excessive levels of radiation were found.

Many locals, including OPEIU's Bay Area Local 3 and New York's 153, report worker complaints of headaches, tension, malaise, neck and shoulder pain, eye strain, distortion of visual focus, and color blindness.

A union-run study of Blue Shield of California's VDT operators revealed similar complaints. George Davis, OPEIU western regional director, said: "We have cases of workers who come in in the morning

alert and astute and by the mid-afternoon are complaining of back pains and eye pains or stomach aches. You can compare that to workers who are doing it by hand, and we find there is more loss of time on the job and more complaints."

Although NIOSH has not yet responded to the coalition request for a radiation study, the Institute will conduct (at the request of the University of Wisconsin) an 18-month exploratory study to determine if VDT work regimens are stress-producing.

The study's statement of purpose reads, in part: "Machine pacing with little operator control, high information processing demands, and few opportunities for social interaction loom as significant potential stress factors for VDT operators based on previous research in other types of job situations."

If the stress factor is significant NIOSH promises to recommend additional research into the VDT stress/strain problem.

### OPEIU Takes Action

OPEIU, however, has already taken steps to allevi-

ate VDT-related health problems. The Union is working with several companies, including Blue Shield of California to cut down worker complaints. Among the solutions are additional coffee breaks and an extra half-hour break away from the screens to lessen pressure.

The new electronic machinery has also prompted OPEIU to push harder for flextime scheduling—under which employees choose their own work time to fill a 35-hour work week—or a four-day week.

The Union, however, remains concerned about VDT health problems, according to Gwen Wells, Director of Research. "Even if no excessive levels of radiation exist," Ms. Wells said, "we are questioning the potential health hazard of continued exposure to low level radiation."

Ms. Wells said that she plans to attend a conference for VDT operators sponsored by the New York Committee on Occupational Safety and Health to gain additional information and to strengthen ties with other unions investigating VDTs.

## Local Settles "Colorful" Strike

Employees of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art have returned to work after a brief strike and report significant contract gains in pay, hours, and sick leave.

The announcement was made by George Davis, Secretary-Treasurer of Local 3.

The strike was described as both colorful and fun by participants and observers. Strikers gave new meanings to modern art by creating aesthetically-pleasing picket signs reading "On Strike for Dollars and Dignity" and "Our Demands Are Not Abstract." And, pop art reportedly reached new heights when one striker tied a doughnut to a picket sign and wrote in large letters: "We Ask for More Dough, They Offer Us Doughnuts." The occasion was an offering of doughnuts by the museum's deputy director.

The picket line even recruited two German shepherds, who carried their own signs, to the union cause.

Although fun, the strike was both serious and successful, Davis said. The 34 employees who walked out on July 2 won across the board pay boosts of \$110 monthly with another hike—7 percent—July 1, 1980.

Employees also achieved an immediate lump sum payment of \$180, demanded by the strikers as a small recognition of their role in making the past year one of the best at the growing, privately-run operation.

In addition to pay improvements, employees won changes in work scheduling. Under a flextime system employees can choose to perform 10 days work in 9 days, allowing three-day weekends.

Also included in the contract gains were improvements in sick-day accumulation. Under the previous agreement, employees could accumulate a maximum of 24 days. The new contract contains no limit. In addition, six days of the annual sick leave can be used as personal leave to tend sick relatives. And, in the future, employees leaving the job will receive payment for 50 percent of accumulated sick leave.

Secretary-Treasurer George Davis assisted Representative Reeve Olson in the settlement negotiations. Stewards Toby Kahn and Genie Candau took an active part in negotiations, while Debra Neese and Lee Loomis coordinated the picketing.

## Local 14 Scores Two Election Victories

### Pennsylvania

Frustrated over an administration which turned a deaf ear to employee complaints, Lafayette College's 120 office, clerical and technical employees made "A Voice, Not An Echo" the battle cry in their recently successful organizing campaign.

According to OPEIU Vice President Gerald D. Iushewitz, key issues in the campaign were lack of a voice in the workplace, wages, and the fact that employees must pay for their own medical coverage. But, the employees' voice was loud and clear in the decisive vote for OPEIU representation.

Iushewitz praised the work of a strong, 15-member organizing committee. He said these tireless workers signed their names to all leaflets which they then distributed, in addition to signing up members.

Mark Reeder, OPEIU representative, was actively involved throughout the campaign; while Sheila Baker, vice president, and Bill Martello, organizer, from Local 153 provided added support in the final weeks.

This team effort was the primary reason for success.

Because of this victory and the advances seen at other unionized colleges OPEIU expects to be able to organize other universities and colleges in the area.

### New Jersey

Following on the heels of its Pennsylvania election victory, Local 14 scored another in Ocean County, New Jersey. Only one week after the first success, supervisors voted overwhelmingly for representation by OPEIU.

The local had previously organized units of engineers, blue collar supervisors, library clerks, and library supervisors. The 26 white collar supervisors now brings the total represented by OPEIU in Ocean County to nearly 200.

Vice President Gerald Iushewitz said the victory could not have been won without the efforts of Ocean County employees like Ted Heitman, Ed Hibbert, and Annette Pecora.

## Vice President Retires

Oscar Bloodworth, OPEIU's longest-serving vice president, retired on September 1.

Bloodworth was among the first 10 OPEIU Vice Presidents elected at the initial 1945 convention. He served in that capacity for 34 years, longer than any other person.

Since 1968 Bloodworth has also served as Southern Regional Director of OPEIU.

He became active in Federal Labor Union, Local 22222 ("Five Deuces")—now OPEIU Local 26—shortly after being hired by the Tampa Shipbuilding Company in 1941. He was elected vice president of Local 22222 in 1944 and Business Manager in 1945. He was also elected President of the Tampa Central Labor Union.

In *White Collar Union*, the history of the OPEIU, Joseph Finley described Bloodworth as a union organizer with "an articulate awareness of reality and a dedication to the grind that would crush lesser men."



He is known for his quiet effective manner and his persistence in working for the union.

Bloodworth also was active in civic affairs, working for the Methodist Human Relations Committee and the Tampa Urban League. During World War II he was appointed to the Gasoline Rationing Board, the Rent Control Board, and the Hoover Commission on Government Reorganization.

Bloodworth makes his home with his wife, the former Carol Karnes, in Tampa, Florida.

## WHITE COLLAR

Official Organ of  
OFFICE AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION  
affiliated with the AFL-CIO, CLC

John Kelly  
President

WILLIAM A. LOWE  
Secretary-Treasurer

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## Local 106 Ratifies General Dynamics Agreement

OPEIU Local 106, along with 9 unions comprising the Metal Trades Council, have reached agreement on a three-year contract with General Dynamics Corporation's Electric Boat Division, Groton, Connecticut.

The contract covers 11,000 employees, including approximately 800 clerical and technical employees represented by Local 106.

According to Paul Bruno, President of the Local, the agreement provides pay increases ranging from 20 to 70 cents per hour in the first year, depending upon classification, 10 to 60 cents per hour in the second year, and 20 to 55 cents per hour in the third year. Cost-of-living adjustments of 10 cents per hour will be paid on December 1, 1980 and 1981.

Other changes in the contract include an increase in monthly pension benefits from \$10 to \$11 per year of service on July 1, 1980 and to \$12 on July 1, 1981; an increase in maximum sickness and accident benefits in the first year from \$105 to \$150 per week; and a decrease in the major medical insurance deductible from \$100 to \$50. The agreement also provides a stock option plan for the first time.

## Two-Year Agreement Yields 26% Benefits Increase

OPEIU Local 475 and the East Tennessee Baptist Hospital in Knoxville, Tennessee reached agreement on July 2, in a two-year agreement that will yield a 26% benefits increase. The announcement was made by International Representative W. Charles Harris.

The 204 LPNs and technicians won a wage increase of \$1.00 per hour over the life of the contract, with additional increases in the shift differentials and pay improvements for on-call status.

For greater protection of the bargaining unit, Local 475 obtained pay protection and retraining rights in the event of job loss and a no-subcontracting clause.

Other improvements include two additional floating holidays, three additional months of benefit coverage in cases of industrial accident or illness, and paid time for union officers and stewards investigating grievances.

## Improved Wages and COLA Highlight Local 12 Contract

Local 12 has achieved a favorable three-year agreement with Pacific Intermountain Express, an over-the-road trucking firm in Minneapolis, according to H. R. Markusen, OPEIU Business Manager.

Local 12 made wage gains of 80 cents per hour as of July 1, 1979; 35c per hour to be awarded in July 1, 1980; and 35c on July 1981, an average hourly increase of \$1.15.

The package also includes an improved cost-of-living clause. The former contract provided for 1 cent per hour for each .4 increase in the CPI to be computed annually. The new agreement provides for 1 cent per hour for each .3 CPI increase to be computed twice a year—January 1 and July 1.

Additional improvement in the COLA language provides that "all semi-annual no cap COLA payments shall become part of the Classification base rates."

The employees also achieved an additional annual employer contribution of 12.5 cents per hour to the pension fund.



"She must be in there somewhere. I hear sobbing."

# Union Women Stress Organizing

## OPEIU VP Elected to CLUW Executive Board

"Women will not achieve equality in the workplace without the collective strength of unions behind them" declared President Joyce D. Miller in her keynote address to the biennial convention of the Coalition of Labor Union Women.

The 1,100 delegates, alternates and observers from all major unions met in New York City, September 15-16, 1979. Their focus was those issues of particular concern to working women generally and women in unions specifically.

Organizing was one such concern. President Miller noted that only 6 million out of 40 million women in the workplace are covered by collective bargaining agreements.

Urging a renewed commitment to unorganized workers, she praised the CLUW members for participating in a rally the previous day to support an organizing drive by the Retail, Wholesale Department Store Union at the Abraham & Straus department store in Brooklyn. She pointed out that A&S employees earn \$20 to \$30 less a week than their organized counterparts at other NYC stores. "More than 80% of these

4,000 workers," she said, "are women."

Miller also said that "Women today still earn only 57% of what men earn." After first being denied the better-paying jobs, women are assigned to traditionally female jobs where they are paid less than men performing jobs requiring no greater skill, effort and responsibility.

Other speakers included Sarah Weddington, Special Assistant to President Carter; Holmes Norton, Commissioner, EEOC; and Thomas R. Donahue, Executive Assistant to AFL-CIO President George Meany.

In one major item of business, Gwen Newton, vice president of OPEIU, was elected to a newly created CLUW vice presidential post. All incumbent officers were elected by acclamation.

In other action, convention delegates pledged increased efforts to win ratification of the ERA; renewed CLUW's commitment to affirmative action programs—in labor unions, as well as business; called for strengthening job safety and health protection; and urged passage of a national health security bill.

## Women in the Workforce Conference Set for October 26-27

California—A two-day statewide educational conference on Women in the Work Force sponsored by the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO will be held at the Jack Tar Hotel in San Francisco Friday and Saturday, October 26-27.

The conference coordinator, Kathleen Kinnick, OPEIU Vice President and California Labor Federation's Director of Women's Activities, said that the major aims of the conference will be:

- To provide background and up-dated information on key issues for unionists representing women workers; and
- To sharpen the participants' skills as advocates and negotiators.

Speakers at the conference will include John F. Henning, the executive officer of the California AFL-CIO; John F. Crowley, the execu-

tive officer of the San Francisco Labor Council; and Marilyn Grace, a member of the Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board.

Other speakers include Cynthia McCaughn, member of OPEIU Local 30 and coordinator of Women's Activities of the National AFL-CIO Civil Rights Department, and Dianne Stark, legislative secretary for the California Commission on the Status of Women. Albin J. Gruhn, the California Labor Federation's president will wrap up the conference.

Workshops will be held on the theory and practice of negotiations, communications, and equal pay for work of comparable value, as well as such topics as sexual harassment on the job, union-busting consultants, and expanding opportunities for women workers in apprenticeship programs.

## OPEIU Vice President Addresses Japanese Visitors

Kathleen Kinnick, OPEIU Vice President, addressed a group of 85 visiting Japanese trade union leaders and management personnel in San Francisco on September 17, 1979.

The visitors, said Ms. Kinnick, were participants of the 8th Pacific Region Productivity Seminar and will meet with representatives of labor, management, and state and federal government during their two-week stay on the

West Coast.

The union officials and personnel managers are from the chemical, iron and steel, paper and pulp, food and beverage, transportation, insurance, trading and retail, automotive and film industries in Japan.

It is the third year that Ms. Kinnick has been invited to address the group on behalf of the California Labor Federation and as Vice President of the OPEIU.

## New Research Director at the OPEIU

Gwen Wells, a graduate of Cornell University's Industrial and Labor Relations program and a former vice president of an AFT non-teaching local, has joined the staff of OPEIU as Research Director.

In making the announcement, President John Kelly said: "Gwen Wells' appointment is part of our effort to work more closely with the locals during the coming year. She has substantial experience as a labor organizer and an excellent academic background in labor relations. We expect that she will add a new dimension to this vital staff position in the OPEIU."

Ms. Wells said that her responsibilities as Research Director would focus on providing locals with information that could aid in contract negotiations and organization of new union members.

She will also edit the *White Collar*, OPEIU's bi-monthly newspaper.

"I'm particularly delighted to be working with OPEIU," she said, "because of its excellent reputation for representing white collar workers, especially women."

## Former OPEIU Vice President Mourned

LYNN, Mass.—Leo J. Wallace a former community relations specialist with Lynn Economic Opportunity Inc, and a prominent former labor leader, died Tuesday, July 24, after brief illness. He was 66 years old.

Mr. Wallace resigned his position as Vice President of the OPEIU in 1967, after 10 years of service, when he accepted the LEO position.

A resident of Lynn, Mr. Wallace received his bachelors degree and, in 1940, his law degree from Boston College.

Mr. Wallace is survived by his wife Mrs. Julia M. Wallace; two sons William King Wallace II and Leo J. Wallace, Jr.; three sisters, and several nieces and nephews.

A graduate of the University of Texas, Ms. Wells taught in the Dallas public school system for two years before she joined the University of Texas as an editorial assistant. She became involved in union work at the University and was elected vice president of the AFT non-teaching local.

# The Impact of Technological Change

This is the second part of an *Interface* article on how unions and employees can cope with technological change. *Interface* is published by the Department for Professional Employees, AFL-CIO.

While older employees must grapple with drastic changes in the way their jobs are performed, those entering the workforce from high school or college are generally well prepared to cope with the "computer language" that now governs many work functions. Computer math and concepts are now taught in most schools and today's students have grown up with the computer and its related devices. Thus, younger employees often have a distinct advantage over those who have acquired their skills on the job.

The importance of the need for training is highlighted in the revised "National Apprenticeship and Training Standards for Drafters," which has been developed by the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers, in cooperation with the Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training, U.S. Department Labor.

Progress on the job, from entry level to highly responsible positions, will no doubt be accelerated. Combining the intelligence of the individual with the built-in capabilities of the computerized machine will

eliminate much of the drudgery and tedious calculation previously required.

Obviously, the advantages enjoyed by these younger employees will be reflected in competition with older workers for those jobs which evolve out of the new work processes. In many cases, the new technologies will enhance the employer's ability to take on more work than before, thus assuring jobs for all. But in other situations, large number of jobs may be eliminated by computerization.

Employees covered by collective bargaining agreements ought to be aware that the problems generated by automation are going to be as critical in contract negotiations as any economic proposals that may be on the table. There is no sense in negotiating only on wages, pensions, and insurance benefits for members whose jobs are about to become obsolete. The emphasis must be placed where it will do the most good—providing job protections and readjustment opportunities for those affected.

Unfortunately, people have a tendency to avoid unpleasant issues until they recognize that there is no escape. Like the proverbial ostrich putting his head in the sand, those feeling secure on their present jobs will avoid facing the present reality that demands

immediate action to secure a job three to five years from now. After one has spent a good portion of his lifetime developing expertise in a particular field, facing suddenly the prospects of an accelerated re-education and re-training program in a somewhat unrelated field may be very difficult.

While most realize that in many cases the long-term effects of technological advances will prove to be beneficial for mankind, it must also be recognized that the short-term effects on individuals can be devastating if those individuals are caught totally unprepared.

Unfortunately, much of what is said regarding technological change falls on deaf ears. Many white collar workers feel that the words automation and technological changes apply to, and are the worry of, only the blue collar workers. And therein lies the problem, because complacency and apathy on the part of the white collar worker could very well be a much bigger threat to his job security than technological change will ever be.

In terms of laying the groundwork for educating members, getting grievances ready, getting information from the employer, negotiating good contract language, starting yesterday would not have been too early; today may not be too late—although tomorrow may very well be.

(To Be Continued)

## Boston Interview

### 'Flexi-time' Aids Working Moms

The following is an excerpt from an interview between OPEIU President John Kelly and Richard Lamere of the Boston Herald American, published on Sunday, August 19, 1979.

Flexi-time clauses permitting working mothers to tailor their work hours to better meet their responsibilities to their children at home are being negotiated by the Office and Professional Workers Union.

John P. Kelly of New York, newly-elected president of the 110,000-member union, the 33rd largest in the AFL-CIO, said in an interview in Boston:

"Flexi-time is a coming trend and we're beginning to put it into our contracts across the country and in Canada."

Under flexi-time clauses, employers are asked to allow married women workers to start work earlier than other employees, for instance at 7 a.m., so they can be home when their youngsters get out of school in the early afternoon.

"Allowing women to come to work early and go home early is becoming more popular and it certainly helps in the overall supervision of the kids at home. Often women come to their jobs at 7 a.m., leaving it to dad to get the youngsters off to school. Then the mother is home in the afternoon when the children arrive," according to Kelly.

With gasoline costing \$1 a gallon and inflation accelerating, Kelly said his union's surveys show that most working mothers are working from necessity.

"It's no longer for pin money," he said. "It's to buy food, to put meat and potatoes on the table and to help pay school tuition bills for the kids."

Kelly also said the OPEIU is ignoring the Carter Administration's 7 percent voluntary wage guideline. "I'd be for the guidelines if they applied to profits, executive bonuses and interest rates," he said.

### Inflation Causes Early Contract Opening

"A new contract has been negotiated as a result of the mutual agreement to reopen one year early," according to J. B. Moss, President-Business Manager of Local 277 in Fort Worth, Texas. The local had requested an early reopening with American Income Life Insurance due to rising inflation.

As a result, Local 277's 250 members at the Waco company have achieved up to \$1.43 per hour in wage increases over the life of the contract.

Additional improvements were also made in the COLA, maternity leave, seniority, grievance procedure, and job posting provisions.

## In Memorium: Bill Reidy



It is with deep regret that we announce the death of William J. Reidy, OPEIU's Research Director and the editor of the WHITE COLLAR. Bill passed away on July 14th of a heart attack while vacationing with his nephew in Calgary, Alberta.

Born in County Clare, Ireland, Bill came to the States after graduating from Dublin University with an A.B. degree in Liberal Arts, Finance, and Economics. For the next 20 years, he was employed as a reporter, rewriter, feature writer, and comp-desk editor with several New York metropolitan dailies and worked as U.S. correspondent for *Central News* of London.

### Canadian Union Membership on the Rise

Ottawa—Labor union members in Canada numbered 2,822,044 in 1977, an increase of 43,322. This 1.6 percent rise over 1976 brings the proportion of unionized workers to 32.6 percent, according to Statistics Canada.

In 1977, the Canadian Labour Congress encompassed 2,147,877 union members, an increase of 2.7 percent since 1976. The Confederation of National Trade Unions reported an affiliation of eight labor organizations in Canada, with a total membership of 152,222.

The number of male union members continued to decline in 1977 in Canada, while union membership of women grew slightly by 0.7 percent, representing 27.7 percent of all unionized workers.

In 1962, women represented only 16.4 percent of all Canadian unionized workers.

Bill served with distinction in the U.S. Army during World War II, rising through the ranks from private to Captain. He was awarded two decorations — the Bronze Star and N.Y. State Meritorious Service Medal and received a field promotion for leadership during the landings on Omaha Beach and Normandy on D-Day. He also won a citation and Bronze Star medal for organizing two Army messes to feed 5,000 American troops in Antwerp, Holland, during German V-1 and V-2 rocket bombardment.

A born story teller and a man of ready wit and humor, Bill had an inexhaustible fund of tales about growing up in Ireland during the "days of the troubles," his World War II adventures, and the demands of covering New York City's politics and Wall Street before and after the Stock Market crash.

Bill Reidy was an extremely competent, first-rate newspaperman who turned the WHITE COLLAR into a highly-regarded publication. The stories he developed about the OPEIU and the union movement were often reproduced by other newspapers and used as source material by both labor and governmental agencies.

He was a kind, considerate gentleman who was loved and respected by all who knew him. His passing will be mourned by everyone, but most keenly by those in the International office who will miss him terribly.

He is survived by his brothers Michael and John in Ireland; two nephews Jerry and the Reverend Raymond; and other relatives to whom we extend our deepest sympathies.



Union Label and Service Trades Department, AFL-CIO



from the desk  
of the  
**PRESIDENT**

## What Does Labor Want?

During the past month, my first as President of OPEIU, I have been asked one question many times: "What does labor want?"

I have been questioned by newspaper reporters, by government officials, by your international reps, and by union members from every part of the country. The words, of course, have varied. But the spirit behind each question has been the same — a desire to know where I stand as your president, a desire to know in what direction the OPEIU will head.

More than 60 years ago — just after the labor movement achieved its first goals — Samuel Gompers was asked the same question.

I like to think that Gompers had been waiting for that question and its challenge. Gompers was a man with a vision. He knew that the labor movement was at a crossroads. To come into being, the unions had to pass through a tornado of violent social upheaval. But to prosper the movement had to work to change society positively, for the good of all citizens.

Gompers knew that as the unions grew in strength and members, what labor wanted would be felt in homes, schools, churches, and government, far beyond the headline-getting picket lines. His answer included that vision. Labor would not only improve the way men and women worked but would also change what they expected from life.

Those of you who already know me—know that I am dedicated to Gompers' philosophy. What labor wants has been foremost in my mind since I began as an organizer with the retail clerks in 1946. For me, working in the labor movement started as a way to help people.

During the 30 years I have been a union organizer and contract negotiator, labor has firmly established a middle class in this country. We have worked ceaselessly to give the worker a fair return on his investment.

But, despite our many achievements, I believe we are once again at a crossroads, and there is a strong need to think again about what labor wants and needs.

Over the past 20 years, the game plan of organizing and negotiating has changed slowly but surely. During the 1930s and '40s, management used muscle power to limit union growth. Today, management hires high-priced legal talent who set up new barriers to achieving our goals. The fight for what labor wants has been as vital but not as volatile. The struggle is still intense.

I believe the time has come, as we enter the new decade of the 1980s, to seek a renewed commitment, new ideas, and new members to strengthen the labor movement and the OPEIU. During my term as President, I look forward to leading a union committed—

**To Organize** We look forward to continuous and expanded growth of OPEIU membership. Meetings are scheduled with OPEIU international reps and the executive board to develop new campaigns for organizing. Universities and medical institutions are among targets for expanded membership. I am particularly pleased by the recent organization of Lafayette University by Local 14.

**To Work for Greater Occupational Safety** The health and safety of OPEIU members in the work place is a top priority. A National Institute of Safety and Health study of cathode ray tubes has already been requested and we will follow this and other health/safety issues closely.

**To Seek Additional Benefits** Increased pension and insurance benefits, including dental coverage and maternity leave, continue as priorities, along with such benefits as tuition repayment for union members and their families.

**To Seek Flexitime Agreements** This innovative concept is part of OPEIU's continued effort to adapt the work schedule for families with children, especially working mothers.

**To Be More Active in Politics** What OPEIU gains at the bargaining table can be quickly lost in the legislature. Especially in the upcoming election year, we must make elected officials aware of your interests and your political influence.

**To Work Closely with the Locals** As part of the effort to strengthen the Locals, we have hired a new Research Director Gwen Wells and established a News Bureau headed by Charlotte Klein to help the Locals publicize their achievements.

These are just a few of the programs and ideals I hope to see the OPEIU act on during my tenure as President.



## Member Wins Speech Contest

Eleanor Depriest, member of OPEIU Local 353, has received the Walter Campbell Award for her outstanding speech "What Community Service Means to Me."

Ms. Depriest, along with many union members, entered a speech contest at the Michigan State AFL-CIO Community Services School held at the UAW Education Center at Black Lake, Michigan. The school is a two-week, state-wide program sponsored by the AFL-CIO, Steelworkers, UAW, and Teamsters, and trains over 600 union leaders in community service activities.

(Pictured above from left to right are Walter Campbell, former Secretary-Treasurer of the Michigan AFL-CIO; Eleanor Depriest; and George Watts, current Secretary-Treasurer, Michigan State AFL-CIO.)



## Two Members Serving the Community

Two members of Local 221, Yvonne Anderson and Ron Searl, spent eight weeks studying the community service organizations in the Galesburg, Illinois region with the purpose of serving the needs of their fellow citizens. Both union members received graduation certificates and are now qualified to counsel and advise their local.

Community Service is a non-political and completely voluntary organization that serves and supports community organizations, such as the Red Cross.

Certificates were awarded to the graduates of the Galesburg Trades and Labor Assembly community services school by Robert Gibson, President of the Illinois State AFL-CIO.

(Pictured above are Yvonne Anderson, President of Local 221, OPEIU, and Robert Gibson.)

## 1979 White Collar Organizing Gains

White collar unions won bargaining rights for 10,520 previously unrepresented employees in 308 units in the first six months of 1979, according to White Collar Report, a publication of the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The gains were well above the 7,955 employees in 275 units reported for the same period in 1978.

Among these 10,520 employees, OPEIU won bargaining rights for 625 white collar employees in 13 elections.

Elections won by OPEIU include American National Red Cross in Lansing, MI; East Tennessee Baptist Hospital in Knoxville; Electric Apparatus

Co. in Howell, MI; SEIU Local 33 in Pittsburgh; Teacher's Federation Credit Union in Minneapolis; UAW-CIO Federal Credit Union in Kansas City; William L. Meyers Inc. in Detroit; and Agency Records Control of Houston, TX.

Since the BLS study was released OPEIU has won representational rights for 120 employees in Easton, PA at Lafayette College and 26 employees of Ocean County, NJ.

Lastly, Pat O'Toole, Business Agent for Local 13 in St. Louis, announced victory for 30 employees at St. Louis Telephone Employees Credit Union.

## Study Shows Unionists Receive 20% More In Wages

According to a report published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, unionized clerical workers registered the largest earnings benefit, averaging \$223 per week. Unrepresented workers averaged 29 percent less—\$172.

The report revealed that white collar women represented by unions average weekly wages that are a dramatic 30 percent higher than non-union white collar women. Black women and men in the white collar category who are represented by unions were reported to average 26 percent and 11 percent higher weekly

During my coming term, I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible. I welcome your ideas and seek your energetic commitment to the growth and progress of this union. You are the OPEIU.

My election as President of OPEIU has been a great honor. But more important, it is a great challenge. I cannot think of a better way of pledging to meet that challenge than by quoting Samuel Gompers and his answer to "What does labor want?"

"We want more school houses and less jails—more books and less arsenals. More learning and less vice—more leisure and less greed. More justice and less revenge. In fact, more of the opportunities to cultivate our better nature, to make manhood more noble, womanhood more beautiful and childhood more happy and bright."

## U.S. Price Index

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics  
New Base 1967 = 100

1978	
July	196.7
August	197.8
September	199.3
October	200.9
November	202.0
December	202.9
1979	
January	204.7
February	207.1
March	209.1
April	211.5
May	214.3
June	216.9
July	219.4
August	221.5

## Canadian Price Index

Statistics Canada  
\* New Base 1971 = 100

1978	
August	177.8
*September	177.5
(*First decrease since Sept. 1971)	
October	179.3
November	180.8
December	181.3
1979	
January	182.7
February	184.4
March	186.6
April	187.9
May	189.7
June	190.6
July	192.1
August	192.8

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