

# THE OFFICE WORKER

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

No. 10

WASHINGTON, D. C., OCTOBER, 1945

7

## Workers Demand Justice in Wage Scrap With B.&S.

Providence, R. I.—Office and clerical workers of the Brown and Sharpe Manufacturing Company, one of the largest and richest tool builders in the world, are demanding an equitable settlement of their demands for fair and just wages.

As this issue of *The Office Worker* was about to go to press they voted by a large majority under the Smith-Connally Act in favor of a strike. They are still anxious to settle the matter amicably, but it is anticipated that a meeting will shortly be called to consider further action.

### STRIKE IS ON

A strike authorized by an overwhelming majority of the union members and approved by the International Union was called the morning of October 26 and picket lines were established at the Brown and Sharpe plant.

Operations were paralyzed as not only the office and clerical force but production, maintenance and technical workers affiliated with other A. F. of L. organizations refused to violate the lines.

The high-handed tactics of management has aroused AFL union workers throughout the area and the State Federation of Labor voted to support any necessary action by Local 76.

While the dispute is over wages, it involves a much more basic issue in that the company has flatly refused to agree to any peaceful method of settling the matter by either final and binding arbitration or submittal to the War Labor Board for final binding decision. This refusal makes it obvious that they feel certain wage increases would result.

A large majority of the workers chose Local 76 as their collective bargaining agent in a consent election conducted by the NLRB last June, thus establishing the exclusive bargaining rights of the local. Thereafter, a contract was negotiated with the company, except for several provisions which were rejected and which were agreed would be submitted to the War Labor Board for a binding decision.

### Excluded Wages

The company expressly excluded from this method of determination the proposed wage adjustment and offered a counter-proposal which was in effect merely a rearrangement of the present inadequate rates which were unacceptable to the union committee.

Conciliation by the Department of Labor having failed, the union offered to submit to arbitration. The company's rejection of this was accompanied by a statement to the newspapers that it was paying wages "as high or higher than the going rates for the area."

Refusal of the union's offer, how-

## Bargaining Power Boosted In Pacific Coast Shipyards

Seattle, Wash.—Bargaining power of OEIU locals representing office and clerical workers at Pacific Coast shipyards was given a big boost when the Pacific Coast District Metal Trades Council unanimously adopted at its convention a resolution to include wages and working conditions for office workers in any postwar master agreement which it negotiates.

Six locals of the International Union were represented at the convention which opened on September 24 and continued through September 27. The International Union executive board was in session in Washington, D. C., at the time and designated Irving Enna, secretary-treasurer of Local 11 and a delegate of that local, to serve as the authorized representative of the OEIU at the convention.

Inclusion of the office workers in the master agreement was the subject of consideration at a caucus of the local Metal Trades Councils of the northwest early in September, and Mildred Erickson, a vice president of the International Union, played an important part, as did Vice President C. C. Newell, in lining up support for the resolution which the convention adopted.

The present master agreement does not include the office employees, although the locals with shipbuilding and repair yard membership are affiliated with the various Metal Trades Councils and have cooperated closely with them during the vast wartime construction and repair program.

After the resolution was adopted the delegates of the OEIU locals met and unanimously adopted a resolution setting up the procedure to be followed in arriving at uniform schedule of wages and working conditions for members of our trade in the yards.

A committee of three was selected to collect information with regard to all of the agreements with Pacific Coast yards and work out uniform schedules to be submitted to the various locals for ratification and then to the negotiating committee of the District Metal Trades Council.

The committee, composed of C. H. Atteberry, Muriel Kerchen and Irving Enna, met at Medford, Ore., October 19 to start preparation of the schedule. Vice Presidents Erickson, Newell and Randall were in attendance.

The OEIU delegates at the convention were: Jean Foley, Norman Melby, Seattle Local 8; C. H. Atteberry, William Large, Jr., Tacoma Local 23; Ruby Williams, Cora McHard, Vancouver Local 68; Eleanor Murphy, San Francisco Local 36; Muriel Kerchen, Oakland Local 29; Irving Enna, Clyde Clement, Portland Local 11.

Following is the resolution which was unanimously adopted by the Pacific Coast Metal Trades Council convention:

"Whereas the Office Employees International local unions in the Pacific Coast Ship Building Industry, comprised of approximately 10,000 workers, have been and now are affiliated with the Metal Trades Councils in the various ports on the Pacific Coast, and

"Whereas the Pacific Coast Metal Trades Council is now about to negotiate a postwar Master Agreement covering the shipbuilding industry on the Pacific Coast, now therefore be it

"Resolved, That the working conditions, hours of employment and wages of the Office Employees engaged in shipbuilding and ship repair on the Pacific Coast be included and made a part of any postwar Master Agreement which the Pacific Coast Metal Trades Council may negotiate with the employers."

## ELECTION WON AT DeLAVAL COMPANY

Poughkeepsie, N. Y.—Office and clerical workers of the DeLaval Separator Co. voted by a substantial majority for representation by Local 112 in an election conducted October 11 by the National Labor Relations Board.

The campaign which preceded the balloting wound up with a mass meeting for the workers at which J. Howard Hicks, secretary-treasurer of the OEIU, and AFL Organizer Howard Coughlin were the principal speakers.

ever, was clearly an admission that the rates are inequitable and discriminatory.

The average straight time hourly rates in the company's offices is only 66 cents an hour, while the average in its shop is 92 cents. The minimum wage rate in many industries is already 65 cents an hour. The minimum hiring rate for clerical employes is 44 cents an hour as against a minimum hiring rate of 60 cents for unskilled workers in the shop.

### Final Offer

In a final offer of arbitration made to F. P. Austin, Jr., comptroller of the company, OEIU President Paul R. Hutchings reviewed the efforts made by the union to peacefully settle the controversy.

"The present wage dispute must be settled," he declared. "It has been, and still is, the desire of our

(Continued on page 4)

## BLUE CROSS OFFICE WORKERS VOTE OEIU

Denver, Colo.—Office and clerical employes of the Blue Cross Hospital Service voted overwhelmingly in favor of Local 5 of the Office Employees International Union as their collective bargaining representative in a consent election conducted by the National Labor Relations Board on October 12.

The CIO, which was also on the ballot, received one vote out of the 57 ballots cast.

Joyce Esgar, secretary-treasurer of Local 5, was active in lining up the workers and Frank F. Randall, a vice president of the OEIU, assisted in the campaign.

The Blue Cross Service operates a hospitalization program throughout the country and has offices in practically all of the larger cities.

## Milwaukee Site of 1946 Session

Washington, D. C.—The Office Employees International Union executive board selected Milwaukee, Wis., as the location of the 1946 convention which will begin on the third Monday in March.

Local 9 has indicated that it would be very happy to have the convention held in its city.

A committee of three OEIU Executive Board members, including Vice President Alice Holz, of Milwaukee, will be appointed by President Paul R. Hutchings to handle the plans and program for the session. Details will be carried in later issues of *The Office Worker*.

## DRIVE UNDER WAY AT WHITMAN CANDY

Philadelphia, Pa.—A full-scale organizing campaign is in progress among the 90 office workers of the Whitman & Sons plant, according to Benjamin E. Jaffe, president of Local 14.

The campaign is being assisted by Margit Springman, Lee Angeli, Ed Springman, Theresa Bink, Pearl Jaffe, Sarah Lockstein, President Jaffe and Jeanne Gibstein.

Local 36 at San Francisco has supplied Local 14 with a copy of the agreement it has with the company and other information of value to the drive.

President Jaffe also reported the local has selected one of its most active members, Jeanne Gibstein, to act as organizer and business representative.

## Paper Mills' Staffs Interested

Milwaukee, Wis.—Office and clerical workers of the paper mills in the Fox River Valley region are showing considerable interest in organization, according to Alice Holz, a vice president of the OEIU,

who reported that already a substantial number of the workers at Combined-Locks Paper Company have signed up and an application has been made for a local union charter.



## THE OFFICE WORKER

Official organ of the  
OFFICE EMPLOYEES  
INTERNATIONAL UNION



PAUL R. HUTCHINGS, *President*  
J. HOWARD HICKS, *Sec.-Treas.*

1221 G Street, N. W.  
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 of the material herein contained is not only permitted but wholly desirable in the interest of workers' education.

Subscription Price, \$1 a Year

## More "Musts" For Congress Action

Two postwar measures of vital concern to the nation's workers and strongly endorsed by the American Federation of Labor are experiencing rough sledding in Congress. They are the Full Employment Bill and the amendment to the Wage-Hour Act which would lift the statutory floor under wages to sixty-five cents an hour.

True, the Senate passed a Full Employment Bill. But it was so weakened by amendments, so hamstrung by reservations, that its effectiveness in present form is doubtful. Senate Majority Leader Barkley summed up the disappointment of the sponsors of this legislation when he said the bill as passed merely says that a worker has the right to a job—"if he can find one."

The pending amendments to the Fair Labor Standards Act, setting 65 cents an hour as the new minimum wage in interstate industry are encountering serious opposition from interests which seek to perpetuate a low-wage economy in certain sections of the country.

This narrow-minded viewpoint must not be permitted to prevail. The postwar prosperity of America depends upon a high volume of purchasing power among wage-earners. By keeping wages from falling below \$26 a week for forty hours of work, we can assure a great domestic market for the products of American farms and factories. If millions of Americans cannot afford to buy food and clothing or obtain decent housing, all Americans will suffer.

Some enlightened employers are beginning to realize this unchallengeable economic truth. They learned during the war that profits can be more certainly assured by keeping production high than by keeping wages low. They are now showing increasing reluctance to support the position of unfair competitors who are unwilling to pay decent wages regardless of the interests of the nation.

Labor welcomes support from every source. We are determined to

## Label Trades To Hold Big Exhibit of Union Goods

Washington, D. C.—Secretary-Treasurer I. M. Ornburn, of the Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, announced this week that next spring the department would hold its second A. F. of L. Union Label and Industrial exhibition in St. Louis, Mo.

The exhibition will be similar to the first one held in Cincinnati, in 1938. It was one of the most outstanding events in the history of organized labor and attracted nationwide interest. There were 233 booths in which union label goods were exhibited and union services demonstrated.

The St. Louis exhibition will be greater in scope and more extensive in the number of products shown. Dates for the exhibition will be fixed within the next 30 days by officials of the Union Label Trades Department in conjunction with the officials of the Central Trades and Labor Union of St. Louis and vicinity and the St. Louis Union Label Trades Section.

### STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACTS OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AND MARCH 3, 1933

OF THE OFFICE WORKER, published monthly at Washington, District of Columbia, for October 1, 1945.

Before me, a notary public in and for the city of Washington, District of Columbia, personally appeared J. Howard Hicks, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Business Manager of THE OFFICE WORKER and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, as amended by the Act of March 3, 1933, embodied in section 537, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher, Office Employees International Union (AFL), 1221 G St., N.W.; Editor, Paul R. Hutchings, 1221 G St., N.W.; Business Manager, J. Howard Hicks, 1221 G St., N.W.

2. That the owner is: Office Employees International Union (Affiliated with the American Federation of Labor) 1221 G St., U. W.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: None.

(Signed) J. HOWARD HICKS,  
Business Manager.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 10th day of October, 1944.

ROBERT W. TAPPAN.

(My commission expires August 31, 1948.)

rally the full power of the American Federation of Labor and the backing of public opinion for prompt enactment of this vital legislation.

## Vigorous Demand Made In Congress for 65c Wage Floor

Washington, D. C.—Immediate increase of the minimum wage floor to 65 cents an hour is a vital step toward the attainment of full employment, based upon full production, the AFL told a Senate Subcommittee on Education and Labor.

Testifying in behalf of AFL President William Green, Lewis G. Hines declared the higher rate will raise American living standards and enable the low-paid masses of American workers to buy more of the products of farm and factory.

Mr. Hines, legislative representative of the AFL, warned that even a minimum 65-cent hourly rate would provide a weekly wage of \$26, which is only three-quarters of the family income held necessary by the Labor Department to maintain a bare subsistence budget. He added:

"What kind of a living then will the 65-cent rate provide? On such a wage a worker's family of four can buy only three-fourths of the food necessary for a minimum adequate diet as calculated by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. This means that the father of the family, a man at active work, can have only a very small serving of meat, fish or poultry for one meal on 6 of the 7 days in a week. He cannot buy even his full meat ration under present quotas of ration tickets; he has at least one meatless day during the week. The family cannot buy enough green vegetables and citrus fruits to give them the necessary vitamins. They cannot buy enough protective foods to maintain bodily health.

"What of the house they may call a home? It may cost them only \$20 a month in rent. And a house rented at so low a figure in these days will probably either be in need of repair or will provide only the most crowded quarters.

"What of clothes? The father of the family can afford one overcoat in 5 years. His street suit must last 3 years—and he has only 1. He can buy only 3 cotton shirts a year. For his wife, he can afford a heavy coat once in 4 or 5 years. And she must make out on 3 dresses a year, including house dresses, street dresses and all clothing for church or other occasions. With such meager clothing she cannot take her rightful place in the life of her community. The worker's growing boy must make out on 1 cotton suit per year, and 1 pair of slacks with 2 blouses. His wool suit must last 4 years. When this must supply his need for school and for play, for winter and summer, can it be called a minimum of decency for a growing boy?

"This is all that a wage of 65 cents provides. Is it too much to ask in a country with the greatest productive capacity in the world? And if we fail to provide this 65-cent minimum, wages may be driven down so that hundreds of thousands of families will have much less than this to live on.

"American industry is able to produce at least a 65-cent living standard for every American, and a far higher standard for the vast majority of American workers. The thing we want to accomplish with this bill is to see that American

workers actually receive the bare minimum."

Mr. Hines urged the Senate committee to eliminate all provisions in the pending bill, S. 1439, designed to establish by a wage order of the government, specific rates of pay for job classifications above the 65-cent minimum. Such matters are best left to collective bargaining, the AFL representative said.

He also declared that wage differentials for subdivisions within an industry should be stricken out. As a further change in the bill, he suggested that learners, apprentices and messengers be not exempted from the minimum wage provisions.

## Snyder Report Forecasts Rise In Unemployment

Washington, D. C.—Substantial unemployment which may rise to eight million by next spring and stay at that level all during 1946 was forecast by Reconversion Director Snyder in a new report to Congress and the President.

The test of reconversion is jobs and the rapidity with which the nation's peacetime economy can absorb released war workers and returning veterans, Mr. Snyder emphasized.

He urged tax revision, including repeal of the excess profits tax on corporations, to stimulate business expansion and make funds available for higher wages, lower prices and increased dividends. He also asked repeal of the 3 per cent normal tax on individual incomes, which would free millions of low-paid workers from paying income taxes. A similar tax program was recommended to Congress by Secretary of the Treasury Vinson.

Mr. Snyder called for upward revision of the Fair Labor Standards Act, declaring that the good effects of the present 40-cent minimum wages have been nullified by rising prices.

While stressing the prospect of increasing unemployment the report did not paint an entirely gloomy picture of the postwar American economy.

On the favorable side it pictured \$140,000,000 of cash, bank deposits and government bonds in the hands of individuals, or three times the highest prewar figure.

It also listed the huge backlog of demand restrained by war, a great accumulated need for housing, automobiles, washing machines, refrigerators and all durable consumers' goods, and pointed out that business itself had funds for needed new plants and deferred outlays on maintenance.

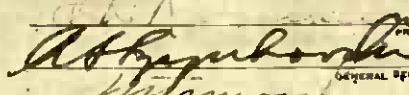
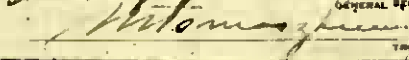
The report said that much depended on how fast the potential demand could be translated into production sales and jobs because our economy could not carry on out of accumulated savings alone. These savings, it stated, were largely in the hands of middle and higher income groups, and the steady employment needed by business and agriculture to attain full employment had to come from current salaries and wages.



Polish National Alliance Pays Up

TOTAL HOURS		EARNINGS			DEDUCTIONS				NET PAY	PERIOD ENDING	NUMBER
REGULAR	OVERTIME	GROSS PAY	F.O.A.S.	WITHHOLD 100 TAX	NOSP.	BONDS					
									365.47		
BALANCE											

PAY ROLL CHECK		POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF THE UNITED STATES OF NORTH AMERICA CHICAGO, ILLINOIS		No. 2160	
PAY		3654 DOLLARS / 47 CTS			
TO THE ORDER OF		ZIOLKOWSKI HENRY		3,654.79	
IN FULL OF ALL CLAIMS TO DATE		BACK PAY TO REINSTATEMENT		POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE	
NOT GOOD AFTER 30 DAYS				6	
TO CONTINENTAL ILLINOIS NATIONAL BANK AND TRUST COMPANY OF CHICAGO (2-3) CHICAGO, ILLINOIS (2-3)		 			

Reproduced above is one of the backpay checks, amounting in all to more than \$34,000, received by 27 employees of Polish National Alliance as the result of the determined fight for their rights put up by Local 28.

Union Victor In Battle With Insurance Society

Chicago, Ill.—The long battle of Local 28 to uphold the rights and desires of workers to organize and bargain collectively ended in triumph Oct. 12 when Polish National Alliance, an insurance society, signed a working agreement covering office and clerical workers.

The struggle started with the organization of the Alliance office staff, went to the National Labor Relations Board, then to the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals and finally to the U. S. Supreme Court. The union was upheld every step of the way.

Not only did the high court's decision uphold the employes of Alliance, but, by laying down the rule that insurance is commerce within the meaning of the National Labor Relations Act, affirmed the rights of employes of all insurance concerns.

The agreement just negotiated between Local 28 and the Alliance provides among other benefits a \$30 a month wage increase, the union shop, paid holidays and two-week vacations.

When a majority of the office force affiliated with Local 28 in 1941, the Alliance refused to recognize the union as bargaining agent and caused a strike by its practices

in flagrant violation of the act, including discharges for union activity.

Charges were filed against the Alliance and sustained in 1942 by the NLRB, which ordered the society to cease and desist from interfering with the workers' rights to organize and from refusing to recognize and bargain with the union.

Workers who had been discharged were ordered reinstated with back pay, which totaled \$34,225.59 for 27 workers and has now been paid.

The Alliance appealed this order to the circuit court of appeals, and, losing out there, went to the Supreme Court on the issue that it was not engaged in commerce within the meaning of the act.

Agreement With Electric Boat Co.

New Haven, Conn.—Local 106 has concluded an agreement with the Electric Boat Co., embodying all the provisions of the local Metal Trades Council agreement.

R. J. Jamieson, president of Local 76 at Providence, is working with the officers of Local 106 in the application of the new contract and in assisting with plans for organizing the remaining unorganized office workers of the company.

ORGANIZING DRIVE

Minneapolis, Minn.—Local 12 is conducting an organizing drive in the office of the Northwest Drug Co., where approximately 100 office and clerical workers are employed. A substantial number have already signed up. Business Agent A. J. Fritz is heading up the campaign.

Traction Office Staff Organizing

Dallas, Texas—An organizing campaign is under way among the office and clerical workers of the Dallas Railway and Terminal Company. Local 45 is conducting the drive with the assistance of C. A. Stafford, a vice president of the International Union. Satisfactory progress is reported and it is anticipated the local will shortly be in a position to request exclusive bargaining rights for the group. The Amalgamated Association of Street Railway Employees, which represents the operating workers, is co-operating.

DISPUTE SETTLED WITH SHIP CONCERN

Charleston, S. C.—The Shipbuilding Commission of the National War Labor Board approved a stipulation settling the dispute between Local 99 and the Charleston Ship-

Higher Wages Only Road To National Prosperity

Philadelphia—Unless payrolls are raised in proportion to industry's ability to increase production, the country faces "inevitable disaster."

That belief was voiced by Abe Fortas, undersecretary of the Department of the Interior, at a conference on social work held here.

He said the country has not yet estimated the increased productivity caused by technological developments during the war.

"But even in the prewar years," he declared, "the advances were enormous. In 1940, payrolls in real money were only 4 per cent above 1925, although industrial productivity had increased 43 per cent.

NEGOTIATING WITH BIG PAPER COMPANY

Washington, D. C.—AFL Organizer Russell Harvey reported that Local 110, of Gatineau, Quebec, is negotiating with the Canadian International Paper Co. and thus far the agreement contains union shop provisions, assuring union membership to all office employes of the company, and the negotiators are now proceeding with a study of classifications and salaries which it is anticipated will determine the proper relationship of jobs and increased rates of pay.

When completed the contract will be the guide for agreements at other plants of the company employing about 500 office and clerical workers.

Southern Kraft

Local 80, of Panama City, Fla., has negotiated a contract with the Southern Kraft division of the company, covering all office and clerical employes in the Panama City operations.

The seniority provision is one of the features of the contract, which includes grievance handling machinery, definite hours of employment and overtime rates for work in excess of eight hours a day or five days a week, one week paid vacations after six months of service, two weeks after one year, and recognition of the usual paid holidays.

Organizing Drive At Big Tire Firm

Cumberland, Md.—Office and clerical employes of the Kelly-Springfield Tire Co. are organizing under the banner of the OEIU. A substantial number of the several hundred workers have made application for membership and a request for the issuance of a local union charter has been received by international headquarters.

This is the first campaign among the office and clerical workers in the city.

building and Drydock Co., according to W. W. Holcombe, president of the local.

The stipulation resulted in a reduction of the number of job classifications and an increase in the hourly rates on many of the classifications.

"It is in this area—the gap between what industry can produce and what people can buy—that a large segment of our problem lies."

"This failure to reflect greater productivity in increased purchasing power is bound to result in industrial unemployment, depressed standards of living and in stagnation of industry itself."

"We must match industry's power to produce with people's power to buy its products if we are to avoid a downward spiral."

Full employment and social security, Fortas insisted, must be made a fundamental basis of our democracy.

BRIEFS PREPARED

Rochester, N. Y.—Briefs prepared and submitted to the National Labor Relations Board by Jack Cadden, Business Agent of Local 34, and J. Howard Hicks, secretary-treasurer of the Office Employees International Union, clearly establish the contention of Local 34 for one overall office unit in the election sought at Yawman and Erbe Manufacturing Co. A hearing on the matter has already been held.



## Wage Increase Negotiated For Paper Firm Employees

Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.—Local No. 95 recently announced that it had with the close of the war successfully negotiated a \$2 per week general wage increase retroactive to November 20, 1944, for its members, employees of the Consolidated Water Power and Paper Company. The back pay amounts to about \$86 for each worker.

Partial approval for a wage increase was granted by the Sixth Regional War Labor Board on July 18, 1945, but such partial approval was turned down by the company. With the close of the war the bargaining

committee requested the \$2 increase originally negotiated by the committee on November 20, 1944, but denied by the War Labor Board at that time. The wage increase covers approximately 90 employees at the Consolidated Water Power and Paper Company division at Wisconsin Rapids.

Harry Klappa, president of Local 95 is also president of the Central Labor Union for the Tri-City area.

Alice Holz, a vice president of the Office Employees International Union, worked with President Klappa and this local in negotiating and finally securing the increase.

## Fenton Predicts Membership Gain

Washington, D. C.—Frank Fenton, national director of organization of the AFL, declared in a radio broadcast that AFL membership is expected to pass the 10 million mark within the next five years and that the largest gains will be among the "white collar workers."

Fenton stated: "First of all, it should be clear by now that the trade union movement is firmly established in America and is here to stay. Most employers have learned that it is bad business, besides being illegal, to fight unionization of their workers. And most workers have learned that they need a union to protect their interests and improve their conditions.

"This is especially true among skilled workers whose craft unions are firmly entrenched and make up the backbone of the American Federation of Labor. We believe that white-collar workers are also beginning to learn the fundamental lesson that only in union is there strength. It is to these white-collar workers that we look for the largest gains in union membership during the next five years.

"The American Federation of Labor has two new up-and-coming unions in the white-collar field. These are the International Chemical Workers Union and the Office Employees International Union.

"The chemical industry is due for tremendous expansion and much wider employment. Our aggressive AFL union is going to grow right along with the industry, because the workers will need the union to obtain the wage standards and working conditions to which the exacting and painstaking nature of their jobs entitle them.

"Office workers in the past have served as a glaring example of the failure of disorganized workers to make any progress. But the old prejudices against unions have been discarded by these white-collar workers and we expect them to join our union in large numbers in order to better their conditions.

"Another large source of increased union membership is the returning veterans. More than a million and a half of them were AFL members before entering the armed forces, and they are coming back to us, we know. We also extend a hearty welcome to the others to join our ranks and get a better break."

## Election Slated At U. S. Gauge Co.

Washington, D. C.—The National Labor Relations Board has ordered an election within 60 days at the U. S. Gauge Co. in Sellersville, Pa., to determine the collective bargaining representative of the office and clerical and technical engineering staff.

The board found after a hearing that clerical employees and engineering department employees constitute the appropriate voting unit. These workers will vote for representation through the Office Employees International Union and the International Federation of Technical Engineers, Architects and Draftsmen's Unions, A. F. of L. International Vice President George P. Firth is handling the drive on behalf of OEIU.

## Workers Demand Justice On Wages

(Continued from page 1)

organization to settle the same without resort to our economic strength.

"You and your company representatives have stated to us and to the press that the company's present wage rates for its office and clerical workers are equitable and fair.

"If there is conviction behind such statement we fail to see why management should reject the offer of final and binding arbitration of the wage controversy, particularly when the company is presently using arbitration in the settling of disputes with other organizations representing other workers in its plant.

"It is not our desire to settle this dispute on the picket line, but the company's rejection of every possible method of peacefully settling the same would appear to leave us no alternative.

"The full responsibility rests with the company, and its position in rejecting all possible methods of peacefully settling this controversy indicates to us a complete disregard for the best interests not only of its workers, but also of the citizens of the Providence area.

"Our International Union and its local union here involved still stand ready, Mr. Austin, to work out a peaceful method of disposing of this controversy through final and binding arbitration. We stand ready to

## PROSPECTS GOOD

Spokane, Wash.—As the result of the efforts of Walter J. Simmonds, secretary of the Retail Clerks Union 1439, prospects are bright for the establishment of OEIU locals at Missoula and Kalispell, Mont. Simmonds has been keeping in close touch with International headquarters in his activities.

## U. S. PIPE WORKERS SHOWING INTEREST

Birmingham, Ala.—Ruth Hare, secretary-treasurer of Local 18, reports a display of interest in organization by the office and clerical workers of the U. S. Pipe and Foundry Co. in Bessemer, Ala.

Local 148 at Burlington, N. J., just recently organized the Burlington operations of the company and is entering contract negotiations. It is watching with interest the Bessemer developments and lending all possible assistance.

## Dubinsky Elected AFL Vice President

Cincinnati — David Dubinsky, president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, was elected unanimously thirteenth Vice President of the American Federation of Labor by the Executive Council at its meeting here.

Mr. Dubinsky, who served on the Executive Council from 1934 to 1936, will fill the seat left vacant by the death of Edward Flore, late president of the Hotel and Restaurant Workers.

Notified of his election, Mr. Dubinsky came here from New York to take part immediately in the policy-making duties of the council. As his first assignment, he was named to serve as one of the AFL delegates to the forthcoming Labor-Industry Conference in Washington.

## AFL Delegates Named For Labor-Industry Parley

Cincinnati—Following are the delegates and alternates named to represent the American Federation of Labor at the Labor-Industry Conference called by President Truman to meet in Washington Nov. 5:

William Green, AFL President; George Meany, AFL Secretary-Treasurer; Harry C. Bates, President Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers International Union of America; Daniel J. Tobin, President International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers of America; William L. Hutcheson, President United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America; David Du-

binisky, President International Ladies' Garment Workers Union; George Harrison, President Brotherhood of Railway Clerks; Matthew Woll, Vice-President American Federation of Labor; Charles J. MacGowan, President International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders and Helpers of America; A. L. Spradling, Assistant President Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employees of America; Martin Durkin, President United Association of Plumbers and Steam Fitters of the United States and Canada; Herman Winter, President Bakery and Confectionery Workers' International Union of America; Ed J. Brown, President International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; Patrick E. Gorman, Secretary-Treasurer Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America; James M. Duffy, President National Brotherhood of Operative Potters; Elmer E. Milliman, President Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees.

reconvene our meetings with you for such purpose. "We urge that you bring this matter to the attention of those officers of the company who are responsible for its policies, and that the company in the interest of its wellbeing, as well as that of its workers and of the citizens in the community, consider this offer."

## WLB GETTING READY FOR TERMINATION

Washington, D. C.—The National War Labor Board voted unanimously to terminate its existence not later than January 1 and announced several procedural steps to facilitate the wind-up.

Effective October 22 no further directive orders will be issued, except in pending appeal cases and in pending cases in which the parties have jointly stipulated to be bound by the board's decision. Instead, recommendations as to the appropriate terms of settlement will be issued.

No appeals from the recommendations of regional boards and commissions will be permitted, but appeals from directive orders already issued by the regional boards and commissions will be processed and disposed of by directive order.

After October 22 the board will act in cases of joint stipulations only to the extent of designating at the request of the parties an arbitrator to make a final and binding decision and will not itself make the decision.

A program for passing upon such voluntary wage adjustments as require approval and for acting upon violations of regulations of the Stabilization Act will be announced later.

## AGREEMENTS SECURED

Portland, Ore.—Local 11 has completed the negotiation of agreements with Roberts Brothers department store and the National Biscuit Co., according to Secretary-Treasurer Irving Enna, who also reported negotiations are under way with the Oregon Motor Stages and C. D. Johnson Lumber Co.

Organizing activities of the local are now being centered upon the Woodbury, Hazeltine and Marshall Wells companies.