

THE OFFICE WORKER

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

No. 43

WASHINGTON, D. C., JULY, 1948



GAINS FOR MORE PAPER CO. WORKERS

Georgetown, S. C.—The office and clerical workers of the mill Southern Kraft Division of International Paper Company who recently overwhelmingly signed up for membership in OEIU Local 233, have been covered under the terms of a general agreement between OEIU and the Southern Kraft Division of this company, according to International Vice President A. R. Carson, who handled the negotiations with the local committee.

In addition to other improvements, their coverage under the master agreement and the application of the job classification schedule of the same resulted in immediate increases for a number of the employes in amounts ranging up to \$25 per month.

General Increases Obtained

The wage schedules in the master agreement with the Southern Kraft Division have been recently increased as a result of negotiations with the company, with most of the classifications receiving a blanket \$23 per month upward adjustment.

With the organization of the Georgetown mill office, the Southern Kraft agreement now covers the office employes in more than one-half of the company's various mill operations, including the Mobile, Alabama mill, the Mobile Bag Factory, the Panama City, Florida mill, the mill at Kreole, Miss. and the mill at Georgetown, S. C. The four additional mills of the company yet to be organized include Camden, Ark., Spring Hill, La., and its two mills at Bastrop, La.

Adjustments In Wages Secured

Tiffin, Ohio.—Wage adjustments averaging about 10 percent feature the gains made in a new agreement recently negotiated between OEIU Local 153 and the Sterling Grinding Wheel Division of the Cleveland Quarries Company, according to International Union Vice President R. M. Daugherty, who assisted the local union in its negotiations.

The local union by a landslide vote of 95 percent recently won an NLRB union shop election conducted among the office and clerical workers of this company.

Bargaining Rights at Tracey & Company

Portland, Oreg.—The office and clerical employes of Tracey & Company have recently selected OEIU Local 11 as their collective bargaining agent, according to local union Secretary-Treasurer T. M. Kincaid. The local union is about to commence negotiations for a working agreement covering this group.

OEIU Is Unanimous Choice Of Frazer Paper Co. Workers

Madawaska, Me.—NLRB elections held among the office and clerical employes of the Frazer Paper Co., Ltd., resulted in unanimous votes for the establishment of exclusive bargaining rights for OEIU Local 232, according to George P. Firth, OEIU Representative.

The elections held in two units among the general office and the plant clerical workers resulted in both instances in all ballots favoring representation through OEIU, thus establishing our exclusive bargaining rights in this paper company's operations.

It is of further significance to note that all employes except several who were absent due to illness or vacation participated and cast ballots favoring collective bargaining.

BIG GAINS WON AT STEEL PRODUCTS CO.

Richmond, Calif.—Wage increases averaging \$36.80 per month highlight the gains achieved by the clerical force at the California Steel Products Co. through organizing into OEIU Local 29, according to local Business Representative John B. Kinnick who assisted the group in their contract negotiations.

An average wage increase of \$16 was obtained for office employes effective April 1, and an additional wage increase of \$20.80 per month was won last month.

In addition to the substantial wage benefits being enjoyed by this group as a result of organizing into OEIU, they also obtained 10 paid holidays and two week's paid vacation after one year of service and one week after six months' service. A paid sick leave policy is presently being worked out.

The contract provides for a modified union shop which was won after the employes voted overwhelmingly in favor of the union shop in an NLRB union security election.

Revere Contract Increases Wages

Baltimore, Md.—An eight percent wage increase and other benefits were secured by OEIU Local 22 in an agreement negotiated with Revere Copper & Brass Company, according to International Representative George P. Firth.

A maintenance of membership clause and irrevocable check off are included in the pact. The office and clerical employes recently voted by a big majority for the union shop.

Members of the negotiating committee were: Herman Reppert, Dolores Spahn and Bernard Turek.

The newly established OEIU local in this city is in the furthestmost northern point of Maine, across the river from Edmunson, New Brunswick, Canada, where the company also has paper operations. The office and clerical force on the Canadian side have also become interested in the benefits which may be obtained through collective bargaining and it is anticipated that they will also move forward rapidly to organization.

WAGES BOOSTED

Cornell, Wis.—On a wage reopening clause in the agreement between the Cornell Wood Products Company and Office Employees International Union Local No. 74 of Cornell, Wisconsin, the members of the union received wage increases ranging from \$10 to \$18.32 per month, effective May 17, 1948.

The members of the Union negotiating committee who, together with A. F. of L. Organizer Maurice E. Weinberg, negotiated this increase with the company are: William Currie, Gloria Patten, Ruth Lafin, and Jean Grotte.

REQUEST ELECTION AT UNION BAG CORP.

Savannah, Ga.—An NLRB election for the office and clerical employes of the Union Bag and Paper Corp. has been requested according to International Union Vice President J. O. Bloodworth, Jr., who is assisting this large group in organizing to obtain the benefits of OEIU collective bargaining.

A substantial majority of the more than 200 eligible office and clerical workers have already signed up for membership in newly chartered OEIU Local 229, according to Vice President Bloodworth. The local union has elected temporary officers, with J. D. Ryder as president and Louis A. East as secretary-treasurer.

It is anticipated that a consent election can be worked out so as to allow this substantial group to vote promptly and move forward to obtain collective bargaining benefits.

The organization of the clerical force in this mill makes another major step forward in the paper and pulp organization program of OEIU. The assistance rendered by the International Brotherhood of Paper Makers and the International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers is of major assistance in helping the clerical workers in this industry obtain collective bargaining benefits through OEIU organization.

The large operations of the Union Bag and Paper Company are devoted to converting Southern pine into Kraft paper board, bags and boxes.

NEW BENEFITS WON IN CLEVELAND PLANTS

Cleveland.—Wage increases and a victorious union shop election marked the labor picture affecting office workers in four Cleveland plants organized under the banner of the Office Employees International Union Local No. 17.

At The Weideman Company a union shop election set up by the National Labor Relations Board was won by a large majority.

General wage increases were obtained for the office workers at the Oliver Corporation, Euclid, Ohio, amounting to 8.31% retroactive to May 31.

Fourteen dollars per month general wage increase was obtained for the office and clerical force of the American Stove Company, retroactive to June 1.

At the Apex Electrical Manufacturing Co., Local 17 negotiated a general increase of \$9 per month retroactive to April 1 and an additional \$10 per month increase retroactive to May 1, applicable either toward a pension plan if approved by the company or as a further general wage increase.

A maintenance of membership election has also been set up according to provisions of the Taft-Hartley Law and terms of the new contract between the company and the Office Union.

The increases granted in the above plant offices were negotiated by Mrs. Pearl A. Hanna, business representative of the local.

Wages Increased By Renewal Pact

Kalamazoo, Mich.—A wage increase averaging 13 cents per hour highlights the gains made in a renewal agreement recently completed between OEIU Local 206 and the Kalamazoo Stove & Furnace Co., according to International Vice President R. M. Daugherty, who assisted the local union in its negotiations.

The wage adjustments won under the terms of the agreement are retroactive to March 8.

The wage rate schedule provides for automatic wage adjustments after 60 days employment and after an additional six months employment, with provision for further increases thereafter as merited by the employe.

Beacon News Pact Boosts Wages 15%

Aurora, Ill.—An overall wage increase of 15 per cent highlights the agreement negotiated by OEIU Local 158 with the Aurora Beacon News, according to Sarah E. Keenan, International vice president, who assisted the local.

The office and clerical workers voted unanimously for a maintenance of membership clause in the contract.

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1221 G Street, N. W.
Washington 5, D. C.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

Entered in the Post Office at Wash-
ington, D. C., as second-class mail matter.



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Subscription Price, \$1 a Year

ANTIUNION FORCES BEATEN IN 3 STATES

Washington.—The effectiveness of the educational activity of Labor's League for Political Education has been "amply demonstrated" in Iowa, North Carolina and Florida, where primary tests brought defeat, respectively, to an antilabor governor, an antilabor United States Senator and an anti-labor Attorney General.

"The results in Iowa, North Carolina and Florida show very clearly that laboring people are very much on their toes this year," said Joseph D. Keenan, director of LLPE. "We have been regaled with stories that labor's political education program is not effective. But the proof of the pudding is in the eating. The votes of aroused, intelligent citizens among the working population of three states have now sounded the political death knell for three foes of labor.

"I trust that this demonstration of labor's determination and ability to carry out the principle of defeating labor's enemies will not be lost on those who have been so eager to belittle the effectiveness of political education among the American people."

In Iowa, the working people supported William Beardsley for governor in the Republican primary, and the incumbent, Governor Robert Blue, was handed one of the worst trouncings ever sustained by any office-holder in that state. Blue had consistently opposed labor's interests.

In North Carolina, in the Democratic primary, the wage earners went after the scalp of Senator William B. Umstead, who had voted for the Taft-Hartley Act despite labor's pleas. Umstead was decisively defeated by former Governor J. M. Broughton.

In Florida, in the Democratic primary for governor, Tom Watson took a bad licking. As Attorney General, Watson was a notorious union baiter, and the workers remembered his record and made sure that it became thoroughly known to all citizens. After taking a beat-

THROW 'EM OUT!



Book On Hatters Union Praises Its Progressivism

New York.—The United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers International Union is the subject of a book recently published by the Dial Press. The volume is called "Spotlight on a Union" and the author is Donald B. Robinson, a former New York newspaperman specializing in labor affairs.

"Spotlight on a Union" traces the history of the Hatters Union from its earliest days down through the tribulations of the famous Danbury Hatters case, the fight to eliminate Communists after World War I and down to the present. The story is told in an authoritative and highly interesting way.

Robinson makes clear his conviction that the Hatters Union is one of the most progressive labor organizations in the nation. He praises the union for having "evolved a philosophy of human and industrial relations worthy of careful attention in this day of so-

cial crisis."

ing in the gubernatorial primary, Watson entered the race for justice of the State Supreme Court. Forced into a run-off, he was decisively defeated.

Labor and other liberals in Iowa not only effected the trouncing of antilabor Governor Blue, but they also accomplished the defeat of Representative John W. Gwynne in the Third District. Gwynne voted for the Taft-Hartley Act and had a consistently bad record, which included a raw attempt to amend the Wage and Hour Law to make it easy for dishonest employers to cheat underpaid workers.

"The results in these three states are most heartening," Mr. Keenan said. "They prove that we can accomplish what we have set out to do. But it takes plenty of hard work. State and city branches of LLPE throughout the nation should be greatly encouraged by what has just taken place in these three states, which are not the most highly industrialized states by any means."

The story of the Danbury Hatters case, in which the union and individual members were found guilty of violating the Sherman Act, although that law was intended to apply against giant corporations and not against workers, is told in great detail. So many years after the event, that story still makes absorbing reading, and it contains a warning of what could easily happen again if the enemies of labor are permitted to control the judicial and legislative branches of our government.

"Spotlight on a Union" is also highly interesting when it deals with the fight of Max Zaritsky, president of the United Hatters, and his democratic-minded fellow officers against the Communists. After World War I, the Communist high command sent out orders that the American trade unions were to be infiltrated and captured for communism. High on the list of intended victims was the Hatters Union.

The Communists made good progress in a number of locals, but Zaritsky and his associates, supported by the majority of the rank and file membership, succeeded in the end in driving the Communists out. The methods employed against the Communists by the United Hatters merit the attention of any organization, whether labor or any other kind, which may find itself confronted by an attack from the followers of Stalin.

Zaritsky is quoted in the book as saying:

"Our union will not tolerate the subversive, divided loyalties of Communists whose fealty is never to the workers and the labor movement but always to a foreign political party and country. We will not compromise principles."

Robinson devotes considerable space to showing how the harmonious relationships with the em-

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EDUCATIONAL NOTES

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION

By MATTHEW WOLL
for the Workers
Education Bureau of America

Workmen's Compensation was the first type of social insurance adopted in the United States. During the period from 1910 to 1929 the Federal government, forty-four states, and the territories of Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico enacted compensation laws. At the present time Mississippi is the only state in which a compensation law has not been adopted.

Unsatisfactory as the workmen's compensation laws are in a number of states, few workers of today can realize the tremendous progress these laws represent over the earlier laws available to the injured workmen. Under the employer's liability laws, for example, the worker was required to bring suit at law against the employer. The cost of such a suit was not only prohibitive in most cases but it was virtually impossible to secure damages unless the worker could prove that neither he himself nor a fellow worker was responsible for the accident resulting in the injury. Further, it was necessary for him to prove that the injury was not due to an accident which might be considered a normal risk of the industry. These laws resulted in much unnecessary hardship.

Europe Pioneers in Legislation

Germany first recognized the need for legislation of the compensation type with the passage of a compulsory accident insurance act in 1884. Great Britain passed its first Workmen's Compensation Act in 1897, about thirteen years before enactment of the first state law in this country.

However, in spite of the fact that since 1910 every state in the Union with the exception of Mississippi has enacted compensation laws, there are wide discrepancies in the extent of coverage and amount of benefits provided for injured workers under the various laws. Because of such discrepancies legislatures in almost every state of the Union are regularly confronted with amendments designed to strengthen the compensation law.

In the first place, there are more states in which compensation insurance laws are still elective rather than compulsory. A compulsory law is one under which all employers covered are required to accept the act and obtain necessary insurance. Under an elective act the employer has the option of accepting or rejecting it. Although in rejecting it an employer loses the protection of common law defenses in suits brought by injured workers it is obvious that unless such an employer is financially responsible there is no certainty that workers will actually be paid benefits. It is clear therefore that changing elective to compulsory laws would extend coverage and make payment of benefits more certain.

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SHISHKIN URGES INFLATION CURBS

Washington.—Boris Shishkin, chief economist for the AFL, called for action by Congress to curb inflation and to balance our economy at a high level of production.

Shishkin spoke on the "America United" program of the National Broadcasting Company.

Participating in the round-table discussion program with Mr. Shishkin were: Senator Joseph C. O'Mahoney, Representative Frank B. Keefe, and Dr. Emerson P. Schmidt, representing the United States Chamber of Commerce.

Shishkin supported a move to increase federal workers' pay as a means of affording relief to one segment of the population which has been unable to keep abreast of rising costs. He said:

"We have to balance our economy at the level of high production, and the only way to do that is to provide upward adjustments where needed. That means that we have to have a restraint on the movement of inflation, that we have to have specific measures proposed by President Truman and others, if we are to keep from pricing ourselves out of the market."

Sees Depression

Mr. Shishkin attacked the arguments of Representative Keefe and Dr. Schmidt who concentrated solely on the need to restrict money supply as the only effective restraint on inflation. To cut back money supply alone, he asserted, would mean an economic balance at a lower rate in production of goods which would be consumed only by those fortunate enough to have adequate purchasing power.

Senator O'Mahoney took the position that it is essential for Congress to act to reduce the cost of living.

"If Congress does not act," he said, "we cannot avoid a depression."

The Senator emphasized figures released by the Federal Reserve Board showing that in 1947 more than one-fourth of all the consuming units in the United States are now finding it impossible to meet the cost of living from their current income.

AID FLOOD VICTIMS

Portland, Ore.—Members of OEIU Local 11 and International Chemical Workers Union, Local 133, employed by the Portland Gas and Coke Company gave a total of \$1,800 in voluntary contributions to assist fellow workers employed by the company who were victims of the flood in this area. Secretary-Treasurer T. M. Kincaid of Local 11 and Business Representative James Falkenberg of the Chemical Workers Local 133 joined in an appeal to employes of the company for the contributions.

The funds collected were distributed on the basis of greatest need by a committee comprised of members of both locals. The company agreed to deduct contributions from salaries upon request so as to facilitate collections. Many of the flood victims suffered the loss of their homes and all personal belongings.

Profits of 297 Companies Jump 26% in First Quarter

New York.—Net income of 297 industrial manufacturers for the first quarter of 1948 was 26 percent above the comparable period last year, according to a survey conducted by the New York Times.

Since 1947 was a banner year during which business profits soared to record heights, it is apparent that industry this year is out for even higher profit grabs at the expense of American consumers.

Meanwhile, the latest figures on the cost of living released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics show a continued rise. The consumers' price index for April was 8.4 percent higher than a year ago; 27 percent over June, 1946, and 71.7 percent above the level of August, 1939.

The Times reported net income of \$895,132,357 for the 297 industrial firms on the basis of their official earnings statements. This compared very favorably with the \$709,651,780 earned in the first 3 months of 1947.

The newspaper account cited the continued heavy demand and higher prices as the principal factors for the good earnings reported. Prime example of this was seen in the petroleum industry where several companies reported record profits for the first 3 months of 1948.

The Times survey showed that the combined net income of 20 oil concerns totaled \$241,326,500, exceeding the March, 1947, quarter by 109 percent.

The report declared that the large foreign aid program and heavy expenditures for national defense would be sustaining factors for a period of "relatively good earnings in certain industries."

The March output of manufactured goods amounted to 198 percent, compared with 197 percent for February and January, based on the Federal Reserve Board's yardstick of factory output, taking 1935-39 as 100. It was only 2 percent below the postwar peak reached last October, but 1.5 percent above the March rate, last year.

Manufacturers' sales also were higher during March, reaching an estimated \$18,200,000,000 for a gain of \$2,200,000,000 over Febru-

ary. Month-end inventories were carried at a book value of \$28,900,000,000 against \$28,800,000,000 a month earlier. Inventories of durable and nondurable goods industries at some \$13,600,000,000 and \$15,300,000,000, respectively advanced about \$100,000,000.

Head New Local



Shown above are Donald C. Canders and Mrs. Shirley Miller Raynes, temporary president and secretary-treasurer, respectively of newly chartered OEIU Local 232 at Madawaska, Maine. They both played an important part in the recent NLRB election among the clerical force of the Fraser Paper Company which resulted in a 100 per cent vote for OEIU representation.



AFL-OEIU Organizer Ed. C. Nagel, who assisted OEIU Local 232 in its recent election victory, is shown with a 250-lb. bear caught in the woods outside of Madawaska, Maine. Ed is presently helping the local with its first contract negotiations.

BARGAINING RIGHTS WON IN 2 ELECTIONS

New York.—Employes of the Joint Board of the Electrical Industry voted overwhelmingly for OEIU Local No. 153 as their collective bargaining representative in an election conducted by the New York State Labor Relations Board. Negotiation of a contract is under way.

Pioneer Ice Cream company workers also chose Local 153 as bargaining representative in another election. Negotiations for a working agreement have commenced.

At the Gordon Baking Company,

MANY OFFICES HAVE WORK WEEK UNDER 40

Washington.—One in five manufacturing companies and almost one half of the offices of non-manufacturing companies have a work week of less than 40 hours, according to the findings of a study of representative companies that have union office agreements by American Management Association, an employers' organization.

Where the standard work week is less than 40 hours, one of the following practices for overtime payment generally prevails among the companies surveyed: time and a half for all time in addition to the standard work week even when the base week is only 35 hours; pay at the regular rate up to 40 hours a week; no additional extra payment until more than 40 hours has been worked. Of course the law requires payment of time and a half for more than 40 hours.

Fenton Named Delegate To I L C

Washington.—President Truman named Frank P. Fenton, the AFL's International Representative, to serve as United States workers' delegate to the International Labor Conference in San Francisco.

The American Federation of Labor, by virtue of its being the most representative labor organization in the nation, represents United States workers at the international parley.

The conference is composed of 2 delegates each from the governments of the 52 member states and one delegate each representing management and labor of the member states. Its principal function is the formulation of international social standards in the form of international labor conventions and in recommendations.

The matters with which the conventions deal cover a wide range. They include hours of work, the minimum age for employment, the working conditions of women and young workers, workmen's compensation, social insurance, minimum wage-fixing machinery, social standards in nonselfgoverning territories, holidays with pay, industrial safety, statistics and subjects relating to immigration.

Win Wage Hike At Square D Company

Milwaukee, Wis.—A five per cent wage increase with a minimum boost of \$15 a month was secured by OEIU Local No. 9 in a supplemental agreement negotiated for office employes of the Square D Company.

The negotiations were handled by George Smith, Jess Julien and Business Representative Harold Beck under the wage reopening clause of the contract signed last January and effective unchanged until next January 1.

the Pioneer Company and John Sexton Company the workers voted practically unanimously for the union shop in an election conducted by the NLRB in accordance with the Taft-Hartley act.

HIGH COURT RULES ON PART OF T-H ACT

Washington.—The Supreme Court ruled unanimously that the Taft-Hartley law does not prohibit labor newspapers financed with union funds from taking a partisan stand on political matters.

The court's decision added that if the law did actually prohibit such partisanship, its constitutionality would be highly questionable.

However, the court said it did not have to go into the constitutionality question in the case before it. It simply held that the law does not prohibit the acts alleged as a violation.

The net effect of the court's ruling is to leave up in the air the conclusive interpretation of the law's section which bans the using of union funds for political activities. Since the Supreme Court has adjourned until October, there will be no opportunity for further final clarification of the issues involved until after the coming political campaigns and election are over.

Along with its political expenditures ruling, the court upheld 7 to 2 the Taft-Hartley law's requirement that unions register and file financial statements with the Secretary of Labor.

It side-stepped, however, a ruling on the companion requirement that principal union officers file affidavits saying they have no Communist affiliations, if they are to have use of the National Labor Relations Board.

Justice Reed, in the main opinion, said it would take "explicit words" in a law to convince the court that Congress intended to bar "a trade journal, a house organ or a newspaper published by a corporation, from expressing views on candidates or political proposals in the regular course of its publication."

He applied the same yardstick to union publications.

EDUCATIONAL NOTES

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All Jobs Should Be Covered

Further, the laws in all states should be applicable to all employments, regardless of their type and the number of persons employed. Workers in agriculture, domestic workers, and employees of charitable institutions are excluded under most state laws, while certain states also exclude other occupations or industries for no apparent reason. The exemption of employers of less than a stated number of workers also seriously limits the coverage in twenty-nine states. In South Carolina, for example, an employer with fewer than 15 employees is exempt from coverage under the state law. In nineteen states such numerical exemptions are not in effect, although coverage in certain of these states is limited to listed industries which may or may not be termed "hazardous" or "extra-hazardous" employments.

It is now generally recognized that occupational diseases should be covered under compensation laws. Some state laws list only specific diseases in a schedule; others provide coverage for all occupational diseases. The American Federation of Labor and affiliated state federations are whole-

NLRB Finds Bank Interfered With Bargaining Election

Washington.—The National Labor Relations Board in a four-to-one decision sustained the NLRB regional director in his conclusion that the Lafayette National Bank of Brooklyn had interfered with the free exercise of its employees' rights to choose a bargaining representative.

The Board ordered that the election held last November among its employees be set aside and that a new election be directed at such time as the regional director indicates that the circumstances permit the free choice of a bargaining representative.

OEU Local 153 had organized the employees of this bank and petitioned for an election. The bank, through its president, distributed a letter to employees which the Board found conveyed a threat of economic reprisal if the employees voted for the union.

The employer had stated, in effect, that union affiliation would make it difficult, if not impossible, for employees to obtain jobs in other banks.

CONTRACT SIGNED BY GAS SPECIALTY

Milwaukee, Wis.—A 7½ per cent wage increase and one of the most liberal vacation policies in the community highlight the gains won by OEU Local 9 in the contract negotiated with Milwaukee Gas Specialty Company by John Zinos, Bob Schmidt, Art Zunker, June Bietow and Business Representative Harold Beck.

The contract recognizes Local 9 as the exclusive bargaining agent and provides for a check-off of union dues, a combination of division and office-wide seniority, six paid holidays, grievance procedure, 10 days a year sick leave.

The vacation clause provides one week after six months of service, 2 weeks after one year, three weeks after 10 years and four weeks after 20 years.

heartedly behind the campaign to replace the schedule providing for only specific diseases with full coverage in all state laws.

Increased Benefits Needed

Finally, with present high living costs it will be necessary to revise upward both minimum and maximum benefits which have been in many cases inadequate.

In at least twenty-eight of the states and territories the maximum weekly benefit to the worker with permanent disability ranges from \$9.23 to \$20 weekly; in only four states does the benefit exceed \$25 weekly.

Extension of coverage, compulsory application of the law, and increase in benefits therefore are all matters to which our A. F. of L. affiliates can devote increased attention.

Workers should be thoroughly conversant with their rights under their state workmen's compensation law and should also keep informed as to their state federation of labor program for extending and strengthening its provisions through amendments.

In the opinion of the Board this constituted a clear implication that employees who joined the union would, through the exercise of the bank's influence, be the subject of discrimination if they applied for jobs with other employers.

Important Post For OEU Member

Washington.—A member of OEU holds a high position in the administration of the European relief program. He is Boris Shishkin, the chief economist for the American Federation of Labor, who was appointed head of the labor division of the European activities of the Economic Cooperation Administration by Administrator Paul G. Hoffman.



Shishkin

Shishkin has served on more than a score of government commissions and agencies in addition to his AFL duties. He was a member of the President's Commission on Civil Rights and is the AFL representative on the labor management advisory committee of the Department of Labor.

He has also obtained recognition in nongovernmental activities and was recently elected president of the National Bureau of Economic Research.

In announcing Shishkin's appointment, Hoffman said the ECA was fortunate to obtain the services of a man with such a distinguished reputation and stature in the labor field and with such outstanding background and experience.

Shishkin will be on the staff of U. S. Special Representative W. Averell Harriman and will assume responsibility for labor and manpower matters in administration of the ECA program in European countries.

NLRB Rules Out CIO Union 'Front'

Washington.—The National Labor Relations Board decided that a CIO national union cannot "front" for one of its local unions which has not signed non-Communist affidavits.

The ruling was handed down in a case involving the Oil Workers, CIO, and its Local 128, at the Lane Wells Company, Los Angeles, Calif.

The board dismissed a petition of the international union to be named as the bargaining agent for 52 Lane Wells employees. The company is engaged in oil well surveying and drilling.

The Taft-Hartley Act requires that to use the machinery of the NLRB, officers of a labor union must submit affidavits disavowing Communism.

The national officers of the Oil Workers have complied, but the leaders of Local 128, for reasons not explained by the board, have not signed the oaths.

FURTHER GAINS WON IN NEW AGREEMENT

Detroit, Mich.—A general increase of \$4 per week for all office and clerical employees highlights the gains made in the new agreement with the A-G Stores, Inc., according to Business Representative Thelma Chabanik of the local union who handled the negotiations, together with an employees' committee.

The new agreement preserves all of the gains won in the previous contract between the local and this company and the current agreement provides for the union shop and dues check-off. Hours are fixed at 8 per day Monday through Friday, with 15-minute rest periods being granted in the morning and afternoon of each day.

Time and one-half is provided for all overtime work, with double time for Sunday and holiday work, and 3 hours call back time is guaranteed for employees called in for off-shift work.

Any employee required to work after 6 p. m. receives, in addition to his regular overtime, \$1.50 dinner allowance. Paid vacations of one week after six months and two weeks after one year's employment are provided, and all employees are guaranteed 12 days paid sick leave each year.

INCREASE GAINED

San Francisco.—A recent renewal agreement with the Oregon-California-Nevada Fast Freight resulted in a general increase of 10 cents per hour for all office and clerical employees of the company's San Francisco and Oakland offices.

The agreement was negotiated by Business Representative Ed. McCall of OEU Local 36, according to Business Representative John Kinnick of OEU Local 29 in Oakland, which also was made signatory to the agreement.

HATTERS UNION

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ployers in the industry which the union has developed over the years have benefited both the workers and the employers. For the workers, the benefits have been higher wages and better working conditions; for the employers, more production and higher profits.

"Spotlight on a Union" also highlights the fight of the Hatters against prison labor, mercury poisoning and other evils with which workers in the industry were confronted in former years. In connection with the prison labor issue, Robinson shows that the newspapers of that period were almost without exception unsympathetic to the plight of the workers whose jobs were wiped out by the unfair competition of prison labor.

This new book is an excellent addition to the growing literature of trade unionism.

The board said that Local 128 had taken the initial step to raise a question of representation "by writing the employer a letter requesting recognition."

For that reason, the board said it could not recognize the national union as a "front" for Local 128.