

THE OFFICE WORKER

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

No. 53

WASHINGTON, D. C., MAY, 1949

17

BARGAINING RIGHTS AT ATOMIC PROJECT

Richland, Wash.—In three sweeping victories, OEIU Local 100 established its exclusive bargaining rights for a total of more than 600 office and clerical employes of three subcontractors on the big Hanford Project of the Atomic Energy Commission, as a result of recent NLRB elections.

OEIU Vice President C. C. Newell, who headed up the campaign, advises that as a result of the election victories, Local 100 now holds bargaining rights for the clerical force of Atkinson & Sons, Urban, Smythe & Warren Company and the Neon Electrical Company. Negotiations with these subcontractors are presently underway.

An organizing campaign has also started among the office employes of the General Electric Company which embraces close to 2,000 clerical workers.

A substantial number of the General Electric office force has already signed up for membership in Local 100 and a full-fledged organizational drive among this group is presently underway. A. F. of L. Organizer Kenneth Scott has been actively working on both drives. Judging from the active interest shown by this group, the Local Union expects to shortly be in a position to petition for an NLRB election for G. E. clerical workers.

In addition to group meetings, hand-billing and newspaper advertising, widespread use is being made in these campaigns of spot broadcasts over radio stations in the area, according to Vice President Newell.

WAGES BOOSTED

Pittsburgh, Pa.—A general increase of \$4 per week was obtained for all office employes covered by the agreement between OEIU Local 33 and the Lewis Dairies, Inc., according to Local Business Representative Frank W. Riott, who handled the negotiations on behalf of the local union. All other conditions of the previous agreement were continued for a one-year period.

IMPRESSIVE VOTE

Minneapolis, Minn.—Office employes of the Minneapolis Gas Co. represented by OEIU Local 12, voted almost unanimously for the union shop in a recent NLRB election.

The vote was 218 for the union shop and only three against.

Arthur J. Fritz, business representative of Local 12, pointed out that this vote is a continuation of a city-wide trend for the local.

Contract Signed With Chase Co.



Shown above is the signing of the working agreement between OEIU Local 17 of Cleveland and the Chase Brass & Copper Co. Seated, left to right: R. J. Richmond, office manager and plant accountant; Arnold W. Ross, chief steward; R. M. Daugherty, OEIU International vice president; Cal McCoy, director of personnel; Pearl Hanna, local business representative; and T. Riemer, counsel for the local. Standing, left to right: Larry Church, steward; Edward Parsons, assistant director of personnel; Gean Short, steward; and Rita Petruzzi, steward. Stanley Sak, another member of the negotiating committee, was unable to be present.

Cleveland Local Wins Fine New Contract for Brass Works

Cleveland, Ohio.—An agreement has recently been completed between OEIU Local 17 and the Chase Brass & Copper Company covering the office and clerical employes of its Cleveland Mill division and which brings to these employes further gains and benefits.

This contract concludes a long period of negotiations with this company and reflects substantial improvements over the agreement with the CIO which formerly bargained for this group.

OEIU Local 17 was approached last year by a group of the Chase Brass office employes who were very anxious to obtain OEIU affiliation because of their dissatisfaction with the manner in which CIO had handled their problems. As a result of the persistent efforts of the employes to bring about OEIU representation an NLRB election was finally held last October, with a majority of the office voting for OEIU representation.

The recently signed agreement, which is the first agreement of the OEIU with this company, is a two-year agreement with wage reopening being provided on August 31 of any year.

The seniority protection obtained in the agreement is substantially better than that previously enjoyed by this group. Substantial improvements were also obtained in the merit rating system. The agree-

ment provides for a voluntary irrevocable dues deduction upon individual authorization of the employe.

Negotiations were conducted on behalf of the local union by a committee of employe members of OEIU Local 17, assisted by Business Representative Pearl Hanna and OEIU Vice President R. M. Daugherty, who played an important part in the campaign and the completion of contract negotiations with the company.

10% INCREASE WON FOR CAB WORKERS

Philadelphia, Pa.—An additional 10 per cent wage increase, effective April 1, has just been negotiated by OEIU Local 14 for its members employed by the Yellow Cab Company of Philadelphia.

The present wage increases which were negotiated under a wage reopening clause in the union's current contract with the company supplement the increases received last December at the time of general contract negotiations, according to Edward Springman, business representative of the local and a vice president of the International Union.

The general wage increase just negotiated has also resulted in adjustment in the contract wage schedule which provided for automatic adjustments at periodic intervals.

The recent negotiations also resulted in the establishment of a 6 cents per hour night shift differential. The contract was also amended so as to provide for it remaining in full force and effect until March 31, 1951.

Professor Says Workers Want To Be Appreciated

Rochester, N. Y.—Workers in modern industry want appreciation for good performance and they want to feel that they are part of a team, Dr. Temple Burling said here. Otherwise, they cannot be happy.

A professor in the New York State School of Industrial and Labor Relations at Cornell University, Dr. Burling asserted that wage-earners are not concerned exclusively with compensation for their toil but want to be considered as human beings. He urged employers to recognize the psychological needs of their employes.

OEIU GREETS UNION-INDUSTRIES SHOW

We extend our most cordial greetings to all of the participants and guests at the Union-Industries Show being held in Cleveland, Ohio, May 18 through 22 at the Cleveland Municipal Auditorium.

The Office Employees International Union is proud of its membership in the Union Label Trades Department of the A. F. of L., which is sponsoring this dramatic spectacle of union-management cooperation. We are indeed happy to participate in this worthwhile endeavor.

The sincerest greetings of our International Union are extended to the citizens of Cleveland, and we are pleased to advise that we have two local unions of office employes functioning in the Cleveland area. Our Local 17 has members employed under contract with many Cleveland establishments, including the American Stove Co., the Apex Electrical Mfg. Co., the Oliver Corp., Chase Brass & Copper Co., Wm. Edwards Co., Weideman Co., and many others. Local 17 maintains offices at 1316 Superior Avenue, Cleveland. Telephone Cherry 5067.

Our second local in the Cleveland area is Local 49, which is composed entirely of the large office staff of the Addressograph-Multigraph Corp. at Euclid.

Paul R. Hutchings,
President

J. Howard Hicks,
Secretary-Treasurer

Write Your Senators and Congressmen
To Repeal Taft-Hartley Law

THE OFFICE WORKER

Official organ of the
OFFICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION



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MORE HIGHLIGHTS OF OEIU CONVENTION

Washington.—Supplementing the report carried in THE OFFICE WORKER last month, the recent convention of the Office Employees International Union held at St. Louis took action on numerous resolutions of interest to the entire membership.

The convention went on record as demanding the immediate repeal of the Taft-Hartley law and the enactment of the Thomas Act. It also unanimously went on record demanding that all functions removed from the U. S. Department of Labor, through the passage of the Taft-Hartley law and by other means, be returned to that Department. Particular consideration was given to the Conciliation Service and a separate resolution was unanimously adopted demanding the return of the Conciliation Service to the Labor Department, where it had functioned satisfactorily for many years.

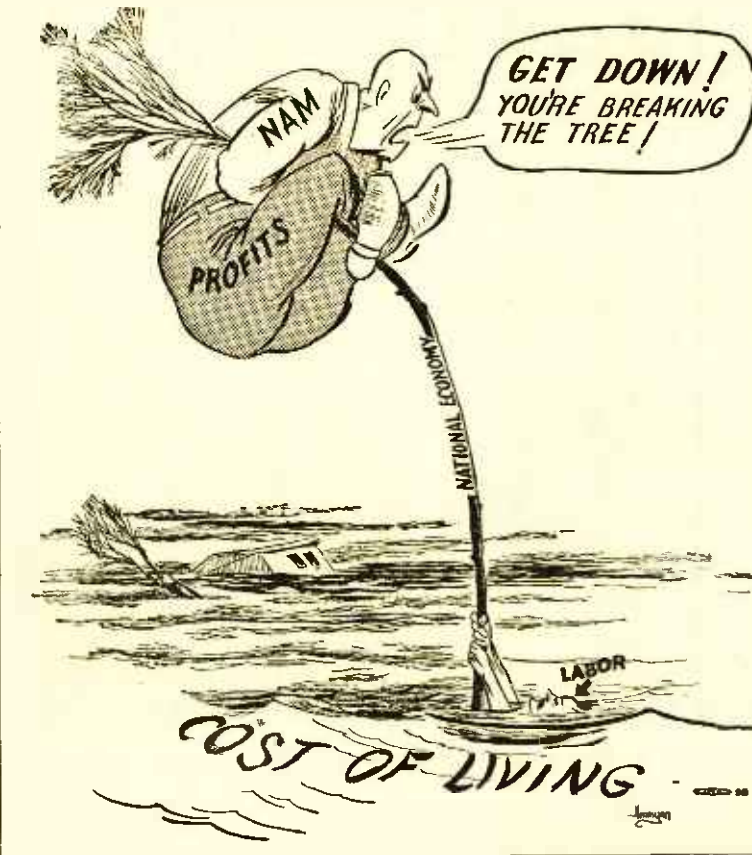
Back Housing Program

The convention adopted a strong resolution on housing, urging that President Truman request Congress to enact a housing program which would provide substantial urban rental housing units and low cost housing accommodations.

The convention also endorsed the medical care bill as approved by the A. F. of L. and took similar action with regard to civil rights legislation. It took action on the anti-labor laws which have been enacted in numerous states and called for the outright repeal of such restrictive anti-labor statutes. Action was taken to call for broader coverage of office employees under the Fair Labor Standards Act and also to increase the minimum wage provided in such act to \$1 per hour. The meeting went on record as favoring a 5-day 35-hour week for office employees with no loss in pay, and also as endorsing the promotion of a wage increase program for OEIU members.

Starting Rates

In another resolution the convention urged affiliated locals to strive



LLPE Maps Vigorous Campaign; Plans Network of Local Units

Chicago.—Labor's League for Political Education intends to go into the 1950 congressional election

to bring the minimum starting rates of their lowest classifications up to at least the minimum starting rates enjoyed by other trades employed in the same industry.

The body expressed its approval and commendation of the policies pursued by the A. F. of L. with regard to trade union unity in the United States. It also took action to authorize the establishment of a Research and Statistical Department at OEIU headquarters and to employ public relations personnel.

Several resolutions were approved dealing with OEIU jurisdiction and the protection of the same. Action was taken to recommend several changes in the OEIU official publication, to authorize the promotion of a program to develop leadership of OEIU women members and to work toward the planning of a National Organizing Conference.

Appeal Denied

By unanimous action the convention adopted the report of its Appeals Committee and denied the appeal from the International Union Executive Board's decision on OEIU Local 8 at Seattle. It acted to endorse the appeal of CARE and to approve A. F. of L. endorsement of the Israeli Trade Union Federation—Histadrut.

THE OFFICE WORKER last month outlined the numerous constitutional amendments which were adopted by the convention and the full text of all such amendments and of the amended International Union constitution have been supplied to all local unions.

campaign with 88,000 precinct captains of its own, Director Joseph D. Keenan told the 32d general convention of the Hotel & Restaurant Employes and Bartenders International Union, in Chicago.

Keenan and George Meany, secretary of the American Federation of Labor, another speaker, stressed the importance of effective political action in every congressional district to insure a more liberal Congress.

"We were successful in electing many people that we supported in 1948," said Keenan. "They are working with the American Federation of Labor, with the hope that we can repeal the Taft-Hartley Act and replace it with the Thomas-Lesinski bill.

"We may not be successful, but that is just going to be a reason for us to carry on in a way that will make these people who are so determined to destroy the labor movement realize that we mean business.

"We are going to keep Labor's League for Political Education going on a permanent basis. We are going to set up organizations in every central body and in every local union.

"It is our hope very shortly to set up a chairman in every congressional district in the United States, and also before the end of next year have a precinct captain in every one of the 88,000 precincts."

Meany reminded the 1,200 attending delegates that the Taft-Hartley act was put over on labor because "members of the National Association of Manufacturers and representatives of the large reactionary employers banded together with the Republican leaders in Congress and picked up some re-

COLUMBIA VALLEY AUTHORITY SOUGHT

Washington.—To aid the further economic progress of the Pacific Northwest, President Truman proposed the consolidation of federal development of the Columbia River Valley under a Columbia Valley Authority patterned after the TVA.

The request was contained in a lengthy message to Congress in which Mr. Truman said establishment of a CVA "will provide not only for a balanced program of constructing dams, irrigation works, power transmission lines and other facilities, but also for a workable operating plan for using these facilities simultaneously for flood control, navigation, power generation and transmission, fish protection and other purposes."

Not only would this program give better balance to development of the valley's resources, he said, but would bring the government "closer to the people—closer to the grass roots." And he added:

"This means government action that will be more responsive to the needs of the people."

While the President offered no estimate of the cost of such a project, he said it would have the advantage of planning and construction already accomplished.

It should, he continued, be required:

"To follow the reclamation laws in contracting for the disposition of land or water in reclamation projects.

"To give the customary preferences and priorities to public agencies and cooperatives in disposing of electric energy.

"To demonstrate the economic soundness of various projects it undertakes and to repay reimbursable costs, in accordance with national policies."

The President pointed out that the Columbia River system is second only to the Mississippi in flow and that the three million kilowatts of electric energy now being produced in the area would be increased tenfold.

ANTI-LABOR LAW OUT

Through the efforts of the labor movement in New Hampshire the state antilabor law, known as the Willy Act, has been repealed by the legislature.

actionary Democrats from the South."

The LLPE will do a better job in 1950 than in 1948, he said, because greater preparation is going into the organization.

"Under no circumstances is this league going to be the political tail to the kite of any other political party," he said. "Under no circumstances is it going to align with either one of the major political parties.

"I am sure that labor will become just as proficient and perhaps more so in the political field than our enemies in the NAM who feel that all they have to do is send their contribution. I think last November a lot of them sent in their contributions and then neglected to vote."

FRATERNAL ORDER SIGNS AGREEMENT

Pittsburgh, Pa.—An agreement has just been completed between OEIU Local 33 and the Croatian Fraternal Union of America covering the office staff of this fraternal and insurance organization.

Business Representative Frank Riott of Local 33 advises that this group of office workers were formerly represented by the CIO but that they became dissatisfied with that organization and sought representation through OEIU Local 33.

The agreement provides for a full union shop, 40-hour work week with time and one-half for overtime and double time for Sunday and holiday work. Seven legal holidays are recognized and all employees receive a minimum of two weeks paid sick leave annually and two weeks paid vacation each year after one year of employment. Dismissal pay ranging up to four weeks is provided.

Price Probe Slated

Washington.—Congressional investigations of prices and economic conditions were approved by the Senate Rules Committee.

It recommended that \$60,000 be given the Senate Banking Committee for that purpose.

The probe will attempt to determine why farm prices have dropped sharply while retail prices of goods made from them remain high. The investigations will also delve into problems of housing, small business, and aid to veterans.

At the same time, \$30,000 was recommended for the Senate-House Economic Committee for a special study of investment funds and federal monetary, credit and fiscal problems as well as low-income families and unemployment trends.

Needs Active Support

Washington.—President Truman's national health insurance program must have the active support of all AFL members in order to beat the American Medical Association's multi-million-dollar lobby fund.

The committee for the Nation's Health, Inc., with offices at 602 Pennsylvania Avenue S. E., Washington 3, D. C., and 1790 Broadway, New York 19, New York, has just issued a reprint from *The New York Times* magazine section, written by Oscar Ewing, Federal Security Administrator, which states the case clearly for national health insurance. His recommendations are very similar to those made by A. F. of L. President William Green and Nelson Cruikshank, A. F. of L. Social Security Director, before Senate Committees.

Copies of the pamphlet are available by writing to the committee for the Nation's Health at either of the above addresses.

A great number of doctors throughout the country are opposed to the reactionary policies of the American Medical Association, and they, as well as other people, are being mobilized by this committee to counteract the campaign to discredit the national

Wage Increases Highlight Contract Gains In New York

New York.—General wage increases negotiated by OEIU Local 153 highlight contract gains with several New York employers.

Local union negotiations with Sharp & Dohme Pharmaceutical Company have resulted in wage increases of \$3.20 per week for all employees represented by the local union.

This general increase was also applied to the minimum and maximums of the contract rate ranges. Other contract improvements were also obtained.

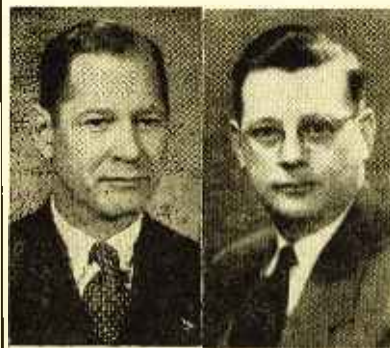
The general increase brings the total wage increases of OEIU Local 153 members up to about 50 per cent more than the salaries they were receiving at the time they organized about two years ago.

Negotiations have also been completed with Bigelow-Sanford Carpet Company, bringing wage increases of \$3.00, \$3.50 and \$4.50 per week to all employees represented by the local union. These increases also apply to the minimum and maximum of the salary rate ranges.

In addition, the clerical employees

in the warehouse recently established by the company, received an \$8 per week across-the-board increase. All employees are also to receive greater insurance and health benefits as a result of the negotiations.

VICE PRESIDENTS



Beck

Bruneau

Shown above are two of the three new Vice Presidents elected at the recent OEIU International Union convention. Harold E. Beck was elected a Vice President from Region I. He is president and business representative of OEIU Local 9 at Milwaukee, Wis. Lucien A. Bruneau was elected Vice President for Region V, embracing the Dominion of Canada. He is president of OEIU Local 191 at Beau-pre, Quebec.

The third new Vice President is Edward P. Springman, business representative of Local 14 at Philadelphia, who was elected a Vice President in the First Region. Vice President Springman's picture did not arrive in time for printing in this issue and will be carried next month.

Forum Stresses Organizing Need

Boston, Mass.—Miss Esther Cahill, president of OEIU Local No. 6, appeared on the Labor-Management Forum broadcast from station WEEL, Boston.

Professor James Healey of Harvard University was the moderator. Miss Cahill represented the American Federation of Labor and Mr. Goodman represented the Congress of Industrial Organizations. Industry was represented by Stuart Devard, member of the Boston Chamber of Commerce.



MISS CAHILL

The subject was "The Status of the Office Employee." Miss Cahill presented the need for organization among office employees as a solution to their present problems concerning working conditions, wage increases and the importance of seniority to eliminate favoritism existing in many offices.

Professor Healey stated that from the evidence presented, it appeared that office workers need organization to solve their problems.

health insurance program that is being sponsored and supported by the federal administration.

AFL HEAD HAILS UNION LABEL SHOW

Washington.—AFL President William Green gave his full support to the Union Industries Show to be held in Cleveland, Ohio, from May 18 to 22.

The show, another in the series of annual events sponsored by the AFL's Union Label Trades Department, promises to exceed in every way the record-breaking exposition staged last year in Milwaukee, according to plans which have been announced by I. M. Ornburn, show director and secretary-treasurer of the department.

"The union label stands for everything that is fine, constructive and decent in the industrial life of the nation," said Green. Just as the American flag represents freedom, the union label symbolizes the highest form of industrial progress.

"As we marvel at the beauty and precision and usefulness of the products of our machine age, we must pay tribute to the inventive genius and remarkable skill which went into their manufacture. Yet these alone would not have been sufficient to do the job and bring such products within reach of the public. It took sound investment, intelligent management and plenty of hard work to perform our industrial miracles.

"Once we recognize these facts, we begin to comprehend the structure of our free enterprise system. Money alone will produce nothing. Neither will managerial wizardry; nor, for that matter, skilled labor, unless it has guidance and materials. But together they form a perfect team which can produce the high quality merchandise which the consuming public requires and will visualize at the Union Industries Show in Cleveland."

Eliminate Coolie Overtime, OEIU Urges Senate Committee

Washington.—Appearing before the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, OEIU President Paul R. Hutchings recommended that the Fair Labor Standards Act be revised so as to provide genuine overtime pay for all salaried workers and eliminate "coolie" overtime.

"We do not ask this selfishly," he pointed out. "Members of our union are practically without exception enjoying wage and overtime conditions which far surpass those found in the act. We do ask this in behalf of the millions of unorganized office and clerical workers who still are relying principally upon this act for their minimum wage and overtime rate protection.

"Much has been said in recent years, both in the Congress and out, about the plight of the white collar worker. By taking appropriate and effective steps to assure to all covered salaried employees the same overtime protection enjoyed by other workers, this committee and the Congress will be showing to the millions of salaried

workers a sincere and genuine desire to see that they receive equal treatment under the law."

To illustrate the discrimination which the administrative interpretation of this section of the act has permitted, President Hutchings asked members of the committee to picture themselves as employees of a large bank receiving a regular weekly salary of \$40. Then he proceeded to demonstrate the "Chinese" calculations which would cut their overtime pay for say 20 extra hours to a little over \$6 instead of the \$30 to which they would otherwise be entitled.

To eliminate this inequitable situation President Hutchings suggested that this language be inserted in the act: "Any salaried employee who is employed in excess of 40 hours in any work week shall be paid for each such hour in excess of 40, in addition to his salary for 40 hours of work, at a rate not less than one and one-half times the hourly rate obtained by dividing his weekly salary by not more than 40."

WAGE INCREASE WON AT SENTINEL PAPER

Milwaukee, Wis.—Weekly wage increases ranging from \$2.50 to \$5 per week were obtained for all the office and clerical employes of the Milwaukee Sentinel daily newspaper in recent interim wage negotiations by OEIU Local 9, which has an agreement and bargaining rights covering this group.

The negotiations which were conducted on behalf of the local union by its Business Representative Harold E. Beck, who is also a vice president of the International Union, resulted in the adoption of new salary scales effective February 14, and replacing the previous contract scales. The remainder of the contract remains in full force without change until December 31.

Representative Beck indicates that the recent wage negotiations resulted in the majority of the members receiving \$5 per week. The wage increases as negotiated were unanimously accepted by the membership involved.

Numerous Gains For G. E. Employes

Richmond, Va.—Negotiations with the General Electric Supply Corp. on behalf of its clerical force who are members of OEIU Local 189, have resulted in numerous gains for the employes, according to OEIU Vice President A. R. Carson who handled the negotiations.

A general wage increase of 5 cents per hour was obtained for all covered employes, with individual adjustments up to 15 cents per hour. Other important gains include the agreement to pay double time for all work performed on Sundays and holidays and the establishment of two weeks' paid vacation after one year of service and three weeks after 20 years. The agreement also provides for dues deduction on the basis of voluntary irrevocable authorizations.

American Radiator Pact Hikes Wages

Louisville, Ky.—Wage increases ranging from 10 to 25 cents per hour, retroactive to December 14, highlight the gains made in a new contract recently negotiated by OEIU Local 61 with the American Radiator and Sanitary Corp. covering a new group of recently organized plant clerical workers in the company's Louisville Works.

OEIU Vice President A. R. Carson assisted the local union officers and committee in the negotiations. The contract provides for the full union shop and for other improvements beneficial to this group.

PAPER OUTPUT UP

New York.—Newsprint production in North America during the first 3 months of this year was 122,959 tons, or 8.9 per cent greater than in the corresponding month of last year, it was announced by the Newsprint Service Bureau.



Truman Urges Health Program Based on Contributing Insurance

Washington.—President Truman appealed to Congress for the early approval of a national health program "to make available enough medical services to go around, and to see that everybody has a chance to obtain these services."

To accomplish this purpose, bills were introduced in both houses of Congress to provide a compulsory insurance system as the only democratic approach to a demonstrated national need.

This controversial feature of the program, which has the backing of the American Federation of Labor, immediately raised a storm of protest from opposing groups ranging from the American Medical Association to the Daughters of the American Revolution. These groups freely let loose with verbal bar-

rages which had for their central theme the old well-worn charge that the President's program was "socialized" medicine.

Within Congress itself strong opposition is expected from Senator Robert A. Taft and his supporters who are plugging for federal aid to the states for medical care purposes based on the charity principle.

The administration measure provides that employer and employe contribute 1½ per cent each on payroll into a personal health services account from which payment would be made to doctors for comprehensive medical care of about 85 per cent of the country's population.

The assessment would be levied on the first \$4,800 of individual in-

Obtain Boost at McKesson Drug Co.

Tampa, Fla.—Recently completed wage negotiations with the Tampa division office of McKesson & Robbins, Inc. by OEIU Local 46 have resulted in a general wage increase of \$2 per week to all of the office employes of the company, retroactive to April 1.

In addition, a similar \$2 a week increase has been added to all rates in the classified rate schedule. The amended wage agreement also provides for the progression of employes into the established rate schedule, with employes having access to the grievance procedure in the event they do not receive proper rating.

The negotiations were handled on behalf of Local 46 by OEIU Vice President J. O. Bloodworth, Jr.

ELECTION WON AT GARDNER-DENVER

Denver, Colo.—OEIU Local 5 has just established its exclusive bargaining rights for the clerical staff of the Gardner-Denver Company as a result of a recent NLRB run-off election.

In the first ballot conducted among the clerical force of this company upon the petition of Local 5 last month, the OEIU was successful in defeating the UAW (CIO) but failed to achieve the required majority of votes cast. In the recent run-off election the employes, by almost a two to one majority, voted for the OEIU as their bargaining representative according to Theodore A. Clark, President and Organizer of the local union.

The Gardner-Denver Company manufactures mining machinery equipment. Interest in organization is presently being shown by its clerical force in its large Quincy, Illinois, operations.

Secure Increase In Renewal Pact

San Francisco, Calif.—A general wage increase of 7½ cents per hour highlights the gains won in the recent renewal agreements with two trucking firms by OEIU Local 36. The new agreements with the Valley Express Company and the Oregon-Nevada-California Fast Freight have been completed according to Business Representative E. J. McCall. In addition to the general wage hike the local union was successful in obtaining a pro-rated vacation clause and an additional paid holiday.

Local 36 also completed its renewal negotiations with the Yellow Cab Company and has obtained for their clerical staff a general \$10 per month increase as well as a pro-rated vacation clause.

come so that the largest contribution by any person would be \$72 a year. The federal government would add to this appropriations amounting to one-half of 1 per cent of payrolls through 1954 and 1 per cent thereafter through 1957.

This insurance would cover care not only of the individual worker but all of his immediate family.

OFFICE EMPLOYES INTERNATIONAL UNION

(Affiliated with the American Federation of Labor)

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Desiring to become a member of a Local Union chartered by the Office Employees International Union, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, I hereby make application for admission to membership and authorize such organization to be my exclusive collective bargaining representative.

Name _____ (Print) Social Security No. _____

Street Address _____ Telephone _____

City _____ () _____ Age _____
Zone State or Province

Occupation _____

Name of company now employed _____

Clock No. _____ Date _____, 194

Badge No. _____

Signature of Applicant.