

THE OFFICE WORKER

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

No. 85

WASHINGTON, D. C., JANUARY, 1952

17

OEIU SIGNS UP ATOMIC PROJECT

Additional Gains At Addressograph

Euclid, Ohio—Additional benefits have been obtained by OEIU Local 49 of this city for the 600 office and clerical employes of the home office of the Addressograph-Multigraph Corporation.

Contract negotiations concluded last month resulted in a general increase of \$2.25 per week retroactive to November 1, an additional weeks' vacation for employes with 18 years' service (previous vacation allowances were limited to one week after six months and two weeks after one year), classification adjustments to eliminate inequities, and an improvement in the job bidding system.

The above benefits are in addition to those agreed to last August when a strike by this local union against this firm resulted in a general increase of \$10.40 per month, a modified union shop, a number of classification adjustments to eliminate inequities, and improved seniority provisions.

The general increases gained by this local for employes of this firm during 1951 are in excess of eleven cents per hour as a result of these two separate negotiations. Euclid Local 49 has represented the office and clerical employes of this firm for a number of years.

Phony Membership Claims Exploded

Washington—According to its own official financial report, the CIO has no more than four million per capita tax-paid members.

The figures explode CIO claims of six million members.

The total CIO per capita tax is 10 cents per member per month. Its total per capita tax receipts, as listed in the financial report, aggregate \$1,898,662. This figure includes some initiation fees from members of local industrial unions. Assuming it all to be per capita tax at the rate of \$1.20 per year, simple arithmetic shows it is based on a membership of 4,082,222.

Thus CIO claims to equality status with the AFL are shattered. Instead of having equal strength, the CIO has only half the tax-paid membership of the AFL.

Unorganized "White Collar" Salaries Are Lagging Behind

Washington—Wages of more than 20 million unorganized American workers, a great many in the white collar field, have failed to keep pace with the rapid rise in living costs.

Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin indicates that a reasonable estimate of the amount of purchasing power of these 20 million lost during the year and a half from January, 1950, to June, 1951, exceeds three billion dollars, during which time the cost of living has skyrocketed.

Secretary Tobin, writing in the U. S. Labor Department Labor Information Bulletin, emphasizes the fact that it is largely the unorganized workers whose salaries and wages have failed to keep pace with the increases in cost of living and he points out that a great many unorganized workers in this group are white collar workers who are still more than 85 per cent non-union. These unorganized white collar workers have been the worst victims of inflationary price trends.

The tremendous losses in purchasing power that have resulted menace not only the living standards of the workers directly affected, but also the entire national



Maurice J. Tobin
U. S. Secretary of Labor

economy, Secretary Tobin warns.

He challenged the trade union movement to remedy this dangerous situation, which he indicates "should serve unions as an additional motive for rededicating themselves to that mission that is summed up in the three words: Organize the unorganized."

Unions have machinery by which wages can be adjusted to rising living costs, but "the absence of this machinery, or some adequate substitute for so many millions of American workers constitutes a long-range menace for the American economy."

At the same time, the Bureau of Labor Statistics announced that its Consumer Price Index has risen another 1.2 points between October 15 and November 15. It stands now at 187.4, as against 167.5 at the beginning of 1950. This is approximately a 12 per cent rise within two years—shocking evidence of inflation.

Under existing union contracts, wages of several million union workers will be adjusted upward to meet the latest rise in the BLS Consumer Price Index. The bureau reported that the increase was due to higher prices for food and miscellaneous goods and services.

Wages Boosted By New Contract

Terre Haute, Ind.—The first working agreement between recently chartered OEIU Local 280 and the Girdler Corporation, construction contractors on the nearby Dana Atomic Energy Project, has just been completed.

The agreement brings to some 250 clerical employes a general wage increase of 10 per cent, with a similar increase applying to the minimum and maximum of all rate ranges. In addition, the contract establishes three automatic four-month steps to the mid-point of each rate range.

The wage increase is retroactive to November 12 and the contract is a one year contract effective January 8. It provides for substantial improvements in general working conditions and assures the employes of job security and promotional opportunities. The pact provides for a modified union shop.

The local won its bargaining rights in an election conducted by order of the NLRB on November 5. Contract negotiations commenced shortly after certification was received and the local committee headed by local President Ike Johnson and Secretary-Treasurer Maynard Allen was assisted by International Representative R. M. Daugherty.

It is anticipated that the achievements won by the construction clerical force at this project will provide a real stimulus for organization of the operating clerical force as the project comes into operation.

Cleveland in '53

Washington—The International Union Executive Board, at its regular December meeting, accepted the cordial invitation of OEIU Locals 17 and 49 to hold the next regular International Union convention in Cleveland in June, 1953. The invitation was extended by the Cleveland delegates at the Toronto 1951 convention.

The Executive Board plans to hold its June, 1952, meeting at San Francisco.

Elected Mayor

Iroquois Falls, Ont.—Leadership qualities evidenced by the past president of our Local 151 of this municipality have been recognized by the town's citizens.

Percy W. Burton, Local 151 president for the last several years, has been chosen as mayor of Iroquois Falls in an election conducted last month. The local unions in that community gave him good support in his campaign for this high office.

Brother Burton continues to hold office in our local union, but as a trustee instead of president, recognizing that he will thereby be better able to carry out his new responsibilities.



March of Dimes

The 1952 March of Dimes for the benefit of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis is taking place throughout this month.

The upsurge of infantile paralysis during the past four years has placed an overwhelming burden on the National Foundation. During that period, for example, costs of patient care alone amounted to \$79,000,000 in March of Dimes funds. This is in contrast to \$41,000,000 expended for a similar purpose during the entire preceding decade!

For the first time in its history, the National Foundation has had to double the March of Dimes campaign period, so it may be able to fulfill its obligations to the American people.

Members of organized labor and their families have been among the host of beneficiaries of the March of Dimes. They and their friends and associates have long generously supported this great voluntary cause.

The March of Dimes is the only authorized campaign in the American Federation of Labor for the benefit of the National Foundation. Cooperation on the part of each of us will assist in making available the means of swift and adequate care for members of organized labor and their families when polio strikes.

Public Office

Why are men and women of good standing in their communities reluctant to run for public office? Because there is too much unfair and unwarranted criticism of public officials and too little thanks when a job is well done.

Although one long-time observer of politics recently remarked that the average politician is a little better than the average of the people who elected him, many people have the idea that politics is all bad and that only weak and incompetent men can hold public office.

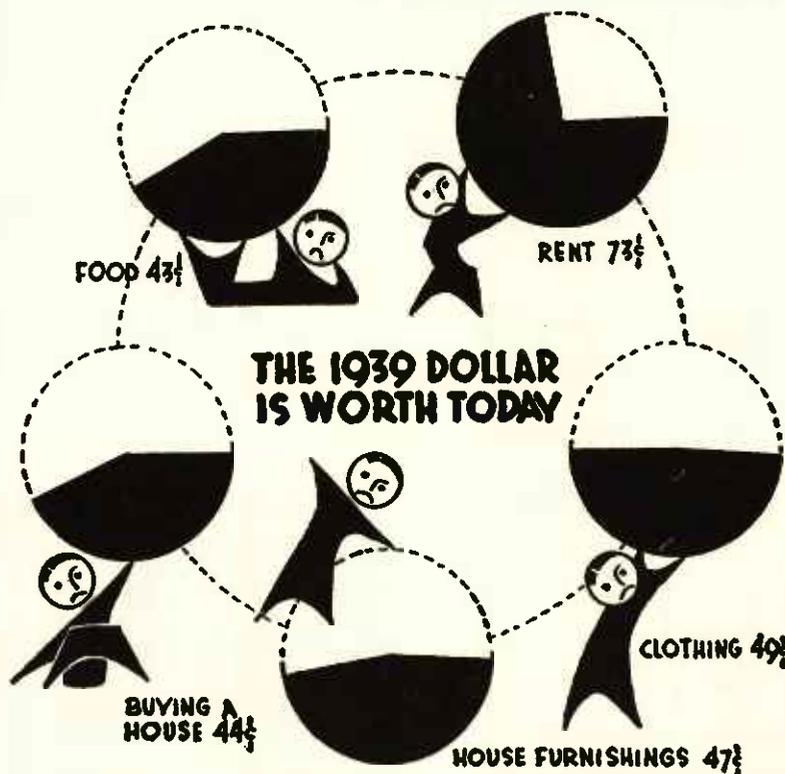
Qualified men are needed more badly than ever in government today, but our unfair criticism of politicians is making capable office-seekers more and more reluctant to risk their good names in the ring. Many a good citizen has turned down the opportunity to run for office because he did not want his reputation ruined by criticism based on the false premise that politics is evil.

We will not get better government if we continue to smear and condemn public officials unjustly. We must realize that man works best when what he does is regarded as worth while. We can hardly expect public officials to consider their work worth while when it is sneered at by average citizens.

Only if we dignify public office, and work with good public officials rather than against them, will we get better government.—(The Plasterer and Cement Mason.)

The Cost of Inflation

Drawing by Joyce Kosobud for The Public Employee.
Based on Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer's Price Index.



The chart shows why strong price controls are needed. You can do something about it. It's this: Support candidates for Congress who will vote for a law that will stop runaway inflation that swells profits for the rich and corporations and while it picks your pocket.

Warns Against New Drive For 'Millionaires' Amendment

Washington—State Federations of Labor were warned to keep their guard up against a new drive in 1952 to get the "millionaires' amendment" approved by their state legislatures.

AFL President William Green sent letters to all state federations. He advised that there will be renewed attempts in 1952 by the Western Tax Council, Inc., and other big-business-financed organizations, to get state legislatures to call upon Congress to convene a constitutional convention.

'FAME' IS FLEETING

In the November, 1951, issue of THE OFFICE WORKER we credited *The Lather* (publication of the International Union of Wood, Wire and Metal Lathers) as the source for the editorial entitled "My Union Card."

Fred L. Carver, a long-time member of our Los Angeles Local 30, writes to advise us that he won a \$250 cash prize for this article, winning first place in the A. F. of L. national essay contest in 1940. The title then was "Why I Am a Labor Unionist."

We regret our failure to give you credit, Fred, but are proud that an OEIU member won this outstanding honor.

The object of that convention will be to repeal the 16th Amendment to the Constitution providing for a general income tax. This amendment would then be replaced by a 22nd Amendment limiting the power of the United States to a tax of 25 per cent on incomes.

This scheme would wreck the nation's federal financial structure and force enactment of a general sales tax.

Mr. Green said the AFL objects to this shifting of the national tax burden to the wage earners and other low-income groups. The millionaires and high-income portion of the population would escape their fair share of taxes.

Mr. Green pointed out that since he appealed last May 8 to the state federations to halt the headway gained by the millionaires' amendment, the number of states approving the plan had been reduced from 25 to 14.

"But the issue has not been settled decisively," Mr. Green said. "This is why I am addressing these remarks to you at this time."

"Eight legislatures convene early in 1952, others later the same year. Success for the amendment in all these states could bring the total back nearly to the previous 25-state total."

"It is necessary to carry on our fight and to remain vigilant even in those states where we seem to have defeated the proponents, at least for the present."

25 Million Receive Free Medical Care

Washington—Uncle Sam provides medical and hospital care for more than 25 million persons, according to *The Washington Post*.

Included are:
18,500,000 veterans.
3,500,000 members of the armed services and families.
2,500,000 employees, in case of illness or injury in line of duty.
100,000 merchant seamen.
400,000 Indians, Eskimos and other natives of Alaska.
50,000 civilians in the Panama Canal Zone.
30,000 Coast Guardsmen and families.

Produced More and Spent More in 1951

Washington—The American people produced more and spent more in 1951 than in any previous year in history, Secretary of Labor Tobin said in a year-end report. He predicted the new records will be broken in 1952.

Employment reached an all-time peak of 62,600,000 last August, he said. Unemployment dropped but was still severe in some areas. Wage income rose, but real earnings in terms of purchasing power were not appreciably higher than in 1950, Tobin said.

Read Your Union Paper

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

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

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OFFICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION



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625 Bond Building
Washington 5, D. C.

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



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Subscription Price \$1 a Year



Canada's Reserve

The women of Canada make up by far the largest pool of potential workers available to that country in an emergency. Other groups, such as retired persons, youths and the physically handicapped, were needed in the last war and came forward, and would be needed again in any future emergency, but their numbers are small compared with those of the women who could enter the working force.

Then and Now

In the last war, 500,000 Canadian women entered the employed labor force, to help fill vital jobs in war industries, in essential civilian industries and in the armed forces. In 1939, however, many young women in Canada were not working, and many of those who were employed found their jobs less attractive than the jobs offered them in war work.

Today, on the other hand, large numbers of young women in Canada are in satisfactory employment or are raising families. The employment situation is quite different. Generally speaking, women who wish to work now have jobs and there are fewer unpaid family workers and fewer girls remaining at home without employment.

Also, as opposed to 1939, most of the Canadian women working today are in jobs which they consider desirable and suited to their training. Nearly half of them are today in "white-collar" jobs—clerical or commercial occupations. Only about 18 per cent are in the service occupations, as compared to one-third in 1939.

Marital Status

Marital status alone is apparently no longer sufficient to prevent women from entering employment in Canada as it was in most instances in 1939. Today about 320,000 married Canadian women hold down jobs. Barriers against their employment are continually being removed.

No General Shortage

There is no general shortage of women workers in Canada at present, although there are shortages in certain fields such as nursing and secretarial work.

The shortage of stenographers in Canada is being partially relieved by experienced girls from the United Kingdom. The girls are recruited through the efforts of the London office of the Federal Department of Labour with the cooperation of the Canadian Immigration Authorities.

Each of these stenographers are asked to state their preference as to type of employment and location of work, and insofar as possible, these preferences are given consideration in placement. Most of the girls, however, have expressed a willingness to work at other stenographic work if their choice in placement is not feasible.

If a general shortage should develop, however, there is a reserve



STEPHENS SUCCEEDS OLIVER.—Russell M. Stephens (left) succeeded Stanley W. Oliver (right) as president AFL American Federation of Technical Engineers Dec. 23. He is former international vice-president and member Washington, D. C., Local 46. Mr. Oliver, Bremerton, Wash., native, accepted a position in the Long Beach, Calif., Naval Shipyard.

Health and Welfare Contracts Approved By WSB Ruling

Washington—The Wage Stabilization Board now permits unions to negotiate health and welfare clauses in collective bargaining contracts without having the cost charged up as a wage increase.

Preferable to Freeze

Industry members of the WSB sharply dissented from the decision. Labor members protested the limitations but went along with the public members because the new policy is "preferable to the existing complete freeze."

The ruling provides that any health and welfare benefit, regardless of its extent, is automatically approvable if the employes contribute at least 40 per cent of the gross cost.

Non-contributory plans are also automatically approved within set standards. If they exceed the WSB standards, they must be submitted to a special health-welfare panel of the board for an official okay.

The permissible standards for non-contributory health and welfare agreements include:

1. Free life insurance up to \$1,500 or 85 per cent of the employer's average annual pay roll, whichever is more.
2. Disability payments for time lost due to sickness or accident, limited to 26 weeks' wages when payments average more than 60 per cent of an employer's average weekly pay roll.

of women available which has been almost untapped up to now—the one million women between the ages of forty-five and sixty-four who are not now in the labour force.

While most of them have been away from the labour market for many years the experience they have gained in managing households and raising families could be a real employment asset. Many of them are interested in taking jobs and continuing their useful activities.

3. Hospitalization expenses, short of a private room; special nursing care, up to 30 days; medical care in hospital; surgical expenses, except for "unusual types," such as dental or plastic surgery; maternity care.

Other Plans Considered

The foregoing benefits would cover only employes. They cannot be extended to cover families of employes under permissible non-contributory standards, but such coverage is approved in plans where employes contribute at least 40 per cent of the total cost.

The Wage Stabilization Board still has under consideration proposed plans dealing with collective bargaining for pensions and retirement systems. It is also considering AFL proposals for permitting wage increases, beyond the limitations of the present formula, which are earned by increased productivity.

Big Business Is Never Satisfied

Last summer the U. S. Chamber of Commerce and other big business groups got Congress to pass a phony price control law.

You would think that now big business would be satisfied. High prices are guaranteed by Congress. Wages are not keeping up with the ever increasing cost of living.

But the Chamber of Commerce is not satisfied. Its Economic Policy Committee declares that all price controls, whether strong or weak, are bad.

Just as big business is continuing its fight against price controls trade unionists must keep working for a better price law.

And the best way to get real price control and fair wage stabilization is to go out and vote in 1952 for liberal Senators and Representatives.



Jurisdiction—The NLRB has declined to assert jurisdiction over *Columbia University in New York City* in a case involving employes of the university libraries even though the university's volume of business in interstate commerce met the Board's general standards for asserting jurisdiction.

The Board distinguished this ruling from past decisions in which it had asserted jurisdiction over schools and colleges in cases involving employes of commercial enterprises operated by schools for profit.

The Board said that it did not "believe that it would effectuate the policies of the Act for the Board to assert its jurisdiction over a nonprofit, educational institution, where the activities involved are noncommercial in nature and intimately connected with the charitable purposes and educational activities of the institution."

Free Speech—The NLRB has set aside an election involving the *General Shoe Corp., Marman Bag Plant and the IAM District Lodge 155*, finding that the company's conduct interfered with the employes' free choice of a bargaining representative.

In its decision, the Board states: "We find . . . the technique of calling the employes into the Employer's offices individually and in small groups and there urging that they reject the union was in itself conduct which warrants setting aside this election. Anti-union opinions, and the suggestion that the employes reject the union, when uttered in that locus (the company offices) of final authority in the plant, take on a meaning and a significance they do not possess under other circumstances. The coercive effect may be subtle, but it is nonetheless there."

Concerted Activity—An employer had discharged an employe who had complained to other workers about working conditions in the plant. No union organizing was going on and the employer denied knowing that the employes had discussed the need for a union.

Although the NLRB has held that the right of employes to engage in concerted activity for mutual aid or protection is guaranteed under the T-H Act, it ordinarily won't charge an employer with discrimination if he didn't know that employes were acting together to further unionization or improve working conditions.

In this case, however, the Board finds the discharge discriminatory, ruling that once it is shown that an employer has interfered with the concerted activity of employes, his motives are irrelevant. Complaints about working conditions, according to the Board, are an "indispensable preliminary step" in organization. So an employe who discusses working conditions with his fellow workers is likely to be engaged in protected activity.—*(Office Towel & Supply Co.)*



Utilities—Washington Gas and Electric Co., Local 23, Tacoma, Wash., \$19 per month.

Toledo Edison Co., Local 19, Toledo, Ohio, 3.2 per cent (cost of living).

Office Furniture—Yawman & Erbe, Local 34, Rochester, N. Y., 10 per cent.

Soft Drinks—Bireley's Beverages, Local 29, Oakland, Calif., \$13 per month.

Food Products—Nalley's, Inc., L & N Products, Inc., and United Foods, Inc., Local 23, Tacoma, Wash., \$1.60 per week.

Bus Lines—Tamiami Trail Tours, Inc., Local 73, Jacksonville, Fla., 5 cents per hour.

Copper Tubing—Chase Brass & Copper Co., Inc., Local 17, Cleveland, Ohio, \$4 per week.

Alloys and Metals—St. Lawrence Alloys & Metals, Ltd., Local 262, Beauharnois, Quebec, \$20 to \$35 per month.

Gases—Liquid Carbonic Corp., Local 6, Boston, Mass., \$2 per week.

Tractor Mfg.—The Oliver Corp., Local 17, Cleveland, Ohio, 3 per cent plus 6 per cent under cost-of-living adjustment plan plus length-of-service increases.

Small Arms—J. Stevens Arms Co. (Div. of Savage Arms Corp.), Local 228, Chicopee Falls, Mass., \$1 to \$3.35 per week (\$2 average).

Cast-iron Pipe—U. S. Pipe & Foundry Co., Local 18—Birmingham, Ala., Local 179—Chattanooga, Tenn., 2.31 per cent (cost of living increase).

Paper Mills—International Paper Co. (Southern Kraft Div.), Local 71—Mobile, Ala., Local 80—Panama City, Fla., Local 209—Kreole, Miss., Local 233—Georgetown, S. C., 5.7 per cent.

Atomic Energy—Atkinson-Jones Construction Co., Newberry-Neon Electric Co., Urban, Smythe and Warren Co., Local 100, Pasco, Wash., 9 cents per hour plus approximately 10 cents per hour increase in isolation pay.

Leather Mfg.—Leach Heckel Leather Co., Local 6, Boston, Mass., \$2 per week.

Brush Mfg.—Star Brush Mfg. Co., Local 6, Boston, Mass., 5 per cent.

Hardware Mfg.—Yale & Towne Mfg. Co., Local 90, Stamford, Conn., \$5.60 per week.

Badges & Buttons—Green Duck Metal Stamping Co., Local 28, Chicago, Ill., 11 per cent.

Hardware, Whlsle.—May Hardware Co., Local 11, Portland, Oreg., 4 cents per hour.

Auto Parts, Whlsle.—Chansler & Lyon—Palace Corp., Local 29, Oakland, Calif., \$17.50 per month.

Trucking—Inland Motor Freight; Oregon, Nevada, California Fast Freight; Garrett Freightlines; United Truck Lines; Los Angeles-Seattle Freight; Local 11, Portland, Oreg., 9 cents per hour.

Consolidated Freightways, Inc.,

NOTES

from the field

Michigan—The office and clerical employes of the East Side branch of RCA Service Co., Inc., in Detroit, have in an NLRB election designated Local 10 of that city as their bargaining representative.

With only one dissenting vote, the office and clerical employes of Lee and Cady Co., Saginaw Branch, have in an NLRB election chosen Saginaw Local 253 as their bargaining representative. In still another NLRB election, this same local was designated as the bargaining representative of the office and clerical employes of the Saginaw Hardware Company.

Ontario—Abitibi Power & Paper Co., Ltd., has voluntarily recognized our newly chartered Local 282 in Sturgeon Falls as the bargaining representative of its office and clerical employes at its mill in this community.

Local 11, Portland, Oreg., 8 cents per hour.

Morris Draying Co., Local 29, Oakland, Calif., \$4 per week.

Elec. Supplies—Columbian Electrical Co., Local 40, Kansas City, Mo., 4 cents per hour average.

Grain Products—Pillsbury-Globe, division of Pillsbury Mills, Inc., Local 36, San Francisco, Calif., \$21 per month.

Periodicals—American News Co., Local 86, Vallejo, Calif., \$2.75 per week.

Organizations—Young Women's Christian Association, Local 23, Tacoma, Wash., \$14 per month.

Retail Foods—Consumers Co-op., Hagstroms Food Stores, Lincoln Market, Lucky Stores, Piedmont Grocery, Safeway Stores, Fairfax Bread Co., Sherwood-Swan, Washington Market, Mayfair Markets, Local 29, \$17.50 per month.

Radio Stations—Westinghouse Radio Stations, Inc. (WBZ, WBZ-FM, WBZ-TV), Local 6, Boston, Mass., \$3 to \$6.90 per week.

General Stores—Santa Rita Store Co., Local 62, Santa Rita, N. Mex., \$8 per month effective last July plus \$2 per month effective last December.

Smelting & Refining—Tin Processing Corp., Local 27, Galveston, Tex., 10 per cent.

Petroleum Refining—Gulf Refining Co., Standard Oil Co., Local 19, Toledo, Ohio, 3.4 per cent (cost of living).

Farm Mach. Sales—Allis-Chalmers Mfg. Co., Local 19, Toledo, Ohio, 3.46 per cent (cost of living).

Restaurants—Sardi's Restaurant, Local 153, New York City, \$3.50 per week.

Ice Cream—Meadowgold, Local 153, New York City, \$3 per week.

Coffee, Tea, etc.—Seeman Bros., Local 153, New York City, \$3 per week.

A representation election has been filed with the Ontario Labor Relations Board by Port Arthur Local 236 on behalf of a unit of clerical employes employed by Northern Wood Preservers.

New York—Organization of the cashiers at Duval and Stanley Cafeterias has been completed by New York City Local 153 and initial agreements with these firms concluded.

Local 153 Business Manager Howard Coughlin, who is also an OEIU Vice President, has fully recovered from an emergency appendectomy performed recently.

Lavina Michl has terminated her long service with New York City Local 153. She had been a business representative of the local since 1943. Her resignation is a distinct loss to the members of that local union. Many of us throughout the OEIU remember her at our International Union conventions. In private life Sister Michl is Mrs. Ralph Wright, the wife of the Assistant Secretary of Labor.

An NLRB representation petition filed by New York City Local 205 on behalf of the office and clerical employes of the Belgian-American Bank is being processed.

Quebec—Most of the office and clerical employes of Canada Iron Foundries in Three Rivers have designated Local 283 as their bargaining representatives and a representation petition has been filed with the Quebec Labor Relations Board on their behalf by this local union.

California—Richmond Local 243 is awaiting approval by the Federal Housing Commissioners of its new agreement with the Richmond Housing Authority.

Wisconsin—A 100 per cent favorable vote for representation by Milwaukee Local 9 was cast in a recent NLRB election by the office and clerical employes of RCA Service Company, Inc.

Massachusetts—Boston Local 6 has been selected as the bargaining representative of the office and clerical employes of C. B. Fleming & Co., Inc., in nearby Norwood in a recent NLRB election.

Florida—All of the timekeepers of Russ Engineering Co. employed by them on a construction job near Bartow have designated Tampa Local 46 as their bargaining representative and an NLRB petition has been filed for them. This local has also jointly with the Retail Clerks petitioned the NLRB for certification as representative of employes of Mangle's, Inc.

If you purchased more Union Label goods on buy-day—you'll have more money on payday.

Canadian Locals Hold Conference

Niagara Falls, Ont.—The third Canadian week-end educational conference of OEIU local unions was held here on December 15 and 16 and was attended by upwards of twenty leaders of our local unions in the Niagara Peninsula section of Ontario Province.

OEIU President Paul R. Hutchings and Canadian Representative Russell Harvey conducted the meeting, which was centered around the problems of building and maintaining strong, active, well-informed memberships in the local unions.

The Sunday afternoon session was also attended by a number of officers and committeemen of nearby Buffalo Local 212 and by International Vice President George P. Firth. A showing of the color sound film—"A Watch For Joe," highlighted the Sunday afternoon session, which also considered the need for local unions to develop and maintain active, functioning local union stewards.

The two previous week-end educational conferences for local union leadership in Canada were held at Port Arthur, Ontario and Montreal, P. Q., last October. Consideration is being given to the possibility of holding a similar conference this spring for OEIU local unions in Newfoundland.

Insurance Agents Request Your Help

Washington, D. C.—The Insurance Agents International Union, A. F. of L., has been engaged in a strike against the Prudential Insurance Company of America since December 1, after failing in its efforts to negotiate a satisfactory renewal contract for the more than 15,000 Prudential agents whom it represents in 34 states and the District of Columbia.

President George L. Russ of the Insurance Agents International Union advises that the morale of the striking agents is high, but he points out that it would be very helpful if union members who hold Prudential life insurance policies would write letters directly to the Prudential Insurance Company of America at Newark, N. J., insisting that the company make a fair settlement with the Insurance Agents International Union, A. F. of L. The Prudential Company is a mutual company and its policyholders are, therefore, supposedly the owners of the company. President Russ points out that as owners and policyholders, union members who have insurance with the Prudential are certainly justified in writing to the company insisting that it deal fairly with its agents.

The Insurance Agents International Union and its thousands of members engaged in this strike against the second largest insurance company in the world, will certainly greatly appreciate the cooperation of union members who hold insurance policies with this company in writing to the company insisting that it work out an equitable settlement of this dispute.