OFFICE WORKERS ORGANIZING
BIRMINGHAM AIRCRAFT PLANT

Birmingham, Ala., Dec. 7.—At a meeting held tonight (Continued on page 2)
International Union Action Pushed

Washington, D.C., Nov. 10.—In the face of action taken at the October convention of the American Federation of Labor at which time the convention went on record as instructing "the President (Green) and the executive council proceed with the granting of an international charter for office workers at the earliest possible moment," the American Council have now instructed the AFL, executive council urging it to follow as quickly as possible the instructions of the convention.

Both President J. Howard Hicks and Secretary-Treasurer Paul R. Hutchings of our International Council plan to appear before the executive council some time during its meeting beginning January 17, 1944, in Miami, Fla., following conferences on the matter with federation leaders in Washington.

Several members of the executive council have indicated that they favor the issuance of an international union charter for office workers at this time, while it is felt that the action at the AFL convention was a direct result of the activities of council officers coupled with the introduction of a resolution from the Washington State Federation of Labor calling for the establishment of an international union of our trade.

While it is to be acknowledged that many new problems are to be faced in the event our International Council secures international union status, confidence has been expressed in the ability of present officers and Executive Board members of our organization to overcome such obstacles as may arise. It is felt that evidence of this ability might be seen in the rapid rise and expansion of our International Council in the short period since its inception.

Send a Word to the Wise!

Your Congressman and mine are our servants. We elect them. We pay them. They are supposed to represent us.

For that reason the American Federation of Labor now urgently calls upon its 6,500,000 members to let their Congressmen know how they feel about pending legislation which will detrimentally affect the interests of American workers and their trade unions.

Tell your Representative and your Senators this:

1.—That you demand approval of a comprehensive subsidy program to keep the cost of living within bounds.

2.—That you insist on defeat of the tax bill "joker" which would require unions to disclose financial data for the benefit of labor-haters and antiunion employers.

DO THIS NOW!

The interest of unorganized office and clerical workers in the solution of their economic problems is evidenced by the growing swing in membership of many of our locals and the chartering of new locals where none previously existed. It is reflected in the increasing number of requests received by our International Headquarters for information, assistance, organization and organizing advice.

The coming year presents a challenge to each member, to every local and to our International organization. We must work ceaselessly to further organize and expand our membership. We must work ceaselessly to educate all new members to a recognition of the underlying principles of trade unionism. We must develop real trade unionists, not just nominal members whose interest is only in the collection of collective bargaining benefits.

We must, through our actions, convince our new members that their union membership is something to cherish, something for them to maintain in the postwar world, something which will continue to make it possible for them to live a fuller, more stable, more peaceful life. The benefits of trade unionism benefits obtained today can also be obtained and maintained in their post-war employment at our trade.

We must plan for further expansion of organization in the nonwar plants, commercial offices, and among the many other establishments employing office and clerical workers in each community.

Our local must move more aggressively in the efforts to stabilize their industries. Present day improvements in wages, hours and working conditions must be carried into the nonwar industries now to guard against war plant closings and the loss of conditions presently enjoyed by our members.

AFL Economist Addresses Local

Portland, Oreg., Nov. 16.—Boris Shishkin, economist on the staff of the American Federation of Labor, this evening addressed the membership of Local No. 10821, according to John L. McKenney, secretary-treasurer of the local.

The principal theme of Mr. Shishkin's address was that of proper postwar planning. The problems which are to be met and overcome, not only for returning service men and women, but also for the welfare of all workers of our country is concerned.

It was pointed out by the speaker that those of us at home owe an obligation to the city in uniform and that only by proper provision for their employment and the payment of good wages can the labor movement be of a greater service to them at the present time.

It was pointed out that many of our community members are working union members prior to army military uniforms and that they will return to the same community unorganized union members and expecting conditions to be at least as good to what they left at the beginning of their military service.

Mr. Shishkin favored planning, which, he said, is the only organization to cope with the problems the country faced today. The keynote of his plan, he said, is the idea of government acting as the guide to properly distribute the materials in the country in order to give equal opportunity to all as a result of the war effort.

Mr. Shishkin was introduced by Mr. McKenney and was met with enthusiastic applause.

Many New Members Initiated

At the meeting this evening 137 new members were initiated, which brought the membership of the union, that progress was being made and plans nearly concluded for increased membership. Activities such as this must be conducted by the union for new members as well as providing an educational atmosphere and membership meetings.

In connection it was promised that an imposing array of prominent speakers was being arranged for a series of meetings during 1944 and that the membership would undoubtedly be pleased and surprised at the caliber and prominence of several whose services had tentatively been arranged for.

CEMENT COMPANY

OFFICE ORGANIZING

East Fultonham, O., Nov. 5.—Opportunity to observe the benefits derived by workers who have been members of our trade employed at the Columbia Cement Division of the White Cement Co., in this city to invite organization under our International Council.

Collaborating in the organization of these workers is Local No. 24 of the United Cement, Lime and Gypsum Workers International Union and the Cincinnati office of the AFL.
METAL TRADES AGREEMENT WON FOR MCELSEY OFFICE WORKERS

Tampa, Fla., Nov. 20.—McElsey & Co., the operators of one of the largest concrete shipyards in this city, today signed amendment No. 2 to its agreement with the Metal Trades Council of Tampa, under the terms of which Local 2222 is recognized as a party to the agreement, and the amendment will be applied to the office and clerical workers employed by this company with the approval of Local 2992.

Business representative J. O. Bloodworth, Jr., of the Tampa local, who is representing the no-strike agreement with the officers of the Tampa Metal Trades Council with which our local is affiliated, reports that the signing of the amendment will extend to all of our members employed in this yard all the benefits of the Gulf Coast standards, as well as the benefits directly provided by the Metal Trades Council agreement.

The amendment to the base agreement brings our trade under its terms, was signed by J. O. Bloodworth, Jr., and by Local 2992, the AFL office workers local. The conditions of the agreement are: (a) We will not in any manner interfere with, restrain, or coerce our employees in the exercise of their rights to self-organization, to join or assist labor organizations, to bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing, to engage in concerted activities for the purpose of collective bargaining or other mutual aid or protection; (b) We will not in any manner discourage membership in any labor organization of our employees, by discriminating against them in hiring or tenure of employment, or any terms or conditions of employment.

All our employers are further notified that we will: (a) Offer to the employees named below immediately and full reinstallation to their former or substantially equivalent positions without prejudice to their seniority, salary, and benefits previously enjoyed, and make them whole for any loss of pay they have suffered by reason of their discharge; (b) Return the full amount, with interest, to the office workers funds of the Local Union 2222 and the local of the National Labor Relations Board; and (c) Keep the office workers union in the office of the company.

Office Union Is Protector of Jobs

Salt Lake City, Local 2093 Active

Salt Lake City, Utah, Nov. 15.—With the Utah State Federation of Labor, which is sponsoring programs to acquaint residents of this state with the activities of the American Federation of Labor, the Salt Lake City office of the Federation is playing a large role in making the public aware of its activities. The local union is working closely with the AFL office workers local, and its activities have been highly successful.

The Salt Lake City office of the Federation is currently active in several important campaigns, including the organization of a new local union and the improvement of conditions for existing local unions. The office has also been instrumental in the successful mediation of disputes between employers and employees, and in the representation of workers in labor arbitrations.

Organizing Drive Planned

Marseilles, Ill., Dec. 13.—The office and clerical workers employed at the Marseilles office of the Illinois State Department of Workmen's Compensation are organizing a new local union of the AFL-CIO. The officers of the new local union, which will charter under the name of Local 8, are: President, Mr. John J. Kane; Vice-President, Mr. John J. Kane; Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. John J. Kane.

The organization drive is being conducted by Business Representative J. O. Bloodworth, Jr., of the Marseilles local, with the assistance of the AFL-CIO office workers department.

A. F. of L. Magazine Features OEU Article

Washington, D. C., Dec. 15.—The December issue of the American Federation of Labor (AFL) magazine, "The Leader," featured an article on office workers organization. The article, "Office Workers On The March," was written jointly by President J. Howard Hills, AFL-CIO, and Secretary-Treasurer Paul R. Hutchings.

In this article, the authors outline the challenges faced by office workers in organizing for improved working conditions and better wages and benefits. They argue that office workers are often subject to widespread unfair labor practices and the need for collective bargaining is more urgent than ever.

Council Officer Meets B. C. ELECTRIC GROUP

Vancouver, B. C., Dec. 6.—President J. Howard Hills of our International Council met today with officers and representatives of an independent organization of British Columbia Electric Co. office and clerical workers.

The group has recently given strong indication of its desire to affiliate with the national organization, thus eliminating the handicap of functioning independently. Previous meetings with representatives of the independent group have been highly successful.

Meeting Addressed

At the meeting of the membership of Local 1817 this evening the speakers were drawn for local shipbuilding and ship repair companies to discuss affiliation with local 1817. The speakers were: Mr. John J. Kane, Business Representative, Local 1817; and Mr. John J. Kane, Secretary-Treasurer, Local 1817.

C. Hartz, a well-known attorney, addressed the meeting on the subject of labor law and the rights of unions.

Bargaining Rights Won At Reynolds Alloys Co.

Luster Hill, Ala.—According to reports from Walter Mitchell, Local 25501 at Sheffield, Ala., has been certified by the NLRB as the exclusive bargaining agent for all office and clerical workers employed at the Reynolds Alloys Company plant in this city.

In certification of the local was made as the result of its major representation established through a vote of the local union and successful ballot of the company.

Kaiser Praises Closed Shop

New York City—Henry J. Kaiser, the great shipbuilder, declared in an interview here that the union closed shop helps to solve industrial problems.

Mr. Kaiser, whose famous shipyard plants on the West Coast are under closed shop contract with AFL union, added that the shipbuilders association for management. He pointed out: "The behavior of the men becomes a direct responsibility of the union."
Washington, D.C., Dec. 7. — The signing today of an addendum to the Metal Trades Agreement in effect in this yard, marked the conclusion of several months' negotiations between Local 2313 and the St. Johns River Shipbuilding Co., Jacksonville, Fla., and the War Labor Board.

The addendum provides that all employees who have been receiving a wage higher than the minimum of the rate range for their classification shall receive an adjustment to the minimum rate, retroactive to September 20.

Other outstanding features of the addendum to the Metal Trades Agreement, covering our trade includes provision for a guaranteed working week, in addition to the standard eight hours, paid vacations, with pay, holidays, overtime, and a rise in the minimum wage to $1.20 a day with the addition of the new workers.

The provisions of the addendum deal with seniority, all new employees are to be placed in the bargaining unit. The company, which has been notified that bargaining rights are now held by the Napa Central Labor Council and has at the same time been requested to enter into a collective bargaining procedure which should result in vastly increased wages and improved working conditions for all workers.

Almost 40 per cent of the employees of the company has thus far signed bargaining cards. The company has been notified that bargaining rights are now held by the Napa Central Labor Council and has at the same time been requested to enter into a collective bargaining procedure which should result in vastly increased wages and improved working conditions for all workers.

The addendum also provides for a guaranteed working week, in addition to the standard eight hours, paid vacations, with pay, holidays, overtime, and a rise in the minimum wage to $1.20 a day with the addition of the new workers.