

The Office Employees Letter

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208 National Union Building, Washington, D. C.

JANUARY, 1943

PROBEY GUEST SPEAKER ON LABOR NEWS REVIEW

Brother Albert Dennis, commentator for the "Labor News Review," a weekly broadcast heard over WJSV at 6:30 P. M., invited President Probey as his special guest on Saturday, January 23. Brother Probey's presentation was as follows:

"I welcome this opportunity of appearing on the "Labor News Review" with my very good friend and brother member, Albert N. Dennis, its commentator.

"As President of the Office Employees Union No. 11773 of the American Federation of Labor, I should like to say just a few words about our union and the office employees' problems.

"Since the year 1904, when our charter was granted by the American Federation of Labor, steady progress has been made toward the perfection of our organization.

"From a relatively small, though not unimportant nucleus of less than a dozen members employed at the American Federation of Labor during the Samuel Gompers era our membership has increased during the past 38 years until it now includes members employed by industries, manufacturers, insurance companies, printing establishments, religious organizations, and of course, the office workers in organized labor.

"Although these groups comprise the majority of our members, there are many in the professional offices—law, medicine, and shorthand reporting.

"Information concerning our activities appears in our monthly bulletin, "The Office Employees Letter," which is mailed not only to local members in good standing but also to other Office Employees' unions throughout the United States and Canada.

"Office workers are a skilled and specialized group necessary to the efficient functioning of all business organizations. Is it not they who handle the bookkeeping, compute the payrolls, and prepare the social security and unemployment compensation records? Is it not they who prepare the letters and the records concerned with the purchase of raw ma-

terials, accessories and parts, and who handle the invoices, the bills, and the collections on the finished products? These and many other vital business operations are dependent upon a skilled and efficient staff of office workers.

"Then too, we as office workers, are vital to a successful war effort—our part is just as essential, though not as much publicized, as that of the aircraft worker, the ship builder, or the armament worker. One of the principal points of difference between our group and the various skilled and semi-skilled factory workers is our lack of organization. At no other time has there been a greater need or a better opportunity to increase and perfect the organization of office workers under the banner of the American Federation of Labor. Our problems are numerous but if we are properly organized they can be overcome. Regrettably the time now available does not permit a detailed explanation of the many features incorporated in a union contract covering office workers, but I will gladly reply to any inquiries concerning your problems and conditions of employment.

"Brother Dennis, I want to thank you for having this opportunity to say a word to your large radio audience, and to extend fraternal greetings and best wishes for 1943 to all union members."

O. E. U. MEMBER NAMED ON FAIR EMPLOYMENT UNIT

Bro. Boris Shishkin, economist of the American Federation of Labor, has been designated by President Roosevelt as an alternate member of the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice.

Mr. Shishkin, who serves as consultant to a number of government agencies, was named to serve for William Green, president of the AFL, on occasions when it is not possible for him to attend the meetings of the committee. Mr. Shishkin will replace Frank Fenton, director of organization of the AFL, who has been an alternate member since the launching of the committee.

SHOP STEWARDS' MEETINGS RESUMED

The shop stewards' meetings were resumed in January with stewards from the Heurich Brewing Co., American Ice Co., Labor News, International Association of Machinists, Sheet Metal Workers, and the American Federation of Labor.

The meeting, always the second Tuesday of each month, was held at the Union Office, 918 F St., Room 208, at 8 P. M. Problems regarding conditions at various shops were discussed, and plans were formulated to create a better relationship between employer and employe.

All stewards are requested to be present at these all important meetings. However, if for any reason a steward is unable to attend, he is urged to appoint an alternate.

O. E. 23076 HAS MONTHLY PUBLICATION

American Federation of Office Employees Local 23076 introduced its monthly publication, the "Office Employees Newsette," to its membership in December, 1942. The editorial staff, composed of Samuel Collins, Howard Coughlin, Harry Avrutin, Betty Flohr and Irene Brazong, promises to keep their members informed of the latest developments in their organization, and thereby promote mutual interest in the problems of their Office Employee members. We congratulate our sister local in this effort and extend best wishes for their continued success.

NEXT
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, Feb. 2, 1943
8:00 P. M.
Chantilly Room
HAMILTON HOTEL
\$2 War Stamp Jackpot

THE OFFICE EMPLOYEES LETTER

Published Monthly by

OFFICE EMPLOYEES UNION No. 11773

Affiliated with American Federation of Labor and International Council of Office Employees Unions

208 National Union Building
Washington, D. C.

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Thelma Dawson.....Guide
Frances O'Donnell.....Guardian

W. R. Probey.....Business Representative
NAtional 3870

A WAR BOND

By MARGARET SCHROEBEL

What are these crackly, official-looking pieces of paper that I own? They have some figures on the face and some words that read "United States of America." They are at once a sacrifice and an investment, and my own personal symbol of my love for my country and for what it stands.

This one here—this \$25 bond, they tell me, will put so many bullets into the hands of the soldier who fights in Tunisia. This \$50 bond helps pay for the machine gun on Guadalcanal, whose withering fire mows down the advancing Jap hordes. This third bond will partially equip a sailor boy on the submarine-infested Atlantic. But more than that, these bonds are my personal protest against the atrocities in Poland and the starvation in Greece; against the degradation of once proud nations which will be proud again; against the brutalizing of men and the abasement of women.

"Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition" is more than a popular song. It is the spirit of America, and we have got to keep on passing the ammunition so we can keep on praising the Lord, each in his own way and without the shadow of that fear that now lays over Europe like a curse. Each bond you buy is a share in America and a guarantee for our way of life; for your right to hold a union card and exercise union privileges; for movies on Saturday night and church on Sunday morning; for your right to bring up your children in the traditional

American way, striving always to give them a little bit more than you had yourself.

You know how these bonds work; that in 10 years three dollars will get you four; and that you can cash these bonds after 60 days. (As union members, however, we should resolve that only the most dire emergency will cause us to cash a bond.) You wouldn't snatch back the bullets, or the machine gun, would you? One last thought — if the sacrifice makes you groan, just think of one thing—the growing rows of 6-foot mounds where sleep America's heroes. They died for you.

If you are buying bonds on the payroll plan, or any other plan, good!! If not, how about it? It's your country too!!

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL REPRESENTED AT A. F. OF L. SOUTHERN CONFERENCE

Our International Council of Office Employees Unions was represented at the regional conference of the A. F. of L. for 12 southern states which was held in Atlanta, Georgia, on January 16 and 17. Secretary-Treasurer Paul R. Hutchings participated as International Council delegate. Council Vice President E. H. Fritts was present on behalf of our T. V. A. locals.

A number of our southern locals were represented and participated in the two-day session which was attended by about 3500 delegates from the states of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Kentucky, Tennessee and West Virginia.

On the second day of the session, Atlanta Office Employees Union 19903 entertained all Office Employee delegates at a very enjoyable luncheon at which all delegates got acquainted and office workers' problems were discussed.

USE OUR UNION LABEL

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AT ALL TIMES

WASHINGTON TOTAL PASSES MILLION

Washington labor's purchase of defense bonds is still climbing and will match that of any other single city.

Washington unions have purchased:

Carpenters' District Council.....	\$150,000
Steamfitters' Union 602.....	103,000
Truck Drivers 639.....	80,000
Plumbers' Union 5.....	75,000
Plasters 96.....	72,000
Lathers' Union 9.....	71,000
Laborers' Union 74.....	67,000
Typographical Union 101.....	66,000
Grocery Clerks Union 639A.....	65,000
Street Car Employes.....	55,000
Carpenters Union 132.....	45,000
Carpenters Union 1590.....	35,000
Carpenters Union 1665.....	35,000
Plate Printers' Union 2.....	30,000
Meat Cutters 555.....	30,000
Office Employes 11773.....	30,500
Milk Drivers' Union 246.....	27,000
Laborers District Council.....	21,000
Engineers Union 77.....	20,000
Painters' Union 368.....	20,000
Bookbinders 4.....	20,000
Movie Operators 224.....	19,000
Bricklayers 1.....	15,000
Photo-Engravers' Union 17.....	12,000
Pressmen's Union 1.....	10,000
Hotel Employes 781.....	10,000
Bakery Drivers 33.....	10,000
Bakers Union 118.....	9,000
Brewery Workers 48.....	7,500
Carpenters Union 1078.....	7,500
Composition Roofers 90.....	6,000
Sheet Metal Workers 102.....	5,000
Musicians 161.....	5,000
Rodmen 201.....	5,000
Warehousemen 730.....	5,000
Electrotypers Union 17.....	3,000
Iron Workers 5.....	2,000
Asbestos Workers 24.....	2,000
Bartenders' Union 75.....	2,000
Carpenters 1694.....	2,000
Stonemasons' Union 2.....	2,000
Stereotypers Union 19.....	2,000
Hotel Service Workers.....	2,000
Iron Workers 486.....	1,500
Carpenters 528.....	1,300
Ice Cream Drivers 111.....	1,000
Press Assistants 42.....	1,000
Ice Cream Drivers.....	1,000
Painters 890.....	1,000
Plasterer Tenders 571.....	1,000
Slate and Tile Roofers 24.....	1,000
Engineers 99.....	500
Glaziers 963.....	500
Auto Mechanics 1486.....	500
Tile Setters Helpers 31.....	300
Barbers 239.....	100
Allied Printing Trades Council.....	100

Total to date\$1,266,425

NEW MEMBER WINS JACKPOT

Sister Rhoda Berger, employed by the National Association of Letter Carriers, a newly obligated member, won the \$2 War Stamp Jackpot at our last monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 5.

W. ROBERT PROBEY, President,
Office Employes Union, No. 11773,
208 National Union Bldg.,
Washington, D. C.

I am a member of the Union employed in the office of.....

As of..... I have purchased a

DATE

total of \$..... worth of War Bonds and Stamps.