

THE OFFICE WORKER

Official Organ of the International Council of Office Employees Unions of the A. F. of L.

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WASHINGTON, D. C., JULY-AUGUST, 1943



Council Upsets Associated Ship's Attempt to By-Pass Seattle Local

Washington, D. C., Aug. 3.—The National War Labor Board, by unanimous vote, has set aside the decision of its Shipbuilding Commission, released on June 23, in which the commission had approved a unilateral request signed by Associated Shipbuilders to be allowed to grant vacation and sick leave with pay to the office force employed in that yard.

Office Employees Union 16304 was certified by the NLRB on February 15, 1943, as the exclusive bargaining agency for the office and clerical workers employed in this company's Seattle, Wash., yards. This certification was based on an election held February 2, in which the local received 253 out of a total of 289 votes cast.

Since its certification, the local—through the Seattle Metal Trades Council, with which it is affiliated—has been attempting to bargain with management on all the terms of a working agreement. Because of the stalling tactics used by management, the services of the Conciliation Bureau of the Labor Department were invoked last April.

In an attempt to weaken and destroy the organization of its office and clerical workers, management on April 8 filed a request with the Ship-

building Commission that it be allowed to institute paid vacations, holidays and sick leave for its office force. The union had no knowledge of the company's making such a request until the same was approved by the commission and announced in the press on June 23.

Vigorous protests were immediately filed by the local and by the Seattle Metal Trades Council. Failing to obtain the desired relief, our International Council was requested by Mildred Erickson, business agent of the local, and Vice President of our Council, to get the War Labor Board to set aside this detrimental ruling of its commission. An appeal was filed by the International Council, and upon consideration of the same, the War Labor Board—by unanimous vote—set aside the Shipbuilding Commission's action, and advised management to negotiate with the local on these matters and other conditions of the working agreement.

Renewed Drug Agreement Signed

Detroit, Mich., July 2.—Local No. 21497 of this city recently concluded and signed an agreement with McKesson-Robbins, Inc., wholesale druggists, in which the War Labor Board concurred in a \$4 per week increase for all employes negotiated between the union and company management, according to an announcement made by Merle Morris, president. Payment of the increase is retroactive to Sept. 1, 1942, for all members of the local employed by the company.

WLB also concurred in a demand of the local that women employed in offices of the company be paid the same rate of pay as men when performing identical work. This action will eliminate inequities heretofore existing and will allow many female employes of the company substantially more than the \$4 per week granted other workers, Morris pointed out.

Tacoma Wins Bargaining Rights

Tacoma, Wash., July 6.—Office Workers Union 20360 of this city has just obtained recognition as the bargaining agent for the office and clerical workers in the yard payroll and timekeeping departments of the Seattle-Tacoma Shipyards in this city, according to announcement made by George P. Firth, executive secretary of the local.

Brother Firth reports also that new enthusiasm has developed among office workers employed in the stores department of the company and meetings are being held for these workers who are likewise coming to realize that they can improve their conditions through collective bargaining.

Equal Pay Doesn't Need WLB Okay

Washington, D. C. — War Labor Board Chairman William H. Davis, in a letter to Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins stated, "General Order No. 16 has neither been impaired nor amended as a result of Executive Order No. 9328. It stands, today, in full force and effect."

The order permits an employer without prior approval from the board to make adjustments "which equalize the wage or salary rates paid to females with the rates paid to males for comparable quality and quantity of work on the same or similar operations, provided that such adjustments shall not furnish a basis either to increase price ceilings or to resist otherwise justified reductions in price ceilings."

In simple language this means that adjustments to equalize the wage or salary rates paid to women with rates paid to men for comparable work may be made without the War Labor Board's approval.

Embassy Dairy Offices Organized

Washington, D. C., July 6.—The office and clerical workers employed at the Embassy Dairy, one of the large dairies serving the Nation's Capital, have joined Office Employees Union No. 11773 according to Business Representative Probey of that local.

Within the past several weeks organization meetings have been held for this group and the vast majority of this office force have joined the local. A proposed working agreement has been drawn up and presented to the company on their behalf.

Chicago to Organize Ice Company

Chicago, Ill., July 6.—A campaign to organize the office and clerical workers employed in the home office of the City Fuel & Ice Co., located in this city, has been undertaken, according to Mollie Levitas, secretary of Local No. 20732 and a Vice President of our International Council.

This drive will be under the direction of Charles Noble, organizer and business representative of the local, and material supplied by the International Council for organizing purposes will be used in the conduct of the campaign.

The City Ice & Fuel Co. has 125 plants located in 26 States and Canada, and its principal business is that of icing perishable freight shipments moving by railroad while at the same time supplying ice and fuel for domestic use in areas where it has branches.

It is anticipated that local unions in cities where this company has branches will join Local No. 20732 in this campaign by organizing the offices in their communities.

Local 23300 Wins Big NLRB Vote

Panama City, Fla., July 12.—The office and clerical workers employed at the Jones Shipyards in this city today voted overwhelmingly for representation through Office Employees Union 23300. More than 87 percent of all valid votes cast favored representation through the local.

This consent election was conducted by the New Orleans regional office of the National Labor Relations Board, under the terms of an agreement entered into between the J. A. Jones Co. and the local union.

As a result of today's election, the local has established its exclusive bargaining rights for the more than 800 office and clerical workers employed in this yard.

Negotiations on a proposed working agreement will shortly commence, with the office of Brother George Googe, A. F. of L. regional director, assisting the local in its negotiations.

Steel Employes Demand Union

San Bernardino, Calif., July 16.—With the initial operation of the Fontana Steel Mills in nearby Fontana and the subsequent desire for unionization expressed by office and clerical workers employed by the company, an Office Employees Union charter has recently been installed in this city, according to announcement of Daniel V. Flanagan, western representative of the AFL.

With several hundred members of our craft already organized into the new local, indications are strong that the desire for organization is no less among these workers than among production employes of the company also being organized into AFL unions. With the entire program for organization of the employes of this company under the direction of the local Metal Trades Council it is noteworthy that members of our craft were included in the plans first formulated. In view of the fact that the overwhelming majority of the workers at this plant have expressed a desire for unionization under the American Federation of Labor it is believed the campaign will be quickly culminated among all crafts, according to Earl Wilson, Metal Trades Council secretary.

Steel has long been looked upon as developing into a major industry on the Pacific Coast, where large iron ore deposits remain as yet untouched, and observers are of the opinion that the establishment of this mill will result in additional, similar enterprises in the future. The mill at Fontana, as well as plants which may follow, will prove unique in that hydroelectric power is used in the absence of coal.

The determination of life-insurance salesmen to succeed has made life pretty soft for widows.

Power Company Contract Renewed

Meridian, Miss., June 15.—With the assistance of AFL Organizer Walter L. Mitchell the agreement between Local No. 22538 and the Mississippi Power Co. has recently been renewed, according to Rowena Pigford, president of the local.

Substantial increases in salaries have been negotiated in the renewed agreement and it is expected that little opposition will be encountered in gaining approval of the War Labor Board on these adjustments. Overtime rates of pay at time and one-half, after 40 hours, has been included in the agreement as has 10 days per year sick leave for all employes of the company after one year's service. Two-week paid vacations for all employes is a feature of the agreement.

Employes of the company, covered by the agreement, will be provided subsistence and lodging while required to perform services away from their home station. Members of the local will also be compensated for time spent while on jury duty according to terms of the agreement.

Labor Unionists and their families as consumers have a vast purchasing power, which if wisely directed to the buying of Union Label goods, will be a tremendous force in America.

Portland Elects New Officers

Portland, Oreg., July 21.—Announcement was made today by Irving Enna, secretary-treasurer of Local No. 16821, that Arthur J. Gulley, vice president of the local for the past 3 years, had been elected president of the union to fill the unexpired term of his predecessor who resigned at the June membership meeting. Acting upon recommendation of its officers that an additional business representative be selected the membership at the same time elected Clyde Clement to this capacity. Both Brothers Gulley and Clement are well liked by the members of Local No. 16821 and confidence has been expressed that they will make substantial contributions to the growth and welfare of the local.

Secretary-Treasurer Enna reported to the membership at its recent meeting that the local had signed several new agreements, including one with the Kimpton Western Mattress Co. This agreement provides vastly improved working conditions for the office and clerical workers of this company than they previously had enjoyed and increases in wages were arrived at within the bounds of current restrictions. This agreement also includes a closed shop provision, while eight holidays, rest periods and sick leave are allowed with full pay.

An outstanding feature of all agreements entered into by Local No. 16821 is inclusion of our International Council as a party thereto. In remarking upon this Brother Enna said, "I believe this is something all local unions of office workers' should do for it adds prestige to the local and fortifies it in dealings with employers, while at the same time contributing to the growth and recognition of our International Council".

New Locals Are Contemplated

Oakland, Calif., July 6.—New local unions of office employes may be established in Modesto and San Jose, Calif., because of interest manifest in unionization among members of our craft in these cities, according to Vice President Carl F. Nelson of our International Council.

Nelson has been in close contact with workers in these two localities during recent months and it is believed that the interest shown and the potentialities are such as to justify the establishment of the charters. Modesto is in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley, which produces many fruits and vegetables for the tables of our nation and canning and fruit processing is a basic industry. San Jose, south of San Francisco, is basically an industrial community and the prospects for maintenance of a local in this area are particularly bright.

Women Jurors in 28 States

Legislative action by Idaho and Nebraska this year, and approval of a constitutional amendment last November by voters of Vermont, increased to 28 the number of states granting women the right to serve on juries, the Council of State Governments reports.

Local 23133 Seeks NLRB Election

Jacksonville, Fla., July 22.—The National Labor Relations Board today commenced formal hearings on the representation petition filed by Office Employees Union No. 23133, which invoked the services of the board in order to obtain an election among the office and clerical workers employed by the St. Johns River Shipbuilding Co.

Today's hearing is the outgrowth of a petition filed with the Board some weeks ago by the local union. There are at present more than 1,400 office and clerical workers employed at this yard, and the management is seeking to exclude about 450 of these workers from the bargaining unit on

Milwaukee Renews Brewery Contract

Milwaukee, Wis., June 28 — Office Workers Union 16456 of this city has just received official War Labor Board approval of its supplementary contract adjustments with the Miller Brewing Co. Among the improvements covered by the supplementary agreement are salary increases retroactive to March 1, 1943, ranging from \$5 to \$15 per month. Employees paid on an hourly basis received a 10 cents per hour increase, retroactive to the same date.

Other important provisions of the contract include a union shop clause, seniority on lay-offs and retiring, and time and a half pay for all work in excess of 8 hours a day and 40 hours a week. Double time pay is provided for Sundays and 6 legal holidays, and all employes with a year or more service receive 2 weeks vacation with full pay each year. Two weeks dismissal notice is provided with not less than 2 weeks pay.

The contract was negotiated by the bargaining committee of Local 16456, consisting of August Korvel, James George, Fred Schmitz and Herbert Tank. Brother O. A. Jirikowic, of the Milwaukee Federated Trades Council, assisted with the negotiations.

Jones Shipyard Organizes

Brunswick, Ga., July 29.—The office and clerical workers employed by the J. A. Jones Shipbuilding Co. of this city have organized an office employees local, with the assistance of the Brunswick Central Labor Union and the Georgia State Federation of Labor.

Brother R. L. Landon, vice-president of the state federation and Organizer Moody of the Brunswick Central Labor Union have assisted this group in organizing and applying for an American Federation of Labor charter.

One of the first acts of newly chartered Local No. 23469 was to apply for affiliation with the International Council. The affiliation forms and fee were mailed to the International Council today by Fred Powell, financial secretary of the new local. It is anticipated that this local will soon embrace in its membership a majority of the office and clerical workers employed at this yard and will promptly seek exclusive bargaining rights and a working agreement.

the grounds that they are performing confidential work. This issue is the principal one at today's hearing.

The local union, represented by its president, Sister Lorraine Rhodes, and by A. F. of L. Regional Director George Googe is seeking to include in the bargaining unit all office and clerical workers employed by the company, excluding only those who are employed in bona fide confidential or supervisory capacities.

At the hearing today, it developed that the company desired to exclude as confidential workers, such workers as typists, file clerks, and messengers. The local contends that such workers cannot be properly considered as confidential workers, and that they should be given the same rights as other office workers to participate in the forthcoming NLRB election, to determine the workers' choice of a collective bargaining agency.

A vast majority of the office and clerical workers employed at this yard have already signed up with Local 23133, and it is anticipated that the local will roll up a large vote in the election when it is held.

Oakland Wins Further Gains

Oakland, Calif., June 28.—Field and booth checkers employed in the four Richmond shipbuilding yards of the Kaiser Co. are covered by a new contract negotiated by Office Workers Local Union No. 20744 of this city, which brings them under the provisions of the basic agreement signed on May 3 by the local covering all four yards.

Under this new agreement, which is awaiting War Labor Board approval, the checkers will receive wage increases in their various classifications and will also benefit by the provisions of the general contract governing shift premium pay, paid vacations, maintenance of union membership and numerous other improvements in working conditions.

The new agreement which has been incorporated as schedule B in the basic agreement provides for increases in hourly rates for the various classifications of field and booth checkers and provides for automatic step increases from the lower to the higher occupational classifications.

Bethlehem Bargaining Rights Asked

Climaxing an intensive organizational drive among office and clerical workers of the Bethlehem-Alameda shipyards, officers of this local have indicated that they are prepared to file a petition with the regional office of NLRB requesting an election among members of our craft employed by this company.

Spearheading this drive, which includes all members of our craft employed by the company, was Muriel Kerchen, organizer for the local. Sister Kerchen had the benefit of experience gained in her splendid work among similar workers employed by the Kaiser Co. shipyards in nearby Richmond.

Every day, buy a pack of union label cigarettes for our fighters until they come back.

San Francisco Negotiates

San Francisco, Calif., July 10.—While Local No. 21320 of this city has organized a substantial majority of the office and clerical workers at the Permanente Metals Corp. plant in nearby Los Altos and has been, tentatively, recognized by the management the CIO has filed an intervention proceeding with the National Labor Relations Board in an attempt to prevent Local 21320 from bargaining with management despite the fact that the CIO has no employees in the plant organized and is without any semblance of a union to represent the workers, it was announced today by Eleanor D. Murphy and Fred Miller, secretary and business representative of the local.

The CIO alleges favoritism toward Local No. 21320 on the part of the company, which charge is entirely without foundation, while the true motive behind the move is to gain time for them to endeavor to establish some little basis of organization while at the same time delaying negotiations between Local No. 21320 and the company.

Officers of the local have pointed out in unmistakable language that such tactics are typical of the CIO and result only in withholding unionization and union benefits from workers desiring to obtain correction of their injustices. At the same time the officers of Local 21320 are confident that the group they have organized will remain militant until the obstacle

(Continued on Page 6)

AFL Launches Big War Bond Drive

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green launched a nation-wide campaign for the purchase of \$500,000,000 worth of War Bonds by the 6,000,000 members of the American Federation of Labor between now and Labor Day.

In a "Labor For Victory" program broadcast from coast to coast over NBC, Mr. Green called upon central labor unions and state federations of labor in 850 principal cities to organize the special War Bond drive as a climax to this year's Labor Day celebration.

Funds raised in the drive will be earmarked, by arrangement with the Treasury Department, for the purchase of various types of war equipment which will be inscribed with the name of the sponsoring union.

As an example, Mr. Green pointed out that \$600,000 recently raised in a special War Bond drive in New York City will go for the purchase of 2 Flying Fortresses, one to be named the "Spirit of the AFL" and the other to be named after the Central Trades and Labor Council of New York City.

Stressing the need for increased War Bond purchases, Mr. Green said:

"The spectacular new offensives in Sicily and the Solomon Islands bode well for victory, but we cannot win these battles unless our men are supplied with enough planes, tanks, ships and guns."

In many cases, he added, the war equipment purchased with funds supplied by the AFL will be displayed in the various cities in connection with Labor Day celebrations.

Convention Plans Completed

Aggressive Action Anticipated at Detroit Convention

Washington, D. C., Aug. 1.—Executive officers of our International Council have announced that preparations for the convention being held in Detroit, August 17-19, inclusive, are virtually completed. Minor details remain to be cared for, and it is anticipated that delegates attending the convention will find the meeting well planned and orderly.

It is believed that the reports of Council officers will prove of major interest to delegates from affiliated locals and that definite progress can be shown as having been made during the past year. Numerous recommendations from the officers and executive board of the Council are expected to be forthcoming, which should point to even greater activity during the approaching year.

Resolutions to be acted upon will doubtless call for minor changes in the constitution of our International Council, and it is believed that the majority of these will receive the favorable action of the convention. It is believed action will be directed toward further petitioning the AFL for additional assistance throughout the United States and Canada, which is looked upon by some as being the chief need in the contact and subsequent organization of additional members of our craft.

Other issues doubtless receiving attention will be such matters as publicity for our Council, encouragement to be extended locals in submission of news for publication in our Council paper, mapping of organizational programs on both an industry-wide and regional basis, closer collaboration between local unions, and compliance with practices and policies of the American Federation of Labor.

Women's Bureau Salutes Council

Washington, D. C., July 19.—While reluctantly advising that she could not accept the invitation to address the approaching convention of our International Council because of prior commitments, Mary Anderson, director, Women's Bureau, U. S. Department of Labor, stated: "I sincerely hope that office employes will organize into trade unions so that they can, with their fellow workers, take care of the conditions of their employment in such a way as to be a credit to their organization and to themselves as citizens."

Herself an ardent trade unionist since the turn of the century, Miss Anderson is a strong advocate of unionization for all workers, especially women, as the surest means of gaining fair wages and improved working conditions. Prior to her appointment by President Wilson to the position which she still holds, Miss Anderson was for a number of years president of Local No. 94 of the AFL International Boot and Shoe Workers Union in Chicago, in which she still maintains active membership. For 8 years she also served as an organizer for the Women's Trade Union League.

Arriving in the United States from Sweden at the age of 16 and with but a slight acquaintance with the English language, Miss Anderson secured employment in a Chicago shoe factory as a power stitching machine operator.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 23, 1943

Dear Mr. Hicks:

Please extend my best wishes for a successful meeting to the International Council of Office Employees Unions in annual convention in Detroit.

American workers everywhere, in shop, in mine, and in office are carrying their full share of the production job we are doing in beating down the Axis powers. That national task is going well and it will go even better because of our armed and productive power, our unity, our determination and the righteousness of the cause for which we and the United Nations are fighting.

Very sincerely yours,



Mr. J. Howard Hicks,
President,
International Council of Office
Employees Unions,
827 - 14th Street, N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

Supreme Court Rules Employers Must Repay Company Union Dues

Washington, D. C.—Companies proved to have dominated "independent" unions must repay to their workers the dues collected for membership in these unions under the check-off system, the United States Supreme Court has ruled.

The case concerned the Virginia Electric & Power Co., which the board found to have dominated an "inside" union, the Independent Organization of Employees. Some time ago the board commanded dissolution of this union, the company withdrew its support, and the association was abandoned.

But the power company opposed the repayment of dues, and the Supreme Court agreed to review that protest, especially as 5 circuit courts in 11 cases had refused to enforce board orders for reimbursement. In the Virginia case the board had ordered the company to pay back about \$90,000, or all dues collected during the 5-year existence of the I. O. E.

The Supreme Court majority gave no sympathy to the company's argument that the check-off system of collecting dues was voluntary by the employes, and that any wrong done by the employer was closed when the I. O. E. was dissolved. On the other hand, Mr. Murphy found for the majority that the Labor Board had complete power to command the repayment in order to "effectuate" the policies of the Wagner Act.

During her 18 years at this work she became a vigorous exponent of unionization for women workers as the only means of escaping low wages, piece-work pay and intolerable working conditions. The education and experience gained from her long years in assisting her fellow workers has enabled Miss Anderson to successfully pursue the position she has held for the past 25 years.

A key point constantly stressed by the Women's Bureau has been the special effort to establish adequate wage standards for women in the belief that this is important both in securing healthful life for women and in maintaining the standards of men's wages.

No tribute paid Mary Anderson could justly express the good she has wrought woman-kind of her adopted country.

Detroit Local Has Anniversary

Detroit, Mich., Aug. 4.—Twenty-four years of epochal service to office and clerical workers of this city was observed today by Local No. 16812. As one of the oldest local unions of office workers chartered by the American Federation of Labor, this union enjoys an enviable record with respect to its achievements as well as its contribution to the trade union movement in Detroit.

The anniversary observed today had a special meaning to Hazel Kopacz, president of the local, as she was one of the charter members of the local in 1919. Sister Kopacz has consistently been one of the most active members of the union, and her aggressiveness and capabilities have done much to bring the local to its present status.

Officers and members of Local No. 16812 have expressed deep satisfaction that the 1943 convention of our International Council is to be held in their city and that their union has the opportunity to play the role of host to delegates from sister organizations throughout the United States and Canada.

Sister Kopacz will open the convention on August 17 and will extend the warm fraternal greetings of their local to visiting delegates.

Labor Career Launched

Washington, D. C., July 29.—Informed circles learned late today that Paul R. Hutchings, secretary-treasurer of our International Council, became the proud father of an 8-pound 10-ounce boy. Attending physicians report the progress of mother and baby entirely satisfactory.

Junior, so it is alleged by his father, was born with a life-long membership in the American Federation of Labor. At any rate, the line forms to the right.

Title and Abstract Offices Organized

Cleveland, O., July 27.—Scoring another victory in its steady march to organize the office and clerical workers of this city, Local No. 19366 has completed organization in the offices of the Land Title Guarantee & Trust Co. and the Cuyahoga Abstract & Title Co., according to an announcement made today by John J. Schmotzger, vice president, and Pearl Hanna, secretary, of the union.

The local has gained recognition from the employers and it is expected that negotiations will begin shortly on the agreement already drafted.

NOTICE

July-August Issues Combined

Because of the pressure of work in preparing for our International Council Convention in Detroit, commencing August 17, this issue of "The Office Worker" is a combined July-August issue. The next issue will be published in September.

THE OFFICE WORKER
Official organ of the
**INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF
OFFICE EMPLOYEES UNIONS**



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Incentive to Disloyalty

All America rejoiced over the capitulation of Mussolini except Wall Street.

The news of the downfall of Italy's dictator "was construed in financial quarters as another broad step toward victory," says an Associated Press dispatch, and as a result stocks dropped from \$1 to \$5 a share.

This is a curious phenomenon. If good news from the war fronts is bad news for Wall Street there can be only one reason—fear of losing fat war profits. Since war industries are working almost entirely for the government, these inflated profits are being made at the expense of the people of the United States.

We submit that it is up to Congress to remove this incentive to disloyalty from the pockets of the speculators and profiteers.

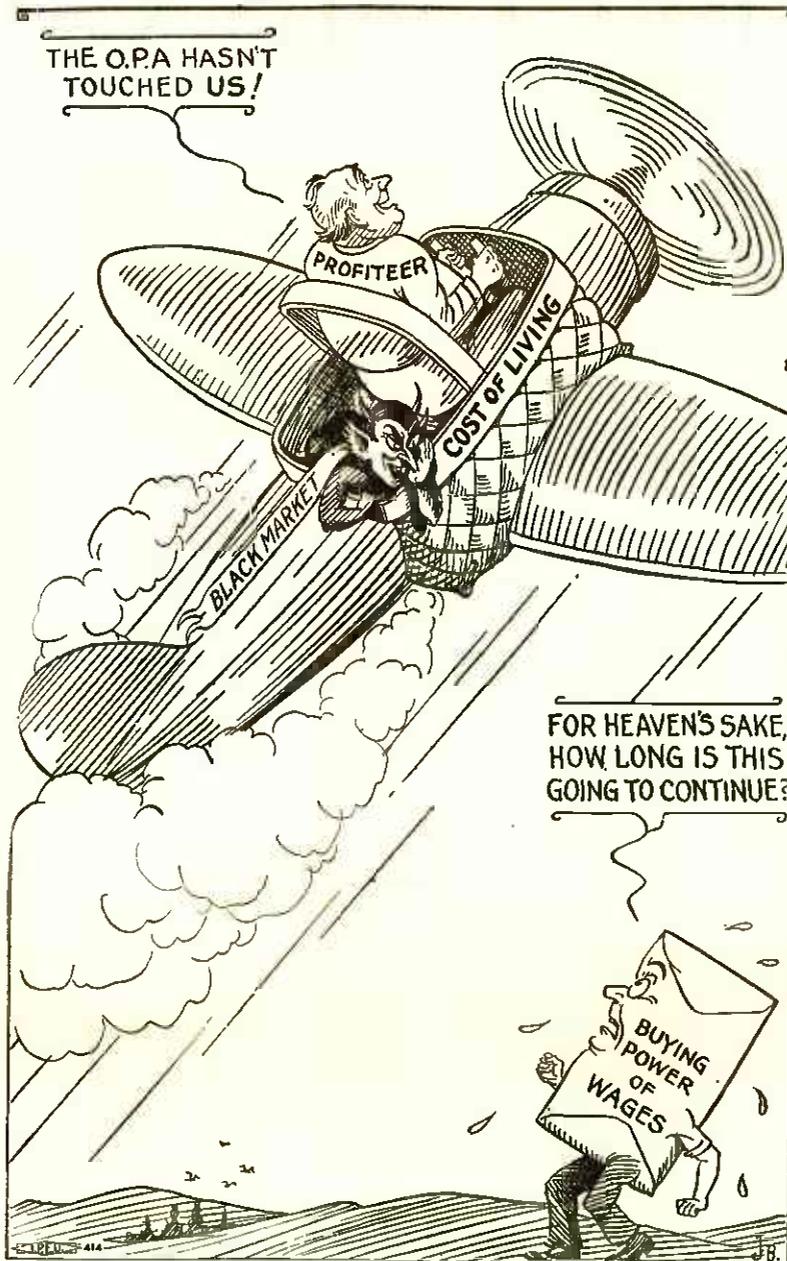
How to Report Violations of Price Ceilings

Washington, D. C.—Steps to be taken in reporting violations of price ceilings have recently been simplified by the Office of Price Administration, so that cooperation by the public with OPA enforcement of regulations can be enormously effective if the public—the purchasers—are willing to concern themselves actively in keeping the lid on rising living costs. Because many of our members and their families are deeply concerned with this problem, we are setting forth the procedure to be followed.

When you discover that a retailer is charging more for any item than the ceiling price you should either purchase the item and ask for a separate receipt for it, or take careful note of all the details of the item: the brand, grade, size of can or package, etc. so that a complete description can be made. Then go to the war price and rationing board nearest to the store involved and make a full report. In most cases, of course, this will be your own war price and rationing board.

Authority has been invested in the local boards to handle all complaints of retail price violations. Machinery has already been established so that a consumer's complaint on a retail overcharge will be immediately investigated and hearings held to determine whether or not the violation actually occurred. In other words, an inadvertent violation by a retailer, or

CEILING UNLIMITED



"Unless prices of food are brought down to a reasonable level organized labor will have no other recourse but to demand wage increases to keep pace with the cost of living. . . . the people of America will have their way. They are hard-pressed right now between the millstones of price inflation and wage stabilization. Because of their intense desire to win this war regardless of self-sacrifice, they have stilled their complaints thus far. But the breaking point is rapidly approaching. The members of Congress, who are the representatives of the people, will be swept out of office in the next elections unless they heed the danger signs and take summary action to protect the interests of workers and the consuming public." (President William Green of the American Federation of Labor before recent convention of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees in Detroit.)

Local to Organize Transit Employees

Washington, D. C., Aug. 3.—John McBride, chairman of the organizing committee of Local No. 11773, announced today that plans are under

one due to lack of understanding on his part can be corrected at once.

Whenever a local price panel finds, however, that a merchant is wilfully violating the ceiling price regulations, the case will be turned over to the OPA's enforcement attorney. Federal authorities have promised speedy action in all such cases.

way to organize the office and clerical workers of the Capital Transit Co., which operates streetcars and buses in this city.

Approximately 1,000 members of our craft are employed by this company in its main and branch offices, and indications are strong that the move to unionize these workers will meet with a ready reception on all sides. Local No. 11773 has the full support of members of the local union of the Amalgamated Association of Street & Electric Railway Employees, which, it is believed, will prove of major assistance in the campaign to be undertaken.

Participating in the campaign along with Brother McBride will be W. Robert Probey, president and business representative of the local.

Social Security Plans Aired

Washington, D. C.—The fight for adoption of the new Wagner-Murray-Dingell bill, which has been hailed as the American Beveridge Plan since it was proposed and sponsored by the American Federation of Labor, took to the air in two major, nation-wide broadcasts.

Senator Wagner, of New York, declared in an address over CBS that if the bill is passed promptly "it can be a vital factor in the war-time battle against inflation, as well as the post-war battle against unemployment and business depression."

Arthur J. Altmeyer, chairman of the Social Security Board, endorsed the provisions of the bill in an interview over the AFL Labor For Victory program, broadcast over NBC.

Robert J. Watt, international representative of the federation, said on the same program:

"This bill is insurance against trouble, against delay and against unnecessary hardships and suffering by the great masses of our people. Coupled with a soundly-planned production program, it will, in my opinion, fulfill America's great postwar objective—to banish want and the fear of want."

Senator Wagner said:

"Our democracy could provide no better bulwark against Communism, no better safeguard against fascist rabble-rousers in the troubled times that lie ahead, than to develop this dignified, all-embracing plan for social security upon which the individual can build his own future by his own efforts."

Mr. Altmeyer declared:

"A sound social security system—such as we need to achieve freedom from want—takes time to perfect. The present is none too soon to start."

Get "on the beam" and buy only union label brands!

Notice

ALL LOCALS are requested to submit their stories and material for publication in these columns each month for inclusion in the next issue. Important happenings are occurring in almost every union which are of interest to members of other locals.

The following subjects make interesting news items: Wage increases, firms recently organized, unusual local achievements, number of members recently organized, purchases of war bonds, War Labor Board and National Labor Relations Board rulings affecting your local union, progress of current organizational programs, and information about local union participation in community affairs.

If your local publishes a news letter, kindly put our International Council on its mailing list.

Woll Hits Reds For Libeling U.S. Labor

New York City.—A complete refutation of the falsehoods regarding the American labor movement and American labor leaders sent out from Moscow by the Russian Communists was made by Matthew Woll, vice president of the American Federation of Labor and president of the Labor League for Human Rights, in a letter to the New York Times denouncing as wholly false a recent Moscow diatribe published in that paper.

"Filled with admiration for the magnificent conduct of the Russian people and their heroic armies in the war, and eager to help them in the greatest possible measure, American trade unionists will nevertheless remain uncompromisingly opposed to Communism and to its agents in the United States.

"No amount of defamation of American labor leaders emanating from Moscow and reflected in the pages of the press in this country under the guise of 'news' will alter the opinion of American workers that communism and communists constitute a pernicious element that must be combated, regardless of the mask which they may see fit to don at any particular moment.

"The labor movement of this country and its leaders would like to avoid being compelled to stress this issue at this time of great emergency, but they will not remain quiescent in the face of the continued and continuous efforts on the part of the Russian communist party and its satellites here to vilify and destroy us. We will not permit the communists to use the war as a weapon for the destruction of the free American labor movement."

Killed In Action

Knoxville, Tenn., June 26.—Corp. Ivan Andes, a member of the Office Employees Local of this city, has been reported dead in the European theater of the war.

Corp. Andes was one of the most loyal members of the local in this city and was employed in the office service division of the Tennessee Valley Authority prior to his induction in the Army 2 years ago.

Brother Andes was serving in the Air Force as a tail-gunner on an Air Force bomber. During the days when his local union was struggling to exist Brother Andes remained active and loyal. He has demonstrated his loyalty and devotion to his country by making the greatest sacrifice.

Workers Organize Construction Office

Bay City, Mich., July 8.—The office and clerical workers employed in the offices of the Austin Construction Co., at Bay City and Midland, Mich., have organized under the banner of the American Federation of Labor.

Leo Leahy, secretary-treasurer of the Bay City Federation of Labor, has assisted this group and a charter application has been filed.

A majority of the office workers employed by this company have already signed up with the new local and the Bay City Federation of Labor is at present assisting this group in drafting a proposed working agreement to submit to the company.

PACIFIC COAST SHIPYARD PROBLEMS UNDER DISCUSSION

San Francisco, July 12.—Meeting for the first time since May 1942, labor, management, and the Shipbuilding Stabilization Committee of the War Production Board convened in this city today for a complete discussion of the problems confronting workers employed in shipyards on the Pacific Coast. The conferees will endeavor to arrive at solutions to the numerous problems which have arisen and need ironing out since the last meeting of these groups in Chicago.

Representatives of local unions affiliated with our International Council are playing a prominent part in the deliberations, and indications are strong that members of our craft will receive even a greater degree of satisfaction as a result of the meeting than will members of many other unions. This opinion has been voiced from several authoritative sources following a public hearing before the full War Labor Board, held in Washington prior to the current meeting in this city, at which time WLB indicated that adjustments in wages for those workers falling in the lower brackets would be considered but that it was virtually impossible for them to agree to a further advance in the higher wage scales presently existing.

Objectives

One of the main objectives of representatives of office and clerical workers employed in Pacific Coast shipyards is the application of the premium pay rates of 10 and 15 percent for the 2 night shifts to members of our craft. While efforts are being made to have our International Council included in the Pacific Coast Master Shipbuilding Agreement and hence cause all provisions of this contract, including the premium pay, to be applicable to members of our craft, it is noteworthy that in the proposed agendas submitted by both labor and management the matter of payment of premium pay to office and clerical workers is included. This was later reduced into a working agenda for consideration by all parties jointly, as was the matter of inclusion of our International Council in the master agreement.

Other matters being considered by the conferees at this meeting during their joint sessions include the re-vamping of job classifications with the elimination of some not now in use and adoption of others needed to more justly define the positions held by workers employed in shipyards.

A more flexible vacation plan for all employees is up for discussion as is the restoration of holidays with pay to those workers not now receiving such treatment and an endeavor will be made by labor to provide sick leave provisions for all workers in the yards. More adequate health, safety and sanitation regulations are also sought as are employe restaurants and cafeterias for yards not presently having these facilities.

Management is throwing into the discussion the old question of whether the shipyard operators shall have the right to determine whether they shall operate their yards on a three 8-hour-shift basis of a two 10-hour-shift basis. All of labor and a large portion of the operators are opposed to alteration of the present three 8-hour-shift schedule. Other controversial issues being raised by the operators are alteration of the present job training

program and the matter of payment of so-called "incentive" pay for workers producing above a certain arbitrarily-set figure. Both these matters are likely to come in for heated discussions and especially so the matter of "incentive" pay, which is believed to have the support of government representatives.

Local Representatives Active

Representatives of local unions affiliated with our International Council in attendance at this meeting have been extremely active and forthright in their desires to make the highest possible gains for their constituents. Meetings have been held between these delegates and plans mapped out in which all have concurred as to the most effective manner of procedure and attack of their problems.

Local unions represented and delegates in attendance are: J. Howard Hicks, President of our International Council; Mildred Erickson, business representative of Local No. 16304, Seattle, and a Vice President of our Council; Irving Enna, secretary-treasurer of Local No. 16821, Portland; Fred Miller, business representative of Local 21320, San Francisco; Frank F. Randall, business representative, and Nina Bartholomew, of Local No. 20744, Oakland; and Elma A. Goodwin, president and business representative of Local No. 20798 of Los Angeles.

A meeting identical to that now being held in this city is scheduled for New Orleans beginning August 9, at which time labor, management and government representatives are meeting to discuss similar problems in connection with the operation of shipyards in Gulf ports.

Affiliates of our International Council being represented at this meeting include Local No. 22222 of Tampa, while Locals No. 23101 of Mobile and 23383 of New Orleans are expected to have delegates at the conference. J. O. Bloodworth, Jr., business representative, will represent Tampa.

Seattle Local Seeks Elections at 2 Plants

Seattle, Wash., June 14.—Business Representative Mildred Erickson reports that Office Employees Local No. 16304 of this city has filed petitions with the National Labor Relations Board requesting that the board conduct elections among the office and clerical workers employed by the Seattle-Tacoma Shipyard and by the Winslow Marine Shipyard, both of this city.

During the past several months the local has conducted extensive campaigns among the office and clerical workers employed in both of these yards and at present has a substantial majority in each yard. It is anticipated that early elections in these yards will conclusively establish the exclusive bargaining rights of Local No. 16304.

It will be recalled that last February this local was certified by the National Labor Relations Board as the exclusive bargaining agency for the office workers employed by Associated Shipbuilding Corp., after it had won a landslide election conducted in that yard.

Watt Addresses D. C. Local

Washington, D. C., Aug. 3.—Robert J. Watt, international representative of the American Federation of Labor, declared in an address before the membership of Local No. 11773 that "Office and clerical workers have a better opportunity for leadership in labor and the community because of the very nature of their work."

Brother Watt encouraged members of this local and other locals to seize the initiative and become "trail blazers" in the conduct of their union, their local labor movement, and their communities.

Prefacing his remarks with a statement of the great need for organization among members of our craft, Watt declared it his belief that office workers, when sufficiently organized, can become a definite, guiding force contributing to the welfare of any community, or to the nation itself. He expressed confidence in the ability of leaders of office workers to guide the destinies of their constituents in a firm pattern of social and economic reform.

Referring again, later in his address, to the contributing force which office and clerical workers could be in any enterprise, Mr. Watt declared, "The only way this contribution can be made is through uniform action—collectively."

Member of NWLB

In commenting on the functions of the National War Labor Board, of which he is a member, and of the 12 regional boards, Mr. Watt stated, "The National War Labor Board is one of the most democratic agencies in Washington, for within the board labor has an equal vote with management and the public. I wish labor were as well represented in other governmental bureaus and agencies affecting the welfare of every citizen and our nation."

Watt expressed the belief that the NWLB is "basically sound" and that the success of this agency is dependent upon the caliber of those seated upon it.

Long applause at the conclusion of his address could leave no doubt in the mind of Brother Watt but that his remarks were well received and appreciated by all present. Mr. Watt was introduced to the members of Local No. 11773 by Margaret Scattergood, chairman of the education committee of the local.

The facilities for getting into trouble have been vastly improved, along with everything else.

UP your bond buying
THROUGH
PAYROLL SAVINGS
U. S. Treasury Department

Canteen Entertains 500 Service Men

New York, N. Y., June 25.—The Office Workers Canteen, maintained by Office Employees Union No. 23076 of this city, has entertained 500 service men, according to the report made by Sister Lavina Michl, chairman of the Servicemen's Welfare Committee of the local.

The operation of the canteen is progressing satisfactorily and is bringing fun and relaxation to large numbers of service men in the New York area. A recent visitor of the canteen was Ensign Harold Levitt, U. S. N., son of Sister Anne Levitt, senior hostess of the canteen.

George Foley, who is now in the Navy and who formerly was soloist with Fred Waring's glee club, recently entertained with several songs.

San Francisco

(Continued from Page 2)

has been removed and negotiations undertaken.

Brewery Negotiations Deadlocked

Negotiations between the union and representatives of local brewing interests are deadlocked over the matter of wage increases. In the face of this the local is appealing to the regional office of WLB, pointing out that inequities exist in comparison to other city-wide wage rates and that many of the workers represented by the union have not received increases equivalent to the Little Steel formula. In the majority of past cases taken to WLB the local has been able to bring about rates in excess of that allowed through application of the Little Steel provision.

Butler Bros. Negotiations Progress

Renewal of the agreement between Local No. 21320 and Butler Bros., general merchandise distributors, appears to be progressing at a rapid pace and it is felt that the membership of the union employed by this company may accept the counterproposal offered by the management. The counterproposal of the company proposes a blanket increase for all workers of \$13.25 per month and insertion of the union shop provision in the agreement.

In discussing the relationship between his union and Butler Bros., Miller pointed out that this is the only company serving the nation on a national basis in the distribution of general merchandise. Other branches of the company are located in Chicago, Baltimore, St. Louis, New York, Minneapolis and Dallas. It is estimated that the wage rates of office and clerical employes of the company in the San Francisco office exceed those in other branches by from 30 to 40 percent.

Drug Agreement Pending

Presentation of demands on the wholesale drug industry is awaiting conclusion of negotiations with Butler Bros., it has been announced by officers of the local. This delay is thought practical because of the similarity of the two industries and the added factor that the precedent which may be established in the latter case will have a definite bearing on the outcome of negotiations in the drug industry. Wholesale druggists covered in the blanket negotiations include the Coffin-Reddington Co., the Scott-Gilbert Co. and the Cooperative Drug Syndicate.

American Maids Buy Union Made



Security of Peace, Freedom and Jobs Listed by Green as Post-War Goals AFL Chief Demands Action Now To Assure Lasting Peace and Prosperity

New York City.—Declaring that the United Nations "are now definitely on the road to victory," AFL President William Green proposed a 3-way security program as a world-wide post-war objective.

Speaking before a dinner meeting of the Economic Club of New York at the Hotel Astor, Mr. Green said:

"What do the American people want out of this war?"

"I believe the answer to that question can be summed up in one word—security."

"It is my conviction that the security which stands first and foremost in the hearts and minds of our people is the security of peace."

"Secondly, all Americans are determined that victory must seal the security of our basic freedoms."

"Finally, there comes social security, which means security against want and fear of want."

Just as the United States is participating closely with other nations in prosecuting the war against fascism, it must also take part with other like-minded nations after the war in establishing lasting peace, Mr. Green insisted. He said:

"I assure you that the American Federation of Labor will press unremittingly for the adoption of a program of international action which will effectively remove the menace of future wars."

Mr. Green expressed the belief that military victory in the war will fortify and extend such basic freedoms as freedom of speech, religion and press throughout the world. He warned, however, that freedom of enterprise, both for industry and for labor, may be threatened even after the war is won.

"I come before you as a frank advocate of social security for free enterprise in America," Mr. Green said. "I do not mean by that a government subsidy or dole for private business. I mean a free and open recognition of the fact that the freedom of enterprise and the freedom of opportunity

are just as vital to the welfare of the American people as any other of our precious freedoms, and must be safeguarded for all time."

Mr. Green advocated close teamwork between free American industry and free American labor to expand peace-time production, to avert economic depressions which might breed revolution and to resist government regimentation.

"Such a program presents grave problems," the AFL President said, "but I am confident that we in America have the courage, the imagination and the will to meet them. On the one hand, industry must not permit itself to be vanquished in advance by fear which creates panics. On the other, it must guard against greed which may result in over-production and glutting available markets."

"It is the solemn duty of industry in America to get ready as soon as possible to assume its postwar responsibilities. I pledge you the fullest assistance and cooperation of the members of the American Federation of Labor."

While asserting that "no better form of social security is available to workers than steady jobs at decent wages," Mr. Green urged the business leaders to support the AFL-sponsored Wagner-Murray-Dingell bill which would put the nation's social security program on a postwar basis.

Rail Clerks Gain

The Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, at the recent St. Louis convention, reported an all-time high membership of 250,000, a 10 percent gain over the figures reported at the previous convention in 1939. More than 18,000 members are in the armed services.

The St. Louis convention was attended by 1,200 delegates and demonstrated impressively the growing strength of the union, now 51 years old.

Free Smokes for Overseas Fighters

In addition to the union label cigarette campaign, sponsored by the Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, to send free "smokes" to American fighters, overseas, Secretary-Treasurer I. M. Ornburn this week endorsed another plan of the Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp. to send union label Raleighs free to members of our armed forces in the battle areas. This campaign started August 1 and will last for one month. It will in no way replace the regular drive being made by the Union Label Trades Department for free union label cigarettes, so liberally donated by members of American labor unions and which will continue for the duration of the war.

"Good American 'smokes' are the most welcome gift in combat areas," said Mr. Ornburn, "and this unionized tobacco manufacturer has given the relatives and friends of our fighting men overseas an opportunity to send 2 packages of union label 'smokes' free every time they purchase a carton of plain or tipped Raleighs for themselves."

Brown & Williamson takes care of shipping the 2 packages of union label Raleighs with no extra trouble or extra charge to the purchaser of one carton of Raleigh cigarettes. For each carton of cigarettes he buys at his dealer, the purchaser will receive an overseas gift card, which will be forwarded to the Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp. The gift card will be acknowledged by this tobacco manufacturer and it will be enclosed with 2 packages of union label Raleighs and sent to some combat zone. In this way the soldier, sailor, marine or coast guardsman, overseas, who will receive the gift, may send to the donor his thanks on an attached return card. Thus, the sender will receive a "thank you" note from each fighter who receives the gift of 2 packages of union label Raleighs.

By adding the number and name of their locals, individual members of American labor unions might spearhead this nation-wide drive to send union label Raleigh cigarettes to our fighters overseas.

The cigarettes cannot be sent to specified individuals and the shipments will be made only to members of our armed forces outside of the United States.

"The Union Label Trades Department is anxious to have the members of all labor unions support this worthy cause," said I. M. Ornburn. "It doesn't cost a smoker of union label cigarettes a single penny extra. For every carton of union label Raleighs he enjoys, himself, he is sending 'smokes' where they are needed most."

AN OFFICIAL WAR MESSAGE—

Boost

YOUR
BOND
BUYING

thru
PAYROLL
SAVINGS