

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., JUNE, 1943



Oakland Renews Three Agreements

Oakland, Calif., June 1.—Announcement was made today by Evelyn Tanzillo, secretary-treasurer, and Carl F. Nelson, business representative, of Local No. 20744, that negotiations on renewed agreements have been concluded on a city-wide basis with the retail food industry, milk distributing companies and with local jewelry stores employing upwards to 400 members of the union. All employers in each of these industries employ only office and clerical workers who are members of Local No. 20744.

Despite present restrictions placed against alteration of wages and hours due to the war emergency, progress was attained in the renewal of each of these three agreements with the improvement of working conditions probably developing into a major factor under these circumstances. However, it is anticipated that wage increases may be forthcoming in possibly each instance as a result of the recently concluded negotiations.

Negotiations are still progressing, on a city-wide basis, with the retail credit clothing industry, employing approximately 100 members of the local, although considerable difficulty is anticipated in the renewal of this agreement due to great strides in the betterment of wages for office and clerical workers employed locally in the industry during recent years and war-time restrictions which the employers are facing. It is not expected that a breakdown of negotiations will result at this time, however.

SAN FRANCISCO BREWERY NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE

San Francisco, Calif., May 26.—City-wide negotiations in the brewing industry by Local No. 21320 which were temporarily halted at the time Executive Order No. 9328 was issued are now continuing after the further issuance of directive orders bearing on the former limitations of the order and which would appear to make it less stringent, according to Eleanor D. Murphy, secretary, and Fred Miller, business representative, of the local.

While wage increases for these workers are limited because of substantial gains made at the time of the last renewal of these agreements proposals to be submitted the brewery owners' association are being presently considered by those members of the local employed in this industry.

Negotiations are also in progress with the San Francisco Distributors Association covering members of the local employed in wholesale drug houses and by Butler Bros., general merchandise distributors. Because the wholesale drug agreement is identical to that covering members of the local employed by Butler Bros. an endeavor is being made to consolidate these two contracts into one and thus facilitate future negotiations for both the union and management representatives. Members of Local No. 21320 employed in both industries are currently con-

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CANADIAN SHIPYARD WORKERS ORGANIZING

Toronto, Can., May 10.—The interest in organization manifest by members of our craft employed in shipyards in the United States has spread to similar workers employed in this industry in our neighboring ally, Canada.

Approximately 300 office and clerical workers employed by the Toronto Shipbuilding Co. are presently actively engaged in organization under the direction of A. F. of L. Organizer Russell Harvey. Rapid progress is being made and it is anticipated full organization will be completed within several weeks. The opportunity to witness the functioning and gains of other A. F. of L. crafts employed by this company is believed to have encouraged these workers to attain similar advantages through collective representation.

Organizer Harvey, in a recent address before office and clerical employees of this company, said: "May I suggest that you give careful thought to the possibilities for improvement which would result from your decision to identify yourselves with us (the A. F. of L.) in planning to meet the uncertain future with a greater sense of security and well-being?"

In making note of the outstanding record of their fellow workers, all members of A. F. of L. unions, in the employ of the company, Organizer Harvey stated, "Your close association with the various crafts and trades who operate in your shipyard, all of whom enjoy splendid contractual relations with the management, gives you a rather unusual opportunity to examine the advisability of becoming identified with the great and growing force of the American Federation of Labor."

Organizer Harvey expressed the belief that "a strong office workers' union" could be easily attained in Toronto with its population of over 1,000,000 and the growing sentiment toward unionization in this, as well as all of Canada.

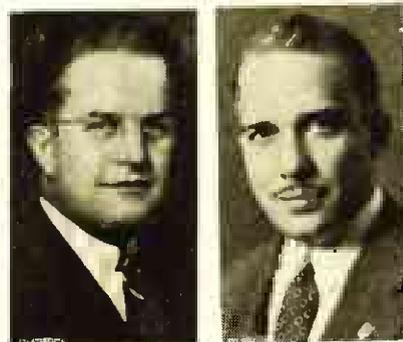
WLB Decision For Local No. 17707

St. Louis, Mo., May 10.—Official notice has been received from Russell Bauder, wage stabilization director of the Regional Labor Board District 37, Kansas City, Mo., that the wage increase of the office employees of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers' international headquarters, located in this city, and pending before the board since February has been approved.

The increase of 10 cents an hour, retroactive to April 1, 1942, will grant stenographers now receiving \$37.50 per week an increase to \$41.50, bookkeepers from \$60 to \$64, with supervisory stenographers increased to \$46.50 and underwriters to \$59.

The contract also calls for the 40-hour week and 2 weeks vacation with pay. Negotiations were carried on by President A. L. Rex of Local No. 17707 and Mary E. Ryder, A.F.L. organizer.

1943 Convention of International Council to be Held In Detroit



HICKS

HUTCHINGS

Alice Holz Gets Exec. Board Post

Washington, D. C., June 9.—The unanimous selection by the Executive Board of our International Council of Alice Holz, financial secretary-treasurer of Local No. 16456 of Milwaukee, Wis., to fill the vacancy which has existed among council officers was announced here today by executive officers.

This new Vice President of our council will be remembered by delegates to the last convention as representing her local as well as serving as secretary of the credentials committee and a member of the constitution committee.

Sister Holz has been a member of Local No. 16456 for upwards to 10 years and during all that time has taken an active interest and part in the affairs of her local. Aside from her duties as an officer of the local she has, during the past year in the absence of a business representative, served as one of the leading figures on the negotiating and organization committees of her local. Her knowledge and interest in the labor movement, and particularly in her own craft, will make her a valuable addition to the executive body of our International Council.

Sister Holz assumes the position formerly held by Lawrence L. Green of Local No. 20959, who forfeited this position by virtue of his suspension from his local union.

Newark Signs Bakery Workers

Newark, N. J., May 27.—The gaining of bargaining rights for members of our craft employed by Hathaway Bakeries of this city was announced today by President Gertrude Lubin of Local No. 19846.

An agreement has been drafted and A. F. of L. Organizer Samuel Isard will assist officers of the local during negotiations, which are scheduled to begin immediately.

Already holding an agreement with the Continental Baking Co., the addition of an agreement with Hathaway Bakeries will open further the door of organization for office and

Washington, D. C., June 9.—The 1943 convention of our International Council will be held in Detroit, Mich., it was announced here today by International Council President J. Howard Hicks and Secretary-Treasurer Paul R. Hutchings after a vote on this matter by Executive Board members.

The invitation to hold the approaching convention in Detroit was received by council officers several months ago from Local No. 16812 of that city, with the assurance that should their city be selected the Executive Board of our council would not have cause to regret their choice and that delegates from affiliated locals at the convention would be heartily in favor of naming Detroit as a regular convention site. The hospitality extended delegates to conventions of other international unions in past years by unionists of this city has made Detroit a popular selection for such meetings.

Convention headquarters will be the Statler Hotel and accommodations are available which will permit all meetings of the convention and committees to be held there as well. Headquarters for all officers of our council will be at this hotel during the full course of the convention and it is hoped that as many delegates as possible will also use the facilities available and arranged for by officers of Local No. 16812 and our International Council. Room rates obtained for the convention delegates, as outlined in the convention call going to affiliated locals, are nominal and do not exceed those of lower class hotels. The hotel is conveniently situated and within easy walking distance of the shopping and theater district of the city.

Aims of Convention

In the light of happenings during the past year and important events lying ahead there is no doubt but what this convention will prove of major importance to office and clerical workers throughout the United States and Canada. Fully cognizant of the present world shattering war and the unquestionable fact that the allied nations are on the offensive which will destroy despotism, tyranny and oppression, this convention will look ahead to the postwar period and plan for the almost overwhelming adjustments which face all workers of our

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clerical workers employed in this industry locally.

Plans are already underway for intensification of the drive to bring the benefits of unionization to the remaining office and clerical workers in this industry.

Donate to Blood Bank

Oakland, Calif., May 26.—Realizing the vital need of blood plasma for our armed forces, Local No. 20744 of this city is currently in the midst of a campaign among its members to further this worthy cause.

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



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NLRB—Let's Keep It

Amidst the hue and cry against the National Labor Relations Board it is high time that some of the good qualities of this government agency be brought to light. Until recently NLRB has met with the wholehearted support of organized labor and while it has made mistakes and brought miscarriages of justice it will prove much saner to correct the faults of the board rather than to destroy it entirely.

NLRB's Greatest Error

The greatest error of NLRB since its inception has been its endeavor to invalidate agreements between workers and their employers where flawless relationships have prevailed in the past. Such action can result only in a disturbed labor-management relationship, which, in these times is contrary to the best interests of our nation, and tends to break down the pledge of organized workers for greater production of vital war materials—this in turn bringing unwarranted criticism of labor in the daily newspapers, which are controlled to a large degree by an element in our country which seeks every opportunity to side-track and discredit the workers of the nation.

Current attention of Congress is directed at curbing the tendency on the part of NLRB to meddle in harmonious, bona fide labor relations at the expense of the workers, management and our nation as a whole. Any legislation should be watched, however, to see that it does not result in a situation where workers desiring to establish their bargaining rights through a union of their own choosing are forced to forego the right of collective action entirely. We believe the clear thinking administrators of the National Labor Relations Act will heartily approve such legislation and will not allow themselves to be forced to use it as a weapon against the rights of the workers.

We have confidence in the inherent fairness of all but a few of those charged with the responsibility of administering the workings of the Board throughout the country, and we look forward to the time when the weight and pressure against those not desirous of maintaining their functioning on a fair and equitable basis will result in their destruction and elimination.

Act Has Aided Workers

Prior to April 1937, when the Supreme Court upheld the validity of NLRB, thousands of workers in our country had not endeavored to exercise the use of collective bargaining because of the unfair and combatant tactics of management.

Workers could be discharged for the

mere mention of the word "union" or for suggesting to fellow workers that they might gain a more equitable distribution of the profits they helped to produce through bargaining collectively with management on the terms and conditions of their employment. Where it became apparent that the workers of an employer were determined to have some form of representation management oftentimes seized the opportunity to establish company controlled unions or associations functioning only as management desired they should function. Individual workers were bound by "yellow dog" contracts in other instances where the threat of unionization became too great for the employer to tolerate. This is the type of American industrial "democracy" our country suffered under prior to the birth of the National Labor Relations Act.

Interesting Facts

Today, six years after the Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the Wagner Act, NLRB is conducting an average of 11 elections daily to allow workers to express, by secret ballot, their choice of a collective bargaining representative. Three thousand workers each day cast ballots at these elections held under the auspices of representatives of the board. In these six years the board has handed down 8,000 decisions affecting an untold number of workers. Three hundred thousand workers discharged for union activities have been reinstated through agreement with the employer or by board orders. One thousand company dominated and controlled unions have been disestablished, thus gaining for the workers in those shops the right of unhampered collective bargaining. In this same period approximately 10,000 labor unions have won bargaining rights for workers desiring to be freed from the yoke of economic oppression. Today workers employed under fair union agreements with their employers number 13,000,000 while six years ago this number was but 5,500,000.

The magnitude of these figures can only be gained by endeavoring to think in terms of the large number of workers and their families who have thus been afforded the opportunity to share more equitably in the profits which they help to create. The homes of these workers have been freed to a considerable extent of the frugal existence which they formerly knew. Their children have many of the necessities of life and the simpler things of living which they did not previously enjoy. Entire families live better, buy more and have a fuller enjoyment of life than they did a few short years ago. Possibly most important of all is the better understanding existing between workers and management, with each having a broader knowledge of the needs of the other and each realizing that without the other they cannot endure.

Labor-Management Relations Improved

We today cry out for the continuance of the National Labor Relations Board, rather than its abolition or severe curtailment, as the only means of providing and insuring all workers of our country the right of unhampered collective bargaining and a better understanding between the workers and their employers. None of us want to go back to the turmoil which marked union-management relationship prior to the enactment of the Wagner Act nor do any of us, even management, desire to break down the unparalleled close relationship existing between labor and management. Each has a share in industry and each is entitled to their fair return.

Armed Force Officers Feted

Detroit, Mich., May 15.—Members of Local No. 16812 of this city are proud of the success of their first venture in entertaining the officer personnel of Uncle Sam's armed forces. Having sponsored several USO parties for enlisted men, the membership of this local felt that it was time for someone to extend the hand of friendship and good-will to the commissioned officers, who somehow seemed to be forgotten when the entertainment goes around.

With the beautiful ballroom of Detroit's new Labor Temple decorated for the gala occasion the affair resulted in a most successful evening for all participating. Predominate among the uniforms present were those of the air corps of both the Army and Navy while other branches of these two services were well represented. Officers were also present from nearby Windsor, Ontario, Can., which gave an international atmosphere and a reflection of the "good neighbor" policy to the event.

The music was of such a quality that "wallflowers" were an unknown quantity and all officers, despite the purported dignity of their rank or age, truly enjoyed themselves for the few short hours.

A very attractive buffet was personally supervised by President Bowers of the local Cooks' Union, and judging by the manner in which the food and punch disappeared, the officers of the armed forces have no less vigorous appetites than any enlisted man who ever attended a USO party.

A decided disinclination to go home was ample evidence that the guests had a grand time and they were unanimous in their expression of "hope you have another."

UNIONS HELD NEEDED BY WOMEN WORKERS

Philadelphia, Pa.—Women workers were urged to join unions by Mary Anderson, director of the Women's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor, in an address before the local United Labor Committee.

Pointing out that more than 3,000,000 women are already in the ranks of organized labor, she stressed the importance of unions to the economic and social order and termed them "one of the most stabilizing forces in the country."

"I don't need to remind organized labor of such facts, but," she added, "a lot of people don't know these truths because they read so many false statements about unions."

San Francisco Brewery

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sidering proposals to be submitted to negotiation.

Local union officers have announced that increased interest is being shown in organization by employes of Marinship Corp. at Sausalito, across the Golden Gate from San Francisco, after the company management instituted wage reductions for numerous workers of our craft employed there. While the tactics employed by the management of this company in the past have made it one of the most difficult shipbuilding companies on the Pacific Coast to organize, it is felt this recent action by the management will prove to be the turning point in the campaign of Local No. 21320 to organize the office and clerical workers employed there.

JACKSONVILLE SHIPYARD WORKERS ORGANIZED

Jacksonville, Fla., May 26.—Lorraine Rhodes, president of Local No. 23133 of this city, today announced that organization of office and clerical workers of the St. Johns River Shipbuilding Co. had been completed and that the union held bargaining rights for 90 percent of such workers. This marks completion of the principal step in the first major organizational undertaking by this recently chartered local.

At the demand of company management a National Labor Relations Board petition to prove bargaining rights has been filed by the local. While this is pending local union officers, and members of the union employed by the company, are preparing an agreement to be presented to the employer when this obstacle has been removed.

Our International Council is collaborating with this local in the drafting of the agreement and it is believed union officers will submit the proposed agreement to International Council officers for approval and suggested changes prior to presentation to the employer. Negotiation of an agreement with this company will prove a great forward stride in the completion of organization of other, similarly employed workers in shipbuilding areas in the southern states.

1943 Convention

(Continued from Page 1)

craft on the North American continent.

Pointing out the best means of insuring the fullest possible representation and protection to members of our craft, in this important postwar period, emphasis will be placed on the acceleration and widening of organization programs so thousands more of our craft can enjoy the privilege of collective representation on vital matters affecting every phase of individual well-being. Not lacking at this convention will be consideration of the further improvement of employee-employer relations, which, necessarily, occupies an important place in the full picture of present day industrial relationship between workers and management.

Realizing that the fullest measure of success and accomplishment can be enjoyed only through joint, collective action among all local unions of our craft this convention will also bring about a greater unity of purpose and action as the surest means of attaining our goal. While the last convention of our International Council was outstanding as an example of unification of effort and desire, which has permeated every local union of office workers under the American Federation of Labor during the past year, this approaching meeting heralds well to exceed, by far, the results of its predecessor.

Convention Dates

Date of the convention will be August 17-19, inclusive, with meetings of the Executive Board of our council scheduled for the 15th, 16th, 20th and possibly the 21st. Selection of these dates was made so as to facilitate transportation for all delegates, thus insuring against the necessity of week-end travel.

Railroad and hotel reservations should be made as far in advance as possible by those attending the convention, according to council officers.

Chicago Wins Insurance Co. Case

Circuit Court Upholds NLRB Decision

Chicago, Ill., June 9.—Office Employees Union No. 20732 of this city won a victory of more than ordinary importance and significance when the United States Circuit Court of Appeals ruled, in the first such decision of this nature, that insurance companies are engaged in interstate commerce and therefore are subject to congressional regulations, specifically, the National Labor Relations Act.

The court, ruling against the Polish National Alliance, which had challenged a decision of the National Labor Relations Board, held that the organization "is engaged in the insurance business in a manner similar, if not precisely the same, as mutual insurance companies."

"We think the conclusion inescapable," the court said.

"It is beyond question that a large portion of petitioner's activities were of a business nature and carried on by interstate communication."

Employees Ordered Reinstated

The alliance was directed to reinstate discharged employees, members of Local No. 20732, with back pay in full, and to bargain collectively with the union.

Daniel E. O'Connell, president of Local No. 20732, said that the decision, written by Judge J. Earl Major and concurred in by Judges Will M. Sparks and Evan A. Evans, will affect several hundred thousand insurance employees, who will now, as a result of the union's victory, have the protection of the national labor relations act.

The ruling means that all insurance companies and fraternal organizations doing insurance business which is not confined to the borders of one state come within the scope of the labor act and must comply with its provisions.

History of Case

Twenty-seven members of Local 20732 went on strike on Oct. 7, 1941, and remained on strike until Jan. 27, 1942, when they applied for reinstatement. The National Labor Relations Board subsequently ordered their reinstatement, and ruled that the Polish organization was guilty of unfair labor practices.

The alliance, in its petition to the court, held that it is not subject to the labor act because it is a fraternal benefit society, not incorporated for profit. Its primary purpose, it said, is to promote the cultural, social and economic advancement of its members.

The court pointed out that the alliance holds direct control of Alliance Printers and Publishers, publishers of the Zgoda, which is mailed out to members outside the state; that, as of Dec. 31, 1941, it had 1,817 lodges in 26 states, the District of Columbia, and Manitoba, Canada, owning assets of \$30,090,835, and had 272,879 insurance benefit certificates in force having a face value of \$159,683,583.

Out of its \$5,717,344 income in 1941, the opinion added, the alliance spent only 5 percent for charitable and fraternal purposes. This, the court said, does not bear out its contention that the insurance business is merely an incidental part of its activities.

Referring to the question of whether the alliance is subject to the jurisdiction of the National Labor Relations Act, the court quoted from section 10 (a) of the act, which provides:

"The board is empowered as hereinafter provided, to prevent any person from engaging in any unfair labor practice affecting commerce."

Answering a contention of the alliance that insurance is not commerce, the court referred, among other cases, to that of the Associated Press against the National Labor Relations Board. A comparison of the alliance's activities with those of the press service "makes the decision of persuasive if not controlling importance," the court said, adding:

"There the court considered the activities of a cooperative organization of 1,350 members, which did not operate for profit, although its members were representatives of newspapers which did operate for profit. Its means of communication in receiving and transmitting news consisted of telegraph and telephone wires, messenger service, the wireless and mail."

Seattle-Tacoma Agreement Near

Tacoma, Wash., May 28.—The management of the Seattle-Tacoma Shipbuilding Co. has agreed to negotiate an agreement with Local 20360 of this city covering its office and clerical secretary-treasurer of the union. Recognition was granted only after the local had invoked the services of the NLRB to determine the issue.

A group has been selected from among employees of the company to serve as a contract and negotiation committee. An agreement is presently being formulated, patterned closely after similar contracts presently existing in this industry on the Pacific Coast, and it is anticipated negotiations on the agreement will begin shortly.

In the meantime "mopping up" campaigns are under way in the various offices of the company in an endeavor to secure the bargaining rights of those few members of our craft who have not as yet had an opportunity to sign bargaining cards. It is anticipated the local will enter negotiations on this agreement with one of the largest majorities yet to be attained in any similar undertaking.

Women Are Equal to Men In TVA

Knoxville, Tenn., May 24.—Breaking a long-established policy, management of the Tennessee Valley Authority recently announced that women are being hired and trained for positions as public safety service employees. Such work, formerly performed only by men, is easily adaptable to women and it is expected the future will see an ever-increasing number of the latter filling such positions. All workers of this craft within the TVA are members of Public Safety Service Employees Unions and as such are affiliated with our International Council.

In a class of 88 such workers recently inaugurated at Watts Bar Dam, one-fourth were women and it is reported that the female entries are proving themselves as readily able to perform the duties of these positions as the men in this and past instruction groups. After completion of their schooling, which takes 2 weeks of classroom study and an additional 6 weeks "on the job" training, such

St. Louis Shows Rapid Progress

St. Louis, Mo., May 17.—In reporting on the progress of Local No. 17707 of this city during the year prior to May 1, A. L. Rex, recently reelected president of the local, stated that the union had increased its membership by more than 50 percent during this period.

President Rex also reported that 15 agreements have recently been negotiated while 19 others are either pending or awaiting signatures. These figures represent renewed agreements as well as those entered into for the first time. Not content with this progress officers of the local have stated that they intend to "vigorously" continue their organizing campaign and thus bring to yet unorganized members of our craft in their city the benefits enjoyed by those now members.

The membership of Local No. 17707 recently voted to change the name of their union from Stenographers, Typists, Bookkeepers and Assistants to Office Employees at the suggestion of, and in conformity with, our International Council.

This local actively participates in both the St. Louis Central Trades and Labor Union and the local Label Trades Section. During recent years its activity in affairs of the Missouri State Federation of Labor has shown marked increase.

Dairy Agreement Under Negotiation

Pittsburgh, Pa., May 11.—President and Business Representative Louis M. Wiesekel of Local No. 20959 of this city is currently negotiating an agreement with the Rieck McJunkin Dairy, a subsidiary of the National Dairy Co., which will result in increased wages and improved working conditions for members of our craft employed by the former.

Dairy industry agreements already in force with Locals No. 16456 of Milwaukee, Wis., and 20744 of Oakland, Calif., are expected to prove of material assistance in these negotiations.

UPHOLDS WOMEN'S RIGHTS TO JOBS AFTER VICTORY

Washington, D. C.—A warning against the wholesale ouster of women workers after the war has been sounded by the Women's Advisory Committee of the War Manpower Commission.

"Those who wish to stay in the labor market should not be accused of taking men's jobs," the committee said. "The right of the individual woman to work must be recognized and provided for, as much as the right of the individual man to work."

Interpretation of Agreement Sought

Washington, D. C., June 11.—A dispute over the proper interpretation of the agreement between Local No. 11773 of this city and "Labor" newspaper, published by the 16 operating railroad brotherhoods, has gone to an arbitration committee according to W. Robert Probey, president of the local.

The dispute arose over the observance of the recent Memorial Day holiday, which, with the holiday falling on a Sunday caused the day observed in the District of Columbia to be the following day, Monday. Management of "Labor" has decreed that Monday was a normal working day in this instance, despite the fact that labor organizations, banks and numerous government offices observed same as the holiday.

Office workers employed by "Labor" were required to work on the day observed as the holiday but did not receive overtime compensation for their services despite the fact that their employers have always in the past conformed with the prevailing practice.

Overtime provisions in the agreement between the local and "Labor" provide for double time payment for services performed on such holidays, which provision has been observed in identical agreements with all labor organizations in this city. With representatives of the local and the management of "Labor" unable to agree on the proper interpretation of the provisions of the agreement the latter group demanded arbitration of the dispute.

Probey has announced that he and Paul R. Hutchings, secretary-treasurer of our International Council, will plead the matter in behalf of the union before the arbitration committee. J. Howard Hicks, president of our council, has been selected as the arbiter representing the local on this committee.

WAR WORKERS FACE CRISIS IN AUTOMOBILE TIRE WEAR

Washington, D. C.—War workers face a crisis in their automobile transportation before the end of 1943 due to tire wear, making essential the continuation and strengthening of conservation measures, the Public Roads Administration of the Federal Works Agency, and the Highway Traffic Advisory Committee to the War Department concluded.

The conclusion was based on results of an investigation during the latter part of 1942 at 59 Ohio war industries. Union representatives aided in the preparation of these examinations, which are also held under their observation, and likewise participate in determining the fitness of the new workers for the position available.

workers are transferred to the numerous properties of TVA where they perform public relations work in behalf of the management of the Authority.

According to Vice President E. Houston Fritts of our International Council, these workers receive regular beginners salary and per diem living expenses while in their schooling period. These benefits, together with automatic salary increases, based on length of service, and other improved conditions of employment have recently been won for such workers through their Public Safety Service Employees Unions working in conjunction with the TVA Office, Technical and Service Employees Council, of which Fritts is secretary-treasurer.

At the conclusion of their schooling, which was inaugurated as a result of negotiations between representatives of the workers and TVA management, these workers are given examinations to determine their fitness to hold the various classifications of employment which they perform.

Shipworkers Ask Wage Increase

San Francisco, Calif., May 19.—Joining with metal craftsmen from Pacific Coast shipyards, representatives of coastwise locals of office employees met in this city during the past three days and adopted resolutions calling for a meeting of the Shipbuilding Stabilization Committee to be held on this seaboard for the purpose of bringing about an upward revision of wage scales for all shipyard workers. These resolutions reminded government officials that at the conference of the Shipbuilding Stabilization Committee in Chicago, May 2, 1942, President Roosevelt and other government authorities promised that universal price ceilings would be established to curb the rising cost of living, and that if this program did not control the cost of living, wage reviews would be conducted to adjust wages in keeping with the higher cost of living. The delegates pointed out that labor accepted a lower scale of wages as a result of these promises, that the cost of living had not been held down, and therefore they were entitled to wage adjustments.

Chairman Paul R. Porter and labor member Elmer Walker of the Shipbuilding Stabilization Committee attended one of the conference sessions, and in speaking to the delegates promised to give their support to secure the meeting desired by the conference.

OEU Locals Win Metal Trades Support

The conference provided an opportunity for the representatives of the office workers to join with other unions, not at present covered by the Pacific Coast Metal Trades Master Agreement, in an effort to clarify the method by which such coverage could be secured. After several appearances before the resolutions committee the following formula was adopted: Local Metal Trades councils are to bend their efforts toward securing agreements covering the various local unions, which agreement must contain the closed shop provisions of the master agreement. When such an agreement has been secured it must be approved by the local Metal Trades Council, the executive secretary of the Pacific Coast District Metal Trades Council, and the Shipbuilding Stabilization Committee, after which it may be incorporated into the master agreement.

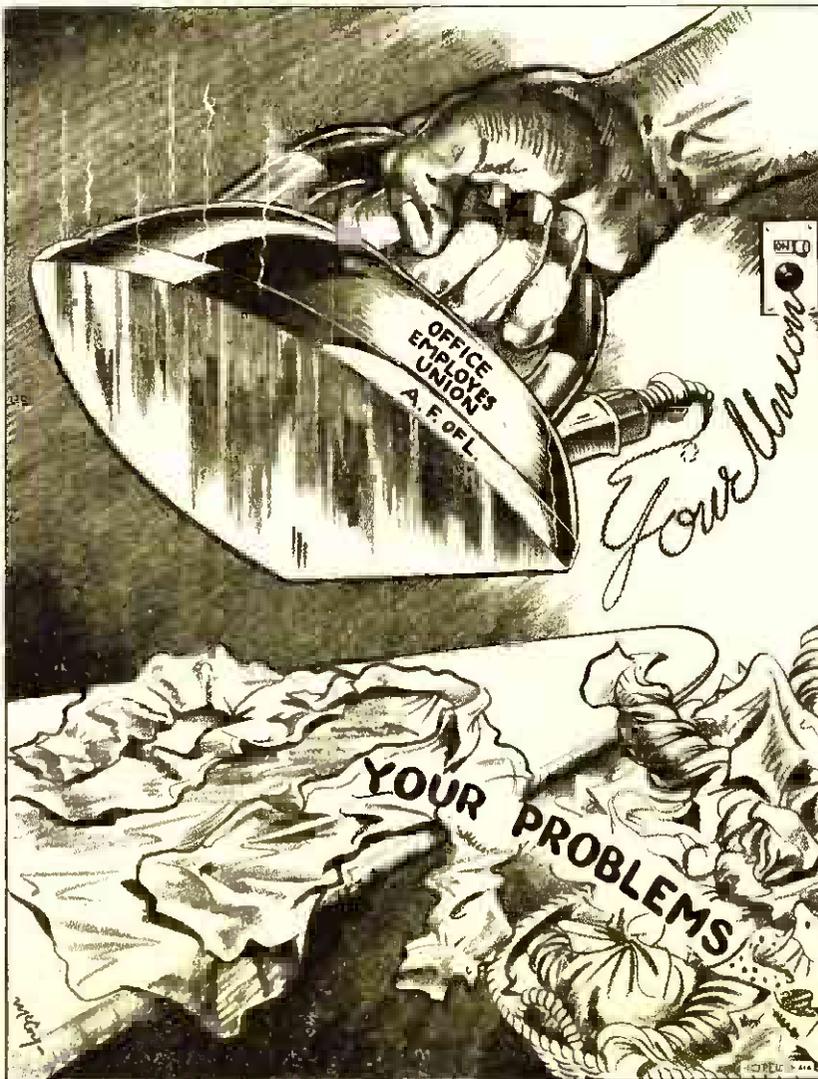
Council Officers Active

Vice President Mildred Erickson of our International Council took the lead in appearing for the office workers' delegation before the committee and on the floor of the conference, assisted by George P. Firth, of Local No. 20360 of Tacoma, Wash., a Council Vice President; Nina Bartholomew of Local No. 20744, Oakland, Calif., and Fred Miller, Local No. 21320 of San Francisco. Sister Erickson is business representative of Local No. 16304 of Seattle.

Other delegates present and locals represented were: International Council Vice President Carl F. Nelson; Evelyn Tanzillo and Frank F. Randall from Local No. 20744, Oakland; Irving Enna and Elmer Parker, Local No. 16821, Portland, Ore.; and Elma A. Goodwin of Local No. 20798 of Los Angeles.

Buy Bonds Now

IT WILL IRON THEM OUT



CONTRACTORS TO RECORD ALL JOB ACCIDENTS

Washington, D. C.—Taking the lead among government agencies in a vigorous campaign against industrial accidents, the Public Contracts Division of the Department of Labor has issued an order requiring every firm, corporation or individual engaged in fulfilling government contracts under the Walsh-Healey act to keep a full and complete record of all job accidents, starting on May 1, 1943.

The new order puts teeth in that provision of the act which forbids contractors to permit employees to work under dangerous and hazardous conditions, and will undoubtedly result in focusing attention on the causes of the tragically large numbers of deaths and injuries that have been occurring in the nation's war industries.

It is admitted that during the past year nearly 20,000 lives and more than 40,000,000,000 man-days were lost because of preventable accidents.

Nygren to Attend Workers' School

Minneapolis, Minn., June 3.—Vice President Lawrence G. Nygren of our International Council is planning on attending the School for Workers conducted each summer by the University of Wisconsin it was learned here today. Classes begin June 27 and run through July 10 and are held on the campus of the university at Madison, Wisconsin.

During past years this school has

New High In War Bonds Reached

Washington, D. C., May 31.—W. Robert Probey, president of Local No. 11773, reports that the total recorded purchases of war bonds by members of this local has now reached a new high of \$54,000. In addition to this splendid showing the union proper has purchased numerous bonds of \$100 denomination since Pearl Harbor.

This local is also presently rendering service to its membership by conducting a class in parliamentary law which is held one evening each week. John McBride, a member of the local and former teacher of parliamentary law at Loyola University, Chicago, is the instructor.

Great interest is manifest in this subject by members of the local and it has been indicated that this class may be enlarged to accommodate members of other local unions in this city should they be interested.

Milwaukee Local Members Active

Milwaukee, Wis., May 29.—Officers of Local No. 16456 have announced that, subject to the approval of the War Labor Board, a general wage increase of \$2 per week has been negotiated for members of the local employed in the office of the Milwaukee Sentinel. This increase will be effective retroactively to May 18.

Severance pay, a feature of this agreement during past years, was extended to provide 30 weeks pay for those employees leaving the company after 14½ years of service.

A new provision of this agreement allows 4 weeks' pay to all workers leaving for military service, with the added understanding that their positions will be available at the termination of their military duties.

Members of the local are being encouraged to bring jams and preserves to the June meeting of the union, to be used by the USO Service Center for military men in this city. Notices have been sent all members of the union referring to the June meeting as a 'jam session' and it is expected that more than a little interest will be shown in this fine cause.

A film sponsored by the Red Cross and titled "They Need Not Die" is to be shown at the current months' meeting. The picture shows the many steps necessary to provide blood plasma from the donor to the patient on the battlefield and should prove very interesting to those members of the local who have been previously participating in this campaign.

Oregon Workers Set New Record

Portland, Oreg., June 11.—Members of Local No. 16821 of this city had reason to take great pride in the efforts they are putting forth in our nation's defeat of the Axis, it was announced today by officers of the local.

The occasion being the launching of the 200th Liberty ship built by the Oregon Shipbuilding Corporation, was celebrated by appropriate ceremonies in which labor leaders of AFL unions, city and state officials participated. Governor Earl Snell paid high tribute to the workers for their achievement and urged them to continue their efforts until despotism is banished from the world.

Office and clerical workers employed by this company have been represented by Local No. 16821 since the early stages of ship construction by the company and enjoy wages and working conditions second to none on the Pacific Coast.

Labor War Chest Drive Pushed

New York, N. Y., May 20.—Officers of Local No. 23076 announced today that the participation by members of their union in the New York Labor War Chest campaign has reached a new high, and it is anticipated that the local will easily subscribe its goal of \$5000 by the time the drive is concluded on June 15.

Like members of all American Federation of Labor unions in this city, members of Local No. 23076 are donating a day's pay, through their union, to the War Chest campaign which is being spearheaded by the working people of New York City.