

THE OFFICE WORKER

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

Vol. 1, No. 9

WASHINGTON, D. C., NOVEMBER, 1943



New Pacts Signed by Chicago Local

Chicago, Ill., Nov. 10.—Office Employees' Union 20732 has concluded negotiations for an agreement covering more than 100 employees of the Independent Pneumatic Tool Co., Aurora, Ill. The contract provides for average increases of 9 cents an hour. The union is now awaiting action by the War Labor Board.

The agreement, the second that the local and the company have signed, provides for maintenance of union membership. Workers will receive six days' sick leave; they formerly were allowed two. Provision was made for holidays with pay; holiday work, if required, will be paid for at the double time rate. Employees were classified, and minimum wage scales were set up for each classification. The old agreement did not classify employees.

The new contract retains all of the gains made by the union under the old agreement, including the 8-hour day and 5-day week, Monday through Friday; time and one-half pay for all work after 8 hours a day and the sixth consecutive day of work, and double time for the seventh; one week's paid vacation after one year of employment, and seniority rights. The contract is retroactive to Aug. 1.

WLB Approves Stoll Co. Pact

The local also announced that the War Labor Board had approved its agreement with the J. O. Stoll Co., Chicago magazine distributors.

Under the new agreement the third that the local has signed with the Stoll company, employees were

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CLOSED SHOP O.K.'D BY FLORIDA COURT

Tampa Local Benefits By Important Decision

Tallahassee, Fla.—The Florida Supreme Court upheld the legality of the closed shop and quashed a three-year campaign by State Attorney General Tom Watson to outlaw closed shop clauses in union contracts.

The sweeping decision by the state's highest court reversed a lower court ruling which was given wide publicity throughout the country because of its anti-labor nature.

(Note: The State Supreme Court decision, however, received no mention in the press outside of Florida.)

The test case involved a contract between the Tampa Shipbuilding Co. and the metal trades and building trades unions of the American Federation of Labor including our Tampa Local 22222. It was argued for the unions by Joseph A. Padway, counsel for the American Federation of Labor. The decision represented a legal victory for organized labor which is nation-wide in scope, because other states have made similar attempts to bar the closed shop.

No Complaint

The majority opinion of the court pointed out that no complaint had been filed against the contract by the company, by the unions or by the Navy Department for which the company does all its work. The only objection was on the part of Attorney General Watson, "presumably on the

(Continued on Page 3)

Seattle-Tacoma Agreement Completed

Tacoma, Wash., Oct. 27.—The signing today of an agreement by Locals No. 23060 of this city and 16304 of Seattle with the Seattle-Tacoma Shipbuilding Corp. marked the conclusion of a hard struggle by both unions to assist the office and clerical workers employed by the company to gain improved wages, working conditions and other benefits possible only through union recognition.

Wage increases ranging upwards to 15 percent were gained for a large number of the workers and all hourly wage rates are now in line with, and in some cases exceed, those paid similar workers employed in other Pacific Coast shipyards. Outstanding in the agreement is the closed shop feature which should herald the gaining of similar provisions by other locals affiliated with our International Council when their agreements are open for renegotiation. Members of both unions employed by the company are exuberant over the conclusion of the agreements for they now hold in their grasp a means of combating discrimination and other unwarranted acts on the part of the company which have been rampant in the past.

Officials of both unions are elated over the conclusion of the agreement for it marks the end of a bitter struggle running into several months to gain the objective. Under the leadership of Mildred Erickson, business representative of the Seattle local, and George P. Firth, secretary-treasurer of the Tacoma union, members of our trade employed in the yards of the company proved to be undaunted by the endeavors of company management to forestall their gaining a means of collective representation. During the organizational campaign several workers interested in unionization were discharged but in each instance they were speedily returned to their positions through the intelligent leadership displayed by officers of both unions.

By virtue of the contractual relations now existing between Local No. 16304, Seattle, and the Seattle-Tacoma Shipbuilding Corp. this affiliate of our International Council should find itself in a greatly strengthened

position in future dealings with Associated Shipbuilders and Winslow Shipyards. Both the latter companies have consistently refused to bargain fairly with the local despite orders to do so from various governmental agencies.

Associated Case Goes to WLB

Associated Shipbuilders has steadfastly refused to accept the bargaining unit found to be appropriate by the National Labor Relations Board several months ago and efforts of the U. S. Conciliation Service have failed to bring forth any semblance of fairness in the attitude of company management in this connection.

Several times in the past our International Council has blocked endeavors of the company to bypass Local No. 16304 as the certified exclusive bargaining agency for such workers while representatives of the union were endeavoring to negotiate an agreement with company management.

Final action on this now rests with the National War Labor Board and an early hearing is anticipated.

Milwaukee Wins Retroactive Raises

Milwaukee, Wis., Nov. 1.—According to an announcement by Alice Holz, Vice President of our International Council and financial secretary of Local 16456 of this city, the War Labor Board has recently awarded a 4½ cents per hour wage increase to the union members employed at the Shadbolt & Boyd Co., which increase is retroactive to April 18, 1942.

In addition to this retroactive increase, a further retroactive increase of 3 cents per hour from April 5, 1943, was also granted.

The board also approved a vacation with pay plan, which also was made retroactive to June 1, 1942, with a proviso that money instead of vacation time could be granted for the years 1942 and 1943.

This recent War Labor Board decision brings to a conclusion a long struggle by Local 16456, in conjunction with locals of the Teamsters Union and the Retail Clerks Union, to obtain improvements in working conditions for the employes of this company. Negotiations with the company on a renewal agreement have been under way since April, 1942. The members employed by this concern have now been rewarded for their patience during the long struggle to obtain substantial retroactive wage and vacation adjustments.

AFL Organizer David Sigmund, together with the officers and negotiating committee of the local rendered valuable assistance in bringing about the present victory.

Anti-Union Drive to Destroy Private Industry, AFL Head Warns Business

Boston.—A campaign aimed to destroy the labor movement in the postwar period means destruction of private industry and the free enterprise system, President William Green of the American Federation of Labor warned business here.

Speaking before the Boston Chamber of Commerce at a luncheon, Green said that "all labor asks of private industry is the same right of free enterprise which we willingly accord to it. That means full recognition of the right of workers to join free and democratic unions of their own choice and full acceptance of collective bargaining.

"If and when such recognition is forthcoming, there will be no need of government laws and regulations which place artificial restrictions and handicaps on the normal and co-operative relations between labor and industry.

"But if private industry, on the contrary, persists in futile and misguided efforts to destroy the trade union movement and attempts to launch a new anti-union campaign in the postwar period, it will only de-

stroy itself and the free enterprise system along with it."

Wage Increases Won At Durkee Foods Co.

Berkeley, Cal., Oct. 26.—The office and clerical workers employed at the Durkee Famous Foods Co. plant in this city have received substantial wage increases through the efforts of Local 20744, according to reports received from Carl F. Nelson, Vice President of our International Council and business representative of Local 20744.

The wage increases obtained have been approved by the War Labor Board and range from \$10 to \$15 per month, retroactive to June 1, 1943. The union succeeded in obtaining wage increases for these office workers in 1942, in addition to the increases negotiated earlier this year and which have just been approved by the War Labor Board.

This company is a national concern, with offices and plants in many other cities.

Mobile Organizing Gulf Shipyard

Mobile, Ala., Oct. 29.—An active organizing drive has been started among the office and clerical employes at the Gulf Shipyard by Local 23101 of this city.

The announcement made by the officials of the Central Trades Council, the Metal Trades Council and the Building Trades Council indicates that all of those organizations are actively assisting in the drive to bring the benefits of trade unionism to the office and clerical employes of the yard.

Many of the timekeepers employed at the yard have already joined the local.

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Official organ of the

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF
OFFICE EMPLOYEES UNIONS



J. HOWARD HICKS, *President*
PAUL R. HUTCHINGS, *Sec.-Treas.*
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Washington 5, D. C.

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WITHIN REACH Through Your Union

At the press conference which was held by War Labor Board Chairman Davis on November 10, considerable discussion was had relating to the so-called "white collar workers" and their relative inability to obtain upward adjustments in wages, even within the relatively narrow adjustment range allowed under the so-called "Little Steel formula."

Chairman Davis pointed out that the "Little Steel formula by itself automatically acts as a stop that holds the door open, so if ever a white collar worker gets his employer to offer him a wage increase, he is free to take it." In answer to an inquiry raised by one of the reporters as to how this white collar worker gets his employer to offer him a raise if he is not organized, Chairman Davis very aptly replied "Well, one way is to join an organization. That is the way I would do it."

Those who have read our publication for some time, will doubtless recall the cartoon appearing in our March 1943 edition, because it hits the nail squarely on the head. We are re-printing this cartoon in this issue.

It is clear from Chairman Davis's statement made on November 10, that the wage adjustments allowable under the wage stabilization program as administered by the War Labor Board, are "within reach—through your union." It is also clear from Chairman Davis's statement that, as we stated along side of the cartoon in our March issue: "Individual workers cannot invoke the services of the War Labor Board to correct unfair conditions. Through your union you can use the board's services to improve and correct wage inequalities and rectify unfair conditions."

According to the War Labor Board, substantially all workers employed in the manufacturing industries have received wage increases amounting to 15 percent since January 1941, which theoretically are supposed to compensate for the rise in living costs since that date. On the other hand, however, millions of unorganized office and clerical workers and other of the so-called "white collar worker group" have received no such upward wage adjustments in their wholly inadequate wage rates.

Unless an employer voluntarily applies to the War Labor Board for permission to make upward wage adjust-

Within Reach---Thru Your Union

★
Individual
Workers Cannot
Invoke the
Services of the
War Labor Board
to Correct
Unfair
Conditions.

★
Through
Your Union
You can Use
The Board's
Services to
Improve and
Correct Wage
Inequalities
and Rectify
Unfair
Conditions.



ments to his office and clerical workers, there is no other way that such workers can obtain wage increases which they need to enable them to meet, at least partially, their present day living costs, unless they organize and through their trade union organization bring their wage increase demands to the War Labor Board. In other words, the present situation is but another expression of that basic principle which we all know so well, namely, that as individuals we are incapable of obtaining needed improvements in our working conditions, but that through organization and the collective bargaining processes we can obtain such needed adjustments. This principle has been tried and proved over the years by the millions of organized workers who are united under the banner of the American Federation of Labor. This principle has been proven by the many thousands of workers of our trade organized in our affiliated local unions.

Unorganized office and clerical workers who are today feeling the full brunt of increased prices and living costs should take heed of this principle which has worked so well in the past and which is so essential today to their very preservation and existence. Our cartoon tells a pointed story which has now been re-told by the War Labor Board chairman. Organization is indeed the only answer to the present situation and our only hope for the future.

VIOLET JOHNSON NAMED COUNCIL EDUCATION CHAIRMAN

Washington, D. C., Nov. 1.—Violet Johnson, a member of Minneapolis Local 17661, has been named chairman of the education committee of our International Council, according to an announcement made today by Council President, J. Howard Hicks.

The Detroit convention of the Council last August established an Education Committee for the purpose of collecting information, material and experience in the field of trade union education, and bringing such material to the attention of the local unions. The Executive Board of the Council, which was empowered to appoint a chairman of the committee, requested President Hicks to nominate a candidate, and his nomination of Sister Johnson was unanimously concurred in by the members of the board.

Sister Johnson, who has held membership in the Minneapolis Local since 1933, has also served as vice president of that local and as a member of its executive board for many years, in addition to having served as an organizer for the local. She has also served as delegate to the Minneapolis Central Labor Union, as well as to many of the conventions of the Min-

neapolis State Federation of Labor. For several years she was a member of the Minneapolis Scholarship Committee, and has also served as treasurer of that committee.

Sister Johnson has had wide experience in the fields of tax research and statistics, and is co-author of a book on taxation. She has recently been serving with the Census Bureau as assistant social science analyst and assistant statistician.

"The Office Worker" Joins Press Group

Washington, D. C., Nov. 15.—"The Office Worker" our official publication, is now enrolled in membership with the International Labor Press of America, and the emblem of that association will henceforth be found on our masthead.

Acting upon an invitation recently extended by R. E. Woodmansee, secretary-treasurer of the International Labor Press, the executive officers of our council enrolled our official publication as a member of that association, which is composed of the various official publications of the American Federation of Labor organizations.

Public Utility Workers Organize

Vancouver, B. C., Can., Oct. 30.—Realizing the inadequacy of their unaffiliated, company dominated organization office and clerical workers employed by the British Columbia Electric Power & Gas Co. are turning to the American Federation of Labor as their only assurance of strong and aggressive representation, according to Vera Gough, secretary-treasurer of Local No. 18177, and William D. Wilson, AFL organizer of this city.

Members of our trade employed by this company have, during recent years, endeavored to seek representation through their unaffiliated organization but without the success they now realize can be enjoyed through affiliation with a bona fide trade union.

Efforts to negotiate more adequate wages with their employer have resulted in almost complete failure in the past and have been largely offset by added deductions for insurance and other schemes concocted by the company.

Working conditions have been left for the most part in the hands of the company and have not resulted in any noteworthy change from those in force prior to the establishment of the so-called independent union.

Copies of agreements presently in force applying to office and clerical workers in public utility industries have been supplied by our International Council and several of its affiliated unions which leave no doubt but that vast gains are in store for workers employed by the local company when they become a part of the American Federation of Labor.

Meetings calculated to bring this independent group into Local No. 18177 are being held between officers of our affiliated union, Organizer Wilson and representatives of the workers employed by the company.

Officers of other AFL unions holding agreements with the company have interested themselves in the matter and informed sources indicate that there is little doubt but that these office and clerical workers will make the proper choice and elect to become a part of Local No. 18177.

Paducah Local Active

Paducah, Ky., Oct. 31.—Local 23183 of this city, through its educational committee, has been active with the education committee of the Paducah Central Labor Union in writing and preparing articles for publication in the "Kentucky Labor Review" and the "Kentucky Labor News."

Members of the Paducah Local are also busily engaged in making scrapbooks and collecting toys for distribution by the Salvation Army at Christmas. The local is also planning to prepare a labor directory of all Kentucky unions.

ARE YOU, AS A TRADES UNIONIST, TRUE TO YOURSELF?

It is important that you should know the answer to that question. You believe in unions and union principles and work under union conditions or, in other words, you earn your wages as a unionist.

You can further the cause which means so much to you quite easily

Gompers' Life Story In New Print

"Seventy Years of Life and Labor," an autobiography by Samuel Gompers, is now available in a one volume edition—published by E. P. Dutton & Company, New York City.

This book gives a detailed account of each stage in the difficult growth of the organization of labor—the heroic struggles and sacrifices which step by step established labor as a force in national affairs. Throughout the entire book runs the absorbing and personal story of America's great labor leader, revealing on every page the remarkable courage, intellect and perseverance of a man whose first and last interest was America.

This new edition makes available to more readers—trade unionists, students and others—an invaluable source book for knowing first hand the early history of the American Federation of Labor

Many Unionists On OPA Boards

Detroit Said to Head List, With 185 Union Members Active on Ration Bodies

There are now 693 union members, including 27 women, serving on 100 OPA labor advisory committees in American cities.

In addition, 2,891 union members are serving on local war price and rationing boards, OPA reports.

Detroit leads the nation with 185 union members on ration boards. Other cities with large labor representation are Pittsburgh, 174 members; San Francisco, 162; Seattle 142; Cleveland, 129; and Chicago, 115.

Dallas Wins NLRB Vote at Texas Co.

Dallas, Texas, Nov. 1.—The National Labor Relations Board today certified Office Employees Local 22210 as the exclusive bargaining agency for all the clerical employees at the West Dallas works of the Texas Co.

The board's action was based upon the results of an election which it recently conducted among the office workers of this plant and in which election 90 percent of all ballots cast favored representation through Local 22210.

Over 3,000,000 women now belong to labor unions in the United States as compared to 245,000 in 1940.

and without a great deal of inconvenience when shopping by asking for goods bearing the union label. You should think, talk and push union label products. Get the habit and give it to your fellow-workers. It means helping yourself and your family's welfare.

Pollard-Stockton Yard Organized

Stockton, Calif., Oct. 30.—Unionization of the office and clerical workers employed by the Pollard-Stockton Shipbuilding Co. of this city has been completed and the company management has recognized Local No. 20545 as the bargaining agency, according to Mildred Cecil secretary of the local.

Efforts to organize workers of our trade employed by this company were begun but a few weeks ago and the campaign enjoyed such a wholehearted response from every side that little time was lost in concluding the task. It is reported that officers of the union enjoyed the full support of members of other crafts employed in the construction of vessels for the U. S. Navy, which aided materially in bringing the effort to a quick and successful conclusion.

Officers of the local will have the support of Frank F. Randall, president, and Muriel Kerchen, business representative of Local No. 20744, Oakland, both of whom have had wide experience in the shipbuilding industry, in the drafting of an agreement to be presented the company for negotiation. It is anticipated that the agreement in its final form will embody many of the outstanding provisions contained in shipbuilding agreements on the Pacific Coast applying to office and clerical workers.

Approximately 250 employees of the company will become members of Local No. 20545 and all are enthusiastic over the betterment in wages and working conditions which they will enjoy through the efforts of their union.

New Pacts

(Continued from Page 1)

classified; under the old, there was no classification. This meant an increase in wages for most of the employees.

Provision was made for one week's paid vacation after one year of employment, two weeks after two and one-half years. Employees formerly received two weeks vacation with pay after three years of service.

Workers will receive three days' sick leave. If unused, this will be applied and will be in addition to the time allotted for their vacations. Under the old contract, employees had two days' sick leave, with no alternative.

The contract set up the check-off system for the payment of dues.

Retroactive to April 15

All union gains under the old agreement were retained, including the 8-hour day and 5-day week, Monday through Friday; time and one-half pay after 8 hours of work and for Saturdays; double time for all Sundays; holidays with pay, and double time for all holiday work required. The agreement is retroactive to April 15.

Approximately 200 employees are covered by the contract.

The contracts were negotiated by Charles A. Noble, business representative of Local 20732, and shop committees selected by employees of the two firms. Members of the committee representing the magazine distributors were Jeanette Pera; Victoria Zajack and Norma Borcia. Members of the committee representing the tool company employees were Martin Carlson, George Stare, Kate Pelletier, and Albert Blossage.

Local 17661 Plans Anniversary Dance

Minneapolis, Nov. 1.—Plans are being made for a gala dance of members and their friends to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Local No. 17661. The date has been set for Saturday evening, November 20, at the old Coconut Grove. All members and their friends have been invited.

Committees have been working on plans for this birthday event for some time, and an invitation has been extended to USO boys at Fort Snelling and Wold-Chamberlain Field.

Cleveland Tractor Agreement Signed

Cleveland, Ohio, Nov. 5.—Local 19366 has just completed contract negotiations with the Cleveland Tractor Co. of this city covering its office and clerical worker employes, according to a report recently received from John Schmotzer, vice president of the Cleveland local.

Closed Shop

(Continued from page 1)

hypothesis that an appreciable portion of the citizenry of the state is affected by the provisions for the employment of union labor exclusively—a situation not supported by the record because the complaints of fewer than a score of workmen were recounted."

Taking up the charge that closed shop contracts are against public policy, the court found this to be untrue because in at least three laws—the Norris-La Guardia Act, the Sherman Anti-Trust Act and the National Labor Relations Act—Congress "has affirmed the right of laborers to combine and act in the interest of the group."

As to the allegation that the closed-shop contract interfered with the war effort, the court said:

"We find no proof in the record that compliance with the contract has resulted in a retardation of the war effort. For this alone, the decree (of the lower court) would have to be set aside. For it was upon this ground, and this ground only, that the trial court struck down the closed shop clause of the contract."

Closed Shop OK

Finally, the court declared:

"We admit that every man and woman, not lawfully incarcerated or otherwise incapacitated, has the right to work and earn a livelihood. But it does not follow that all have the right to require any particular person, firm or corporation to give them employment as a matter of right of contract between the employer and the employe. The right of contract has been lawfully exercised in the present case.

"The courts have uniformly declined to hold the union closed shop clause against public policy, where no controlling statute exists; but have sanctioned such contracts when freely entered into without malicious design on others.

"Therefore, the parties may negotiate any contracts not contrary to law or good morals. Management is free to hire only union men if it chooses. Likewise, labor is free to work with only union men if it chooses. The fact that a few laborers may be denied work in the particular plant or shop, unless they join the union, will not of itself vitiate such contract."

NLRB Certifies Tampa Local At McCloskey & Co. Shipyard

Tampa, Fla., Oct. 27.—Regional Director, Howard Lebaron of the Atlanta office of the National Labor Relations Board, today certified Tampa Local No. 22222 as the exclusive bargaining agency for all office and clerical workers employed at the McCloskey Shipyard in this city.

This action by the NLRB represents a culmination of an extensive organizational drive among the office workers employed at this large maritime yard, which is engaged in the construction of concrete vessels.

Speedy Handling Given Case

On Thursday, October 21, Business Representative J. O. Bloodworth, Jr., of the Tampa local, together with Secretary-Treasurer Hutchings of our International Council, filed a representation petition with Attorney Dan Byrd of the NLRB requesting that the board certify as to the exclusive bargaining rights of the Tampa local for the 400-some office workers employed at the McCloskey yard. In support of this petition, the board was sup-

plied with signed bargaining cards which had been obtained from about 75 percent of the eligible workers employed in this yard.

A joint conference was held with the company on the same day that the petition was filed, and a consent payroll cross-check agreement was signed authorizing the board to check on the majority representation claims of the local and, if substantiated, to certify the union's exclusive bargaining rights. A consent payroll check was performed by Mr. Byrd of the NLRB, which resulted in formal notification to the company and the union to the effect that Local 22222 had been selected by an overwhelming majority of all eligible office and clerical employees of the yard and, therefore, was the exclusive bargaining agency for all office and clerical workers employed.

Negotiations with the company are scheduled to commence shortly, according to Business Representative Bloodworth, who is handling the same on behalf of the local.

Increased Activity Seen In San Diego

San Diego, Calif., Nov. 10.—With the assistance of Robert E. Noonan, secretary of the San Diego Federated Trades and Labor Council, officers of Local No. 20282 of this city shortly expect to begin a campaign of organization among office and clerical employees of the San Diego Gas & Electric Co.

All employees of the company except the office workers are presently under agreement with AFL unions and their opportunity to watch the results obtained by their fellow workers through unionization has led to a strong desire on the part of many of our trade employed by the company for similar action in their behalf.

Organization Anticipated

The success obtained by Local No. 20282 in bettering the wages and working conditions of the production

clerical employees of Concrete Ship Constructors has resulted in a demand by the administrative clerical employees of the company for similar action in their behalf.

Francis R. Gleeson, business representative of the local, anticipates that speedy headway will be made in the campaign of unionization among administrative workers when the drive is launched within the next few days.

STATEMENT OF THE OWNER-SHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912.

Washington, D. C., October 1, 1943.
Before me, a notary public in and for the city of Washington, District of Columbia, ss. Of The Office Worker, published monthly at State and county aforesaid, personally appeared Paul R. Hutchings, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the business manager of The Office Worker, and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 443, Postal Laws and Regulations.

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor and managing editor are: International Council of Office Employees Unions, 827 14th St. N.W.; J. Howard Hicks, 827 14th St. N.W.; Paul R. Hutchings, 827 14th St. N.W.

2. That the owner is: International Council of Office Employees Unions, 827 14th St. N.W., affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages or other securities are: None.

(Signed) PAUL R. HUTCHINGS.
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 1st day of October, 1943.

FRED S. WALKER,
Notary Public.

(My commission expires Dec. 31, 1947.)

New York Locals Forge Ahead

New York City, Oct. 26.—Maintaining the rapid pace in organization of motion picture office and clerical employees, Local No. 23169 recently accepted into membership workers of our trade employed at the Paramount News laboratory.

Additional prospects for activity in this field are in store for the local and it is anticipated that the union will meet with continually growing success. Some few members of our trade presently organized but not members of an AFL union have expressed a fervent desire to align themselves with this progressive local, and it is believed that increased activity in this sphere will result until all office workers in this industry are members of the local.

Brewery Workers Organize

With the organization of the office and clerical workers employed by the Burke Brewery, Inc., Local No. 20940 has requested NLRB certification of its bargaining rights for this group. Activity in this field is expected to gain momentum with the successful conclusion of an agreement with the company and many workers of our trade employed by other local brewing establishments are eagerly watching the outcome of this venture.

Vice President Howard J. Coughlin of our International Council has been working actively with our local unions in the New York metropolitan area and it is expected that increased organizational activity by all locals will result.

Gulf Coast Organization Rolls Forward

Washington, D. C., November 22.—Organization of office and clerical workers throughout the Gulf Coast area is rolling forward at a rapid rate, according to reports reaching Council headquarters. While organization in the Gulf area has been spearheaded by the drives in the shipyards on that coast, the impetus is being felt in other industries in the Gulf Coast cities as well.

Todd-Galveston Yard Organized

Galveston local 20590 has rolled up majority representation among the office and clerical workers employed at the Todd-Galveston Dry Dock in that city. Reports received from local president E. J. Bettencourt and local secretary Anna L. Kelly indicate that the local has already made formal bargaining demands upon the company, and it is anticipated that negotiation conferences will soon commence.

Florida Locals Active

Affiliated locals in Tampa, Jacksonville, and Panama City, Fla., have recently been growing and chalking up many gains. In addition to its closed shop contract with the Tampa Shipbuilding Co. which has now been upheld by the Florida Supreme Court (see story on page 1), Tampa Local 22222 has now established its exclusive bargaining rights for the office and clerical workers employed by the large concrete shipyard of McCloskey and Co. in that city (see story on this page).

Jacksonville local 23133, having recently established its exclusive bargaining rights for the office and clerical workers at the large St. Johns River Shipyard in that city, is presently engaged in negotiations with the company which will bring about substantial improvements for the more than 1000 workers involved.

At Panama City Local 23300 established its exclusive bargaining rights for the office and clerical workers employed at the J. A. Jones yard in that city, and a signed contract with the company has been executed bringing many benefits to the workers.

Other Gulf Coast Activity

At New Orleans, Local 23383 has rapidly perfected its organization at the Higgins Industries and it is anticipated that a signed agreement with that concern will shortly be obtained.

At Mobile, Ala., Local 23101 has commenced an active drive among the office and clerical workers at the Gulf Shipyard in that city (see story on page 1) and indications point to the fact that many hundreds of workers of our trade will shortly be experiencing the benefits of collective bargaining.

From all indications it is quite apparent that the office and clerical workers in the Gulf Coast area are rapidly awakening to a realization of the fact that through organization they can obtain substantial and needed improvements in their employment conditions.

NLRB Action Filed By Eureka Local

Eureka, Calif., Oct. 18.—Organizational activity by Local No. 23520 among office and clerical workers employed at the Chicago Bridge & Iron Works plant in this city has been accelerated rather than decreased as the company management had hoped when it discharged one of the more active members of the local employed by the company.

Organization of the employees of this company has been under way for the past two months and has been spearheaded by Albin J. Gruhn, secretary of the Humboldt County Central Labor Council, with the assistance of Vice President Carl F. Nelson of our International Council.

Company management, becoming alarmed at the success of the venture, exercised poor judgment in the discharge of one of the more active employees and as a result unfair labor practice charges against the company have been filed with the National Labor Relations Board by the local.

There is little likelihood but that NLRB will order the discharged employee returned to her previous position, and as a result of its action company management will face a militant union membership when negotiations on an agreement begin in the near future.

The local operation of the company is presently given over to the production of vessels for the war effort and it is anticipated that the final agreement to be reached between local union representatives and company management will be patterned closely after existing shipbuilding agreements held by other affiliates of our International Council on the Pacific Coast.

Fontana Campaign Shows Progress

San Bernardino, Calif., Nov. 2.—The organizational campaign being conducted by Local No. 23403 of this city to unionize members of our craft employed at the near-by Fontana Steel Mills is progressing at an ever increasing pace, according to Frances Giddens, secretary-treasurer, and Frank P. Ryan, business representative, of the union.

Officers of the local will shortly notify company management that a majority of our trade has chosen Local No. 23403 as their bargaining representative, following which the formulation and negotiation of an agreement will be all that remains between these workers and greatly improved wages and working conditions. Our International Council is presently supplying the union with data and information valuable to the successful completion of these latter two steps.

Unionization of the office and clerical workers employed by the company is keeping pace with similar activity among production workers with both endeavors being channeled through the local Metal Trades Council. Confident that the production workers will vote overwhelmingly in favor of their American Federation of Labor unions at an NLRB election being held in the near future, causes representatives of Local No. 23403 to have little fear but that members of our craft will show similar preference in the event a similar election is necessary for the office and clerical workers.

Buy an Extra Bond Today