

THE OFFICE WORKER

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

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Struthers-Wells Corp. Agreement Signed

Washington, D. C., Sept. 20.—A joint collective bargaining agreement covering the office workers, technical engineers and draftsmen employed in the iron works division of the Struthers-Wells Corp. of Titusville, Pa., was ratified today by President Foster J. Pratt of the International Federation of Technical Engineers, Architects and Draftsmen's Unions, and by Secretary-Treasurer Paul R. Hutchings of our International Council.

This agreement between the company and Draftsmen's Local Union No. 52 and our Local No. 23466, was negotiated by A. F. of L. Organizer R. A. Warner and Vice President John L. Raimist of the I. F. T. E. A. & D. unions, with the assistance of Commissioner Stainbrook of the U. S. Conciliation Service.

The agreement, which covers recognition of the unions and which establishes their maintenance of membership, also includes all of the working rules exclusive of classifications and wage rates. Failing to reach a satisfactory mutual agreement governing minimum wage rates for the various covered classifications, the parties agreed that they would submit those issues to a hearing officer of the War Labor Board.

The agreement does provide, however, that the work classifications and minimum wage rates shall be established in accordance with the ruling of the War Labor Board, and that they shall be retroactive to September 1, 1943.

Cleveland Organizes American Ship Corp.

Washington, D. C., Oct. 12.—According to information just received from Pearle Hanna, business representative of Cleveland Local No. 19366, organization of the office and clerical workers at the nearby Lorain, Ohio, yards of the American Shipbuilding Corp. is rapidly progressing. A substantial majority of the workers of our trade employed by this company have signed up with our Local 19366, and it is anticipated that the negotiations presently under way with this company by the various metal trades organizations may expand so as to include the office and clerical force as well.

Local 19366 is receiving the wholehearted support and cooperation of the various A. F. of L. organizations whose members are employed in this yard.

British Union Reports Big Membership Gain

Present membership of the British Trades Union Congress is 6,500,000 as against 5,250,000 at the end of 1941, a gain of 1,250,000, according to an unofficial estimate in the annual report of the congress.

Membership of the Transport and General Workers' Union in Great Britain hit a new high of 1,133,165, making it what is said to be the biggest union in the world.

VANCOUVER ORGANIZING ALCOA OFFICE WORKERS

Vancouver, Wash., Oct. 6.—Announcement was made today by Corliss C. Newell, business representative of Local No. 23077 of this city, that the union had inaugurated a program of unionization among office and clerical workers employed by the Aluminum Company of America in its local plant.

The need for improved wages and working conditions has long been evident among members of our craft employed by this company as has their need for union representation on other matters directly effecting their employment. With the assistance of AFL production workers in the same operation it is believed that successful culmination of the campaign is not far distant.

New Kaiser Ship Agreement Signed By Portland and Vancouver Locals

WLB O.K.'s Pay Raises

Minneapolis, Minn., Sept. 30.—The War Labor Board has approved the agreement entered into between Local 17661 and the Star Journal Publishing Co. of this city, according to an announcement made today by Council Vice President and local business representative L. G. Nygren.

The agreement as approved is retroactive to April 1, 1943, and carries with it pay increases for the workers involved.

Portland, Ore., Oct. 11.—Culminating an intense organizational program carried on during recent months a revised agreement was signed today by Locals No. 16821 of this city and 23077 of Vancouver, Wash., with the Kaiser Co., Inc., covering all office and clerical workers employed in the three shipyards operated by this company in the Portland-Vancouver area, according to a joint announcement by Ruby Williams, secretary-treasurer of the Vancouver local and Irving Enna, secretary-treasurer of the Portland union.

The agreement brings increased wages to all office and clerical employees of the company in this region as well as the premium wage differential of 10 and 15 percent for workers on the two night shifts. Signing of this agreement assures union membership to all future workers of our trade employed by the company as well as continuing this practice for those presently organized.

Negotiated into the agreement was the understanding that all parties would join together in petitioning governmental agencies for the application of all zone standards provisions presently enjoyed by metal tradesmen in the shipbuilding industry on the Pacific Coast. In keeping with past practices our International Council is a party to the agreement in behalf of its affiliated unions.

Signing of this agreement brings union wages and working conditions to all office and clerical workers employed by the company in its shipyards on this seaboard. Local No. 20744 of Oakland, Calif., entered into a similar agreement with company management several months ago which contract applies to members of our trade employed in the Richmond, Calif., operations of the company.

Workers employed in the Vancouver, Wash., yard of the company will henceforth become members of Local No. 23077 of that city and effective November 1, 1943 all present members of Local No. 16821, Portland, Ore., employed in the same operation will transfer their membership to the former union.

AFL Convention Endorses Granting of OEU International Charter

Boston, Mass., Oct. 8.—The convention of the American Federation of Labor this afternoon unanimously adopted the report of its organization committee on the subject of an international charter for office employees.

The organization committee, acting on a resolution introduced by the Washington State Federation of Labor which requested the convention to go on record in favor of the granting of an international charter, recommended concurrence in the purpose of the resolution. The organization committee further recommended "that the president and the executive council proceed with the granting of an international charter for office employees at the earliest possible moment, and that the president and executive council render all assistance possible in the construction of a constitution, and otherwise."

The report and recommendation of the organization committee on this resolution was made by the chairman of that committee, W. C. Doherty, who is a vice president of the AFL and a member of its executive council, and also president of the National Association of Letter Carriers. The committee's recommendation on this subject was approved by the convention without a dissenting vote.

The resolution introduced by the Washington State Federation of Labor pointed out that since the formation of our International Council in mid-1942, the membership of our locals has shown a tremendous increase and that innumerable contracts have been negotiated providing for substantial pay increases, as well as improvement in other working conditions.

Labor College Courses Planned

Milwaukee, Wis., Oct. 1.—The educational committee of the Federated Trades Council of this city has again made arrangements for the operation of the Milwaukee Labor College this year.

Members and officers of A. F. of L. unions will have an opportunity to study under competent instructors a variety of subjects including labor and public opinion, world labor events, labor's role in war time, as well as courses in parliamentary law and in collective bargaining. Consideration is also being given to the establishment of a course in operating techniques for unions.

The Labor College will operate on a 2-semester basis. The first 8 weeks semester will start October 18, with the second semester of 10 weeks starting January 10, 1944.

St. Louis Wins NLRB Election

St. Louis, Mo., Oct. 1.—Office employees at Keasbey & Mattison asbestos shingle plant in St. Louis voted over 10 to 1 in the NLRB election last week in favor of representation through Office Employees Local 17707, according to the announcement made by A. F. of L. Organizer Mary E. Ryder, who took a prominent part in the organization of this office.

A. F. of L. Organizer John R. Barr also gave his aggressive cooperation, as did also the members of the Cement, Lime and Gypsum Local No. 36, which has long had satisfactory contractual relationships with the company.

This outstanding victory represents another step in an aggressive campaign being carried on by Local 17707 to thoroughly organize the office employees in the St. Louis area.

Credit Union Sells \$100,000 War Bonds

Tacoma, Wash., Oct. 7.—The Federal Credit Union of Local 20360 of this city, proudly announced today that it has sold more than \$100,000 worth of war saving bonds during the past 18 months. The local union has donated the services of its office equipment and staff as its contribution to this good work of its Credit Union. The office of the local in the Labor Temple is conveniently situated for the many union members to stop and buy bonds each month when they pay their union dues.

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Official organ of the

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF
OFFICE EMPLOYEES UNIONS



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Workers Urged to Vote

"Labor is facing the biggest battle of its life, the battle of the common man and the monopolistic interests that control our economy," is the conclusion of Homer T. Bone, Senator from Washington.

Senator Bone is greatly disturbed at the prospect which faces liberalism in the United States.

"If labor doesn't wake up now, it will be too late," he says. "It must wake the voters among the workers of the country to a realization of what the antilabor group in Congress has in store for labor if they can effect control of a few more Congressmen. First of all, it must get the voters out, get them registered.

"Indifference on the part of workers is the greatest handicap to those who want to do a job for labor and for the common man. The biggest job the unions now face is to prepare the voters for the 1944 elections and to get them to the polls to elect men who have their interests at heart."

Officers of our International Council have consistently urged members of affiliated unions to register so they may exercise the right to vote, while at the same time asking that they pay heed to the candidates endorsed by their state federations of labor and their central labor unions. As has been pointed out previously these groups within organized labor are fully conversant with the attitude of political candidates and they endorse only those candidates who have proven their concern for the welfare of the working people.

The right to cast a ballot is a cardinal principle of our country—use this right judiciously. We should vote for our friends and defeat our enemies.

If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost; there is where they should be. Now put foundations under them.—Thoreau.

State Leader Dies

San Francisco, Calif., Oct. 5—Death today took Edward D. Vandeleur, secretary of the California State Federation of Labor and many years a champion for the working people of this state. While he had been in ailing health for the past year his sudden death proved a severe shock to labor circles not only in this state but throughout the nation.

Vandeleur during his long years of service in the labor movement had contributed greatly to the gains presently enjoyed by all workers in California and his accomplishments had likewise been reflected in neighboring states.

Introducing—Council Officers

Washington, D. C., Oct. 15.—In response to many requests The Office Worker sets forth below in brief detail pertinent facts about the officers of the International Council as will prove of interest to its readers:

President, J. Howard Hicks, a member of Local No. 16821 of Portland, Oreg., who was unanimously reelected for the coming year, served for a number of years prior to assuming his present position with our Council in 1942, as secretary-treasurer of his local. Prior to that time he served his local as vice president, an executive board member, and took an active part in Portland Central Labor Council and at conventions of the State Federation of Labor.

Secretary-Treasurer, Paul R. Hutchings is a member of Local No. 11773 of Washington, D. C., and while working at our trade served as President of this local for four years prior to his election as Secretary-Treasurer of the Council in 1942. Hutchings has had wide experience and is very conversant in labor matters. He was

Labor Mobilizes Against Poll Tax

Washington, D. C.—A. F. of L. President William Green asked officers of national and international unions, state federations of labor, city central bodies and central labor unions to urge members of the United States Senate to support H. R. 7 providing for the abolition of the poll tax, passed by the House of Representatives and now under consideration by the Senate Judiciary Committee.

"No doubt a majority in the Senate will vote in favor of this legislation in the event a vote is taken," Mr. Green said. "For that reason, the minority who oppose this legislation will, according to reports which are widely circulated, conduct a filibuster. They will attempt to defeat this legislation though resort to this form of parliamentary procedure. This means then that the parliamentary rule of cloture must be applied if the Senate is accorded the privilege of voting upon this measure. It will require a two-thirds vote of the Senate to pass the cloture measure."

To counteract this scheme to defeat the poll tax bill by conducting a filibuster, Mr. Green asked the officers of all A. F. of L. unions to urge the Senators from their states to vote for a cloture measure and also in favor of the enactment of the bill.



unanimously reelected to his council post at the recent convention.

Vice President Lawrence G. Nygren is a member of Local No. 17661 of Minneapolis, Minn., and has served his local as financial secretary and business representative for the past 3 years. He benefitted through past trade union experience prior to becoming a member of Local No. 17661.

Vice President, Mildred Erickson is a member of Local No. 16304 of Seattle, Wash., presently serving as business representative of that local. She is a member of long standing with this union and has had wide experience in labor circles in the Pacific Northwest.

Vice President Mollie Levitas, a member of Local No. 20732, Chicago, Ill., can claim longer labor experience than any other officer of our International Council, and she has been active for many years in the Chicago Federation of Labor, where she is employed. She is also corresponding secretary of her local, which position she has held for a number of years.

Vice President, George P. Firth is a member of Local No. 20360, Tacoma, Wash., which he has served as secretary-treasurer and business representative for the past 6 years. Firth has had wide experience in the Tacoma labor movement and has occupied prominent positions with the local central labor union and is an outstanding advocate of workers education.

Vice President, E. Houston Fritts, is a member of Local No. 22899 of Hiwassee Dam, N. C., and has been an employe of the Tennessee Valley Authority for many years. Recently he

was selected to represent the local unions of salaried employes within the TVA by the TVA Office, Technical and Service Employes Council of which he is secretary-treasurer.

Vice President Carl F. Nelson is a member of Local No. 20744 of Oakland, Calif., and has been business representative of this local for the past 4 years. He has also been active in affairs within the Alameda County Central Labor Union, with which his local is affiliated.

Vice President Ethyl M. Williams is a member of Local 21427, Columbus, Ohio, and has served her local faithfully as president since shortly after its inception. She has had wide experience in the legislative field and has proved a capable representative in behalf of local unions in the State of Ohio at sessions of the Ohio legislature.

Vice President, Alice Holz, is a member of Local No. 16456 of Milwaukee, Wis., and has for a number of years been an active member of that local union, serving in numerous capacities, being a bulwark of strength in behalf of her local union. She is presently serving as chairman of the organizing committee of her local, while at the same time carrying out her duties as financial secretary-treasurer of her union.

Vice President Howard J. Coughlin is a member of Local No. 23076 of New York City, and is presently assigned as an organizer for the AFL to service the needs of members of our craft in the area immediately adjacent to New York City. Prior to assuming his present position Coughlin was business manager of his local union and is responsible to a large degree for the growth which it has made since its inception.

Local 18177 Forging Ahead in Canada

Vancouver, B. C., Can., Oct. 11.—Organization of office and clerical workers in this metropolis of western Canada if forging ahead at an ever increasing pace according to statements of officers of Local No. 18177 to a representative of our International Council visiting here.

Under direction of AFL Organizer William Wilson Local No. 18177 has, during recent months, been busily engaged in the unionization of members of our craft employed by the North Van Ship Repair Co., Ltd., and the Burrard Dry Dock Co., Ltd., of this city. Noteworthy progress has been made in the organization of workers of both companies and it is hoped that the union may soon be in position to present the management of each with an agreement to be negotiated covering such workers.

While Provincial law, similar to the National Labor Relations Act in the United States, gives workers the right to unionize without fear of counter measures from their employer, Dominion government practices relative to the stabilization of wages and other measures incumbent upon Canada's war program make the organization of all workers more difficult than in its neighboring ally.

Other Fields Eyed

Indicating that officers and members of Local No. 18177 are not losing sight of the advisability of organization in more stable fields of industry

is the announcement made today that plans are under way for the unionization of workers of our trade employed by the British Columbia Electric Power & Gas Co., and the British Columbia Telephone Co.

Local department and retail stores as well as service industries employing office and clerical workers are also to receive serious consideration from the local union the announcement pointed out.

Local Represented at Quebec Meeting

Vice President Jessie Ross of Local No. 18177 represented her union at the recent convention of the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress held in Quebec. She served the convention as a member of its legislative committee, in which field she has had considerable experience during her long association with British Columbia labor circles.

Extreme interest in the progress and welfare of sister unions in the United States is evident among officers and members of the local union and it is found that problems confronting members of our craft in both countries are parallel. The need for organization of workers of our trade in Canada is no less than in the United States and if the spirit of aggressiveness evidenced in the local union prevails throughout the balance of the dominion, office and clerical workers in Canada can be expected to equal if not exceed their fellow workers to the south.

Wage-Hour Committee Recommends Highest Minimum for Office Workers

Council Officers Participate in Determining Recommendation

New York, N. Y., Oct. 14.—At a meeting held today at the Victoria Hotel in this city, an industry committee established by the Wage and Hour Division of the U. S. Labor Department to study and make recommendations relative to the minimum rate to apply under the Wage and Hour Law to employees in the finance, insurance, real estate, motion picture and miscellaneous industries, unanimously recommended to the administrator of the Wage and Hour Act that the legal minimum for these industries be raised from the present 30-cent rate prescribed by the law, to 40 cents per hour, which is the highest minimum which may be established by the Wage-Hour Law.

Officers of our International Council took an active part in the determinations of the committee. Secretary-Treasurer Paul R. Hutchings and Council Vice President L. G. Nygren were appointed and served as labor members on the committee, and Council Vice President Howard Coughlin testified before the committee on behalf of our International Council and its affiliated local unions.

The committee, which was named by Wage and Hour Administrator L. Metcalfe Walling, consisted of 18 members, 6 representing the public and 6 each representing labor and the employers. In addition to Secretary-Treasurer Hutchings and Vice President Nygren, the AFL membership on the committee included Brother David Sullivan of the Building Service Employees International of New York City. Dr. John A. Lapp of Chicago, one of the public members of the committee served as chairman.

Our International Council made the only public appearance before the

committee. Vice President Howard Coughlin pointed out to the committee that the members of our organization had "no direct monetary interest in establishing a 40 cent minimum wage rate for the clerical and office workers in these industries, since each and every collective bargaining agreement we have entered into provides for far in excess of 40 cents per hour as the minimum wage rate, and further provides for payment of overtime at either time and one-half or double the regular rate at which our members are employed."

Brother Coughlin also stated, however, that we were keenly interested in the determinations of the committee, in that we are speaking for 175 local unions under the jurisdiction of our International Council and affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, which are composed exclusively of office and clerical workers.

The real estate industry did make an attempt to have the committee consider it separately from the other industries. However, this request was voted down and thereafter the committee, without dissent, took action to recommend to the administrator

Convention Held by Chemical Workers

Kansas City, Mo., Sept. 16.—The third annual convention of the International Council of Chemical and Allied Industries Unions concluded in this city today amid signs which bespeak well for its continued outstanding success in the future. Approximately 100 delegates were in attendance representing affiliated unions throughout the entire nation.

Enthusiastic acclaim was given President H. A. Bradley of the International Council following his report to the convention on the progress of the council and its affiliated unions during the preceding year.

Increased action directed toward securing an international union charter was probably the principal interest of the convention, and all delegates pledged themselves and their unions to work diligently in this direction. The no-strike pledge of the American Federation of Labor was reaffirmed by this convention, and it was reported that similar action taken at the 1942 convention had been

that the top legal minimum of 40 cents per hour be established as the minimum wage rate under the law for the finance, insurance, real estate, motion picture and miscellaneous industries, and that no employees in such industries who are engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce should receive less than the 40 cent minimum rate recommended by the committee.

adhered to by all affiliated locals during the past year.

The selection of the 1944 convention city brought a close vote with Cleveland winning out over New York City. All officers of the International Council were unanimously returned for the ensuing year and are as follows: H. A. Bradley, president, Akron; Richard E. Tomlison, secretary-treasurer, Chicago; and Otto Butler, East St. Louis, Ill.; Edward R. Moffet, Freeport, Tex.; Mrs. Nona Frey, Memphis; John E. Lewis, Baltimore; Marshall Shafer, Los Angeles; Cyril A. Moran, Elyria, Ohio; A. Vincent Busby, Jersey City; Gene Carrol, Grand Saline, Tex.; and Roy Funderburk, Newark, vice presidents.

Probably the most interesting speaker to be heard at the convention was Margaret Scattergood of the research department of the AFL, who is also a member of Office Employees Union No. 11773 of Washington, D. C.

Lauded by Hicks

Addressing the convention on its closing day was President J. Howard Hicks of our International Council who told the delegates of the progress of office and clerical workers under the American Federation of Labor as well as of their International Council. Hicks lauded the chemical workers for the conduct of their International Council and told of the assistance and counsel rendered his organization by officers of the former. He pointed out that officers of the International Council of Office Employees Unions are endeavoring to profit by the experiences of other international councils in building their organization.

Also in attendance at the closing day of the convention was Louese Headrick, president of Local No. 21612 of this city.

Buy 25 Four-Motored Bombers



TVA employees buying war bonds through the pay-roll purchase plan have invested enough to permit the purchase of 25 huge 4-motored bombers. Their representatives dedicated the 25th bomber at the Smyrna, Tenn., air base, in a ceremony participated in by Army officials.

Left to right: C. J. Maunsell, electrician, power operations department; George F. Gant, director of personnel; E. A. Courtney, steamfitter, engineering and construction department; James H. Gibson, electrician, representing construction workers; Mrs. Thelma Etheredge, representing office workers; Frank O'Brien, electrical engineer, representing engineering personnel; Edward W. Hastey, general foreman, representing chemical engineering workers; Harvey Stafford, boiler room helper, representing operating workers in the power department; L. L. Huntington, head personnel relations officer; Capt. Harold H. Sweetser, Army Air Director.

Tacoma Holds Party-Dance

Tacoma, Wash., Oct. 7.—A "Pen-Pushers" party and dance was held September 25 and was well attended by the membership of Local 20360, as well as by a number of members of the armed forces who were invited to participate in the fun.

Tacoma's Maccabee's hall was decorated in a Hawaiian motif and leis were distributed to the dancers. The party was most successful and as a result of the enthusiastic support and interest shown, the active social committee of the local will continue its plans for monthly entertainment for local members.

The social committee, consisting of Lena Pettus, Margaret Nyquist, Irene Williams and Dorothy Clark, is now busily engaged in planning the next event of the local's social season—a Hallowe'en masquerade skating party to be held October 29 at the Roller Bowl in Tacoma.

Portland Wins Wage Increases

Portland, Ore., Sept. 16.—According to an announcement made today by Irving Enna, Secretary of Local 16821, the War Labor Board last week approved wage increases amounting to more than \$2 per week for the members of the local employed in the offices of the retail grocery industry of this city.

The increase allowed by the board amounts to an average of approximately 12 percent and the award is retroactive to February 15, 1943. Approximately 125 members of the local will benefit by these gains.

TVA Workers Help In War Bond Drive

Knoxville, Tenn.—According to reports from Vice President E. H. Fritts of our International Council, the average payroll deductions of the TVA salaried employees for the purchase of war bonds is approximately 15 percent, which is the highest rate of bond deductions existing in any government agency. The TVA workers are proud of this record and of the part they are thus playing to help defeat the axis nations.

Sister Thelma Ethredge, who represented the TVA office employees at the recent dedication of the 25th bomber purchased by TVA office employees through their payroll deduction plan, is a member of Office Employees Union No. 22733 of Watts Bar Dam, Tenn.

Job Plan for School Youth Curbed

Washington, D. C.—Three government agencies joined in a declaration against inclusion of school youth "in any employment plan until other sources of labor have been exhausted."

The declaration was part of a statement of policies and standards issued to guide urban communities in establishing part-time school and work program.

Signed by Paul V. McNutt, chairman of the War Manpower Commission; Katharine F. Lenroot, chief of the Children's Bureau of the Labor Department, and Dr. John W. Studebaker, Commissioner of Education, the statement said:

"The first obligation of school youth is to take advantage of their educational opportunities in order that they may be better prepared for citizenship and for service to the nation."

Ship Named for Labor Leader

Portland, Ore., Sept. 10.—The launching recently of the SS Ben T. Osburne from the ways of the Oregon Shipbuilding Corp., in this city brought a lusty cheer from the throats of many an Oregon labor leader witnessing the event. The ship was named after a beloved and respected executive secretary of the Oregon State Federation of Labor who died in 1939 while performing the duties of his position.

Befittingly, Virginia Flynn, a member of Local No. 16821 of this city and long an employe in the office of the State Federation, christened the vessel as it slid into the waters of the Willamette River to begin its journeys of mercy throughout the oceans of the world.

Seattle-Tacoma Negotiations Begin

Seattle, Wash., Oct. 1.—Negotiations are currently underway between representatives of Locals No. 20360 of Tacoma and 16304 of Seattle with the management of the Seattle-Tacoma Shipbuilding Corp. on an agreement applying to a majority of the production clerical workers employed in the two shipyards operated by the company.

Trend of negotiations to date would indicate that a substantial increase in the hourly wage rate paid workers covered by the agreements will be gained. Other benefits presently applying to organized members of our trade employed in this industry on the Pacific Coast are sought.

Representing the Seattle local is its Business Representative Mildred Erickson, while George P. Firth, secretary-treasurer of the Tacoma union, is handling negotiations for workers employed in the company's operation in his city. Both are Vice Presidents of our International Council.

Wage Increase Won

Milwaukee, Wis., Oct. 1.—Negotiations of wage increases ranging from \$2.00 to \$3.00 per week have been completed by Local 16456 with the Herbst Shoe Mfg. Co., covering members of the local employes in the company's offices.

Minneapolis Wins Representation Vote

Minneapolis, Minn., Sept. 30.—Local Union No. 17661 won another significant victory this week when it obtained exclusive bargaining rights for the office employes of the Union Transfer Co. of this city. According to the announcement of business representative L. G. Nygren, the local obtained more than 83 percent of all votes cast by these workers, thus establishing its exclusive bargaining rights with this company.

RINGLESS WEDDINGS FACING 1944 BRIDES

Many of next year's brides will wear wedding rings from dime stores or dispense with the traditional evidence that the marital knot has been tightly tied.

The War Production Board has restricted the use of gold to half of 1941 consumption. The forecast is for an output of not more than 750,000 rings, while marriages are expected to top 2,000,000.

F.D.R. Lauds AFL, Pledges Rollback

Boston—President Roosevelt praised labor's voluntary contributions to the war effort and pledged action to reduce the cost of living in his message to the AFL's 63rd annual convention. He said:

"Please accept my sincere thanks for your invitation to attend and address the Sixty-third Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor in Boston on October fourth. I am sure you will understand that the heavy duties of the present moment make it impossible for me to accept this invitation.

"I desire, however, to take this opportunity to extend to the officers and members of the Federation my cordial greetings on the occasion of the convention. Please assure those in attendance and all of the constituent membership of my gratification at the splendid task that has been done by American wage earners in turning out the munitions and implements of war. The battle of production is being won in every shipyard, machine shop, factory and construction outfit in this country, and the skill, speed and adaptability of American working men and women have made possible the outfitting and equipment of our military forces in record time. The participation of the wage earners of this country not only in the production drive, but in the support of the war effort by the purchase of war bonds, both out of union treasuries and out of personal subscriptions, is one of the items of American life of which we are very proud. In this free country we are proving ourselves able to do voluntarily all that is necessary for the support of the great war effort and to stand back of the brave men who go into combat.

"And while I express my gratification for what you have done in the past, I know that you will share with me the expectation and the challenge that American labor will do more and more until every necessity is met, until every battle is fought, until the victory is won and the peace established. Increasing efforts to maintain present production levels and to increase them in some instances are necessary. The working people will be asked to continue to support the war effort by lending their money and by making sacrifices and modifying their personal habits. These sacrifices all groups in the community are making.

"Many of the members of your unions have gone into the armed services. Many of your sons and brothers are taking their places in the combat lines. Some of your daughters and sisters are exposed to new and strange dangers in the Nursing Corps and in the Auxiliary services. The war is very real to you. The cooperation of American labor in a no-strike policy and in the stabilization of wages to steady our economy are expressions of this realization.

"I ask your continued help in all aspects of the war effort and in the effort to stabilize the domestic economy. We anticipate a good deal of success in the rollback of prices which will stabilize and reduce the cost of living in essentials. For this the informed cooperation of all your members is needed.

"With best wishes for your successful convention, I am

"Very sincerely yours,

"(Signed) FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT."

They Can Cook Too!

Minneapolis, Minn., Sept. 30.—During the recent convention of the Minneapolis State Federation of Labor held in this city, nearly 1,500 delegates and guests partook of the convention banquet which was prepared and served by members of Local 17661, together with the sisters of the Floyd B. Olson Memorial Labor Temple Red Cross Unit, the Women's Trade Union Auxiliaries, and the United Garment Workers.

It was generally agreed that those sisters who so graciously and ably prepared and served the convention

Smokes for Yanks

Washington, D. C.—More than a million union label cigarettes are being sent daily to U. S. armed forces overseas by members of Labor Unions, I. M. Ornburn of the A. F. of L. Union Label Trades Department told a nation-wide radio audience. Ornburn added that thousands of messages of appreciation are being received for the cigarettes, which are all union label brands.

banquet performed an important part in making the annual convention the success which it was.

Retail Credit Office Organizes

San Francisco, Cal., Oct. 1.—According to an announcement made today by business representative Fred Miller of Local 21320, the office employes of the Retail Credit Association of this city, who had previously organized themselves into an independent association, have agreed to abandon their independent organization and to affiliate with our Local No. 21320.

The San Francisco local's negotiations with the State Brewers Institute are still unsettled, and meetings of the two parties with representatives of the U. S. Conciliation Service are being held in an attempt to bring them together under the terms of a mutually satisfactory agreement.

The union's negotiations for its members employed in the wholesale drug industry are still continuing, and it is hoped that a mutually satisfactory agreement on wages may shortly be reached.



MOBILE unit shown above is typical of those which visit towns near 33 cities in which Red Cross Blood Donor Centers are located. Unit has full equipment, staff of doctors and nurses.

Jacksonville Wins NLRB Certification

Washington, D. C., Sept. 22.—The National Labor Relations Board today certified Office Employees Union No. 23133 as the exclusive bargaining agency for all office and clerical employes of the St. Johns River Shipbuilding Co. at Jacksonville, Fla. The NLRB's certification was based upon the result of an election which it conducted on September 7 among these workers and in which election Local 23133 received 87 percent of all votes cast, thus establishing its exclusive bargaining rights for the workers of our trade employed by this company.

Today's action by NLRB in certifying the local union as the exclusive bargaining agency is the last formal step necessary, and the local union is now commencing negotiations on a working agreement with the company covering wages, hours and employment conditions for all office and clerical workers in this yard.