Jacksonville Sweeps Election
At St. Johns River Shipyard

Jacksonville, Fla., Sept. 7.—Rolling up an impressive 87 percent affirmative vote at an election held today among office and clerical employees of the St. Johns River Shipbuilding Co., officers of Local No. 22135 immediately began preparation of an agreement to be submitted the company management for negotiation.

The election held today by the National Labor Relations Board culminated a campaign begun several months ago to gain bargaining rights for members of our craft employed by the company.

Management of the company had previously refused to recognize the union as the representative of the workers despite the high showing it was able to make and as a result a formal NLRB hearing was held on July 22, following which today’s election was ordered.

At the hearing held before an NLRB trial examiner company representatives vigorously contended that such workers as: He clerks, messengers, stenographers, telephone operators, typists and timekeeping department employees should not be included in an appropriate bargaining unit. However, union representatives strongly argued against exclusion of these workers at the time and subsequently requested our International Convention officers to present a brief to NLRB in support of their contentions.

It is felt locally that the supporting brief filed by Council officers played a prominent part in gaining the inclusion of these workers in the bargaining unit.

While strong resentment was felt toward NLRB for barring such employees as expeditors, senior material billers, production dispatchers, unit heads in the various offices, receptionists, senior frame workers, clerks, accountants, auditors, statisticians, and workers in the personnel and labor relations departments, officers of the local union were nonetheless undaunted in the intenseness of the campaign they

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Prominent At Detroit Convention

Oil Equipment Negotiations Begin

Titusville, Pa., Aug. 31.—Negotiations were under way today between AFL Organizer R. A. Warner and the management of the Struthers-Wells Corp., manufacturers of oil well drilling equipment and heavy machinery, on a contract to apply to office and clerical workers employed by the company.

The negotiations are the climax of Organizer Warner’s desire to make this company 100 percent union throughout, and their successful completion is expected to open a large field for organization of similar work in western, central Pennsylvania.

Organized at the same time as the office workers were the technical engineers, architects and draftsmen who were, likewise, having the assistance of Organizer Warner in the drafting and negotiation of their agreement.

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Increase Won Dairy Employees

Pittsburgh, Pa., Aug. 27—Local No. 2060 of this city has received an award of $16 per month increase for members of the local employed by the Rieck McJunkin Dairy Co. This increase and other provisions of the recently negotiated agreement are retroactive to April 15, 1943.

Game Won In Department Stores

President and business representative Helen M. Griffiths of the local has reached an understanding with the management of Kaufman’s Department Store whereby members of the union employed by the company will receive a $6 per month increase in salary, retroactive to November 1, 1942. It is anticipated that no trouble will be faced in gaining approval of this increase and the retroactive pay from WLB.

The 1942-43 agreement between the union and local department stores is anticipated to be signed within the next few days. This increase previously gained wages adjustments for office and clerical workers employed in this industry and in addition assured the union of a union security clause and a reduction of peak employment weeks from 8 to 6.

Dairy Recognition Forced

Although holding bargaining rights from a substantial majority of office

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CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS
Executive Officers Returned Unanimously; St. Louis Selected For 1944 Meet


The convention was held at the Detroit Athletic Club.

The meeting was opened by the executive council at the end of the session.

The Reverend Irwin C. Johnson, president of St. Johns Episcopal church, Detroit, gave the regional director J. N. Cunningham of the American Federation of Labor extended felicitations to the delegates and assured them of the cooperation and assistance of his office during their stay in the city.

Watt Principle Speaker

The principal speaker at the convention was Robert W. Watt, international representative of the American Federation of Labor, who brought to the meeting the greetings of President William Green, who was unable to attend because of the A. F. of L. Executive Council meeting currently being held in Chicago.

Prefacing his remarks, Watt dwelt upon the past problems of the unionization of office and clerical workers, declaring that the past opposition of members of our craft to organization was partly broken down when the depression destroyed the imagined security of the salaried employee and made the office and manufacturing workers companions on the bricks.

Declaring that the differences be

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The Coming Year

The conclusion of the first year in the functioning of our International Council can be best measured by all of us as the point at which we embark upon a more active program, and, in the light of our progress, march forward... 

Columbus, Ohio, Aug. 25.—While negotiations, 21427 of this city, at the convention of the Ohio State Federation of Labor, Vice President Attends State Meet 

Phoenix, Ariz., Aug. 19.—Local 23737 of this city is beginning negotiations for members of our craft employed by contractors in this city and the State, according to C. W. Weedon, president of the union.

Our International Council has supply information to the local unions which will be helpful in the conduct of the negotiations which are being made. Under the supervision of President President, a native of Ohio, formerly a member of the State Senate, sponsored the Smith-Connelly bill, labeling it as reflecting "the principles of Hitler's slave labor policies." He filed an amendment to remove passage of the bill thus, "Any congressman who voted for that bill is a blackmailer and I'm against him.

Monument to the sojourner of President Green in the Ohio Senate is the Ohio Farmer's Union, which is looked upon today as a model for such legislation. In speaking of it he spoke of the state legislature he says, "I believe that law is the greatest thing in my career.

The delegetes at the convention recalled the present head of the AFL as an outspoken champion of the rights of the working people, where he came to the state in the early days of his career, as a coal miner in eastern Ohio. Many were in those days in the mines and had beseeched mine owners to stand together, collectively, as the only means of redress against a system of working conditions and ungrudgingly.

As a youth, while working as a newsboy, he received a lashing from the ministry while engaged in these studies he became more keenly aware of the need for a better way of living for the working people of our nation. Turning from his studies he began the study of the labor movement. The last thirty years any one can compare the contributions to the recognition, welfare and economic betterment of the working people of this nation. He is truly a great man, kindly and always softspoken.

of the working people and not those who would sell us short when an extra sack of flour is thrown on the scales. Members of our local unions should materially increase their interest in the labor movement within their cities and states for they can make a valuable contribution in the guiding of these bodies. Our knowledge, experience and the weight of those we represent is sought by leaders in organized labor. We should not shirk this duty and this opportunity to serve for the utmost for the betterment of all working people.

Our local unions are fettered by individuals motivated by lust and the desire to control through manipulation of the masses. The evil will be to be on the alert to guard against any such encroachment on the members of our union. There are barriers to be surmounted but we are able, intelligent and filled with the spirit of our fathers. They can be overcome. We have confidence in our own ability to scale the heights which confront us. We are the leaders of the people, not the followers. We are the leaders of the people and we look toward us for succor. By our own determination we will not and cannot fail.

NEW AGREEMENT BEING NEGOTIATED

Oakland, Calif., Aug. 20.—At a membership meeting held this week, the president, who represents a new collective bargaining agreement for the work of Local No. 20744, was elected president of the union, according to President G. B. Goodey, who held union affiliation prior to his becoming a member of Local No. 20744. He attended this convention of the International Council as a delegate from his union.

Oakland, Calif., Aug. 20.—At a membership meeting held this week, the president, who represents a new collective bargaining agreement for the work of Local No. 20744, was elected president of the union, according to President G. B. Goodey, who held union affiliation prior to his becoming a member of Local No. 20744. He attended this convention of the International Council as an observer from his union.

Jacksonville (Continued from Page 1)

waged to see that all workers voted at the election. The large percentage of workers who voted to give the union this right, and the smashing victory they scored gave ample evidence of their desire for union representation today and alleviation from the wages and working conditions which they have endured. Last year a council of company officials began construction of liberty ships and is building for the President. It is true.

Southern Representative George L. Cooge of the AFL assisted Lorraine Rhoades, president of the local, at the P.R.B. hearing and assurance was given that he will likewise give his able assistance in the negotiation of the agreement in the near future. The agreement to present the company's management is being drafted by a committee comprised of workers within the company offices and they are being assisted by officers of the union. Agreements covering similar work in ships employed in Gulf and Pacific Coast shipyards are being utilized in this agreement.

The company is now at work on a new dock which is also material supplied by our International Council.

Dairy Employees

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and clerical workers employed by 20959 had been unable to gain recognition from the management of this company until they filed with the President Mediation Department. The union was unprepared, even in the offices of the company, to meet this recognition but when asked that the union was prepared to take more drastic action agreed to the recognition. Negotiations are expected to begin immediately on an agreement for the benefit of the union employed by the company.
Delegates Herald Detroit Convention As Precedent Making; Much Progress Noted

Canadian Local Represented

Detroit, Mich., Aug. 19—All delegates in attendance at the 1943 convention of our International Council, which ended today, enjoyed the opportunity to meet observers sent to Detroit from Local No. 23302 of Fort William, Ontario, Canada.

Robert M. Haverty, vice president, represented this local and made a most favorable impression and won many friends for their union among the delegates in attendance. Both addressed the convention and expressed sincere pleasure at the opportunity to be in Detroit, and noted with pleasure the progress and aggressiveness of our International Council, its officers and delegates at the 1943 convention.

While not generally known but to a few of the delegates, Walker was recently released from British and Canadian hospitals after recovering from injuries received in the bombing of London in 1941.

The membership of Local No. 23302 is employed for the most part by the Canadian Car & Foundry Co., at present manufacturing aircraft parts used in the construction of planes for the Allied Nations.

Both Walker and Haverty discussed problems directly associated with the functioning of their union and the betterment of wages and working conditions sought for their membership with officers of our International Council and with those delegates attending the convention who had the benefit of prior experience in this field.

Detroit Entertain Convention Delegates

Detroit, Mich., Aug. 19—As a climax to the successful convention of our International Council, Local No. 3812, host to the convention, this evening tendered a dinner dance in the Detroit Labor Temple to all delegates, guests and invited members of the local union. Unionists prominent in Detroit labor circles also were present.

Both the dinner and dance were held in the ballroom of Detroit's new and beautiful Labor Temple, and out-of-town delegates and guests observed the excellence of the dinner and thoroughly enjoyed the dancing and refreshments provided during the evening.

On the first evening of the convention Local No. 3812 entertained its out-of-town guests with a boat ride on the Detroit river to Bob-Lo Island, one of Detroit's amusement parks on the Canadian side of the river, an hour and a half from the center of the city by excursion steamer.

While the trip to and from Bob-Lo boat was the highlight of the evening, all delegates to the convention relaxed and enjoyed themselves immensely through the facilities available at the amusement park.

Prior to leaving Detroit and the hospitality which was so graciously extended, all delegates were of the firm conviction that future conventions would be most successful if they measure up to the 1943 Detroit convention.

PIITTSBURGH HAS NEW PRESIDENT

Pititsburgh, Pa., Aug. 27—Succeeding Louise M. Wiescke, who recently resigned the position, Helen M. Griffiths has been elected president of Local No. 20959, according to an announcement made today.

President-elect Griffiths has had long years of experience in the Pittsburgh labor movement, and her selection for this position by the membership of her union is expected to bring increased prestige and cooperation to the local. Among her past union activities was that of secretary of the education committee of the Pittsbish Central Labor Union, where she performed in an outstanding manner.

Highlights

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Highlights

(Continued from Page 3)

ing: “Those who smear American workers are doing a disservice to the world, and this is a real challenge to socialism.”

Most of them are the kind who argue against labor’s demand for higher wages and better working conditions. Some are now criticizing those who are really fighting for the right to keep on land, or even living in a foreign country. Others are trying to destroy the gains made by labor-management cooperation, which has never been equalled by similar action in other countries, Watt declared: “One of the greatest developments of this is the growth of labor-management in war industry plants.”

The period of postwar days and the rehabilitation of members of the armed forces, as well as those employed in war industries, Watt declared: “A far higher proportion of the unit price of any product should go to the workers to whom it is due, not merely as a reward for their labor, but in order to enable them to purchase the products of their own labor. The only way we can maintain the activity of economic circulation which will be necessary to support the needed production volume of $100,000,000,000 when the war ends. Collective bargaining and good labor-management relations in this need are for the welfare of decent business after the war as it is for labor.”

Watt scored the transformation of organized labor for their exaggerated assertions about absenteeism and low hours during labor disputes, saying: “Recent available figures show that the amount of three-hundredths of 1 percent of man hours and weeks unaccounted for by industrial relations is not something to be cope with, but pointed out that “incessant bad housing and transportation difficulties” are the principal causes for absenteeism as today.

Answering the conservative element in our country, Watt stressed the fact that now is the time to begin national planning on such matters as employment and job insurance, and that the means should be found to assure all workers and their families of health insurance and he added: “Labor fights today for the same wages and working conditions that confronted labor throughout the country as a whole.”

The convention included Dr. Edward W. Ritchie, general director of the War Labor Board, who gave a most interesting address on the unions’ future role in the office of safety and health, and was able to enlighten many of the delegations on the subject of the WLB’s administration and its time to their contact with the WLB. The convention was also addressed by John H. Jennings, a representative of the Congress of Industrial Organizations of the U.S. Department of Labor, who gave an interesting summary of the activities of this agency and told of recent successes which the Cooperation has had in settling labor disputes.

A large number of resolutions were presented to the convention and favorable results will be followed. The convention saw the drafting of new resolutions that will be submitted to the WLB for its consideration.

Other resolutions adopted at the convention included one opposing the use of the executive branch of the federal government to set uniform prices for any commodity in any city unless “the issuance of such dual charter is necessary and essential to the war effort.” The constitution provided that the board and its director were to be set up as an independent body, free from any political influence.

Other resolutions urged the continuation of the activity of the Central Labor Committee and the organization of additional members of the craft. The resolutions urged the continuation of the activity of the Central Labor Committee and the organization of additional members of the craft. The Central Labor Committee consists of the Council of State Federations and City Central bodies in behalf of our trade.

The convention passed a resolution against the AFL asking for the return of the AFL to the office of labor and a resolution asking for the return of the AFL to the office of labor. The convention also passed a resolution asking the AFL to return to the office of labor.

THE OFFICE WORKER

UNION MEMBER-launches LIBERTY SHIP

Oakland, Calif., Aug. 8—Mary Beth O’Neill, a member of Local No. 20744 of this city, today launched the traditional bottle of champagne against the bow of the liberty ship William Keith, named for a colonial governor, presented to the United States Navy by the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations.

Attractive Mary Beth is employed at Richwood Shipyard Number 2 of the Kaiser Co., Inc. and won the privilege of christening the ship as the result of a drawing held among all employees of the yard. The William Keith was built by the American Federation of Labor at the same shipyard.

Local No. 20744, which holds bargaining rights for a majority of clerical and workers employed in shipyards, including the East Bay area, is jointly owned by the American Federation of Labor and its newer members and hopes the William Keith will have many successful voyages.

Dry Dock Company Being Organized

Galveston, Tex., Aug. 25—Local No. 20690, of this city, is busily engaged in organizing members of our craft employed by the Galveston-Dry Dock Co., according to A. Kelly, recording secretary of the union.

The union is progressing more rapidly than officials of the local had hoped and steps are already under way to further its plans. A date will be patterned after shipbuilding and ship-repair agreements presently in effect. The union is affiliated with our International Council.

Conciliation Service Effective

Buffalo, N. Y.—Dr. John R. Steelman, director of the United States Conciliation Service, said that 14,289 labor disputes had been settled by the service’s 275 commissioners in the United States during the month of July. An average of 28 a day.

The spirit of cooperation and unity in the labor movement is facing a large measure for the tremendous advance in production, Dr. Steelman said. There will be all workers together; we have sacrificed together; we have resolved differences around the nation.

The Conciliation Service, he said, had been operating in peace as well as during war. “Without cooperation or force—without orders or recommendations.”

The settlements have come, as we have encouraged the parties to find a common ground of mutual interest and to jointly carry on the work of progress that has been built we have attempted to help the parties find their solution to their problems,” Dr. Steelman declared.

He said that he believed in “the power of effective conciliation to heal the wounds of conflict,” and added:

“I know that peace in industry is not possible now than at any other time in our history. When workers have a dispute, they can sit down and settle it with conciliation. We have advised them to work peacefully and will of free men. It is because of this free will that American workers are achieving their present record of production”

Council Officers On Wage Panel

Washington, D. C.—Sept. 10.—With the Wage and Hour Division of the United States War Labor Board, the board held two special hearings on the war agriculture and industrial relations. The board decided to hold a special hearing in New York City on October 14 to increase the minimum wage paid to married women workers employed in stock exchanges and bond brokerage houses in New York City.

Vice President Lawrence G. Nygren and Secretary-Treasurer Paul H. Readman were present to represent the American Federation of Labor, and it was announced today by William J. Scholz, President, and Howard Hicks, who made the selection.

It is anticipated that representatives of New York City labor will attend with our International Council and Vice President Howard J. Coughlin to the board to assist in reaching a decision.

Explain S. S. Act To New Members

Washington, D. C.—Due to the extremely rapid growth of membership in our union, it is quite possible that many of the new members are not acquainted with their rights under the Social Security Act. For this reason the Social Security Board is eager to send its representatives to make a presentation and an additional clarification on the act.

There is a Social Security Board in place to understand its application and it should be contacted for any information regarding the act. Such matters as Medicare benefits, unemployment claims, unemployment benefits, qualifications for the same as well as the payments to be made, and why it is important to keep only one social security card indicate the scope of knowledge every worker should have on this subject.

A very attractive booklet has recently been issued by the Social Security Board answering all of these and other questions. Our International Council urges that it be studied and copies of this leaflet for distribution to those of its members in need of the information.

The policies and procedures which were adopted, and it will prove especially necessary for that of its desire to adhere to the principles and policies of the AFL. The appreciation and acknowledgment of those favorable consideration extended to local unions affiliated with the council from all sources were evidenced by every local. Organizers working under the direction of Secretary-Treasurer Frank P. Fenton were encouraged for their efforts in behalf of our local unions and for the valuable service they have rendered during the year. The organization of additional members of our craft. The resolutions urged the continuation of the activity of the Central Labor Committee and the organization of additional members of the craft. The Central Labor Committee consists of the Council of State Federations and City Central bodies in behalf of our trade.

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