

The Office Employees Letter

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PROGRESS

Business Agent Probey at the January meeting reported on the progress of negotiations with representatives of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees Alliance Local 209 and the representatives of the National Association of Letter Carriers.

During the month the executive committee of Local 209 Hotel and Restaurant Employees Alliance submitted our proposal to their membership at their regular monthly meeting for approval. This proposal provides for a substantial adjustment in wages for the administrative clerk, guarantees the customary sick leave and vacation benefits, includes all legal holidays, as well as other benefits incorporated in our model agreements. It is reported that the action taken by the membership was favorable. However, at press time, no confirmation was available from representatives of Local 209.

The N. A. L. C. proposal sent to William J. Gorman, national secretary, on December 14, 1943, was referred to the executive body of that organization, which met in Washington early in January. To date our local has had no reply to the action taken by that body. However, the executive committee of 11773 and President Probey are confident that negotiations will be completed satisfactorily.

Representatives of 11773 were requested to review the existing contract covering members at Retail Clerks, which was negotiated several years ago, and which does not include the administrative clerk category. President Probey met with Mr. Yates of the local and members of the executive committee to discuss the establishment of that category and to provide that coverage for one of our members whose responsibilities are of an administrative nature. This likewise was recommended to the membership by the executive committee, and was accepted and approved. In this connection an endorsement to the original contract will be drawn providing for this addition to the contract.

4TH WAR LOAN DRIVE

We office workers are on the "Home Front," and besides the many, many responsibilities we have in this war effort, our Government has again called upon us, all of us, to support this new bond drive.

President Green has launched the 4th War Loan Drive among the workers here at home, and we office workers are an important part in labor's program of assisting our country and her financial burden.

Just a year ago there appeared in the January issue an editorial written by Margaret Schroebel, "A War Bond." That editorial is worth reprinting for it shows just what that \$25 bond did for the soldier in Tunisia; the equipment on Guadalcanal, and important to you—a "guarantee for our way of life." You have read in your daily papers of the offensive war we are now waging.

Those bonds you bought last year made that possible for that all-important progress among the Allied Nations. But more and more bond purchases must be made. You must continue to make every sacrifice. The January, 1943, "A War Bond" editorial, follows:

What are these crawling, creeping pieces of paper that ~~are~~ looking down? They have some figures on the face and some words that read "United States of America." They are at once a sacrifice and an investment, and my own personal symbol of my love for my country and for what it stands.

This one here—this \$25 bond, they tell me, will put so many bullets into the hands of the soldier who fights in Tunisia. This \$50 bond helps pay for the machine gun on Guadalcanal, whose withering fire mows down the advancing Jap hordes. This third bond will partially equip a sailor boy on the submarine-infested Atlantic. But more than that, these bonds are my personal protest against the atrocities in Poland and the starvation in Greece; against the degradation of once proud nations which will be proud again;

against the brutalizing of men and the abasement of women.

"Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition" is more than a popular song. It is the spirit of America, and we have got to keep on passing the ammunition so we can keep on praising the Lord, each in his own way and without the shadow of that fear that now lays over Europe like a curse. Each bond you buy is a share in America and a guarantee for our way of life; for your right to hold a union card and exercise union privileges; for movies on Saturday night and church on Sunday morning; for your right to bring up your children in the traditional American way, striving always to give them a little bit more than you had yourself.

You know how these bonds work; that in 10 years three dollars will get you four; and that you can cash these bonds after 60 days. (As union members, however, we should resolve that only the most dire emergency will cause us to cash a bond.) You wouldn't snatch back the bullets, or the machine gun, would you? One last thought—if the sacrifice makes you groan, just think of one thing—the growing rows of 6-foot mounds where sleep America's heroes. They died for you.

If you are buying bonds on the payroll plan, or any other plan, good! If not, how about it? It's your country too!

JOIN THE MARCH OF DIMES
FIGHT INFANTILE PARALYSIS
JANUARY 14-31

NEXT
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, Feb. 1, 1944
8:00 P. M.
Chantilly Room
HAMILTON HOTEL
Bring Your Dues Book

THE OFFICE EMPLOYEES LETTER

Published Monthly by

OFFICE EMPLOYEES UNION No. 11773

Affiliated with American Federation of Labor and International Council of Office Employees Unions

208 National Union Building
Washington, D. C.

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 W. R. Probey.....Business Representative

NATIONAL 3870

THE FORGOTTEN ARMY

In America's march toward victory, we are winning one decisive battle unrecorded in either the military or the industrial an-



SHISHKIN

nals of war. The heroes of this battle have earned little public notice and no public reward. For this battle is being fought with pens and pencils as hand weapons—with typewriters, calculators and punchcard machines as mechanized equipment. The army which is fighting this battle is the white collar army. This army is over ten million strong.

Stenographers, typists and bookkeepers in private industry and in the government translate war requirements into orders, estimates, production schedules and shipments. Draftsmen turn ideas into blueprints and working plans. Telegraph, telephone, and radio workers keep our vast communications system pulsating in time with the war demands. Railway and shipping clerks work day and night to have the vital shipments assembled, routed and shipped on time.

Without these white collar workers, no ships can be launched and no planes can roll off production lines. Yet you don't see them honored at ship launchings and they get no pennant when war production records are broken. The sense of their own contribution to the nation's effort is their own reward. So it is, too, with the white collar workers—from highly skilled professional workers to store clerks—who perform the tasks essential to make our civilian economy operate smoothly in time of war. These men and women often have to carry double and triple work loads. They must work long hours at an intensified pace. They have given much of their effort, their strength and their health to critically needed war work. But

BOWLING NEWS

January 14: The National Federation of Post Office Clerks are in first place with 30 games to their credit. The Firefighters and Hi-Skorers are tied with 28 wins each, while the Firefighters have second listing, determined by their higher pin fall.

Alice Pricci of the Firefighters made a storm play last night, obtaining four strikes. This gives her a total of 20, and she is now in a tie with Helen Downey of Ransdell, Inc., for the honor of having the highest number of strikes in the league.

The majority of our girls supported the War Bond Bowling Tournament held from December 5 through January 9. The prizes have not as yet been made public.

COMMITTEES

Auditing — Martin Joynt, chairman; Bernard Greene, Bernard Eberts.

Organization — Robert Greenwood, chairman.

Membership — Elizabeth McAlinden, chairman.

Sick—Belle Burrows, chairman.

Entertainment — Frances O'Donnell, chairman.

Wage Analysis—Mozelle Crozier, chairman.

Postwar Planning — Paul Hutchings, chairman.

they have remained the nation's forgotten army in this war.

A. F. of L. white collar unions, as spokesmen for this strategic army, will speak to Congress and to the American people at the Senate hearings scheduled to begin on January 25. They will speak for you and make your voice heard. Every office worker must give his union full and active support in the effort to gain national recognition of the war problems faced by all white-collar wage-earners.

**USE OUR UNION LABEL
O E U
11773**

AT ALL TIMES

W. ROBERT PROBEY, President,
Office Employees Union, No. 11773,
208 National Union Bldg.,
Washington, D. C.

I am a member of the Union employed in the office of.....

As of..... I have purchased a
DATE
total of \$..... worth of War Bonds and Stamps.

DO YOU KNOW?

By JOHN T. BURKE

AFL Liaison Officer to OPA

That, although you might not guess it to hear some people talk, the OPA did not bomb Pearl Harbor.*

That, contrary to popular belief, the OPA has nothing to do with the way bread is cut or pants are cuffed.

That the OPA is not even responsible for the issuance of the shiny pennies which many people confuse with dimes.

That the WPB and the War Food Administration, not the OPA, determine what goods are rationed and when they are rationed.

That the OPA calculates food ration point values on the basis of civilian food allocation made by the WFA.

That the agricultural prices on which all food prices depend can be set only by agreement between the OPA and the War Food Administration—and then only if agricultural price parity provisions of the Price Acts are met.

That the OPA has an average of less than 1 investigator for each county in the United States.

That these investigators have not only to check on violations of gas, tire, food and other rationing regulations, but also on ceiling prices at manufacturing, wholesale and retail levels.

That of the 222,000 people working with the OPA, 167,000 serve without pay.

That the annual cost per person of supporting the OPA is \$1.27.

That the OPA has already saved the average family of this country \$700 each.

That the OPA has saved the government sixty-four billion dollars by holding down the cost of war materials.

*Credit for this slogan goes to Eddy Orcutt, editor of Labor Leader.

JACKPOT WINNER

Sister Audrey Delaney, employed at A. F. of L. headquarters, was the lucky winner of the \$2 in War Savings Stamps at the January meeting.

BUY MORE BONDS