

THE OFFICE WORKER

Official Organ of the Office Employees International Union of the A. F. of L.

No. 4

WASHINGTON, D. C., APRIL, 1945

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NLRB Election Set for May 1 At Big Iowa Ordnance Plant

Burlington, Iowa.—A substantial majority of the more than 400 office and clerical workers at the Iowa Ordnance Plant have authorized Local 111 to represent them as their collective bargaining agent, it was announced by L. G. Nygren, national organizer and a vice president of the Office Employees International Union.

The management has agreed to an NLRB consent election which will be held from 6 A. M. to 6 P. M. on May 1. All office and clerical workers should vote for the union so that they can obtain the full benefits of collective bargaining.

The local was set up by Nygren and an application was made for a charter, which was granted by the International, the local being designated as No. 111.

Valuable assistance was rendered in developing the organization by E. J. Reid, business representative of the International Association of Machinists, and Martin Baner, president of the Burlington Trades and Labor Assembly.

The entire Burlington AFL movement has given 100 percent cooperation in the effort to secure to the office and clerical workers the benefits of collective bargaining, which the bulk of other workers at the plant now enjoy through their affiliation with the Machinists.

Members of the local are moving right along. They have set up negotiating and organizing committees and are going to work on drafts of a contract, which will eventually be presented to the management, under the guidance of Nygren. The organizing committee is devoting itself to further perfecting organization and it is expected that an overwhelming majority will result from the forthcoming election.

GREYHOUND ELECTION WON BY BIG MARGIN

Jacksonville, Fla.—Office and clerical workers of the Southeastern Greyhound Lines here chose the Jacksonville local of the Office Employees International Union as their collective bargaining agent by a vote of 63 to 10 in an election conducted this month by the National Labor Relations Board.

The local will submit a proposed contract after certification is received from the NLRB.

The company had opposed the local's request for the election on technical grounds, which were overruled after a hearing was held in Jacksonville. Lorraine S. Rhodes, chairman of the local union organizing committee, and Larry G. Faulconer presented the case for the local.

CELEBRATION

Portland, Ore.—A dance and card party at the Masonic Temple is being held May 1 by Local 11 in celebration of the establishment of the International Union and the local's affiliation with it.

Unionization of Office Employees Making Progress

San Diego, Calif.—Under the guidance of Virginia Woodruff, business representative, Local No. 20282 is making steady progress in the unionization of office workers in this city. The program of the local union is meeting with the wholehearted cooperation and support of the A.F.L. movement locally, and it is anticipated that it will result in vastly improved wages and working conditions for many office workers in this area.

Receiving immediate attention of Business Representative, Woodruff, and in cooperation with unions already holding bargaining rights for workers of their trade employed by the concern, is the San Diego Electric Railway Co., which operates the municipal transportation system.

It has been reported that the Electrical Workers' Union, as well as the local union of the Amalgamated Association of Street, Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employees of America, are lending strong support to this organizational endeavor.

Other undertakings which as yet have not been announced by the local union are slated for early action, and prospects are bright that these activities will result in a greater degree of organization among office workers in this city.

2 New Locals in Canada Chartered

Washington, D. C.—Announcement has been made by J. Howard Hicks, Secretary-Treasurer of the International Union, that among the first applications received for the establishment of new local unions of our trade were two received from Gatineau, Quebec, and Dalhousie, New Brunswick, Canada.

The former union is being brought into existence among workers of our trade employed by the International Paper Co. through the efforts of A.F.L. Organizer Russell Harvey. Enthusiastic support of the new local union has been reported by Organizer Harvey, who anticipates that the establishment of this union, to be known as "Local No. 110," will lend further impetus to the unionization of office workers in eastern Canada.

J. B. Dastous, President, Pulp and Sulphite Workers' Union No. 146, is the guiding force behind the new union, which was recently chartered among office workers employed in the Dalhousie operation of the same company, and which is further indicative of the desire for unionization by workers of

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Plan Negotiations With Watch Firm

Ludington, Mich.—Following application made by Verna Corrigan, A.F.L. Organizer, word has been received locally of the chartering of a local union in this city by the Office Employees International Union.

The new union, known as "Local No. 113," will negotiate its first agreement with the Star Watch Case Co., of this city, manufacturers of watch cases but presently engaged in the manufacture of precision tools. Organizer Corrigan is enthusiastic over the establishment of this new local union, and is confident that its establishment will materially assist the A.F.L. movement in the state of Michigan.

Secure \$100,000 in Back Pay For Workers at Walsh-Kaiser

Providence, R. I.—Local No. 76 has obtained for its members employed at the Walsh-Kaiser shipyards of this city retroactive wage adjustments totaling close to \$100,000, according to Raymond J. Jamieson, president and business representative of the local.

These retroactive payments date back, in most instances, to July 2, 1944—the effective date of the union shop contract negotiated by the local with this company.

Amounts as high as \$596 have already been received as retroactive adjustments by 855 office and clerical workers employed in this yard.

The retroactive adjustments are a direct result of the new wage schedule for each classification of work which was negotiated as a part of the July 2 contract and subsequently approved, with some modification, by the Shipbuilding Commission of the War Labor Board.

Local union Vice President Angelo Aiello and Secretary-Treasurer James MacMillan, together with President and Business Representative Jamieson and the stewards of the local, have worked on the classification and slotting of employees into the approved rate ranges, with the assistance of Paul R. Hutchings, president of the International Union.

START ORGANIZING WORKERS AT BANK

Cleveland.—An organizing campaign is under way among the workers at the Cleveland Trust Co., one of the largest banks in the north-central states. More than 1,000 office and clerical workers in the main office and 46 local branches are eligible for membership.

They are organizing into Local 17, and are receiving the assistance of the local union officers and its Business Representative, Pearl Hanna. A.F.L. Organizer Jesse Gallagher is giving active assistance.

Organizational plans were more fully developed at a conference early this month of a large group of key workers with Paul R. Hutchings, International President; officers of Local 17 and A. F. of L. Organizer Gallagher.

A series of meetings is scheduled, and several have already been held.

Plan Drive For Transit Employees

Baltimore, Md.—In response to the request of office and clerical workers employed by the Baltimore Transit Co., Local No. 22, of this city, is formulating plans for an organizational drive among workers of our trade employed by the company, according to Helen Harvey, secretary-treasurer of the union.

In the transit company undertaking, Local No. 22 has the wholehearted support and cooperation of the local union of the Amalgamated Association of Street, Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employees of America, which, after a bitter fight with the company, now represents all operators and various other workers coming within its jurisdiction.

Secretary-Treasurer Harvey and members of the organizing committee of Local No. 22 have announced heartening results as a result of the increased emphasis being placed on organization by this local union.

Workers Organize At Two More Firms

New York City.—The office employees of Scott Brothers unanimously authorized Office Employees' Local 23076 to represent them in negotiations with the company, it was announced by Business Manager Howard Coughlin.

It is anticipated that, upon certification, negotiations for improved wages, proper classifications, elimination of inequities within classifications, and other pertinent improvements will be contained in the agreement to be submitted to the company.

The office workers of the Kiener Williams Stamping Co., of Richmond Hills, also unanimously selected Local 23076 as their collective bargaining agent. Negotiations with the management have been started.

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OFFICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION



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1221 G Street, N. W.
Washington 5, D. C.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

Entered in the Post Office at Wash-
ington, D. C., as second-class mail matter.



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Subscription Price, \$1 a Year

Manpower Victory

Every office worker may be profoundly grateful that there are fearless men in the U. S. Senate, men who understand the great traditions of our country and intend to preserve them.

People outside Washington probably do not realize what happens even to a democratic government in a long war, when great power becomes concentrated in the hands of a few executive officers. When everything depends on getting supplies to the fighting fronts, the military agencies—War Department, Navy Department, officers and procurement services of the Army and Navy—have immense influence on the executive branches of the government. Those responsible for getting out munitions production, the Director of War Mobilization and Reconversion, the War Manpower Director, the War Production Board Chief, and even the President himself, are under great pressure.

Military men have no experience with production in factories and offices, where efficiency depends on the will and initiative of free workers and management. They know that in the Army and Navy, men work under rigid discipline to carry out orders that come from above. They know that men who are lax in obedience go to the guard house. So it was natural that the military leaders should press for a manpower bill that would put civilian workers under the same kind of rigid discipline, with jail penalties. And that they should want strong controls, and not bother to find out whether they were really necessary. It was natural, too, that executive officers of our government should bend to the will of the military and lend their support to the bill.

Dictatorial controls can easily slip into the hands of a few powerful officials, until, bit by bit, the people lose their freedom. Only the sharp vigilance of their representatives in Congress can prevent this from happening. In this situation, the House of Representatives

SIGN NEW AGREEMENT

Minneapolis.—A new agreement with the Blue & White Cab Co. has been signed by Local 12 for the office workers employed by the company, according to International Vice President L. G. Nygren. An increase in wages was secured in the new pact, which was worked out by Business Representative Fritz.

yielded to the will of the military. Only the Senate stood aloof and insisted on getting the facts. Fearless Senators listened to the representatives of the American Federation of Labor, who gave them the facts, and also to representatives of farmers and industry. They recognized that to give any government agency control over workers, with jail penalties, was, as the A.F.L. said, taking a long step on the road to totalitarianism, to the very kind of dictatorship we are fighting a war to destroy.

So, in the final struggle over the manpower bill in Congress, the Senate once more stood out against compulsory labor. In our last issue, we told how the Work or Jail Bill passed by the House was changed in the Senate to a constructive manpower measure without compulsory labor provisions. This meant that the Senate bill was diametrically opposed in principle to the House bill, and the two bills were sent to conference. Senator Austin, a man who has repeatedly pressed for compulsory labor, was given the responsibility of writing a new compromise measure. The bill he wrote included many constructive features, such as provisions to prevent waste of labor and pay for workers' transportation to their jobs, but its compulsory measures were even more drastic than those of the House Work or Jail Bill. While the House bill would have applied only to men from 18 to 45, the Austin bill would have brought all workers—men and women of all ages—under compulsory controls with jail penalties.

This new "compromise" Work or Jail Bill was sent back to the House and Senate for their final action. President Green wired all Congressmen protesting against the bill's drastic forced labor measures, and the heavy and undesired penalties placed on labor at this late stage of the war, after its immense voluntary contribution to the defeat of our enemies. The House passed the bill on March 27 by a close vote of 167 to 160, but the Senate waited for more careful consideration. Finally, War Mobilization Director Byrnes released a report showing that final victory in Europe was almost in sight, and then resigned his position. The Senators said: If the director can leave his job, why should workers be frozen? They defeated the "compromise" bill 46 to 29 on April 3. Although the Senate voted for further consideration by a conference committee, in hopes that the House might agree to a bill eliminating compulsion, the House turned down further conference and the bill died.

Labor, Management Unite For Industrial Peace, Prosperity

Washington, D. C.—Labor and management have paved the way for the establishment of industrial peace and prosperity in the postwar period by adopting a charter for cooperative relations.

Parties to the precedent-shattering agreement, announced at one of the largest press conferences in Washington's history, were the American Federation of Labor, the United States Chamber of Commerce and the CIO. The National Association of Manufacturers withheld its immediate participation, although many employers affiliated with that organization approved the pact.

The seven-point charter, aimed at maximum postwar production with full employment at high wage levels, gave recognition to the rights of private property on the one hand and to labor's right to organize and bargain collectively on the other. It pledged support to the establishment of social security and to international organization for world peace and called for expansion of world trade.

Set Up Committee

To implement the charter a permanent committee will be set up. This committee will formulate joint labor-management policies and will present them to the government for action and approval. By this means, labor and management propose a maximum of self-

Parley in Mexico Hailed by Meany

Washington, D. C.—Returned from the Inter-American Conference on the Problems of War and Peace at Mexico City, which he attended as labor adviser to the United States delegation, AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany declared the actions of the meeting augur well for the maintenance of permanent peace in the western hemisphere.

Describing the results of the conference in an article in the "American Federationist," Mr. Meany called it "one of the most successful international meetings of all time."

Mr. Meany bestowed particular praise on the economic charter of the Americas, which was adopted at the conference. The charter guarantees to workers throughout the hemisphere the right to join together into trade unions, and it endorses labor's right to bargain collectively with employers, Mr. Meany pointed out. He added:

"In the writer's judgment, the frank, constructive tone of the conference as a whole was probably inspired, at least in part, by the free and open manner in which the affairs of the American delegation were conducted. Labor, agriculture and business were given a full voice within the American delegation. All the resolutions and declarations introduced by the United States were the result of free discussion within the delegation, and had the full approval of the representatives of labor, business and agriculture."

government and a minimum of government regulation.

Named to the committee at the outset were:

For the American Federation of Labor—President William Green, Secretary-Treasurer George Meany and International Representative Robert J. Watt.

For the CIO—President Philip Murray, R. J. Thomas and Sidney Hillman.

For industry—President Eric Johnston, of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce; Paul C. Hoffman, president of the Studebaker Corp. and chairman of the Committee for Economic Development; Henry J. Kaiser, outstanding war industrialist; Otto Seyferth, president of the West Michigan Steel Foundries; Edward J. Thomas, president of Goodyear Tire & Rubber, and J. David Zellerbach, president of the Crown-Zellerbach Paper Corp.

Avoids Road to Chaos

Mr. Johnston, in announcing the pact which was developed after months of negotiation, declared there are two roads America can travel after the war.

"One will lead to a high degree of industrial peace," he said. "The other will lead to industrial chaos. One will mean high levels of employment, high levels of wages, high levels of production—in other words, prosperity. The other road will lead to lowered employment, lowered wages, lowered standards of living and, of course, bankruptcy, eventually."

The labor-management agreement, Mr. Johnston declared, shows the determination of labor and industry to follow the first road.

Speaking for the American Federation of Labor, Mr. Green said:

"We subscribe wholeheartedly to the code of principles embodied in the charter.

"Through acceptance of these principles, the area of controversy within the field of human relations in industry has been reduced and the field of agreement and understanding has been increased. It means the substitution of industrial democracy for autocratic control and cooperation instead of antiquated individual decisions within the domain of labor-management activity.

Expect Valuable Results

"We look for most valuable results from the application of this code of principles. It is not perfect. It will not eliminate strikes altogether. But we can reduce them, we can substitute arbitration and cooperation and friendly understanding for the strife and bitterness that have characterized industrial relations."

The charter, it was disclosed, will be submitted to the AFL executive council for approval at its next meeting and also to the executive boards of the other organizations.

Mr. Johnston said the charter is the outgrowth of a long period of realization "by all of us" to push for better labor-management relations in the postwar period. He emphasized that the code is dynamic rather than static and will have to be interpreted and applied by the National Labor-Management Committee. This committee, he indicated, would set up a permanent staff and deal with specific problems and policies.

Kansas Anti-Labor Law Hit by Court

Washington, D. C.—A special federal court knocked out the most obnoxious sections of the Kansas anti-labor law as unconstitutional in a ruling which may have a far-reaching effect on the vicious campaign to enact similar legislation in other states.

Hailing the decision as a major victory for labor, AFL Counsel Joseph A. Padway declared that it points the way to the invalidation of the recently adopted anti-closed shop amendments in Florida and Arkansas.

Keynote of the Kansas decision was the unanimous statement of the three judges that the right to strike peaceably and to bargain collectively are "fundamental human liberties which the state cannot condition or abridge."

The court threw out the three of the worst features of the Kansas law, which provided:

1—That a majority of all workers in a plant must vote in favor of striking before a strike would be considered legal.

2—That so-called "secondary" boycotts by unions were illegal.

3—That picketing a strike resulting from jurisdictional disputes were illegal and prohibited.

However, a majority of the court, with Circuit Judge Huxman dissenting, upheld two other sections of the law requiring unions to file financial reports and requiring officers and business agents to register and obtain licenses.

Mr. Padway said an appeal would be taken to the United States Supreme Court with regard to the decision on the latter provisions. He said the highest court had not yet passed on these issues.

Propose "Floor" Of 65c on Wages

Washington, D. C.—A joint resolution directing the National War Labor Board, in passing on requests for wage increases, to consider any rate below 65 cents an hour as "substandard," has been offered in the Senate by Senators Claude Pepper, Robert M. LaFollette and Olin D. Johnston.

The proposed rate, Pepper said, is the rock-bottom minimum for subsistence.

Organized labor is supporting the proposal.

Under the Wage-Hour Act, the legal minimum is 40 cents an hour. In many cases, the War Labor Board has granted a minimum of 50 cents an hour, and has now boosted the "floor" to 55 cents.

Honor Seabees

Washington, D. C.—So that America can learn more about the Seabees, the construction battalions of the Navy who were recruited largely from the building trades and metal trades union of the AFL, a new series of 13 weekly radio programs, sponsored by the AFL over the Columbia Broadcasting System, will be devoted to their outstanding exploits in this war. The programs are broadcast each Saturday at 3:45 p. m., E.W.T. Don't miss them!

Unintelligent Wage Policy Blasted by AFL Executives

Washington, D. C.—Charges that the present "frozen and unintelligent" wage policy of the government "is plunging war production into unnecessary embarrassments and will inevitably destroy any chance of attaining full employment when peace comes" were made by AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany on the AFL's "America United" radio program over a nation-wide NBC network.

Mr. Meany appealed to the representatives of industry and agriculture who participated in the same program to support labor's drive for "realistic" revision of the Little Steel formula because business and the farmers are bound to suffer unless the masses of American workers enjoy sufficient purchasing power to sustain full production after the war.

In his opening talk, Mr. Meany said:

"First, how high are wartime wages? The National War Labor Board tried to find out. It discovered that the average earnings of the 14 million workers who had appealed for increases during a 20-month period amounted to less than 70 cents an hour. No American family can live decently on that kind of income at present prices.

Workers Go Into 'Red'

"How then are these workers getting by? How do they live? The acting director of the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics supplied the answer before the Senate Committee on Banking and Currency. He

testified that thousands of workers, even those with no dependents, are going into the 'red' each week and are forced to borrow to make ends meet. And his figures showed that the average surplus for all manufacturing workers after paying bare living expenses was the 'magnificent' sum of \$2.39 a week.

"That's where wages are frozen now—frozen by the Stabilization Act, frozen by executive orders and frozen by the War Labor Board's Little Steel formula.

"Curiously enough, the Little Steel formula was not meant to freeze wages. Oh, no. It was officially set up to keep wages in balance with rising living costs. It provided that since prices had gone up 15 percent from January, 1941, to May, 1942, wage rates should go up 15 percent too.

"Well, that was almost three years ago and prices have skyrocketed since—but not wages. Hourly rates of pay are still at the level called for by May, 1942, living costs. More than a year ago the American Federation of Labor petitioned the War Labor Board to recognize this fact and act accordingly. The board hemmed and hawed and stalled until three weeks ago when the public members made public a report that while the cost of living has gone up 30 percent since the war, adjusted hourly rates of pay had gone up 30 percent too.

"The joker in that report is the little word 'adjusted.' The original standard of the Little Steel formula was straight time hourly rates of pay. In order to avoid relaxing the formula, the public members 'adjusted' the standard. That change in the measuring rod constituted deception and injustice of the worst kind.

"Unless that injustice is immediately corrected, the status of American workers will grow progressively more unbearable in the months to come. Unrest and dissatisfaction will mount. But the full disastrous consequences to our entire country will not be felt until the war ends. Then the effect of restricting the purchasing power of the great masses of wage earners will hit industry hard and hit the farmers just as severely. When industry and agriculture lose their present big customer—the Government—and then have to depend upon customers with empty pockets, a dangerous depression is bound to result.

"That is why the American Federation of Labor now appeals directly to industry and to agriculture to support labor's clearly justified case for realistic upward revision of the Little Steel formula."

Asked how much wages would have to be increased to bring rates in line with government estimates of living cost boosts, Mr. Meany said 11 per cent.

WORKERS SIGN UP

Quonset Point, R. I.—A.F.L. Organizer G. M. Chamberlain reports that organization is progressing among the workers of Merritt, Chapman & Scott Co., and a substantial number of approximately 900 eligible workers have signed authorization cards. It is anticipated that bargaining rights will shortly be obtained for this group.

SIGN PACT WITH INSULATING FIRM

Portland, Ore.—Irving Enna, secretary-treasurer of Local 11, reports the successful completion of negotiations on behalf of office workers of the Northwestern Insulating Co., and the signing of a collective bargaining agreement containing especially favorable clauses with regard to overtime, holidays, sick leave, seniority and health and sanitation.

Enna also reports that progress is being made in the organizing campaign among employes of Portland Gas & Coke Co.

Local 11 has received a favorable decision from the National Labor Relations Board awarding retroactive pay and reinstatement to two members who were discharged for union activity at King Bros., Inc., one getting \$501 and the other \$593. They were active in behalf of the union when the office workers of this concern organized in January.

The company was also required to post a notice of compliance with the order notifying office workers that it would not interfere with their rights. Since the NLRB proceedings started, the union has secured recognition, and is about to begin negotiations for a contract.

Green Sets Off War Loan Drive

Philadelphia.—With the closing of the Liberty Bell seven times, A.F.L. President William Green launched the Seventh War Loan Drive in Independence Hall. In a radio talk addressed to the entire nation, he urged workers to buy more Series E Bonds than ever before to make victory certain.

Mr. Green recalled in his talk that organized labor took part in the earliest moves to gain independence in America when the Carpenters' Union of Philadelphia loaned its meeting hall to the founding fathers when they gathered to consider the Declaration of Independence.

"And now, in the fight against Nazism and Fascism," he continued, "labor is responding, and must continue to respond, to the call of the government for service and support."

It is estimated that unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor and the seven million members of the AFL have already purchased four billion dollars' worth of war bonds.

Mr. Green's talk launched another intensive drive to induce AFL members to invest another billion dollars of their earnings and savings in war bonds during the coming campaign.

Efforts will be made by the AFL's organizing and regional staffs to prevail upon workers to supplement their regular purchases of war bonds, through payroll allotment, with extra purchases to the limit of their financial ability.

Mr. Green said that the payroll allotment plans, originated by labor, "will always stand as a brilliant page in the record of labor's war activities."

The ceremonies at Independence Hall here were under the auspices of the Treasury Department, which is cooperating closely with labor in the bond selling campaign.

Office Workers In Texas Join In Fight On Anti-Labor Bill

Washington, D. C.—Locals of the Office Employees International Union in Texas are cooperating with other AFL unions in a battle against a state bill which would outlaw the union shop and a state constitutional amendment with the same objective. Vice President C. A. Stafford of Port Arthur has been in touch with all locals on the matter.

Austin, Texas.—Despite scandalous charges concerning its backing, the Texas House of Representatives passed by a close vote of 68 to 63 and sent to the state senate a bill outlawing the closed shop.

In a letter to the locals urging active opposition to the measures, President Paul R. Hutchings enclosed a message from AFL President William Green stating that "it is a matter in which all national and international unions are interested and all are affected by this vicious legislation in the event it is enacted into law."

According to reports from Texas, the state house of representatives has voted by an overwhelming majority an investigation of the notorious Christian-American Association, which is sponsoring the legislation. This action was taken following charges of scandal and high-pressure lobbying.

COMPLETE NEW PACT WITH AMERICAN ICE

Washington, D. C.—A new contract with American Ice Company has been completed by Local 2. Among the outstanding improvements obtained in renewal of the agreement are such items as time and one-half for all time in excess of 7½ hours a day, 40 hours a week, and after 12:45 p. m. on Saturdays, and double time for Sundays and holidays.

Improvements were also secured in wage rates, subject to WLB approval and automatic wage increases of \$1 per week each six months was agreed to.

The negotiations were conducted by W. R. Probey, business representative of Local 2, with the assistance of Paul R. Hutchings, president of the International Union, and Ernest H. Hinkins, office steward and a vice president of the local, together with the office committee.

All of the old contract advantages, including the union shop provisions, top seniority for the steward, and vacation and sick leave provisions were maintained.

Office Employes Receive Back Pay From Todd Pacific

Tacoma, Wash.—Under the collective bargaining agreement negotiated by Local 23 and the Metal Trades Council, 1,500 office workers of the Todd Pacific Shipyards, Tacoma division, recently received \$247,000 in back wages, averaging about \$164 apiece, according to C. H. Atterberry, secretary-treasurer of the local.

This is one of the many benefits which these workers have derived from unionization, which began in 1942 among a small group of third shift timekeepers and progressed rapidly through the timekeeping and payroll departments.

In June, 1943, the local was certified as their bargaining agent and teamed up with the Metal Trades Council to negotiate the first contract, which brought substantial benefits in the way of wages and working conditions and relief from the inequities which had prevailed. Retroactive pay amounting to \$158,000 was secured.

From this success the local moved on to organize the workers in the offices, and was chosen as their bargaining agent in March, 1944. To them also flowed the benefits of a contract, which was negotiated by a committee composed of workers from the various departments, the local union and the Metal Trades representatives.

SHOWING INTEREST

York, Pa.—Interest in organizing is being shown by office workers of S. Morgan Smith. Production and maintenance workers in the plant are members of their appropriate A.F.L. unions and have experienced the many benefits of collective bargaining to which the office group is looking forward.

At Board Meeting in Detroit



Front row, left to right: Vice Presidents A. R. Carson, Alice Holz, Secretary-Treasurer J. Howard Hicks, President Paul R. Hutchings, Vice Presidents Mildred Erickson, C. A. Stafford. Back row: Vice Presidents Frank F. Randall, J. O. Bloodworth, Jr., George P. Firth, R. M. Daugherty, C. C. Newell and L. G. Nygren.

Vinson's Ruling Approves Meager Pay Adjustments

Washington, D. C.—As his last official act before stepping out as economic stabilization director Fred M. Vinson issued a directive freezing "fringe" wage adjustments along with already frozen basic pay rates.

Mr. Vinson's ruling was supposed to be a "concession" to labor because it relaxed his hitherto iron-bound rule against the granting by the National War Labor Board of any "fringe" adjustments which might necessitate price increases—but the "fringe" permitted by Mr. Vinson was regarded by labor leaders as less than a strip-tease dancer wears.

The Vinson order appeared likely to prove increasingly embarrassing to his successor, William H. Davis, who is stepping up from chairman of the National War Labor Board, because he carried on a minor feud with Mr. Vinson on the "fringe" issue.

In his new post, Mr. Davis will be in the unenviable position of reversing his role and telling the NWLB that it cannot go beyond the strict limits of the new ruling he inherited from Mr. Vinson.

2 NEW LOCALS IN CANADA CHARTERED

(Continued from page 1)

our trade in Canada. President Dastous has expressed confidence that, following the establishment of this new union, which will be known as "Local No. 114," little difficulty will be encountered in the organization of the remaining office workers in Dalhousie and vicinity.

The establishment of these two new unions has led officers of the International Union to look with optimism upon prospects of future organizing activities among office workers in the pulp and paper industry in Canada. Particular emphasis is being placed on such workers employed in the main office of the International Paper Co. at Montreal and other operations of the company scattered throughout the provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

Union Recognized At Pacific Mfg. Co.

San Jose, Calif.—Recognition as collective bargaining agent for office workers has been secured from Pacific Manufacturing Co. by Local 94.

International Vice President Frank F. Randall is assisting the local in the negotiation of a contract covering wages and working conditions, which has been completed with the exception of a few miscellaneous details.

At Salinas Randall is meeting with office workers who have become interested in unionization and is assisting them toward formation of a local.

Election Asked At Collender Company

Muskegon, Mich.—Sponsored by A.F.L. Organizer A. F. Pearce, and assisted by Organizer Verna Corrigan of the Federation, Local No. 109, of this city, has recently petitioned the N.L.R.B. for bargaining rights for the office workers employed by the Brunswick-Balke-Collender, Co., and, following formal hearing before the N.L.R.B., it is anticipated that the subsequent election will be won with little difficulty by this local union.

A similar hearing and election is anticipated in connection with the establishment of bargaining rights for office workers employed by the Norge, Borg-Warner Corp., in this city. The subsequent negotiation of an agreement with this company will prove a material step in furthering the unionization of office and clerical workers in this area.

U.S. GAUGE ORGANIZING

Sellersville, Pa.—The office employes at the U.S. Gauge Co. plant in this city are moving forward rapidly toward the development of a local union of our trade, according to reports received from International Vice President George P. Firth, who is working with this group.

A substantial number of eligible office workers have already signed membership application cards, and

BACK PAY WON FOR EDISON CO. WORKERS

Toledo, Ohio.—Retroactive pay amounting to about \$86,000 has been secured by Local 65 for office workers of the Toledo Edison Co. The back pay goes to 300 workers, and is the result of an increase in wages of \$12 per month, starting June 1, 1944, which has just been approved by the W.L.B.

The increase was part of the collective bargaining agreement negotiated with the company by the local union committee composed of Bill Hostetter, Roy Young, Jim Gunn, Cy Young and Clarence Maynard. They were assisted by Robert Daugherty, a vice-president of the International Union, and A.F.L. Organizer William Sturm.

\$24,000 More Back Pay Secured For McCloskey Force

Tampa, Fla.—More than 300 members of Tampa Local No. 46, employed at McCloskey & Co., Hooker Point shipyard, have received additional retroactive wage adjustments totaling more than \$24,000, according to J. O. Bloodworth, Jr., business manager of the local and a Vice President of our International Union.

This payment is the result of wage adjustments which the local union negotiated with the company, and which were approved by the Shipbuilding Commission last November. All of the office and clerical employe classifications were involved in the pay adjustments which are retroactive to last November, when the same were approved by the Shipbuilding Commission.

The International Union worked with and assisted the local in obtaining approval on the present wage rates and classifications.

Tampa Electric Organizing

The office employes at the Tampa Electric Co. are evidencing interest in organizing, and Local No. 46 is conducting an organizational drive among the more than 100 eligible workers of our trade employed by this utility and transportation company.

The local is also moving forward in its organizational drive among the more than 100 office employes of the Borden-Poinsettia Dairy Co., according to Business Manager Bloodworth.

MOVING FORWARD

Rochester, N. Y.—Local 34 is moving forward in its organization activities, according to reports of Secretary Claire B. Hall. The local is commencing organization of office workers in another large Rochester establishment.

it is anticipated that collective bargaining rights will shortly be established in this plant.

The representatives of other A.F.L. organizations in the plant and A.F.L. Volunteer Organizer Howard S. Klein have been instrumental in the success of this organizational campaign.