SECURE AGREEMENT
WITH STEEL FIRM

Detroit, Mich.—Announcement of the negotiation of an agreement by Local 42 with the Midland Steel Products Co. in Detroit was made by President Verna Corrigan of the local union and AFL Organizer J. N. Cummings to Secretary-Treasurer J. Howard Hicks of the International Union.

The agreement, which covers all office and clerical workers of the concern in its local operation, provides job classification and the proper sorting of workers in such classifications, the results of which have proven most satisfactory and beneficial to the workers involved.

The agreement likewise provides automatic progression in wage rates for each classification for the first two years of service. Wage increases were secured by the local union which, coupled with the job classifications, assure its members substantially increased take-home pay and a proper relationship for the various types of work performed.

Looking forward to the prospects of a general nation-wide increase in workers’ earnings, the agreement as concluded carries a provision which will permit negotiations to be opened on the wage and salary structure upon 30 days’ notice. Improved vacation periods were also obtained.

Both President Corrigan and Organizer Cummings reported that Local 42 has a most cordial relationship with the company which, it is anticipated, can be developed in other areas where the company has operations.

Get Retroactive Pay

Members of Local 42 employed by the Murcey Machine and Tool Company recently received checks covering retroactive adjustments in pay from April 1. The adjustments were made on the basis of a recent Regional Wage Board ruling, and the retroactive checks ranged upwards to $150.

The agreement with this firm is presently open for renewal and it is reported that Local 42 has requested further wage adjustments, with prospects bright for further increases in the earnings of its members employed by the company.

Wage Adjustment

On the basis of a recent Regional Wage Board ruling, members of the union employed by the Hy-Grade Food Products Corporation, will receive retroactive wage payments from December 11, 1944.

(Continued on page 4)

OEIU Triumphs in WLB Case
On Brown & Sharpe Issues

Providence, R. I.—A smashing victory over Brown & Sharpe Manufacturing Company was won by OEIU Local 76 when the Regional War Labor Board ruled December 7 on charges of unfair labor practices.

The board ruled that the company was engaged in an unfair labor practice in refusing to bargain with the union.

The company charged that the union made false statements to employees and that it was engaged in an unfair labor practice in attempting to prevent employees from voting in favor of the union.

The union contends that the company’s actions were in violation of the National Labor Relations Act.

(Continued on page 5)

DEPARTMENT STORE
AGREEMENT SIGNED

Pittsburgh, Pa.—The recent signing of a renewed agreement between the Local Union of this city and Gimbel Brothers, Kaufman and Joseph Horne Company department stores has been announced by Business Representative John Magnotti of the local union.

In making the announcement of the conclusion of this agreement, Magnotti stated that wage increases averaging 10 per cent for all members of the department stores engaged by the three companies had been achieved. In addition, the new agreement eliminates “peak weeks” and, under prior agreements, members of the union worked on a limited overtime basis without overtime pay. The renewed agreement also provides for the payment of dinner money to those members of the union required to remain on their jobs for overtime or evening work.

Because of protracted negotiations, members of the union employed by these companies worked the past year under a former agreement. In the final settlement, however, Magnotti has announced that all members of the union are receiving retroactive pay averaging upwards to 7 per cent in addition to wage payments which were made during the past year.

Magnotti paid particular tribute to Howard Donaldson, business representative, Warehousemen’s Union 636 and Nicholas Laxer, representative, Hotel and Restaurant Union No. 237 for the assistance rendered them in bringing about a successful settlement.

(Continued on page 3)

Secure $45,000 Backpay In Pact With Struthers-Wells

Titusville, Pa.—Struthers-Wells Corporation distributed on November 29 checks amounting to over $45,000 to its office and technical employees who are represented by the International Union of Electrical Workers.

Among those receiving checks were Mr. and Mrs. John Magnotti, 104 Franklin St., who are offices of this union.

Citing little detail of the negotiations, representatives of the union stated that the agreement was made with the corporation.

Over features of the new contract provide for a five-day, 40-hour week, time and one-half for overtime, double pay for Sundays and six specified holidays, paid vacations, six days’ sick leave after six months’ service, seniority rights and effective grievance procedure.

Also arbitration is provided in case of disputes. A copy of the interpretation or application of the terms of the agreement, which runs for a period of one year.
Dispute Machinery Found Faulty

Washington, D. C.—Joseph A. Padway, chief counsel of the AFL, yesterday discoursed on the following dispute machinery as a feature of the twenty-third edition of the AFL radio program:

President Truman's new proposals for the settlement of labor disputes by fact-finding boards functioning during compulsory cooling-off periods only if the strike were called before Congress, the American Federation of Labor does not agree with the President's plan because he believes it is illogical, fireplace, and meaningless in propos-

The plan embodies some obvious faults and some even more dangerous implications.

After all, the best way to get together and settle their own problems through genuine collective bargaining, and it should be unnecessary, voluntary arbitration. The moment compensation or outside intervention is introduced, collective bargaining flies out the window. We believe the President's plan does not offer sufficient encouragement to collective bargaining and voluntary arbitration. In our opinion, there is not a single clause existing in American industrial life today which could be settled promptly and amicably through application of these methods.

The right to strike is definitely embodied in the Constitution, although the compulsory cooling-off period is supposed to last only 30 days, it constitutes just as serious a limitation of American liberties as would a 30-day suspension of the right of free speech or a free press.

Of course, the bill expressly upholds the right of any individual worker to quit his job at any time he chooses. But if two or three workers decide to quit in violation of the terms of the proposed plan, that would be unlawful. It would be unlawful for workers to charge of conspiracy and would revolve court in-against union agreements. We thought this abuse was buried for all time when the Norris-La Guardia Act was passed many years ago, but now it is rising from the grave to haunt and harass organized labor again.

Another danger is that the President's proposal may open the door to even more drastic legislation. Workers groups in Congress are already sharpening their thorn- hawks.

The American Federation of Labor believes there is plenty of room for improvement of relations between labor and industry but it feels that to improve these methods will result in the scaling of the rights and interests of American workers:

The OPA Administrator Bowles re- treated.

Bowles made public the figure during a Senate Small Business Committee hearing on price control. According to Mr. D. E. Ellendafn (Dem., La.), exclaimed:

"If that's true, then OPA has failed."

Bowles' answer was that "we regulate prices, not profit."

UNION LABEL

Washington, D. C.—The Executive Board of the International Office Employees International Union has adopted a union label in accordance with action taken at the Cincinnati convention. It is very similar in design to the union seal and lapel button.

In rubber stamp form, the label is available to local unions throughout the Baumgarten Co., 9511 St. N., Washington, D. C. The first order must be for not less than 15 at a price of $1.75. The price is 25 cents per piece for quantities which are not subject to the minimum of 15.

The 1946 edition of the Union Label Trade Department of the AFL will carry reproductions of the two OEIU emblems as well as the new label.

Davis Says Right To Strike "Sacred"

New York City.—One of the nation's veterans in the field of labor-relations—William H. Davis, former chairman of the National War Labor Board—sounded an urgent warning against legislation designed to suppress strikes.

Addressing the Society for the Advancement of Management, Davis declared that "the right to strike is an inalienable right that cannot be removed by law."

"It is as fundamental as the first 10 amendments to the Constitution," he said. "It can only be diminished by agreement, as you substitute reason and persuasion for force."

CALL ISSUED FOR 1946 CONVENTION

Washington, D. C.—The call for the 1946 annual convention of the Office Employees International Union was issued from headquarters December 17. The convention will open March 18 in the ballroom of Hotel Wisconsin at Milwaukee.

Problems confronting our International Union, its membership and workers of our trade throughout the United States and Canada in this trying period of postwar readjustment will be given serious thought and deliberation at the convention.

With faith in our ability through the processes of collective bargaining to improve this nation's economic welfare, it will be the purpose of this convention to give serious consideration to the problems of collective bargaining, the solving of which will achieve maximum gains for all members of our International Union.

It shall also be the purpose of this convention to give serious consideration to methods and procedures which will enable our International Union and local unions to revitalize the proposal of extending unionizing to the yet unorganized workers of our trade.

Sky's the Limit On Retail Profits

Washington, D. C.—Over 120 per cent! That's the staggering increase in profits rolled up by department stores during 1944, compared with their average earnings from 1936 to 1939.

AFL COUNCIL HITS AT ANTI-UNION BILLS

Washington, D. C.—At an emergency meeting in the nation's capital, the AFL Executive Council blasted anti-union strike bills pending before Congress and mobilized the entire resources of the American Federation of Labor to defeat them.

Summoned here by AFL President William Green because of the threatening legislative situation, the Executive Council made the following measures its chief targets:

1. The Norton Bill, making strikes illegal when certified to by the President by the Secretary of Labor for consideration by fact-finding boards.

2. The Connally-Smith Act amendments, which would penalize unions for strikes by depriving them of their collective bargaining privileges in order to making them liable to damage suits.

3. The Hobbs Bill, which would cripple efforts of the Teamsters Union to establish conditions for the protection of its members in large cities.

The Executive Council directed Mr. Green to lead an all-out labor drive against these bills. It also called upon all affiliated organizations and all members of the AFL to let their representatives in Congress know immediately that labor will consider a favorable vote on these measures a hostile act.

Mr. Green will open a sweeping campaign to defeat the Norton bill with a powerful statement to be presented at a public hearing of the House Labor Committee.

This will be followed up by personal interviews by legislative representatives of members of Congress and by a slashing attack on the pending measures via the AFL's nationwide radio programs.

Hearing on the Norton Bill in the House opened with a two-way labor-management onslaught on the legislation which was recommended, in the first place, by President Truman.

John L. Lewis, head of the United Mine Workers Union, was the first witness. He declared unequivocally that he was firmly opposed to the bill and against the proposal because it deprives labor of its basic liberties.

For management, Eric Johnston, president of the United States Chamber of Commerce, was the first to be heard by the House Labor Committee.

He expressed opposition to the bill because it was a sure free enterprise system to be impaired by imposing the right to strike and because the proposed fact-finding boards would be so ill-conceived that they would so deeply and seriously affect the nation's economic life.
RENEWAL AGREEMENT WITH SHOE FIRM

Los Angeles, Cal.—Local 39 has recently negotiated a renewal of its agreement with the Brasley Cole Shoe Co., Ltd., covering the office and clerical workers. In addition to all the previous provisions of the company's operations in this city.

The agreement provides for an 8-hour day, 5-day week, Monday through Friday, and also provides that all daily and weekly overtime shall be paid for at the rate of time and one-half, and all Saturday, Sunday and holiday work shall be paid for at the rate of double time. Two weeks paid vacation each year are provided for. All employees of one year or more service receive an annual holiday. Employees with service of more than six months but less than one year receive a one week paid vacation.

The agreement provides for a full and fair contract and the union has preferential rights in the furnishing of all necessary new workers. All employees covered by the agreement who have been in the employ of the company for three months or more are guaranteed not less than three days paid sick leave each year.

The weekly salary schedules provided under the new agreement are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weekly Salary</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Classification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$100 - $200</td>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>Production Worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$201 - $300</td>
<td>Service</td>
<td>Office Worker</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The agreement has been accepted by both parties and is in force for one year.

Secure Agreement With Truck Line

Pittsburgh, Pa.—Local 33 reports the completion of a working agreement for the office and clerical employees of the Pennsylvania Truck Lines with retroactive wage increases, union shop and other benefits.

The back pay amounted to $800 and has already been received according to Business Representative John Magnotti who handled the negotiations for the local union.

FILE PETITION

Birmingham, Ala.—Local 18 has filed a petition with the National Labor Relations Board for certification as exclusive bargaining agent for clerical workers of the Betchel-McCONCle Corporation, a majority of whom have signed up with the union.

MAJORITY SIGN UP

Denver, Colo.—A substantial majority of the office employees of General Iron Works has signed applications for membership in Local 5, according to Frank Randall, vice president and an organizer of the Office Employees International Union.
SPEED NEGOTIATIONS IN SAN FRANCISCO

San Francisco, Calif.—Substantial increases in wages and improvements in working conditions have been obtained for members of Local 36 employed in the wholesale drug industry, the brewery industry, and an oil company, according to Eleanor D. Murphy, secretary-treasurer of the union.

Members of the union employed in the wholesale drug industry received an average wage increase of 25 cents per hour, or $20 per month; in the brewery industry, the increases range from 15 cents to 25 cents per hour, or $15 to $25 monthly, retroactive to September 1, 1945. These wage increases were accepted enthusiastically by members of the union employed in the industry and who are staunch union supporters because of past gains which have been won for them through their union.

At Butler Brothers wholesale dry goods firm, wage increases ranging from 50 cents to $10 per month, retroactive to August 18, 1945, were won as the result of negotiations. For each of the six months of this agreement a minimum salary of $115 per month has been established. The agreement provides for a week of 40 hours during the 5 days, Monday through Friday, also provides for eight holidays and vacations ranging up to three weeks.

Brewery Increase

All local breweries employing members of the union granted a 50 per cent increase in wages immediately. The hourly rates were raised for workers earning up to $150 monthly and a flat $30 per month increase earning beyond such figure as the result of negotiations and the renewal of the agreement of several years standing between the union and the industry.

The agreement between the union and Msoawk Petroleum Company provides uniform wage increases for members of the union in the event of new reorganizations or wage increases and which will be in addition to the 15 per cent increase won as a result of previous negotiations. A 40-hour week with overtime compensation for work performed on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays is incorporated in the agreement as is a provision for annual vacations of two weeks, the application of strict seniority and the assurance of union membership for all office and clerical workers employed by the company.

Back Pay Won

Secretary-Treasurer Murphy of the local union has also announced the granting of retroactive wages for members of the union employed by the General Engineering and Dry Dock Company. This success is the culmination of a bitter battle waged between the union, the company and the National War Labor Board to maintain the existence of International Union officers.

Recent successes of the local union have led to more organization among many yet unorganized office and clerical workers. The Local 36 Secretary-Treasurer Murphy and Edwin J. McCall, business representative of the union, have been making plans to meet the demands for such action.

THE OFFICE WORKER

Three Toledo Locals Join Powerful Unit

Toledo, Ohio.—Last month the Toledo office of the Service Department of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 19, represented by V. G. McKernan, District Vice President, and the local federation of the United Steel Workers of America, organized the Toledo Amalgamated Labor Temple, Local 513. Now this local has a powerful unit represented by the Toledo Edison Company, Local 65.

R. M. Daugherty, Vice President of the Executive Boards of Locals 19, 65, 133, and 60, with Vice President Daugherty, it was decided to have the boards work out a proposed amalgamation agreement. The amalgamation agreement was presented to the joint board working with Vice-President Daugherty, after numerous meetings, adopted and approved by each local union. The amalgamation agreement is a comprehensive one, embracing the complete amalgamation of the members of Local 513 into Local 65, and Local 65 alone having a work committee representing the members of both unions.

International Approves

On Thursday evening, November 8, the first meeting of the Toledo Edison-Swingletary Labor Temple for 1945 was held. The meeting was attended by members of the Toledo Edison Labor Temple and the Toledo Edison Company, Local 65. The meeting was attended by members of the Toledo Edison Labor Temple, Local 65, and the Toledo Edison Company, Local 65. The meeting was attended by members of the Toledo Edison Labor Temple, Local 65, and the Toledo Edison Company, Local 65.

The following officers have been elected to comprise the labor temple: President, R. M. Daugherty; Vice President, R. T. Young. Toledo Edison Labor Temple; Second Vice President, Gardner Horn; Electric Autolite Unit; Second Vice President, Roy T. Young, Toledo Edison Labor Temple; Secretary-Treasurer, H. R. Ward, Toledo Edison Labor Temple; Recording Secretary, Bette Johnson, Union Office; Sergeant-at-Arms, John Shea, Retail Store Unit; Treasurer, Joseph Theile, Retail Store Unit; Carl Melcher, Toledo Edison Labor Temple; and Zeno Helfreter, Electric Autolite Unit.

The complete unification of the organization of our trade into one unified local is developed in the amalgamation of the three local unions, represents a vital forward step in the further development of the organization of office workers in the Toledo area.

The first office employees union in Toledo was chartered in 1909, and has been in existence ever since. The union has shown tremendous growth.

The fusion of all of these groups into one local, now known as Local 65, with the combining of all of the financial strength, numerical strength, and leadership, should result in an immediate further growth and development in the organization of office workers in the Toledo area. The amalgamation of these locals was with the full sanction of the Toledo Edison Company, Local 65, which views this coordination of organized workers in Toledo as an important step in the further development of the organization of our trade in that area.

SHIPBUILDERS SEEK WAGE ADJUSTMENTS

Colorado Springs, Colo.—The National Shipbuilding Conference, composed of representatives of labor, management and the government, met recently for its first national meeting since the cessation of hostilities is endeavoring to lay down post-war wage adjustments to apply to the four national shipbuilding and repairing companies and their employees of the International Union who are in attendance.

Represented by Mr. E. A. McMillan, chairman of the Shipbuilding Stabilization Committee was called for the specific purpose of conducting the 1945 wage review and to consider other items agreed to be placed on its agenda.

Representatives of the three parties have indicated that office and clerical workers will be included in any adjustments together with all other trades so as to provide the maximum uniformity in future employment by the industries.

Representatives of the International Union and its locals who attend the meeting include the following International Union officers, F. R. Rehfeld, Jr., C. C. Newell, Mildred Erickson and Frank Randall; J. A. Lewis is attending in behalf of Local 133, Orange, Texas; C. H. Atteberry, Local 29; Tacoma, Washington; and C. C. Shure, Local 56, Portland, Ore.

G. L. John P. Frey, president, Metal Trades Department, American Federation of Labor; George Smith and E. A. McMillan are the principal representatives of labor, industry and government in the deliberations of the committee.

General Labor Union No. 22975, and later chartered by OEIU as Local No. 65.