

THE OFFICE WORKER

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

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OEIU Wins Remington Rand Election By Big Majority

Elmira, N. Y.—In a consent election conducted on June 15 by the National Labor Relations Board, Office Employees International Union was chosen as the collective bargaining agent for the office force at Remington Rand, Inc., one of the largest manufacturers of typewriters and office machines in the world.

The union won the election by a substantial majority of the 170 eligible office and clerical workers, the vote being 94 to 52.

After the ballots were counted a victory celebration was held at the Machinists' Building and steps were taken to apply for a charter and formally establish Local 137. Thomas Keane was elected temporary president and Leona Shephard, temporary secretary-treasurer. A negotiating committee was also selected.

Brief addresses were made at the meeting by Paul Hutchings, president of the International Union, and by Claude W. Fairfield, grand lodge representative of the Machinists, which represents the production employees.

President Hutchings expressed his pleasure over the outcome of the election, especially in view of the activities that preceded the balloting, and pointed out that the Remington Rand workers were pioneers in the unionization movement among Elmira office and clerical forces.

The management consented to the election as the result of conferences held with President Hutchings, NLRB Field Examiner Elizabeth Billings, Mr. Trout of the corporation and a committee of workers—Avis Lyman, Mary Brill, Leona Shephard, Tom Keane, Esther Johnson and Annabelle Jaram. As a further result of these meetings, a copy of the payroll names was secured to determine the eligible voters and the balloting was arranged to be conducted on company time.

On the eve of the election a rally was held by the Local for all workers.

Complete Contract With Phillips Oil

Borger, Tex.—The negotiating committee of Local 117, together with C. A. Stafford, vice president of the International Union, and J. W. Park, AFL organizer, have completed negotiations on a proposed contract with the Phillips Petroleum Co. The pact is being submitted to the membership.

The local also recently won the NLRB election at the butadiene plant of Phillips, and it is anticipated that negotiations on an agreement will get under way shortly.

ORGANIZING DRIVE IN UTILITY OFFICE

Erie, Pa.—An organizing campaign is being conducted among the office employees of the Erie division of the Pennsylvania Electric Co., which has headquarters in this city.

Vice President George P. Firth of the International Union is directing the campaign and several meetings have been held.

The Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, which represents the linemen and power plant employes, is rendering whole-hearted cooperation and assistance in the drive.

Reinstatement Won For Worker

Jacksonville, Fla.—Ruth Cassel, employed in the Jacksonville office of the Southeastern Greyhound Lines, has been reinstated to her job as a result of the efforts put forth on her behalf by Local 73, according to President Lorraine S. Rhodes of that local.

Miss Cassel was active during the organizational drive among the office force of the Southeastern Greyhound Lines and served on the committee which drafted the proposed contract presented to that company. She was discharged by the company in April and the local union instituted proceedings with the National Labor Relations Board to obtain her reinstatement on the ground that

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Employees of Gulf Refinery Choose OEIU In Election

Port Arthur, Tex.—A substantial majority of the office and clerical workers at the Gulf Oil Co. refinery voted for Local 66 as their collective bargaining agent in an election conducted by the National Labor Relations Board.

The victory was achieved despite the opposition of the CIO oil workers, who solicited the more than 200 office employes to vote against the only union on the ballot and put out pamphlets urging them to vote "No."

That these tactics failed to deter the workers in their determination to secure the benefits of collective bargaining through the Office Em-

Seek Rights At Paper Company

Panama City, Fla.—A request has been filed with the National Labor Relations Board for bargaining rights at the Southern Kraft Division of the International Paper Mills here.

More than 85 per cent of all the eligible office workers have signed up with Local 80, according to J. O. Bloodworth, Jr., vice president of the International Union, who has been assisting officers of the local in this campaign.

Organization of the office force completes the unionization of this plant as other workers are organized and have established collective bargaining relationships with the company.

DAIRY AGREEMENT NEAR COMPLETION

Norfolk, Va.—With a substantial portion of the negotiations of the agreement between Local No. 23786 and the Rosedale Dairy Co. completed, an early submission of the concluded agreement to the Fourth Regional War Labor Board is anticipated, according to J. Howard Hicks, secretary-treasurer of the International Union, who is representing the union.

Transit Case

Notwithstanding the degree of representation possessed by Local No. 23786 the management of the local operations of the Virginia Transit Co. have demanded that the union be certified by the National Labor Relations Board, Hicks reports.

As a result a petition for certification has been filed with NLRB and the office workers employed by the company are eagerly awaiting action by this agency, which should clear the way for the submission and negotiation of an agreement.

CONSENT ELECTION AT BROWN & SHARPE

Providence, R. I.—A consent election has been agreed to at the Brown & Sharpe Co. to determine whether office and clerical employes desire to be represented by Local 76.

The company's consent to have the National Labor Relations Board referendum is the result of interest shown by the office employes in signing up with the local.

The 1,200 eligible employes have been set up into 3 voting units for the election, which is scheduled to be held June 20. One is the administration office, another the drafting and engineering offices and the third embraces the office workers in the 117 production departments. Balloting will take place during working hours under NLRB supervision.

The agreement covering the election was negotiated and signed June 4. The company was represented by Mr. Austin, comptroller, Mr. Hall, adjuster, and Mr. Phillips, general counsel. Representing Local 76 were Ray Jamieson, president and business agent, Angelo Aiello, vice president, and James MacMillan, secretary-treasurer. They were assisted by Paul R. Hutchings, president of the International Union. The NLRB was represented by Field Examiner McFadden.

Workers were advised of the consent election arrangements at an open meeting the night of June 4. Addresses were delivered by President Hutchings and Arthur Devine, president of the Rhode Island State Federation of Labor.

The company, which has been in business for over a century, is one of the largest manufacturers of heavy machine tools and machinists' tools and is one of the principal industrial establishments in the Providence area.

The production and maintenance workers are members of the International Association of Machinists and have obtained substantial benefits as a result of their union membership.

It is anticipated that substantial improvements in working conditions can be obtained for the office workers through collective bargaining.

UNANIMOUS

Cornell, Wis.—Office and clerical employes of the Cornell Wood Products Co. voted unanimously for a union shop in an election conducted by the Wisconsin Employment Relations Board under the state labor relations act, according to Clarice M. Beaudette, president of Local 74, which represents the workers and has a contract with the company.

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WAGE POLICY

Postwar wage policies of the American Federation of Labor are clearly set forth in the following excerpts from an article by AFL President William Green appearing in the current issue of the American Federationist:

The development of uniform wage standards for the same work is one of labor's important postwar objectives. The War Labor Board policy of freezing-in geographical differentials under its cumbersome "wage bracket" system has done untold damage to sound wage determination. Labor is facing a postwar economy with greatly speeded transportation and increased overlapping of regional markets. Competition based on substandard wages in depressed and distressed areas must not be allowed to prevail. For such wage competition, giving competitive advantage to low wage areas, can become a great disruptive force whereby all wage standards would be pulled down to the lowest competitive levels.

Another vital and difficult problem of postwar wage policy is the adjustment of wage rates necessary to meet the reduction in weekly earnings due to the elimination of overtime and shortening of hours. In war industries the most general reduction in weekly hours is likely to be from the 48- to the 40-hour week. As time goes on, even a 30-hour workweek may become practical and desirable in many industries.

The immediate change from a 48- to a 40-hour week involves the elimination of overtime pay, now generally paid for work done after 40 hours. If the rate of pay is \$1 an hour, this change involves a reduction of 15 per cent in the time worked and a 24 per cent reduction in weekly pay. At this rate, to preserve the same weekly income on the reduced work schedule, a 30 per cent increase in the straight-time pay would be necessary.

The worker paid \$1 an hour and working a 48-hour week is now receiving \$52 a week. If the hours

Medical Service Included In New Security Measure

Washington, D. C.—Introduction in Congress of a new and improved Wagner-Murray-Dingell bill, providing for a nation-wide, comprehensive system of social insurance, was hailed by the American Federation of Labor.

AFL President William Green called upon Congress to enact the bill without delay in order to assure security to the American people in the postwar period.

Authors of the measure—Senators Wagner and Murray and Rep. Dingell—conferred with President Truman before dropping the bill into the congressional hopper and it was reported that they received promises of support from the President. They also consulted with AFL officials before introducing the bill.

The measure would establish a national social insurance system consisting of prepaid personal health service; set up unemployment and temporary disability insurance with benefits up to \$30 a week on a uniform, national basis; and broaden retirement, survivors, and total disability insurance with

are reduced to 40, his weekly income would be cut to \$40 a week. In order to maintain the same weekly income for the shortened workweek, it would be necessary to increase his hourly rate from \$1 to \$1.30 an hour.

In any establishment where hours of work are to be reduced or have been reduced, the War Labor Board should give automatic approval to adjustment in the hourly wage rates of employes concerned, to compensate for the loss of weekly earnings resulting from the reduction in hours worked and elimination of overtime. Such approvable compensatory increases in wage rates should be permitted up to the percentage necessary to maintain the weekly earnings yielded by the longer workweek. While this will establish the limit for approvable compensatory increases, the actual determination of such increases should be left to collective bargaining.

Drastic loss of pay is likely to result in many areas where workers move from higher-paying war jobs to lower-paying peacetime jobs. This is especially true of shifts from heavy industries to distributive trades and services. To meet this loss of income through downgrading, adjustments in substandard wages now limited to a minimum of 55 cents an hour should be raised to a considerably higher figure—the AFL has recommended 72 cents an hour as the proper minimum.

In addition, wage adjustments claimed by the American Federation of Labor as necessary to meet the inadequacy of the Little Steel formula, to the extent of 11 per cent, should be permitted as a matter of general application.

more liberal benefits than existing law.

It also authorizes a 10-year, \$950,000,000 program of federal grants and loans for construction and expansion of hospitals and health centers.

The bill would provide grants to states for expansion of health services, maternal and child health and welfare services, and for public assistance to needy individuals, such as the aged, blind, and dependent children.

It also calls for a national system of public employment offices.

Sen. Wagner told the Senate that all the insurance benefits could be financed now and for several years after the war by a total contribution rate of 8 per cent, of which 4 per cent would be payable by employers and 4 per cent by employees on earnings up to \$3,600 a year.

In a public statement approving the bill, Mr. Green said:

"Enactment of this measure will provide the American people with a well-rounded social security program for their protection during the transition period between the

Reconversion wage policy should take into account increases in productivity which have taken place during the war. In most war industries, technological changes have brought with them a greatly increased work-load per worker. In any case, where it is shown that the skill requirements, the work-load or the hourly output of employes has substantially increased since May, 1942, upward adjustments in wage rates should be permitted, to correspond with such increases in output or productivity, up to 30 per cent of the wage rates currently paid.

So long as the war with Japan continues, it is necessary to safeguard the wages of workers who must forfeit the more permanent job opportunities in order to man essential wartime jobs. Wherever war production may be threatened by the desire of war workers to seek stable peacetime employment, wage adjustments should be permitted, up to 30 per cent of wage rates currently paid, to aid in the continued effective prosecution of the war.

Establishment of this permissive element of wage adjustment would retain the essential framework of basic wage stabilization as a part of the wartime economic stabilization policy. Within these limits, the actual adjustment in wage rates should be left to labor and management, with wage determination arrived at through the process of collective bargaining.

Collective bargaining on a voluntary basis is the most effective and efficient machinery for the complex process of wage determination in the great multiplicity of work relationships in our industry and trade. In the acceptance of this

Office Worker On State Commission

Portland, Ore.—Another indication of the participation of office workers in public affairs is the appointment of Kelley Loe, a member of Local 11, to the interim commission for study of the Oregon tax system.

Loe is the public relations representative of the Oregon State Federation of Labor and has long been recognized as an authority on labor legislation.

war and peace and during the years to come.

"Particularly important at this time are the provisions for a comprehensive unemployment compensation system, with uniform benefits throughout the nation. Only by such action can millions of war workers and returning servicemen be adequately safeguarded against unnecessary hardship arising from temporary unemployment during the reconversion period and in any subsequent economic crisis.

"In addition, the new Wagner-Murray-Dingell bill offers basic protections against the economic hazards of illness, temporary disability, extended disability, old age and retirement. It extends the benefits of old age and survivors' insurance to fifteen million persons now excluded.

"The American Federation of Labor is proud of the fact that it originally sponsored this legislation and has consulted closely with Senator Wagner and his colleagues in efforts to improve and perfect it.

"A full measure of social security against the hazards of our complicated economic civilization must be guaranteed by a humane government to every American family.

"Social security means more than protection to the individual and his family. It provides insurance for the free enterprise system against its own shortcomings and serves to buttress the American way of life.

"The American Federation of Labor calls upon the Congress of the United States to approve this important measure without delay."

Wage Thaw Urged

Washington, D. C.—The AFL's relentless drive to modify the wage freeze of the Little Steel Formula received unexpected support in Congress.

Rep. Gearhart, of California, introduced a concurrent resolution requesting the President, the National War Labor Board, the Director of War Mobilization and the Director of Economic Stabilization to allow a general wage increase of 15 per cent beyond the Little Steel formula in order to permit workers to meet increased living costs.

process, and the maximum utilization of it, is our best assurance of orderly transition to full employment. Reliance on collective bargaining as a basis for union-management cooperation is our strongest guarantee of durable industrial peace in the years after the war.

Many Gains Won For Milwaukee Members

Milwaukee, Wis.—Many gains have been obtained recently for members of Office Employees International Union, Local No. 9, according to Alice Holz, vice president of the International Union and secretary-treasurer of the local.

Dairy Increase Approved

Wage increases were approved by the Sixth Regional War Labor Board for the office employees of the Dairy Distributors, Inc., who are members of Local No. 9.

These adjustments averaged \$2.04 per week increase for 11 employees, retroactive to December 9, 1944. In addition to the wage increases, the board approved the sick leave clause which provides that employees shall be granted one day's sick leave in each month. In case of prolonged illness the employer agrees to pay the wages for the waiting period of 3 days until payments of the insurance policy begin. This is only in case of actual illness, and in no event will sick leave benefits exceed 12 days in any one year.

The new agreement, which is the fifth, provides, among other things, a 2 weeks' vacation after one year's service and is a closed-shop agreement.

Newspaper Wages Improved

Local No. 9 has a 3-year agreement covering the office employees of the Milwaukee Sentinel, which expires May 19, 1947. The contract, however, may be opened on any anniversary date for changes in wages or hours of work. The union requested increases for its members this year and has obtained management's agreement to a \$2 per week increase for all employees up to the \$35 per week rate. A Form 10 has been filed with the WLB and its approval of the increase is awaited.

Win Transit Referendum

Office employees of the Milwaukee Electric Railway Transport Co., members of Local 9, have chalked up a very important victory in a referendum which was conducted by the Wisconsin Labor Relations Board for the purpose of determination of an all-union shop.

Through the aggressiveness of the members employed at this company the goal was achieved, thus assuring a union shop for the local in this establishment.

This election decisively showed that these office employees were determined to obtain a union shop, for when the ballots were counted the results showed 76 in favor and only 14 opposed, with 90 votes cast.

WLB Hearing Held

O. A. Jirikowic, organizer for the Milwaukee Federated Trades Council, and A. W. Korbel and Fred Schmitz, representing the office employees of the Miller Brewing Co. who are members of Local No. 9, appeared before a hearing officer designated by the War Labor Board in the person of Sonya Spiesman, and presented arguments as to why the union should have the same maintenance of membership clause

OEIU Wins Long Battle Against Vacation Rule

Washington, D. C.—The Office Employees International Union has won its long fight against the Shipbuilding Commission rule limiting paid vacations of clerical workers to one week after one year of service and two weeks after five years on the job.

President Paul R. Hutchings and J. Howard Hicks, secretary-treasurer, announced the victory, and said they expected that local unions should experience no further difficulty in gaining Shipbuilding Commission's approval on two-week vacation plans for shipyard office employees which have been negotiated with management.

The decision upsetting the past practice was handed down by a majority of the War Labor Board Shipbuilding Commission, industry members dissenting, in the case involving the office and clerical workers at the St. Johns River Shipyard, Jacksonville, Fla., where the Union

had negotiated a vacation plan providing accrual of vacation time at the rate of one day per month.

This plan was submitted to the commission in October, 1943, and was disapproved in November, the commission ordering only half a day, per month, or six days a year.

The union appealed to the National War Labor Board. All of the facts showing why the agreement should have been approved were placed before the board, and, on June 12, 1944, it acted on the appeal and remanded the vacation issue to the commission for reconsideration.

On May 24, the commission reconsidered the matter and approved the negotiated allowance of one day per month, retroactive to July 1, 1943. The plan was modified somewhat by changing the six-month qualifying provisions to one year.

The AFL member of the commission, Ed. Rowan, who actively supported the union's plan, hit at this modification, particularly in view of the exceedingly long delays which had occurred in getting commission action.

The retroactive feature will be of particular benefit to workers who have been laid off.

Second Victory Won

Shortly after the triumph in the St. Johns case, the commission acted on a somewhat similar case which had been presented over 14 months ago. This involved clerical workers in the timekeeping department of Walsh-Kaiser Shipyard at Providence, R. I., who had been excluded from participation in the two-week vacation allowance in effect for the rest of the office force.

In March, 1944, the local union negotiated the elimination of this inequity, but, when the matter was submitted to the commission, it was disapproved. On appeal by the Union, the National War Labor Board sustained the commission.

The Local, assisted by the International Union, resubmitted the proposal in modified form, and it has now been unanimously approved by the commission. This action has resulted in extension of the two-week, or 96-hour, vacation allowance to all of the inside time-keeping clerical workers.

REINSTATEMENT

(Continued from Page 1)

her dismissal was due to her union activity.

The company has agreed to settle the case by reimbursing Miss Casel for all loss of pay which she experienced and reinstating her to her job with full seniority rights. It was, therefore, unnecessary to press for further action with the NLRB.

Local 73 has been in contract negotiations with this company for some weeks and has requested the services of a conciliator to assist in connection with numerous issues on which no agreement has been reached. It is possible that some of

BASIS OF MANPOWER CONTROL CHANGED

Washington, D. C.—Decisions to retain or remove all or part of the manpower controls will be made on an area basis under the terms of a proposal made by national and regional management-labor committees and accepted by Paul V. McNutt, chairman of the War Manpower Commission.

This method, instead of directives to areas from national headquarters, places the primary responsibility for modification or elimination of controls upon the persons who are most directly affected. A regional director could veto the action of an area director and the management-labor committee, if he found that an adjacent area would be adversely affected.

The statement adopted by the conference of national and regional management-labor committees follows:

"War manpower controls should be removed from management and labor in an orderly manner consistent with war production needs and the prevention of mass unemployment.

"Origin of a decision to retain or remove any or all area controls in an area or in a plant in an area shall come from the War Manpower Commission area director and management-labor committee.

"Such a decision should be effective at the end of ten days after notice of the action is received by the regional director, unless the order should be vetoed within that period by the regional director in consultation with the regional management-labor committee, but if the regional director approves the order it should be effective immediately.

"Nothing in this recommendation should be construed to abrogate any existing appeal privileges."

Another statement adopted by the conference said as follows:

"It is recommended that the WMC chairman use his influence to establish a policy by the government with respect to war contracts that will permit employers to give thirty-day notice before workers are separated from payrolls if there are to be layoffs or discharges."

Chairman McNutt and a group of the management and labor leaders called on President Truman and read a statement to him pledging an "abundance" of supplies for prosecution of the war in the Pacific. Mr. Truman thanked them for their work.

Election Set By NLRB at Texas Co.

Port Arthur, Tex.—The National Labor Relations Board has directed that an election be held to determine whether office and clerical workers in the case and package division of the Texas Co. desire Local 66 as their collective bargaining agent.

the deadlocked issues will have to be decided by the Regional War Labor Board.

AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH PACIFIC CO.

San Jose, Calif.—Negotiation of an union shop agreement has been completed by Local 95 at the Pacific Manufacturing Co., Santa Clara, with the assistance of the conciliation service.

Vice President Frank F. Randall of the International Union handled the negotiations together with a committee of the local.

The contract establishes an 8-hour day and 40-hour week with time and a half for all work in excess of 8 hours and on Saturdays, and double time for Sundays and holidays. Holidays off with full pay are provided for.

Ten-minute morning and afternoon rest periods and vacations of 2 weeks with pay after one year are also provided.

The agreement sets up 12 classifications of work and increases were obtained ranging from \$5 to \$25 a month, subject to WLB approval. The increases are to be retroactive to February 1.

Contracting Firm Workers Vote AFL

Quonsett Point, R. I.—An overwhelming majority of the 644 office and clerical workers of the contracting firms of Merritt, Chapman & Scott—George A. Fuller Co. voted for representation through the A. F. of L. in a consent election conducted June 12 by the National Labor Relations Board. The vote was 512 "for" and only 93 "against." The organization drive was conducted by Al Bradt, AFL organizer, with the assistance of John J. Murphy, AFI regional director.

that has been in existence since 1938. It is expected that a directive will be issued within a short time.

ORGANIZE EMPLOYEES OF FIBRE CONCERN

Vancouver, Wash.—A majority of the office and clerical workers employed by the Longview (Wash.) Fibre Co. have been organized by Local No. 68 and the management is being requested to recognize the union as the representative of the group, according to C. C. Newell, business representative of the local and a vice president of the International Union.

The successful outcome of this venture would open a large field for unionization and subsequent improvements in wages and working conditions for a considerable number of office workers in the Longview-Kelso area, Newell avers.

Negotiations between Local No. 68 and the association of retail merchants are progressing and an early submission of the completed agreement to the Regional War Labor Board is anticipated, according to Ruby F. Williams, secretary-treasurer of the union. The successful conclusion of this agreement would result in improvements for virtually all office workers employed by retail stores in Vancouver.

Launch Program Of Unionization At Three Firms

Charleston, W. Va.—Under plans formulated by J. Howard Hicks, secretary-treasurer of the International Union, Local 67 of this city is launching a program calculated to complete organization of office and clerical workers employed by the General Machinery Ordnance Corp., and to assure the opportunity of collective bargaining to workers of our trade employed by the Libbey-Owens-Ford Glass Co., and the Kroger Grocery & Baking Co.

According to Virginia Lee Woods, secretary-treasurer, and Freida Petersen, recording secretary of Local 67, more than a little interest in the benefits to be derived through unionization has been evidenced by office and clerical workers in this city. The local union is planning to extend the opportunity for membership and the resultant advantages to all such workers in this area.

Local 67 currently is renewing its agreement with the General Machinery Ordnance Corp. which covers certain production clerical workers and is moving forward toward complete organization of all office workers employed by the company.

Volney Andrews, secretary-treasurer of the West Virginia State Federation of Labor, is lending substantial support to the organizational plans under way among workers of the Libbey-Owens-Ford Glass Co. Officers and members of the local Teamsters' Union are giving wholehearted and enthusiastic support to the organization of the office workers employed by the Kroger Grocery & Baking Co.

President Calls for Hike In Unemployment Payments

Washington, D. C.—Calling for immediate action by Congress to meet the emergency of reconversion unemployment, President Truman urged, in a special message, enactment of legislation to increase unemployment compensation and to extend its coverage.

The President asked Congress to provide federal funds so that disemployed workers can be paid as much as \$25 a week (if they have dependents) for as long as 26 weeks in any year. He pointed out that under present state laws, which cannot be changed overnight, the maximum figure is \$18 and the duration not more than 16 weeks.

At the same time, the President appealed for the inclusion of fifteen million additional workers who are not now covered because they are employed in small establishments or in navy yards, arsenals or government offices.

Message Encouraging

AFL President William Green immediately declared that labor is "highly encouraged" by Truman's message and said his recommendations are "acceptable" for the emergency period. However, he emphasized that the long-range social security goal of the AFL could only be met by the enactment of the new Wagner-Murray-Dingell bill.

President Truman gave at least inferential endorsement to the Wagner-Murray-Dingell bill in his message when he said "improvement" in the social security system is "fundamental." Such action, he pointed out, "will take time," and he warned that on the specific issue of unemployment benefits "we may not have time available."

"We are already entering the first phase of reconversion," the President said. "We must be prepared immediately for the far larger problems of manpower displacement which will come with the end of the war in the Pacific."

Neglect Human Needs

The President emphasized that Congress already has acted to provide for business, administrative and agricultural needs in reconversion, but has thus far neglected human needs.

"I urge Congress to close this gap," he said.

"I am confident," he continued, "that, with appropriate measures, we can avoid large-scale and lengthy unemployment during the transition period. However, some temporary unemployment is unavoidable, particularly when total demobilization becomes possible.

"Even if reconversion proceeds rapidly, no amount of planning can make jobs immediately available for all displaced personnel. We must provide maximum security to those who have given so fully of themselves on the fighting and production fronts. The transition from war to peace is part and parcel of the war, and we cannot shirk our obligation to those temporarily un-

employed through no fault of their own.

"Decent unemployment benefits would serve as a bulwark against postwar deflation. By assuring workers of a definite income for a definite period of time, congress will help materially to prevent a sharp decline in consumer expenditures which would otherwise result in a downward spiral of consumption and production. Adequate unemployment insurance is an indispensable form of prosperity insurance."

While labor hailed the president's recommendations, immediate congressional reaction was mixed. Senator Wagner and other liberals rallied in support of the president's message but Chairman George, of the senate finance committee, and Chairman Doughton, of the house ways and means committee, both said they saw no pressing need for such legislation. These committee chairmen were among the first to rush postwar measures to aid business.

In his comment on the presidential message, Mr. Green said:

"The government, which appealed to the patriotism of the nation's workers to take new jobs in war industries, often far from their homes, cannot evade its responsibility to these workers now and leave them stranded.

"Labor is delighted to see Mr. Truman maintain the same stand on this important issue that he took as a United States senator. The American Federation of Labor warned more than a year ago of the danger of reconversion unemployment and is highly encouraged by President Truman's call for action."

Half Million In Back Pay Is Won For Screen Force

Hollywood, Calif.—The Tenth Regional War Labor Board has announced approval of a new agreement between the Screen Office Employees Guild, Local No. 1391, and motion picture producing companies operating locally.

The 3000 members of the union will receive a 7 per cent over-all pay increase retroactive to January, 1944, which will aggregate approximately 500,000, according to Glenn A. Pratt, business manager of the local.

Vacation provisions, preferential hiring, cumulative sick leave and night premium pay are also included in the agreement.

Alaska Workers Feel Pinch

Juneau, Alaska—According to AFL Organizer Frank Marshall, office and clerical workers in this busy northern outpost are experiencing problems which they are convinced can be solved only through organization.

Organizer Marshall has indicated

DEPARTMENT STORE CAMPAIGN MAPPED

Cleveland, Ohio—In a move to bring the benefits of collective bargaining to the approximately 13,000 department store workers in this city, a campaign has been formulated and will shortly be undertaken for the unionization of this group by interested A.F.L. unions.

Considerable desire for organization has been evidenced among the approximately 1,200 office workers employed locally in the department store field according to Pearl A. Hanna, business representative of Local 17. Business Representative Hanna gave assurance of the support to this undertaking which will be forthcoming from her local union.

Heading this organizational venture will be Edward F. Murphy, president of the Teamsters District Council, and Peter Formica, representative of the Retail Clerks' International Union.

J. Howard Hicks, secretary-treasurer of the Office Employees International Union, indicated that the International Union would give all possible support and encouragement to the organization of this large group of underpaid workers. He pointed out numerous instances where office workers in the department store field have been organized and substantial improvements won in their behalf and also expressed the belief that office workers employed in local department stores would respond favorably to the suggestion that they likewise organize.

Strike Losses at Low Point in 1944

Washington, D. C.—Losses from strikes and lockouts in 1944 hit an all-time low, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. Idleness due to these causes, the bureau said, was equivalent to less than one-tenth of 1 per cent of the available working time.

Putting it another way, the bureau said that if all the time lost because of strikes and lockouts last year was lumped together, it would be equivalent to shutting down all industry about 2¼ hours, or about one-fourth of a working day.

Analysis of the strike figures made public by the BLS again proved that AFL unions are complying with the no-strike pledge better than any other organization.

Disputes over wages were responsible for more strikes and lockouts than any other cause.

The BLS report showed that stoppages were most extensive in the automobile, iron, steel and mining industries.

that the field for unionization of such workers in this territory is such as to warrant immediate aggressive action and he has assured International Union officers of his support and cooperation in affording office workers the opportunity to engage in collective bargaining.