Session of Executive Board Called For Detroit March 26

Washington, D. C.—The executive board of the International Union has been called to meet in Detroit at the Statler hotel on March 26. During the sessions the board will consider various matters affecting the employment and functioning of the International Union and will also consider problems involving jurisdiction between certain local unions.

This will be the first meeting of the board since its organized session in Cincinnati when the International Union was established.

The board is composed of President Paul R. Hutchings, J. Howard Hicks, Secretary-Treasurer, and the 10 vice presidents: J. O. Bloodworth, Jr., Tampa, Fla.; A. B. Carson, Sheffield, Ala.; R. M. Daugherty, Toledo, O.; Mildred Erickson, Seattle, Wash.; George P. Firth, Pittsburg, Pa.; Alice Holz, Milwaukee; W. C. C. Newell, Vancouver; W. G. Nygren, Minneapolis, Minn.; and Frank F. Randall, company, and C. A. Stafford, Port Arthur, Tex.

DUN & BRADSTREET DRIVE PROGRESSES

Chicago.—Business Representative Sarah E. Keenan of Local 17661 reports considerable progress being made in the current organizing drive among the office and clerical workers employed by the D. C. and Bradstreet's large Chicago office.

A substantial number of the employes in this office, which is 1160-I of the office maintained throughout the country by the D. C. and Bradstreet, are already interested in the drive. The workers are mainly interested in consolidating their present setup against certain cutbacks which may follow the closing of the office. They are also interested in merit and length of service increases, in seniority protection and promotions, in protection against discrimination or unjustifiable discharges. Also they are interested in wage increases which still may be obtained under the government's wage stabilization program.

Nygren is Named OEIU Organizer

L. G. Nygren, vice president of the International Union, has been chosen to be the full-time organizer by President Paul R. Hutchings and will take over his new organization of the Minneapolis Local 17661 and at the charter convention of the International Union was elected vice president. He previously served as vice president of the International Council during the period of its existence. Local 17661 has selected Arthur J. Fritz for the office of business representative.

Majority Attained At Texaco Can Co.

Port Arthur, Tex.—Local 22977 has developed a majority membership among the office and clerical workers of the Can and Package Division of the Texas Co. Much credit for this success goes to Local Union Vice President V. J. Williams and Committeeman J. L. Lemaire. The local already holds bargaining rights for the office employes at the refinery operated by the Texas company.

The company has been notified of the majority, according to C. A. Stafford, vice president of the International Union.

Greyhound Bus Workers Organize

Jacksonville, Fla.—An organizing drive from neighboring textiles to the 80 office workers of the Southeastern Greyhound Lines office in this city have become affiliated with Local 25185 and collective bargaining rights have been requested for them.

MOVE TO ORGANIZE HERSCHEY EMPLOYES

Hershey, Pa.—A move is under way to organize the workers in this city, chiefly those employed by the Hershey Chocolate Corp., which is the principal industry locally.

Substantial interest in unionization has been shown by office workers in all local establishments, and John O. Shearer, president of the Bakery and Confectionery Workers' Union No. 464, is lending invaluable and wholehearted support, as are members of that union employed in the chocolate corporation plant.

J. Howard Hicks, Secretary-Treasurer of the International Union, is working with Shearer, and has participated in organizational activities of the International Union are being made in the current organizing drive among the office and clerical workers employed in the Hershey plant.

Locals Flocking To International

Washington, D. C.—Surpassing even the most optimistic earlier projections, the number of Federal Labor Union locals has increased within the jurisdiction of our International Union who have made application for local union charters during the month of February, according to Paul R. Hutchings, president, and J. Howard Hicks, secretary-treasurer of the International Union.

The large number of unions which are now operating as local unions of the International Union indicates that the International Union will soon embrace all local unions previously functioning under Federal Labor Union charters. All locals thus far making application for charters have done so with evidence of extreme enthusiasm for and wholehearted support of their International Union.

Because of the ever-increasing activities of the International Union, it has been necessary to obtain newer and larger quarters for the headquarters office, according to its officers. Space has been procured at 1221 G Street, N. W., in the nation's capital, and following necessary alterations it is hoped that the

(Continued on Page 3)

The Office Worker

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

No. 3

WASHINGTON, D. C., MARCH 1945

PORTLAND STEPS UP ORGANIZING ACTIVITY

Portland, Ore.—The application of confidently laid plans for a vastly increased organizational drive among non-union office and clerical workers of this city has been launched by Local No. 16821, according to Irving Enna, secretary-treasurer of the union.

Among the major industries to be tackled in the outset of the new campaign is the Portland Gas & Coke Company, where considerable interest in the local union has been evidenced by office workers employed by the company. Approximately 300 office workers are involved in this undertaking, and it is anticipated that bargaining rights will be established by Local No. 16821 with the company in the near future. Landis Attention to this drive are local unions whose workers are currently enjoying the benefits of their collective bargaining agreements, chiefly those who are members of the International Chemical Workers Union.

Another objective of the union in its organizing activities, according to Enna, is the complete organization of all workers employed by the Oregonian and the Oregon Journal, which is considered to be a highly desired objective. In an industry organization typical of this interest being evidenced by the employees of the former, it is anticipated that little difficulty will be encountered in approaching workers of new employment by the latter company. The Portland Allied Printing Trades Council and its affiliated local unions are backing strong support to this drive.

Under the combined direction of Enna and Max Ruling, one of the two new organizers recently employed by the union, is the drive (Continued on Page 3)

Union Shop At Furniture Firm

Pittsburgh.—Local No. 20965 is making further strides in the organization of our trade in this city.

That was indicated by the large membership class initiated at the regular monthly meeting held here Feb. 23. Over 50 candidates were admitted to membership, all of whom had previously attended the instructor class as required by the membership drive. Members were commending them for admission to the local.

At this class which lasted about an hour, they are instructed in the basic facts of labor history, development and the office workers' unions and the procedure of union meetings.

Most of the candidates initiated last night were employees of Spear & Co. and Kaufman's department store. As a result of drives by the membership committee and negotiations conducted with the management (Continued on Page 5)

STRIKE LOSS CUT

Washington, D. C.—Time lost due to strikes in 1944 was reduced 21% from the figure for 1943, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics announced.

The bureau calculated that idleness resulting from last year's work stoppages amounted to only one-tenth of 1 percent of time worked.
Shall Americans Lose Their Freedom?

This question is being decided today. We need it answered, yes or no, or that "it can't be answered here.

The U.S. Congress is swarming that question now. A few days ago it looked as if the answer would be "yes." Now it may be "no." The reason for that change is no small matter.

How could we lose our freedom in many ways. The one thing threatening us is the possibility of a forced labor bill in Congress.

On January 6, Representative Andrew J. Map of Kentucky, sponsored a bill in the House which became known as the "Wage or Fight Bill." And Senator Bailey introduced the Senate version of the bill.

The May-Bailey Bill applied to men between the ages of 18 and 45. If they were in war work, it took them from the factories. If they were in non-war work, it took them from the offices. In any case, it is Selective Service power to take any man of that age. He will be in war work or service, and order him into a war job. For instance, an office worker employed under good union conditions could be sent to a non-war plant.

The bill could be imposed on any man if a job was taken away or a job was drafted. It did not allow a man to take a job he could draft. It ordered him to a special labor battalion to do menial work for the Army. This penalty was later changed to a fine up to $10,000 and/or jail up to five years, and with a bill that is "Wage or Fight Bill."

AFL Sees the Danger

The Administration and the War and Navy Departments backed this bill vigorously. A campaign of newspaper publicity tried to market public opinion against it. But the AFL saw that each bill would destroy American freedom, not only for workers but for employers too.

Here is how one man would be hurt in his free-lensing. If he had a job and he was drafted, he would be taken away from his work. If he was hired, he could impose all kinds of restrictions on him and he could not quit. Or the employer could hire his wage by keeping him in enforced idleness, as done today in many coast-plus plants. At present, under War Manpower Commission controls, a man so

Local's Flocking to International

Locals flocking to International.

THE OFFICE WORKER

Official organ of the Office Employees International Union

OFFICIAL OF WPB, BACK FROM FRANCE, HIS COMPULSION

Washington, D. C.—WPB Vice President Joseph D. Keenan returned from a visit to American battlefronts in France, declared he is still opposed to "work or fight" legislation. "I do not believe," he said, "that the voluntary law is working. The public is not pulling its weight. In one picture of the APL. It is foreseen that some 45,000 men in 9 well war plants (one of them) were being laid off and the plants left idle for lack of war contracts while military procurement services for the country generally are inadequate and workers cooperating splendidly in production. Shortage of munitions is a reliability problem. Changes and other technical problems, not to mention war shortage. Mr. Keenan and his staff were unanimous in their opposition to this bill, except for the Committee whose line was to support the Administration on this measure.

Defeat in the House

The battle in the House was lost by a vote of 19 to 17, on January 19 Administration pressure. In the Senate Military Affairs Committee, where the bill went for other hearings, committee members were in unanimous agreement that this bill was compulsory labor really necessary. Mr. Keenan backed up in Senate.

Again Mr. Hines appeared with full brief case, and for two hours gave the Senators the facts. After meetings with the War and Navy Departments, the Manpower Commission, the war office, and the Blumberg labor representatives, the committee decided that a labor draft was not necessary.

Victory in the Senate

A substitute bill was reported out by the Senate Military Affairs Committee, February 22. It strengthens the War Manpower Commission, establishes it and its management committees by WMC (which was previously set up by executive order.) Manpower contracts with WMC, and compulsory fines and jail terms for industrial workers are eliminated. The bill was also given power to investigate wage labor and to impose employment ceilings, necessary to release men from non-war work. War contracts are awarded where they will bring the war to the workers nearest the war jobs out of town, their transportation is provided.

Thus a bill which threatened all workers the country with a measure which strengthens democracy against strikes, a final victory is not yet won. The bill must pass the Senate and go to conference between representatives of Senate and House.

LOCALS FLOCKING TO INTERNATIONAL

(Continued from Page 1)

space may be occupied approximately March 19th. Local union officers have been advised that they will be officially notified of the effective date of such change.

Dues Stamps In Use

Announcement has been made by Secretary-Treasurer Joseph D. Howard that members of all local unions being chartered by the International Union will be required to use their black Federal Labor Union membership books. New dues, initiation, and reinstatement stamps have been made available to all unions in the colors, green, orange, and white, respectively.

In the meantime, financial officers of all local unions on March 1st, HICKS advised all local unions that they could expect to receive their books and dues and stamps by May 1st. The executive board of the International Union is notified. It is hoped that all local union dues, initiation, and stamps will be made available at local union meetings possible.

It has previously been reported that eligible Federal Labor Union officers that 36 eligible Federal Labor Unions desiring to maintain their previous affiliation relationship have been given. All reports and application for local union charters, following which consecutive members will be allotted to each such local union on the basis of the previous numerical relationship of such local unions.

Local unions have been asked to maintain standards of membership, and to their quality of service and fair performance of duties in their proper manner. In the near future, all supplies needed by local unions are being made available as rapidly as such supplies can be obtained.

Anti-Union Laws

In Supreme Court

Washington, D. C.—The Supreme Court has agreed to review the constitutionality of Florida labor laws restricting the operations of labor unions.

The Florida law requires unions in that state to obtain a license. The Alabama statute calls for penalties against strikes and/or lockouts. The Florida law requires unions in that state to obtain a license.

The Alabama law provides that unions that have been convicted of crimes may be fined and/or imprisoned. Florida law provides that unions that have been convicted of crimes may be fined and/or imprisoned. Florida law requires unions in that state to obtain a license.
Attention Focused On Pay of White Collar Workers

Washington, D. C.—Following up the AFL executive council’s action in recommending legislation for the benefit of white collar workers, the “America United” radio program of the federation on Feb. 18 focused nation-wide attention on the wartime plight of these workers.

Representative Robert Kamespock, of Georgia, the guest speaker, declared that the wages of white collar workers, including employees of the federal government, have not kept pace with living costs or the Little Steel formula.

“Mr. President, I am not in a position to give the white collar workers in the government service treatment which puts them on a basis of equality with other employees,” the Congressman said.

Favor Pay Boost

Questions, by James H. Burns, president of the American Federation of Government Employees, Rep. Kamespock declared he favored legislation putting into immediate effect President Roosevelt’s recommendations for increases in the postwar wage, plus a half for overtime work.

Mr. Burns representing the AFL on the program, also advocated an amendment of the Wage-Hour Act to set minimum pay standards to 75 cents an hour.

“If we increase the wage rate, production is going to increase and the business will be helped,” Mr. Burns said. “As I see it, if the incomes of these people are to be frozen at a lower level, postwar business is necessarily going to be stifled and we are going to perpetuate a lower standard of living in this country.”

Higher Minimum

Paul Sifton, representing the National Farmers Union, agreed with Mr. Burns that higher minimum wage levels are necessary as “trans- sition insurance” in order to sustain purchasing power during the change from wartime to peacetime production when overtime pay will be curtailed and take-home pay cuts.

Dr. Emerson P. Schmidt, representing the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, said that industry felt it was necessary to improve the conditions of white collar workers but he doubted whether this could be done by “wage-fixing” by the government.

UNION SHOP AT FURNITURE SHOP

(Continued from Page 1)

ment by Vice President George P. Birth of the Office Employees International Union, Spear & Co., Pittsburgh’s leading credit furniture store, is now operating as a union shop for the office employees. The union had previously had bargaining rights for the 200 office employees but about 50 had not become union members until this month. At Kaufman’s, one of the city’s largest department stores, the drive was directed toward securing enough members to win the bargaining rights for the bookkeeping department, and was successful.

Sister Sally Desty reported on the course offered by the adult educational program at Duquesne University on modern labor problems conducted by Father Rice. Concurring in a recommendation of the committee, the union voted to part of the tuition for each of its members attending to attend the course. Several members have already indicated their desire to take advantage of the offer.

PORTLAND STEPS UP ORGANIZING ACTIVITY

(Continued from Page 1)

calculated to culminate in the successful unionization of the regional mail order house of Montgomery Ward & Company, which is located in this city.

Working closely with representatives of Local No. 16821 in the organization of Montgomery Ward employees are such organizations as the Retail Department Store Clerks Union, the Building Service Employees Union and the various culinary crafts, who have all pooled their resources to make the organization of employees “wage-fixing” by the government.

Union Wins Back Pay From Ford Motor

The check reproduced above represents the final victory of Local 23135, Jacksonville, Fla., and the International offices disposed of all grievances as to the right to self organization in addition to ordering the reinstatement of Coles, who had been discharged and then fired after he joined Local 23135 and became active in behalf of the organization of the office workers employed at the Jacksonville branch of the company.

Shipyard Workers To Receive Back Pay

Members of the union employed in the Commercial Iron Works and Kaiser Company, Inc., shipyards will shortly be receiving retroactive pay checks as a result of successful negotiations carried on earlier between local union representatives and the companies. Retroactive payment to be received by the office workers of the Commercial Iron Works will be retroactive to June 6, 1944, while the payment to the Kaiser Co. employees will be back to September 1, 1944.

Increase In Lumber Industry

Following approval by the Twelfth Regional War Labor Board, the United Lumber Organization has announced an increase of $24.70 per month for office workers employed by the Mc-Ready Lumber Co., Portland and nearby branches. This substantial increase is to be paid by the company to its office workers retroactive to Dec. 11, 1944.
URGE IMPROVEMENTS IN SOCIAL SECURITY

Miami, Fla.—Urgent need for enactment of modernized social security laws which will prevent postwar depression and suffering was stressed by the AFL executive council in the following statement: "The need for social security in America looks forward will prove a dangerous disillusionment if it is followed by unemployment, suffering and depression. America does not want peace with a deadlock, but a peace which is based upon peace with security."

The executive council recognizes the fact that the best economic security for the worker is a good job at good pay, but it is impossible under our free-enterprise system to guarantee jobs for all. And the American people feel that the sacrifice of freedom is too high a price to pay for basic security that is possible under a completely regimented economy.

One Alternative

Labor sees only one alternative—a broad social security program which will protect the American enterprise system from its own shortcomings and which will provide safe investment to prevent the evils against the results from temporary unemployment, old age, illness and death.

Therefore, the executive council urges Congress to take immediate and effective action to pass a Wagner-Murray-Dingell amendment to the Social Security Act.

The program will offer security against 200 million Americans not now covered by the Social Security Act. Both major parties have pledged themselves to correct this unfair situation. This portion of the bill no longer can be regarded as technical or minor. It should be enacted at once.

Jobless Insurance

Secondly, the Wagner-Murray-Dingell bill proposes to modernize and improve the present faulty unemployment insurance system. The executive council recognizes that unemployment compensation is no cure for a depression, but an effective system can prevent one from developing in the postwar reconversion period, when millions of workers will suffer from enforced idleness. America is an economic whole. It needs a uniform unemployment compensation system for the country, not 48 miscellaneous types. Benefits and their duration should be tied to the needs of a reasonable standard. That this can be done without throwing federal and state treasures into the breach is proven by the fact that vast reserves have accumulated during the war production boom, when unemployment was reduced to a minimum.

Health Protection

Perhaps the most controversial section of the Wagner-Murray-Dingell bill deals with health and disability insurance. The facts that shock health conditions still existing in America which are due to recent state investigation appear to have made no impression upon certain elements in the medical profession, which continue to oppose this measure.

General War Production In Excellent Shape, Says AFL

Miami, Fla.—Terning the general war production picture "excellent," the AFL executive council said in its report that there are no critical munitions on poor planning by military authorities plus changes in production policies and new machine tools which are necessary by new military and strategic developments.

"It is not fair to castigate industries and labor for short-run profits," the council declared, "when production plans and requirements are controlled and followed by the authorities."

The council declared that several items of war production, which were "cut back" a year ago by order of the War and Navy departments are now scarce again. Production schedules have been doubled and tripled without advance warning to overcome these shortages and other official announcements are made that production is lagging "behind schedule," the council charged.

It urged that the executive council submit that no law short of a magic wand could keep war production in pace with the schedules arrived at on an economic basis," a formal statement said.

"We are convinced that, if the War and Navy departments will outline their needs clearly to labor and industry and submit production schedules with some advance notice, the workers and employers of America will produce the goods on time and ahead of time at the prices stipulated in the contracts," said the statement.

The situation calls for intelligent planning and effective cooperation, not hysteria and confusing forced-labor experiments.

"Labor recognizes its primary responsibility to provide for the total welfare of the armed forces," according to the executive council, "and wishes to reiterate at this time that the members of the American Federation of Labor are determined to fulfill this responsibility come what may."

Order Is Issued Against Donnelley Company by NLRB

Washington, D.C.—R. Donnelley & Sons Co., of Chicago, notoriously antilunion printing concern, has been ordered by the National Labor Relations Board to cease and desist from its unfair labor practices.

The order issued upon complaint of 16 AFL unions, the board found that for many years the company had engaged in a campaign to prevent organization of the workers.

The board is not a party to the complaint, Office Employees Local 20732 of Chicago has been supporting the other unions in their long struggle, and advising with them in the effort that the office and clerical employees of this company may organize and bargain for the benefits of collective bargaining.

Ready to Bargain With Pacific Firm

San Jose, Calif.—Negotiations for a collective bargaining agreement are about to commence with the Pacific Manufacturing Co. of San Jose, according to A. J. Murray, secretary-treasurer of the San Jose Local 42002.

Frank F. Randall, a vice president of the company and a member of the local, will assist the board in the negotiations, which are expected to prove substantial benefits for the workers.

Their object is "socialized medicine" are unemployed. Their fears as to the effect on professional earnings are unnecessary.

This bill would make the services of competent physicians available to millions of citizens who can't afford to consult a doctor and pay for hospital care. It would improve and extend the nation's medical facilities. It would provide the patient to choose his own doctor. It would allow individual physicians to maintain private practices. It would not place nearly as heavy a burden on government as the Social Security Act, a bill based on the premise that the workers have an incurable illness and does upon the national economy.

In passing, by applying the insurance principle to a field where it naturally belongs, this bill will ensure that America of the future, a Victim of human misfortune will lift the medical profession to new heights of service and security.

The executive council trusts that Congress will have the vision and the courage to act constructively on this vital matter.

Sign Agreement With Paper Firm

Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.—A collective bargaining agreement between Local 23827 and the Consolidated Water Power & Paper Co. was signed by the local and the company.

This agreement is the result of many weeks of negotiations by the local union, to which President of the International Union, Alice Holz, of the International Union, who is working with Harvey Klappa, president of the company, or early in May.

Incomes in wages, vacations with pay, sick leaves ranging from 2 to 6 weeks and holidays, depending upon the length of service, and 5 days of personal time off are some of the benefits.

Negotiate on Pact For American Ice

Washington.—Negotiations on a general agreement are about to begin between Local 17726, the American Ice Co. Meetings of members employed by the company, which has been approached by the executive council, will be held at the conclusion of the negotiations, which are expected to prove substantial benefits for the workers.

The proposed agreement includes such benefits as overtime pay, retroactive to April 1946; for work after 8 hours a day or 40 hours a week; and wage increases ranging from 10 to 20 percent.

ODRDANCE PLANT WORKERS ORGANIZE

Kansans City.—Office workers of the militant Sunflower Ordinance Works have been organized by Local 21216, assisted by AFL Organizer R. E. James, and are among the first victors of collective bargaining that the other craft have been enjoying.

A committee has been named to cover wages and working conditions has been presented to the contractors: William A. Donnelly, president; Gordon, Cary-Joslyn & Macson and Evans-Lord, and early negotiations are expected, according to Alice Fox, secretary of the local.

The proposed agreement includes such benefits as overtime pay, retroactive to April 1946; for work after 8 hours a day or 40 hours a week; and wage increases ranging from 10 to 20 percent.

Anti-Labor Bills Fail of Passage

Washington, D.C.—Forty-one state legislatures, in meeting this month, have killed the first month of their 1947 sessions, but so far without final enactment of any anti-labor measures.

Bills designed to hamstring unions have poured into the hoppers of the legislatures, but not at as great a rate as in the previous two years, a Department of Labor survey shows.

Up to this week, restrictive bills have been marked headway in only two states—South Dakota and Georgia.