

THE OFFICE WORKER

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

No. 3

WASHINGTON, D. C., MARCH, 1945

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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 three hundred 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. Lending support 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 organizational activities, according to Enna, is the complete organization of office workers employed by the Oregonian and the Oregon-Journal, the two principal daily newspapers in this city. Considerable interest in organization is being evidenced by the employees of the former, and it is anticipated that little difficulty will be encountered in approaching workers of our trade employed by the latter company. The Portland Allied Printing Trades Council and its affiliated local unions are lending strong support to this drive.

Under the combined direction of Enna and Marian Manning, one of the two new organizers recently employed by the union, is the drive

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Union Shop At Furniture Firm

Pittsburgh.—Local No. 20959 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 instruction class as required by the membership committee before recommending 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 objectives of 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 manage-

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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 of importance to the establishment 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 organization session in Cincinnati when the In-

ternational 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. R. Carson, Sheffield, Ala.; R. M. Daugherty, Toledo, O.; Mildred Erickson, Seattle, Wash.; George P. Firth, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Alice Holz, Milwaukee, Wis.; C. C. Newell, Vancouver, Wash.; L. G. Nygren, Minneapolis, Minn.; Frank F. Randall, Oakland, Calif., and C. A. Stafford, Port Arthur, Tex.

DUN & BRADSTREET DRIVE PROGRESSES

Chicago.—Business Representative Sarah E. Keenan of Local 20732 reports considerable progress being made in the current organizing drive among the office and clerical workers of Dun & Bradstreet's large Chicago office.

A substantial number of the employees have already signed up from this office, which is 1 of 180 offices maintained throughout the country by Dun & Bradstreet.

The workers are mainly interested in consolidating their present setup against certain curtailments which may follow the war. 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 indeed interested in wage increases which still may be obtained under the government's wage stabilization program.

Increases Won

Minneapolis.—Office workers of the H. D. Lee Co., Inc., manufacturer of overalls and work clothing, have renewed their collective bargaining agreement.

Negotiations were conducted by L. G. Nygren, vice president of the International Union and business representative of Local 17661, and the new pact is in the hands of the War Labor Board for approval.

Wage increases averaging \$11.50 a month, or 6% cents an hour, with individual increases ranging as high as \$27.50 a month, were secured.

The vacation clause was improved so that workers who resign after 1 year of service receive vacations.

STRIKE LOSS CUT

Washington, D. C.—Time lost due to strikes in 1944 was reduced one-third from strike losses in 1943, 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.

Nygren Is Named OEIU Organizer

L. G. Nygren, vice president of the International Union, has been appointed a



Nygren

full-time organizer by President Paul Hutchings and will take over his new duties March 5.

For a number of years he has been business representative and financial secretary of 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 entire 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 Case 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 employees 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 overwhelming majority of the more than 80 office workers of the Southeastern Greyhound Lines office in this city have become affiliated with Local 23133 and collective bargaining rights have been requested for them.

MOVE TO ORGANIZE HERSHEY EMPLOYEES

Hershey, Pa.—A move is under way to organize all office 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 meetings. They are jointly working out techniques to overcome the problems peculiar to this particular campaign.

Approximately 400 office workers are involved, including employes in banks, department stores, hotels and other public facilities in Hershey, practically all of which are operated by the Hershey Corp. in a very unique community set-up.

Locals Flocking To International

Washington, D. C.—Surpassing even the most optimistic earlier predictions is the number of Federal Labor Unions coming 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

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OFFICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION



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Shall Americans Lose Their Freedom?

This question is being decided to-
day. We needn't think we are se-
cure, or that "it can't happen here."
The U. S. Congress is answering that
question now. A few weeks
ago it looked as if the answer would
be "Yes." Now it may be "No." The
reason for that change is due in no
small measure to organized labor.

How could we lose our freedom?
In many ways. But the one threat-
ening us at present is the effort to
pass a forced labor bill in Congress.

On January 6, Representative
Andrew J. May of Kentucky intro-
duced a bill in the House which be-
came known as the "Work or Fight
Bill," and Senator Bailey introduced
the same bill in the Senate. This
May-Bailey Bill applied to all men
between the ages of 18 and 45. If
they were in war work, it froze
them in their jobs. It gave Selective
Service power to take any man of
that age, who was not in war work
or military service, and order him
into a war job. For instance, an of-
fice worker employed under good
union conditions could be sent to a
low paid job in a non-union foundry.
If any man left a war job or refused
a job his draft board ordered him to
take, he could be drafted into a spe-
cial 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 the bill became a "Work or Jail
Bill".

AFL Sees the Danger

The Administration and the War
and Navy Departments backed this
bill vigorously. A campaign of
newspaper publicity tried to marsh-
al public opinion behind it. But
the AFL saw that such a bill would
destroy American freedom, not only
for workers but for employers too.
Here's what it would do:

A man would be frozen in his job,
but the employer was free to lay
him off. The employer could impose
all kinds of injustices on him and he
could not quit. Or the employer
could waste his labor by keeping
him in enforced idleness, as is done
today in many cost-plus plants. At
present, under War Manpower
Commission controls, a man so

Official of WPB, Back from France, Hits Compulsion

Washington, D. C.—WPB Vice
Chairman Joseph D. Keenan, just
back from a visit to American bat-
tlefronts in France, declared he is
still opposed to "work or fight" leg-
islation which, he warned, "may cut
production 30 percent instead of in-
creasing it."

Mr. Keenan said the only short-
ages he heard about at the front
were heavy ammunition and men.
The Army, he explained, is firing
heavy artillery at 5 or 7 times the
rate originally planned. There are
still large ammunition supplies in
England and on the continent, but
the problem is to transport the sup-
plies to the battle lines. Port fa-
cilities still have not been re-
stored, and the French railways
have been crippled. The resultant
heavy demand on motor transport,
he pointed out, has brought about
a great need for more heavy trucks
and tires.

Stressing the desirability of in-
creasing production through volun-
tary methods, Mr. Keenan said:

"We should try to use small con-
cerns that have been cut back. Give
them subcontracts for essential war
work instead of closing them down
and dispersing the workers, who
may take six months to find new
jobs at which they are best qualified.
It's more efficient to use existing
plants and the workers who are
there—then there are no new prob-
lems of transportation and hous-
ing."

Mr. Keenan said he found no
antiunion feeling among the rank
and file of soldiers in France. Their
chief concern, he said, is to get the
war over quickly and return home.

Keenan can appeal to his Area
Management-Labor Committee and
get a release if he is unjustly
treated or his labor is wasted. But
the May-Bailey Bill would take con-
trol away from WMC and give it to
the local draft boards. A man's only
appeal would be to his draft board.

Selective Service could take men
from a non-war plant and send them
to war plants. For instance, a draft
board could cripple a printing plant
by taking its key men. Also, an em-
ployer would not have to correct un-
just labor conditions to attract
workers; he could get drafted men
for the asking. He could lay off well
paid union men and replace them
with drafted men at lower pay.
Unions could easily be destroyed.

This would indeed mean loss of
freedom in USA.

The Battle on Capitol Hill

The Federation designated Mr.
Lewis Hines of its legislative staff
to carry its protest to Congress. Mr.
Hines marshalled an array of facts
that made him one of the best in-
formed men on this subject in the
country. The AFL Research Staff
gave its best service. Mr. Hines
made a masterly presentation to
Congress. "If this bill should pass,"
he told them, "the United States
would have taken a long step down
the road to totalitarianism." He
punctured misleading statements
by military leaders, pointed to the
miracle of production turned out
by free American labor, exceeding
compulsory labor in any country.
He showed the colossal wastes of

Union Publicized In "Federationist"

Washington, D. C.—An article by
President Paul R. Hutchings and
Secretary-Treasurer J. Howard
Hicks on the chartering of the Office
Employees International Union was
featured in the February issue of
the "Federationist", monthly maga-
zine of the AFL. Reprints of this
article are being prepared and quan-
tities of the same can be obtained
from headquarters, upon request.

labor and plant capacity permitted
by the military services; for in-
stance, 70,000 men in 9 well
equipped war plants (he named
them) were being laid off and the
plants left idle for lack of war con-
tracts while military procurement
services awarded their contracts in
labor shortage areas. He showed
labor wastes, 15 men employed to
do the work of 3, men forced by
management to stand idle for weeks
—and the government paid the bill.
He showed that labor supply in the
country generally is adequate and
workers cooperating splendidly in
war production. Shortage of mun-
itions is due chiefly to design
changes and other technical prob-
lems, not to manpower shortage.

Labor, management and farmers
were unanimous in their opposition
to this bill, except for the Com-
munists whose line was to support
the Administration on this measure.

Defeat in the House

The battle in the House was lost
by 10 votes (187 to 177) on January
3. Administration pressure had
prevailed.

In the Senate Military Aff-
airs Committee, where the bill
went for closed hearings, committee
members made a vigorous search
for the truth about this bill. Was
compulsory labor really necessary?
Must we step back 82 years?

Again Mr. Hines appeared with
full brief case and for two hours
gave the Senators the facts. After
hearing from the War and Navy
Departments, the Manpower Com-
mission, management, farmers and
one other labor representative, 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 Com-
mittee on February 22. It strength-
ens the War Manpower Commis-
sion, establishes it and its manage-
ment-labor committees by law.
(WMC was previously set up by
executive order.) Manpower con-
trols are left with WMC, and com-
pulsion, fines and jail terms for
industrial workers are eliminated.
WMC is also given power to in-
vestigate waste of labor and to im-
pose employment ceiling where
necessary to release men from non-
war to war plants, and to see that
war contracts are awarded where
they will bring the work to the
workers. Where workers must shift
to war jobs out of town, their trans-
portation is provided.

Thus a bill which threatened all
our freedom has been changed to
a measure which strengthens demo-
cratic wartime controls. But final
victory is not yet won. The bill
must still 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 approxi-
mately March 19th. Local union of-
ficers have been advised that they
will be officially notified of the ef-
fective date of such change.

Dues Stamps In Use

Announcement has been made by
Secretary-Treasurer Hicks that the
members of all local unions being
chartered by the International
Union will temporarily continue 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 a letter addressed to the finan-
cial officers of all local unions on
March 1st, Hicks advised all local
unions that they could expect to re-
ceive their local union charters and
seals by May 1st. The executive
board of the International Union is
currently giving consideration to a
number of suggested insignia to be
adopted for the use of the Inter-
national Union. Following such ac-
tion charters, seals, and all other
supplies which will bear the insig-
nia of the International Union will
be made available as rapidly as pos-
sible.

It has previously been explained
by International Union officers that
all eligible Federal Labor Unions
desiring to maintain their previous
numerical relationship have been
given until March 17th to make ap-
plication for local union charters,
following which consecutive num-
bers will be allotted to each such
local union on the basis of the pre-
vious numerical relationship of such
local unions with each other.

Local unions have been advised
that the bonding of local union
financial officers under honesty and
faithful performance of duty bonds,
will be covered in a communication
from International Union head-
quarters 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 con-
stitutionality of Alabama and Flor-
ida laws restricting the operations
of labor unions.

The Florida law requires unions
in that state to obtain a license.
The Alabama statute calls for pe-
riodic financial statements, bars su-
pervisory employes from joining
labor organizations, and prohibits
unions from collecting money from
employes as a "work permit."

Last month the high court in-
validated a Texas law generally re-
garded as milder in treatment of
unions than the Alabama and Flor-
ida statutes. It required paid labor
organizers to get a license before
soliciting membership. The court
ruled that it abridged freedom of
speech and assembly.

WAGE PROPAGANDA SHATTERED BY WLB

Washington, D. C.—Propaganda about high wages was shattered in a report by the National War Labor Board, covering its 3 years of operations.

A special tabulation covering a 20-month period, showed that out of a quarter million cases, involving nearly 14,000,000 workers, handled in that period, the average earnings, at the time of applications for increases, amounted to less than 70 cents an hour, scarcely a subsistence level.

Significantly, the report disclosed that employees in unorganized or "company union" plants are paid far less than workers in union establishments.

In the former, the average wage, at the time of applications for raises, was only 64 cents an hour, as against 72 to 75 cents in the latter.

On an annual basis, that would mean a union worker, toiling about 2,500 hours, including overtime at time and one-half rates, would earn approximately \$300 more than a nonunion employe.

Other statistics carried in the report showed that throughout the 3-year period, the board and its regional offices disposed of 362,000 cases covering 24,000,000 workers.

Out of this vast number, there were only 31 instances where either employers or unions defied board awards, and in only 25 of these was it necessary to seize the plant to secure enforcement.

"The small number of recalcitrant employers and unions, in contrast to the thousands of rulings given, speaks eloquently for the nation's cooperation with the War Labor Board under the labor-management-government system," declared Theodore W. Kheel, the board's executive director, who prepared the report.

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

"The present Congress should act promptly to give to the white collar workers in the government service treatment which puts them on a basis of equality with other employes," the Congressman said.

Favors Pay Boost

Questioned by James B. Burns, president of the American Federation of Government Employes, Rep. Ramspeck declared he favored legislation putting into immediate effect President Roosevelt's recommendations for increases in the basic pay of government workers plus actual time and a half for overtime worked.

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

"If we increase the wage rate, production is going to increase and 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 "tran-

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 drops.

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 FIRM

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ment by Vice President George P. Firth of the Office Employes International Union, Spear & Co., Pittsburgh's leading credit furniture store, is now operating as a union shop for the office employes. The union had previously had bargaining rights for the 200 office employes 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 so successful that over 65 per cent of the workers signed cards and the majority of them have been initiated into the union, which is now certified as the bargaining agency for this department of almost 100 employes.

For the educational committee, Sister Sally Douty 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 pay a part of the tuition for each of its members agreeing to attend the course. Several members have already indicated their desire to take advantage of the offer.

PORTLAND STEPS UP ORGANIZING ACTIVITY

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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 employes are such organizations as the Retail Department Store Clerks Union, the Building Service Employes Union and the various culinary crafts, who have all pooled their resources to make the organization of employes of the company 100% effective. Charles R. Smith, AFL Organizer, is actively assisting all unions engaged in the campaign.

Under the auspices of the Portland Central Labor Council, all unions engaged in the Montgomery Ward campaign are working through a special organizing headquarters adjacent to the mail order house.

Agreement Signed With Archdiocese

Announcement of the signing of an agreement between Local No. 16821 and the Archdiocese of Portland has been made by Enna. A union shop agreement was entered into with the Archdiocese which insures union membership for all of its office employes. In addition to six generally recognized holidays each year, an additional six church holidays will also be allowed with pay.

The workers covered by the agreement will be allowed twelve days sick leave with pay each year. Vacations provided allow one week for workers with one year of service, and two weeks for two or more years of service. The salaries agreed to represent a substantial increase for the workers involved.

The agreement provides for time and one-half for all work performed in excess of eight hours in any one day, and forty hours in any week, with similar treatment being accorded for time worked on the sixth and seventh day of any week. Double time is to be received for work performed on the seventh consecutive day of work. Seniority based exclusively on length of service, together with two 15-minute rest periods each day, are features of the initial agreement.

Shipyards Workers To Receive Retroactive 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. employes will be dated from September 1, 1944.

Increase In Lumber Industry

Following approval by the Twelfth Regional War Labor Board, Enna has announced a salary increase of \$24.70 per month for office workers employed by the McCready Lumber Company in its Portland and nearby branches. This substantial increase is to be paid by the company to its office workers retroactive to Dec. 11, 1944.

Union Wins Back Pay From Ford Motor



The check reproduced above represents the final victory of Local 23133, Jacksonville, Fla., and the International Union in their battle to uphold the collective bargaining rights of office workers at the Jacksonville branch of the Ford Motor Co.

J. B. Coles, a member of the local

and a veteran worker, received the \$1,942 check as reinstatement pay ordered by the National Labor Relations Board after it found Ford guilty of unfair labor practices.

The company was directed to cease and desist from interfering with, restraining or coercing its office employes in the exercise of

their right to self organization in addition to ordering the reinstatement of Coles, who had been demoted and then fired after he joined Local 23133 and became active in behalf of the organization of the other office workers employed at the Jacksonville branch of the company.

URGE IMPROVEMENTS IN SOCIAL SECURITY

Miami, Fla.—Urgent need for enactment of modernized social security legislation to prevent post-war depression and suffering was stressed by the AFL executive council in the following statement:

The peace to which all Americans look forward will prove a dangerous disillusionment if it is followed by widespread unemployment, suffering and depression.

America does not want peace with breadlines. Our people insist 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 economy to guarantee jobs for all. And the American people feel that the sacrifice of freedom is too high a price to pay for the kind of economic security that is possible under a completely regimented economy.

One Alternative

Labor sees only one alternative—a broad social security program which will protect our free enterprise system from its own shortcomings and which will provide safe insurance for the individual against the evils resulting from temporary unemployment, old age, illness and disability.

Therefore, the executive council urges Congress to take immediate and favorable action on the Wagner-Murray-Dingell amendments to the Social Security Act.

This measure will offer security against old age to 25 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 controversial. It should be enacted at once.

Jobless Insurance

Secondly, the Wagner-Murray-Dingell bill proposes to modernize and improve the present faulty unemployment compensation system. The executive council concedes 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 increased to a reasonable standard. That this can be done without throwing federal and state treasuries into debt 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 harsh facts about shocking health conditions still existing in America which were exposed by a recent state investigation appear to have made no impression upon certain elements in the medical profession, which continue to oppose this meas-

General War Production In Excellent Shape, Says AFL

Miami, Fla.—Termining the general war production picture "excellent," the AFL executive council blamed such shortages as still exist in critical munitions on poor planning by military authorities plus changing and increased requirements made necessary by new military and strategic developments.

"It is not fair to castigate industry and labor for shortcomings," the council declared, "when production plans and requirements are changed overnight 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 then official announcements are made that production is lagging "behind schedule," the council charged.

"The executive council submits that no law short of a magic wand could keep war production in pace with schedules arrived at on such a 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 as they have consistently done in the past. The situation calls for intelligent planning and effective cooperation,

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 Santa Clara, according to Mabel M. Lee, secretary-treasurer of Local 23603. Frank F. Randall, a vice president of the International Union, will assist the local in the negotiations, which are expected to produce substantial benefits for the workers.

Their outcries of "socialized medicine" are unfounded. Their fears as to the effect on professional earnings are groundless.

This bill would make the services of competent physicians available to millions of citizens who can't afford now to consult a doctor or pay for hospital care. It would improve and extend the nation's medical facilities. It would permit the patient to choose his own doctor. It would allow individual physicians to maintain private practice.

It would not place nearly as heavy a burden on government finances as the present prevalence of curable illness does upon the national economy.

In fact, by applying the insurance principle to a field where it naturally belongs, this bill will strengthen the America of the future, alleviate human suffering and 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.

not hysteria and confusing forced-labor experiments.

"Labor recognizes its primary wartime responsibility of producing in full measure the equipment needed by our armed forces to crush the enemy. The executive council 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. R. Donnelley & Sons Co., of Chicago, notoriously antiunion printing concern, has been ordered by the National Labor Relations Board to cease and desist from its unfair labor practices.

In proceedings instituted 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.

While 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 to the end that the office and clerical employees of this company may organize and obtain the benefits of collective bargaining.

Negotiate on Pact For American Ice

Washington.—Negotiations on a renewed agreement are about to begin between Local 11773 and the American Ice Co. Meetings of members employed by the company have been held with the local representatives and a proposed contract drafted and submitted which will bring about wage adjustments and improvements in general working conditions.

W. R. Probey, business representative of the local, will handle the negotiations, with the assistance of a committee of the workers and officers of the International Union.

Sign Agreement With Paper Firm

Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.—A collective bargaining agreement between Local 23627 and the Consolidated Water Power & Paper Co. is awaiting approval of the regional War Labor Board in Chicago.

Assisting in processing the pact through the board is Vice President Alice Holz, of the International Union, who is working with Harry Klappa, president of the local, on the matter.

Increases in wages, vacations with pay, sick leaves ranging from 2 weeks to 8 weeks, depending upon length of service, and 5 days of personal time off are some of the benefits.

UNION APPEALS TO TRANSFER WORKERS

Baltimore, Md.—Plans for increased organizational endeavors by Local No. 20048 have resulted in an aggressive appeal to the office and clerical workers employed by the Baltimore Transfer Co., it has been announced here by Helen Harvey, financial secretary of the union. Employees of this company have strongly indicated their need for collective bargaining and a large number of enthusiastic supporters among the group are currently working actively with representatives of the local union.

Preliminary meetings with representatives of the workers employed by the company gives strong reason to believe that the campaign will prove successful. It is anticipated that the office workers employed in the Richmond, Washington, Philadelphia, Jersey City and New York offices of the company will be approached by our local unions in those cities.

The current undertakings by Local No. 20048 are under the leadership of the organizing committee of the union, which, in addition to Financial Secretary Harvey, includes Edith Gordon and Katherine Hunter, assisted by Secretary Beverly Moss of the local. International Union officers are lending their support to the campaign.

ORDNANCE PLANT WORKERS ORGANIZE

Kansas City.—Office workers of the 3 contractors at the Sunflower Ordnance Works have been organized by Local 21612, assisted by AFL Organizer R. E. James, and are about to realize the advantages of collective bargaining that the other crafts have been enjoying.

A contract covering wages and working conditions has been presented to the contractors: William S. Lozier, Inc.; Broderick & Gordon, Cary-Joslyn & Macnson and Evans-Lord, and early negotiations are expected, according to Alice Fuqua, recording secretary of the local.

The proposed agreement includes such benefits as overtime pay—retroactive to April 17, 1943—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, now meeting, have wound up the first month of their 1945 sessions, but so far without final enactment of any anti-labor measures.

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

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