

# THE OFFICE WORKER

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

No. 11

WASHINGTON, D. C., NOVEMBER, 1945

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## ORGANIZE WORKERS OF TOBACCO FIRMS

Durham, N. C.—Office and clerical employes of Liggett & Myers Tobacco Company and the American Tobacco Company are organizing under the banner of the OEIU.

A substantial number of the more than 200 employes have already signed applications and it is anticipated that bargaining rights will shortly be established.

Active support and cooperation is being received from A. E. Brown, AFL organizer, and also from the Tobacco Workers' International Union.

## WLB Orders Union Security Clause

Tampa, Fla.—Union security for office and clerical workers of Tampa Electric Company was won by Local 46 in a unanimous decision of the Regional War Labor Board.

The issue went to the board, by agreement of the union and the company, after management rejected the maintenance of membership clause in the contract proposed by the union. There was no dispute on other provisions of the contract, which was reported in a previous issue of *The Office Worker*.

## Renew Contract For Union Staff

Kansas City, Mo.—Local 4 reports the renewal of a working agreement for office and clerical workers employed in the headquarters of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders and Helpers of America.

A blanket increase of 20 cents an hour was agreed to in a mutual effort to offset the decrease in take-home pay resulting from the return to the normal work week.

## Gas Co. Force Is Organizing

Lincoln, Ill.—The first organization of office and clerical workers in this city is proceeding, with a substantial majority of the office employes at the Lincoln Gas Company signed up with the OEIU in a campaign conducted by Sarah Keenan, business representative of Chicago Local 28, AFL Organizer Wadsworth and the officers of the Central Labor Union. A local union charter has been granted to this group.

## On Brown & Sharpe Picket Line



International President Paul R. Hutchings (at left) is shown with Walter Sanford, secretary-treasurer of Local 76; Ray Jamieson, president of the local, and Walter D. Parenteau, a shop steward, in one of the picket lines at Brown & Sharpe Manufacturing Company, Providence, R. I.

## Brown & Sharpe Employes Standing Firm In Strike

Providence, R. I.—Office and clerical workers of Brown & Sharpe Manufacturing Company are holding firm in their strike for an equitable adjustment of wages.

The company, one of the world's largest builders of machine and hand tools, had been completely tied up for over a month when

The morale of the workers is excellent and the picket lines are being faithfully maintained despite cold and rainy weather.

In a conference with the state deputy director of labor, International President Paul R. Hutchings reiterated the union's desire for an amicable settlement of the dispute

The arbitrary and unreasonable position of Brown & Sharpe was again high lighted when the company on November 23 flatly rejected a unanimous proposal of the Regional War Labor Board that the company and the union submit the dispute to the Board.

The union advised the board of its willingness to accept the proposal as a method of terminating the strike.

The Regional Board, composed of labor, industry and public representatives, made the proposal after hearing the union's position, presented by International President Hutchings, and the company's position.

this issue of *The Office Worker* went to press. Members of the Machinists, the Molders, the Pattern Makers and the Technical Engineers are respecting the picket lines and the Rhode Island Federation of Labor and the Providence Building Trades Council have formally endorsed the walkout. The Georgia Federation of Labor wired moral support and encouragement from its conference at Augusta.

and reaffirmed a proposal for arbitration.

### Try to Break Strike

Management, however, remained adamant, clinging to the dictatorial policy laid down by President Henry D. Sharpe and, in an unsuccessful attempt to break the strike, went to the Superior Court pleading "violence" and obtained an injunction against the pickets.

(Continued on Page 4)

## ELECTION VICTORY AT U. S. GAUGE CO.

Sellersville, Pa.—The office and engineering employes of the U. S. Gauge Co. voted November 15 in favor of the Office Employees International Union and the International Federation of Technical Engineers, Architects and Draftsmen's Unions as their collective bargaining agency. There were 141 employes eligible in the unit, of these 118 cast ballots, 102 voting "Yes" and 16 voting No."

The election was preceded by a rally addressed by Foster J. Pratt, president of the International Federation of Technical Engineers, George P. Firth, vice president of the Office Employees International Union, Miss Jean Gibstein of OEIU Local 14 of Philadelphia, and local representatives of the Machinists and Metal Polishers unions.

Organization of these employes began last May when AFL Organizer Howard Klein of Allentown found that the employes were desirous of being represented by unions. The work was carried on by OEIU Vice President Firth, who also represented the Technical Engineers in this drive.

Committees are preparing for negotiations which are expected to begin soon.

## Blue Cross Pact In Negotiation

Denver, Colo.—A proposed contract has been prepared by Local 5 and negotiations are under way this month with the Blue Cross Hospital Service.

Vice President Frank F. Randall of the OEIU is assisting the local, which was chosen by the Blue Cross office workers as their collective bargaining agent in an NLRB election October 12.

Active in the organization drive were Joyce Eagar, secretary-treasurer of the Local; Eileen Major, vice president; Wesley Johnson, Colorado State Federation of Labor organizer, and Rudy Cook, secretary of the Trades and Labor Assembly.

Incidentally, the State Federation at its convention adopted a resolution urging all affiliated unions to fully support OEIU locals in their efforts to organize office workers in Colorado.

## NEW LOCAL

Beaumont, Texas—Organizational efforts among office and clerical workers at Magnolia Petroleum Co., Sun Oil Co., and other concerns here has resulted in the chartering of OEIU Local 169. Vice President C. A. Stafford, AFL Organizer J. W. Park, Local 133 at Orange and Local 66 at Port Arthur aided in establishing the local.



**THE OFFICE WORKER**

Official organ of the  
OFFICE EMPLOYEES  
INTERNATIONAL UNION



PAUL R. HUTCHINGS, *President*  
J. HOWARD HICKS, *Sec.-Treas.*

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**Trade Unionism**

Trade Unionism is not an abstract thing. It is a living principle and must be given its full share of hard work in order to keep it alive.

We hear many union members talk about Trade Unionism, but all they do is talk about it. Seldom if ever do they lift a finger to keep it alive. Talk never made anything grow, nor does it sustain life, whether it be in the case of a human being or the Labove Movement.

It is the moral duty of every member of a Labor Union to take an active part in the affairs of that union, and only by serving others can we rightfully expect others to serve us.

When called upon to serve on some committee of the union, we should not refuse, unless we are sure we can be of no benefit to our fellow members. Each of us can contribute something in the way of ideas or plans but few of us have the courage to do so. We should not expect the officers to do it all, as they spend many hours attending meetings and gathering information for the benefit of the members, in addition to their regular duties, which they perform to the best of their ability.

Let us not wait to be put on an Organizing Committee in order to help our friends get the wages and conditions we enjoy. Let us see that they are informed of the benefits of organization, and help them to become members of the union which has jurisdiction over their employment.

Let us patronize Union Labor at all times and insist that the members of our families do likewise.

If all of us work for it instead of just talking about it, Trade Unionism will grow stronger and stronger.

Minnette Fitzgerald,  
Secretary-Treasurer, Local 3.  
San Francisco, Calif.

**OPA Head Makes Strong Argument for Wage Boost**

Washington, D. C.—Raising the minimum wages of all workers in interstate commerce from the present 40 cents an hour to 65 cents as prescribed in pending legislation would have no significant price consequences, Chester Bowles, price administrator, assured Congress.

In testimony before a Senate sub-committee studying a modification of the Fair Labor Standards Act, Mr. Bowles declared that a higher floor for wages was "imperative" to the health of the national economy.

"There need be no hesitation on any one's part because of the price consequences of this legislation," said Mr. Bowles.

He presented figures purporting to show that a \$14,000,000 rise in the tobacco industry payroll, needed to lift to the wage level the 58 per cent of the workers in that industry now getting less than 65 cents an hour would mean about one-tenth of a cent per pack of cigarettes—if the entire increase were taken out of cigarettes alone. He pointed out, however, that the industry's profits in 1944 amounted to \$154,000,000, which the proposed wage increase would reduce by 9 per cent.

Introduction of a 65-cent minimum in the lumber and timber industry—where 54 per cent of the workers get less than that amount—would increase payrolls by \$67,000,000. Such an increase amounts to 43 per cent of the industry's 1944 profits, Mr. Bowles admitted, but even this cut in profits would leave the industry 690 per cent before taxes above prewar levels, and would yield a return of 10 per cent on net worth—seven times the prewar average.

"Prices that depend upon sweatshop wages are sweatshop prices. No thoughtful consumer would choose to benefit through lower prices if those prices are based on substandard wages," Bowles said.

His statement that prices in the long run might fall, rather than rise, as a result of the 65-cent minimum were based, he said, on the reasoning that "higher wages increase productivity."

"A worker who knows that his family is assured a reasonable minimum of existence attacks his job with new energy and satisfaction. The increase in output per worker, which I believe would surely result from the proposed increase to 65 cents, would in itself go far to pay for the higher wage bill."

**AT CONFERENCE**

Augusta, Ga.—Vice President A. R. Carson represented the Office Employees International Union at the conference of the Georgia Federation of Labor. Representing OEIU Local 21 were Mrs. Nellie O. Morse, secretary-treasurer, and Mrs. Henry W. Chandler, delegate.

**Labor-Management Parley Driving Toward Agreement**

Washington, D. C.—Substantial progress was reported by the Labor-Management Conference seeking to minimize industrial disputes as committees began drafting reports on specific recommendations.

The first major agreement reported by Conference Secretary George W. Taylor was on collective bargaining. All six conference committees have fully accepted the principle that collective bargaining is the primary and basic method of resolving disputes between unions and employers. Failure of employers to accede to this principle wrecked the labor-management conference held after the last war in 1919, Mr. Taylor said.

Another committee was reported unofficially to have reached unanimous agreement in favor of repeal of the Smith-Connally Act on the ground that it has increased industrial strife instead of reducing it. The American Federation of Labor fought this measure from the beginning and has never wavered in its opposition.

The committee on existing collective agreements, Mr. Taylor told newsmen, "appears to be in agreement that there must be some terminal point to grievance procedure if the agreement is to contain an effective no-strike, no-lockout clause." This is to prevent management from defeating the purpose of such agreements by delaying action on grievances interminably.

Improvement of machinery for settling jurisdictional disputes by the unions themselves is being explored by a third committee.

Hearings are being held by a fourth committee on ways and means of bolstering the United States Conciliation Service. Among the witnesses appearing before this group were Conciliation Service Director Warren and John Steelman, special assistant to President Truman.

The way was cleared for action by the conference on major issues when CIO President Murray was forced at a meeting of the Executive Committee to back down from his original demand that the conference pass upon pending wage disputes.

Mr. Murray explained that all he meant by his resolution on the wage question was for the conference to endorse collective bargaining on wages now and in the future.

"Of course, no one either on the labor side or on the management side is going to object to that," one delegate commented.

But, originally, the CIO sought to toss into the conference's lap all its current wage disputes in steel, automobiles and other industries. The delegates got the impression that Mr. Murray wanted the conference to fight the CIO's battles for it. John L. Lewis, delegate for the United Mine Workers Union, castigated Mr. Murray at a stormy session of the Executive Committee. AFL delegates took the same stand. Discovering he had no support, Murray retreated completely.

However, the CIO sought to propagandize the issue and make the nation's workers believe that the American Federation of Labor was not supporting higher wages.

AFL President William Green pointed out that American Federation of Labor has led the fight for higher wage rates and that it is throwing its full support to affiliated unions in their attempts to negotiate wage rate increases with employers.

But such matters, he emphasized, must be decided through collective bargaining and cannot be injected into the labor-management conference which has no power to enforce its recommendations and has no authority or desire to establish a new, nationwide wage formula.

**Equal Pay For Women Urged**

Washington, D. C.—Elimination of wage differentials based on sex by any employer of more than eight persons engaged in interstate commerce was advocated by Secretary of Labor Schwollenbach, as "not only a matter of fairness to women but also from the standpoint of preserving wage standards and consumer purchasing power."

"The existence of a group of workers who are employed at uniformly lower wages than are paid to other groups doing the same or comparable work promotes destructive competitive practices and depresses the whole wage structure," he told a Senate Education and Labor Subcommittee which opened hearings on the Women's Equal Pay Bill.

Senators Pepper, Democrat of Florida, and Morse, Republican of Oregon, introduced the measure in June.

"I see no basis for making a distinction between men and women workers in this connection. If they turn out the same quantity and quality of work, they should receive the same compensation," Secretary Schwollenbach said.

Favorable action on the measure was also urged by Miss Frieda S. Miller, chief of the women's division of the Labor Department.

The AFL has endorsed the objectives of the legislation.



## AFL Unions Propose Parley To Promote Better Government

Washington, D. C.—A proposal for a labor-management conference to promote better government was submitted to President Truman by the Government Employees Council of the American Federation of Labor.

In a letter to the President, Foster J. Fratt, Secretary-Treasurer of the council, said:

"In the past, various 'experts,' many of them actually subsidized by large corporations, have managed to set themselves up in the center of governmental operations and to radiate their assumed influence to the best advantage of themselves. Now, that the war is over, it seems entirely possible that this same influence will be brought to bear to take over the influential zones of government. It is the fervent hope of this council that if there now are plans or if any plans soon are to be unfolded in this direction that the leaders of this council may have the courtesy of a consultation before they are adopted or announced.

"We believe the subject of better government is of such vital interest to the President of the United States that you may want to consider the announcement of and convening at an early date of all leaders of whatever persuasion to general conference in Washington to turn their attention to suggestions

to be submitted to you to bring about efficiency in all phases of executive government.

"Certainly the Government Employees Council of the American Federation of Labor stands prepared to bear its portion of responsibility of any assignment which you determine as result of setting up such conference. If you will be good enough to indicate your desire to call such a conference at a convenient date, rest assured this council will remain on call."

## RENEW AGREEMENT WITH ELECTRIC CO.

Kansas City, Mo.—A renewal agreement has been negotiated by Local 40 for office and clerical employees of the Columbia Electrical Company. R. E. James AFL organizer, assisted the local in the negotiation.

One of the highlights of the new contract is a provision for sick leave. Employees with one to three years of service get seven days leave with full salary and 14 days with full salary after three years of service. The time is cumulative up to 30 days.

Improvements are also provided in the wage schedule.

## Interest Shown At Paper Plant

Sheldon Springs, Vt.—Office and clerical workers of the Missisquoi Corporation, paper manufacturer, are showing interest in organizing. It is expected that a local union charter will shortly be issued. Cooperation is being received from the International Brotherhood of Paper Mill Workers in the effort to bring the benefits of collective bargaining to these workers.

## CHARTERS ISSUED

Washington, D. C.—Representing further progress among the office workers in the pulp and paper industry in the Province of Ontario, Canada, two new OEIU locals have been chartered at Kapuskasing and Hawkesbury. AFL Organizer Russell Harvey assisted the workers in getting both of these locals under way.

## MAP CAMPAIGN

Milwaukee, Wis.—OEIU Vice President Alice Holz attended a conference of international union representatives, AFL organizers and Wisconsin State Federation of Labor organizers which was held to stimulate and arrange for organizational activity in Wisconsin.

## Clothing Industry's Strike Forces New Price Boost

Washington, D. C.—The clothing industry has pulled a successful strike against the government and the nation's consumers.

Refusal of the manufacturers to produce lower-priced garments finally forced the Office of Price Administration to grant the industry another 15 per cent increase in ceiling prices for such merchandise as underwear, pajamas, hosiery, shirts and handkerchiefs.

When labor strikes, the newspapers and Congress go into con-  
scription fits—but apparently it's perfectly all right for industry to employ the same tactics because organized labor was forced to carry on a lone fight against the price increases.

For the past two years the OPA has tried to keep cheap clothing prices at about their 1943 levels, which were, of course, marked away up from prewar standards.

The OPA excused its change of policy by pointing out that most of the affected items had disappeared from the market, leaving only the highest-priced merchandise available to purchasers. Under the revised order, the OPA said, the lower-priced garments will again become available, although the retail selling prices will be "slightly" higher.

## Compulsory Military Training

Washington, D. C.—Lewis G. Hines, AFL legislative representative, stated organized labor's opposition to hasty action on compulsory military training and showed how a strong defense can be maintained without resort to undemocratic measures in the following feature article broadcast on the regular AFL news program:

"President Truman asked Congress this week to enact immediate legislation providing for one year's compulsory military training for all American young men.

"If labor were convinced that such legislation is essential to the nation's defense, we would support it. But we are not so convinced. Therefore, the American Federation of Labor opposes any hasty action on this proposal.

"We would like to know, first of all, does America face any immediate threat of war? If so, from what source? If not, why do we need to compel our youth to give up a year of their lives to military training? Never before in its history has America resorted to universal conscription in time of peace. What is the urgency now?

"The American people have been led to believe that the United Nations were determined to banish future wars by world organization to keep the peace. Are we ready to admit that this effort is doomed to failure already? We have been assured that the power of Germany and Japan to make war is being to-

tally destroyed. Is aggression then likely to come from any other nation? Now is the time to find out so that we can deal with it before we get caught by surprise.

"One argument advanced by those who favor universal military training is that it would discourage any nation from making war on us. But European countries have had conscription for many, many years and it has not prevented wars.

"Future wars will be fought according to new patterns. The atomic bomb, jet propulsion and other discoveries may make large armies a liability, instead of an asset. The national defense must be planned in terms of the future. We should have a large air force, a large Navy and the finest scientific research organization in the world. These can be adequately manned by voluntary enlistment if service in the national defense is made attractive enough.

"America's greatest weapon is its capacity to outproduce any other nation in the world. Plans should be made now to convert our production facilities to war needs without delay if a war emergency develops in the future.

"If this program is followed, America will remain invincible and safe from foreign aggression, without having to subject the nation's youth to the undemocratic experiment of compulsory, universal military training."

## Portland Utility Workers Sign Up

Portland, Ore.—Irving Enna, secretary-treasurer of Local 11, reports that a substantial majority of the Portland Gas & Coke Company office and clerical force has signed up with the Local, which anticipates obtaining exclusive bargaining rights for the group in the immediate future.

## Islands Swing To Organization

Honolulu, T. H.—Increasing interest in organization is being evidenced by office and clerical workers in this crowded Pacific outpost city, according to AFL Organizer John Owens, who currently has a campaign under way among such workers. At the request of Organizer Owens, a local union number has been assigned to this city by the International Union and it is anticipated that an application for a local union charter will be filed with the OEIU in the near future.

## Name Is Sought For New "Baby"

Tacoma, Wash.—Local 23 is seeking a name for its new baby—a four-page monthly newspaper which made its bow in October.

The neat little tabloid is edited by Otilie Markholt and is appearing as the "Office Employees News" until the executive board selects the best name from the entries in a prize contest.

One of the articles on the front page tells of the efforts being made to secure wage increases and other improvements for office and clerical workers in Tacoma retail stores.

Also on page one is a cartoon by Gale Haner depicting the plight of office workers caught between soaring living costs and stationary wages.

## Study Setup For Settling Rows

Washington, D. C.—Secretary of Labor Schwellenbach named a special committee to make recommendations to him on how the Conciliation Service can be most effectively strengthened.

The AFL representative on the committee is Frank P. Fenton, AFL Director of Organization.

The committee will examine the policies, procedures and organization of the Labor Department's work in mediation and voluntary arbitration and will work closely with Edgar L. Warren, newly named director of the Conciliation Service.



## Standing Firm In Strike At B. & S.

(Continued from page 1)

The major testimony in support of the company's plea was that one girl's hair was pulled, one official was struck, but not injured, and a couple of others had to "squeeze" through the lines. Counsel for the union brought out that one of these men knocked down a girl picket.

Two mass meetings have been held by the workers. On October 30 they were addressed by President Hutchings, Arthur Devine, president of the State Federation of Labor; James Annable, president of Lodge 1142 of the Machinists, and Robert Coughlin, business representative of the Machinists. Ray Jamieson, president of OEIU Local 76, presided.

### Lambast Sharpe

On November 8 a crowd of approximately 1,200 heard Congressman John Fogarty lambast Sharpe as one of the most notorious anti-union employers in the country.

"We have in Rhode Island today a new champion, not of Rhode Island, but of this entire country, who sits on the throne as the outstanding reactionary in the United States—Henry D. Sharpe," Fogarty declared, adding a challenge to the Providence newspapers to publish his statement.

The Providence Republican Committee, of which he is a member, requested him to arbitrate the dispute, indicating how the public feels in the matter, but he also turned them down, apparently determined to rule or ruin. He also refused a similar plea by Mayor D. J. Roberts.

The congressman suggested that every worker in the state donate a day's pay to the cause and offered to give a day's pay of his own to start the ball rolling.

### People Get Facts

International President Hutchings and Federation President Devine presented to citizens of the Providence area the facts of the dispute in radio addresses.

Hutchings pointed out that the workers left their jobs for a principle.

"This principle," he continued, "involves a basic question of equity and fair play—a principle so clear to them that they have gladly for the first time in their lives left their work and taken their positions in picket lines. The large majority of these workers are girls who have, without hesitating, joined in exercising their basic rights to withhold their services until management agrees to an equitable and fair settlement of their wage dispute."

Perhaps the biggest reason that the workers wanted organization and chose Local 76 as their collective bargaining agent in an NLRB election last June was dissatisfaction with their wage rates.

## HOW PUBLIC FEELS

How the average citizen of Providence feels about the strike of Brown & Sharpe office and clerical workers was dramatically demonstrated at headquarters of Local 76.

An elderly man walked into the office and laid a roll of currency on the desk of President Jamieson.

"I'd like to make a contribution to the union," he said to President Jamieson and placed the roll of currency on the desk.

Jamieson counted the bills. The total was \$300.

The warm-hearted citizen accepted Jamieson's profound gratitude, requested that his name not be made public and said, as he left: "I just want to help these people along."

### Cites Low Wages

"According to the company's own figures, the average straight time hourly rate for the entire group of 1,154 office and clerical workers on the payroll as of June 23 amounted to 66 cents an hour and well over a third of the total office group was receiving less than 61 cents an hour," he declared.

He related the efforts of the union to better their conditions through the recognized channels of collective bargaining. The company flatly rejected the schedule of wages in the contract proposed by the bargaining committee of Local 76 and turned down several other clauses, but agreed to stipulated settlement of these issues by the War Labor Board.

The company made a counter proposal, providing little if any improvement in wages. Conciliation was attempted and the union made further proposals for an amicable adjustment, finally offering to submit the matter to arbitrators.

### Company's Confession

The company's rejection of arbitration testified stronger than words to the inequity and discrimination perpetuated by its counter proposal.

Hutchings pointed out that the union had exhausted all possible means to bring about a settlement without resorting to a strike and had complied fully with all legal requirements.

"The union still stands ready to arbitrate this wage controversy," he declared.

Devine told the radio listeners that "the issue is so simple it could be solved in 10 minutes," and also showed that the company is directly responsible for the workers leaving their jobs.

He pointed out that for years industry, business and organized labor have regarded arbitration as "one of the bulwarks of the ever-improved relationship between labor and management."

"If the company is right in its statement that it cannot afford to pay a 65-cent minimum to clerical workers and if it is right in saying

## Union Shop Ban Before High Court

Washington, D. C.—The United States Supreme Court agreed to pass judgment on the anticlosed shop amendment to the Florida state constitution adopted a year ago. The test case was instituted by the American Federation of Labor and the Florida State Federation of Labor.

However, the high tribunal may limit its decision to the technical question as to whether a federal district court exercised proper jurisdiction when it upheld the validity of the amendment.

If the Supreme Court should decide that the district court exceeded its authority, the latter's decision apparently would be nullified.

The American Federation of La-

bor contended the Florida law is arbitrary and discriminatory against union members.

The AFL declared 100,000 employees are working in Florida under union-security agreements. Whether Florida can enforce such a law, it said, "is a matter of gravest importance to the 14,000,000 members of organized labor in this country."

Closed shop agreements, it contended, are the only means for workers to insure job security, protection from employer discrimination, equality of bargaining power and protection of working standards against nonunion wage competition.

## Full Employment Bill Is

### Handed To Sub-Committee

Washington, D. C.—The House Expenditures Committee closed nearly seven weeks of hearings on "full employment" legislation by appointing a subcommittee of five which Chairman Manasco "hopes" will draft some sort of a compromise measure.

Four of the five have strongly opposed sections of the three pending bills, the counterpart of the one originally offered in the Senate, the Senate's moderated draft and an elaboration of the original offered by Representative La Follette, of Indiana.

Secretary of Labor Schwellessbach, appearing at the final hearing, declared that some opponents

of the proposal did not want full employment, preferring a pool of idle labor to keep pressure on wages, and that some contradict themselves in their arguments.

President Truman's continued pressure for action and Secretary Vinson's charge that he smelled something like a filibuster against action in the committee appeared to have had some effect, but not much. Mr. Manasco said:

"If the issue had been brought to a vote today the committee would have tabled all the pending measures."

On the subcommittee are Representatives Manasco, chairman; Cochran and Whittington of Mississippi, Democrats, and Bender of Ohio and Hoffman of Michigan, Republicans. Only Mr. Cochran has supported the President's desires on the measure, although Mr. Whittington has said that he would like to see some sort of compromise measure.

## Sign Agreement With Paper Firm

Mobile, Ala.—Local 71 reports that it has negotiated and signed an agreement with the Southern Kraft division of the International Paper Company.

Negotiations on the contract were handled by A. R. Carson, a vice president of the International Union.

The provisions are the same as in the pact recently secured by Local 80 for the Panama City, Fla., operations of the company.

that clerical workers are receiving comparable wages to those paid in the area, why then is the company afraid to arbitrate the issue?" he asked.

"The union," he declared, "is not afraid of arbitration and is not afraid to rest its case on facts that would be disclosed if a panel or single arbitrator tackled the problem of settling the dispute."

"A 65-cent minimum is reasonable and would assist every worker in meeting the rising cost of living. The Brown & Sharpe clerical workers have a right in demanding this minimum, and organized labor, as it is represented by the American Federation of Labor, will stand by them. The Federation will extend every moral and financial aid."

## Portland Local Launches Paper

Portland, Ore.—A four-page paper, "Office Memo," is being published monthly by Local 11, under the supervision of Secretary-Treasurer Irving Enna.

One of the feature articles in the November issue announces that a majority of the clerical employees of Portland Gas & Coke Company have signed up with the union and another reports that a request for double-time payment for overtime has been made in behalf of clerical workers at the Kaiser shipyards.

The "Memo" also reports that two members of Local 11, Miss June Devine and Mrs. Juanita King, were maid and matron of honor at the launching of the S.S. Mount Rogers at the Kaiser Vancouver yard. Mrs. E. A. Bird, wife of the secretary of the Metal Trades Council, was chosen as sponsor of the ship in recognition of the outstanding work performed by members of the unions affiliated with the Council during the war period.