

THE OFFICE WORKER

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

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7

Tampa Electric Agreement In Effect; Unique Features

Tampa, Fla.—The contract negotiated by Local 46 with Tampa Electric Co. went into effect September 1. It is a very comprehensive agreement, covering all phases of working conditions of the office and clerical force, which chose the local as collective bargaining agent in a consent election conducted by the National Labor Relations Board last May.

The company, it is understood, is controlled by the Stone and Webster Engineering Co. of Boston.

The negotiations failed to bring about an agreement on maintenance of membership and that matter has been submitted to the War Labor Board. A voluntary check-off of dues, however, was secured.

The contract, negotiated by J. O. Bloodworth, Jr., a vice president of the International Union and business manager of Local 46, with the assistance of M. B. Burnett, local president, and a committee of members involved, embodies a number of unique features.

Furnish Meals

In addition to the regular overtime and holiday provisions it is provided that if an employe works more than two hours overtime at the end of the work day the company shall either furnish a meal or reimburse the worker for one, with additional meals to be supplied for each six-hour interval thereafter.

Five paid holidays are specified and in addition to time and a half pay for those days employes required to work shall also receive their regular pay to compensate for the holiday to which they are entitled.

Workers required to have telephones shall have the cost paid by the company.

Sick Leave

Sick leave of two weeks per year is provided and is cumulative from year to year. If an employe is injured on the job he shall receive regular pay plus the payment of medical and hospital expenses. Paid vacations of two weeks after one year and one week after six months of service are provided.

There shall be no loss of pay when employes are required to attend court, and when they are called for jury duty it is provided that they shall be paid the difference between the jury fee and their regular pay.

The company is required to maintain all benefits in effect prior to the signing of the contract, including group life insurance. Ten-minute

morning and afternoon rest periods also are continued.

The new pay schedule is retroactive to June 1. It provides for 21 different classifications of work, each with a minimum and maximum, and automatic progression at six-month intervals. The time required to go from the minimum to maximum is one to three years, depending upon the classification.

Any employe relieving or substituting for another shall receive his own rate or that of the other, whichever is the higher.

Separation Pay

Separation pay, equal to 80 hours, is provided in the event of lay-offs for indefinite periods after two or more years of service. Seniority is made the controlling factor in lay-offs, rehiring and demotions.

The agreement also provides for arbitration of grievances that cannot be settled under the established grievance procedure.

GAINS SECURED IN GROCERY INDUSTRY

Portland, Ore.—Wage increases and automatic progression have been secured for office and clerical workers in the wholesale grocery industry here by Local 11.

The increases, ranging from 6.5 cents to 15.5 cents an hour and retroactive to January 1, were ordered by the 12th Regional War Labor Board after the local appealed from a previous decision.

Appoint Organizer

The local has appointed Ruth E. Flood as an organizer and in connection with its organizing activities reports majorities have been secured among the office staffs of Oregon Motor Stages and C. D. Johnson Lumber Corporation, with conferences looking toward establishment of bargaining relations requested of both.

Negotiations for a contract for timecheckers of the Northwest Marine Iron Works have been initiated by Business Agent S. S. Brown.

Back Pay

After many months of effort by the local an agreement has been secured for payment of back wages due workers of the Kaiser Co. and Oregon Shipbuilding Corporation and individual amounts are now being figured for the 2,000 workers benefited. Valuable assistance was given the local in this matter by J. Howard Hicks, secretary-treasurer of the International Union.

Board Meeting in Washington

Washington, D. C.—The regular meeting of the executive board of the Office Employees International Union was called to convene here September 24 by President Paul R. Hutchings and J. Howard Hicks, secretary-treasurer.

A full agenda of important matters in connection with the steady growth and development of the union was set for the board sessions.

DRIVE STARTS IN TULSA REFINERIES

Tulsa, Okla.—A campaign is under way to organize the office and clerical staffs of the Sinclair plant and other refineries in which there are approximately 7,000 members of our trade.

The drive is receiving the active support of the Tulsa Trades Assembly and Organizer Roseborough of that group is assisting C. A. Stafford, a vice president and organizer of the International Union.

Remington Rand Pact Is Drafted

Elmira, N. Y.—A proposed agreement with Remington Rand, Inc., has been drafted by a committee of Local 137, working with International President Paul R. Hutchings, and approved by the membership. It has been submitted to the management and negotiations are slated to begin shortly.

WORK ON AGREEMENT

Seattle, Wash.—Delegates from virtually all locals in port cities will attend the convention of the Pacific Coast District Metal Trades Council here at which steps will be taken to formulate a post-war agreement with the shipbuilding and repair industry. Efforts will be made to have the OEIU included in the master agreement.

Southeastern Greyhound Signs

Jacksonville, Fla. — A working agreement for office and clerical workers has been secured by Local 73 with Southeastern Greyhound Lines, which capitulated in the midst of a War Labor Board hearing on provisions which it had been resisting.

Effective July 10, the agreement negotiated by Mrs. Lorraine S. Rhodes, president of the local, brought about adjustments in wage

TURBINE CONCERN ADDED TO ROSTER

York, Pa.—Exclusive bargaining rights for members of the shop clerical force of the S. Morgan Smith Co., manufacturer of turbines, have been secured by the Office Employees International Union.

The campaign among the workers, conducted by an active committee assisted by AFL Organizer Robert A. Warner, was so successful that a stipulation recognizing the exclusive bargaining rights of the union was obtained from management.

Hutchings and Warner have been meeting with the group, which is preparing to apply for a local charter, and has named a committee to work with the temporary officers in drafting a proposed working agreement for presentation to the company.

It is anticipated that this first bona fide organization of office workers in the York area, which was achieved with the cooperation and support of Machinists District Lodge 98 and Business Representative R. R. Ebersole, will greatly stimulate interest among the hundreds of employes of other York concerns.

Southern Kraft Office Organizes

Mobile, Ala.—A substantial majority of the office and clerical workers employed in the Mobile operations of Southern Kraft Division of the International Paper Co. have applied for membership in Local 71, according to reports received from Vice President A. R. Carson, who has been working with local union officers in bringing about organization of this group.

Bargaining rights have been requested of management, and all necessary steps are being taken to establish exclusive bargaining rights for the local union in this plant, thus bringing to these workers the benefits which can be derived from collective bargaining.

rates, with automatic progression at six-month intervals, and maintenance of union membership.

In connection with the application of seniority principles, it provides for bulletining open jobs so employes will have the opportunity to apply for better positions.

Also provided are four holidays with pay, morning and afternoon rest periods and reduced travel rates.

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OFFICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION



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

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OEIU Backs Hike In Jobless Pay

Washington, D. C.—The Office Employees International Union, in cooperation with the American Federation of Labor, strongly urged Congress to pass legislation providing reconversion unemployment benefits.

President Paul R. Hutchings and Secretary-Treasurer J. Howard Hicks presented joint statements to Senate and House committees, stressing that increased jobless payments and the payment of transportation expenses to available employment are imperative.

They pointed out that many thousands of office and clerical workers who manned the vast office operations of the war effort have been hit by lay-offs and terminations and that many more will feel this blow in the near future.

The WLB bracket formula and so-called sound and tested going rates have prevented these workers from meeting war-time living costs and at the same time setting aside any reserves so that they must depend upon unemployment benefits to meet their day-to-day living expenses while searching for jobs, the OEIU leaders declared. Also they pointed out that large numbers of the workers had journeyed far from home to meet the government's plea for war workers and without finances to travel elsewhere they have no alternative but to remain in crowded war production centers and bid against one another for jobs.

Union Label

Washington, D. C.—I. M. Orburn, secretary-treasurer of the Label Trades Department of the AFL, expressed to the Office Employees International Union his pleasure and satisfaction in the OEIU affiliation with the Department, which is engaged in promoting the use of union-made products

Truman Shifts WLB, WMC Functions to Dept. of Labor

Washington, D. C.—The National War Labor Board and the War Manpower Commission lost their independent status this month when they were turned over to the Department of Labor by President Truman.

The lives of both agencies are limited, in fact WMC is virtually out of the picture now. Also involved in the shift were the U. S. Employment Service, whose functions would go back to the states under an amendment which has passed the Senate, and the Reemployment and Retraining administration, which has the responsibility of placing returning service men in jobs.

A move to strengthen the department's conciliation service was made with the appointment of Edgar L. Warren, formerly a regional WLB chairman, as director.

At the same time the Office of Economic Stabilization was decapitated by switching it to the Office of Reconversion under John W. Snyder.

William H. Davis, head of OES, was apparently let out because he had made the statement at a press conference that during the next five years living standards should rise 40 to 50 per cent to maintain full production and employment and that this could be achieved without increasing prices.

The text of the executive transfer order follows:

"By virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the statutes, including Title I of the First War Powers Act, 1941, and as President of the United States, it is hereby ordered as follows:

"1. (a) Except as otherwise provided herein, all functions, agencies, officers, employes, records, property, and funds of the War Manpower Commission, established by Executive Order 9139 of April 18, 1942, are hereby transferred to the Department of Labor and shall be administered under the supervision, direction, and control of the Secretary of Labor.

"(b) All of the functions of the Chairman of the War Manpower Commission, exclusive of so much thereof as relates to the functions of the Procurement and Assignment Service transferred by paragraph 5 of this order, are transferred to the Secretary of Labor.

"(c) The War Manpower Commission is hereby terminated.

"(d) In order to maintain the essential coordination of public em-

and union services.

The International Union is also affiliated with the recently established Government Employees Council of the A. F. of L., which it is anticipated will develop into an increasingly potent factor in bringing the benefits of unionization to all government workers.

ployment service and unemployment compensation functions and to avoid any necessity for establishing duplicate public employment office facilities, the Department of Labor is directed to provide for making available to agencies charged with the administration of unemployment compensation laws such services, information, and facilities by the United States Employment Service as the Secretary of Labor shall find not inconsistent with the purposes of this order. To the extent that Federal funds under the jurisdiction of the Social Security Board are involved in the effectuation of this section, services, information, and facilities shall be furnished only when, and to the extent that the Social Security Board shall approve.

"2. (a) The National War Labor Board, established by Executive Order 9017 of January 12, 1942, and all of its functions, officers, employes, records, property and funds are hereby transferred to the Department of Labor and shall, except as otherwise provided in this order, be administered under the supervision, direction, and control of the Secretary of Labor.

Secretary Makes Policy

"(b) The National War Labor Board in the Department of Labor shall be in all respects subject to and governed by such policies, consistent with law, as the Secretary of Labor shall prescribe; and so much of the functions of the Board as is required to effectuate this subsection is transferred to the Secretary of Labor. The provisions of this section notwithstanding, decisions made by the National War Labor Board in individual cases brought before it pursuant to law shall not be subject to modification by the Secretary of Labor but shall have the same degree of finality as existed prior to the issuance of this order.

"3. (a) The Retraining and Reemployment Administration, established by section 301 of the War Mobilization and Reconversion Act of 1944, and all of its functions, officers, employes, records, property, and funds are hereby transferred to the Department of Labor and shall be administered under the supervision, direction, and control of the Secretary of Labor.

"(b) The functions of the Director of War Mobilization and Reconversion relating to the Retraining and Reemployment Administration are hereby transferred to the Secretary of Labor.

"4. (a) The Secretary of Labor may perform the functions transferred to him by this order through such officials, persons, or agencies and such manner as he shall determine.

BONUS INCREASE

Burlington, Iowa.—An increase from 5 to 10 per cent in the bonus for graveyard shift office and clerical workers at the Iowa Ordnance plant has been secured by Local 111 retroactive to August 9, 1943, according to International Vice President L. G. Nygren who is assisting the local in its negotiations.

Employment Service

"(b) The United States Employment Service and all functions in the Department of Labor relating to employment service, the National War Labor Board and its functions, and the Retraining and Reemployment Administration and its functions shall be administered as organizational entities within the Department of Labor. All other functions transferred to the Department of Labor by this order shall be administered, and the internal staff and service activities relating to the aforesaid agencies may be administered, by such agencies in the Department of Labor as the Secretary may designate or establish for the purpose.

"5. The functions of the Procurement and Assignment Service of the War Manpower Commission and the functions of the Chairman of the War Manpower Commission with respect thereto are hereby transferred to the Federal Security Administrator. There shall be transferred to the Federal Security Agency, for use in connection with such functions, all of the personnel of the Procurement and Assignment Service, and so much of the other personnel of the War Manpower Commission and so much of the records, property, and funds of the War Manpower Commission as the Director Procurement and Assignment Service.

"6. All prior regulations, rulings, and other directives relating to any agency or function transferred by this order shall remain in effect except insofar as they are in conflict with this order or are hereafter amended under proper authority.

"7. Such further measures and dispositions as may be determined by the Director of the Bureau of the Budget to be necessary to effectuate the transfer and redistribution of the functions provided for in this order shall be carried out in such manner as the Director may direct and by such agencies as he may designate.

"8. All provisions of prior Executive orders which are in conflict with this order are amended accordingly; provided that no functions or duties of any agency or officer not expressly transferred hereunder shall be deemed to have been transferred or modified by this order."

V-BOND DRIVE

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green launched labor's participation in the new Victory Bond drive with a radio appeal to all the nation's workers to invest to the limit of their means.

LAUNCH CAMPAIGN AT SEARS ROEBUCK

Dallas, Texas—An organizing campaign has been undertaken at the Sears Roebuck mail-order house. The drive is being carried on jointly by Local 45, assisted by C. A. Stafford, a vice president of the International Union, and Local 368 of the Retail Clerks.

The company employs many hundreds of office and clerical workers in the Dallas operations which come under the jurisdiction of Local 45.

Considerable interest is being shown and joint organizational meetings are scheduled for the workers covered by the campaign.

Drive Under Way In Kansas City

Kansas City.—A campaign to organize the office and clerical workers in the Kansas City area is under way. The drive, which is being directed now toward the 2,000 workers in department store offices, is part of a joint effort in which the Retail Store Employees, Carpenters, Teamsters, Building Service Employees, Electricians, Firemen and Oilers and Hotel and Restaurant Employees are participating.

Conducting the campaign are L. G. Nygren, a vice president and organizer of the OEFU, and AFL Organizers Vernon A. Malott and Charles J. Hill.

Blanket Approval For Wage Boosts Up to 55 Cents

Washington, D. C.—The National War Labor Board has modified its General Order No. 30 to give blanket approval of voluntary wage increases up to 55c per hour, even though the increase will involve price relief or extra costs to the government. The text of General Order No. 30 (substitute) issued by the National War Labor Board on September 4, 1945, Sec. 803-30, reads:

"Increases in wage or salary rates which do not bring such rates above 55 cents per hour may be made without the approval of the National War Labor Board although the increase will be used in whole or in part as the basis for seeking an increase in price ceilings or for resisting otherwise justifiable reductions in price ceilings, or, in the case of products or services being furnished under contract with a federal procurement agency, will increase the cost to the United States."

ELECTED

Tampa, Fla.—J. O. Bloodworth, Jr., a vice president of the International Union and business manager of Local 46, was recently elected secretary of the Tampa

Deceptive Name of B.L.S. Index Ordered Changed

Washington, D. C.—Responding to the widespread criticism of the famous "Cost of Living" index of the Bureau of Labor Statistics by organized labor, Secretary of Labor Lewis B. Schwellenbach made the announcement last week that the name was deceptive and that the index was not designed to adequately measure the Nation's cost of living.

The new name, which describes the true functions of the index, was decided upon following a report from Assistant Secretary Carl Moran, who had been designated to study the index and the criticism voiced against it. The new name is to be "Consumers Price Index for Moderate Income Families in Large Cities."

The B. L. S. Index was used by the government as a stabilization yardstick when the War Labor Board evolved the Little Steel formula, and by its use employees were limited to wage increases of 15 per cent because the index had only recorded a rise in the cost of living of 15 per cent between January 1st, 1941, and October, 1942.

Schwellenbach explained that periodic field studies of actual expenditures rather than an index is a more accurate method of determining the way in which families are living. He promised consideration for instituting such studies.

SIGN PACT WITH CHEMICAL COMPANY

Stamford, Conn.—Local 90 has signed an agreement with the Charles H. Phillips Chemical Co. of Glenbrook. James Rice, local union representative, handled the negotiations.

Highlights of the contract are check-off of dues, maintenance of membership, 10 days paid sick leave per year which is cumulative up to 60 days and a 13 per cent increase in wages running to 23 per cent in six months.

REPRESENTATION

Rochester, N. Y.—Evidence of the substantial representation of office and clerical workers of the Yawman and Erbe Manufacturing Co. was presented at a National Labor Relations Board hearing by Local 34, through Business Representative Jack Cadden and J. Howard Hicks, secretary-treasurer of the International Union. As a result, it is anticipated that an election will be ordered and that Local 34 will thus gain exclusive bargaining rights for this group.

Central Trades and Labor Assembly.

Ditcher Company Staff Organizing

Findlay, Ohio—The more than 200 office and clerical workers of the Buckeye Traction Ditcher Co. are moving forward to obtain the benefits of collective bargaining through OEIU, according to reports received from Vice President R. M. Daugherty.

AFL Organizer Whitmore is assisting in this drive, and cooperation and assistance are also being obtained from the officers and members of the Machinists and Moulders Local Unions in Findlay which have bargaining rights in the plant.

A large number have already signed membership applications, and it is anticipated that collective bargaining rights may shortly be obtained for this group.

CAMPAIGN GOING ON AT GLASS CONCERN

Corning, N. Y.—A campaign is under way for the organization of 500 office and clerical workers employed by the Corning Glass Co. George P. Firth, vice president of the International Union, is handling the drive and receiving assistance from the officers of the American Flint Glass Workers, which is the collective bargaining agency for the production workers, and also from key members of the office staff.

NLRB Election at Webster Company

Tiffin, Ohio.—A consent election among the office and clerical workers of Webster Manufacturing Co. will be conducted by the National Labor Relations Board following the request of the OEIU for exclusive bargaining rights.

R. M. Daugherty, a vice president of the International Union, has been assisting the group in their efforts to secure the benefits of unionization, and application has been made to charter a local.

TIMEKEEPERS

Oakland, Calif.—A majority of the timekeepers at the Hurley Marine Works have been organized by Local 29, which has been certified by the National Labor Relations Board as collective bargaining agent, according to Secretary-Treasurer Pauline Wilde.

ORGANIZING DRIVE

Huntington, W. Va.—Local 78 has launched an organization drive, according to Secretary-Treasurer Edra A. Dempsey. The movement has the support of other AFL unions here and it is expected that considerable growth will be shown by the local, with resulting advantages being obtained for office and clerical workers of various industries.

NEGOTIATE WITH BIG PAPER FIRM

Washington, D. C.—Negotiations are being carried on by Local 80 of Panama City, Fla., with the Southern Kraft division of the International Paper Company.

At the same time arrangements are rapidly progressing for joint negotiations by Local 110 at Gatineau, Can., and Local 114 at Dalhousie, Can., with the same company. It is hoped that the negotiations can be held at the home office in Montreal and that AFL Organizer Russell Harvey of Toronto, and J. Howard Hicks, secretary-treasurer of the International Union, will be able to attend.

File Briefs With Ship Commission

Seattle, Wash.—Business Representative Mildred Erickson of Local 8, a vice president of the International Union, and J. Howard Hicks, secretary-treasurer of the OEIU, have filed briefs with the WLB Shipbuilding Commission in the appeal of the ship repair differential case involving Todd Shipyard Corporation.

Particular stress is being laid on winning this appeal in the belief that if it is successful the benefits will be reflected in ship repair industry up and down the coast.

The Seattle Metal Trades Council is participating fully in the appeal as it did in the original case.

Gains For Workers At Water Company

East St. Louis, Ill.—Increases of 4 to 10 cents an hour, retroactive to February 22, are provided by the new agreement negotiated by Local 130 with the East St. Louis Water Co., according to Phillip J. Williams, president of the local.

The local is now surveying several industrial establishments with a view to furthering the organization of workers in this area.

Bank Employes Are Organizing

New York City.—An organization campaign among office and clerical employes of the Public National Bank and Trust Company and its 25 branches is being carried on by Local 23076. Andrew Hanchich, an employe of the bank for 16 years, has been appointed an organizer in furtherance of the drive.

Previously these workers rejected the CIO, and an "independent" organization, neither of which met their collective bargaining needs.

MEANY RAIS CIO, RUSSIAN "UNIONS"

Blackpool, England.—AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany told the British Trades Union Congress some plain truths about the international labor situation, much to the discomfiture of the left-wingers.

He informed the British labor convention that the AFL never will become associated with the projected World Trade Union Federation as long as the CIO and the Soviet Russian union groups are included.

In blunt, hard-hitting language, Mr. Meany recited the wartime history of the CIO and of the vociferous opposition of its left-wing unions to the United States policy of aiding Britain before Hitler invaded Russia.

With equal frankness, the AFL fraternal delegate exposed the so-called Russian trade unions for what they are—government-dominated organizations which serve as dictatorial policemen over workers instead of representing their interests.

The more radical elements at the British convention here tried to howl Mr. Meany down, but did not succeed. He explained the American Federation of Labor's policy in full detail, and even though the British group may disagree for the time being, expectations are that eventually the BTUC will come around to the federation's position.

Labor Parley Set to Open On Nov. 5

Washington, D. C.—President Truman's labor-management conference will convene in Washington November 5 and will be composed of "from 30 to 50" delegates, equally divided between labor and business associations, and presided over by a chairman, representing the public interest, Secretary of Labor Schwollenbach announced.

The conference, which appears to be the only tangible instrument so far devised by the Administration to meet the growing national crisis in labor, will have employe representation drawn from the AFL, CIO, United Mine Workers and Railroad Brotherhoods, and management conferees from United States Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers.

Schwollenbach and Secretary of Commerce Wallace will also sit in the conference, but without votes. The impartial chairman has not yet been announced. Although Schwollenbach declared that no decisions had yet been reached on the agenda of the conference and accordingly declined to indicate what issues it would consider, it was taken for granted that its prime concern was the establishment of procedures to deal with industrial disputes.

Union Workers Donate Millions for War Relief

New York City — The six-year record of the AFL's Labor League for Human Rights stands forth as one of patriotic service to the nation and a credit to the generosity of the 7,000,000 members of the American Federation of Labor. Even more ambitious plans are now being made for the league's post-war activities.

The Labor League was formed in 1938 by leaders of the AFL to give expression to the labor movement's opposition to the barbarism and aggression of the Axis. From its beginning it opposed appeasement, intolerance and dictatorship.

Soon after the outbreak of World War II, the Labor League undertook its first major relief project. Organized labor volunteered to assist England's harassed workers and the American Labor Committee to Aid British Labor was formed with the Labor League helping to raise the AFL's share of \$350,000.

Labor's effective support of war relief campaigns was quickly recognized by the Community War Chests and the American Red Cross. In 1942 agreements were entered into with these organizations. The National War Fund gave similar recognition in 1943. These agreements stipulated that labor would assist in fund-raising drives and that National War Fund in turn would undertake the support of labor's own War Relief Program.

Labor's War Relief Program has a brilliant record behind it. The future forecasts even greater achievements. Past activities include:

Belgium: Emergency cash relief to aid victims of the German occupation; also material aid.

British Isles: Rehabilitation centers for disabled war workers, nurses' rest homes, community centers for workers in bombed areas, hostel clubs for women agricultural workers.

Czechoslovakia: Relief and rescue work for victims of Axis occupation. Mobile X-ray clinics for examining workers in factories.

China: Workers' welfare centers and clinics, emergency rescue and relief of workers from territory occupied by Japanese armies.

France: Cash relief for families of persons killed by the Nazis.

Holland: Relief for victims of Axis occupation.

India: Vitamins, sulfa drugs, and evaporated milk for persons weakened by famine; and 80 microscopes for use in diagnosis.

Italy: Material aid — evaporated milk and other concentrated foods.

Luxembourg: Emergency cash relief for Nazis victims.

Norway: Relief for victims of Axis occupation.

Poland: Relief for victims of Axis occupation.

Russia: Purchase of material for warm garments.

RENEW AGREEMENT

Quebec, Canada.—The working agreement for office and clerical workers of the Quebec Hydro-Electric Commission has been renewed, according to Harry Shaver, business representative of Local 23959. He also reports that the local will secure an International Union charter as soon as technicalities and requirements of the Quebec labor laws can be straightened out and fulfilled.

NEW LABOR BILL GOES TO CONGRESS

Washington, D. C.—Senator McMahon of Connecticut introduced a new labor relations bill in Congress along with three colleagues.

The measure proposes to strengthen the mediation and arbitration machinery of the government without introducing any compulsory features into collective bargaining procedures.

In contrast with the sponsors of the Ball-Burton-Hatch bill, Senator McMahon consulted at length with AFL President William Green and other labor and industrial leaders before drafting this legislation.

No Commitment

However, the AFL has made no commitment to support the bill.

One feature of the McMahon measure at which labor looks somewhat askance is the proposed establishment of boards of inquiry by the President to determine and make public the facts in any labor dispute which cannot be resolved by the preliminary methods of mediation and arbitration. These boards, the Senator said, would hold public hearings to "provide a public forum so that the factual argument of each side would be available to the public." While labor does not fear this plan, it contains a new wrinkle which requires careful study.

Stress Free Bargaining

First emphasis in the McMahon bill is placed on free collective bargaining. To handle disputes which are not settled by such negotiation, the measure sets up a Division of Mediation and Conciliation in the Labor Department. Should these steps also fail, the McMahon bill paves the way for the voluntary submission of the questions at issue to arbitration by a board to be named by the President. Once the board's services are engaged by both sides, its decision is to be final and have the force of law.

In order to enter arbitration under the McMahon bill, the parties must stipulate in advance that they will accept the award made by a majority of the arbitration board.

GOVERNMENT WAGES

Washington, D. C.—The Government Employees Council of the American Federation of Labor has called for higher salaries and wages for all men and women in the federal civilian service. While en-

Need Cited For Raising Legal Minimum Wage

Washington, D. C.—Millions of American workers still earn less than a bare subsistence, the Wage-Hour Division of the Department of Labor revealed.

A shocking report, prepared by the economics staff of the division, disclosed that at the peak of the war effort a year ago, when workers supposedly were enjoying high wages, nearly 5,000,000 were still being paid less than 40 cents an hour. The total may even be higher now, the report indicated.

Most of the five millions are in retail trade, service occupations, agricultural jobs and in local industries not covered by the 40-cent minimum established under the Wage-Hour Act.

Even among manufacturing industries, where the act applies, vast numbers of workers still are paid wages hardly sufficient to keep body and soul together, the report pointed out.

Out of 12,200,000 employed in such industries, over a million earn less than 55 cents an hour; 2,500,000 less than 65 cents.

What makes this picture all the gloomier, the division said, is the fact that "the war-born increases in the cost of living will largely remain" and may even go considerably higher.

Because of the skyrocketing of prices during the war, the 40-cent-an-hour minimum under the Wage-Hour Act is now worth no more than 30 cents in buying power, the division explained. "Real wages" in all other brackets have been likewise drastically reduced.

This makes an overhauling of the minimum wage under the law more necessary than ever, the report stressed.

Upward revision of the present 40-cent minimum legal wage, one of the chief recommendations made by President Truman in his recent reconversion message to Congress, will be considered by a subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Education and Labor at public hearings beginning September 25.

dorsing the principle of the Downey pay bill, the Council's position is in support of a full 25 per cent increase, rather than the 20 which the California Senator is asking.

The Council insists that at least 25 per cent increase should constitute the over-all basis for all federal groups, not alone those under the Classification act. The postal service and all wage board groups must be included to avoid class legislation. The Council pointed out that under the Economy and Credit acts of 1932 and 1933, Congress enacted a horizontal measure reducing compensation for all classes, regardless of what law governed the regulation of pay scales.

The same device can be used in reverse now, the Council maintains, to avoid needless and piecemeal legislation delays.