Program Announced For International Convention

Milwaukee, Wis.—The acceptance by Senator Wayne Morse (R., Ore.) of the invitation extended him to serve as an observer at the annual OEIU convention has been announced here by Vice President Alfred Holz, chairman of the convention committee. The convention was held from March 25 to March 29 and was attended by members of the national executive committee and other OEIU officers.

The program included discussions on the following subjects: "How to Effectively Organize Office Employees," "Problems in Collective Bargaining," and "How to Be an Activist Union." The convention was held in San Francisco and was attended by representatives from all parts of the country. The new OEIU president, Robert E. McFarland, and the national executive board were also present.

Sick Leave Provided

Part-time workers are guaranteed four consecutive hours of work at not less than $1 per hour. Part-time workers are guaranteed a reporting time minimum of two hours work or pay. Time and one-half are provided for all overtime, with double time prevailing for work performed on Sundays and holidays. All regular employees receive five holidays with pay. All workers receive not less than twelve working days' leave each year. Paid vacations of two weeks each year are established with the proviso that employees with more than one year's service receive one week's paid vacation.

Two weeks' pay is guaranteed to any employee whose services are discontinued. The agreement recognizes the seniority in the lay-off and rehiring of employees. Arbitration is also provided for the settlement of disputes which cannot be settled under the grievance procedure.

OEIU Wins Bargaining Rights At Submarine Yard

New London, Conn.—A payroll cross-check conducted by the National Labor Relations Board established Local 106 as the exclusive bargaining agent for office and clerical workers employed at the world's largest submarine yard operated by the Electric Boat Company.

President Ray J. Jamieson of Providence Local 76 and the Metal Trades Council Local 106 is affiliated, rendered valuable assistance to President Joe Fitzpatrick of Local 106 in organizing the workers. On a recent trip into New England, International President Paul H. Hughes and the executive board conferred with officers of the local and officials of the company preliminary to negotiations on a new three-year agreement for the submarine workers.

The negotiation closed workmen. Of the 18,000 employees of Local 106 and are covered under the basic Metal Trades agreement.

Carter Hardware Agreement Signed

Los Angeles, Calif.—A working agreement has been made between Local 39 and the Carter Hardware Co., of this city, has been negotiated, bringing to the membership of the shop the substantial improvements over their previous working conditions, according to B. A. Mitchell, administrator of the local.

The agreement provides for a full union shop, 2 percent of the gross pay, or 30 cents an hour, whichever is less, for union preferential rights in the hiring of new workers. Substantial improvements over previous working conditions include a 3 percent wage increase, a 4 percent increase in the vacation period, and a 4 percent increase in the holiday period. The new schedule of hours required for the weekly wage is 36 hours, 30 minutes, or 100 minutes for those who work on Sundays and holidays. The agreement also includes a provision for a 4 percent increase in the hourly wage for workers employed on Sundays and holidays.

NEW FIRMS UNDER BANNER OF OEIU

Tacoma, Wash.—The addition of two more local firms and the winning of double time for overtime by the shipbuilding industries spotlight the activities of Local No. 23, according to C. H. Atteberry, secretary-treasurer of the local.

One of the new firms coming under the banner of the local union is the Sealed Company, a retail store. The second firm whose employees have aligned themselves with the local union is the Interstate Freight Lines, Inc., a motor trucking concern.

The agreement negotiated with the company reduces the work week from 44 and 45 hours to a 40-hour week, with time and one-half for all overtime and for Saturdays and holidays. The agreement also provides for a 4 percent increase in the hourly wage for office and clerical workers employed by the company, together with one week's vacation and one year's service and which continues to increase at the rate of one day per year until a full two weeks has been reached.

Atteberry has announced the winning of an award from wage stabilization agencies which will provide double time for overtime and for Saturdays, Sundays and holidays for members of the union employed in the shipbuilding industry.

It has been announced that the local union has organized a majority of the employees of the American Electric Company, and has filed an N.L.R.B. petition for certification of representation.

Electric Company Agreement Renewed

Kent, Ohio.—The gaining of a 4 percent increase for all members is the highlight of the renewal of the agreement between Local 25 and the Lamb Electric Company, according to Louise Sturgill, president of the local union.

The increase which was negotiated came during the negotiations for the renewal of the agreement between Local 25 and the Lamb Electric Company.
Board Proposes Wider Social Insurance Plan

Washington, D. C.—In its tenth annual report to Congress, the Social Security Board today outlined a plan for over-all social insurance programs of vital interest to workers and their families.

The board's major recommendations may be summarized as follows:

Old-Age and Survivors Insurance

The board has recommended an increase in benefit amounts under this program, particularly for lower-paid workers. It has suggested that women workers become eligible for retirement benefits at 60, instead of 65 as the law now reads. Elderly workers would be permitted to earn up to $30 a month without forfeiting their old-age benefits. The present ceiling is $140.

Unemployment Insurance

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Denial of Rights

In addition to all the other objectionable features contained in this anti-labor bill, the section referred to above would make it impossible for a vast majority of office and clerical workers to organize and bargain collectively, and cease working under the protections established by the National Labor Relations Act. It would deny them the right which that Act extends to all workers, to organize and bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing, it would also relieve employers of their present responsibilities under the National Labor Relations Act to discriminate, intimidate, coerce or otherwise interfere with office workers because of their organizational activities.

Along with this, of course, all these workers would lose their present pre-emptive under the NLRB to obtain restate-ment of back pay in the event of discharges because of their union affiliation or activity. The employer would also be relieved of his present requirement to bargain collectively with our organization on behalf of all such workers who are members of the OEU.

Despite concerted opposition to this bill by all organized groups, there is a good likelihood that it will be passed by the House of Representaties, and that all anti-strike legislation will therefore be required by all organized labor groups and particularly by our International Union.
RENEW AGREEMENT
WITH OVERALL FIRM

Trenton, N. J.—Announcement of the renewal of the agreement between Local 70 and the H. D. Lee Company has been made by Vice President George P. Firth of the OEU.

The renewal agreement covers all office workers employed in the local operation of the company and assures union membership of all office workers and members of all overtime to be paid at the rate of one half.

The agreement provides ten days per year sick leave without deduction of pay for all members of the union and likewise provides for two weeks' advance notice in the event of force reduction by the company.

19 Per Cent Boost

Highlight of the renewed agreement is the 19 per cent average wage increase which is the result of a fact that such agreement is retroactive to September 1, 1945.

Assisting in the negotiation of this renewed agreement were Christine Tomasso, Celia Walkiwicz, Blanche Parent and Mathilda Folk. Office workers employed in the Minneapolis operation of the company and members of Local 12 in that city, OEU is saying the possibility of organizing the remaining branches of the company in San Francisco, South Bend and Kansas City.

Retail Stores
Drive Launched

Dallas, Texas—A campaign to unionize all workers in the local operation of Sears Roebuck and Company has been launched under the direction of Sam M. Johnson, of the OEU and representatives of the Retail Clerks International Association and other international unions involved in the undertaking.

Careful planning and a considerable amount of preliminary effort have gone into the launching of this campaign and it is reported that enthusiasm among the employees of the company is running at a high level in favor of unionization.

SISTER LUND DIES

Oakland, Calif.—Mrs. Mary Lund, charter member of the OEU Local No. 29, died January 19, according to word received from Muriel Kercher, business representative. Sister Lund is mourned by the entire membership of the Local. She joined the Union in June, 1939, and was employed in the office of the Piedmont Grocery for 18 years and was in the original group that signed an agreement to join the Union when Piedmont Grocery was organized.

Sister Lund was reportedly a son in the armed forces.

An official delegation from Local 29 attended funeral services January 28.

Signing Iron Works Agreement

Representatives of Local 5 in Denver and officials of General Iron Works Co. are shown above as they signed the collective bargaining agreement providing wage increases and other benefits for the office and clerical employes of the company. Left to right: Irene Kelly, member of the negotiating committee; C. O. Voight, president of the company; Joyce Edgar, secretary-treasurer of Local 5, Standing, left to right: Glenn Melincamp, member of the negotiating committee; Fred F. Randall, assistant treasurer of the company; Rudolph Cook, secretary of the Denver Trades and Labor Assembly; Vice President Frank Randall of the International Union. Elmer Pitts, third member of the negotiating committee, was unable to present.

Wages Increased
By New Contract

Denver, Colo.—Wage increases ranging from 23 to 52.3 per cent were secured for office and clerical workers of the General Iron Works Co. in a working agreement negotiated by Local 5, according to Frank Randall, vice president of the International Union, who assisted the local. The contract was signed January 28 and is retroactive to January 1.

A number of other benefits are contained in the agreement. Automatic promotion is established on several of the lower wage classifications. Pay for work in excess of five hours a day or four hours a week and for work on Sundays and holidays shall be at the rate of time and one-half, which also applies to work in off-shift hours.

In addition, the pact specifies six holidays with pay, the unworked time to be used in computing the work week; two-week vacations after one year of service and two-week vacations after one year of service and with pay in the event of lay-offs.

Seniority is recognized and there are provisions for maintenance of membership as well as for the adjustment of grievances.

BREWERY WORKERS SEEK
RETURN TO FEDERATION

Miami—Move for reaffiliation of the United Brewery Workers and Soft Drink Workers Union with the AFL is under way.

AFL President William Green announced receipt of a telegram from William J. Kromelben, general secretary-treasurer of the union, requesting an opportunity for its three top officials to come here to discuss with the executive council the jurisdiction dispute with the Teamsters Union which led to the suspension of the Brewery Workers, Mr. Green promptly replied that the council would be glad to give the union officials a hearing.

The Brewery Workers Union was suspended in 1939 after it failed to comply with a convention decision on the jurisdiction dispute which involved beer truck drivers. It is one of the oldest and most respected unions in the nation and its return to the AFL would be a welcome development.

Paper Industry Representation Sought

Toronto, Ont.—Further inroads in the unionization of office and clerical workers in the pulp and paper industry in Eastern Canada by the OEU is assured, according to AFL Organizer Russell Harvey following the filing of petitions for certification of representation with the Ontario Labor Relations Board for office and clerical workers employed by the Canadian International Paper Company by Local 105 at Hawkesbury and Local 106 at Kapuskasing.

Each local union completed unionization of office workers employed by the company in their respective communities in record time since the company was first chartered by OEU, according to Harvey.

With certification for representation virtually assured in these two instances, OEU's representation of office workers in the pulp and paper industry throughout Eastern Canada will be further increased.

With the assistance of Organizer Harvey, the International Union has made substantial progress in the organization of workers in this industry during the past year.

COLORADO HOSPITAL
AGREEMENT SIGNED

Denver, Colo.—A working agreement between Local 5 and the Colorado Hospital Service (Blue Cross) has been entered into by International Vice President Frank P. Randall, who is assisting the local in the organization of this establishment and in the negotiation of its first contract with this Blue Cross Hospital Service organization.

Substantial wage adjustments for all classifications of work were obtained by the company, ranging from $5.56 to $9.50 on the basic work week.

Other significant gains included the establishment of double time pay for six recognized holidays with a further provision that all employees who work on any of these holidays shall nevertheless receive eight hours straight time pay for each such day. Double time is also provided for all work performed on Sundays. All employees with six months' service receive a week's vacation with pay and all employees with one year's service receive two weeks vacation with pay.

Provision is made for the payment of pro rata vacation to employees who lose the service of the company.

Two Weeks' Sick Leave

Two weeks' paid sick leave is also guaranteed to all employees of one year of service with the company. Provision is made for crediting all employees who have not used sick leave during the year with an additional week's sick leave allowance during the following year.

Two weeks' notice, or pay in lieu thereof, is provided in the event of lay-offs. Provision is also made for the recognition of four union holidays with paid grievances during working hours without loss of pay.

The agreement is signed on behalf of Local 5 by its business manager, Joyce Edgar, and by Mary Louise Cranston for the negotiating committee. Presi- dent Randall for the International Union. Rudolph B. Cook, secretary-treasurer of the Denver Trades and Labor Assembly, also signed on behalf of that body.

AGREEMENT SIGNED

Baltimore, Md.—Signing of the initial agreement between Local No. 22 and Stationers, Inc., has been announced by Edith Doyle, president of the local union.
Specific Terms of Reaffiliation

Miami—AFL President William Green made public three letters from John L. Lewis which constituted the United Mine Workers Union’s application for affiliation with the AFL. These communications were the only recent ones received. The last letter, dated February 10, 1946, follows:

“...We are hereby made of the receipt of your letter of February 9, which expresses the expressed wishes of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor with respect to the possible reaffiliation of the United Mine Workers of America.

“The United Mine Workers of America are congress of the Federal Federation of Labor, and the laws and rules of the American Federation of Labor. Consequently, I am authorized to announce that the United Mine Workers of America will at once reenter the American Federation of Labor membership...”

“When the chart of reaffiliation is issued to the United Mine Workers of America, representatives of this organization will be willing to meet with representatives of the American Federation of Labor or a new organization that may be formed, in harmony with the constitution and by-laws of the American Federation of Labor. Acceptance of a charter of reaffiliation with the American Federation of Labor by the United Mine Workers of America is contingent upon being given its usual representation on the Executive Council.”

The letter was dated January 12, 1946, said:

“On February 10, 1945, this office, on behalf of the United Mine Workers of America, addressed you a letter for presentation to the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, stating the conditions affecting possible affiliation. Copy of the letter in question is hereby attached.

“I reaffirm statements made in the aforesaid letter and advise that reaffiliation at this time upon the described terms would be satisfactory to the United Mine Workers of America.”

The final letter was dated January 7, 1946 and said:

“...Supplementing letter sent you on January 9, 1942, affecting reaffiliation of the United Mine Workers of America with the American Federation of Labor, I am herewith enclosing check in the amount of $1,000, signed by the American Federation of Labor, for the month of January, 1946.

“This payment, of course, is contingent upon consummation of affiliation...”

“We assume that this is the correct amount, but if not, any necessary corrections will be made.” Secretary Kennedy and Secretary Meyn.

Apex Electric Election Won: Negotiations Start Soon

Cleveland, Ohio—Office and clerical workers employed by the Apex Electric Manufacturing Company have selected Local 17 as their bargaining agent by a decisive majority as the result of a special election conducted by the National Labor Relations Board, according to Pearl A. Hawley, secretary-treasurer of the local union.

An agreement has been formulated between the workers of the company and the company’s policy toward the company’s office employees, as well as its views on unionization.

In Blue Book

Washington, D.C.—The Office Employees International Union has announced that its 1946 issue of a catalogue, compiled by the Union Label Trade Department of the Federation shows the following facts:

- The label, which local unions are authorized to have their names printed on their local union cards, lists the executive officers and addresses of international headquarters.

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HOUSING BILL

Washington, D.C.—The American Federation of Labor, often referred to as the house of labor, is looking for a new home and roomier home.

The Executive Council appointed a committee of 45 members to seek a new site in the nation’s capital where an appropriate building can be constructed as a postwar job-providing project.

Progress

Pittsburgh, Pa.—The credit and bookkeeping departments of the Pittsburgh department, as a group, recently received nearly 100 per cent organized, according to John F. Magnotti, business agent of the United Mine Workers of America, who expressed his appreciation for the efforts of Stewards Dorothy Kelly and Jo Landis.

President Gibson, who is also secretary-treasurer of the United Mine Workers of America, has devoted time and effort to this undertaking at the request of office and clerical workers employed by the Union Bank of Anchorage, the Pioneer Laundry and office workers employed in other assorted industries.

The membership of the Retail Clerks Union has pledged its support to the unionization of office workers in local retail stores as a key point in the drive for collective bargaining now enjoyed by the clerks to the office workers in the industry.

Assisting Vice President Gibson in her activities has been AFL Organizer Frank Marsh who is assisting in the drive for unionization of other groups of office workers throughout Alaska.

Aslaskan Office Workers Apply For Charter

Anchorage, Alaska—Under the guidance of Pearl Gibson, vice president, Alaska Territorial Federation of Labor, successful unionization of office workers locally has been made to OEU, according to data from the vice president.

Although strongly supporting the bill, Hicks sharply criticized its failure to provide that not less than the prevailing rate of wages be paid on all work done under the proposed FHA insured construction, “...Tearing down of wage standards by any group of workers has a detrimental effect on the wage standards of all groups. For this reason we urge that an amendment requiring that not less than prevailing wages be paid on FHA insured projects be included in Titles III and IV of S 1652. The inclusion of this amendment will not only protect the minimum wage standards in each locality, but will also make the policy of S 1652 consistent, since this requirement now applies to all large-scale FHA insured projects.” Hicks said.

Construction Office Organized

Philadelphia, Pa.—Successful unionization of tipped and clerical employees of the M. W. Kellogg Company, Inc., construction contractors, has been announced by Margit E. Springman, secretary-treasurer of the local union.

The company has agreed to a consent certification of representation under Section 9 of the Labor Relations Act. The election is scheduled for next week and will be conducted by the National Labor Relations Board which will clearly establish the union’s right to represent all of the company and will open the way to immediate negotiations on an agreement.