

THE OFFICE WORKER

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

No. 14

WASHINGTON, D. C., FEBRUARY, 1946



CARTER HARDWARE AGREEMENT SIGNED

Los Angeles, Cal.—A working agreement between Local 30 and the Carter Hardware Co., of this city, has been negotiated, bringing to the members of our trade in this office substantial improvements over their previous working conditions, according to B. A. Mitchell, administrator of the local.

The agreement provides for a full union shop and also gives the union preferential rights in the hiring of new workers. Substantial improvements over previous existing wage rates were obtained. The new schedule of weekly rates based on a 44-hour, 5½-day work week established minimums of \$40 entrance for stenographers, with automatic upward adjustments of \$4 per week at three periodic intervals, and a minimum of \$52 after one year's service. The rates established for other classifications reflect a similar pattern, the lowest entrance of new employes being \$33 a week with automatic increases bringing that classification to a minimum of \$40 after one year's service.

Sick Leave Provided

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

Two weeks' notice or two weeks' pay is guaranteed to any employe whose services are discontinued. The agreement recognizes the seniority in the lay-off and rehiring of employes. 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 employes at one of the world's largest submarine yards operated by the Electric Boat Company.

President Ray J. Jamieson of Providence Local 76 and the Metal Trades Council, with which Local 106 is affiliated, rendered valuable assistance to President Joe Fitz-

Program Announced For International Convention

Milwaukee, Wis.—The acceptance by Senator Wayne Morse (R., Ore.) of the invitation extended him to serve as keynote speaker of the approaching OEIU convention has been announced here by Vice President Alice Holz, chairman of the committee on arrangements for the 1946 convention of the International Union on the basis of word received from OEIU executive officers in Washington.

With his background, experience and knowledge of the labor movement and its problems, Senator Morse is particularly well qualified to address the convention delegates.

Prior to his election to the Senate, Morse served as a public member of the National War Labor Board and had previously served as Dean of the Law School of the University of Oregon. While serving in the latter capacity, Senator Morse was frequently called upon to serve as an arbitrator and conciliator in labor matters on the Pacific Coast where his fairness and broad view in the handling of industrial problems met with the acceptance of both labor and management.

Biemiller Banquet Speaker

Also included among the liberal and forward-looking speakers who will address the convention will be Congressman Andrew J. Biemiller (D., Wis.) who will be principal guest speaker at a banquet being given for convention delegates on Thursday evening, March 21.

The 39-year old Biemiller has won a prominent spot in Congress as the result of his frank and liberal views and stands head and shoulders above many of his older and more experienced colleagues.

Also attending and addressing the delegates assembled at the banquet will be Arnold Zanders, president, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employes who is recognized as one of the outstanding and progressive leaders within the AFL movement.

Panel Discussions Planned

Panel discussions on the follow-

ing subjects, "How to Effectively Organize Office Employes," "Problems in Collective Bargaining," and "How to Activate Unions," have been planned by the Committee consisting in addition to Chairman Holz of Vice Presidents R. M. Daugherty and George P. Firth of the OEIU.

Panel chairman for the discussion on problems in collective bargaining will be Eva Schwartzman, instructor, Summer School for Office Workers in Industry of the University of Wisconsin, while Ernest Schwartztrauber, director Summer School for Workers, is expected to participate actively in the panel discussions on the activation of unions following his address on "Workers' Education," during the Friday afternoon session of the convention. AFL Regional Director J. F. Friedrick will address the delegates in "Collective Bargaining" during the Thursday afternoon session of the convention and immediately prior to the panel discussion on problems in collective bargaining.

Other dignitaries invited to address the convention include: Governor Walter Goodland of Wisconsin; Mayor John J. Bohn, of Milwaukee; President William Green and Secretary-Treasurer George Meany of the American Federation of Labor; I. M. Ornburn, secretary-treasurer, Union Label Trades Department of the Federation, and

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INGALLS SHIPYARD ELECTION PENDING

Pascagoula, Miss. — Successful unionization of the 450 office and clerical employes of the Ingalls Shipbuilding Corporation has resulted in petitioning the National Labor Relations Board for an election and certification. A formal NLRB hearing will be held at company insistence.

Stating the position of the office workers employed by the company at the NLRB hearing will be OEIU Vice Presidents J. O. Bloodworth, Jr., and A. R. Carson. Office workers employed by the company have expressed satisfaction at the assignment of Bloodworth and Carson to this matter in view of the reputation enjoyed by Ingalls with organized labor.

Montgomery Ward Election Won

Houston, Texas—Announcement has been made by Vice President C. A. Stafford, of OEIU, of the successful outcome of a National Labor Relations Board election among workers in the local operation of Montgomery Ward and Company. The victory scored by this group represents a definite forward step

NEW FIRMS UNDER BANNER OF OEIU

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

One of the new firms coming under the banner of the local union is the Selden Company, a retail store.

The second firm whose employes have aligned themselves with the local union is the Interstate Freight Lines, Inc., a motor trucking concern. The new agreement between this company and the union opens a field which can be expanded by the local union and which contains a potential membership in excess of 100 workers.

Benefits Secured

The agreement negotiated with the company reduces the work week from 44 and 48 hours to a flat 40 hours, with time and one-half for all overtime and for Sundays and holidays. The agreement also assures union membership for all office and clerical workers employed by the company, together with one week's vacation with pay after 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 and ship repair industries.

It has also been announced that the local union has organized a majority of the employes of the American District Telegraph and has filed an N.L.R.B. petition for certification of representation.

ELECTRIC COMPANY AGREEMENT RENEWED

Kent, Ohio—The gaining of a flat \$18 per month increase for all members is the highlight of the renewal of the agreement between Local 75 and the Lamb Electric Company, according to Lucille Sturgill, president of the local union.

The increase which was negotiated

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in the unionization of retail store workers in this city.

Stafford was assisted in the local campaign by Jeff Davis, representative of the Retail Clerks International Protective Association. Office workers employed by the company will become members of Local 129.

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OFFICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION



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1221 G Street, N. W.
Washington 5, D. C.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

Entered in the Post Office at Wash-
ington, D. C., as second-class mail matter.



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Subscription Price, \$1 a Year

The Case Bill

On behalf of the entire mem-
bership of the International Union we
have wired each Congressman to
oppose and vote against the anti-
labor bill proposed by Congress-
man Case of S. Dakota, and known
as H. R. 5262.

All A. F. of L. National and In-
ternational unions have mobilized
in opposition to this bill which,
among other things, would provide
for the establishment of a Na-
tional Labor-Management Media-
tion Board, civil liabilities for
unions or employes violating con-
tracts, and would also prohibit
unions of supervisory employes
from having union status. The bill
would also deny collective bargain-
ing and NLRB reemployment rights
to those using violence in picket-
ing or resorting to boycott. It
would also repeal a portion of the
anti-injunction law.

Definition of Employes

Of particular significance to our
organization is the definition of
supervisory employes as contained
in the bill. "Supervisory employes"
is spelled out as including any em-
ploye whose duties include (1) the
direction or supervision of the ac-
tivities or other employes; or (2)
the computation of the pay of other
employes; or (3) the determina-
tion of the time worked by other
employes, or the supervision or ad-
ministration of the factors on the
basis of which the pay of other em-
ployes is computed.

All employes who would fall
within any of these categories are
spelled out in the bill as not having
the status of an "employe" for the
purpose of sections 7, 8 and 9 of
the National Labor Relations Act.
In effect, this cleverly worded
section of this vicious bill would go
far toward destroying our Inter-
national Union, for the vast ma-
jority of office workers particularly
in manufacturing and industrial
establishments perform duties
which include computation of pay
or the determination of time worked

**Board Proposes Wider
Social Insurance Plan**

Washington, D. C.—In its tenth
annual report to Congress, the So-
cial Security Board outlined an
over-all social insurance program
of vital interest to workers and
their families.

The board's major recommenda-
tions may be summarized as fol-
lows:

Old-Age and Survivors Insurance

The board has recommended an
increase in benefit amounts under
this program, particularly for low-
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 forfeit-
ing their old-age benefits. The pres-
ent limit is \$14.99. The program
would be extended to cover farm,
domestic, and public workers, em-
ployes of non-profit organizations
and self-employed persons, includ-
ing farmers. The board has also
asked Congress to see that service
men receive credit toward old-age
and survivors insurance for their
period of service in the armed
forces.

Unemployment Insurance

The Social Security Board be-
lieves that unemployment insur-
ance can best be administered as
part of an over-all national insur-
ance system and not, as at present,

by other workers.

Denial of Rights

In addition to all the other ob-
jectionable features contained in
this anti-labor bill, the section re-
ferred to above would make it im-
possible for a vast majority of office
and clerical workers to organize
into bona fide unions of their trade
under the protections established
by the National Labor Relations
Act. It would deny them the right
which that Act extends to all work-
ers, to organize and bargain col-
lectively through representatives of
their own choosing. It would also
relieve employers of their present
responsibilities under the National
Labor Relations Act to not discrim-
inate, intimidate, coerce or other-
wise interfere with office workers
because of their organizational ac-
tivities.

Along with this, of course, all
such office workers would be de-
nied their present prerogative un-
der the NLRB to obtain reinstat-
ment with back pay in the event of
discharges because of their union
affiliation or activity. The employer
would also be relieved of his pres-
ent requirement to bargain col-
lectively with our organization on
behalf of all such workers who are
members of the OEIU.

Despite concerted opposition to
this bill by all organized labor
groups, there is a good likelihood
that it will be passed by the House
of Representatives, and that an all-
out effort will therefore be re-
quired by all organized labor groups
and particularly by our Interna-
tional Union and its local unions in
opposing this bill when it reaches
the Senate.

under 48 different state laws.

However, given the present fed-
eral-state system, the board would
impose stricter requirements on
state unemployment insurance laws.
These requirements would include
extending unemployment insurance
to cover as many outside groups as
possible. On the basis of past earn-
ings, workers would receive a max-
imum of at least \$25 a week for 26
weeks, if they should be out of work
that long. No state would be able
to cancel or reduce a worker's ben-
efits if he left his job without good
cause, or were discharged for mis-
conduct, or if he refused to accept
a suitable job while unemployed.
The maximum penalty recommend-
ed by the board would be a post-
ponement of his benefits for four
weeks. A worker would not be dis-
qualified from receiving unemploy-
ment insurance benefits if he quit
or refused to work for good per-
sonal reasons.

Such standards as these would
help correct many of the inequali-
ties that now exist under the 48
widely varying state unemployment
insurance systems.

Disability and Health Insurance

Two major threats to a worker's
economic security still receive no
protection under the present Social
Security system. The Social Secu-
rity Board has asked Congress to
cover these two risks: sickness and
disability.

What would this new kind of in-
surance mean to a worker if he be-
came sick? He and his family
would receive cash benefits to make
up a portion of his lost wages. If
he should become permanently dis-
abled and no longer able to work,
then he would receive benefits sim-
ilar to those paid under old-age re-
tirement. In addition he would be
insured against the costs of medical
care. That would include doctor and
hospital bills.

A National Insurance System

From its ten years of experience
in the field of social insurance, the
Social Security Board has in this
year's annual report outlined a com-
prehensive national system of social
insurance. This insurance would
cover all the major risks to eco-
nomic security. Likewise, it would
cover all workers and their depend-
ents to whom such risks apply.

It would be hoped that such in-
surance would greatly reduce, if
not eliminate, the need for public
assistance. But insofar as this need
exists, the board would strengthen
and revise its present public assist-
ance program to enable needy peo-
ple to receive financial aid, irrespec-
tive of the reason for the need or
the place of residence.

Such an over-all social insurance
program, as outlined by this board,
would prove a vital contribution to
the public's economic independence
and to the nation's prosperity.

INCOME TAX DEDUCTION!!

Just a reminder to all union
members:

Payments made to your local
union during 1945 are deductible
from your income tax and all

**OEU BACKS GENERAL
HOUSING BILL**

Washington, D. C.—In a state-
ment before the Senate Banking
and Currency Committee in sup-
port of the Wagner-Ellender-Taft
General Housing Bill, OEIU Sec-
retary-Treasurer J. Howard Hicks
stated that the International Union
viewed the passage of the bill "as
essential to a sound solution of our
past and present housing crisis."
Pointing out that the present hous-
ing emergency facing the country
is the result of a long-time failure
to build an adequate supply of
satisfactory homes, Hicks advised
the committee that "This failure
can only be remedied by planning
now a comprehensive long-range
program aimed at building an ade-
quate supply of respectable homes
for all our families at prices they
can afford to pay."

Stressing to the committee that
the membership of OEIU feels that
among the most important provi-
sions of the bill are those amend-
ing the present Federal Housing
Authority system and reminding
the committee that the OEIU mem-
bership are workers of the middle
income group, Hicks stated "If the
improvements and changes in the
FHA system embodied in S. 1592
are enacted, we can at last look
forward to buying these privately-
built FHA insured homes. The
combination of the extension of the
amortization period to 32 years, the
reduction of the interest rate to 4
per cent and the reduction of the
required down-payment are all es-
sential to bring home-ownership
within the financial reach of our
members. The knowledge that an
FHA insured mortgage carries
with it a warranty against struc-
tural defects and a provision for
lapsed payments will cause millions
of families to give preference to the
FHA system over all others."

Pointing out that OEIU members
are salaried workers with modest
but relatively stable incomes, but
who, as a result, are deeply con-

(Continued on Page 4)

**AUDITING COMMITTEE
AT WORK**

Washington, D. C.—The selec-
tion of Local 6, Boston; Local 10,
Detroit; and Local 14, Philadel-
phia, by OEIU President Paul R.
Hutchings has been announced as
those local unions whose delegates
to the approaching convention of
the International Union will serve
as members of the Auditing Com-
mittee to audit the records of the
OEIU and report to the conven-
tion.

Members of the Committee as
indicated by the local unions are
Aaron Velleman, Boston; C. A.
Jackson, Detroit; and Edward P.
Springman, Philadelphia. The Com-
mittee has been requested to meet
at OEIU headquarters early this
month for the fulfillment of its
duties.

union members are entitled to ex-
empt such payments from their
total income in filing their income
tax statements.

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 announced by Vice President George P. Firth of the OEIU.

The renewal agreement covers all office workers employed in the local operation of the company and assures union membership to all office workers and preferential hiring of union members. The work week consists of five consecutive eight-hour days with all overtime to be paid at the rate of time and one-half. Double time is provided for any work performed on any of six recognized holidays stipulated in the agreement.

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 won and the added factor that such agreement is retroactive to September 1, 1945.

Assisting Firth in the negotiation of this renewed agreement were Christine Tomasulo, Celia Walukiewicz, Blanche Parent and Mamie Folk. Office workers employed in the Minneapolis operation of the company are members of Local 12 in that city. OEIU is eyeing 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 Vice President C. A. Stafford of OEIU and representatives of the Retail Clerks International Protective Association and other international unions interested 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 OEIU Local No. 29, died January 19, according to word received from Muriel Kerchner, business representative. Sister Lund is mourned by the entire membership of the Local. She joined the Union in June, 1938. She had been employed in the office of the Piedmont Grocery for 18 years and was in the original group from that firm to join the Union when Piedmont Grocery was organized.

Sister Lund is survived by 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 employees of the company. Seated, left to right: Irene Kelly, member of the negotiating committee; C. O. Voight, president of the company; Joyce Esgar, secretary-treasurer of Local 5. Standing, left to right: Glen Mellencamp, member of the negotiating committee; Fred Laursen, chairman of the contract committee; Harry Pratt, assistant treasurer of the company; Rudolph Cook, secretary of the Denver Trades and Labor Assembly; Vice President Frank Randall of the International Union. Elinor Pitts, third member of the negotiating committee, was unable to be present.

Wages Increased By New Contract

Denver, Colo.—Wage increases ranging from 21 to 52.3 per cent were secured for office and clerical workers of the General Iron Works Company 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 progression is established on several of the lower wage classifications. Pay for work in excess of eight hours a day or 40 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 notices or equivalent 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.

SEEK ORGANIZATION

North Adams, Mass.—Office and clerical employees of the Sprague Electric Company are seeking organization in the OEIU, according to John F. Smith, president of the Central Labor Union.

OEIU officers are cooperating with President Smith and AFL Regional Director John J. Murphy in the unionization of this group.

BREWERY WORKERS SEEK RETURN TO FEDERATION

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

AFL President William Green announced receipt of a telegram from William J. Kromelbein, 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 OEIU 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 165 at Hawkesbury and Local 166 at Kapuskasing.

Each local union completed unionization of office workers em-

COLORADO HOSPITAL AGREEMENT SIGNED

Denver, Colo.—A working agreement between Local 5 and the Colorado Hospital Service (Blue Cross) has been entered into, according to International Vice President Frank F. 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, with increases ranging from \$3.56 to \$6.20 on the basic work week.

Other significant gains achieved included the establishment of double time pay for six recognized holidays with a further proviso that all employees not working such 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 one week's vacation with pay and all employees with one year's service receive two weeks' vacation with pay each year. Provision is made for the payment of pro rata vacation to employees who leave 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 stewards who may handle grievances during working hours without loss of pay.

The agreement is signed on behalf of Local 5 by Secretary-Treasurer Joyce Esgar and by Mary Louise Cramton for the negotiating committee, as well as by Vice President 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.

employed by the company in their respective communities in record time following their being chartered by OEIU, according to Harvey.

With certification for representation virtually assured in these two instances, OEIU'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 inroads in the organization of workers in this industry during the past year.

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 reaffiliation with the AFL. These communications were only the most recent ones of a long series. The first letter, dated February 10, 1945, follows:

"Acknowledgment is hereby made of the receipt of your letter of February 9, which expresses the suggestions 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 conscious that the American Federation of Labor has rules and laws covering affiliates which are binding up such affiliates as long as they are chartered by the American Federation of Labor. In consequence, I am authorized to say that the United Mine Workers of America will at once reenter the American Federation of Labor with its entire membership.

"When the charter 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 any of its affiliates, to discuss the question of any jurisdictional claim that may be filed, in harmony with the customary procedure and the existing laws and rules 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 second letter dated January 12, 1946, said:

"On February 10, 1945, this office, in 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 Saturday, January 12, affecting reaffiliation of the United Mine Workers of America with the American Federation of Labor, I am herewith enclosing check in the amount of \$9,000, signed by International Secretary-Treasurer Thomas Kennedy, in payment of tax on 600,000 members of the United Mine Workers of America 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 adjustment can be made by Secretary Kennedy and Secretary Meany."

Apex Electric Election Won; Negotiations Start Soon

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

An agreement has been formulated by a committee from the workers of the company, assisted by officers of the local union, and

it is anticipated that negotiations between the union and the company will soon be under way and will bring the benefits of collective bargaining to the 110 office workers employed by the concern.

The desire of the office workers of the company for unionization and the success in the NLRB election constituted a direct repudiation of the company's stated policy toward its office employes, as well as its views on unionization.

PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

(Continued from Page 1)

Frank P. Fenton, AFL Director of Organization; President George Haberman, Wisconsin State Federation of Labor; General Secretary Frank Raney, Federated Trades Council of Milwaukee.

Social Activities

Advocating at least nominal social activities during the convention, the arrangements committee has announced that on the Monday evening of the convention all delegates will be guests of Local 9 at a dancing party, while the banquet on Thursday evening will include skits on labor matters and renditions by a glee club. On Tuesday morning the delegates are scheduled for a tour of the Miller Brewery Company operations, one of several 100 per cent unionized breweries in Milwaukee.

The committee in charge of arrangements is encouraging delegates from local unions being represented at the convention to bring samples or organizing leaflets used by their local union, together with copies of agreements and any other material which has been utilized by local unions and which the delegates feel will be informative and interesting to other delegates during the panel discussions which have been arranged.

NEW HOME FOR AFL SOUGHT BY COUNCIL

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

The Executive Council appointed a committee of 5 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 Kaufmann department store are nearly 100 per cent organized, according to John F. Magnotti, business representative of Local 33, who expressed his appreciation for the efforts of Stewards Dorothy Kelly and Jo Lanz and for the suggestions and assistance of the organizational committee.

He also reported that the Pittsburgh Athletic Association and the Motor Express Lines are now under the OEIU banner.

In Blue Book

Washington, D. C.—The Office Employes International Union has taken its place alongside other A. F. of L. unions in the "blue book" of organized labor.

The 1946 issue of the catalogue-directory compiled by the Union Label Trades Department of the Federation shows the OEIU emblems and the label, which local unions are authorized to have their members use on their work, and lists the executive officers and address of international headquarters.

HOUSING BILL

(Continued from Page 2)

cerned with all measures for stabilizing our Nation's economy at a high level of production, the committee was advised as follows: "... an annual production of over a million new homes, can help achieve this high level of production. It will stimulate an annual investment of over \$6 billion and provide more than 4 million jobs a year. But this goal can only be achieved if we start now. If the industry takes speculative advantage of the present emergency to build only for the high-priced luxury field, it will bring on a repetition of the boom and crash catastrophe cycle in building. Such a speculative outburst can end only in unemployment for all in the building and construction industry, bankruptcy for builders, foreclosures and homelessness for all our people and a grave impediment to the achieving of a stabilized national economy."

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

CONSTRUCTION OFFICE ORGANIZED

Philadelphia, Pa. — Successful unionization of the office and clerical employes of the M. W. Kellogg Company, Inc., construction contractor, by Local 14 has been announced by Margit E. Springman, secretary-treasurer of the local union.

The company has agreed to a consent certification of representation check by the National Labor Relations Board which will clearly establish the union's right to represent all such employes of the company and will open the way to immediate negotiations on an agreement between the union and the company.

The local Building Trades Council supported Local 14 in the unionization of this group of workers and is rendering continued assistance in establishing bargaining rights in the subsequent negotiation of an agreement.

ELECTRIC AGREEMENT

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tiated by a committee from the local union, assisted by Vice President George P. Firth of the International Union is one of the largest increases ever negotiated by a labor union with the company and exceeds an increase recently won by the production workers of the company through their local union.

Another gain in the negotiation of the contract was an additional week's vacation with pay which raises the total paid vacation allowance for workers with two or more years of service to two weeks each year.

proposed FHA insured construction. "Tearing down of wage standards for 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 construction, be included in Titles III and IV of S 1592. The inclusion of this amendment will not only protect the already prevailing minimum wage standards in each locality, but will also make the policy of S. 1592 consistent, since this requirement now applies to all large-scale FHA insured projects," Hicks said.

Alaskan 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 reached the stage where an application for a local union charter has been made to OEIU, according to reports.

Vice President Gibson, who is likewise secretary-treasurer of Retail Clerks Union, Local No. 1496, 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 work-

ers 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 so as to bring the benefits of 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 Marshall who is working toward the unionization of other groups of office workers throughout Alaska.