Gains Won for Workers
In 9 Film Exchanges

Los Angeles, Calif.—The office and clerical workers in nine film exchanges in this city, where Local 174 on contracts and bargaining rights, have obtained substantial wage increases and other improvements in their employment conditions as a result of the recent arbitral proceedings, according to Max Krug, business representative of the local.

The highlights of the award of the Board of Arbitration include a 12 per cent general increase applying to all office and clerical workers in the exchanges, the seniority in layoffs and rebirthing, and the establishment of a 5-day, 40-hour week Monday through Friday, with time and one-half being paid for all hours in excess of 8 in any working day, and for all work in excess of 40 hours in the work week, as well as time and one-half for all hours worked on Saturday and Sundays.

The members employed under union shop agreement in the following exchanges benefit: Twentieth Century Fox, Columbia Pictures, RKO Radio Pictures, Warner Bros., Universal, Loew’s, Inc., United Artists, Pictures Corp., and Universal Film Exchanges. The more than 100 members benefiting from this award were indeed pleased with the outcome of this case and the substantial gains won for them through their NLRB Wage Scale Organization.

Another recent accomplishment of Local 174 has been the obtaining of an agreement from the Columbia Broadcasting System under which it obtained the right to reopen its present contract for the purpose of increasing the present wage scales. The membership employed in the local operations of this company by the agreement with the employer thus gained to upward wage adjustments above those provided in the present contract.

Southern Kraft
Wages Increased

Panama City, Florida.—Wage adjustments have been obtained for our membership employed by the Southern Kraft Division of the International Paper Group at its Panama City mill, according to International Union Vice President A. R. Carson who assisted Local 80 in the wage negotiations.

The amendment to the existing contracts between our local and the employer was negotiated establishing eight salary groups similar to the salary groups established in our recent negotiations with the Mobile, Ala., operations of this company. The salary rates established and the minimums ranging from $125 a month for the lowest clerical classification, to a minimum of $600 a month for the classification of assistant mill accountant. Adjustments in wage rates were made permitting all present employees at least $5 above the minimum rate for their group. Such adjustments (Continued on page 4)

FOOD MACHINERY ELECTION WON

Middleport, N. Y.—Climaxing a wide-scale organizing campaign, the office and clerical workers employed in the Niagara Sprayer and Division of the Food Machinery Corp. have by more than an 80 per cent favorable vote established their union as their bargaining agency, according to A. F. of L. Organizer Neil J. Cunningham and OEU Vice President George P. Firth who has been assisting the group.

An NLRB election was conducted in the latter part of June and a rally of such workers was held by Organizer Cunningham at the end of the election which was indicative of the results obtained.

The slogan applied for and received a charter as OEU Local No. 184 and it is anticipated that contractual relations with the company will be held shortly.

WINS RE-ELECTION

Portland, Ore.—Vice President S. Eugene Allen, of Local 11, was recently re-elected to a four-year term as a member of the Portland School Board. Allen, who is editor of Oregon Press, has played a most prominent part in Pacific Northwest AFL circles.

AMERICAN STOVE
AGREEMENT SIGNED

Cleveland, Ohio.—A comprehensive working agreement has been entered into by Local 17 and the American Stove Co., covering its Cleveland productions, according to Pearl A. Hana, business representative of the local who handled the negotiations.

The contract provides for a work week of five consecutive days of eight hours each, Monday through Friday, with time and one-half for all work in excess of eight hours per day and forty hours per week. Overtime rates for Saturday and Sunday are fixed at time and one-half and double time, respectively, provided such days are the sixth and seventh consecutive days worked.

Seven legal holidays are provided for and recognized and the agreement provides for the workmen and women workers that they will not be laid off during regular working hours to equalize the working time which they may perform.

Comprehensive seniority clauses are contained in the agreement covering to the covered workers. Paid vacations of two weeks after one year’s service, and after six months for those employees in excess of those provided during the former Agreement is guaranteed and leaves of absence without pay are paid for with full accumulation of seniority during such leave.

Severance Pay Assured

The contract assures the employees who are laid off for lack of work severance pay of two weeks if they have been employed for one year or more, one week if they have been employed for six months but less than one year.

Provision is made for the recognition of union stewards and of a general committee, and such stewards and committeemen are assured of reasonable time without pay for the performance of grievance duties and negotiations. All members of the general committee who have been employed for five years or more are granted senior-superiority.

Provision is also made for the company to have the agreement printed by union printers in booklet form for distribution to all workers.

The wage schedule provided fixed rates by job classifications, which rates are regular and vary according to earnings ranging from $127 per month to a maximum of $308 per month.

Assisting business representative Hana in the negotiations were the following committee members: Elmer A. Flinn, W. Forrest, Frank Knight and John R. Arthur.

BUS LINE ORGANIZED

Jacksonville, Fla.—In the NLRB election just held, the clerical force of the Florida Greyhound Lines voted overwhelmingly for collective bargaining through Local No. 73, International Union of Churchwoman, and thus established the local's bargaining rights for the 84 eligible employees. It is anticipated that contract negotiations will shortly commence.

The Florida Greyhound Lines formerly functioned as the Florida Motor Lines until it was recently purchased by the Southwestern Greyhound Lines of Houston, Tex., whose workers are members of Local 73 and enjoy the benefits of collective bargaining under a signed agreement.

Full cooperation in this organization is being received from the other employees and members of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employes of America.

CONSOLIDATED STEEL
AGREEMENT SIGNED

Orange, Texas.—The signing of the initial agreement between Local 133 and the Consolidated Steel Corporation covering office workers employed by the company has been announced by James A. Lewis, secretary-treasurer of the local union. Highlight of this new agreement is the obtaining of a flat 18-cent per hour wage increase retroactive to December 4 for all office workers employed by the company. This increase follows the pattern adopted recently by the International Union of Electrical Workers Local 1121 of the local union. Highlight of this new agreement is the obtaining of a flat 18-cent per hour wage increase retroactive to December 4 for all office workers employed by the company.

The agreement, which assures the maintenance of membership to all members of the local, also provides for the continuation of employment for "regular" employees in the event of layoffs, one week's vacation and a minimum of two weeks' paid vacation for salaried employees. The agreement provides for a ten day leave to be allowed on the basis of one day per month with a maximum of 20 days' vacation during any one year. The agreement also provides for seven recognized holidays, including Christmas, New Year's Day and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The agreement is the establishment of specific shift hours and a minimum of two hours' pay when reporting for an unscheduled shift while time and one-half will be paid for work performed on the sixth consecutive day; double time is to be paid for work performed on the seventh consecutive day. Provision is also made for the printing of the agreement by the company.

FINANCE COMPANY DRIVE PROGRESSES

New York City.—Following its sweeping victory in obtaining exclusive bargaining rights for the clerical workers employed by the Personal Finance Company in its 32 New York branches, great organizing interest has been shown by the clerical force employed in Household Finance, General Public, Capital, Family and other small loan companies. Board 153 has already obtained substantial representation among the clerical workers of Household Finance Corp. and is requesting formal recognition as the exclusive collective bargaining agency of such workers, according to reports of Howard J. Coughlin, business manager.

Negotiations are proceeding satisfactorily with the Personal Finance Company and the proposed improvements requested by the local are a 20 per cent general increase in additional paid vacation, sick leave, holidays and grievance machinery and arbitration.
WASHINGTON, D. C.—Great progress has been made by labor unions in the drive to raise wages and improve working conditions. Women members of the United Ladies Garment Workers Union, 46 per cent of the Bakery and Confectionery Workers, and 50 per cent of the Iron Workers, are all affiliates of the AFL.

Among the benefits which women have won through union are wage increases, better working conditions, and greater opportunity for advancement. The war loan drives, for instance, are particularly timely as a powerful weapon of persuasion through persuading people to lay money away in bonds instead of spending it on goods they do not need. In wartime we urged all workers to invest at least 10 per cent of their earnings to beat Axis tyrants. Now we urge them to invest all they can spare to help themselves and to continue on the payroll savings plan with its established voluntary labor-management policy. Will you kindly transmit this message to your affiliated organizations?"
Department Store Agreement Renewed

Portland, Ore.—Renewal of the agreement between Local 11 and Roberts' Brothers Department Store has been announced by Irving Enna, secretary-treasurer of the local union. High lights of the agreement are weekly salary increases ranging from $3.50 to approximately $5 for all members of the union. A new feature in the agreement is a provision calling for two weeks' advance notice or salary in lieu there of in the event the services of any employee to be terminated by the company.

*Tracking Industry Negotiates*

Marking a noteworthy step in the postwar development of Local 11 will be the signing of an agreement between the local union and the tracking industry. The success which the local union has scored in organizing this industry is the result of intensive planning and is hailed by local labor circles.

Several industry-wide campaigns, of which the most striking recent examples were the one, were planned last fall, some of which have been culminated with the signing of agreements while others are nearing the point where contract negotiations are soon to begin.

Electrical Equipment

Workers Win Increase

Kent, O.---The conclusion of negotiations on the agreement between Local 75 and the Lamb Electric Company resulted in a flat salary increase of $14 per month for all members of the local union, according to Lucille M. Sturdivant, president of the local union.

This increase is to be applied on former rates of pay for new, inexperienced employees as well as for those on upward rate for all existing classifications of employment with the resulting effect that all members of the union receive the same increase as well as new workers to be employed to improve their working life of the agreement. The renewed agreement continues to provide for automatic salary increases as has been the practice in past years in former agreements between the local union and the company.

MONEY IN FEW HANDS

Washington, D.C.—A survey made by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics shows that 40 percent of the families in the United States own but 1 percent of the Nation's savings. The report which was released by the Federal Reserve Board showed that the average amount of savings for this group was $40 per family and many families had no savings at all.

The report also said that a large portion of the buying of Americans was done on borrowed money with the further observation that as greater quantities of consumer goods appeared on the market this tendency would probably continue.

The report indicated that 60 percent of all family savings was held by 10 percent of the Nation's families.

Don't Wreck Wagner Act, Board Counsels Congress

Washington, D.C.—The surest way to provoke industrial strife is to wreck the Wagner Act and destroy the rights of workers, according to the Board of Governors of the National Labor Relations Board, who warned Congress in its tenth annual report.

Labor's enemies have advocated amendment of the NLRB to hamstring the agency or criminalize labor, but the board pointed out in its report that the pacific efforts of the employers to safeguard labor's right to organize and bargain collectively are "disputes over recognition of this right have historically been the chief cause of costly strikes and lockouts," the board declared.

"The right to select his own representatives for collective bargaining is one that is deeply ingrained in the American worker, and any impairment of this right is fraught with the difficulties of material warfare," the board declared.

Over a million workers marched in strikes last year, to which 1,000 of them were injured and in 93 percent of them unions won out, the report for 1945 revealed.

During the first decade of the board's existence, well over 6,000,000 employees took advantage of this type of "economic democracy" and in that period 84 percent selected unions as their bargaining agents.

"Unfair labor practice" cases against employers who sought to obstruct the right of workers to organize declined somewhat in the past year, but still totaled 2,417. This indicated that even though the Wagner Act has been the statute books for over 10 years, it is still being flouted by diehard bosses.

The board revealed, too, that it is still enjoying a high batting average in cases where it must go to the courts to get enforcement of orders against defiant employers.

CONVENTION CITY

Washington, D.C.—The same union conventions for the March 1947 regular convention of OEIU is scheduled for the International Executive Board at its next regular meeting in September. Under the International constitution the International Executive Board designates the city in which the annual convention of OEIU is to be held.

Wholesale Grocers

Signs Contract

New York, N.Y.—Contraband negotiations were completed between Local 16 and John Sexton & Co., establishing improvements in employment conditions benefitting approximately 100 office and clerical workers who are members of the local union.

The contract provides for a union shop with hiring of new employees through the union, sick leave, additional paid vacation and increases of $4 per week for all workers during the lifetime of the one year contract. Initial increases approximating 50 cents per week and further increases of $4 each are assured during the year in every instance with help on proportionate wage and wage schedules and automatic increases within the rate range.

The contract was negotiated by Business Manager Howard J. Coughlin, together with a negotiating committee of members from the establishment.

California Federation

Votes Inquiry of Reds

San Francisco—An investigation into reports of Communist activity in some AFL unions in the movie industry was ordered by the convention of the California State Federation of Labor.

A resolution was amended to exclude specific mention of the name of Harry A. K. Sorensen, president of the AFL, who was later dropped from the convention agenda. The convention also took the first step in the selection of an executive board.

Mr. Sorensen is on trial before the Central Labor Council of Los Angeles.

An earlier resolution urged exclusion of Communists and members of the Ku Klux Klan from AFL unions.

A resolution attacking Secretary Byrnes was defeated overwhelmingly. Another, calling on the new President to retain the secret of the atomic bomb and portraying Russia as a menace to peace, was adopted without debate.

Newspaper Agreement

Pittsburgh, Pa.—An agreement between the Pittsburg Press, owned by the Pennsylvania Truck Lines, according to Business Representative J. F. Magnotti, was negotiated on the new contract with this company.

This renewal agreement maintains the same minimum wage and wage advantages, including the 40-hour workweek, time and one-half for all work performed on Sundays and holidays and local to and work performed on Sundays and six designated holidays. In addition, the new contract provides for no discrimination against any employees.

Newspaper Agreement

Pittsburgh, Pa.—An agreement between the Local 39 and the Southwest-Teas Record has been announced by John W. Codding, secretary-treasurer of the local union.

The agreement provides for a 40-hour work week with time and one-half to be paid for all work performed in excess of the established working week, which is paid in accordance with the agreement, including car and mileage expenses for circulation district managers.

Iron Works

Signs Agreement

Minneapolis, Minn.—The signing of the initial agreement between Local 12 and the Diamond Iron Works, inc., resulted in many workers being hired by the company, according to A. J. Frits, business representative.

Noteworthy among the improvements won through collective bargaining is an automatic salary progression schedule which provides salary increases for all workers beginning with the conclusion of the first 3 months of service and at the end of each 6-month period thereafter through a total of $4 per month in addition, the more than 60 members of the local union employed by the firm received salary increases in amounts of 10 cents per hour, according to Frits.

Another highlight of the initial agreement is a provision calling for sick leave to be granted at the rate of one day per month over a period of five years. The agreement also provides for a maximum sick leave accumulation of 60 days. This provision is retroactive to April of this year.

Other features of the agreement provide for a uniform seniority program in which the date of actual employment of each worker is to be noted in making seniority determinations on the length of service in calendar years, the company by the availability of jobs so that those employees with sufficient seniority who are qualified may bid for such positions. The agreement which provides for five consecutive eight-hour day, Monday through Friday, also provides for six paid holidays, time and one-half for work performed on Saturday and double time for work performed on Sunday. A provision to prevent discrimination to be shown workers because of sex is another highlight of the agreement.

Assisting Frits in the negotiation of this agreement were Ralph A. O'Kane, G. L. Hughes and Robert R. Anderson.
Chesterfield Workers Demand Recognition

Richmond, Va.—Completing unionization of 80 per cent of the office workers employed in the local operations of R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company in record time, a demand has been made upon the company for recognition of the OEU as the representative according to J. Howard Hicks, secretary-treasurer who conducted the campaign.

In the event of recognition presently being studied by the company, it is hoped that this preliminary detail can be settled at an early date and negotiations opened on an agreement with the company.

All office workers in the group are enthusiastic over unionization and cooperation fully in the initial campaign.

Factory workers are represented by the Tobacco Workers of America, National Union (AFL), local union officers and members of which gave strong support to the organization of the office group.

Mail Order House

Chicago, Ill.—Local 28 is moving toward a preliminary action which may lead to the unionization of the more than 2,000 office workers employed by Spiegels, a large mail order firm.

According to Sarah E. Keenan, Business Representative for the local union, the organizing of the firm’s office workers is supported by a large majority of workers which represents the warehouse employees of the company and which is unique in that it is the only unit in the firm resulting in almost complete cessation of the company’s activities.

Business Representative Keenan has stated that, if sufficient showing of interest is evidenced by workers employed by the firm, a full-scale campaign will be launched and that she has been assured of the support of the warehouse union.

SOUTHERN KRAFT

(Continued from page 1) resulted in monthly increases running up in some instances to as much as $31.

Prior to the provision for automatic increases of $5 per month to be paid as of October 16, 1946, and October 31, 1946, and for each month thereafter union employees reached the top bracket of their job classification. Employees promoted into higher classifications will receive the first six months increase for such classification in addition to whatever their classification is as of the rate at which reclassification is equal to the minimum for the new job.

Vice President Carson in the negotiations on the wage schedules were Chairman John F. Holley of the local’s negotiating committee, together with committee members Gertrude Day, Charles W. Gentry and Robert H. Brown. The new schedule of rates is effective retroactive to June 1.

Mckesson-Robbins

Rates Increased

Oakland, Calif.—Wage gains of from $18 to $36 per month were obtained for the office and clerical workers employed at the McKesson-Robbins operations in this city, according to the business representative Ray R. Collier of Local 29, who handled the negotiations. In addition to wage rate increases basis the new agreement reduces the wage progression period from six months to three months and extends to new employees the benefit of their previous office experience.

This, along with the wage increase of $4 per month, is also made for observance seniority in the making of promotions.

Auto Electric Charges Heard

Tampa, Fla.—Charges of unfair labor practice filed against the American Electric Co., by Local 46 have been heard by a formal National Labor Relations Board hearing conducted by Examiner Ivan Rogson, according to J. O. Bloodworth, Jr., business representative for the local and an OEU vice president.

The hearing which lasted four days resulted in the first time on record that a member of the United States Constitution of the NLRB Service had not appeared to testify in such a case. The NLRB had always previously held that active conciliators could not be subpoenaed and that their activities carried certain immunities.

The former conciliator was Owan J. Rigdon, who was subpoenaed by the company at the request of company attorneys who contended that the NLRB had no right to examine any conciliator. The former conciliator who was subpoenaed denied that he had any active conciliating work to do and that the hearing was only a test to see if he could appear.

The charges led to the hearing were the result of company discrimination in the hiring and working of members of the American Electric Co. as a result of the negotiations of October 28 as the result of a successful unionization of the firm’s warehouse employees. A successful unionization petition presented the local union, has expressed confidence that NLRB will stand more favorable to the dismissed employees.

Monotype Strikers Stand Firm

Philadelphia, Pa.—Members of Local 14 who have been on strike against the Monotype Machine Company since May 20, declared in their position and will continue to strike indefinitely, according to Edward P. Springman, president of the local union. The strike action was instituted only after Local 14 had exhausted every possible effort to reach a satisfactory settlement with the company.

Negotiations for the new contract were protracted over a period of more than 12 months.

In the first union report that the request of Local 14 upon the company had been made as fair and equitable by the former War Labor Board and President Truman’s Post-War Labor Board, the union’s position is upon the belief that office workers are entitled to more wages and salary increases and other advancements in working conditions at the same level as other trades.

Company Balms

During the third week of the strike a National union and company representatives was arranged by a representative of the United States Department of Labor.

Although all union representatives attending this meeting were of an open mind and made sincere efforts to settle the controversy, the company representatives conciliated and brought the issue back to the institution of strike action.

At the request of Springman, J. T. Keenan, representative of the OEU recently visited Philadelphia to confer with officers of the local union and strike leaders.

The members of other unions in the plant are observing the picket lines and lending 100 per cent support.

These unions are the Machinists, Pattern Makers, Printing Pressmen and Teamsters.

American Ice Gains Made

Philadelphia, Pa.—Substantial improvements in employment conditions for the clerical workers employed by the American Ice Co., offices in this city are reported by Margaret Scardino, representative of Local 14. The new agreement brings a general weekly increase of $3.50 to the office force and $5.00 per week to the collectives. The local also succeeded in providing a second weeks’ paid vacation after one year of service and providing two years of service as provided in the previous contract. Paid sick leave has been expanded from one to two weeks per year. The minimum hiring rate has been increased to $26 per week. Time and one-half is provided for work outside the regular scheduled hours of off-duty. The present double time is provided for all Sunday and holiday work.

American Ice Co., the company has reduced its weekly work schedule to a five day basis from the previous one and cut back on the shorter total weekly hours thus reducing the number of workers, in most cases, to 9 per cent in straight time hourly rates.

James Reynolds Named to Nat’l Labor Board

Washington, D. C.—James J. Reynolds, Jr., 39, once a stockbroker and member of industrial relations, was named by President Truman to membership on the National Labor Relations Board, succeeding G. R. Relly.

Mr. Reynolds started as a Wall Street messenger, worked his way up to a partnership in an important brokerage house and quit because "I didn’t like to make money that way.” He donned overalls and a $22.50-a-week laborer in the U. S. Pipe & Foundry Co., rose rapidly in the company’s industrial relations and, eventually, assistant to the president. He entered the National Labor Relations Board last year as a special assistant to the Undersecretary, in charge of industrial relations, with the rank of commander.