

THE OFFICE WORKER

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

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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 Division operations, according to Pearl A. Hanna, business representative of the local union 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 also assures the workers that they will not be laid off during regular working hours to equalize any overtime which they may perform.

Comprehensive seniority clauses are contained assuring job protection to the covered workers. Paid vacations of two full weeks after one year's service and one week after six months' service are guaranteed and leaves of absence without pay are provided for with accumulation of seniority during such leaves.

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, or 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 deductions to handle grievances and negotiations. All members of the general committee who have been employed for five years or more are granted super-seniority.

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 for regular employees range from \$127 per month to a maximum of \$308 per month.

Assisting business representative Hanna in the negotiations were the following committeemen: Elmer A. Fischer, Joseph S. Artino, Frank Knight and John R. Arthur.

WINS RE-ELECTION

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

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 holds contracts and bargaining rights, have obtained substantial wage increases and other improvements in their employment conditions as a result of the recent arbitration 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 these exchanges, the gaining of seniority in layoffs and rehiring, 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 performed in excess of 40 hours in the work week, as well as time and one-half for all hours worked on Saturday and Sunday.

The members employed under union shop agreement in the following exchanges benefit: Twentieth Century Fox, Columbia Pictures, RKO Radio Pictures, Warner Brothers, Loew's, Inc., Paramount Pictures, Republic Pictures, United Artists Pictures Corp. and Universal Film Exchange. The more than 150 members benefiting from this award were indeed pleased with the

outcome of this case and the substantial gains won for them through their local union.

CBS Wage Scale Opened

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 are pleased with the opportunity thus gained to obtain 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 Co. at its Panama City mill, according to International Union Vice President A. R. Carson who assisted Local 80 in its recent wage negotiations.

The amendment to the existing contract between our local and the company 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 set up minimums ranging from \$125 a month for the lowest clerical classification to a minimum of \$300 per month for the classification of assistant mill accountant. Adjustments in wage rates were made bringing all present employees at least \$5 above the minimum rate for their group. Such adjustments (Continued on page 4)

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, according to Loraine Rhodes, President of the local. More than 85 per cent of all votes cast favored union representation, thus establishing 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 Southeastern Greyhound Lines, whose office workers are members of Local 73 and enjoy the benefits of collective bargaining and a signed agreement.

Full cooperation in this organizational drive is being received from the officers and members of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employees 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 in the local shipyard of 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 Shipbuilding Stabilization Committee and which was approved by the National Wage Stabilization Board.

Other Benefits

The agreement, which assures the maintenance of membership to all members of the local union, also provides for the continuation of employment for "regular" employees in the event of layoffs, one week's vacation with pay for hourly pay employees and two weeks' paid vacation for salaried employees. The agreement provides for sick leave to be allowed on the basis of one day per month with a maximum of ten days permitted to accrue during any one year. The agreement also provides for seven recognized holidays. Also provided in 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 an unscheduled shift and 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. Local 153 has already obtained substantial representation among the clerical workers employed by the 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 of the local.

Negotiations are proceeding satisfactorily with the Personal Finance Company. Among the proposed improvements requested by the local are a 20 per cent general wage increase, additional paid vacation, sick leave, a union shop and grievance machinery and arbitration.

FOOD MACHINERY ELECTION WON

Middleport, N. Y.—Climaxing a whirlwind organizational campaign the office and clerical workers employed in the Niagara Sprayer and Chemical Division of the Food Machinery Corp. have by more than an 80 per cent favorable vote established OEIU as their exclusive bargaining agency, according to A. F. of L. Organizer Neil J. Cunningham and OEIU 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 on the eve of the election which was indicative of the results obtained.

These workers have applied for and received a charter as OEIU Local No. 184 and it is anticipated that contractual relations with the company will be held shortly.

MAGNOLIA VOTES OEIU

Beaumont, Texas.—By a landslide vote of 85 per cent the clerical workers employed at the Magnolia Refinery in this city voted to establish OEIU, Local 169, as their exclusive bargaining agency, according to Vice President C. A. Stafford, who assisted the local officers in their organizational work. The election was conducted by the NLRB earlier this month.

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**OFFICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION**



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Prices Soar As Lid Is Lifted

If there was any doubt whatever of the imperative need of continuing price controls, what happened when OPA expired should provide the final answer.

Despite President Truman's appeal to the patriotism of businessmen, farmers and merchants, the legal death of OPA became the signal for the most acute epidemic of inflationary price increases in the history of our Nation.

Rents jumped sky-high almost instantaneously, forcing four State Governors to impose emergency regulations to freeze rates. Every housewife was at once faced with sharp boosts in the price of such staples as bread, milk and meat. The up-swing is just beginning to gather momentum. Unless it is stopped in its tracks, we have it on the authority of the outgoing Economic Stabilization Director, Chester Bowles, that the cost of living of the American people may double in the next three weeks.

This emergency provides a clear-cut test as to whether our democracy can meet and overcome a major challenge to the security of its economy.

Prices, let it be remembered, constitute only half of the picture. The public must realize that Government wage controls ended with the death of OPA. It would be idle to hope to maintain wage ceilings after prices have burst through the roof.

American workers who depend upon their weekly wages for a living cannot afford to pay millionaire prices on an average income of about \$40 a week. Unless price control is restored and vigorously enforced, wages will have to go up correspondingly. That will mean further price increases and then more wage increases until the dizzy spiral of inflation crashes and drags America down with it. This is no idle theory. I have seen it happen within the past six months in many countries of Europe.

The question one hears on every hand is—"Why doesn't the Government do something about it?" President Truman has done his part.

Unions Assist Women Score Important Gains

Washington, D. C.—Great progress has been made by labor unions in seeing that women share fully in the securing of favorable working conditions, it was revealed in a report by the Women's Bureau of the U. S. Labor Department.

Extent of women membership in unions is indicated by a chart contained in the report. This shows that women represent 80 per cent of the membership of the International Ladies Garment Workers

Union, 46 per cent of the Bakery and Confectionery Workers, and 50 per cent of the United Textile Workers, all affiliates of the AFL.

Among the benefits which women have derived through unions are a voice in collective bargaining, better jobs with equal opportunities for promotion, higher wages, rate for the job, shorter hours, vacations with pay, better working conditions, seniority rights, and community services such as child care centers.

On the other side of the balance sheet—"Participation by both men and women workers in strong, free unions, is necessary to collective bargaining," the report says. Women can help their unions by participating in their programs, attending union meetings, and sharing in union work. They can refuse to undercut the union wage scale by not working for lower rates. They can learn to understand and further union ideals and activities, help women's organizations to understand union programs, and work for more democracy in government through voting.

The legal right of workers to join a union and to bargain collectively is guaranteed by the Wagner Act of 1935 (National Labor Relations Act). The new report explains and summarizes for women their rights under this act. In the first 10 years of the Wagner Act, over 6,000,000 workers, including thousands of women, voted in elections held by

LABOR SCHOOL HELD

Richmond, Ky.—Attending the recent two-week Kentucky Labor School in this city, were three members of the Office Employees International Union, AFL. They were Jerry Bruton and Babs Watson of Local Union 61 in Louisville, and Mrs. James Maret, president of Local 172 in Paducah, vice president of the Kentucky Federation of Labor and only woman member of its executive board.

The school, first of its kind to be held by any State Federation of Labor, was held on the campus of Eastern State Teachers' College, chosen because of its convenient location and excellent facilities for study and recreation. Forty students from fifteen AFL unions in eight Kentucky cities attended. Included in the faculty were several college professors and representatives of the AFL and Department of Labor.

Students spend about six hours a day in class, learning such subjects as labor history, labor economics collective bargaining, public speaking and parliamentary law. There were also lectures by several guest speakers, including L. C. Willis, director of the Kentucky Department of Industrial Relations. At a special Saturday night meeting, Dr. M. D. Peterson of Oak Ridge addressed the school and members of the Richmond community on the implications of atomic energy.

Citing the Kentucky Labor School as an example of the increased interest in workers' education, John Connors, director of the Workers' Education Bureau, discussed the new awareness on the part of labor in a sound public relations program as well. He suggested various techniques for local unions to follow, such as holding essay contests in high schools and keeping in touch with the local library to see that it maintained a stock of books on labor.

He vetoed an OPA extension bill which would have forced prices up just as high as they are now going. But Congress has failed.

It is up to Congress now to correct its dangerous error. It must act at once to restore price controls and save the American people from cold-blooded robbery by profiteers. The American people demand such action. They have voiced their mandate in the greatest torrent of mail and telegrams received in the Nation's capital in years. Unless the members of Congress respond to this emergency appeal with a sound and constructive new OPA law, they may find themselves swept out of office by an angry electorate next November.—Robert J. Watt, AFL International Representative.

INVEST IN SAVINGS BONDS

As we go to press the following telegram was received from Gilbert E. Hyatt, Sr., Chief of the Labor Section, U. S. Savings Bonds Division of the Treasury Department:

"A nation-wide campaign of the Treasury Department is now under way urging Americans to invest in savings bonds to the best of their ability. This is not a drive like the war loan drives, but it is particularly timely as a powerful weapon against inflation 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 ten 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."

the National Labor Relations Board, an agency set up under the Wagner Act to conduct elections among workers for the purpose of determining their collective bargaining agents. Of the 23,850 elections and cross-checks held, 20,000 were won by unions.

Bill To Increase Minimum Wage Blocked By House Rules Committee

Washington, D. C.—The Minimum Wage Increase Bill, to lift minimum wages from 40 to 65 cents an hour, was sidetracked and apparently blocked by the House Rules Committee as Congress raced toward adjournment.

This measure is a top issue on President Truman's legislative list and has been vigorously urged by the American Federation of Labor, which had pressed consistently for action before Congress would wind up its affairs.

To expedite House action on the wage measure the Committee on Labor had brushed aside the bill approved by the Senate in April after a three-week fight and reported out its own version, stripped down to a simple raising of the legal pay minimum to 65 cents, the figure adopted by the Senate. No attempt was made, as with the Senate bill, to broaden the coverage of the wage-hour law or to raise other controversial issues.

Through the acting chairman, Representative Jennings Randolph of West Virginia, a majority of the Labor Committee urged the Rules Committee to release this bill for floor action and to ban the offering of unrelated amendments.

This brought into the picture the fact that the Senate, twice defying a veto threat by President Truman, wrote into its minimum wage bill the Pace parity price-raising amendment which Government economists declared would add some \$4,500,000,000 to the annual food budget of the country.

Representative George E. Oakland of California, speaking as the head of the informal steering committee on proposed labor legislation, informed the committee that the President had told him he would veto a House bill if it contained the Pace amendment.

Representative Stephen Pace of Georgia, author of the proposal to include farm labor cost increases in the computation of parity prices, asked for a rule which would admit his amendment for consideration.

A majority of the Rules Committee indicated a willingness to open the way for the Pace amendment.

After the executive session, during which the committee promptly adopted rules to release four other measures for floor action, it was announced that the Wage bill was laid over "pending further consideration."

Representative Adolph J. Sabath, chairman, said this action was taken because Representative Eugene E. Cox of Georgia wanted to be present and he had left Washington for the Georgia primary campaign and election to be held July 17. The date for the adjournment of the Seventy-ninth Congress sine die has been set tentatively between July 17 and July 21.

Asked whether he thought there was any chance for Rules Committee action on the Wage bill before the Congress went home to stay, Mr. Sabath said:

"I'm afraid not."

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 thereof in the event the services of any employe are to be terminated by the company.

Trucking Industry Negotiates

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

Several industry-wide campaigns, of which the trucking industry was 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, Ohio.—The conclusion of negotiations on renewal of 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. Sturgill, president of the local union.

This increase is to be applied on former rates of pay for new, inexperienced workers and will range upward through rates for all existing classifications of employment with the resulting effect that all members of the union receive the increase as well as all new workers to be employed during the 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 per cent of the families in the United States own but 1 per cent 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 of any kind.

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 consumers' goods appeared on the market this tendency would increase.

The same report also showed that 60 per cent of all family savings was held by 10 per cent 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 deprive workers of their liberties, the National Labor Relations Board warned Congress in its tenth annual report.

Labor's enemies have advocated amendment of the NLRA to hamstring unions as a prescription against strikes, but the board pointed out in its report that the law has effectively helped to prevent strikes by safeguarding labor's right to organize and bargain collectively.

"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 danger of industrial warfare," the board declared.

Over a million workers marched to the polls in 5,000 board elections, and in 83 per cent of them unions won out, the report for 1945 revealed.

During the first decade of the board's existence, well over 6,000,000 employes took advantage of

this type of "economic democracy" and in that period 84 per cent selected unions as their bargaining agents.

"Unfair labor practice" cases against employers who sought to interfere with the right of their workers to organize declined somewhat in the past year, but still totaled 2,427. 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 of victories in cases where it must go to the courts to get enforcement of orders against defiant employers.

CONVENTION CITY

Washington, D. C.—The selection of a convention city for the March 1947 regular convention of OEIU is scheduled for consideration by 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 Grocer

Signs Contract

New York, N. Y.—Contractual negotiations were completed between Local 153 and John Sexton & Co. establishing improvements in employment conditions benefiting approximately 100 office and clerical workers who are members of the local union.

The contract provides for a union shop with hiring of new employes through the union, sick leave, additional paid vacation and increases of \$9 per worker during the life of the one year contract. Initial increases approximate \$5 per worker and further increases of \$4 each are insured during the year in accordance with the classification and wage schedules and automatic increases within the rate ranges. The contract was negotiated by Business Manager Howard J. Coughlin, together with a negotiating committee of members from the establishment.

NLRB ORDERS

WEBSTER TO BARGAIN

Tiffin, Ohio.—In a decision and order issued June 28, the National Labor Relations Board adopted the findings, conclusions and recommendations of Trial Examiner Scott in connection with the charges filed against the Webster Mfg. Co., of this city, by OEIU Local 155.

In affirming the Trial Examiner's report on this case, the Board ordered this company to bargain with Local 155 and to cease and desist from in any way interfering with the efforts of this local to bargain collectively on behalf of the workers involved. The company was also ordered to immediately post notices for sixty days advising its employes that it will comply with the Board's order.

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 Herbert K. Sorrell, president of the AFL Conference of Studio Unions, who led the seven-month strike in Hollywood last year and was described in the report of a joint legislative committee headed by State Senator Jack Tenney as "presently an important stooge and tool" of the Communists.

Mr. Sorrell 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 United States Government to retain the secret of the atomic bomb and portraying Russia as a menace to peace, was adopted without debate.

NEWSPAPER AGREEMENT

Ft. Smith, Ark.—Renewal of the agreement between Local 82 and the Southwest-Times Record has been announced by Mary E. Coddington, 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 work week. The agreement also provides car and mileage expense rates 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 worthwhile gains for the office workers employed by the firm, according to A. J. Fritz, business representative of the local union.

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 54 months. In addition, the more than 50 members of the local union employed by the firm received salary increases in excess of 10 cents per hour, according to Fritz.

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 and which 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 used in making determinations on the length of service and the posting by the company of available jobs so that those employes with sufficient seniority and who are qualified may bid for such positions. The agreement which provides for five consecutive eight-hour days, 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 that no discrimination is to be shown workers because of sex is another highlight of the contract.

Assisting Fritz in the negotiation of this agreement were Ralph A. Hutchinson, Mary L. Hughes and Robert R. Anderson.

Truck Lines

Increase Gained

Pittsburgh, Pa.—A blanket increase of \$5 per week has been obtained for the 16 members of Local 33 employed by the Pennsylvania Truck Lines, according to Business Representative John F. Magnotti who negotiated the new contract with this company.

This renewal agreement maintains all of the previously gained advantages, including the 40-hour week, time and one-half for all overtime, double time for all work performed on Sundays and six designated holidays. In addition, six holidays with pay are allowed and all employes with one year's service receive two weeks' paid vacation each year. Seniority prevails in the case of layoffs and rehiring of all employes. All newly hired employes are required to become members of the union and all unsettled grievances are handled through an arbitration board, with the decision of such board being final and binding upon both parties.

CANADIAN PAPER AGREEMENTS NEAR

Toronto, Ont.—Announcement of the signing of the first agreements between OEIU local unions and the Kimberly-Clark Corporation of Canada, Ltd., and the Canadian International Paper Company is believed near, according to a report made by AFL Representative Russell Harvey.

It is expected that agreements will soon be signed between the former company and Local 166 at Kapuskasing, Ontario, and that very soon thereafter the agreement between Local 110, Gatineau, Quebec, and the latter company will be consummated.

It is reported that Local 166 and the Kimberly-Clark company have agreed upon a blanket 15 per cent wage increase which, coupled with an increase gained during January, represents a substantial wage adjustment for employees of the firm. It is also reported that the local union and the company are in accord on a contract provision assuring union membership to all office workers employed by the company.

It is expected that the agreements won by Locals No. 110 and between four other OEIU locals and these companies. Harvey has also reported that the Ontario Labour Relations Board has ordered an election among members of Local 152 who are employed by the Ontario-Minnesota Paper Company at Ft. Frances, Ontario. The local union is expected to roll up a large vote.

New Canadian Local

Beaupre, Que.—Under the direction of AFL Representative Russell Harvey, office workers employed in the local operation of the Abitibi Power and Paper Company, Ltd., have completed unionization and have made application for an OEIU local union charter.

This new local union which will henceforth be known as Local 191 is the third operation of this company to be unionized by Harvey in his activities in behalf of the OEIU. Harvey is eyeing the possibility of unionizing office workers in the Sault Ste Marie and Port Arthur operations of the company. He has previously organized Local 151, Iroquois Falls and Local 161, Smooth Rock Falls where the company also has operations. Each of the latter two local unions is situated in the Province of Ontario. Negotiations of agreements with the company for previously organized operations is in the preliminary stages Harvey has reported.

WATER FRONT AGREEMENT

Philadelphia, Pa. — Members of Local 14 employed by Philadelphia Piers, Inc., are now working under a renewed agreement which brings substantial additional benefits to them. Among changes effected by union officers in the renewal of this agreement are a \$3 per week increase in base pay retroactive to January 1, time and one-half after 8 hours' work in one day, improved vacation provision and time off without loss of pay on Good Friday and election day.

Chesterfield Workers Demand Recognition

Richmond, Va.—Completing unionization of 80 per cent of the office workers employed in the local operation of the Liggett and Myers Tobacco Company in record time, a demand has been made upon the company for recognition of the OEIU as the representative of this group, according to J. Howard Hicks, secretary-treasurer, who conducted the campaign.

With a request for recognition presently being studied by the com-

pany, it is hoped that this preliminary detail can be settled at an early date and negotiations begun on an agreement with the company. All office workers in the group are enthusiastic over unionization and cooperated fully in the initial campaign.

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

Mail Order House

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

According to Sarah E. Keenan, business representative of the local union, the organizing of the firm's office workers is supported by a local union of AFL warehousemen which represents the warehouse employes of the company and which recently engaged in a strike against 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 office 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 \$51.

Provision was also made for automatic increases of \$5 per month to be paid as of October 10, 1946, and each six months thereafter until the employe reached the top bracket of his job classification. Employees promoted into higher classifications will receive the first six months increase for such classification if their rates at the time of reclassification are equal to the minimum for the new job.

Assisting 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 L. Rigdon. 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 business representative Ray R. Colliver of Local 29, who handled the negotiations. In addition to the increases in basic rates the new agreement reduces the wage progression period from six months to three months and extends to new employes the benefit of their previous office experience. Provision also is made for observing seniority in the making of promotions.

Auto Electric Charges Heard

Tampa, Fla.—Charges of unfair labor practice filed against the Spencer Auto Electric, Inc., by Local 46 have been heard at a formal National Labor Relations Board hearing conducted by Examiner Irvin Rogoson, according to J. O. Bloodworth, Jr., business representative of the local union and an OEIU vice president.

The hearing which lasted four days was unique in that it was the first time on record that a former member of the United States Conciliation Service had been subpoenaed 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 Owen W. Schaefer who was subpoenaed at the request of company attorneys who contended that the NLRB rule did not apply to former conciliators and that Schaefer's testimony was essential to a fair determination of the case. Rogoson subpoenaed Schaefer only after conferring with the NLRB office in Washington on the matter.

The charges leading to the hearing were the result of company dismissal of two employes last December 28 as the result of a successful unionization of the firm's office staff. Bloodworth, who represented the local union, has expressed confidence that NLRB will rule in favor of the dismissed employes.

Monotype Strikers Stand Firm

Philadelphia, Pa.—Members of Local 14 who have been out on strike against the Lanston Monotype Machine Company since May 20 remain adamant 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 were protracted over a period of more than twelve months.

Officers of the union report that the request of Local 14 upon the company had been ruled as fair and equitable by the former War Labor Board and President Truman's Fact Finding Committee. The union's position is premised upon the belief that office workers are entitled to wage and salary increases and other advancements in working con-

AMERICAN ICE GAINS MADE

Philadelphia, Pa. — Substantial improvements in employment conditions for the clerical workers employed in 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 collectors. The local also succeeded in providing a second weeks' paid vacation after one year of service instead of after two years of service as provided in the previous contract. Paid sick leave has been extended 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 all work outside the regular scheduled hours of off-schedule work on Saturday, and double time is provided for all Sunday and holiday work.

Informally the company has reduced its weekly work schedule to a five day basis from the previous five and one-half day basis, without reduction in weekly pay, the shorter total weekly hours thus resulting in a further increase of almost 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 stock broker who entered the field of industrial relations, was named by President Truman to membership on the National Labor Relations Board, succeeding G. R. Reilly.

Mr. Reynolds started as a Wall Street messenger, worked his way up to a partnership in an important brokerage house and quit because he "didn't like to make money that way." He donned overalls as a \$22.50-a-week laborer in the U. S. Pipe & Foundry Co., rose rapidly to foreman, director of industrial relations and, eventually, assistant to the president. He entered the Navy in 1943 and eventually was promoted to special assistant to the Undersecretary, in charge of industrial relations, with the rank of commander.

ditions at the same level as other trades.

Company Balks

During the third week of the strike a meeting between union and company representatives was arranged by a representative of the United States Conciliation Service. Although all union representatives attending this meeting were of an open mind and put forth sincere efforts to settle the controversy, the company representatives continued the position which had led to the institution of strike action.

At the request of Springman, J. Howard Hicks, secretary-treasurer of the OEIU 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.