State Survey Upholds Union Demands On Brown & Sharpe

Providence, R. I.—The survey to determine the minimum rates for office workers employed by the Brown & Sharpe Mfg. Co., which was made by the Department of Labor, was released on March 1st to the union representatives and to the company by State Director Wm. L. Connolly. The survey which gave consideration to rates in the area both in private industry and in civil service classifications, as well as to costs of living increases and budgets for white collar workers, upheld the request of the union's wage proposals, which the company's refusal to consider last fall precipitated the seven-week strike which closed this large machine tool works.

Local 70, which represents the more than 1,100 clerical workers in this plant, was forced to strike this establishment last October in protest of the company's rejection of any peaceful method of disposing of the wage contro- versy. The results of the settlement agreement as proposed by the State and agreed to by the company and the union, will be provided for the following rates for office employees and that upon the completion of the survey the union and the company and Mr. Connolly, the Director of Labor, would meet and agree upon rates as established, with a further proviso that all wages and contract adjustments would be retroactive to June 17, 1945.

The survey which has now been released by the Secretary-Treasurer and C. C. Newell, business representative of Local No. 68 and President, said: "This survey is expected to be made effective retroactive on or after February 1, with the extension of paid vacations and sick leave to all permanent office employees. The survey agreement will provide annual leave for 26 days per year and sick leave for 26 days per year, both with pay."

Shipbuilding Pay Increase Approved

Washington, D. C.—The National Wage Stabilization Board has granted approval for wage increases up to 18c per hour, retroactive to December 4, 1945, for all classifications of workers in the shipbuilding industry. Following action by the national conference of the Shipbuilding Stabilization Committee, the NWSB action is expected to result in the opening of further negotiations of the wage structure of agreements between OEU locals and concerns engaged in the shipbuilding industry. In a letter to local unions with members employed in these industries, Secretary-Treasurer Earl Hicks of the OEU pointed out that NWSB action "does not constitute an automatic increase in the hourly rate of pay for workers in the shipbuilding and ship repair industries, nor is it an action that mandates upon the shipbuilding and ship repair industries to pay such 18c per hour increase retroactive to December 4, 1945." Hicks further pointed out, in the same communica- tion, that the membership of the local unions in the two industries "should view the approval by NWSB as establishing a maximum which can be achieved at this time through collective bargaining processes."

Representatives of the two industries have voiced loud disapproval of the actions of both the Shipbuilding Stabilization Committee and NWBB in acting to permit an 18c per hour increase retroactive to December 4. Industry spokes- men have based their protests on the fact that the Stabilization Board has not been consulted in this action. NWBB approval of any agreement reached by the tri-partite committee to that of permitting the joining of any two of three parties of the committee to determine the committee's action. The commit- tee is composed of an equal number of representatives from labor, industry, and government.

Although industry made an is- sues of concern to the company when such action was before NWBB for its consideration, the company's letter promptly reversing "no opinion whatsoever on the issue which has been raised as to the reasonableness of the rates recommended by the National Shipbuilding Conference interpretations made by OEU local unions in the shipbuilding industry, and the company's opposition to approval of the rates is tantamount to an agreement with the company. The hope has been expressed that company officials are now about to start in expediting the negotiations."

Office Equipment Company Workers Vote For OEU

Rochester, N. Y.—Registering an impressive vote in favor of the union representation by Local No. 84, office workers employed by the Yawman and Eber Manufacturing Company, manufacturers of office filing equipment, adds another name to the list of companies in which the OEU has been chosen as collective bargaining representative by office workers.

Announcement of the favorable vote cast at a NLRB election by those workers employed by OEU Vice President George F. Firth and President Arthur P. Farren of the local union.

The election was ordered by NLRB following a hearing regarding the propriety of the local's claim to represent the employees of the company. The hearing was held last September with Secretary-Treasurer Benjamin B. Garfinkle of the OEU assisting local union officials in the presentation of the union's case.

It is anticipated that Local No. 84 will move immediately into the presentation of a formal application for an agreement with the company. The hope has been expressed that company officials are now about to start in expediting the negotiations.
50,000 Contracts Can’t Be Wrong

Chicago—While collective bargaining has broken down in a few big industries, nonetheless 50,000 union agreements are functioning today and will continue to keep the peace and promote the welfare of the workers.

That significant point was made by Edgar L. Warren, director of the U. S. Conciliation Service, in an address to the Chicago Association of Commerce.

"Every day approximately 100 of these contracts are being reopened and rewritten, and every day literally thousands of grievances are being settled without the use of strikes. Without this Warren emphasized.

"It was to be expected," he said, "that after the strain of the war, long hours of work and wage freezing, the coming of peace should lead to an increase of disputes. But in the vast majority of cases, labor-employer differences are being settled without stoppages, he stressed.

"The wonder is not that there is so much industrial strife, but that there is not more!" Warren insisted. "The wonder is not that there are interruptions to production, but that the reconversion program is proceeding.

MINIMUM WAGE BOOST APPROVED

Washingto, D. C.—The Senate Education and Labor Committee approved a bill to establish a national minimum wage of 65 cents an hour and a maximum of 40 cents an hour, to be raised to 75 cents an hour after four months, when the bill becomes law. The bill as approved by the Senate committee would boost the minimum wage under the wage-hour act from 40 to 65 cents an hour within 4 months after it becomes law.

At the end of 2 years the minimum wage would rise automatically to 70 cents an hour and at the end of 4 years to 75 cents.

The Senate committee had agreed to extend the higher minimum wage to all workers in industries that the Supreme Court finds "affirm commerce." This would mean chain establishments and board and loan companies.

The legislation was broadened by the House of Representatives to include about 2,000,000 of chain stores and chain service establishments. The bill as approved by the Senate committee would boost the minimum wage under the wage-hour act from 40 to 65 cents an hour within 4 months after it becomes law.

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AFL Given Official Status By the UNO


Russian delegates exerted every kind of political pressure and reported to devious parliamentary tricks to exclude the AFL and to make the resolution on Internationalization of Trade Unions, which, it is dominated by the Communists, the exclusive labor consultant to the UN.

The debate on labor recognition reached torrid heights when Prime Minister Peter Fraser, of New Zealand, accused Soviet delegate Dmitri Manulakyi, who was acting as chairman, of trying to “trick” the delegates on how to vote on the issue.

“Those tricks won’t work here,” said Mr. Fraser. “They may work in some places but not here. Those methods are not right in the United Nations.”

France was the only major country to vote with the Soviet Union against the AFL. China sided with the United States and Britain. Senator Connally of Texas, led the fight for the U.S. delegation and Philip Nolan-Baker for the British delegates.

AFL, International Representative Robert J. Watt, who was here in London representing the executive board of the International Labor Organization, kept in close touch with the proceedings.

New Pact With Dairy Company

Pittsburgh, Pa.—Business Representative John F. Magnoti of OEIU Local 33 reports the negotiation of a new agreement with the Lewis Dairy, Inc.

A five-cent hike, a reduction of hours of work and a wage increase of 22 percent are some of the benefits of the new contract.

Local 6 Observes 30th Anniversary

Boston—OEIU Local No. 6 recently observed its 30th Anniversary. A feature of the occasion was the installation by Harry P. Grages, secretary-treasurer, of the Boston Local Union, of the following officers: Esther Cahill, president; Edwin Montague, vice-president; Oscar Frey, secretary-treasurer; Ida S. Vellame, recording and corresponding secretary; Helen M. Karr, assistant recording secretary; Erma Shea, sergeant-at-arms; Mary Taylor, Helen Foley, Alice Neilie, Katherine Lannon and Aaron Velleman, executive committee.

Representatives Vellame of the local reported that an increase of 30 cents an hour had been secured for employees at the Liquid Carbonic Co., Star Brush Manufacturing Co., and the Cotton Garment Workers Union.

Back Pay Secured From U. S. Rubber

Providence, R. I.—Retroactive pay estimated as amounting to $30,000 has been secured by Local 63 for all office and clerical workers employed in the local operation of the United States Rubber Co., according to George A. Romer, president of the local union. Payment of $30,000 to each office worker in the local operation of the company represented retroactive pay from December 5, 1944, and was distributed to approximately 500 workers. The amount of retroactive overtime paid is yet to be computed and paid by the company, which will further increase the amount of retroactive payments already made.

Double Pay For Overtime Sought

Washington, D. C.—Joint efforts of Irving Engineering Consultant, Local No. 33, Portland, Ore., C. C. Newell, Business Representative, Local No. 33, Portland, Wash., and Secretary-Treasurer J. Howard Hicks of the OEIU may result in the payment of double time for all overtime worked on Saturdays, Sundays, holidays, and in excess of eight hours in any one shift to OEIU members employed in Portland and Vancouver shipyards.

Following refusal by the management of Kaiser Company, Inc., Oregon Shipbuilding Co., and Commercial Iron Works to join with the local unions in requesting approval by the National War Stabilization Board for payment of double time in conformity with agreements between the local unions and the companies, an en- deavor is being made to bring the matter before NWSB for early action.

The position of the two local unions is bolstered by the fact that Local No. 23, Tacoma, Wash., was successful in obtaining authorization from stabilization agencies for the payment of double time to OEIU members of the local union employed by Todd Shipyards, Inc., in that city.

Also involved in the International Federation of Technical Engineers, Architects and Draftsmen’sUnions Local No. 79 of Portland, which is being represented in meetings with NWSB by Executive Director John P. Frey, the department’s executive council had given the necessary directive.

James A. Brownlow, veteran Colorado labor leader, who had been serving as assistant president since last August, was shifted to the post of secretary-treasurer. He succeeds James J. McEntee, who resigned to return to the staff of the Machinists Union.

Meanwhile the post of assistant president of the department went to Rev. S. B. Rowan, international representative of the Boilermakers, who had previously served for a number of years as a half as a labor member of the WLB’s Shipbuilding Commission.

Both Brownlow and Rowan are proven friends of OEIU, and their elevation to newer and more responsible posts is looked upon with approval by International Union officers.

FEPCC Bill Is Shelved When Cloture Fails

Washington, D. C.—The Senate refused to limit debate and thereby break the filibuster against the Fair Employment Practice Commission bill, which had been introduced by Senators Taft of Ohio and Blanche K. Bruce of Tennessee. The bill, which was enacted into law in 1941, is among the laws aimed at the restriction of employment discrimination based on race, color, religion, or national origin.

By its passage, the law provides for the establishment of federal agencies to investigate and act on complaints of employment discrimination.

The Senate voted 58-18 to continue debate on the Fair Employment Practice Commission (FEPCC) bill, which seeks to protect the employment rights of people of color and others regardless of race, religion, or color, as now has been indefinitely shelved.

Charter Requested For Honolulu

Honolulu, T. H.—Following the successful unionization of office workers employed by the Von Hamn-Young Co., Ltd., by Solomon K. Aki, business manager, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local B-1357, and AFL Organizer John A. Owens, an application for an OEIU local union charter for this city was dispatched to OEIU headquarters.

Further Gains By The Paper Makers

Chattanooga, Tenn.—Mark W. Fisher, Regional Director of the International Brotherhood of Paper Makers, has announced that mid-year contractual negotiations covering in excess of 53,000 workers and other unions interested in the pulp and paper industry, received the same increases and adjustments.

BROWNLOW, ROWAN IN METAL TRADES POSTS

Washington, D. C.—Two changes in the official family of the AFL Metal Trades Department were announced by President John P. Frey, after the department’s executive council had given the necessary directive.

James A. Brownlow, veteran Colorado labor leader, who had been serving as assistant president since last August, was shifted to the post of secretary-treasurer. He succeeds James J. McEntee, who resigned to return to the staff of the Machinists Union.

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Motor Express Election Won

San Francisco, Calif.—Announcement of a sweeping victory for Local No. 36 as the current labor relations Board election conducted among office workers employed by the Motor Express Co., and California Fast Freight Company has been made by Eleanor D. Murray, 234 Washington Street, president of the local union.

More than 90 percent of the office workers employed by the company voted for ratification by Local No. 36, it is reported. Immediately upon the heels of this smashing victory, the union presented its proposed agreement to the company.

The result of this recent election is being evidenced among office workers of similar concerns who have been forthwith from similar employers of such companies.
Why Companies Provoke Strikes

Washington, D.C.—One of the frankest admissions so far made that employers are using tax "savings" to finance a war against labor has come from a big textile plant in Gary, Ind.

It is owned by the Union Manufacturing Company and union workers have gone on strike because the management refuses to put into effect National War Labor Board Awards.

In response, the company, in a circular distributed to employees, brazenly boasted that it will lose nothing from the walkout.

"Any losses we suffer by the government out of our profits in 1944 and 1945," the circular declared.

What the company referred to was that, under the "carry-back" provision of the Taft-Hartley Act, it would be entitled to rebates from any loss of sales during the two years.

The company has already ignored any consideration of the employees' bargaining rights in clause 2 of the AFT survey

It is reported that negotiations will soon be under way between the local union and the Portland Gas and Coke Company as the result of the decision of the local union in a National Labor Relations Board election which resulted in a 2-to-1 victory for the disputed bargaining agency for workers employed by the company.

The Majority completed unionization of office workers employed by Consolidated Freightways, Greeley, Neb., and is also moving toward an early decision in the establishment of a separate company union among similar employees of the Marshall-Wells Co., a wholesale hardware concern. The latter matter is receiving the attention of NLRB following the filing of protests by Local 11.

Contracts Being Negotiated

Washington, D.C.—President Truman signed the watered-down labor bill which he had hailed as preparing the way for a governmental attack upon "the90% unemployment and ruinous depressions.

The bill creates a council of 3 economic advisers to the President to assist him in preparing periodic reports to Congress on the economic state of the nation. These reports will provide the chief executive with an opportunity to recommend specific remedies for any future economic troubles that may arise.

The recommendations will be turned over to a special joint committee composed of members of the Senate and House of Representatives.

Butter Association Organized

Oakland, Calif.—The office workers employed by the Challenge Cream and Butter Association have been organized into Local 29 of the Communication Workers of America, which is representing the local.

The company is also being represented by the local in the organization of our trade employed in the laundry industry and seven major laundry companies are presently under union agreement and substantial further improvements in wage rates were obtained for all classifications in a new 1948 contract. The increases in minimum rates range from 13 to 20 cents per hour on most of the various job classifications.

Teachers' Union Progress Noted

Chicago, Ill.—At a meeting of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Teachers (AFL) in New York, President R. Kuenzli reported that more