WORKERS ORGANIZING AT DRAKEET PLANTS

Norwood, Ohio—The office and clerical workers employed at the Sunbeam Spring Grove plant and the Sharon plant of the Drakeet Co. are rapidly organizing the first shop of the OEIU, according to Brother George C. Goetz, financial secretary of Chemical Workers Local 170, which holds bargaining rights for the production group in this plant. It is anticipated, on the basis of the interest shown that a local union charter can shortly be issued to this office group and that the OEIU will soon be in a position to move forward to obtain exclusive bargaining rights for the workers of our trade employed in this plant.

OEIU Vice President E. R. Daugherty is working with the officers of Chemical Workers Local 170 in connection with this drive.

The Chemists Works have just successfully concluded a two week strike at this plant resulting from the company's refusal to consider reasonable increases in pay. Hourly increases ranging from 9 to 17 cents were won by the Chemi-
cal Workers membership. Strike ac-
tion by the Chemical Workers was taken only after months of negoti-
ation had failed to bring about a satisfactory wage settlement.

Improved in Power Co. Pact

Meridian, Miss.—Wage increases ranging from $10 to $21 are a month for clerical employees of the Missis-
sipp Power Co., which have been nego-
tiated as an addition to the basic agreement with Local 54, F. F. Fisher, president of the local, headed the negotiating committee.

OEIU Vice President A. R. Car-
on, who has been working with the group further to the effect that the increases are also reflected in new minimum rates and provision is made for $5 per month increases each six months until the top rate is reached.

The agreement, as amended, is extended for an additional year.

SECURE WAGE BOOST

Oswego, N. Y.—Wage increases ranging up to 17 cents an hour, retroactive to October 16, 1944, were won by Local 125 for close to 50 office workers in the Works division of Pierce Butler Radiator Corp., in a new contract negotiated by Local President Mil-
ton D. Decastillo, who with Brother William A. Gregory and a committee.

Other highlights of the contract are an eight-hour day, 40-hour week, time and one-half for Sat-

day work, double time for Sunday and holiday work, paid sick leave, vacations, union shop and seniority in the filling of vacancies, layoffs and rehiring.

International Convention of OEIU is Held in Chicago

Chicago—About 100 delegates from local unions throughout the United States and Canada attended the 1947 convention of the Office Employees International Union held in Chicago at the Congress Hotel from March 17 through March 22.

The convention handled approximately 100 resolutions from local unions dealing with a wide variety of subjects. It also elected officers and a convention to direct the labor movement and government officials during the busy 6-day session.

Officers Elected

President Paul R. Hutchings and Secretary-Treasurer J. Howard Hicks were returned to office, to

gether with the following vice-presidents: Region 1, Robert M. Daugherty; Toledo, Althea Holm; Mil-

waukee, J. O. Region 2, Miss.; Portland, Ore., John M. Bolster; Denver, Colo., Frank F. Randall; Oak-


Two new vice-presidents were elected. They are Sarah Keenan, business representative of Chicago Local 238 in Region 3, and Lauren P. Amell, president of Local 174, Region 4.

The convention approved a record

of the International officials on record

authorizing the International offi-
cers to request all locals to give

full support to Local

205 of New York City in mu-

nicipal support with the Wall Street ex-

changes and brokerage firms. Presi-
dent William Green also pledged the support of the great A. F. of L. as reported elsewhere in this issue.

Green Speaks

In his address President Green

bled restrictive legislation and declared it would lead to strife and chaos. “If the union shop is banned, workers will be in rebellion and stay

in rebellion until they can elect a new Congress that will repeal such a law” he asserted.

“Freedom to work with, where and for whom one pleases is a sacred right in America” he empha-

sized. “What power, legal or other-

wise, can make a man work unless he wants to? Legislation is not going to make a man work with a non-union worker unless he wants to.

If the closed shop is banned, the employer will have to choose whether he wants to try to keep a plant open with non-union workers or whether he wants his union men to return to their jobs under closed shop agreements.”

Reactionary members of Congress were condemned for trying to do a job to weaken labor, which anti-union employers could not accom-

plish by themselves.

“Just remove all the mist which

surrounds this propaganda and

spread against labor,” Greg con-

verted. “The unions find the

working out in a single motive

to weaken and destroy organized labor so workers may be more fully exploited. That to me is un-American.”

Blasting further at anti-union

propaganda, the AFL President

said, “We parallel ourselves to

the churches of America, wherein we are striving to improve human values to make better citizens for

America.”

“Our sole objective is to seek to

lift the standard of life and living

among the masses of people in our
country, and we are deeply inter-

ested in the spread in improving

their cultural, spiritual and social life.”

Hear Lundeberg

In his course of his stirring ad-

dress, Harry Lundeberg, president of the Edens International Union, declared “The Union is com-

posed of people and there is nothing about a union. The workers band-

banded together for their own

mutual benefit to get the high wages

and the best working conditions the

industry can stand, and when I say

they can stand, they can stand more than they are taking right now around the country in various in-

dustries. They are making plenty

of money and we as organized trade

unions should see it away from them

and let them give them much for their

selves, and we take the rest because

we produce it.”

Harry Lundeberg is a endorsed Commis-

sary, declaring that “in our organization

our class the Communist Party and

our class of workers as to the working

class of the United States”.

Lundeberg wound up his speech

with an offer of “any kind of sup-

port we can render you.”

The main convention address was

given by John M. Houston, a mem-

ber of the National Labor Relations

Board. It is reported elsewhere in

this issue.

Social highlights of the con-

vention were the coronet beef and car-

bage get-together, which was ap-

propriately held on St. Patrick’s Day and also the singing of Irish songs, and the banquet in the Gold Room of the Congress Hotel, which was unique in that there were no speeches.

Secretary I. M. Ournb brought a

message from the AFL Union Label Trades Department, stressing the importance of buying

union made goods.

Act on Communists

The convention unanimously

adopted the report of its Appeals

Committee in denying the appeals

filed by Tom Bolster, former presi-

(Continued on page 3)
Convention Hears Houston
On Anti-Labor Proposals

Chicago—The principal address at the OEU convention was delivered by John M. Houston, senior member of the National Labor Relations Board and a former member of Congress from Kansas.

In no uncertain terms he condemned the proposed punitive labor laws and warned that “such policies would lead to the most bitter and costly strife.”

He said that “white collar workers” as the key workers in industry in American finance “require the responsibility and opportunity to show both the misinformation and unreality of the charge which labor relations thinking must take and the pitfalls to be avoided if our democratic ways are to continue and prosper.

“Something fine in American life is threatened and will be lost if pressing social, economic and government problems are to be decided on the basis of class lines and most glib, sensational, repetitious and emotional,” he declared. “We have yet to arrive at the realization that the current controversy over what the policy of the United States shall be with respect to labor is not simply a struggle over the country at large on this basis.”

Fundamentals

Houston went on to underscore several fundamental considerations.

“First, a democratic society and a strikeless economy are incompatible; there can be no absolute guaranteed for strikes.”

“Second, orderly adjustment of labor relations cannot be based on radical changes which either destroy established patterns or which impose techniques foreign to the parties involved. Orderly conduct of labor relations can be derived only from a maturity in which past experience has served to educate the parties to the most desirable principles and techniques.”

“Third, industrial unrest is generally a symptom of an economic ailment. Labor-management relations are not carried on in a vacuum.”

“Fourth, there is questionable wisdom in the ‘omnibus’ approach to public welfare policies. There is no necessary connection between industrial peace and democracy in unions.‘Reds’ and ‘fronts’ are not always the same. We are not acting upon information. It would be unwise to make martyrs of them by outlawing the Communist party.”

Locals Encouraged to File Income Returns

Washington, D. C.—Labor locals throughout the United States, Alaska and Hawaii have been encouraged through local union returns with their district collectors of internal revenue.

Changes Made in Dues Receipts

Washington, D. C.—Secretary-Treasurer J. Howard Hicks of the OEU has announced that contributions of monthly dues receipts issued for June, and will be provided on such receipts for local union secretaries and treasurers to show the actual amount of dues paid by each member, together with any additional charges which may be assessed. Hicks said that in local unions where monthly dues are uniform such space could be devoted to each local union only and in those cases where dues are being made in the near future.

The OEU recently inaugurated a pre-written receipt code of dues collection which provides for the issuance of a prepared monthly dues receipt for each member of each local union. The form consists of a piece of slate, which is retained by the local union and its records of payments, greatly expedites the issuing of individual receipts for monthly dues that is financing the operation of those members paying dues to international union headquarters.

“The OEU is the third major labor organization to adopt the pre-written receipt idea and other major organizations are making favorable responses to such an idea at the present time.”

The benefits of collective bargaining is that it has been the most effective means of increasing the standard of living, both for the workers and the employers. The idea is that the better the working conditions, the more productive the workers will be, and the higher the wages will be.

Costly Strife

“It is not at all easy to understand why men will fight for freedom to associate with their fellows even in the face of criminal conspiracy laws. Our history teaches us that the workers have always been the custodians of collective bargaining as a national policy.”

“Where we do have difficulties they are usually due to the fact that we have not had enough experience with collective bargaining.”

In brief, the United States has climbed out of a depression with the help of collective bargaining. In the past, the workers have always been the custodians of collective bargaining as a national policy.

In brief, we have not as yet learned how to live together; we have not as yet developed that mutuality which rests upon accommodation, the existence of having one's point of view prevail. And, this is readily understandable. Despite the fact that collective bargaining really did not get under way until about 19 years ago.
OEU Convention Held in Chicago
(Continued from page 1) dent of Local 29 at Oakland, Calif., and Muriel Kerchen, a former business agent of that local, were unanimously adopted by the Executive Board against such individuals on the ground that they were Communist and/or sympotizers. Herbert Kalmam, a former vice-president of Local 29, was similarly expelled by action of the Executive Board but took no appeal to the convention.

The convention also unanimously adopted a resolution putting the International Union squarely behind the pronouncement condemning Communism which was adopted at the AFL convention last October, and also affirmed as International Union policy the pronouncement of its Executive Board in its decision of March 5 of the 10 members of the Oakland, Calif., local.

The convention took action to establish, effective as of the next national convention in 1949, a fifth regional district for the Dominion of Canada, with a Canadian vice-president to be elected at that time. In the meantime the Executive Board is to designate a Canadian representative.

The convention arrangements and entertainment were worked out through the efforts of Chicago Local 29, which served as host to the convention. The hard-working convention committee, headed by local President Daniel M. M., with local Vice-President Sally McCoorg serving as co-chairman and with Business Representative Sarah E. Keen as committee secretary, did a magnificent job in providing the smooth running of the convention and in arranging a most delightful entertainment program. All of the officers, Executive Board members, as well as a file membership of Local 29, played an important part in assisting to make the convention an outstanding one.

COUNCIL ENDORSES OEU AFFILIATION
San Rafael, Calif.—The Pacific Coast District Metal Trades Council unanimously adopted a resolution favoring affiliation of the Office Employees International Union with the Metal Trades Department of the AFL and took action to notify President John F. Frey of its decision.

WAGES LAG BEHIND PRICES, LABOR DEP'T. REPORT WARNS
Washington, D. C.—The basic flaws in the nation's economy were glaringly underscored by the latest Department of Labor report on factory earnings. The Department, for the "third successive month," weekly earnings of workers in manufacturing industries were considerably higher in February than in January—indeed, in any instance just a shade under $47.

In other words, while prices continue to mount, wages are remaining stationary. The picture is much blacker when compared with wartime. Back in January, 1945, "take-home" pay of industrial workers hit $47.50, highest of the war period. Twenty-five months later, "take-home" earnings of factory employees had still not climbed back to the wartime level, but the cost of living in that period—according to the Department's figures—soared over 20 per cent.

Thus, workers have, in effect, taken a 20 per cent "cut" in their real wages during the past two years. There was a slight ray of hope for consumers that the Department of Labor report just issued. It showed that the cost of living index declined by 2/3 of 1 per cent from March to February. However, the Department quickly offset that by pointing out that the Executive Branch of the Department charged that the rise in wholesale food prices after February 15 would turn the decline into an increase in its next monthly index.

Outside of foods, nearly all other prices rose between mid-January and February, the Department said. As typical, it cited the fact that "coloring prices advanced for the 44th consecutive month and have risen 30 per cent since August, 1939."

GREEN PLEDGES SUPPORT OF AFL
Chicago—A resounding pledge of the support of 7,600 AFL members to Local 206 in the dispute with the New York brokerage firm of Gross & Co. and the resultant dispute with the New York Stock & Curb Exchange was made at the annual convention of the Office Employees International Union by AFL President William Green.

He devoted a considerable part of his speech before the convention to the Wall Street situation. "I have watched the developments there and if it becomes necessary, I am going to call upon our Central body in New York, upon our members in New York City, upon our national organizations throughout the country, to stand up and rally firmly and completely to the support of those workers who may become involved in that strike," Green declared.

"I am proud of the fact that these workers have the courage to stand up and say to their employers that they want better wages and better working conditions in this money-making establishment, the Stock Exchange."

He said further that he did not believe that "the people of the United States would support the owners and operators of the Stock Exchange when they refuse arbitration."

"I consider that refusal of arbitration a justification for the workers to go on strike and fight for their rights if it becomes necessary for them to do so," he declared.

DELEGATES ENDORSE LILIENTHAL, CLAPP
Chicago, Ill.—Delegates assembled at the convention of the OEU gave hearty support to a resolution calling for Senate approval of President Truman's nomination of David Lilienthal as chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and Gordon Clapp as director of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

GREEN FORMS FARM SURPEL TO FIGHT PRICE FRAUD
Los Angeles, Calif.—The Office Employees International Union has formed a "farm superlative" to fight price fraud, the pattern of which has been set by the Automobile Superlative. It was formed at the recent National Labor Relations Board election, according to Irving Ema, secretary-treasurer of the local union.

Ema reported that the success achieved in the McKesson and Robbins election was the result of carefully planned and determined activities on the part of Business Representative Ruth Flood of the local union. Announcement of the success in this election has resulted in a demand for organization among office workers employed in the remainder of the industry and with whom Business Representative Flood is actively working at the present time. Negotiations on the initial agreement between McKesson and Robbins and the local union, which are to start soon, is expected to result in a rapid and successful completion of the organizing program in the remainder of the industry.

YELLOW CAB PARLEY
Local 11 is presently negotiating an agreement with the Yellow Cab Company following a successful unionization of the office employees of the company, AFL unions representing other workers employed by the company are lending assistance in the negotiations. The operation of the educational program which the local union has under way, James E. Cannon, business representative, is conducting indoctrination classes for the many new members entering the local union. These classes deal briefly with the history of the organized labor movement, detailed information concerning the operation of the local union, information concerning the negotiation of agreements and each member's reasons for interest and obligation in obtaining and fulfilling such agreements, together with an outline of the organic structure of the AFL and the relationship of the local union to the OEU and the remainder of the AFL movement. In addition, Cannon is conducting monthly dinner meetings for office stewards during which a wide range of interesting information is unfolded and discussed. He is also kept informed of new and interesting problems and observations of the office stewards.

WHOLESALE DRUG CO. WORKERS VOTE OEU
Portland, Ore.—Office workers employed in the local operation of the McKesson and Robbins Drug Company voted decisively in favor of representation by the OEU in a recent National Labor Relations Board election, according to Irving Ema, secretary-treasurer of the local union.

Ema reported that the success achieved in the McKesson and Robbins election was the result of carefully planned and determined activities on the part of Business Representative Ruth Flood of the local union. Announcement of the success in this election has resulted in a demand for organization among office workers employed in the remainder of the industry and with whom Business Representative Flood is actively working at the present time. Negotiations on the initial agreement between McKesson and Robbins and the local union, which are to start soon, is expected to result in a rapid and successful completion of the organizing program in the remainder of the industry.
Heard By Delegates At International Convention

1—William Green, Pres., American Federation of Labor.
2—Paul R. Hutchings, President OEIU.
3—J. Howard Hicks, Secretary-Treasurer OEIU.
4—I. M. Ornburn, Secretary-Treasurer, Union Label Trades Dept., A. F. of L.
5—William Lewis, Vice President, Chicago Federation of Labor.
6—Father J. L. Donohue, Chaplain, Chicago Building Trades Council.
7—John M.Houston, Member, NLRB.
8—Daniel O'Connell, President Chicago Local No. 88, OEIU.
9—William L. McFetridge, Vice President, Illinois Federation of Labor.
10—Harry O'Reilly, Regional Director, American Federation of Labor.
11—Charles Willis, Representative of Governor Green of Illinois.
12—Joseph McCarthy, Representative of Mayor Kelly of Chicago.
13—Joseph Tobin, Director, Labor Division National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis.
14—Harry M. Lundeberg, President, Seafarers International Union.