

# THE OFFICE WORKER

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

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## FURTHER GAINS IN NEWSPAPER PACT

Minneapolis, Minn.—The large staff of office workers employed by the Minneapolis Star and Tribune have received further wage adjustments ranging from 5 cents to more than 26 cents per hour in the new agreement recently negotiated by OEIU Local 12, according to Business Representative A. J. Fritz of the local who handled the negotiations for the local, together with a negotiating committee of members employed in the office.

According to Representative Fritz, employes are presently receiving retroactive pay checks covering their increases back to March 15, 1947, the effective date of the renewal agreement.

Another important new feature in the contract is an additional 6 cents per hour negotiated for temporary and part-time employes to compensate for paid vacations and sick leave benefits granted to regular employes under the agreement.

### Union Shop

The agreement provides for the union shop, two weeks paid vacation and two weeks sick leave for persons with one year or more service, and prorated vacation and sick leave for those with less service. Sick leave may be accumulated to a total of 160 hours.

The agreement provides for the 40-hour week and 8-hour day, with time and one-half for daily and weekly overtime and for work performed on six legal holidays. The agreement also provides a comprehensive grievance handling procedure and establishes arbitration for grievances which cannot otherwise be disposed of.

It also provides for seniority rights on promotions, re-employment, transfers, or reduction of force. Employes working on the night shift receive a night shift differential of 12½ cents per hour.

## OEIU President On AFL Radio Program

Washington, D. C.—The question, "How Can the Cost of Living Be Reduced?" was discussed on the August 9th program in the new AFL weekly series of radio broadcasts over the nation-wide network of the American Broadcasting Co.

Participants in the discussion were Paul R. Hutchings, International President of the OEIU; Lloyd Klenert, secretary-treasurer, United Textile Workers of America, and Philip Pearl, AFL publicity director.

## ORGANIZE

New York City—Office and clerical employes of Frederick Loeser Company have been organized into Local 153 through the efforts of the AFL Organizing Committee. One of the first benefits obtained was an across the board increase of \$10 per week.

## Line-wide Greyhound Pact



Signing Greyhound bus pact in Jacksonville, Fla.—seated, OEIU Vice President A. R. Carson and Southeastern Greyhound Lines General Manager J. B. Eversole; standing, left to right, Clifford Smethers, president OEIU Local 215, Lexington, Ky.; Lorraine S. Rhodes, president OEIU Local 73, Jacksonville, Fla.; Louise Selby, Secretary-Treasurer Local 73; Assistant Comptroller R. Jackson and Comptroller Swift of Southeastern Greyhound Lines.

Jacksonville, Fla.—The first line-wide agreement with a Greyhound Line was signed recently with the Southeastern Greyhound Lines, according to International Vice President A. R. Carson who assisted the negotiating committee. The agreement recognizes the exclusive bargaining rights of the OEIU for all office and clerical workers throughout the operations of the Southeastern Greyhound Lines, which extend over the States of Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia and Florida.

This first general agreement of OEIU covering an entire line of the Greyhound System establishes classified wage schedules with automatic increases at the end of the first and second six months employment periods, as well as the end of the second and third years employment periods. In addition, a blanket increase of 5¢ per hour was gained for practically all workers involved.

Other highlights of the agreement include maintenance of union membership, check-off of union dues upon authorization of the member and free trip passes to employes over the lines of the company. The agreement assures all employes 5 paid holidays and provides for time and one-half in addition to regular pay for any employe who is required to work on such holidays. The agreement establishes a regular work week of five consecutive 8-hour days, with time and one-half to be paid for all daily and weekly overtime. The wage rates established by the contract are retroactive to June 2, 1947.

Assisting Vice President Carson

## Bakery Wages Raised

Pittsburgh, Pa.—In a recent renewal agreement with the Ertl Baking Co. OEIU Local 33 obtained an across-the-board \$6 per week increase for the office workers employed by this concern.

in the negotiation of this contract was the negotiating committee composed of Mrs. Lorraine S. Rhodes, President of Local 73 at Jacksonville, Miss Louise Selby, Secretary-Treasurer of Local 73, an employe in the Jacksonville office of the company, and Mr. Clifford J. Smethers, President of Local 215, employed in the Lexington, Kentucky, office of the company. The agreement as negotiated was approved by a substantial majority of all the office and clerical workers of Southeastern Greyhound Lines.

## UNION SHOP PACT SIGNED WITH BANK

Anchorage, Alaska—OEIU Local 175 has secured an outstanding working agreement with the Union Bank of Anchorage.

One of the highlights is a union shop provision.

Substantial wage adjustments are also provided with a further provision for cost-of-living increases.

Seniority is recognized in promotions and lay-offs. Another feature is severance pay equal to one week's pay for each year of service computed at the employe's highest rate.

Paid vacations of one week after six months' service and two weeks after one year, 8 paid holidays, cumulative sick leave of one day per month, time and one-half for work over 8 hours per day, double time for holidays, machinery for adjusting disputes are some of the other highlights.

Florence Mathews, president of the local, and AFL Organizer W. D. Wilson conducted the negotiations.

Local 175 has also secured a union shop agreement with the Northern Commercial Company similar to the pact with the bank.

## Negotiations With Grocers Concluded

Portland, Oreg.—Negotiations with the Associated Food Distributors, Inc. have been brought to a satisfactory peaceful conclusion with the signing of a renewal agreement providing 15¢ per hour increase for all office and clerical workers according to Secretary-Treasurer Irving Enna of OEIU Local 11, which holds bargaining rights in the offices of these grocery concerns.

The new contract, in addition to assuring a general 15½¢ per hour increase effective August 1, also provides that 10¢ of this increase shall be retroactive to April 1, 1947.

Also gained in the renewal contract was a liberalization of the paid vacation arrangement and of the sick leave plan. A rest period clause assuring two 15-minute rest periods each day with pay was also obtained and the hours clauses were revised so as to require that the 40 hours of weekly work be performed on 5 consecutive days, with double time for Sunday and holiday work and time and one-half for overtime work.

The agreement also establishes the principle of seniority and recognizes the right of union representatives and union steward to contact workers on the job.

The firms represented through Associated Food Distributors, Inc. include Wadhams & Co., United Grocers, Inc., Safeway Stores, Inc., General Grocery Co., Hudson-Duncan Co., Northwest Grocery Co. and Gray & Co.

Secretary-Treasurer Enna indicated that the local had received wholehearted support from both the Wholesale Salesmen's Union and the Retail Grocery Clerks Union, both affiliates of the Retail Clerks International Association. This was of substantial assistance in working out a satisfactory peaceful settlement of what might otherwise have become a strike controversy.

## TAMPA UNIONISTS HONOR BLOODWORTH

Tampa, Fla.—J. O. Bloodworth, Jr., an international vice president of the OEIU, has again been honored with the presidency of the Tampa Central Trades and Labor Assembly.

Bloodworth, who is also business representative of OEIU Local 46, served part of a term and was re-elected to a full term without opposition.

## Yellow Cab Increase

Atlanta, Ga.—A general wage increase of 10 percent has been obtained for the members of OEIU Local 21 employed by the Yellow Cab Co. office in this city, according to Ruby R. Johnson, president of the local union.

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OFFICE EMPLOYEES  
INTERNATIONAL UNION



PAUL R. HUTCHINGS, *President*  
J. HOWARD HICKS, *Sec.-Treas.*

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## A WHITE SHIRT SALARY

A sad commentary upon the low salary schedules existing among unorganized bank workers is found in a recent news item from Detroit. Last month Federal Judge Frank A. Picard refused to send a Commonwealth Bank employe to jail for embezzlement. The judge suspended the one year and one day sentence placed upon the employe of that institution after the employe had admitted taking \$2,500 during a two-year period of juggling bank service charge records. The judge accused the Commonwealth Bank officials of "dangling large sums of money" before the employe and of underpaying him.

In suspending sentence and placing the employe on probation, the judge said: "The bank informs me you were one of its best men. You worked late hours and appeared to have the bank's interest at heart. A man in your position at the bank has to maintain a certain standard in the community. If they expect you to wear a white shirt at work they should pay you a white shirt salary." Thus, here even in the records of the Federal Court is found further evidence of the pinch being felt by unorganized bank workers in attempting to live and meet today's high living costs on pittance salaries. Bank employes must awaken to the fact that the only sure way to assure themselves of adequate pay and improvements in working conditions is through organization. There is no reason why our banking institutions should not pay to their employes salaries which are sufficient to allow them to maintain a decent standard of living for themselves and families. or as Judge Picard expresses it "a white shirt salary."

PAUL R. HUTCHINGS,  
*International President.*

## Price Increases Erased 1946 Family Income Gain

Washington, D. C.—The Federal Reserve Board reported that "substantial increases in prices of consumer goods" offset increases in family income during 1946.

The board said that "middle income" for the nation's 46,500,000 families rose from \$2,020 in 1945 to \$2,300 in 1946. The term "middle income" means that half the families received more, half less than the given figure. The survey defined a family as a related group living together and pooling incomes.

The board said 60 percent of the families had a combined income of \$2,000 or more in 1946 as compared with 53 percent the year before.

Incomes of salaried workers improved more on an annual basis than those of wage earnings, the report showed, largely because wage workers, while enjoying higher hourly rates, were not employed full time.

For families of skilled workers alone, the "middle income" was \$2,800, but for skilled, semiskilled and unskilled workers' families taken together it was \$2,300, up only \$100 from 1945.

A concentration of high incomes and savings among a comparatively few families was reported by the board.

Ten percent or 4,650,000 families had incomes of \$5,000 or more and got almost a third of the total income received by all families. They also owned about 40 percent of total savings in bank accounts and government bonds.

The low 40 percent or 18,600,000 of the families had incomes below \$2,000 and owned about 15 percent of the bank account-government bond savings.

## Record of 80th Congress Dismal for Wage Earners

Washington, D. C.—The 80th Congress, the first under Republican control since the advent of the New Deal, closed its first session. The record shows it to have been a most reactionary Congress.

Progressive social reforms were eliminated, modified or quietly ignored at this session which has seen the special interest groups riding roughshod over the interests of the American wage earner.

The 80th Congress forced a new concept of labor-management relations upon the nation when it adopted the notorious Taft-Hartley measure which had the wholehearted support of the National Association of Manufacturers. Over the repeated warnings of labor spokesmen, enlightened industrialists and other public figures, the cause of labor was hamstrung and the government placed right in the middle of labor-management relations. This was precisely what the labor and business leaders who realized that legislation cannot settle labor disputes, recommended against.

The 80th Congress tried to reduce taxes, not for the belief of those most in need but for those already in the high income brackets. Not content with one veto sustained by the House, the determined GOP leadership tried again on a post-dated basis in an effort to make good on a campaign pledge to cut the tax receipts of the Federal Government. The President immediately sent through a second veto message which was sustained in the Senate.

The 80th Congress will be remembered more for what this first session did not accomplish than for any legislative progress which it made.

No action was taken on proposals to increase minimum wage levels despite the crying need for an upward adjustment to compensate for the increases in the cost of living. Social Security benefits were not

increased, nor was the coverage of the law broadened. Instead, the Congress froze the present payroll tax rate at its present level until 1950 making it virtually impossible to liberalize payments.

Despite the existence of a severe housing crisis, the long-range program embodied in the Taft-Ellender Bill was shelved without action. The only measure touching upon the housing problem was the new rent control law which permits landlords to increase rents under "voluntary" agreement with tenants.

Various health measures never reached the floor of either house. With the recognized need for a health insurance program to furnish complete medical care to workers and their families, action by the Senate committee considering this legislation was slowed by the introduction of the Taft Bill designed to provide medical care on a charity basis to those families who successfully passed a means test.

President Truman requested legislation to further social progress in his message to Congress last January and reiterated the need therefor in his recent message transmitting his mid-year economic report.

The first session of the 80th Congress failed to heed his requests.

### Board Session

Washington, D. C.—International President Paul R. Hutchings and Secretary-Treasurer J. Howard Hicks have called the regular meeting of the OEIU executive board for September 8 at the Hamilton hotel here.

Arrangements have been made with Attorney Thatcher to discuss problems presented by the Taft-Hartley Act.

The 1948 convention city will be considered.

## CONGRESS NAMES "WATCHDOG" GROUP

Washington, D. C. — Appointments to the joint congressional committee established to keep under constant survey the workings of the Taft-Hartley labor law are completed.

It is no surprise to the labor movement that the panel as constituted is well sprinkled with "labor-hating" legislators.

The committee elected Senator Joseph H. Ball of Minnesota chairman of the joint group and Representative Fred A. Hartley of New Jersey vice-chairman.

The House group, in addition to Hartley, is composed of Representatives G. W. Landis of Indiana, Clare E. Hoffman of Michigan, Edward O. McCowen of Ohio, John Lesinski of Michigan, Graham A. Barden of North Carolina, and Augustine B. Kelley of Pennsylvania.

Members of the Senate include, besides Ball, Senators Robert A. Taft of Ohio, James E. Murray of Montana, Claude Pepper of Florida, Irving Ives of New York, Allen J. Ellender of Louisiana, and Alexander H. Smith of New Jersey.

Senator Ball announced the committee will work out a program for the study of operations under the Taft-Hartley law. He added that hearings might be held by the committee late this year prior to the next session of Congress.

It is likely that the new committee will consider various proposals to amend the law which have been made recently in Congress. Senator Pepper, on behalf of a group of 15 Senators, introduced a bill to repeal the Taft-Hartley law "lock, stock, and barrel." In the House a companion measure was introduced by Representative John Lesinski of Michigan.

Senators Aiken of Vermont and Hatch of New Mexico, both of whom voted to override President Truman's veto of the labor measure, attacked the provision of the law banning "expenditures" by unions for political purposes. They introduced an amendment to remove the ban calling it an unconstitutional "invasion of the rights of free speech and a free press."

### 65-Cent Minimum Set In California

Washington, D. C.—The State of California revised its 10 industry wage orders, each of them setting an hourly minimum of 65 cents and each contains provisions relating to working conditions, safety, sanitation, etc., according to a report issued by the U. S. Department of Labor in June.

Although court procedure might delay effectiveness of these orders, the California Division of Industrial Welfare reports that the new orders are now in force.

### Equal Pay

Gov. James H. Duff has signed a bill requiring equal pay for women doing equal work with men in the state of Pennsylvania. The bill also extends the permissible work week for women from 44 to 48 hours.

## Election Won at Directory Concern

Trenton, N. J.—By a vote of more than two to one the office and clerical employes of the Trenton Division of R. L. Polk & Co. voted for representation through OEIU and its Local 70 in an election recently conducted by the NLRB, according to OEIU Representative George P. Firth who handled this election campaign. Local 70 thus establishes its exclusive bargaining rights for the approximately 150 eligible persons in the direct mail advertising division of the company, which publishes the various city directories.

It is interesting to note that although the CIO originally filed for an election among this group, they backed out prior to the consent election conference, not having sufficient cards to enable them to gain a place on the voting ballot.

This successful election climaxed a drive spearheaded by Representative Firth during the past three months and which resulted in an overwhelmingly majority of all eligible workers signing up for membership in OEIU Local 70. Agreement negotiations are scheduled to get underway shortly and it is anticipated that substantial improvements and working conditions can be negotiated.

## 10,000,000 War Vets Employed Since V-J Day

Washington, D. C.—About 10,000,000 veterans found gainful employment since the end of the war, according to Perry Faulkner, Veterans Employment Service Chief. Three out of every ten male workers are veterans, Faulkner said.

Continuing his report, Faulkner stated: "Analysis of veterans employment figures show employment of veterans has risen steadily month by month since September, 1945. Employment of veterans has shown gains even in months when total employment declined. Veterans have been interested primarily in nonagricultural jobs. The latest figures available show almost 11,000,000 in non-farm employment as compared to slightly over a million in agriculture.

"In March of this year 3,100,000 World War II veterans were employed in manufacturing industries. In the same month, the durable goods industries employed better than 60 percent of all veterans engaged in manufacturing. In the automobile industry 28 percent of all employes were World War II veterans."

## New Union Directory Issued by Labor Dept.

Washington, D. C.—Nearly 200 national and international labor unions are listed in the new Directory of Labor Unions in the United States issued by the Department of Labor.

Slightly more than 100 of these are unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. Forty belong to the Congress of Industrial Organizations, and the remainder are "independent" or unaffiliated national unions.

In addition to giving the full title

## New Gains at Apex Electric



Cleveland, Ohio—Shown signing the new contract between the Apex Electrical Manufacturing Company and its office employes is R. Z. Moore, director of industrial relations for the company. To his left is Pearl A. Hanna, Business Representative for Local 17, and at his right, Edward C. Trausch, chief steward and vice president of the local. Standing, left to right, are Rolland C. Thomas, Irene Summerfield, Spencer Lee Eddy and Frank X. Wagner, president of Local 17, who are members of the negotiating committee.

New provisions of the contract include the company's foundry and engineering divisions as part of the bargaining unit, six paid holidays, 40 hour week with time and one half over eight hours, severance pay of one week's salary for employes of six months or more service, vacations of one week for employes with six months and two weeks for employes with one year's service with the company, with a provision that employes laid off or who quit and who have earned a vacation will receive salary in lieu of vacation. A wage increase of 18½¢ per hour straight across the board, also some additional wage adjustments were won. Other minor provisions have also been won which will assure a more satisfactory day-to-day administration of terms of the contract.

Labor-management relations at Apex, manufacturers of washing machines, ironers and vacuum cleaners, have been excellent for several years and the company has received wide publicity for its liberal attitude toward labor.

## Canadian Representative Named

Wash., D. C.—Russell Harvey, Representative of the A. F. of L. at Toronto, Canada, has been designated as Canadian Representative of the International Union by action of the International Union Executive Board, pursuant to the resolution adopted at the 1947 Chicago convention.

Mr. Harvey's appointment was made by the Board upon the recommendation of President Hutchings and Secretary-Treasurer Hicks. It was pointed out that a substantial majority of the OEIU locals in the Dominion of Canada were organized through the direct efforts of

Representative Harvey, who had also been devoting a substantial share of his time to the servicing of OEIU Dominion locals particularly those organized in the paper and pulp industry.

Many Dominion locals have expressed their wholehearted approval of the designation of Mr. Harvey as Canadian Representative.

In addition to serving as A. F. of L. organizer, he is also the A. F. of L. member of the Canadian Labor Board.

## HOTEL PACT

New York City—A collective bargaining agreement for clerical workers and timekeepers of Concourse Plaza Hotel has been secured by Local 153.

The agreement provides for the union shop, wage increases of approximately 16½ per cent, retroactive to March 1, minimum hiring rates, time and one-half for overtime, double time for holiday work and hospitalization.

of each union, the directory lists the principal officers and their addresses as well as the officers of statewide AFL and CIO organizations.

## Wage Gains Won

Detroit, Mich.—In a renewal of its agreement with A-G Stores, Inc. OEIU Local 10 has obtained a general \$5 per week increase for all office and clerical workers and also has obtained a similar increase in the minimum starting rate for new employes, according to Business Representative Thelma Chabanik of the local union who handled the negotiations.

The recently renewed agreement continues all previous gains of the old agreement, including the union shop, with five consecutive 8-hour working days Monday through Friday, and time and one-half for all overtime work with double time for Sunday and holiday work.

## Copley Newspaper Agreement Signed

Aurora, Ill.—Negotiation of the first agreement between Local 158 and the Aurora Beacon News, one of the chain of newspapers operated by the Copley interests, has been concluded, according to OEIU Vice President Sarah E. Keenan who represented the local union.

The agreement provides for a 12½ percent salary increase for all members of the union, plus an additional 2½ per cent for holiday work. Eliminated was the past practice of the employer requiring office workers to work 4 hours without pay during the week in which holidays fall. Under the agreement, time and one-half will be paid for all work performed on holidays and in excess of the daily and weekly schedule of hours.

Salary increases provided by the agreement are retroactive to May 26 and are in addition to 10 percent increases granted the workers last November and again in March when the desire for unionization was expressed by this group.

Leaders of the group have expressed complete satisfaction in the outcome of negotiations and are pleased with the services performed by Vice President Keenan and officers of Local 158.

## Time Lost From Strikes Drops Below 1946 Figure

Washington, D. C.—According to the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, working time lost as the result of labor-management disputes during the first six months of 1947 was about one-fourth the time lost in the comparable period of 1946.

Stoppages counted by the bureau in the half-year ran about 2,200, involved some 1,560,000 workers, and accounted for a time loss of 20,000,000 to 21,000,000 man-days. The January-June loss in 1946 was almost 89,000,000 man-days.

This year there were 13 stoppages involving 10,000 or more workers each. In the same period of 1946 there were 18 such stoppages.

## Union Registration Unit Organized In Labor Dept.

Washington, D. C.—Secretary of Labor Schwollenbach established the Office for the Registration of Labor Organizations within the Labor Department to handle the filing of financial and organizational reports by labor unions as required under the Taft-Hartley law.

The Labor Department is preparing a registration form for use by unions seeking to register under the law.

## Democracy in Unions

Union members have a much more direct interest and a more direct vote in the way their unions are run than most citizens have in the affairs of their city. Democracy in unions is not perfect but it does compare very favorably with its counterpart in other kinds of civic activity.—Secretary of Labor L. B. Schwollenbach.

## GAINS FOR WORKERS IN NEW AGREEMENTS

Oakland, Calif.—Substantial gains for office and clerical workers of the dairies composing the Alameda County Milk Dealers Association and the clerical workers of Permanente Hospital have been secured through new agreements negotiated by Local 29, according to John Kinnick, business representative.

Wage increases for the approximately 175 employees of the Milk Dealers range from \$21.50 to \$35 a month, with the majority getting a boost of \$26.50. Other benefits include time and one-half in addition to straight time for holidays worked.

The hospital pact, covered approximately 100 workers, resulted in a proper classification of employees and automatic progression which provides at least two increases of \$10 each by next April 1.

## Political Wrangle On NLRB Nominees

Washington, D. C.—A political wrangle engaged in by the Senate during the final hours of its closing session prevented a final vote on President Truman's nominations to fill new NLRB jobs created by the Taft-Hartley law.

Mr. Truman appointed former Senator Abe Murdock of Utah and J. Copeland Gray of Buffalo to new positions on the National Labor Relations Board. He chose Robert N. Denham, NLRB trial examiner, to serve as general counsel of the board.

Thus the Senate, which had the last word to say on the new anti-labor measure, failed to confirm the men designated to play an important part in the administration of the new law. This will serve only to cloud the already complicated situation and will delay the reorganization on a permanent basis of the NLRB.

The way was paved for Senate action when the Senate Labor Committee approved the President's appointments. It voted unanimously in favor of Mr. Denham for the new position of general counsel. The vote was 9 to 3 in favor of Murdock and Gray.

## Chicago Labor Day Rally To Hear Green's Address

Chicago—AFL President William Green will speak in September at the first big public Labor Day celebration held in Chicago since 1934. The event is sponsored by the Chicago Federation of Labor and will be held in Soldier's Field.

William A. Lee, Chicago Federation president, said invitations to speak will be extended to Gov. Green and Mayor Kennelly. Most of the program will be entertainment, with motion picture, radio and stage stars, circus acts, and music. The event will be non-political and free to the public.

More than 150 unions affiliated with the Chicago Federation will underwrite the celebration.

## Long Daily and Weekly Hours Destroy Efficiency, Up Costs

Washington, D. C.—The 8-hour day and 5-day week yield better results in terms of efficiency, absenteeism and work injuries than do longer daily and weekly hours.

This is the conclusion reached by a Labor Department report on case studies of how human beings react to changes in work schedules.

The survey, on which the report was based, covered 34 plants with various daily and weekly patterns of hours in a considerable variety of manufacturing activities. The effects of every pattern of hours were observed for at least 6 months and frequently for a year or more.

In most instances, and up to a certain point, longer hours yielded increases in total output, but these did not measure up to the increases in hours.

As a rule workers under wage incentives and at routine and repetitive jobs in which they were in complete control of the speed of operations were able to obtain only two hours of output for every three hours of work when hours exceeded 48 a week.

Up to the 48-hour level efficiencies were fairly well maintained, although the weekly output suffered from greater absenteeism and a higher incidence of work injuries. In terms of labor cost, hours in excess of 48 a week meant four and one-half hours' pay for two hours' output.

The study was begun in the war and extended through the postwar period.

The data obtained apply almost entirely to workers paid under some form of incentive system, such as piecework, a bonus system, or prescribed output levels for specified wage rates.

The survey did not permit a determination of the comparative effects of fewer than 40 weekly hours.

However, the findings are so interesting and significant that individual employers may be impelled to conduct studies to determine the

## Watt Dies at Sea

Washington, D. C.—Robert J. Watt, international representative of the American Federation of Labor, died suddenly aboard ship on his way back to the United States after participating in the recent International Labor Conference at Geneva, Switzerland, which he had attended as the American workers' delegate.

The cause of death was heart disease. Mr. Watt had suffered a heart attack some months ago, but after weeks of rest he had appeared completely recovered and had resumed his duties. He was 53 years old.

He was buried in Arlington cemetery.

He was one of the best known and most highly respected figures in the American labor movement. He became international representative of the American Federation of Labor in 1936 and in that capacity he attended numerous international labor gatherings in various parts of the world. During the recent war he rendered yeoman service to his country as a labor member of the National War Labor Board. He was a hard worker.

work schedule that yields optimum efficiency for their own types of operations.

Absenteeism, it was found, generally increased as hours increased, and particularly when a sixth or seventh work day was added. The higher absenteeism was caused in part by a higher incidence of work injuries and in part from the need for more rest or the need to attend to personal matters.

Longer hours usually resulted in a higher frequency of work injuries. Sometimes a strong safety organization was able to hold down the increase to match the lengthening of hours, but at times the injuries increased at great proportions, regardless of managements' efforts.

An analysis of daily output data indicates that the effects of fatigue on workers were not reserved for overtime hours. During the 5-day, 40-hour week daily efficiency tended to work up to a peak on Wednesday or Thursday, with only a slight drop on Friday.

When daily hours were extended to 9 or 10, but still retaining the 5-day week, the midweek spurt disappeared and one day was about as good as another. When a sixth day was added, usually of eight hours, the daily output pattern dropped to a still lower level.

## Wage Boost Won

Toronto, Ont.—Local 131 has completed negotiation of a contract with Christie-Brown Company, the Canadian subsidiary of National Biscuit Company, which resulted in wage increases up to \$7.50 per week for a majority of the staff. It also provides for automatic increases each six months.

Canadian Representative Russell Harvey assisted the local in the negotiations.

## Consumers Still Getting Rooked

Washington, D. C.—Meat prices were at record levels in July, according to a report released by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

This comes as no news to housewives all over the country who have been stretching the family dollar to the breaking point. They witnessed the immediate upsurge of prices last summer during the price control holiday. They were reassured by business spokesmen that it was only temporary and that prices would come down.

Prices did not come down with the re-imposition of controls, but when that happened the meat interests went on strike and meat suddenly became scarce. Pressure brought to alleviate the shortage resulted in the removal for good of all price control, which marked the beginning of a steady upward spiral in meat prices. Now the Bureau of Agriculture reports that prices stand at levels 20 percent higher than a year ago.

As for the future, the report predicts that only a "moderate seasonal decline is expected in meat prices

## Wage Law Violated By 9% of Employers

Washington, D. C.—Nine percent of the 30,000 plants inspected by the Department of Labor between July 1, 1946 and March 31, 1947, failed to pay the 40-cent hourly minimum wage required by law.

William R. McComb, Administrator of the Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Division, said:

"Although inspections were made only on a selective basis, and on complaints, the fact that violations of the modest 40-cents-an-hour minimum wage under the Wage and Hour Law still were found is shocking. Industry as a whole must be amazed to learn that some employers still are paying less than \$16 for a 40-hour workweek."

It is indeed "shocking" to learn that 2,900 employers still resort to chiseling and "sweat shop" methods by refusing to pay a wage minimum which is generally recognized as being too low to provide a minimum standard of decency.

The AFL has fought for an increase in the minimum wage to at least 65 cents an hour and has been joined by numerous organizations in its support of such legislation before Congress. That the 80th Congress failed to act on this matter during the session just closed is further proof of its anti-labor attitude and its favoritism for special interests.

McComb's report showed other wholesale violations of the overtime and child labor provisions of the law. More than \$6,800,000 in back wages were recovered for workers as a result of prosecution by the Labor Department of violators that were apprehended.

## Wages Boosted By Renewal Contract

Oakland, Calif.—A recently negotiated renewal contract with the Kaiser Co., Inc., covering the office employees in Richmond Yard No. 3, provides increases of 13 to 15 cents per hour for all office employees, according to Business Representative John Kinnick of OEIU Local 29, who negotiated the agreement.

Substantial improvement was also won in the vacation clause so as to provide vacations with pay on the basis of one day for each 200 hours of work. The agreement also maintains all gains previously won for these office workers.

this fall, unless there is a drop in consumer incomes and spending."

Prospects for a smaller corn crop will not cause a decrease in meat supplies this year, "but would lower the output next year," the bureau said.

The bureau sharply disagreed with a report of a House Agriculture subcommittee which charged that meat exports last year had caused present high prices.

The department said last year's export of 445 million pounds of meat mentioned in the report of Representative August Andresen (R., Minn.) "represents a little more than one week's meat consumption in this country."