Favor Union Shop

La Crosse, Wisconsin—With 100 per cent of all eligible workers voting, OEIU Local No. 44 won a union shop election among the plant clerical workers of the Trane Company, by the thumping big vote of 59 to 2. The election was conducted by the Wisconsin Labor Board and as a result of the vote a union shop clause has been inserted in the agreement presently being negotiated with the company.

Family's Outlay for Children Rises 50%

The cost of bringing up a child in an American family of moderate income rose more than 50 per cent in the last decade, according to a study made by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company.

Ten years ago, they said, the cost of raising a child to the age of 18 was almost $10,000 in a family with an income of $5,000. At present prices, the comparable cost would be more than $15,000.

Greeting of the Season

Sincere best wishes to All members and friends of the Office Employes International Union

Paul R. Hutchings
President

J. Howard Hicks
Secretary-Treasurer
AFL ENDORSES SPIRIT OF PRICE CURB PLAN

Washington, D, C.- AFL President William Green gave unqualified support to President Truman's program for foreign aid and declared the AFL is "in harmony with the general spirit of the President's call for prompt action to halt inflation."

Speaking on the AFL's weekly radio program, "Labor, USA," Mr. Green discussed the AFL's position with respect to the issues facing the special session of Congress now convened.

Commenting upon Mr. Truman's request for authority to impose price ceilings and wage controls in limited areas of the nation's economy, Mr. Green expressed doubt that the proposal was workable and just. He said:

"The AFL does not unalterably object to giving the President power to control and regulate prices, provided all other means to keep the cost of living in check fail, and provided that proper safeguards and time limitations accompany the grant of power."

"Even greater objections apply to wage controls. The AFL voluntarily agreed to accept wage controls during the war, but our experience with the wartime automatic administration of the 'little steel formula' and other ceilings sadly disillusioned us. Inevitably such controls lead to widespread denials of justice and fair play and cause more harm than good."

"We feel that the pressure for wage increases will relax if the cost of living is kept in check. The demand for higher wages does not cause high prices. It always follows higher prices. Furthermore, wage increases in the normal system of labor-management relations, can be obtained only through collective bargaining. Is it likely that employers whose products are subject to price control would grant wage increases to labor? Obviously such controls alone would result in a sharp check on wage increases."

(Continued on Page 4)
OEIU URGES HIKE IN MINIMUM WAGE

(Continued from Page 1) standards which exceed the minimum standards of the act.

"There is no propaganda of some employers in regard to office workers is most interesting. For the organization of office employees on the grounds that they think of us as part of management or that we shall some day become partners in the firm. While many of them may be most sincere they are in the process of rationalizing, for office workers are human beings and can't live on future possibilities but must rely on what they get in their pay envelopes, just as all other workers. It is quite possible that the same feeling may lie behind present desires to exclude us from the protections of the basic standards of the Fair Labor Standards Act. We are particularly in need of these protections—any move to amend the act to exempt us in the future. These protections could only be interpreted as a complete failure by the proponents of the $1 hourly wage. We are fighting for our plights which have become rather widely, recognized during recent years.

President Hutchings also urged the committee to insert additional language in the act to wipe out the idea of "cooler" overtime computations which some employers are applying to workers on so-called irregular hour schedules. In conclusion he stressed the need for increasing the 40-cent minimum wage. He declared that a decent wage will not be paid by some employers unless the 40-cent minimum is increased by the board. He urged the $1 hourly rate as one which will provide a better standard of living.

H. D. Lee Workers
Vote Union Shop

Trenton, N. J.—Office and clerical workers of H. D. Lee & Co. voted almost unanimously for the union shop in an election required by the Taft-Hartley act and conducted by the National Labor Relations Board.

Only two votes were cast against this clause in the renewal agreement negotiated by OEIU Local 70, which boosted wages 15 cents a month for all workers and brought the gains secured in the last two years up to $54.50. Lee preferred.

Oakland, Calif.—Office and clerical workers of the American Federation of Labor, were desired to affiliate with the local. Production workers of this company are members of the CIO.

Fenton Is Appointed To
AFL International Post

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green announced the appointment of Francis F. Fenton, National Director of Organization, to the post of International Representative of the American Federation of Labor.

Mr. Green's announcement followed a meeting of the AFL's International Relations Committee here at which time Mr. Fenton was selected to fill the post left vacant by the resignation of G. J. Watt. It is expected that Mr. Fenton will take over Mr. Watt's function as International Director of Organization and as Delegate to the International Labor Organization.

Mr. Fenton was born in Boston in 1886, and for many years has been active in the labor movement. A member of the Coal and Fuel Workers and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, he was active in the labor movement. In 1930 Mr. Fenton served as vice-president of the AFL, in 1931 as a member and executive member of that organization for a period of 13 years.

Mr. Fenton has been associated with the American Federation of Labor as a member, and in 1939 was the AFL's New England Director. Prior to appointment when he was called to Washington to take the post of National Director of the AFL, which position he held at the time of his recent appointment.

In addition to his labor activities, Mr. Fenton served as a consultant and educational officer to the Local Union, and was a member of the Labor-Management Advisory Committee, U. S. Department of Labor. He is also a member of the labor committee of the National Planning Association.

In his new capacity as International Representative for the AFL, Mr. Fenton is scheduled to leave for Europe the end of November to attend a meeting of the Governing Body of the International Labor Organization.

Mr. Fenton's successor as director of Organization for the AFL has not been chosen.

F.I.L.A. Weekly

Washington, D. C.—At a time when profits in industry are booming along at record levels, American workers employed by that industry are receiving wages diminishing month by month in the face of soaring prices.

A recent report released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics shows the extent of this gradual drop in purchasing power over a period of years. It reveals that, during the past 10 years, the purchasing power of workers' wages declined by about 18 percent but the cost of living zoomed a total of 24 percent over the same time interval. The impact upon workers of this discrepancy resulted in a 6 percent decline in their real purchasing power.

Stated another way, the burden upon workers is shown to be heavier by a small margin than if the workers' earnings were calculated, the loss in buying power expressed in 1939 dollars of every worker's wages amounts to more than $5 since the wartime peak in 1944.

The BLS reports that in current dollars, wages have been slowly rising, but have not kept up with soaring prices. Its "spendable" yardstick, the bureau explained, is arrived at by taking into account the advance in living costs, as well as social security and income tax deductions from pay envelopes.

In 1939 there were three dependents for every 100 workers, and their "spendable" earnings in August of only $29.58, expressed in 1939 dollars, compared with an average of $34.69 during 1944.

Current hourly wages for 6 percent of workers' wages declined for four successive months—from May to August—and continues to go down hill.

By the end of August—, for example, retail food prices mounted by 1.8 percent, and during September the rise was much greater—from 3 to 4 percent, or at a rate of about 1 percent per week.

That brings the food price index for September to the staggering all-time peak of nearly 114 percent above August 1939, the department reported. For such mainstays as meat and fish, the increase has been even greater—from 140 to 165 percent.

FILE AFFIDAVITS
WITH LABOR BOARD

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green and George M. Reuben, AFL secretary-treasurer, have filed non-Communist affidavits with the National Labor Relations Board as required by the Taft-Hartley law.

This action by the two officers of the AFL paved the way for the general AFL membership which is affiliated directly with the AL, to use the services of the NLRB provisions since the officers have filed similar affidavits.

The NLRB announced that as of the end of October, the deadline for filing affidavits, applied only to those statements that they are not Communists, a total of 19,366 affidavits were filed. Failure to file by October 31, the board previously declared, would result in the dismissal of all old cases pending before the board which had been filed prior to the effective date of the Taft-Hartley law.

One of the cases dismissed involved the United Construction Workers of America, AFL-affiliated United Mine Workers, Mr. John L. Lewis, UMW president, refused to sign the Communist disclaimer and became the only AFL union president to publicly state he would not sign an affidavit.

The requirement, as laid down by the NLRB, that union officers were to file the affidavits before the deadline date, applied only to those unions which had cases pending before the Taft-Hartley law went into effect. For cases instituted since that time, the only requirement is that the affidavit must be filed and approved by the NLRB before the cases can be proceeded.

The NLRB gave the following breakdown of the affidavits it had received as of the end of last month:

From AFL officers, 13,320; representing 1,655 local unions and 66 international unions.

From CIO officers, 698; representing 77 local unions and 14 international unions.

From independent unions, 5,378; representing 683 local unions and 30 internationals.

Negotiate With Housing Board

Oakland, Calif.—Contract negotiations with the Richmond Housing Authority were resumed in November. The office and clerical force of 300 office and clerical employees returned to work under a temporary agreement.

The workers walked out in October when the Federal Public Housing Authority refused to con-
WAGE INCREASES IN JEWELRY CONCERNS

Oakland, Calif.—A retroactive wage increase of 7 per cent was secured by OEIU Local 29 in a contract with several general, men's, and women's county retail jewelry stores, according to Business Agent John Kimmich.

The contract, effective October 1 and retroactive to May 15, establishes an improved scale of wages for the group plus severance, intermediate, junior and beginning clerk.

Stores covered by the agreement are: Milden's, Gensler-Lee, Davidson & Licht, Kay's, Brent's and Lloyds.

AFL Endorses Spirit of Plan

"We sought an agreement that a trial period be established for testing the main portions of the program before re-sorting to the extreme measures of Government regimentation over the economic life of the nation which would force profit making business into a socialized, second class, controlled, and adhere to only in a national crisis."

Mr. Green gave general endorsement to the major portions of the President's anti-inflation program, including the control of consumer credit, the regulation of speculation on commodity exchanges, the restoration of transport control, the elimination of the inflationary bond issue, the more effective utilization of grain, the expansion of agricultural production, and the tightening of the rent control law.

On two other recommended steps, Mr. Green said labor would accept them as emergency measures although distasteful. He referred to Mr. Truman's request for the allocation of scarce commodities and supplies and to the proposal to ration sugar.

On the latter proposal Mr. Green said, "Naturally no one likes rationing, but it still remains the only fair and equal method of distributing a fair share of the available supply of scarce commodities on an emergency basis."

Turning to the President's request for foreign aid, Mr. Green emphasized that the recent AFL convention unanimously endorsed the Marshall Plan for the economic recovery of Europe. He said:

"The convention said in a formal declaration that it is to the self-interest of America, and in the interest of the American people of assisting the 16 nations of western Europe to re-establish their economies, and that the total cost could be divided equally among the American people as compared to the alternative of an unaided Europe falling under totalitarian domination within a relatively short time."

Mr. Green pledged the AFL to support the Government in its efforts to promote the Marshall Plan and said that a conference would be called of labor representatives in Europe for that purpose. In addition the AFL is urging its members to get support for the Marshall Plan in Europe as a means of alleviating the suffering of the people from cold and hunger.

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Small Tax Payer Not Helped By Good Intentions, Woll Says

Washington, D. C.—Matthew Woll, chairman of the AFL's Com mission on the Special Tax Study Committee appointed by Congress to study the SUT tax, declared that the committee's recommendations be retained by the Treasury.

Mr. Woll, who filed a minority report dissenting from the committee's recommendations, is urging increased taxes for the small taxpayer.

Insult to Intelligence

"If the major concern of the majority of the committee is to relieve the small taxpayer, then the majority recommendations can only be termed an insult to our intelligence," Mr. Woll said.

Their report is based on the assumption that the across-the-board tax cuts of four billion dollars, as recommended by the committee, will be made. The majority is aware that these reductions will lower the tax load to millions of taxpayers at below sub-sistence income levels.

"On the floor and upper bracket taxpayers would be relieved of a substantial portion of their tax bill. Knowing this, the Committees recommendations in their report for further tax cuts which will involve the reduction of grain, the re-establishment of the food production, and the tightening of the rent control law.

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Food Conservation Program

The following suggestions are made by the Citizens Food Committee for conservation of food, particularly grains and meat, in order that hunger may be alleviated in Western Europe where the need is greatest.

1. Use full #10 cans, which are placed in the heavy toll of food crops this year:

SAVE MEAT—EGGS

A. Meat taxes, which do not eat major meats such as beef, veal, lamb, pork. (Exceptions: Meat by-products such as liver, kidneys, brains, sweetbreads, hearts, pigs feet and pig knuckles, tripe, ox tail and tongue.)

B. On Easter Thursday do not eat eggs.

C. All other days: 

2. Use the less expensive kinds of meat such asshort ribs, spare ribs, chops, shoulder, breast, flank, brisket, bottom round, shank end of ham, canned meats, and stewing chickens.

3. If using the tender cuts, such as roasts, plan to use every bit, including the bones for soup.

WASTE NOTHING

A. Don't help anyone to more than he can eat.

B. Clean your plate at every meal.

Use the foods that are plentiful in local markets.

SAVE VEGETABLES

A. Make moderate use of bread, pastry, potatoes, crackers with meals. Save a slice of bread a day. If you eat out, cooperate with restaurants which use bread and butter only on request.

B. Buy less, and do less baking of food. Use less of any inedible ingredient, such as cakes, cookies, pastry, biscuits, and muffins. For example, one-crust pies should be made without grease and butter.

C. Don't waste bread. Use dry bread as an ingredient in main dishes such as meatloaf, fondue, bread pudding, casseroles, and as crumbs in scalloped dishes.

SATIONAL JUMP IN RETAIL PRICES

Washington, D. C.—A sensational jump in retail prices of food products between mid-August and mid-September has been made the major factor boosting the consumers' price index to a record high, 164 percent above the 1929 level, the Department of Labor reported on the basis of preliminary estimates.

The index as of September 15 stood at a level 12 percent above a year ago, 23 percent over the pre-war peak of 1917, and 46 percent greater than the level of August 1939.

The jump in the prices of rents was the result of a BLS release, reported in an earlier issue of the news service, showing that real weekly wages of American workers had dropped $5 per week over the two-year period since V-J Day. Thus, a further drop was recorded in September as the cost-of-living spurted up once more.

Prices for a wide array of goods and services reported improved September for all major groups of items, BLS said. Final figures for foods indicate that prices moved up 2.6 per cent from mid-August. Preliminary estimates show that rents advanced 3.9 percent from the previous month. Prices for manufactured goods, services and services increased somewhat less than one percent.

The rise of 3.6 percent in food prices brought the index for mid-August and mid-September brought the index for September 1947 to 203.5 percent of the 1935-39 average; 40 percent higher than June 1946 and 10 percent above the June 1920 peak.

Meats, dairy products, and eggs were again the chief contributors to the advance in the total food bill.

Cereal products rose 1.3 percent and beverages 2.9 percent. Fruits and vegetables dropped 0.8 percent from the previous month.

Prices of fats and oils dropped 1.1 percent, although these prices usually rise minimally seasonally at this time of year.

Rents in large cities advanced over 2 percent from August to September as rent increases allowed under the 1947 Housing and Rent Act continued to be reported.

AFL'S RAILROAD CLERKS WIN RAISES FOR 1,500

Cincinnati, Ohio. Wage increases of $20 to $35 a month were awarded to 1,500 members of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks by Capital Airlines. Nearly 1,500 clerical and incidental workers will benefit from the new pay scale.

The raises, retroactive to October 1, are in line to just about the highest in the air transport industry, it was explained by Frank Reynolds, general representative. In addition, the pact retains $10 to $20 a month automatic annual pay increase.

"Our relations with the management have been exceptionally friendly," Reynolds said.