

THE OFFICE WORKER

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

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CAMPAIGN AGAINST ANTI-LABOR BILLS

Washington, D. C.—A. F. of L. Legislative representatives have mapped a united campaign to turn back the flood of anti-labor legislation in the 80th congress.

In a brief address to the conference of the representatives, AFL President William Green singled out the bill introduced by Senator Ball of Minnesota, which one senator described as "a radical bill that would change the whole pattern of labor relations."

"Wittingly or unwittingly, Senator Ball," said Green, "is acting as the agent for big corporate interests who are out to destroy the union movement. This bill will not promote industrial peace. On the contrary it will provoke discord and strife."

"Some of our unions have had union shop agreements with employers for more than 50 years. They have established collective bargaining on a firm basis and reached the highest level of union-management cooperation. Senator Ball's bill would cut the foundations out from under them. It would disrupt relations between fair employers and unions. It would destroy freedom of contract."

"Let congress remember that loyal trade-union members with a tradition of union-shop policy will refuse to work beside free-riders and strike-breakers."

"Senator Ball's bill strips the mask of hypocrisy from the proponents of restrictive legislation. In the name of industrial peace, they are now coming forward with proposals which would wreck labor-management relations permanently."

Wagner's Views

Senator Robert F. Wagner of New York, sponsor of the National Labor Relations Act, which bears his name, appealed to Congress to refrain from drastic revision of labor legislation.

He was sharply critical of foes of the legislation he had sponsored and asserted that anti-strike legislation "multiplies government sanction and prohibitions and deprives management and labor of hard-won economic freedom."

Senator Wagner declared he is "unalterably opposed to compulsory arbitration in any guise."

The Senator declared:

"Current proposals for drastic anti-labor legislation are approaching the intensity of the open shop drive following World War I, which spearheaded a reactionary era that no responsible group wants to see repeated."

"The National Labor Relations Act functions in a narrow sphere. That Act is complied with when freely chosen representatives of employes and management come to the council table, there to bargain in good faith. The Labor Act in operation has largely eliminated in-

(Continued on page 3)

Refinery Agreement Signed With Magnolia Petroleum

Beaumont, Tex.—The first agreement between the Beaumont Refinery of the Magnolia Petroleum Co. and OEIU Local 169 has recently been completed and signed according to reports received from George R. Sesler, secretary-treasurer of the local. The office force of this large refinery organized in Local 169 some months ago and the

local established its collective bargaining right through an NLRB election. The negotiation of the present contract was handled by the officers and negotiating committee of the local, with the valuable assistance of International Vice President C. A. Stafford.

Wage Adjustments

The agreement establishes classified salary schedules bringing substantial wage adjustments averaging about \$50 per month to the employes involved. The wage schedule provides for automatic yearly step increases for the first three years of service.

The hours schedule provides for 8 hours per day and 40 hours per week for 5 consecutive days, with time and one-half for all off-schedule hours and for all overtime hours. Employes cannot be required to take time off to equalize overtime work and employes called to work outside of their regular schedule are assured a minimum of 3 hours' pay. Any worker who works more than one and one-half hours past his regular quitting time is allowed 30 minutes meal time without loss of pay.

Five Holidays

Five holidays are recognized and employes are granted such days off with no loss of pay. If required to work on such days they will receive time and one-half for such work.

The agreement provides for paid vacations of two weeks for all employes of one year or more service and three weeks for all employes of 15 years' service. The agreement establishes a comprehensive seniority program, including lines of advancement, bidding on jobs, the handling of recalls, transfers, promotions and demotions. The agreement also provides for the arbitration of grievances which are not otherwise satisfactorily disposed of.

TELL CONGRESSMEN

Washington, D. C.—The Office Employees International Union is urging the membership of all local unions in the United States, Alaska and Hawaii to do all in their power to prevail upon the members of Congress to vote against and oppose anti-labor legislation.

"The action of each of you in communicating with and contacting members of Congress from your area in opposition to such measures will have a most vital effect on the position taken by such members of Congress," stated President Paul R. Hutchings and Secretary-Treasurer J. Howard Hicks.

Pointing out that a number of objectionable bills have been introduced since Congress convened, they stressed that if enacted into law such legislation would vitally affect the economic interests and well-being of all workers, particularly those in the "white collar" field.

Prices Soar But Not Wages in 1946

Washington, D. C.—In an analysis of price changes during 1946, the Bureau of Labor Statistics finds that while the average factory worker's earnings, which had declined to \$40.58 in February, returned to the \$45.45 level of July, 1945, in September, prices paid for living essentials had climbed nearly 15 percent.

In a special year end report, BLS reported that price advances in 1946 were greater than in any year since World War I. Prices of family living essentials rose 18 percent in the 12-month period, while primary market prices increased about 31 percent.

BOOKLET ON NLRB

Washington, D. C.—As part of its research and educational service, the Office Employees International Union has made available to all local unions a very helpful booklet on the rights of workers and unions under the National Labor Relations Act and on the procedures of the National Labor Relations Board prepared by Louis G. Silverberg, Director of Information, NLRB.

McKESSON-ROBBINS AGREEMENT SIGNED

Tampa, Fla.—Wage increases ranging from \$8 to \$20 per month were obtained in a contract just signed between OEIU Local 46 and the McKesson-Robbins Co. covering its operations in this city, according to J. O. Bloodworth, business manager of the local and a vice president of OEIU. Bargaining rights for Local 46 were established and the local union has been certified by the NLRB.

The contract provides for a full union shop. All time worked in excess of 8 hours per day, Monday through Friday, and 40 hours per week is to be paid at the rate of time and one-half. Only necessary work is to be performed on Saturday and any such work shall also be paid for at time and one-half. Five legal holidays are granted with full pay and work performed on Sundays or on these holidays is paid for at double time, except for inventory and pricing work which is to be paid for at time and one-half.

Paid vacations are provided, ranging from one week to two weeks, based on length of service. Seniority is recognized in layoffs and re-hiring and first consideration is to be given to qualified existing employes in the filling of vacancies.

The agreement establishes a grievance procedure with provision being made for final and binding decision on settlement of grievances by a five-man committee.

The agreement is signed for a four-year period effective as of October 1, 1946, with a proviso, however, that wage matters may be re-opened at earlier dates.

Substantial Gains Won In Pittsburgh Stores

Pittsburgh, Pa. — In renewal agreements recently completed with Gimble Bros., Kaufmann Department Stores and Jos. Horne Co. Local 33 has obtained substantial general wage increases for the office employes according to local business representative John Magnotti.

The increases obtained range from a minimum of \$4 per week for all office employes with less than two years' service to \$7 per week for all employes with two years or more of service with the company.

In addition to these basic increases a further increase of \$2 per week was obtained for all comptometer operators, stenographers and key punch operators and an additional \$1 per week was obtained for all employes in the cashiering

divisions and for the unit control clerks.

Negotiation of the agreement was handled by Local Business Representative Magnotti and the negotiating committee, with valuable assistance being rendered by International Vice President R. M. Daugherty in the later stages of the negotiations. In addition to the wage adjustments other gains were also obtained.

Local 33 has recently employed two organizers, Frank Riott and Joseph Burns, and intensive membership drives have been under way in various departments of the department stores as well as in the Pittsburgh Credit Bureau. The local union stewards are actively assisting in pushing these membership drives.

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OFFICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION



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BARGAINING KEY TO INDUSTRIAL PEACE

Washington, D. C. — Collective bargaining is the major key for averting industrial disputes, Robert Watt, international representative of the American Federation of Labor, declared in the opening of the 39-week series of Saturday radio programs entitled "Cross Section—USA."

Mr. Watt was joined in the labor-management discussion by Edgar L. Warren, Director of Conciliation of the U. S. Labor Department; Charles McCormick, president of the McCormick Company of Baltimore, and Fred Bailey, of the National Grange.

Mr. Watt declared that the question of worker-management relations, if left to employers and workers, "leaves no reason to believe that both groups cannot work out their own problems. After all, we have, right now, approximately 50,000 contracts that have been worked out. And there is no reason to believe we can't solve our further problems.

"Profit-sharing is an important element of the collective bargaining process in relation to a plant. But I don't think you can just simply make a general statement on it, any more than you can make a general statement on wages, and say it is 25 or 30 percent, or that every plant in the nation should have profit sharing. I am opposed to such generalizations.

"I don't want the government to step in and say 'this is what the employe will earn, and these are the number of hours people work, and these are the conditions under which he will be employed.' What I want to emphasize is the need for the employer and the union to work out their understanding at the plant level."

Mr. McCormick, speaking for management, said:

"I would like to say that management ought to take a trusteeship attitude. Faith has got to come back and replace fear psychology."

"The entire economy of the nation," Mr. Warren said, "depends

Real Friend of the Toilers

LINCOLN

TO SECURE TO EACH
LABORER THE WHOLE
PRODUCT OF HIS LABOR,
AS NEARLY AS POSSIBLE,
IS A WORTHY OBJECT
OF ANY GOVERNMENT.

A. Lincoln.

1809-1865

Union Label Trades Department

Abraham Lincoln Had the Answers

It was Abraham Lincoln who preserved the Union, destroyed servile labor, and gave to the common man, the world over, new hope, new aspiration, and a new ideal.

He tackled a troublesome task in a most trying crisis and brought out of it a united Nation.

The greatest secret of the immortal emancipator's success probably was that he based his decisions on the fundamental concepts of our Republic. He followed basic principles in economics as well as in government. In this way he naturally became a true friend of the toilers—the producers of all wealth.

Take for examples the popular quotations about labor from his statesmanlike documents. In a message to Congress, December 3, 1861, he said, "Labor is prior to and independent of capital. Capital is only the fruit of labor, and could never have existed if labor had not first existed. Labor is the superior of capital, and deserves much the higher consideration."

Then again, ponder over this one, "The strongest bond of human sym-

upon the peaceful settlement of labor disputes. I would urge that the public interest requires both management and labor to settle their differences with a minimum of interference with the lives of their neighbors."

In a further discussion of the present national labor picture, Mr. Warren said:

"This new year has begun quite auspiciously. Last year almost a million men were idle as a result of industrial strife. Today less than 50,000 are idle as the result of work stoppages.

"Last year the picture was uncertain and confused, but today, without any government restraints, restrictions have been cast aside, and I believe the picture is much more reassuring.

pathy, outside the family circle, should be one uniting all working people." Does that not suggest strong labor unions?

At the present time what better labor relations could be established than by following this labor policy so simply expressed in this powerful quotation, "... to elevate the condition of men; to lift artificial weights from all shoulders; to afford all an unfettered start and a fair chance in the race of life... This is the leading object of the government." This statement showed his farsighted vision, practical wisdom, and moral courage.

It is our sincere belief that the Union Label is a symbol of the great principles that Lincoln so clearly enunciated in his able manner. By his policies we can solve questions that have baffled philosophers and statesmen for ages. They are the answers to many of our present-day problems.—I. M. Ornburn, secretary-treasurer, Union Label Trades Department, American Federation of Labor.

"I think we could all agree that we believe in a free enterprise system. And I, for one, believe that permanent peace can be established between employers and unions by collective bargaining. I think it cannot be established by government order.

"I fully concur in the view of Mr. McCormick that we should look at the future with faith. I think that is of the utmost importance."

Speaking for the farmers, Mr. Bailey declared it is highly important to the farm population to have "a good working relationship between labor and industry." He expressed grave fear, however, of difficult times ahead in the labor field and added "it is going to take a lot of level heads to avert misunderstandings."

President Moves for Purge of Communists

Washington, D. C.—A special board to study the Government's methods for testing the loyalty of its employes, and designed to purge Government payrolls of Communists, was set up here by President Truman.

This action followed repeated requests by members of Government unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor that such a commission be created to remove from the Government such persons as were proven to be subversive agents.

The commission, an interagency group, was instructed to draw up recommendations for any legislation thought necessary to keep disloyal and subversive persons out of the Civil Service.

A similar investigative body was proposed last summer by the House Civil Service subcommittee which reported that the country's security was threatened by the presence of persons of "questioned loyalty" on the Federal payroll.

The committee, in public hearings, had been particularly critical of the "Communist tendencies" of a group of State Department employes. It urged a special commission to unify security and investigation work now carried on by the various agencies, and funds to permit fingerprinting of all Government jobholders.

These recommendations of the House group should be considered by the new commission, President Truman directed.

RESUMES SPONSORSHIP OF FORUM PROGRAM

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor resumed sponsorship of the "America United" radio program over the nation-wide network of the National Broadcasting Company on January 5.

This radio feature, inaugurated by the AFL in 1944, has grown in popularity and importance to such an extent that it is now recognized as the leading public forum program on the air.

It will be broadcast each Sunday from 1 to 1:30 P. M., E.S.T., but since some stations in various parts of the country re-broadcast it at a later time or date, you are advised to consult your local newspaper for the exact time it can be heard in your own community.

This year, as usual, the AFL will present thirteen of the fifty-two programs in the "America United" series. The AFL will go on the air four Sundays in January, skip the month of February, and take up again on March 1 for nine more consecutive Sundays.

The first 1947 program in the series will deal with a fundamental problem of interest to every American worker—"How Can Labor-Industrial Peace Be Maintained During 1947?" Participants will include Robert J. Watt, International Representative of the AFL; Edgar L. Warren, Director of the U. S. Conciliation Service; Albert Goss, President of the National Grange, and a representative of the United States Chamber of Commerce still to be selected.

PORTLAND SIGNS NEW AGREEMENT

Portland, Ore.—An agreement has been negotiated by OEIU Local 11 with the Weisfield & Goldberg Co., according to Local Secretary-Treasurer Irving Enna who handled these negotiations.

The agreement provides for a full union shop and 7 paid holidays. It requires that work performed on Sundays and holidays be paid for at the rate of double time. Overtime at the rate of time and one-half is required for all work in excess of 8 hours a day and 44 hours a week. All employees receive two weeks' paid vacation after 2 years' service and one week after one year's service.

The agreement establishes a wage schedule with automatic step increases. It also provides for the various other normal matters such as rest periods, reporting time, the handling of grievances and disputes, etc.

Remington-Rand

Added to the mounting list of organizing successes scored during recent months by the local union is the local office of Remington-Rand, Inc. An election to determine the extent of the desire for unionization among this group has been scheduled and on the basis of the high interest evidenced by the workers involved, a large vote in favor of Local 11 has been forecast by Enna.

With Local 137, Elmira, New York, representing office workers in the Elmira plant of Remington-Rand, Inc., the successful negotiation of an agreement locally will materially assist in bringing about improved wage rates and working conditions for office workers employed by the company.

Answering demands for unionization from office workers employed by the Charles F. Berg Company, department store, Local 11 reports that it represents a substantial majority of such workers and anticipates entering negotiations on an agreement with this firm at an early date. Other organizing activity among local department stores is being conducted by Local 11 in conjunction with activities of the local union of the Retail Clerks International Association.

Further Gains Noted

Renewal of the agreement between the local union and Weisfield and Goldberg Company jewelers, has been announced. Further gains were won for members of the local union employed by this firm. Contractual relations between the union and this company have existed for 5 years, during which period noteworthy improvements have been won in the salaries, hours of employment and working conditions of the office workers employed by the firm.

Enna reports that negotiations are presently in progress with the Portland Gas and Coke Company on the matters of wage increases and vacations. It is reported that the company has offered a 7½ per cent blanket wage increase and 3 weeks' vacation with pay after 10 years' service. Considerable speculation exists regarding the acceptance of these proposals by office employees of the company. The

Strikes Now At Postwar Low

Washington, D. C.—Work stoppages, at the year's end, Secretary of Labor L. B. Schwelienbach announced were at the lowest since V-J Day. Not only was the number of strikes less than at any previous postwar period, but workers involved and idleness were also well below the early months of 1946 when reconversion problems resulted in widespread labor-management controversies.

Preliminary reports to the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics indicate a further substantial drop in the number of work stoppages for December, thereby continuing the trend reflected during the last quarter of 1946. The number of new strikes declined from 450 in October to 310 in November and the total for December is expected to be less than half the figure for

October. December will also reflect the lowest strike activity for the entire year, BLS stated.

At the close of 1946 approximately 160 work stoppages were in effect. Practically all of these labor-management controversies were local in character and small in size, involving but a total of about 47,000 workers. By contrast, at the end of 1945 nearly 200 stoppages were in progress involving over 350,000 workers. Idleness resulting from strikes in the waning weeks of 1946 was only one-eighth as great as during the comparable period of the preceding year.

Conciliators are currently attempting to mediate 111 stoppages involving only 35,000 employees whereas a year ago, they were handling 145 strikes involving 307,000 employees.

Anti-Labor Bills

(Continued from page 1)

dustrial strife over union recognition, discrimination and collective bargaining, with its attendant bitterness and violence.

"A recent careful study by the Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that less than 4 percent of the time lost in important strikes (involving 1,000 or more workers) in the year following V-J Day involved exclusively the issues of union organization, recognition and the like which are within the purview of the National Labor Relations Act in interstate industry. The same study shows that less than half of 1 percent of the time lost in such major stoppages involved inter- or intra-union matters. Almost 90 percent of the time lost in these important disputes occurred solely over issues of wages, hours, or other working conditions.

"These simple facts point the direction of constructive future efforts toward industrial peace in the absence of wartime controls over wages and other conditions of labor. We must so strengthen collective bargaining by responsible labor and industry that settlements on basic terms of employment will increasingly be found through agreement by the parties instead of economic strife or Government decision."

PASSES AWAY

Providence, R. I.—The officers and membership of Local 76 are saddened by the passing of Brother Arthur Ormondroyd, Sr., who was one of the first of the office force of the Brown & Sharpe Mfg. Co. to sign up in membership in the local union, according to Local Vice President H. B. Collins. Brother Ormondroyd was stricken at his desk in the Brown & Sharpe office where he worked for over 30 years.

Brother Ormondroyd was always willing to lend a helping hand to everyone and was considered outstanding by his co-workers. For the past 20 years he had been working in the repair parts division of the estimating department office.

initial agreement between the union and the company was signed several months ago and the present negotiations are being carried on pursuant to terms of such agreement.

WAGE BOOST WITH BACK PAY SECURED

Philadelphia, Pa.—A general increase of \$5 per week, retroactive to November, highlights the agreement recently negotiated by OEIU Local 14 with the Star Metal Mfg. Co., covering its office force who are members of the local union, according to reports received from Jeanne Gibstein, local secretary-treasurer, and Ed Springman, past president, who represented the local in the negotiations.

Other outstanding features of the agreement include a closed shop clause assuring union membership to all office and clerical employees, the establishment of time and one-half for work performed on Saturday and improvements in vacation allowance, in addition to various other general beneficial clauses.

The wage schedules in the agreement are subject to re-opening by the union at the end of six months in the event a national pattern for wage increases occurs during that period.

Assisting the union representatives in the negotiations was the negotiating committee of members employed in the establishment, including Michael Halamar, Raymond Stanfield, Anna Fagenson and Al Saltberg.

GAINS SECURED IN FURNITURE FIRMS

Los Angeles, Calif.—As the result of a joint campaign conducted by OEIU Local 30, the Retail Clerks and the Teamsters organizations—a master contract has been signed which grants substantial wage increases to over 180 workers employed in retail furniture stores in the Los Angeles area, according to William A. Ring, business representative of the local.

The classified wage scales established by this agreement set rates for 8 different office classifications and provide for two automatic length of service increases. As a result of this agreement the lowest minimum starting rate for the least skilled classification has been raised to \$35 per week, with a starting rate for other classifications ranging upward above this figure.

ORDER ELECTIONS AT QUARRIES CO.

Tiffin, Ohio.—The NLRB in response to a petition filed by Local 155 has directed that an election be held among all the office and clerical employees of the Sterling Grinding Wheel Division of the Cleveland Quarries Co., according to International Vice President R. M. Daugherty, who handled the case on behalf of the local union.

The Board has ordered that an election be held among all office and clerical employees who will vote as to whether or not they desire to be represented by Local 155 of the OEIU.

In its petition the union requested bargaining rights also for the supervisors in the cost department, the shipping room office, the billing department, credit department, production control and specifications and stock supervisor. The NLRB in its decision has directed that a separate election be conducted among such office supervisory employees, who will likewise have an opportunity to vote as to whether or not they desire to be represented through Local 155.

The Sterling Grinding Wheel Division manufactures abrasive grinding wheels. Organization of this office force into Local 155 was completed by Vice President Daugherty in a concentrated four-day drive last summer. Practically all eligible workers at that time signed up for membership in the union. The employer insisted that the union go through a formal NLRB hearing and establish its bargaining rights through an ordered election.

On the basis of the substantial interest shown by the members employed in this plant, it is anticipated that the forthcoming election will result in an overwhelming victory for Local 155.

5 MILLION ELIGIBLE FOR U. S. SECURITY BENEFITS

Washington, D. C.—Approximately 5,000,000 persons are eligible for permanent insurance under the Social Security Act, it was announced by the Social Security Board.

Of these 4,800,000 will have achieved that status by virtue of having completed 10 years of service in jobs covered by the act. Others will become eligible by reason of their 65th birthday and having served in security-covered employment for at least half the number of calendar quarters between January 1, 1937, and the time of reaching the age of 65.

EQUAL PAY

Washington, D. C.—Abolition of the double wage standard—"male" and "female" rates—has long been urged by the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor. To get new facts on the problem, the Bureau recently sent field agents to 29 manufacturing plants to study methods of wage setting. Results of the study will be published later this year.

PACT NEGOTIATED WITH ROCK-OLA CO.

Chicago, Ill.—A contract has been negotiated by Local 28 covering the office force of the Rock-Ola Mfg. Co. bringing substantial improvements in employment conditions to the 60 office employes of this firm, according to Business Representative Sarah E. Keenan, who handled the negotiations.

In addition to establishing classified salary ranges, a general increase of \$2.50 a week was obtained for all members. Two weeks' paid vacation after one year of service, with one week after six months of service was also gained. The contract also obtained for the first time paid sick leave of 5 days per year and 6 paid holidays in addition to the various other normal contract provisions governing overtime and other working conditions.

As a part of the negotiations the local union also succeeded in winning for this group a share in the annual bonus granted in the past only to the plant employes. The office force will therefore receive year-end bonuses of 2 percent of their annual salary if they have been employed less than five years and 3 percent if they have been employed longer than that period. This is the same bonus granted to the plant workers. The agreement is effective retroactive to November 6.

St. Louis Local Surges Ahead

St. Louis, Mo.—Announcement has been made by President A. L. Rex of Local 13 of the renewal of agreements between the local union and the Busch-Sulzer Diesel Engine Company, the Keasbey-Mattison Company, manufacturers of lime and cement products, and the successful unionization of office workers employed by the Frisco Transportation Company, together with the extension of organizing activities by the local union.

A renewal of the agreement between Local 13 and the Busch-Sulzer Diesel Engine Company resulted in a pay increase of 21 cents per hour for all office employes of the company who are members of the local.

The Keasbey-Mattison Company agreement renewal resulted in pay increases ranging from 12 to 19 cents per hour and the inclusion of three additional job classifications in the agreement which will result in a more proper job relationship that that previously existing in the company's office.

The unionization of office workers employed by the Frisco Transportation Company follows closely on the heels of the organization and negotiation of an agreement for similar employes of the same company by Local 185 at Springfield, Mo. The bargaining rights of the local union were determined by a check of the company's payroll against the application for membership cards held by the local union and was conducted by the National Labor Relations Board, according to Rex. Immediate action is being taken in the drafting of an agreement to submit to company management.

Rex further reports that Local

SOCIAL SECURITY IS INSURANCE!

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THROW AWAY A
LIFE
INSURANCE
POLICY WOULD YOU?



DON'T
THROW AWAY YOUR
SOCIAL
SECURITY
BENEFITS

Find Out About
OLD-AGE AND SURVIVORS
INSURANCE BENEFITS
from your Union Social Security
Committee, OR the Nearest
Social Security Office.

WAGES BOOSTED BY SMITH CO. CONTRACT

York, Pa.—A 7½ cent hourly wage increase and an increase in insurance benefits are highlights of the new agreement signed by Local 157 and the S. Morgan Smith Company.

Among the other benefits of the pact secured by the local negotiating committee with the assistance of International Vice President George P. Firth, are seniority, seven days sick leave per year, cumulative up to 21 days, maternity leave of absence, eight-hour day and 40-hour work week with time and one-half for overtime and double time for Sundays, six paid holidays plus double time for holiday work, one week vacations with pay after six months service and two weeks after one year or more of service.

Pacts Negotiated Within 3 Companies

Vancouver, Wash.—Agreements covering wages and working conditions of the office workers at New Method Laundry and Longview City Laundry & Cleaners, the Midway Cleaners and Campbell Feed & Fuel Co., all of Longview, Wash., have been secured by Local 68.

Sick leave, vacations with pay, paid holidays, eight-hour day and 40-hour work week with time and one-half for overtime are some of the features in addition to wage adjustments.

13, with the cooperation of the Stove Mounters International Union, is engaged in organizational activity among the office workers employed by the American Stove Co. In addition, and assisted by the Tobacco Workers International Union, Local 13 is contacting the office workers employed by the American Tobacco Co. and Liggett & Myers Tobacco Co.

Assisting Rex in the renewal of the agreements and in several of the organizational activities have been John I. Rollins, Secretary St. Louis Trades and Labor Union, and A. F. of L. Organizer J. H. Skaggs.

Increase Secured In Grocery Pact

Pittsburgh, Pa.—An agreement negotiated by Local 33 with McCann & Co., a grocery concern, brought wage increases of up to \$5 a week and other benefits to the office workers.

The contract provides maintenance of membership; recognizes the principle of seniority; establishes 44 hours as the work week for female employes and 48 hours for male employes, with time and one half for overtime; provides six holidays with pay, sick leave and vacations of one week for one year of service, two weeks for five years, and three weeks for 10 years.

NEGOTIATE HOUSING AUTHORITY CONTRACT

Birmingham, Ala.—Agreements have been negotiated by Local 18 with the United States Pipe and Foundry Company, Bessemer division, and the Birmingham Housing Authority, according to Business Manager Sam S. Douglass.

Major gains secured for the Housing Authority office workers include wage increases ranging from \$20 to \$35 a month, automatic increases of \$10 a year up to the normal rate, a five-day work week, seniority, cumulative sick leave, rest periods and two-week vacations with pay.

Wage adjustments resulting from the Pipe and Foundry pact brought the gains for the last year up to 23 cents an hour for these workers.

PACT NEGOTIATED WITH BOILER FIRM

Oswego, N. Y.—Improvements in wages and working conditions have been secured by Local 1125 for the office workers at the Fitzgibbons Boiler Company in a new agreement negotiated with the company.

In addition to rate adjustments, the new pact establishes an eight-hour day and 40-hour work week, with time and one-half for overtime work; two-week paid vacations; six paid holidays and cumulative sick leave.

INCREASE WON FOR SHIP YARD WORKERS

Seattle, Wash.—Culminating a long struggle to obtain the benefits of the Pacific Coast ship repair agreement for members of Local 8 employed in this industry, Business Representative Mildred Erickson of the local union has announced an increase of 9 cents per hour for all timecheckers employed aboard vessels and full application of all provisions of the ship repair agreement, except the 11.6 percent pay differential.

The agreement, which is retroactive to October 14, was entered into between the Seattle Metal Trades Council acting in behalf of Local 8 and the Puget Sound Shipbuilders, the employers' association. Signing the agreement for the Council was M. E. McLaren while R. J. Lamont signed for industry.

Business Representative Erickson, who is also an OEIU vice president, has received congratulations from many sources as the result of the victory which she achieved in her long fight to gain the application of the Pacific Coast ship repair agreement to members of her local union.

Boston Active

Boston, Mass.—Wage increases ranging from \$4.00 to \$5.50 per week have been obtained for the members of Local 6 employed by the Liquid Carbonic Co., with A. F. of L. Organizer Aaron Velleman assisting the local in its negotiations. All wage increases are retroactive to November 1. Other gains made over the previous contract include the establishment of Saturday as a time and one-half day and the obtaining of an extra week's vacation with pay for employes of 15 years or more service.

The local also reports additional gains at the Standard Brush Mfg. Co. with wage increases up to \$4.00 a week going to new employes and supplementing the general gains made in the agreement signed last July. This company has instituted a health and accident policy for its employes, in addition to \$1,000 of life insurance. The firm is 100 percent A. F. of L. organized and uses the A. F. of L. label on its products.

At its last meeting Local 6 elected officers for the ensuing year and they will be installed at the February meeting, with A. F. of L. Regional Director John Murphy presiding at the installation ceremony. At the last meeting, it is also reported by Recording Secretary Ida Velleman, the members took chest X-rays in cooperation with the City of Boston current anti-tuberculosis program.

Secure Increase At United Grocers

Fresno, Calif.—A wage boost of \$17.50 a month over the amount they were receiving when they organized into Local 69 is one of the benefits gained by office workers of United Grocers from the contract negotiated by W. T. O'Rear, organizer for the local. The increase was retroactive to October 1.