CAMPAIGN AGAINST ANTI-LABOR BILLS

Washington, D. C.—A. F. of L. Legislative representatives have mapped out a program 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 relations. Senator Ball's bill would cut the foundations out from under them. It would disrupt relations between employers and unions. It would destroy freedom of contract."

"Let every member of this House understand that true labor-management union shop agreement is one with labor-shop agreement will reduce work hazards, as free-reiders and strike-breakers."

"Senator Ball's bill strips the mask of by-laws and restrictions of all the evils of the bill. It is designed to break down the framework of labor-management relations permanently."

Wagner's Views

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

He was sharply critical of foes of the legislation who had sponsored and asserted that anti-labor legislation "multiplying pernicious and prohibitions and de-clip, management and labor of hard-earned economic freedom!"

Senator Wagner declared he is "utterly 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 by Senator Ball."

The Labor Act in operation has largely eliminated in- The Office Worker Official Organ of the Office Employees International Union of the A. F. of L.

No. 25 WASHINGTON, D. C., JANUARY, 1947

BEAUMONT, Tex.—The first agreement between the Beaumont Refinery of the Magnolia Petroleum Co. and the OKIU Local 46 was recently completed and signed according to reports received from George B. Seider, 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 negotiations of the agreement 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 members involved. The wage schedule provides for automatic yearly step increases for the first three years of the contract.

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-duty hours and for all overtime work. Employees cannot be required to take off time to equalize overtime work and employees calling in 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 employees 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 each hour so worked.

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

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 $40.68 in February, returned to the $45.46 level of July, 1945, in September, prices paid for living essentials had climbed nearly 16 percent.

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

WASHINGTON, D. C.—As part of its research and educational service, the Office and Related Employees International Union has made available to all local unions a very helpful booklet entitled "Involvement of Employees and Union Under the National Labor Relations Act and on the Procedures of the National Labor Relations Board." The booklet was prepared by Louis G. Silverberg, Director of Information, NLRB.

Prices Soar But Not Wages in 1946

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 NLRA.

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 overtime is to be paid at time and one-half on Saturday and any such work shall 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-hirings.

The agreement is 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 negotiations recently completed with Gimble Bros., Kaufmann Department Stores and Jos. Horn Co., Local 33 has obtained substantial general wage increases for the office employees according to local business representative John Maganotti.

The increases are a result of bargaining with Gimble Bros. and Kaufmann Department Stores, and Local 33 has obtained substantial general wage increases for the office employees according to local business representative John Maganotti.

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

In addition to these basic increases, employees with over three years of service will receive an additional $2 per week for all executive positions, classifying operators, stenographers and key punch operators and an additional $1 per week was obtained for all employees in the cashiering divisions and for the unit control clerks.

Negotiations 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 Iott and Joseph Buch, whose membership drives have been under way in various departments of the store. Recently completed is the Pittsburgh Credit Bureau. The local union stewards are actively assisting in pushing these membership drives.

(Continued on page 3)
The entire economy of the nation," Mr. Warren said, "depends on unionism, outside the family circle, should be one uniting all working people." Does that 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 far-sighted 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 and eloquent statements on these questions that have baffled philosophers and statesmen for ages. They are the answers to many of our present-day problems—J. M. O'Brien, 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 head level to avert misunderstandings."
PORTLAND SIGNS NEW AGREEMENT

Portland, Ore.—An agreement has been negotiated by OEL 11 with the Columbia and Goldbug Co., according to Local Secretary-Treasurer Irving Emna who handled these negotiations.

The agreement provides for a full union shop and 2 paid holidays. It requires that work be performed on Sundays and holidays be paid for at the rate of double time.

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

Submitted to the mounting list of organizing drives during recent months by the local union is the local office of Remington-Rand. In the high interest evidenced by the workers involved, a large vote in favor of Local 11 has been forecast by Emna.

With Local 187, Elmira, N.Y. Remington-Rand, the Elmira plans 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 Columbia, the local office department store, Local 11 reports that it represents a substantial majority of such workers and that negotiations have been on an agreement with this firm at an early date.

Other organizing activity is being conducted by Local 11 in conjunction with activities of the local office Clerks International Association.

Further Gains Noted

Negotiations between the local union and Weisfield and Goldberg Company jewelers, has been announced. Further gains were won for the local union by the local union employed by this firm. Contractual relations between the union and this firm have existed for 3 years, during which period noteworthy improvements have been won to the advantages of employment and working conditions of the office workers employed by the firm.

Emna reports that negotiations are presently in progress with the Portland office of the National Cash Register Co. on the matters of wage increases and vacations. It is reported that the company has offered a 7% percent increase in wages 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 BLS stated, was announced at the lowest since V-J Day. Not only was the number of strikes lower than at any previous postwar period, but workers involved and idleness were also well below figures cited a year ago when reconstruction problems resulted in widespread labor-management conflicts.

Preliminary reports to the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics indicate a further substantial reduction in work stoppages for December, thereby continuing the trend reflected during the last quarter of 1946. The number of new strikes declined from 4,500 in October to 3,600 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 entirely.

At the close of 1946 approximately 160 work stoppages were in force in all of these labor-management controversies were local in character and small in size, involving a total of about 3,000 workers. By contrast, at the end of 1945 nearly 200 stoppages were in force involving over 30,000 workers. Idleness resulting from strikes in the waning weeks of 1946 ran at an average rate of eight to six as compared during the same period of the preceding year.

Consortia are currently attempting to mediate 110 stoppages involving only 35,000 employees whereas a year ago, they were handling 150 strikes involving 200,000 employees.

Anti-Labor Bills (Continued from page 1)

The 250,000 clerks involved in 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 allowances, in addition to various other general beneficial clauses.

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

Assisting the union representatives in the negotiations was the negotiating committee of members employed in the establishment, including Ed Springman, Jack Diamond, and Edward Weisfield, of the firm.

GAINS SECURED IN FURNITURE FIRMS

Los Angeles, Calif.—As the result of a joint campaign conducted by OEL Local 96, the Retail Furniture Workers' Union, a master contract has been signed which grants substantial wage increases to over 100 workers employed in retail furniture stores in the Los Angeles area, according to A. A. Ribe, business representative of the local.

The clauses of the new agreement provide for a 5% increase in wages, aforementioned parts 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.

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. D. M. Smith, to determine 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 OEU.

In its petition the union requested bargaining rights also for the supervising mailmen and other employees in the shipping room office, the billing department, credit department, production control department, and stock supervisor. The NLRB in its decision has directed that a separate petition be sent to the Board for such other employees as may be included among such office supervisory employees, who will likewise have an opportunity to vote as to whether or not they desire to be represented by Local 155.

The Sterling Grinding Wheel Division manufactures abrasive grinding wheels. Organization of this office force into Local 155 was completed by Vice President Daughton in a concentrated four-day drive last summer. Practically all eligible workers have signed up for membership in the union.

The employer insisted that the union go through the formal NLRL procedure of filing a formal charge and 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.

3 MILLION ELIGIBLE FOR U. S. SECURITY BENEFITS

Washington, D. C.—Approximately 3,000,000 men and women 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, and some in the near future will have a similar claim to it. The number who have 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 "male" and "female" wage rates which has long been urged by the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor, to get a new fact on the problem, the Bureau recently asked field agents to 29 states for information on women's wages by 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 23 covering the office force of the Rock-Ola Mfg. Co. bringing substantial improvements in working conditions, wage increases, paid vacations and employment conditions to the 60 office employees of this firm, according to Business Representative Sarah S. Keenan, who handled the negotiations.

In addition to establishing classified seniority and a general increase of $2.50 a week was obtained for all members. Two weeks' paid vacation and one week paid holidays in addition to the other working conditions of the contract were also included in the agreement to submit to the members of the local union.

As part of the negotiations the local union also succeeded in winning for the group a share in the annual bonus granted by the company to the plant employees. The office force will therefore receive a one-year bonus of 50 percent of their annual salary if they have been employed less than five years and 3 percent for each additional year of employment longer than that period. This is the same bonus granted to the plant workers. The agreement is effective retroactive to November 6.

**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 197 and the S. Morgan Smith Co.

Among the other benefits of the pact secured by the local negotiating committee with the assistance of International Vice President George F. 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 for the three local unions in the city were negotiated last week, according to Local 133 of the American Federation of Labor.

A new agreement between the Local 13 and the Busch-Sulzer Diesel Engine Company resulted in an increase of 21 cents per hour for all office employees 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 employees of the same company at Springfield, Mo. The bargaining rights of the local union were determined by a check-off procedure and paid vacations are being applied to the membership cards held by the local union and was conducted by the National Labor 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 13, with the cooperation of the Store Mounders International Union, is engaged in organizational activity among the office workers employed by the American Stove Co. As a result of this activity, and by the Tobacco Workers International Union, Local 13 is contesting the office workers employed by the American Tobacco Co., 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-Treasurer of Local 13, and A. F. of L. Organizer J. H. Skaggs.

**SOCIAL SECURITY IS INSURANCE!**

You wouldn't throw away a life insurance policy would you?

Find Out About Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Benefits from your Union Social Security Committee, Or the Nearest Social Security Office.

**SOCIAL SECURITY WINS FOR SHIP YARD WORKERS**

Seattle, Wash. — Cullminating a long struggle to obtain the benefits of the Pacific Coast ship repair agreement for members of Local 8 employed by the Puget Sound Shipbuilders, the employers' association, Signing the agreement for the Company was M. E. Shoemaker, while R. J. Lamont signed for industry.

Business Representative Erickson, who is also an OEIU vice president, received congratulations from many sources as the result of the victory which she achieved in the long struggle by 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 167 of the Portland Fish Co., with A. F. of L. Organizer Aaron Vellman making the 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 employees of 15 years or more service.

The local also reports additional gains made by the Standard Brush Co., with wage increases up to $4.00 a week going to new employees and supplementing the general gains made in the last ten days of July. This company has instituted a health and accident policy for its employees, 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 ceremonies. At the last meeting it was reported by Recording Secretary Ida Vellman, the members took chest x-rays in cooperation with the City of Boston current anti-tuberculosis program.

**PACT NEGOTIATED WITH BOILER FIRM**

Osseo, Minn. — Improvements in wages and working conditions have been secured by Local 125 for the office workers at the Pittsburgh 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, and a two-week paid vacation; five paid holidays and cumulative sick leave.

**INCREASE WON FOR SHIP YARD WORKERS**

Social Security for Ship Yard Workers

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**Secure Increase At United Grocers**

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