BIG GAINS AT GULF REFINERY

Wage Boost and Other Gains Secured at Brokerage House

New York City—Wage increases, ranging up to $11.50 per week, retroactive to March 1, were secured by UFE Local 206 of the OEU in settlement of the dispute with A. M. Kidder & Co., brokerage concern which threatened to tie up the Wall Street Stock and Curb Exchanges.

When negotiations with the company deadlocked, the workers voted to strike and the local served notice on the Exchanges of cancellation of appointments so that employees of the latter would not be forced to handle Kidder work.

Then Mayor O'Dwyer intervened and appointed a conciliation committee, composed of William A. Galvin, labor representative; Arthur A. Whiteside, management representative, and Grover A. Whalen, chairman and public representative. It was agreed to submit the Kiddier wage questions to arbitration and to reinstate the Exchange contracts. A settlement of other matters in dispute brought these further gains:
1. Overtime after 36 1/2 hours: weekly pay instead of semi-monthly; $8 increase in addition to overtime; three-week vacations after 5 years; severance pay up to 10 weeks for any worker laid off; automatic rehiring of laid-off personnel; union security and checkoff of dues; equitable distribution of bonuses; grievance machinery.
2. "In today's uncertain volume, with retrenchment rapidly becoming a common practice, Kiddier's employees are assured wage increases that cannot be cut and of working conditions that cannot be changed," emphasized President M. David Keefe of Local 205. "The security of employment standards in A. M. Kiddier stand out like the Rock of Gibraltar in company, in the stability of unorganized firms."

The agreement was signed by OEU Vice President Carson and First Vice President C. G. Probey. OEU Local 206 of Grayhound on June 19, a 1963, was the company recognized the OEU as the exclusive bargaining agency for all office and clerical workers carried on the office payroll of the Southeastern Greyhound Lines, and that the company would bargain with OEU as the exclusive bargaining agency for all such employees.

The Southeastern Greyhound Lines operates in the States of Kentucky, Texas, Alabama, and Florida, and employs well over 200 office and clerical workers who are now represented by the OEU, which has for the past several years represented and bargained for the office employees at Jacksonville, Florida, offices and offices in its offices in Nashville, Chattanooga, and its other smaller offices in these states, made a new agreement of line-wide bargaining rights.

The agreement negotiations with Southeastern Lines will commence in Jacksonville this month with members from each of the local departments of the participating offices with OEU Vice President A. R. Carson.

ELECTION WON AT INGALLS SHIPYARD

Pascagoula, Miss.—By a vote of almost two to one the office and clerical employees of the local employees of the Shipyard voted on June 20 in an NLRB election to select OEU Local 324 as their exclusive bargaining agency, according to International President J. O. Bloodworth, Jr., who worked with the officers of the local union in the conduct of this election campaign.

The various AFL trades at Pascagoula and their officers and representatives gave splendid assistance to Vice President Bloodworth in this election campaign, and President W. L. Lines of the Mississippi State Federation of Labor personally assisted and played an important part in the success of the campaign.

This successful election culminates efforts on the part of the office and clerical workers of this company during the past several years to obtain organization and the benefits of collective bargaining. Considerable resistance was encountered in an attempt to defeat the employees' desire for organization.

The President Bloodworth is assisting the local union in the drafting of its agreement proposals, upon which negotiations with the company will shortly commence.

Secure Raise at Struthers-Wells

Titusville, Pa.—Across-the-board increases in wages of 11½ cents per hour were obtained in the new joint agreement negotiated between the iron works division of the Struthers-Wells Corp. and OEU Local 85 and Technical Engineers of the plant, who bargained with George P. Firth, OEU representative, who handled the negotiations together with the local union's committee.

All previous working condition benefits gained in the old contract were maintained, and several increases were further strengthened as a result of the recent negotiations, according to Firth.

UP NEWSPAPER WAGES

Washington, D. C.—An across-the-board increase of 15 cents per hour was won for all office and clerical workers employed by LABOR, the weekly newspaper of the standard railroad labor organizations, according to W. R. Proheby, President of OEU Local 2, and Mrs. Belle Burrows, shop steward of the local, who handled the negotiation of this increase.

AVERAGE BOOST IS $54 PER MONTH

Port Arthur, Tex.—Close to 200 office workers employed at the large Gulf Oil Corp. Port Arthur Refinery will receive approximately $55,000 in retroactive pay under the wage classifications and increases provided by a new contract just signed by OEU Local 66, according to International President C. A. Staffond who assisted Local President J. L. Lamire and the negotiating committee in its conferences.

Under the terms of the agreement all office workers received a $26 per hour cost-of-living adjustment retroactive to March 1, and addition to classification increases of from $14 to $28 per month, which are retroactive to the same date.

Vice President Stafford reports that the cost-of-living adjustment and the increments will average over $54 per employee per month and that the retroactive payments will total approximately $56,000.

Other Benefits

Other important gains in the current negotiations included a substantial revision of the seniority provision so as to assure a senior employee of a trial period on an open higher rated position where the employee in question was previously employed.

In other cases of promotion, as well as in layoffs, rehiring, etc., seniority priority is now the rule.

Improvements were also won in the classifications and an additional 14 jobs were upgraded with provisions being made for additional up-grading to be secured during the contract year, with regular meetings with management to be held on this question at least every four months.

Other improvements included the bettering of the vacation plan so as to provide two weeks paid vacation for all employees with one year of service and three weeks paid vacation for employees with 15 or more years of service with the company.

Took Strike Vote

The negotiations with the company extended over a number of months and the final agreement was reached after the company employed in the refinery, with the approval of the membership of the entire local union, had taken a strike vote and had received strike sanction from International President J. L. Lamire, who had personally participated in many of the negotiation conferences while in Port Arthur last May.

With regard to the new agreement President Hutchings, stated: "The worth while gains and benefits (Continued on page 4)
The Roll Call Vote

Washington, D.C.—The vote by which the Senate overrode President Truman's veto of the Taft-Hartley Bill follows:

FOR OVERTIDING—48

Republicans—48

Aiken
Baldwin
Ball
Ballenger
Bricker
Brooks
Bridges
Brooks
Butler
Bushfield
Butler
Cadenhead
Capper
Carr
Cordon
Donnell

Democrats—20

Byrd
Calloway
Eastland
Ellender
Fulbright
George
Hatch

Langer

Barkey
Chavez
Downey
Green
Hayden
Hill
Johnson (Col.)
Johnston (S. C.)

Democrats—22

Overton
Myers
O'Mahoney
Pepper
Kilgore
McKellar
O'Connor
O'Daniel

Malone
Morse

Green Hits Congress

President William Green of the American Federation of Labor announced that the AFL will undertake an immediate drive for the repeal of the new anti-labor law. He said:

"Congress has made a tragic mistake by enacting the Taft-Hartley Bill over the President's veto. The new law will not promote industrial peace. On the contrary, it will force widespread warfare. The consequences are likely to be heavy and costly in terms of reduced production. The chaotic conditions produced by the Taft-Hartley Act will endanger our national economy. Labor will never become reconciled to this law. The free working men and women of our country will never acquiesce in the abridgment of their fundamental rights and freedoms. The American Federation of Labor will launch an immediate campaign for the prompt repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act. We believe that the law will prove such a boomerang that its sponsors and supporters will be voted out of office by the American people next year."

LABOR DEPARTMENT REVAMP DEFEATED

Washington, D.C.—The Senate killed President Truman's plan to reorganize the Labor Department, ignoring warnings that the action would leave the Secretary of Labor little to do but collect stamp taxes. Mr. Truman had proposed that the United States Employment Service be placed permanently in the department and that the Wage-Hour Administration be made subject to control of the Labor Secretary.

As a result of the Senate action, the Labor Department, already stripped of the United States Conciliation Service by the Taft-Hartley Labor Law, loses control of USES to the Social Security Board.

Rejection of the plan also frees the Wage-Hour administrator from some rules and regulations under the Wage-Hour Law. The plan would have transferred the administrative functions of the Fair Labor Standards Act to Secretary of Labor Lewis B. Schwellenbach. Administration of the Wage-Hour Law remains under the Labor Department "for housekeeping purposes," but the administrator, not Schwellenbach, will continue to have chief responsibility for its operation.

Unions Urged To Establish Co-ops

Washington, D.C.—The American Federation of Labor called upon its members to establish cooperative stores, credit unions, and factories as the only effective means of reducing prices.

Citing the need for lower prices and increased purchasing power for workers to maintain "full production" and "full employment," the AFL's Labor Monthly Survey declared, "By organizing as consumers in cooperatives we can mobilize our buying power to achieve these goals."

The AFL report said, "We cannot afford to wait. Almost every AFL member spends at least $300 a year on living necessities. These dollars, spent in cooperative stores, will bring lower prices and good quality. Our 7,609,000 members, buying in consumer cooperatives and saving our credit unions, can be an immense power for good."

"The AFL has repeatedly said that the forces of competition would reduce prices. So enough good products are produced to meet the demand," the Survey said. "But today many factories producing while prices hold at high levels."

"This year's experience has proved beyond doubt that talk alone will not bring prices down. There has been no significant decline in the prices of either industrial or consumer prices this year."

In support of its position, the Survey cited the experience of farmers in holding fertilizer prices down through the organization of consumer cooperatives to produce and distribute that commodity. Significantly, the report declared, the price of fertilizer stayed down relatively while other prices were rising. During the year ending in March, the Survey found, fertilizer prices were 16 percent down in the face of a 28 percent increase in general industrial prices.

Minimum Wage Hike Proposed

Washington, D.C.—Senator Pepper, on behalf of 10 other Senators, introduced a bill to raise the minimum legal wage for workers in interstate commerce from 40 cents an hour to 65 cents immediately, to 70 cents at the end of one year and to 75 cents a year after that. The bill was introduced in answer to reports that the minimum was "depressing the standard of living" and that it was "a remnant of the days when wages were determined by the sweat and labor of the workers in a struggle with the rich employer." Senator Pepper said that the bill was an attempt to "eliminate the absolute floor of wages and to bring them up to a level at which they will support the workers and their families comfortably and decently."
BIG MAJORITY FOR OEU AT TRANE CO.

LaCrosse, Wisc.—By an overwhelming vote of 56 to 8 the production clerical workers employed by the Trane Company of this city voted for representation through the OEU and its Local No. 44, according to OEU Vice President Alice Holz who handled the organization and election campaign for the International Union.

The full cooperation and assistance of the production workers AFL federal labor union and its officers was promised to this achievement, according to Vice President Holz.

Work has already commenced on the drafting of proposed clauses for a working agreement to be negotiated with the company. The employees are enthusiastic and it is anticipated that as a result of the organization of the production clerical workers of the Trane Company, the company will show interest in obtaining the benefits of union representation.

WAGES INCREASED

Warren, Pa.—General wage increases of 12½ and 13½ per cent per hour for the general office force and production clerical force of the Struthers-Wells Division of Struthers-Wells Corp., were won in a new agreement recently negotiated between OEU Local 386 and the company, according to Representative George F. Pirth who assisted the local union in its negotiations.

NEW RADIO SERIES

Washington, D. C.—Beginning July 1, the Labor Bureau of Labor inaugurated a series of radio broadcasts over the nationwide network of the American Broadcasting Company.

The first nine programs will originate each Saturday afternoon at 6:45 P.M., Eastern Daylight Time, from the nation's capital. Beginning Sept. 2, the program, known as "Labor-USA" series, is sponsored by the LABOR UNION and will be broadcast from 6:30 to 7:00 P.M. Please be certain to consult your local newspaper for the exact times of these broadcasts in your own community as some local stations may be forced by earlier commitments to change the programs at some later time.

This is the third successive year that the Labor Bureau of Labor has conducted the "Labor-USA" series for twenty-six consecutive weeks—the last half of the year. In previous years, the program consisted of a combination of news and discussion under the subtitle "The American Federationist of the Air."

A new format will be tried out this year and the program will be devoted to round-table discussions, completely extemporaneous and unrehearsed, of major topics in labor relations and those affecting the nation's workers. If these discussions prove popular, they will be continued throughout the series.

Make sure to listen to each of these programs to keep informed on labor news and views!

Kick Off For Label Show

Leaders of AFL Unions Map Taft-Hartley Fight

Washington, D. C.—National and international officers of A. F. of L. unions mapped a militant program of action against the anti-labor Taft-Hartley act at a special conference here.

The Office Employes International Union was represented by International President Paul D. Haberman, and the United Press International Office, according to Representative George F. Pirth who assisted the local union in its negotiations.

Initial plans for the elaborate Union-Industries Show, to be held in Milwaukee, May 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 1948, were inaugurated recently by the Labor Union Label Corporation, which sponsors the unique exhibition. Preliminary arrangements were made by (from left) J. M. Ornburn, Director of the Union-Industries Show, Harold J. Fitzgerald, President of Fox Wisconsin Amusement Corporation (industry member); George A. Haberman, President of the Wisconsin State Federation of Labor (labor member), and Mayor John L. Bohn, representing the City of Milwaukee.

Washington, D. C.—National and international officers of A. F. of L. unions mapped a militant program of action against the anti-labor Taft-Hartley act at a special conference here.

The Office Employes International Union was represented by International President Paul D. Haberman, and the United Press International Office, according to Representative George F. Pirth who assisted the local union in its negotiations.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Shocking child labor abuses, including the employment of children in hazardous occupations, and a 400 percent increase in violations of child labor laws were reported by the Department of Labor.

The Department's Division of Labor Standards issued a report declaring that more than 3 million young girls and boys were employed on jobs where they are exposed to dangerous accidents.

Many of these cases of illegal employment of children are not brought to the attention of the department if the accident occurs, and the division pointed out.

"Children were found working at too young an age, for too long hours, in hazardous jobs, at night work, or under other undesirable conditions," the division's report declared.

Stresses Value of Union Label

Washington, D. C.—In an address over the Congress of Industrial Organizations, J. M. Ornburn, secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Labor Union Label Trades Department, stressed the value and importance of the union label in these uncertain times.

"American prosperity cannot be sustained at a high level for all workers unless consumers purchase union-made goods," said Mr. Ornburn declared.

The official seal of labor-management cooperation is the union label. It gives the consumer assurance that products are made under established conditions according to American labor standards."

11% of 40,000 Employers Violated Wage Law

Washington, D. C.—In a recent discussion of the minimum wage problem, John J. Schwellenbach announced that Wage and Hour inspectors found minimum wage violations in 11% of the 40,000 business establishments visited during the past year.

CHILDREN EXPLOITED

"In hazardous occupations, and a 400 percent increase in violations of child labor laws were reported by the Department of Labor."
SOUTHERN KRAFT INCREASES WON

Mobile, Ala.—A general wage increase of 25 cents per shift, retroactive to March 1, was granted by the Kraft Paper Mills of the Southern Kraft Division of the International Paper Company, has been announced by Elwood Stafford, AFL vice-president, to OEU Vice President A. R. Carson who worked out the negotiations of this increase in conjunction with the other Kraft unions, the International Paper Company, the office and clerical workers employed at the Kreole, Mississippi plant of the company, which had already signed up for membership in the OEU and have applied for a local union charter, according to President J. O. Bloodworth, Jr., who assisted this group in organizing.

World Labor Action Proposed by A.F.L.

Washington, D. C.—Urging world labor action to bring about economic recovery, prosperity and peace, Matthew Woll, AFL vice-president and chairman of the federation’s labor action committee, made a program calling for the establishment in all countries of labor unions free from government domination.

Such organizations, according to the A.F.L. program presented at fighting domination in all parts of the world, in speeding up the re-construction of world production and a speedy and real world peace, "just and enduring world peace."

Mr. Woll maintained that the world economic crisis offered no basis for such a program of cooperation because it was manipulated and dominated by the Russian Government, through its agencies, spies and satelites.

The AFL vice-president ridiculed the notion that the Soviet unions could be outvoted in the WFTU by the representatives of the Congress of Industrial Organizations and the British Trades Union Congress. He said Communists and their sympathizers were leading this world-wide movement in determining the foreign policy of the CIO, although he specifically deflects Philip Murray, national executive-president, from sharing the Communist viewpoint. In any case, Mr. Woll added, the Soviet unions' actions could outvote the CIO and the British on any issue in which a conflict of interests existed.

He made plain that the AFL was not proposing the organization at this time of any international union but would stress cooperation with such bodies as might come into being at a later date.

Further Threat to Worker's Purse

Washington, D. C.—The nation faces another serious meat shortage which threatens to drive prices upward to unprecedented heights. This additional burden is adding to the already developing shortage, an indication of the seriousness of the situation is the statement of Edward A. O'Neal, conservative leader of the Monopoly-Bureau Federation, before a joint congressional committee. At best, he said, the public can expect to adapt "voluntary meat rationing" and might even be required to resort to price control.

In this, Senator Robert A. Taft promptly replied, "Not a chance."

The Senate Republican leader declared the "law of supply and demand will help keep a kind of ceiling on—if prices are too high, people won't pay."

He added, "and we can eat something else."

STANDARD GAS

Baltimore, Md.—A substantial majority of all office and clerical workers employed by the Standard Gas and Electric Company, who are members of the local union, according to OEU representative George P. Firth who is working with the local union that is affiliated with AFL Organizer Anne Neary. Neary, Organizer Neary succeeded in organizing a majority of this group. By a special meeting held last month President Hutchings obliged the first group of applicants into membership.

Further Gains Won at Magnolia

Beaumont, Tex.—Further gains supplementing those previously established in the current agreement have been obtained in recent negotiations with the Magnolia Refining Company, according to OEU Vice President R. C. Beatson, and Local 169. Another 3 1/2 percent increase in the existing cost-of-living allowance for all members of the office staff, together with improvements in the seniority schedule, accruing employes wages of a 30-day period to qualify on a new job.

In addition, a number of wage reclassifications were also negotiated.

GULF REFINERY

(Continued from page 1)

both in wages and in working conditions which have been achieved by our membership employed by the Magnolia Refining Company, said Arthur Refinery give ample testimony of the fact that working together and properly using the principles of collective bargaining we can obtain large and worthy results for our employees.

"The membership here involved and its militant negotiating committee, said Mr. Refinery the Lemaire and International Vice President Stafford, are to be heartily commended as the latest results achieved through their many months of negotiations with the company. The office workers in the refining industry are more and more coming to realize the fact that they can really help themselves through OEU organization."

GREAT NORTHERN WAGES INCREASE

Millinocket, Me.—Recent negotiations with the Great Northern Paper Company by OEU Local 92 have resulted in a 25 cents and other contract benefits, according to Raymond J. Jamieson, AFL vice-president and local president of the local, that the general agreement contract includes the payment of time and one-half for off-shift work, an additional two working days off without loss of pay over and above the 40 hours of personal time off already enjoyed, and provision for bulletinling of new or open positions.

House Freeze Tax for Social Security

Washington, D. C.—The House passed a bill to freeze the social security payroll tax at one percent until 1960.

Representative Reed (N., Y.) produced it as "the last freeze" of present rates that Congress will approve.

The measure would block a two-billion-dollar annual increase in the social security levy beginning January 1, 1960, by the Senate and accepted by President Truman.

But it provides increases beginning in 1962.

Without the freeze, the security level would jump automatically from one percent against employers' wages and employers' payroll to 2.5 percent against each starting the first of next year.

The present one percent rate collects about $1,500,000,000 annually and has accumulated $8,700,000,000 in a security trust fund. The freeze was presented after a Ways and Means Subcommittee, of which Reed is chairman, was informed by the trust fund from which the Government pays old age and survivors insurance.

The new legislation provides for an increase in the tax to 1.5 percent against wages and payrolls in 1960, and to 2.5 percent in 1962 and thereafter. With the inclusion of this formula for future increases, the bill had the support of both Republicans and Democrats.

The measure also continues, to June 30, 1961, the one percent contributions, to needy aged persons, the blind, and dependent children.

The maximum Federal contribution for each needy case was raised from $20 a month to $25. States contributions to these benefits.

NRB ELECTION WON

Cleveland, Ohio.—The office force of the National Retail Parts Association voted by a more than 70 percent vote in favor of representation through OEU Local 17, thus establishing its exclusive bargaining rights for this office, according to Business Representative Pearl Hanna of the local union.