

Avalanche of Protests

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"This bill will, at a critical time, tend to weaken the foundations of free collective bargaining and will impair the growing values of the impartial umpire and of voluntary and binding arbitration.

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The agreements were negotiated by the local union negotiating committee, chaired by G. V. Evans, and included President J. L. Lemaire and Local Secretary-Treasurer Claude Bourque in addition to other committee members. During the last stages of the negotiations OEIU Vice President C. A. Stafford and International President Paul R. Hutchings assisted.

Female Office

Workers Decline

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Comparable declines in the number of women employed in other occupations are evidenced by the reported loss of 140,000 saleswomen, 320,000 domestic service workers and 290,000 service workers employed in other occupations.

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Mr. Kranis said increased foreign buying is the principal reason for the upswing in the price level. European buyers are willing to pay up to 4 cents a pound more than domestic buyers, he stated. Opposing his views were meat industry spokesmen in Chicago who denied that exports had been large enough to have any appreciable effect upon the domestic price structure.

"Summer months always see an increase in meat prices," said Carl Bromann, executive secretary of the Association Food Dealers of Greater Chicago. "For the past 60

to 90 days retailers have been holding prices steady and wholesale prices have been going up. It reached the point where the only economical thing the retailer could do was raise his own prices."

Regardless of the reasons, the fact that meat prices are up again comes as disillusioning news to the vast majority of Americans whose incomes have by no means kept up with high flying prices. The news is doubly bitter in the light of statements made a year ago when industry leaders waged their successful campaign for the death of the OPA. Glowing promises were made that once Government controls were ended prices would come down.

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OLIVER FILTERS CONTRACT SIGNED

Hazleton, Pa.—General wage increases amounting to 13 cents per hour and a corresponding increase in the minimum hiring rate high light the agreement just completed with the Oliver United Filters, Inc., and OEIU Local 202, according to George P. Firth, OEIU representative, who handled the negotiations together with the local union committee. The wage gains achieved are retroactive to May 1.

Other high lights of the agreement include the establishment of full seniority rights, the five-day, forty-hour week, with time and one-half for all overtime and holiday work. Employees are assured of six paid holidays each year and of one week's paid vacation after six months and two weeks' after one year's service. Provision is made for the arbitration of grievances which cannot be otherwise satisfactorily settled.

Of assistance in the last stages of the negotiations were U. S. Conciliator Frank Walsh and James Wetmore of the Pennsylvania Mediation Board.

MARGARET TRUMAN GETS UNION CARD

Washington, D. C.—Margaret Truman, daughter of the President, has joined the American Federation of Labor. She is reported to be the first member of a White House family to ever hold a union card.

As a member of the American Guild of Musical Artists, associated with the Actors and Artistes of America (AFL), Miss Truman's appearances as a concert artist in various cities throughout the country will present no embarrassment from a labor angle. She will be given the full cooperation of musicians, stagehands and electricians wherever she appears.

Miss Truman made her initial appearance in a broadcast from Detroit March 16 and is slated to appear soon in Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Dallas, Fort Worth, Amarillo, Oklahoma City and perhaps other cities.

Miss Truman's initial appearance in Pittsburgh was cancelled by the grave illness of her grandmother.

NATIONAL BISCUIT INCREASES GAINED

Providence, R. I.—Wage increases ranging from \$4 to \$7 per week were obtained in the new agreement negotiated for the members of OEIU Local 76 employed by the National Biscuit Company, according to Raymond J. Jamieson, AFL-OEIU representative who assisted Local President Harold Collins and Shop Steward Louise Simone in the agreement negotiations.

In addition to the increase gained, the six automatic wage progression steps have been shortened so that it now takes only thirty months to reach the maximums which previously required three years.

THE OFFICE WORKER

Official organ of the
OFFICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION



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

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IS THIS FAIR?

While much has been written and said to expose the unfairness of the slave labor bill—the Taft-Hartley Bill as reported by the Joint Conference Committee of Congress and passed by both Houses, a most interesting story lies behind the slight change made in the definition of the term “employer.” The Joint Conference report as adopted by the Congress, re-defined an employer under the National Labor Relations Act so as to specifically exclude all Federal Reserve Banks. This slight change, though innocent looking on the surface, gives stark testimony of the extent to which the banking industry and the Federal Reserve Board will go in attempting to prevent the growth of organization and collective bargaining among bank employees.

In the Spring of 1946, the employees of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas became interested in organization and within a few short weeks a substantial majority of the more than 500 workers employed by that bank had signed up with OEIU. The two outstanding leaders of this group who fearlessly participated in the organizing drive were J. Floyd Clouse and Charles H. Terry, both of whom had been employed by this bank since 1918.

We immediately petitioned the NLRB for an election and encountered the vigorous opposition of Mr. Eccles and the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, who saw fit to intervene in our case and to vigorously contend to the NLRB that it lacked jurisdiction to hold an election among the employees of this bank. In essence, their argument was that the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas was in effect a government institution. This argument was punctured by the facts set forth in the briefs which we filed with the NLRB and which clearly established that the employees of the Federal Reserve Banks are not government employees, that the Federal Reserve Banks are wholly owned by the member commercial banks in their district, and that the agency func-

Avalanche of Protests Hits White House

Washington, D. C.—Protests against the Taft-Hartley Bill and demands that President Truman veto it hit the White House like an avalanche.

Thus the voice of labor is being heard in Washington, heard in the White House. It constitutes a mighty and impressive mandate against the legislation.

On the day that the Taft-Hartley “mild as murder” Bill reached the White House, Eden Ayers, Presidential press aide, announced officially that a torrent of letters and post cards is pouring in upon President Truman. He said 350,000 post cards, 100,000 letters already have been received, besides thousands of telegrams.

“The great majority” of these communications from the people back home appeal for a veto of the Taft-Hartley bill, Mr. Ayers said.

Denounced by Green

Following Senate passage of the bill, AFL President William Green issued a statement denouncing it and urging the President to veto it. He said:

“The issue is now squarely up to President Truman.

“Passage of the Taft-Hartley Bill by Congress places the decision in the President's hands as to whether industrial democracy shall survive in America.

“The sponsors of this legislation profess that it is a mild bill which will not hurt the nation's workers.

“But the President will find, after careful analysis of the 73-page document, that it contains numerous and dangerous ‘joker’ provisions which threaten to nullify many of the fundamental gains of labor over the last half-century.

Real Purpose

“The whole purpose and intent of this bill is to weaken the bargaining power of labor and to restrict the activities of unions in defense of the American standard of living. If it becomes law, the inevitable effect will be to reduce our present high standards and high purchasing power, thus paving the way for a disastrous depression.

tions which they perform for the Federal Government, as required by the Federal Reserve Act, are paid for by the Federal Government just as the government pays for other services which it needs.

The NLRB thereupon ordered a pre-hearing election held last November to give these bank workers an opportunity to vote as to whether or not they desired to be represented by our International Union. This pre-hearing election reserved to the bank its full rights to a hearing on the question of whether the Board had jurisdiction over its operations. Various lines of conduct were engaged in by the bank and by some of its employees, who set up a stooge independent anti-union committee with the result that despite our substantial sign-up the November election was lost.

Thereafter the bank rent its vengeance on J. Floyd Clouse and Charles H. Terry by forcing the retirement of these two long term workers in advance of their prescribed retirement age. Immediate recourse was had to the NLRB and all of the facts in connection with

“The other day President Truman denounced Senator Taft's price policy as ‘fallacious and dangerous.’ Those terms can be applied with even greater force to the Taft-Hartley Bill. Its most evil provisions are masked with deceptive double-talk and hypocrisy intended to mislead Congress and the American people.

Asks Veto

“In the name of the 7,500,000 members of the American Federation of Labor and all their friends, I respectfully appeal to President Truman to veto this bill which would otherwise disrupt peaceful labor-management relations in American industry.

“For that very same reason, the President last year vetoed the Case Bill which was far less drastic and reprehensible than the Taft-Hartley Bill—and Congress upheld him.

“I am confident that if the President vetoes the Taft-Hartley Bill and points out to Congress how dangerous it would be for the nation, his veto will again be sustained.”

The Truth

Here is the truth about the bill, which its sponsors call “mild”, a statement as full of deception as the bill itself:

1—The Taft-Hartley Bill would destroy the basis of 50,000 labor-management contracts now in existence, covering some six million workers.

2—It would make it impossible for unions to sign any new contracts with management to insure stable industrial relations, because the bill nullifies union security.

3—It would kill the whole purpose and intent of the Wagner Act, labor's Magna Carta, because it would permit recalcitrant employers to discharge their full obligation under the law by saying “No” and keep on saying “No” to any and all union proposals on wages and working conditions.

4—Under the Taft-Hartley Bill the dummy “company union,” which was outlawed by the Wagner Act, would be restored to full legality,

these two discharges were studied by Board officials who then went into consultation with the Federal Reserve Board relative to obtaining the reinstatement of these men and to require the bank to post notices that it would cease and desist interfering in the activities of its employees to organize in a union of their own choosing.

While these conferences were in process, the Joint Conference Committee of the House and Senate, which had before it the Taft and Hartley Bills, reworded sub-section 2 of section 2 of the bills so as to prevent Federal Reserve Bank employees from enjoying the protection assured to other non-governmental workers under the National Labor Relations Act. The timing of this move shows its significance.

It is quite apparent to us why these words were added to the Committee's report. This language was deliberately inserted so as to prevent 27,000 employees of the Federal Reserve Banks from enjoying collective bargaining and the protection provided for other workers, including other bank workers.

thus encouraging certain employers to fight unions.

5—It revives the hated doctrine of conspiracy against unions by depriving workers of their right to strike in concert for a number of legitimate objectives while permitting workers to quit their jobs individually. This is typical of the tricky deception with which the bill was framed because, as everyone knows, a strike cannot be effective unless the workers strike together.

6—It restores “Government by Injunction,” subjecting workers to court decrees compelling them to work even against their will for private employers. This nullifies the Norris-LaGuardia Act.

7—It permits damage suits in the Federal Courts against unions, thus arming labor-hating employers with a weapon to harass unions to death.

8—For the first time in the history of America, the Taft-Hartley Bill sets up rigid regimentation and control by a Federal bureaucracy of labor-management relations and union activities.

9—Here's a typical example of deception—cheap deception! In conference, the definition of an “employer” under the bill was changed to exclude Federal Reserve Banks from being considered employers, thus depriving thousands of workers in these privately owned banks of the right to join a union to improve their conditions.

10—In sum, the Taft-Hartley Bill so drastically weakens and impairs the status of labor organizations and so tightly restricts their activities as to make it impossible for them to protect wage standards—a calamity which is bound to lead to a Taft-Hartley depression.

Further Condemned

Three former members of the War Labor Board further condemned the measure.

Senator Wayne L. Morse of Oregon declared:

“I voted against the Taft-Ives-Hartley Bill because in my judgment it is administratively unwork-

(Continued on page 4)

The merit of our charges against the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas in its discriminatory practices and in the discharge of Brothers Terry and Clouse is thus clearly shown. If the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas should be required to restore these two competent workers to service, it would give new hope to the hundreds of other employees of that bank and their subsequent organization would thus be assured. The way to “handle” this kind of situation in the minds of some of our legislators, at least, is to cut off this whole group of bank workers from any collective bargaining rights. This is indeed a sad commentary on our legislative process today.

Our hats are off to J. Floyd Clouse and Charles H. Terry and to their valiant supporters in the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. To them we pledge our continued effort to win for them the equitable and fair treatment which they so richly deserve.

PAUL R. HUTCHINGS,
International President.

INGALLS SHIPYARD ELECTION ORDERED

Pascagoula, Miss.—A secret ballot election ordered by the NLRB will be conducted on June 20 among the office and clerical workers employed by the Ingalls Shipbuilding Corporation. These workers will have an opportunity to vote as to whether or not they desire to be represented by the OEIU and its Local 204 of this city.

The NLRB election order is the result of the organization of the office and clerical staff of the yard some months ago, with the assistance of W. L. Hines, President of the Mississippi Federation of Labor.

International Vice President J. O. Bloodworth, Jr., has assisted the local union in its election campaign, and judging from the interest shown by the office and clerical workers of this yard it is anticipated that a substantial majority vote for OEIU will be obtained.

Union Label Show Set

Washington, D. C.—I. M. Ornburn, Secretary-Treasurer of the Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, has announced that the third Union-Industries Show will be held in Milwaukee from May 12 to 16, 1948. The exhibition, of which he is director, is sponsored by the Union Label Trades.

"We have developed two sensationally successful shows, the first in Cincinnati in 1938, and the second in St. Louis in 1946," Mr. Ornburn stated, "and we are confident that our 1948 show in the Milwaukee Auditorium will be one of the most outstanding events of its kind in the history of the American labor movement."

UNION MAN ON BOARD OF BANK OF ENGLAND

Charles Dukes, president of the British Trades Union Congress last year and a trade union official since 1913, has been named to the court of the Bank of England, the Old Lady of Threadneedle Street.

The court functions as the policy-making body of the bank, which was transferred to full public ownership by the Labor government last year.

Oakland Wins Further Gains

Oakland, Cal.—A recently negotiated contract with the American News Company has brought a general increase of \$26 a month to the office employees who are members of OEIU Local 29.

This increase duplicates the \$26 per month general increase received as a result of negotiations one year ago and thus these members have benefitted by a total of \$52 per month general increase since they organized into Local 29 a year ago, according to Business Representative John Kinnick of the local union who handled the negotiations. This represents an increase of approximately 40 percent over their previous rates. The new contract is a full union shop contract with a 5-day, 40-hour week Monday

Union Wins Reinstatement With Back Pay for Workers

Tampa, Fla.—Finding that Spencer Auto Electric, Inc., engaged in unfair labor practices in violation of the National Labor Relations Act, the National Labor Relations Board has ordered the company to cease and desist and to reinstate with back pay four members of OEIU Local 46 and to restore to their full seniority and other rights and privileges two other members.

The charges were filed by Local 46 and at the hearing before Trial Examiner Irving Rogosin the union was represented by its Business Representative J. O. Bloodworth, Jr., who also is a vice president of OEIU.

Ordered reinstated and reimbursed for wages lost since December, 1945, are: Charles B. Harte, discharged for his activity in assisting in the organization of the office and clerical workers of the firm; Neta Rickard, Margaret F. Childers and Lilah D. Lagrew, who went on strike following Harte's discharge and were denied reinstatement by the company. Restoration of seniority and other rights and privileges was ordered

for Ethel Zaborowski and "Johnnie" Jones.

The board found that the workers were discriminated against for union activity.

The company was ordered to cease and desist from discouraging membership in the union; from interrogating employees concerning union membership or activities; from instructing any employe to check and report upon organizational activities; from warning or threatening its employes that wage increases would be jeopardized by membership in the union; from warning employes that they would be subject to discharge for engaging in concerted or union activities; from requiring striking employes to submit to a personal interview as a condition for reinstatement and from interfering with, restraining or coercing its employes in any manner in the exercise of the right to join the union and bargain collectively.

The company was further ordered to post immediately a notice acknowledging and affirming the order.

NLRB ELECTION WON AT LINE MATERIAL

East Stroudsburg, Pa.—By an overwhelming vote of 41 to 18, the office force of the Line Material Co. plant in this city in a recent NLRB election has chosen OEIU Local 201 as its exclusive bargaining agency, according to George P. Firth, representative of the International Union who assisted this group in organizing and in their recent election victory.

The company also operates plants in Zanesville, Ohio, and has its principal offices in Milwaukee, Wis.

The recent NLRB election was ordered as a result of a petition filed some months ago by the local union. As a result of the election victory, negotiations with the company on a proposed working agreement are shortly to commence, according to Representative Firth.

HEARING SET ON INSURANCE FIRM

Pittsburgh, Pa.—Refusal of the National Union Fire Insurance Company to recognize Local 33 as the collective bargaining representative of the company's office workers has necessitated the filing of a petition for representation of certification with the Pennsylvania State Labor Relations Board, according to Margaret D. Kissinger, an executive board member of the local union.

The request for recognition was made upon company management following the successful unionization of a substantial number of the company's employes in a campaign spearheaded by Executive Board Member Kissinger.

Following the formal hearing which has been set by the State Labor Board for June 11, it is anticipated that an election to determine the desire of a majority of the employes of the company will be ordered.

Clothing Buying Declines As High Prices Continue

Washington, D. C.—Manufacturers of clothing and textile products are feeling the pinch of reduced retail buying which springs from consumer resistance to price rises, according to a report from the Commerce Department.

On the other hand, it said, output of some items of men's clothing and of women's house dresses is still relatively low and short of demand at current prices.

Total consumption of cotton, wool and rayon last year was more than two-fifths larger than in 1939. The textile industry operated at peak peacetime levels throughout 1946 and the early part of 1947. Consumption of cotton alone was one-third larger in 1946 than in 1939.

UNION SHOP PACT UPS DURKEE WAGES

Oakland, Calif.—Average salary increases from \$42.50 to \$62.50 per month are reported by Business Representative John Kinnick of Local 29 as being obtained for OEIU members employed in the Berkeley office of Durkee Famous Foods.

The new union shop contract just negotiated with this company resulted in these increases. Minimum salary rates specified for each of the various classifications were substantially increase. A principal improvement over the previous contract was also found in the automatic increases provided. The old contract provided for automatic increases after six months of employment, while the new contract in addition to this automatic step also provides automatic increases after the first and second years employment with the company.

Also of significance to the membership was the improvement gained in the vacation clause. The new clause assures workers of six months service a full week paid vacation, with two weeks paid vacation to employes of one year or more service.

The work week is confined to 38½ hours, Monday through Friday, with time and one-half for all Saturday, Sunday and holiday work and for all work performed in excess of the scheduled work day.

Many Violations Of Wage-Hour Law

Washington, D. C.—As a result of inspections made on a selective basis, The Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions, U. S. Department of Labor reports that 54 percent of the nation's manufacturing industries inspected in 1946 violated the minimum wage, overtime and child labor provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act and the Public Contracts Act. Nearly 12,000 plants had a restitution bill of over nine-million dollars for some 200,000 of their underpaid employes. In all the plants inspected there were more than 2,300,000 workers covered by the Acts.

Some 29,000 of the 200,000 underpaid employes in manufacturing had been paid less than the Wage and Hour Law's minimum of 40 cents an hour, less than \$16 for a 40-hour week.

Percentages of violations in a number of groups were released as follows: Food and kindred products, 60 percent of 2,660 establishments; tobacco manufacturers, 59 percent of 171 establishments; textiles and related products, 54 percent of 1,043 establishments; apparel and related products, 49 percent of 2,724 establishments; leather and leather products, 55 percent of 468 establishments; rubber products, 71 percent of 299 establishments; lumber and wood products, 60 percent of 2,538 establishments; furniture, 59 percent of 459 establishments; paper and paper products, 55 percent of 520 establishments; printing, publishing and allied industries, 49 percent of 2,154 establishments; chemicals and allied products, 51 percent of 1,171 establishments; stone, clay and glass products, 58 percent of 613 establishments; and metals and metal products, 52 percent of 5,492 establishments.

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Request Election At Busch Seltzer

St. Louis, Mo.—A petition has been filed with the National Labor Relations Board by OEIU Local 13 requesting that an election be held among the production workers employed at the Busch Seltzer Diesel Engine Co., according to Frank E. Morton, AFL-OEIU representative who is assisting the local in its organizational campaign.

Practically all of the eligible production clerks have signed membership cards with Local 13, thus assuring an overwhelming victory and the establishment of exclusive bargaining rights for this group.

The local union is also engaged in an organizational drive among the office force of the City Ice & Fuel Co. and is making substantial progress, with a large number of the eligible office workers from this company having signed up for membership in the local union.

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OLIVER FILTERS CONTRACT SIGNED

Hazleton, Pa.—General wage increases amounting to 13 cents per hour and a corresponding increase in the minimum hiring rate high light the agreement just completed with the Oliver United Filters, Inc., and OEIU Local 202, according to George P. Firth, OEIU representative, who handled the negotiations together with the local union committee. The wage gains achieved are retroactive to May 1.

Other high lights of the agreement include the establishment of full seniority rights, the five-day, forty-hour week, with time and one-half for all overtime and holiday work. Employees are assured of six paid holidays each year and of one week's paid vacation after six months and two weeks' after one year's service. Provision is made for the arbitration of grievances which cannot be otherwise satisfactorily settled.

Of assistance in the last stages of the negotiations were U. S. Conciliator Frank Walsh and James Wetmore of the Pennsylvania Mediation Board.

MARGARET TRUMAN GETS UNION CARD

Washington, D. C.—Margaret Truman, daughter of the President, has joined the American Federation of Labor. She is reported to be the first member of a White House family to ever hold a union card.

As a member of the American Guild of Musical Artists, associated with the Actors and Artistes of America (AFL), Miss Truman's appearances as a concert artist in various cities throughout the country will present no embarrassment from a labor angle. She will be given the full cooperation of musicians, stagehands and electricians wherever she appears.

Miss Truman made her initial appearance in a broadcast from Detroit March 16 and is slated to appear soon in Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Dallas, Fort Worth, Amarillo, Oklahoma City and perhaps other cities.

Miss Truman's initial appearance in Pittsburgh was cancelled by the grave illness of her grandmother.

NATIONAL BISCUIT INCREASES GAINED

Providence, R. I. — Wage increases ranging from \$4 to \$7 per week were obtained in the new agreement negotiated for the members of OEIU Local 76 employed by the National Biscuit Company, according to Raymond J. Jamieson, AFL-OEIU representative who assisted Local President Harold Collins and Shop Steward Louise Simone in the agreement negotiations.

In addition to the increase gained, the six automatic wage progression steps have been shortened so that it now takes only thirty months to reach the maximums which previously required three years.