

THE OFFICE WORKER

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

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SIGN CONTRACTS WITH 4 CONCERN

New York City—Working agreements secured by Local 153 have brought substantial gains in wages and working conditions to members employed by Bigelow, Sanford Carpet Company, R. Hoe Company, Plymouth hotel and the National Meter Division of Rockwell Manufacturing Company.

Approximately two hundred office workers in the home office are covered by the agreement with Bigelow, Sanford, largest carpet makers in the United States.

Increases ranging from \$6.50 to \$9 per week, retroactive to December 1, 1946, are provided. These increases are in addition to a 10 percent increase paid just prior to the National Labor Relations Board election on October 16, 1946. During negotiations a 5 percent Christmas bonus was also agreed to. Total increases accruing to the employees of Bigelow, Sanford Company approximate 35 percent.

Classifications, rate ranges, were set up and in every instance are an improvement over the previously existing wage rates. A system of automatic increases within the rate ranges has been adopted.

A union shop, check off of dues, a work week of 35 hours and overtime to be paid after 7 hours per day and 35 hours per week, vacations to start after 4 months of service with two weeks after one year's service and three weeks after ten years' service, promotional guarantees, grievance machinery and arbitration, and a system of sick leave guaranteeing the first 15 days with full pay in addition to a sick leave insurance policy calling for full payment for the next thirteen weeks and half salary for the following thirteen weeks are some of the outstanding features of the agreement.

Business Manager Coughlin and a negotiating committee consisting of John P. Tracy, Stanley C. Elsiz, Virginia Russo, Eileen P. Wallace, Arthur C. Doll, and Walter Delahunt represented the Union; Mr. Hiram Hall, labor relations director, assisted by Miss Nava Mcumber, Thomas Wright, Frank Malone, Ted Riddell, and Charles Lutz represented the company.

Hoe Contract

The agreement with the Hoe company covers approximately 150 office and clerical employees. The company is one of the largest manufacturers of printing machinery in the United States.

The agreement provides for a wage increase of 16.5 percent retroactive to November 9, 1946, in addition to job classifications and rate ranges and a system of automatic increases within the rate ranges. In addition, the agreement contains

COTTON EXCHANGE GAINS WON

One-Day Strike Ties Up World's Trading Center

New York City—UFE Local 205 of the Office Employes International union won a smashing victory over the hardboiled management of the New York Cotton Exchange with a dramatic strike on March 4.

The picket lines, to which the Seafarers International Union and the Seamen's Union of the Pacific made a tremendous contribution, closed the world's greatest cotton trading center for the first time in its history and completely tied up its 23-story headquarters.

Highlights of Gains

Here are the highlights of the gains secured:

Wage increases of from \$6 to \$25 a week for more than 100 workers.

Union security, without an escape period, and a check-off of union dues.

Bonuses geared to the transactions on the Exchange, which can result in payments of as much as 10 per cent over regular wages.

A third week of vacation after 15 years of service.

A group life insurance plan.

Improvements in severance pay schedules and a guarantee against any discrimination whatever.

In the settlement, worked out through the New York State Mediation Board, the workers were represented by M. David Keefe, president of Local 205, Vice President John Cole, Secretary-Treasurer J. Lewis Hutchings and International President Paul R. Hutchings.

Sets New Pattern

This achievement sets a new pattern of improvements on Wall Street where management generally has been antagonistic toward unions and collective bargaining.

Efforts to negotiate for the renewal of the contract, secured last year were begun by Local 205 in January. The Exchange management however, tried to stall and openly stated that it would meet them only "informally."

Their strategy, which failed so completely, was to wait out the "escape period", then seek a New York State Labor Board representation election, which they hoped to swing against the union. More of their wishful thinking was that a strike would not be called. In all of this they were sadly mistaken.

When their intentions became clear the strike question was submitted to the membership of Local 205 and authority to call a strike was granted by an almost unanimous vote.

There was a long session with the labor committee of the Exchange on March 3. Tentative agreements were reached on some issues, but nothing was accomplished on the main points.

Early the following morning the membership met and after reports on the situation the strike was called. Picket lines were soon established around the Exchange.

Seaman Picket

Between 600 and 800 members of the Seafarers union and its Pacific division were on the lines during the day. The Building Service Union provided 50 and members of the Local employed in the Stock and Curb Exchanges also marched in the lines after work. In addition to performing picket duty, the Seafarers made all of the facilities at their headquarters available to Local 205.

Other AFL unions also cooperated and together they established lunch kitchens for the pickets.

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SEAFARERS, OTHER UNIONS ASSISTED

New York City—The one-day strike of UFE Local 205 at the New York Cotton Exchange was a marvelous demonstration of trade union solidarity and cooperation.

Virtually every AFL union in the metropolis gave assistance to the Local, particularly the Seafarers International Union and the Seamen's Union of the Pacific.

Besides turning out a great number of pickets, they mimeographed and distributed handbills stating the case for the Exchange workers in the "punchy" language typical of the mariners.

"Beef of All"

"The beef of one is the beef of all," proclaimed one of the bulletins.

"The United Financial Employees, AFL, who are striking the powerful, rich New York Cotton Exchange, are a young bunch in the labor movement," it stated. "They're young, but hardhitting and aggressive. They're hitting the street because they're tired of talking themselves dry trying to negotiate a new contract with the cotton heads. Like the Seafarers, they've learned that militancy is an essential weapon—and that it pays off. The UFE has patterned its offensive along the lines of the strong, victorious Seafarers.

"The UFE has picked up the savvy quickly. They've had to. They're up against one of the most powerful groupings in the world—the guys who control the world's purse strings; the guys who proclaim they don't give two hoots for the working stiff. And to make the battle stiffer, UFE also has to contend with the communist-controlled workers, who like in maritime, play a finking, double-dealing role."

Chosen by Fenton

"At national headquarters of the American Federation of Labor, AFL officials were deciding how best to aid this new and promising affiliate in its all-out drive," the bulletin continued.

"The AFL organizational director, Frank Fenton, asked the Seafarers to lend its powerful, effective support to its brothers in the UFE. This decision was made on the basis of the Seafarers' contributions and loyalties to the American labor movement."

"The Seafarers satisfaction," it concluded, "comes from knowing that he is doing a service not only to the financial workers, but to the entire labor movement. He knows he is playing an important part in labor's advance and that he is weaving trade union solidarity."

The picket lines were orderly, but the yells that went up when at-

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OFFICE EMPLOYES
INTERNATIONAL UNION



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NEGATIVE ATTITUDE ASSAILED BY GREEN

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green charged before the House Labor Committee that sponsors of anti-labor bills have taken a "defeatist" and "negative" position in attempting to penalize unions throughout the Nation because of scattered disputes.

Emphatically denying that labor leaders have shown any reluctance to cooperate with law makers in the discussions or preparation of legislation affecting workers, Mr. Green declared:

"Opposition to legislation that is ill-considered, that will produce incalculable harm to our national economy and welfare, is the affirmative duty of every constructive citizen and group. The truth is that the sponsors of this anti-labor legislation, in their defeatist and negative attitude, proceed on the completely repudiated premise that the organized American worker is callously indifferent to his obligations. But we have faith in the American worker and it is fully justified by his record."

Proposals Condemned

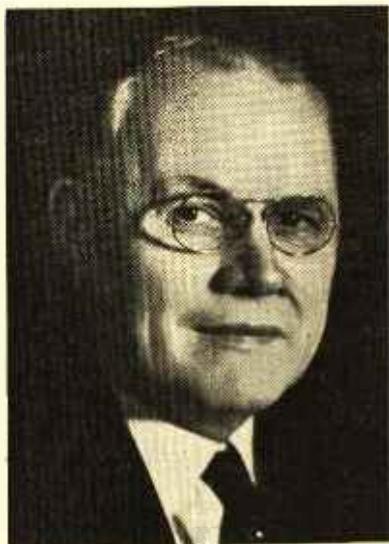
Legislative proposals offered in the House to ban the closed shop, secondary boycotts, the union dues check-off plan, impose cooling-off periods, require registration and financial accounting by unions, forbid minority strikes, outlaw jurisdictional disputes, emasculate the Wagner Act and to require compulsory arbitration were vigorously condemned by Mr. Green.

Mr. Green emphatically challenged "the very basis on which such legislation has been presented to the country," and declared that such measures "are claimed to be a remedy against strikes—they are not."

Such legislation, he told the committee, is directed, not against strikes, but against the process of collective bargaining.

"Does this legislation deal with the causes of industrial unrest that

Green to Speak



William Green

As we go to press we are advised that American Federation of Labor President William Green will address the International Union Convention in Chicago on March 20. President Green installed the OEIU charter at the Constitutional Convention in Cincinnati on January 8, 1945.

has swept the country since V-J Day?" he demanded. "Does it reach the issues that were behind the disputes through which we have gone? The answer is categorically—No."

Reviewing the major bills one by one, Mr. Green opened his discussion with an examination of the Smith and Miller measures to outlaw the union shop, even in cases where 100 percent of the workers involved had selected a union and desired to work under union conditions.

Ignorance of Economics

Sponsors of such legislation, the AFL chieftain declared, "portray a profound ignorance of economics and economic philosophy and a deep misunderstanding of the purposes and functions of the union-security principles."

"There is probably no right other than the right to strike which organized labor deems more consecrated or more indispensable to its continued maintenance and well being. It treasures its right to seek and obtain union-security agreements through collective bargaining," he added.

Regarding bills to prohibit boycotts, Mr. Green declared:

"Only an enraged and vindictive determination to punish labor, no matter what the effect on labor's and the entire public's welfare, can explain this objective. It simply ignores and confounds the most elemental realities of the free enterprise, competitive system."

The proposal to forbid further use of the union dues check-off system, Mr. Green asserted, appeared to him of doubtful wisdom "since there has been no serious criticism of this system on moral or other grounds," and would risk the automatic termination of so many collective agreements which assure stability in industrial rela-

Teachers Charge Penny-Pinching Driving Instructors to Other Jobs

Chicago, Ill.—The very security of the Nation is threatened by the crisis facing the schools today in the shortage of teachers and the reluctance of prospective instructors to enter the teaching profession.

This is the blunt warning sounded here in a statement by Irvin R. Kuenzli, Secretary-Treasurer of the American Federation of Teachers, AFL, in a reply to a request for comment on the grave shortage of teachers throughout the country and the increasing tendency to desert the teaching profession for positions which would provide a better standard of living.

"At a time when the best teaching talent in the Nation is needed to cope with the worst crime and child delinquency problem in our history," Mr. Kuenzli asserted, "thousands of our best teachers have left the profession to seek a living wage in other fields.

"There are nearly 200,000 qualified teachers in the Nation at the present time. Even more serious is the fact that at a time when the most able of the Nation's youth should be attracted to the teaching profession very few young persons are being trained for the profession.

"This alarming situation is due to the fact that teachers are seriously underpaid in consideration of the training required and the importance of their profession. Teachers are required to invest several thousands of dollars in a college education and, in addition, lose the money which could be earned during four or five years of college.

"A teacher, therefore, invests from \$12,000 to \$15,000 in an education and, after entering the profession, is given two or three months' vacation each year without pay. Teachers must eat during these

tions and continued production of necessary commodities."

Hits "Cooling Off"

Mr. Green declared that organized labor "takes strenuous exception" to proposals to force a "cooling-off period" during periods of labor disputes while government agencies are mediating such differences. He explained in detail why labor opposes such legislation, including the fact that it is an unwarranted invasion of an essential liberty and a violation of the 13th amendment to the Constitution "prohibiting involuntary servitude."

The proposal to require labor organizations to obtain government licenses, "and thus exist only at the sufferance of the Government," and to make reports on their internal affairs, including finances, Mr. Green asserted, would be impractical. Although he expressed no great objection to the matter of registration, he took a firm stand against the finance reporting, which would give employers a full view of a union's financial position and might have an effect upon the employers' willingness to enter into collective bargaining and show good faith in making counter proposals to those submitted by union leaders.

months of unemployment and often have difficulty in finding suitable employment. Teachers often work for several years before their total earnings equal the amount spent on their education.

"Many teachers are unable in an entire lifetime to save the amount they have spent on a college education. Thousands of teachers are able to remain in the profession only because they live at home with their parents or other relatives and pay little for actual living costs.

"Ultimately the Nation will pay a heavy price for the failure to pay living wages to its teachers. It is high time for the several states to revamp their antiquated school laws so that action may be taken to provide adequate financial support for the public schools."

5-CENT SPUDS

Washington, D. C.—At Eastern inland points of storage, the Agricultural Department is offering surplus potatoes for commercial export at 5 cents a hundred pounds, which compares with a previous offer of about 35 cents.

The potatoes cost the government about \$2.20 under a grower price-support program and are part of a 95,000,000-bushel surplus from last year's record crop.

The 5-cent offer also is available to processors who convert potatoes into flour and other products for export.

VOTE FOR TEEN-AGERS

Washington, D. C.—A proposed Constitutional amendment which would give all United States citizens of 18 years or older the right to vote, has been offered by Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg, Republican, of Michigan. The voting age is now 21 except in the State of Georgia, where it is 18.

INSURANCE LOCALS

Atlanta, Ga.—In the South, many groups of wage earners are working up to the solid benefits of AFL organization. Among them are the industrial insurance agents, and 12 locals have been established since August in the following cities: Baton Rouge and New Orleans, La.; Biloxi, Miss.; Tampa and Orlando, Fla.; Atlanta, Augusta, Savannah, Macon and Columbus, Ga.; Charleston and Columbia, S. C.

HITS BARGAINING CURB

Washington, D. C.—Any change in the policy of encouraging collective bargaining would have "most unhappy consequences," Paul M. Herzog, chairman of the National Labor Relations Board, declared before the Senate Labor Relations Committee which is considering far-reaching proposals for revision of labor legislation.

"Successful collective bargaining would be frustrated if any of the employee's rights, guaranteed by the Wagner Act, were subtracted from that statute," he said.

CREDIT INCREASES, SAVINGS DECREASES

Washington, D. C.—Workers and other consumers are making up their income deficit by drawing on their savings and buying on credit, it was reported in the Monthly Survey of the American Federation of Labor, which declared that consumer credit has increased 45 percent in the last year while savings have dropped 41 percent.

"These are the first signs of danger," the report said. "To support production by consumer borrowing and by spending savings is to build our industrial structure on a hollow foundation which will collapse. An enduring foundation can only be built out of increased consumer income, and about 75 to 80 percent of American consumers are workers and their families."

Real Wages Drop

"Wages and salaries provide about 70 percent of consumer income, which is spent for foods. Factory workers' average weekly 'real' wage in December, 1946, was 4 percent below the same month of the previous year and the 'real' wage of workers in retail stores dropped 2 percent in the same period—to cite as typical examples industries which employ 40 percent of all non-farm workers. That is why workers have had to borrow and draw on their savings. That is why workers' income must be restored."

Discussing the question of whether labor and employers can be partners, the survey said:

"American industries and consumers are reaping the benefits of labor's cooperation. A reliable investors' service anticipates 'excellent earnings statements' for the first quarter of 1947, and expects profits for the full year of 1947 'to exceed the record net results of 1946.' Full year results depend on the course of industrial developments."

Key Question

The "key" question, seen in the report, "centers about the willingness of employers, through peaceful negotiations, to agree to the wage increases which today's favorable situation makes possible. Or will employers make it necessary for workers to strike in order to obtain fair wage gains."

"Workers' total income declined by \$5,500,000,000 while the income of other groups rose by a total of \$8,600,000,000," in the period between 1945 and 1946, the report revealed.

"This cut in workers' income is serious for two reasons," it added, "it means a decline in workers' living standards, especially when it comes at a time of price increases, and the market for industry's products will be cut unless workers' income is increased. The Nation's 40,000,000 wage and salaried workers buy a great deal larger share of industry's consumer goods product than do the 10,000,000 farmers and business men."

Seafarers Seek Wage Increase

New York City—Increased wages to meet the rising costs of living are being sought by the East Coast

Women Increasingly Important In Picture of U. S. Wage Earners

Washington, D. C.—Women have been assigned to increasingly important roles in the wage-earning world, declared the Labor Department in an annual report of its Women's Bureau for the fiscal year ending June 30.

Describing women workers as "a force that no government can afford to ignore in its over-all planning," the Bureau said:

"Important factors to be considered are the Nation's need for the goods and services made and performed by women and the economic need of millions of women to support themselves or supplement the family income."

Citing evidence of the Nation's dependence on women, the Bureau said that during the war women formed a third of all workers, and that the 16,000,000 in the labor market today represented close to 28 percent of all employed persons. Prior to the war, women accounted for about a fourth of the total labor force.

Certain industries and occupations, it was said, are almost entirely dependent on women workers. For instance, in 1940, women formed 75 percent of the Nation's teachers, 98 percent of the nurses, two-thirds of the workers who waited on the public in restaurants and hotels, more than nine-tenths of the telephone operators and household employees. They also accounted, in the same year, for two-fifths of those who sold merchandise in shops and stores and more than three-fourths of the operatives who made apparel and accessories.

Concerning women's economic need for gainful employment, the Bureau labeled as an "unwarranted assumption" the frequently made statement that with the end of the war women no longer had "need for remunerative employment." Pointing to its war-time survey of 13,000 women in 10 in-

Division of the AFL Seafarers International Union."

Operators with which the union has contracts were notified of the new requests after a special meeting of the SIU.

In announcing the move, a union spokesman pointed out that last year the SIU, aided by other AFL maritime unions, had brought American shipping to a "complete standstill" when the Wage Stabilization Board ruled against increases that the union had negotiated with shipowners.

No definite demands have been set by the union but a negotiating committee, headed by J. P. Shuler, assistant secretary-treasurer, will attempt to "work out" a satisfactory wage scale with operator representatives, it was reported.

Asserting that the gains won by the union last year had been "practically wiped out" by the rising cost of essentials, Paul Hall, port agent for the SIU, declared:

"We cannot allow ourselves to go back to the substandard living that seamen had to endure for so long."

"We expect the operators to bargain in good faith. If not, we can always rely on economic action at the point of production."

UNIONS, INDUSTRY PICK ARBITRATORS

Washington, D. C.—Announcement by the Labor Department of selection of a panel of 150 labor arbitrators, cleared for competence and impartiality by both labor and management, was hailed in industrial circles as a definite step toward more widespread acceptance of voluntary arbitration throughout the American industrial field.

The announcement, made by Edgar L. Warren, director of the U. S. Conciliation Service, was regarded as a long stride toward further advancement of the practice broadly accepted during the war of umpire settlement of labor-management differences. Creation of a pool of accepted arbitrators, spokesmen for both sides in the labor-management picture, said, was one of the most marked advancements toward voluntary arbitration. It is expected to eliminate charges of Labor Department bias, Warren said.

This panel is made up entirely of men recommended by regional labor-management advisory committees operating in the seven regions of the Conciliation Service and by the National Labor-Management Advisory Committee.

In Most Agreements

Almost 90 percent of the agreements between labor and management, it is estimated, include clauses providing for the use of an arbitrator whenever the parties are unable themselves to settle differences arising over the interpretation of the language of their contract. The General Motors, Ford, and Chrysler contracts, the garment trades' agreements, and many others provide for impartial umpires.

The use of voluntary arbitration to settle disputes over new contract terms, however, is still comparatively new.

"When an employer and a union have agreed voluntarily to submit their dispute to arbitration but are unable to agree on the arbitrator," Warren explained, "the Conciliation Service, on joint written request of both parties, will select an arbitrator for them from the national panel of arbitrators. In this way, both parties can be confident that the man selected for them will have received bipartisan approval as a competent and impartial arbitrator."

mation, such as "When does the next train leave for Chicago?", jammed the switchboards.

Chairman Intercedes

There was a gigantic mass meeting at noon in Hanover Square. It was addressed by Paul Hall, organizing director of the Seafarers; Keefe and International President Hutchings.

The strike had been under way a few hours when the union and management were called by Chairman Arthur S. Meyer of the New York State Mediation Board because of the public interest involved.

Shortly before 4 o'clock the meeting with Meyer started. The settlement was announced a little over seven hours later.

COTTON EXCHANGE

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tempts were made to cross could be heard for blocks down Wall Street.

Elevators in the big building were stopped and the heat was shut down. Even the building barber and beauty shops did not open. Some of the harder brokers climbed the stairs, but when they reached their offices or the trading floor they played dominoes or paper wad baseball. Calls for all sorts of infor-

CONVENTION OPENS IN CHICAGO MAR. 17

Chicago, Ill.—The annual convention of the Office Employes International Union is scheduled to open at the Congress hotel March 17.

Following a welcome by city and state officials and the Chicago and Illinois Federation of Labor the approximately 100 delegates will get down to a heavy schedule of business. More than 60 resolutions, ranging from taking a position on legislation to amending the union constitution, have been presented.

The principal speaker will be John H. Houston, a senior member of the National Labor Relations Board. On March 18 Houston, only remaining member of the board appointed by President Roosevelt and a former member of congress from Kansas, will discuss the problems of currently proposed legislation

30 New Locals

Washington, D. C.—The report prepared for the annual convention by International President Paul R. Hutchings shows long strides made by the OEIU during the past year. One of the highlights is a gain of 30 new locals.

and the operations of the board.

On March 20 Secretary-Treasurer I. M. Ornburn of the Union Trades and Label Department of the A.F.L. and other representatives of the trade union movement will deliver addresses.

The convention committee is headed by President O'Connell of Chicago Local 28, assisted by Business Representative Sarah Keenan and Vice President Sally McCorry of Local 28.

They have arranged a variety of entertainment for the delegates. Appropriate to St. Patrick's day is an old-time corn beef and cabbage get-together at the Machinists hall. An Irish tenor, Tom Cook, a member of the union, will sing.

On March 19 the convention banquet will be held in the Gold room.

BAN ON UNION SHOP CHALLENGED BY AFL

Lincoln, Nebr.—A test suit challenging the constitutionality of Nebraska's anti-union shop amendment, approved last November, has been filed here by the American Federation of Labor.

The action is centered about the refusal of an employer to discharge an employee suspended from union membership for failure to pay his dues.

This refusal, the union alleges, was in violation of the company's contract with the AFL and of the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the Federal Constitution. It further contends that Nebraska's anti-closed shop amendment is void, unenforceable and unconstitutional.

The amendment prohibits denial of employment to any person because of membership or nonmembership in a labor organization.

Woll Warns of Danger In Spread Of Slave Labor Plan Around World

Washington, D. C.—Expansion of the "slave labor system" is a "dire threat to the free workers of all countries," according to the International Labor Relations Committee of the American Federation of Labor.

This was the pronouncement issued here by Matthew Woll, AFL vice president, who declared that "forced labor has become a post-war institution in many lands." "In Europe alone," Mr. Woll's statement declared, "it has been estimated that nearly one-third of all productive work is now being done by slave labor." The Survey, upon

which Mr. Woll was reporting, reported that:

"Slave labor is a challenge which free labor must meet and must meet at once—or be driven into slavery itself."

Despite the interval since the end of the war "millions of men and women from former enemy countries are still being held as slave laborers."

Prisoners Still Held

Large numbers of war prisoners still are being held in Great Britain, Poland, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia, the summary points out, in asserting crimes committed by the Nazis were no excuse "for the crimes being perpetrated today, especially in the name of democratic and peace-loving peoples."

"Under no guise is the return to chattel slavery and the Dark Ages permissible or desirable," said Mr. Woll, in the statement which was said to have the approval of the executive council of the AFL.

"What a sad retrogression. Compare this with what happened after the first war when, within ten months after the end of hostilities, all prisoners of war were freed. With such impetuosity has mankind been going backward that even an organization calling itself the World Federation of Trade Unions has proposed the imposition of forced labor on the Ruhr coal miners.

"Paradoxical as it may appear, it is the land which calls itself 'socialist,' the government which parades as a 'workers' republic,' that is the worst and biggest slave center on earth today. It is from Soviet Russia that the tidal wave of labor enslavement has swept westward. The Irkutsk Pravda only recently boasted that 5,000,000 prisoners of war are being used at penal labor in Siberia.

Soviet Slaves

"In the Kremlin domain there are millions of Soviet citizens doomed to slave labor camps merely because they are suspected or convicted of disapproving or disagreeing with some act or policy of the ruling group.

"But the Moscow dictatorship also holds in slavery millions of non-Russians * * * hundreds of thousands of these slaves were rounded up by the Soviet police and snared by its spy dragnet in the capitals of Russia's conquered and satellite lands. * * *

"Barrack economy anywhere is a menace to free labor everywhere. When Japanese soldiers are turned into slave-toilers on the Volga-Lake Baikal railway for the benefit of the Russian bureaucracy or when Papuans and New Guineans are kept in slavery for wealthy Australian plantation owners, the freedom and welfare of the workers in London, New York, Paris, Brussels, Sydney and Prague are in mortal danger."

The continuation of "any form of slavery," according to Mr. Woll, "is in outright conflict with the moral and judicial foundations of the verdict reached at Nuremberg against the Nazi war criminals."

He specifically pointed out that the Allied judges had condemned to death Fritz Sauckel, director of Nazi forced labor enterprises.

SIGN CONTRACTS WITH 4 CONCERN

(Continued from page 1)

overwhelmingly decided that strike action was the only alternative left to them.

The strike lasted approximately 12 hours. Employees returned to work after conferences were held resulting in the granting of a 16.5 percent wage increase, retroactive to November 1, 1946.

A union shop, check off of dues, time and one-half for overtime and double time for holiday work, health, accident, and life insurance for the employee and his family, grievance and arbitration machinery are some of the features of this agreement.

A committee consisting of Business Representative Michl, John McKevitt and Sam Abrams, representing the union, and Jean Suits, representing the hotel, conducted negotiations.

Particularly fine cooperation was received from the Teamsters union in respecting the picket line. Grand Lodge Representatives Ace Keeney and Tim Hurley of the International Association of Machinists assisted in effecting a settlement.

Rockwell Co.

The contract with Rockwell calls for a 15 percent or \$6 weekly wage increase, whichever is greater, retroactive to December 1, 1946. Classifications are established with rate ranges for the respective classifications. A system of automatic wage increases to the mid-point of the rate ranges during the life of the agreement is also established.

A union shop, check off of union dues, weekly payment of salaries (previously wages were paid semi-monthly), 10 holidays to be paid for regardless of the day of the week upon which they fall, in addition to an increase in vacation pay in accordance with overtime worked within the three months prior to the vacation period, and grievance machinery and arbitration are incorporated within the contract.

The negotiating committee assisting Howard Coughlin, business manager, was composed of Frank Carroll, shop steward, Walter Barry and Doris Maynard. Roy Kaine and George O'Brien represented the company.

BACKS RED CROSS

Washington, D. C.—An urgent appeal for wholehearted support of the Red Cross campaign for funds was issued by AFL President William Green.

In a special message to all branches of the American Federation of Labor Mr. Green cited the widespread services of the Red Cross and the grave obligation of the American people to support its plea for assistance.

LIVING COSTS CLIMB

Washington, D. C.—A release from the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Labor Department, states that in August, 1939, the cost-of-living was 55 percent cheaper for the average family in the United States than on December 15, 1946.