Further Gains Secured In Pact With Abitibi Paper

Toronto, Ont. - Negotiations for the first time with the Abitibi Power & Paper Company, Ltd., covering the office employees in the offices of the mills of the company has resulted in further substantial gains in wages and employment conditions, according to International President Paul R. Hutchings and A. F. of L. Organizer Russell Harvey who attended the joint Toronto negotiations with delegates designated by the local unions involved.

Salary Increases

Of prime importance was the general salary increase negotiated which assures the office workers covered by OEIU contracts in these mills a minimum monthly increase of $25 or 15 percent, whichever is greater, through May 1, 1947. The rate increases for all job classifications were also increased by similar amounts.

Another significant gain was the agreement reached for local unions to participate in job evaluation and merit rating. The company has agreed that over and above the general increase of $25 or 15 percent, whichever is greater, as provided for in the entire agreement, all office employees shall be immediately given a merit review and that merit increases resulting therefrom will be effective as of May 1, 1947. Under the terms of the agreement on this matter a representative of the local union at each mill shall sit with the management committee on merit rating as well as on the study and re-evaluation of any job which the local union believes to be out of line.

It was also agreed that the local union representatives would be supplied with all data and material necessary to a proper understanding of the job evaluation and merit rating plan and that when new jobs are created or existing ones changed management will make a temporary evaluation of such job subject to review during the joint annual merit rating session, with any changes developed to be made retroactive to the date of the original change.

It was further agreed that a similar general review for merit increases would be held annually, following the signing of the agreement each year and that the increases resulting be made effective as of May 1, of the year concerned. All matters covered in connection with job evaluation and merit rating which are not settled satisfactorily are subject to processing under the grievance procedure of the agreement.

Five-Day Week

Of further substantial importance is to the members of these mills is the provision that the company and the International Union will study the five-day work week during the current contract year, and company representatives and the International Union representative with his local delegates will confer.

Present at the negotiations were representatives of locals 161, 162, 163, 164, 260, 261 and 301 of the International at Smooth Rock Falls, Ontario; 191 at Beauport, Quebec and 214 at Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

Local 214 at Sault Ste. Marie is presently in the process of obtaining Canadian Labor Board certification of its exclusive bargaining rights at the Abitibi mill in that city, the local presently holding a substantial majority of all office employees, participated in the joint Toronto negotiations.

In addition, the office force of the company's mills at Pine Bluff Falls, Manitoba, is presently organizing and has already been chartered by the local union. In this new local, the company has agreed to assign a representative on a full-time basis to assist the organization in the early days of the drive.

The company has also agreed to have a full-time representative permanently at each of its mills in Canada to assist the local union in its efforts.

Big Gains In Fast Freight Pact

Oakland, Calif. - A general wage increase of 15 cents per hour for all office employees participating in this agreement has been negotiated with the Oakland vegetable and clerical workers of the International

BIG GAINS WON IN FAST FREIGHT PACT

The agreement provides for maintenance of union membership as a condition of employment. It establishes a regular 8-hour work day and double time for shift work. Overtime is paid for at the rate of time and one-half, with double time prevailing for work performed on the seventh day and after the fourth overtime hour.

Recognize Seniority

The agreement also provides for the recognition of seniority, the granting of leaves of absence, and makes provision for two weeks' vacation with full pay each year. Provision is made for the establishment of an office grievance committee, which holds regular monthly meetings with management for the handling of all grievances, with provision for final and binding arbitration on any grievances not otherwise satisfactorily adjusted.

Eight salary groups are established, with automatic annual advances for three years in each grade. In addition to the benefits obtained through signing of such wage schedules, the union obtained a cost of living adjustment averaging $20 per month, to apply after the first eight months of the contract, at the end of which time the wage question will again be reviewed.

Sick Benefits

The union also obtained a sick benefit plan which entitles permanent employees to three weeks' sick leave with full pay each year, which may be accumulated over a three-year period up to a total of nine weeks.

International Vice President C. A. Stafford assisted the local union officers and negotiating committee in the negotiations and by virtue of his long experience in this industry and the union, he participated in negotiating, his assistance was of great value to Local 87 in the obtaining of this first agreement between the local and a major refining corporation.

Wages Boosted By Utility Agreement

Lincoln, Ill. - General wage increases ranging from $10 to $25 a month and averaging more than $18 per month were obtained in a renewal agreement negotiated with the Central Illinois Electric & Gas Co., according to International Vice President L. G. Nygren who assisted Local 197 in its negotiations. Other improvements included an increase in hours, time and one-half for double time, three-hour reporting and call back guarantee was also established.
OEIU Responds to Emergency Appeal

Washington, D. C.—The Executive Board of the OEIU by unan- 
momous vote authorized President Paul R. Hutchings and Secretary- 
Treasurer J. Howard Hicks to appeal to each local union to volun-
tarily submit its share of the AFL emergency fund for the purpose of 
providing food and clothing for families of workers in need.

One of the first local unions to respond was No. 62 in Santa Fe, 
N. M., which made a record contrib-
tion toward the $1,500,000 fund.

Local 62 Ups Ante

The membership of Local 62 not only complied with the voluntary 
15-cent per capita assessment but came through with an additional 
amount of 25 cents per member.

In sending the contribution to Secretary-Treasurer Hicks, Coyne M. 
Womack, secretary-treasurer of the local stated, "The membership of 
Local 62 wishes its International office to know that it will cooperate 
in every way possible or re-
quested."

This is the spirit which places 
OEIU local unions on a high level in the appraisal of the balance of 
the organized labor movement.

The American Federation of Labor is determined that the fruits of 
75 years of trade union effort shall not be lost but that the en-
actment of ill-conceived, mal-
cious anti-labor laws," the Execu-
tive Council declared. "The repres-
sive legislation is sponsored by pro-
fit-greedy manufacturers who are now daily engaged in gouging the 
American consumer through higher and ever higher prices for the 
neccesities of life. The American Federation of Labor is deter-
mined to fight this evil threat which today hangs over the head of 
every American worker."

President Warns Prices Must Be Cut 
If Country Is To Avert Recession

New York City.—Stern warning 
that "excessive wholesale prices" are "a grave threat to the Nation's 
prosperity and must be cut if a re-
cession is to be averted" was sounded 
here by President Truman in an 
address before more than 1,000 
nearpaper executives at a luncheon 
of the Associated Press.

Calling on the American press to bring home to the entire people of 
the United States the imperative need of prompt, preventive steps to 
avert economic disaster, the Presi-
dent laid down a pattern which em-
phazied:

1. Moderation on the part of 
business, regarding prices, and on 
the part of labor, concerning wages.
2. Increased production in all 
lines.
3. An all-out effort on the part 
of the farmer to provide increased 
supplies.

Green Concurs

(In Washington, AFL, President 
William Green, commenting on the 
President's address, concurred 
wholeheartedly in Mr. Truman's plea for price reductions and mod-
eration in wage requests. In fact, he 
pointed out, it had always been the 
policy of the AFL to observe mod-
eration in applying for increased 
price scales.)

Injecting a new note into his re-
iteration of the need for action to 
check the price spiral, Mr. Truman 
asserted that only a prosperous 
America can pursure its announced 
policy of adding the "free peoples of 
the world in their efforts to main-
tain their freedoms."

Recalling his admonition in Jan-
uary against "excessive" wage de-
mands, and his views expressed at 

Consumer Prices \Hit Record High

Washington, D. C.—The final fig-
ures released by the Bureau of 
Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor indicate that consumers' 
goods and services, for a moderate 
income families were 2,0 percent 
higher in mid-March than in mid-
February. This brought the Con-
sumers' Price Index to a record 
high of 166.3 on March 15, 1947.

There was an advance in retail 
prices for all major groups of 
living essentials. In large cities 
food prices jumped almost 5 per-
cent, clothing prices rose 1.5 per-
cent and housefurnishings and mis-
cellaneous goods and services ad-
vanced 0.8 percent. In mid-March, 
consumers' prices were 20 percent 
higher than a year ago, and 58.5 
percent above August 1939.

All major groups of foods rose 
in price and the family food bill 
advanced 5.4 per cent between Feb-
uary 15 and March 16. A 5.5 per-
cent increase in prices of meats 
was recorded, with pork increasing 
18 percent.

Food Up 103% 
The food price index on March 
15, was 103.8. Since the month be-
fore the outbreak of war in Europe, 
food prices in large cities have 
advanced almost 100 per cent. Fats 
and oils prices were reported at 159 
percent; higher than in August 1939; 
dairy products are at 101 percent above 
August 1929.

Between February and March, 
clothing prices rose 1.5 percent and 
prices for men's wool clothing 
shoes increased from February 15 to 
March 15. Higher prices were 
reported for men's wool clothing, 
business suits, shirts, clothing, and 
underclothing in most cities. Prices 
also advanced for women's rayon 
dresses, slips and hosiery.

Housefurnishings prices in-
creased 0.8 percent between mid-
February and mid-March and costs of 
medical care—especially hospital 
charges—increased. Slightly lower 
prices were reported for some automo-
obiles.

Organizing Bulletin

Washington, D. C.—To aid in 
organizing office and clerical work-
ers, a bulletin called "Office Workers Look at Their Trade" is 
being distributed to all local 
unions of the OEIU. This is a re-
print of the article featured in the 
March issue of the "American 
Federationist," the time that some moderate in-
creases were justified, Mr. Truman 
said that "since then, this council of 
moderation has generally been 
followed by the workers and their 
leaders," with some moderate pay 
increases negotiated and others in-
creased.

"To wage earners and their lead-
ers I repeat my counsel of moder-
a tion," he said, "it does not re-
quire much foregert to see that, if 
the cost of living does not come 
down, the price deman is for our prosperity, for we 
can be prosperous only when 
businees activity is at its maxi-
mu m."

The President also repeated ear-
lier warnings that failure of busi-
ness to bring down prices would 
be reflected in increasing wage de-
mands, and that with the consequent danger of 
provoking a new inflationary 
spirat.

"This is another reason—and a most compelling one—for bringing 
prices in line with the cost of living today. This will help wage negotia-
tions to proceed toward peaceful adjustments 
beneficial to all."
OEU CERTIFIED AT GRISCOM-RUSSELL

Massillon, Ohio.—OEU Local 72 has been certified by the NLRB as the exclusive collective bargaining agent for all office and clerical employees of the Griscom-Russell Co. The establishment of the office and clerical employees' bargaining rights resulted from a majority vote which it received in an election conducted by the NLRB some months ago.

The company is engaged in the manufacture of water heaters, refrigerators, and air conditioners.

International Vice President R. M. Daugherty assisted the local union in its proceedings before the NLRB in this matter. Approximately 100 office and clerical workers will be covered under the terms of the collective bargaining agreement shortly to be negotiated.

REPORTS PROGRESS IN UTILITIES CAMPAIGN

Portland, Ore.—Secretary-Treasurer Irving Enna has announced progress in the campaign being conducted by Local 11 in the unionization of office workers employed by the Northwest Electric Company and the Pacific Power and Light Company locally. These two firms are the two largest users of coal and hydroelectric power in Portland and vicinity, much of which is purchased by the Bonneville administration and generated at nearby Bonneville Dam.

Following closely on the heels of the successful unionization of office workers employed by the Portland Gas and Coke Company, similar successful action by the local with respect to the two electric utility companies would be viewed as a big accomplishment for local locals. Much interest has been shown in the current undertaking and offers of assistance have been forthcoming from other AFL unions.

BANKS HELD WORST WAGE LAW VIOLATOR

Chicago—Banks and trust companies are among the nation's worst violators of minimum wage legislation.

That shocking fact was disclosed by Thomas D. O'Malley, regional director of the Department of Labor's Wage-Hour and Public Contracts Division, in a blunt address to a conference of bankers' associations held in this city. O'Malley is a former Wisconsin congressman.

Many of the financial institutions are virtual sweatshops, he said, because the banks and trust firms inspected were found to be paying some employees less than the legal "floor" of 40 cents an hour.

That rate of violations of the minimum wage provisions is "twice as high as the rate for all industries covered by the law," O'Malley said.

Equally bad, he declared, is the fact that another 29 percent of the banks and trust firms inspected were found to be paying some employees less than legal minimum salary provisions of the minimum wage law — that is, the overtime pay requirements or the restrictions on child labor or both.

SECRETARY-TREASURER BONDS ARE RENEWED

Washington, D. C.—Certificates showing the renewal of bonds on local union secretary-treasurers, other officers and employees of local unions have been mailed to each OEU local union, including Local 11, Howard Hicks, secretary-treasurer of the International Union.

The bonding of union local secretaries-treasurers is mandatory under the OEU constitution. Other officers and employees of local unions, who are not secretaries-treasurers, are not bonded.

These bonds provide protection to the financial security of each local union and continue in force annually on April 1. All such bonds cover stated positions within each local union and continue in force after one year and three weeks after five years' employment are provided. Six standard holidays are granted with full pay, and employees are assured dismissal pay amounting to three weeks' pay for each year of service.

A comprehensive sick leave clause provides full pay during the duration of any disability or illness acquired on the job. For illness or accidents not related to work, the employees are assured 10 days of paid sick leave each year, which may accumulate up to a total of 30 days of January 1

Trentonian Agreement Signed

Shown above are the negotiators who negotiated the agreement between the Trentonian Publishing Co. and OEU Local 70. From left to right, they are as follows: Carl Berreitter, Publisher; Trentonian; George P. Firth, OEU Representative; Mary Renzi, Steward, Trentonian office; Christine Tomasulo, President, Local 70; Marian Pata. The report further indicated that the agreement was entered under the terms of the Trentonian labor-management agreement.

Trenton, N. J.—Substantial improvements in employment conditions were gained for the first time in the history of the Trentonian newspaper under the terms of an agreement entered into between the company and Local 70 according to George P. Firth, representative of the International Union who assisted in the negotiations.

Wage increases gained averaged 11½ cents per hour, or 12½ percent more than the legal "floor" of the agreement also provides that at the expiration of six months an additional increase of 10 percent shall be granted.

Other highlights of the agreement included the following:

1. A 34-hour work week.
2. Six standard holidays are granted with full pay.
3. Employees are assured dismissal pay amounting to three weeks' pay for each year of service.
4. A comprehensive sick leave clause provides full pay during the duration of any disability or illness acquired on the job.
5. For illness or accidents not related to work, the employees are assured 10 days of paid sick leave each year, which may accumulate up to a total of 30 days of working days paid.
6. The agreement provides for a comprehensive grievance procedure with arbitration on matters not satisfactorily settled.

Assisting Representative Firth in the agreement negotiations was President Christine Tomasulo of Local 11.

Sick Leave Averages Low

Washington, D. C.—Information from the latest survey made by the U. S. Department of Labor, at the request of the OEU, indicates that the sick-leave rate for 1947 was 1.0 days, or of 100 days absent from work, 99.9 days were illness, average 11 days less than usually believed.

A survey in the public utility field indicates that men lose fewer working days through illness than women but are out for longer periods of time. Men lose an average of 11 days per year and women 12 days; however, the average absence of men lasts 9 and of women 6 days. The report further indicated that the average of 11 days of illness as for 1947 was 1.0 days.

Chief Causes

Quoting from the book, "Women in Industry," by Dr. Anna M. Baejer, which is based upon a general survey, it was stated that the chief causes of sick-attendance were: A. "sickness" or "illness," for which accounted for about 90 percent of all the number of cases, and the annual number of days lost, and the relative changes which may occur in the holders of the bond positions. Hicks pointed out that bonds are renewed automatically so as to provide constant coverage.

Washington, D. C.—Secretary-Treasurer Irving Enna has announced progress in the campaign being conducted by Local 11 in the unionization of office workers employed by the Northwest Electric Company and the Pacific Power and Light Company locally. These two firms are the two largest users of coal and hydroelectric power in Portland and vicinity, much of which is purchased by the Bonneville administration and generated at nearby Bonneville Dam.

Following closely on the heels of the successful unionization of office workers employed by the Portland Gas and Coke Company, similar successful action by the local with respect to the two electric utility companies would be viewed as a big accomplishment for local locals. Much interest has been shown in the current undertaking and offers of assistance have been forthcoming from other AFL unions.

Fire Insurance Workers Organize

Pittsburgh, Pa.—An aggressive campaign to unionize office workers employed by the National Union Fire Insurance Company is being conducted by Local 27 under the direction of D. Kissingler, an executive board member of the local union, who is reported to have interest running high among employees of the company and who has expressed strong conviction that the campaign will be successful.

Other officers and members of the local union are volunteering their services in connection with this campaign and at a recent meeting, Secretary-Treasurer Howard Hicks and Vice President R. M. Daugherty of the International Union addressed employees of the company pointing out the many improvements which they could win through collective bargaining.

DISABILITY TOIL

Washington, D. C.—The Federal Security Agency estimates that in 1942, temporary and chronic disability and premature death took man-days equal to the working time of 13,000,000 men—more than the total number employed at any time in the armed forces. In the same year, the cost to workers and business of sickness and disability was totalled not less than $15,000,000,000.

Educational Service

Washington, D. C.—Arrangements have been made by the International Union to place officers of local unions on the mailing list for "Labor's Montly Survey," published each month by the American Federation of Labor.

This worth-while educational material deals with such matters as living costs, wage rates and other subjects of interest and value to the organized labor movement.
PACT SIGNED WITH PRINTING CONCERN

Atlanta, Ga.—A union shop agreement with the Williams Printing Company has been signed by OEU Local 315 and the company’s president, Ruby J. Johnson, president of the local.

The agreement brings many gains to the office force covered thereby and establishes a 40-hour week, with time and one-half paid for all overtime work and for all work performed on Sundays and legal holidays.

The office force is assured of legal holidays off with no loss in pay, as well as paid vacations and paid sick leave. Severance pay running up to a total of 20 weeks is also established.

The wage schedules won include provision for automatic six months step increases during the first year of employment.

Movie Unions Agree to Draft Plan to Avoid Jurisdictional Strife

Washington, D.C.—Decision to draft a plan under which jurisdictional questions involved in the motion picture industry would be settled by the conference of all interested parties is reported.

The conference was called by AFL President William Green, who presided over the conference, and the special committee will proceed immediately to carry out the decision of the conference. We have asked all representatives of all the principal jurisdictions involved in the motion picture industry.

The committee held its first meeting immediately after the adjournment of the two-day conference.

27-Hour Week For Employees of Union

Toronto, Ont.—An agreement just negotiated by OEU Local 99 with the Toronto Motion Picture Projectionists Union covering its office staff, establishes a 27-hour week. Another outstanding feature of this contract is its cumulative sick leave clause which allows for one day's sick leave credit, with such unused sick leave to accumulate up to 200 days total, with partial sick leave credit being paid in cash upon retirement.

In addition to the standard two weeks vacation with full pay, a third week is provided after five years' employment.

The wage schedule provides for automatic annual increases during the first five years of employment. The agreement was negotiated by Local 93 with the assistance of A. F. of L. Representative Russell Harvey.

Further Gains In Dairy Agreement

Pittsburgh, Pa.—Weekly wage increases of $8 have been obtained for all office clerical employees of the Dairy Emotions, Inc., in a new contract negotiated by Local 33, according to John P. Magnoti, its business representative.

The renewal agreement preserves all the gains previously obtained, including the full union shop, 5-day week, 8-hour day, paid holidays, two-week paid vacation and other worthwhile employment conditions.

NLRB ELECTION ORDERED

East Stroudsburg, Pa.—At the request of the OEU, the NLRB has ordered an election to be held within 10 working days among the office and clerical workers employed at the Line Materials Company's plant in this city.

These workers will vote as to whether or not they desire to be represented by OEU Local 201. OEU Local 201 has signed a consent to the NLRB's request for an election which has been agreed to by the company.

Firth has assisted this group in organizing and in obtaining an NLRB election to establish Lewis Magnoti's exclusive bargaining rights.

NEW PACT WITH PAPER UPS WAGES

Oakland, Calif.—An increase of $22 per month for the employees in the office business, advertising department and printing and circulation department of the Richmond Independent newspaper highlights the new agreement between the Independent Publishing Co. and Local 29, according to Business Representative John Kinnick of the local who handled the negotiations.

The contract provides for the union shop with hiring through the union office. Hours are limited to 8 per day and 40 per week, with time and one-half for overtime. The agreement also provides paid vacations, sick leave and personal days.

The new agreement is retroactive to January 6, 1947.

ELECTION SLATED AT PUROLATOR FIRM

Newark, N. J.—Plant clerical workers employed by the Purolator Products, Inc., will have an opportunity to vote as to whether or not they desire to be represented by OEU Local 143, under a recent decision and direction of election in a jurisdictional dispute.

The Board action was based on the request of Local 143, which is seeking exclusive bargaining rights for this group and has substantial membership in this unit.

Although the company contended that plan timekeepers should be excluded from the voting unit because of the role they play in the computation of pay, the NLRB found the inclusion of timekeepers with the other plant clerical workers.

Major Industrial Firms Show Big Profit Rise

New York City.—A survey of the Wall Street Journal reveals that profits of 14 major industrial firms in the first quarter of this year averaged 287.7 percent over their profits for the same period in 1946.

The study, covering 15 industrial groups, included the largest and most representative groupings in the industry, showed some profit increases as high as 370 percent.

Steel industry companies, for instance, jumped their profit 357.3 percent over last year to stand second highest on the industry list. All steel companies managed to increase their take by 255 percent. Nine pulp and paper companies managed to boost their profits by more than 182 percent, thanks in part to a newsprint shortage.

While steel industry profits totaled $105,671,881 for the first three months of this year as compared to $22,462,192 last year, the coal and coke industry profits increased from $1,617,804 to $7,388,751, while the building material and equipment firms made $29,546,809, compared to last year's $8,301,672.

AGREEMENTS COVER 15,000 WORKERS

Washington, D.C.—Approximately 15 million workers were covered by collective bargaining agreements in 1948, an increase of one million over the previous year, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. Workers employed under the terms of written agreements represented 48 percent of the 31 million workers employed in the fields in which unions have been endeavoring to secure agreements.

A CALL FOR PROMPT ACTION

Attention all members in U.S.A.

Write to your Congressman.
Write to your Senator.
Write to President Truman.

Tell them what you think of the vicious anti-labor Taft-Hartley Bills which were recently passed by the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives.

Tell them in your own words of your views on such legislation.

Time is short—tomorrow may be too late. The bills are now in joint committee to iron out differences between them. During this period, prior to adoption of the revised bill by both houses, and then prior to action by the executive branch of the government, many feelings and sentiments on this vital matter affecting the interest and welfare of all workers must be heard.

Write tonight—airmail or wire if you can—urge your relatives, friends and associates to do likewise, voicing their opposition to these unfair measures!