

# THE OFFICE WORKER

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

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## R. E. POLK CO. SIGNS OEIU AGREEMENT

Trenton, N. J.—Approximately 130 office and clerical workers employed by R. L. Polk & Co., direct mail division, will achieve substantial benefits under the terms of a new agreement recently signed between OEIU Local 70 and the company, according to International Representative George P. Firth who assisted in the organization of this office and in the contract negotiations.

Highlights of the agreement with this nation-wide directory concern included substantial wage rate adjustments obtained with the adoption of a classified wage scale providing for automatic progressions on time step intervals. Bonuses were also paid to employees exceeding standard production rates.

The agreement provides for a 40-hour work week, 8-hour day Monday through Friday, with time and one-half for all daily and weekly overtime, and double time for all Sunday and holiday work. Annual paid vacations of one week after one year's employment and two weeks after two years' employment were obtained. Also gained were six holidays which are granted to all employees with full pay.

The rates in the new agreement become effective as of October 20, with additional wage adjustments being made retroactively to August 25. The agreement provides for the full union shop which was overwhelmingly desired by the employees, as indicated by the results of the NLRB union shop election held late last month.

The negotiating committee included Alice Allsop, Helen Briggs, Paul Clayton, Catherine Folwell, Agnes Hancarick, Bertha Marut, Jessie Quist and Stephen Takach. They were assisted by George P. Firth, International Representative.

The company was represented by Julian Wolfner, Vice President, Fred R. Mixer, Secretary, C. A. Wollenzen, Jr., Personnel Director, E. L. Jantz, Plant Manager, and Mrs. A. M. Cousens, local Personnel Director.

## UNION SHOP WINS

Trenton, N. J.—One of the first union security elections conducted by the National Labor Relations Board under the Taft-Hartley law was won by OEIU Local 70 on October 23.

It involved the office and clerical employees of the R. L. Polk & Co., publisher of city directories.

The union shop was authorized by an overwhelming majority of the ballots cast.

Local 70 was chosen collective bargaining representative by the workers in an NLRB election last July. The law passed in the meantime required them to ratify the union shop clause before it could be included in the working agreement.

## Bond Clerks Merged With OEIU Wall Street Local

New York City—New impetus was given the OEIU in Wall Street by the merger of the Independent Association of Telephone Bond Clerks into UFE Local 205, OEIU.

David Keefe, president of Local 205, stated that "this merger unites the forces of the only successful unions ever formed in the Street."

"The enlarged organization," he pointed out, "covers by its contracts employees of all metropolitan exchanges, their affiliated companies and a substantial number of member firms. In addition several significant representation elections are pending, notably in Bache & Co., employing over 400 persons."

"The Association was the oldest union in Wall Street. It pioneered the way for UFE, which formed about a year after the Bond Clerks sewed up their first contract. Built originally along craft lines, the Association boasted a membership of ace clerks serving bond firms on the floor of the Exchange. It has long been respected throughout the Street for the high caliber of its standards and objectives."

"The terms of the merger established a new bond group in the local which broadens the scope and activity of that group. Geared to the overall plan for Street-wide organization, plans are already being

completed for rounding out membership in the new division, which will unite back office employees with floor clerks and exchange staffs to produce better contract results for all."

Keefe further reported that the signing of a stipulation has cleared the way for the election at Bache & Co. and the NLRB is expected to set an early date.

## WIN WAGE INCREASE AT FOOD MACHINERY

Middleport, N. Y.—An across-the-board increase of \$16.80 per month was won by Local 184 in a renewal agreement negotiated with Food Machinery Corporation. Rate adjustments are retroactive to July 1.

The negotiations were conducted by OEIU Representative George P. Firth, Wallace T. Crosson and a committee of the local composed of Freda J. Woodworth, Marcy C. Balczrak, Fred R. Trump, Dean G. Vollmer, Thomas C. Montgomery and Nord W. Patton.

## OFFICERS OF OEIU MEET WITH LOCAL 11

Portland, Ore.—International President Paul R. Hutchings and Secretary-Treasurer J. Howard Hicks paid a visit to Local 11 and addressed a meeting of the local on October 22.

President Hutchings discussed plans of the OEIU to organize office and clerical workers wherever they are employed. The union, he declared, has only "scratched the surface" and the big job remaining "can be done only as we form a team and work together."

He further stressed the importance of collective bargaining free from governmental interference and the necessity to resist the "march of the bureaucrats into labor-management relations."

Secretary-Treasurer Hicks, who expressed pleasure at being back in his native city, complimented the Portland labor movement for its vigilance and militancy in carrying out responsibilities, particularly Local 11.

It was the first time President Hutchings had met with the members of Local 11.

The two International leaders were featured on a radio program while in the city.

All such elections conducted to date in A. F. of L. unions have resulted in the workers registering strong approval of the union shop.

## FURTHER BENEFITS AT TAMPA ELECTRIC

Tampa, Fla.—Further benefits for office and clerical employees of Tampa Electric Company were secured in a renewal agreement negotiated by OEIU Local 46.

One of the highlights is the vacation clause under which all workers with 10 or more years of service shall receive three-week vacations with pay, according to J. O. Bloodworth, business representative of Local 46 and a vice president of the International Union. Two weeks is provided for those with one or more years of service and one week for those in service six months or more.

The agreement also provides a 10 per cent overall increase and continues such benefits as paid holidays, seniority, union security, two-week sick leave and group insurance.

## WAGES BOOSTED

Pittsburgh, Pa.—Wage increases ranging from 12½ to 25¢ per hour highlight the gains made in a renewal agreement with the Reid Murdock (a division of Consolidated Groceries Association) by OEIU Local 33, according to Business Representative Frank W. Riott who handled the negotiations.

## AFL Union Leaders To Map Political Campaign

San Francisco.—Carrying out the mandate of the 66th annual AFL convention, the Executive Council announced that a meeting of all national and international union presidents has been scheduled for December 5 and 6 in Washington for the purpose of organizing "Labor's Educational and Political League."

Establishment of the league was voted unanimously by the convention as a means of combating the Taft-Hartley law. Its purpose is three-fold:

### Purpose of League

1. To see that union members go to the polls in 1948.
2. To make known to union members the meaning of the economic and political policies of the American Federation of Labor and the evil effects of the vicious Taft-Hartley measure.
3. To bring about the defeat at the polls of labor's foes in Congress and the various state legislatures and to elect those men who will give labor a square deal.

Following an Executive Council session, AFL President William Green said the meeting of union chiefs was called in order to discuss and formulate definite plans for the league concerning its organization and methods of operation. The convention left such details to the union officials and merely authorized the establishment of the league as a weapon to be used

by the AFL in the coming crucial political battles of 1948.

The council was of the opinion, he said, that regular AFL funds could be used within the meaning of the Taft-Hartley law for the purpose of carrying on the educational aspects of the campaign. This embraces the task of acquainting the workers with AFL policies and explaining how the provisions of the law adversely affect union activities.

In regard to the political phase, the council decided that necessary funds should be raised by voluntary contributions on the part of union members and friends of the labor movement.

### Convention Closes

After having given the officers of the AFL a unanimous mandate to carry on an all-out political and educational campaign for the repeal of the Taft-Hartley law, the historic convention came to a close.

Accepting reelection as AFL president for the 24th consecutive term, Green outlined to the delegates this program for the future:

"We must forget petty bickering among ourselves. I plead for unity, for solidarity, and for the complete mobilization of all our strength and resources in the coming fight."

"If we do, we will win the economic and political battles that we face in 1948."

"I appeal with all my power to  
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OFFICE EMPLOYEES  
INTERNATIONAL UNION



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

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## MAJOR FOOD PRICES TO GO STILL HIGHER

Washington, D. C.—The nation's workers, already forced to do without foods because of high prices, found no encouragement in a prediction on prices and food supplies for 1948 issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

The bureau's forecast indicated higher prices were on the way for several commodities, some of which appeared headed toward peak levels reached during and after World War I.

On livestock and meats, the bureau said prices probably will continue high and meat production was expected to drop about 10 pounds per person from the 1947 average per capita rate of 155 pounds.

Egg and poultry prices also are expected to average higher than this year, and dairy products may be higher the first six months of next year than in the first half of 1947. There may be a drop in the last half, the bureau said.

Prices of wheat, which in Chicago soared to the highest mark for the December futures delivery since 1917, were forecast by the bureau to be governed largely by the size of next year's crop. Export demand was expected to continue large until the middle of 1949. December wheat at one time this week was quoted at \$3.10 $\frac{3}{4}$  a bushel while in the cash market No. 2 red wheat was sold for \$3.16 $\frac{1}{2}$ , the highest price since 1920.

The bureau's outlook on corn and other livestock feeds was that prices were expected to average higher than this year and because of this year's poor corn crop the total feed supplies would be smaller.

Prices for potatoes early in 1948 probably will be higher than last winter, the bureau said, while continued high prices were predicted for wool during the first half of next year. Fruit prices were expected to be about the same as this year.

Moderately lower prices were foreseen in a larger rye crop, while

## OEU President Emphasizes Need For Working Partnership In Talk To Management

Berkeley, Calif.—At the invitation of the California Personnel Management Association, International President Paul R. Hutchings addressed the 18th Pacific Coast Management Conference at the Claremont Hotel October 21.

Speaking on "Labor Views the Era Ahead," Hutchings declared that there is no greater problem facing labor and management today than the development of a sound working partnership.

"The very existence of our system of free enterprise and free labor and our rising standard of living depend on finding the way for management and labor to work together for their own and the public benefit," he pointed out.

"The development of a sound working partnership relationship rests on two fundamentals: First, management must recognize labor as a full partner in the mutual enterprise. Second, labor must accept a partner's responsibility.

"The first step toward recognition of labor as a full partner comes with the whole-hearted recognition of the workers' only effective instrument of dealing with management, their trade union organization. We in labor do not question the duly selected corporate representatives nor do we try to deal directly with the individual stockholders. Such a situation would be impotent and untenable. Similarly, we expect the duly selected representatives of management to extend to the union, the duly selected representative of the workers, the same degree of recognition. Any management attempts to by-pass the chosen spokesmen of the workers and deal directly with the individual workers who have selected such spokesmen can only result in a killing or mutilating of the confidence and mutual trust which are so basic to any successful partnership.

"Wholehearted recognition requires full assurance of union security and of management security. The workers want assurance that management is not entering into a partnership with them through their union, only to start gunning for their member of the partnership team in an attempt to dissolve it. Management wants assurances against strife and work stoppages, and that its partner will be a responsible member of the free enterprise team.

"The benefits to management, labor, and the public which result from a sound cooperative partnership of labor and management in our free enterprise system are manifold.

"Where such relationships have grown we find that among labor's

somewhat lower prices also were predicted for commercial truck crops.

As wheat at Chicago and other big markets continued its upward trend, there was another increase in bakery flour prices at Minneapolis, moving 10 cents higher per hundred pounds to \$7.85. Also on the upgrade in markets were rubber, scrap steel, cocoa, butter, lamb, corn, rye and cotton. In the livestock markets prices of hogs, cattle and oats declined.

gains were job security, fair handling of grievances, union participation in all decisions affecting workers, satisfaction at work because of fair and just conditions and good work relationships, equitable wage rates, assurance that wages will increase as productive efficiency improves, and a growing sense of partnership in the joint enterprise.

"Among management's benefits as expressed by the President of one midwestern company after six years of cooperation: 'We can expand our plants, add new items, plan sales campaigns, advertise and seek foreign markets with never a fear of work stoppage or strife. We can work together to cut costs and increase production. Our union relationship has been a great asset.' In that company, sales per worker have increased threefold, supervision has been reduced 80%, lateness and loitering have been eliminated, morale is high with greater responsibility and more pride in craftsmanship on the part of the workers. Wages in that plant have already increased more than 100% during a six year period, which was 33% more than the average increase during such period in American factories generally.

"The task of building mutual trust and cooperation requires the careful attention of both management and labor. Dependence each upon the other and the carrying out of their respective commitments in good faith is vital to the building of such a relationship.

"The responsible clear thinking leaders of American Labor have no use for totalitarianism regardless of its present name or advocates. We know that we in America are enjoying the highest living standards in the world and that these standards have been achieved by free men working together under our free enterprise competitive system. We do not want to destroy it. We want to preserve it, to improve it, to work with it. Through it we know from experience that we shall achieve constantly broadening benefits for all the people and give hope, inspiration and a new spirit to the troubled world.

"We know that many clear thinking business leaders think similarly.

"We share a grave responsibility today. The democratic world looks to us today not only for material help but for that spiritual leadership in economic affairs which can point the way forward. We must supply true economic statesmanship. We must ever hold our government to be the true servant of the whole people and vigilantly demand of our elected representatives that their legislative conduct reflect sound economic statesmanship that recognizes the mutual interdependence of free enterprise and free labor, rather than shortsighted, selfish service to pressure groups, who, perhaps (we hope unwittingly) would use our government to destroy our opportunity to solve our problems as free men who believe in the dignity and worth of each individual."

Hutchings blasted the Communists sitting back waiting for us to go into an economic tailspin. Their

emissaries are even now pushing and prodding in their nefarious ways toward dictatorial government controls, he said.

Contrasting the American standard of living with that of Russia, he said it is estimated that in 1946 nine hours of work was required to pay for the worker's daily food, 100 hours to pay for a pair of woolen gloves, 1,000 hours to buy a woman's coat and 8 hours to buy one bottle of beer.

Hutchings then discussed the free enterprise system which has made possible living standards of American workers that far surpass those existing for kindred workers the world over.

"It is not a one-horse affair," he pointed out. "Labor cannot be hobbled and still give the unified pulling power and teamwork necessary to a constant increase in production and the unfolding of the yet unseen benefits of our way of life.

"Any step toward the destruction of free labor is a certain step toward the destruction of free enterprise just as surely as any step toward the nationalization of industry would be."

"If we are to keep our free enterprise system, then each group must take responsibility," Hutchings went on. "If full employment is to continue, then the entire product of those who work must be bought and taken off the market day by day as it is produced.

"The \$64 question in the months ahead is whether prices will come down so that consumer buying can expand? According to the Department of Labor, the average factory worker in June was worse off in terms of purchasing power than he was in 1941. Stacked against these facts are the cold figures on which indicate that corporation profits this year have been higher than the all-time peak reached in the last half of 1946.

"These high figures are unquestionably due to the fact that prices rose much more than necessary to offset increases in costs.

"Gentlemen, our destinies are inseparable. We are playing on the same team. We are fighting for the same goals. We are both recipients of the results of the free enterprise system which we here in America have learned to operate better than any other country in the world.

### VOTE FOR UNION SHOP

San Francisco.—On October 31, OEIU Local 36 participated in the first union shop election to be conducted in the San Francisco region, which was held among the office employees of the Globe Mills (Pillsbury Flour Mills). About 80 percent of all employees voted for the union shop, thus assuring a union shop clause in the renewal agreement, according to Local Secretary-Treasurer Eleanor D. Murphy.

## LEADERS OF UNIONS TO MAP CAMPAIGN

(Continued from page 1)

those who left us to come back to the American Federation of Labor and join in a united fight to carry our great cause to victory.

"We face other major problems. We must fight the vicious spiral of inflation to bring lower prices and to attain a higher standard of living. We must fight bigotry, intolerance, racial discrimination, and all those evils which tend to divide the American workers."

Also elected unanimously were Secretary-Treasurer George Meany and the following members of the Executive Council: William L. Hutcheson, Matthew Woll, Joseph N. Weber, George M. Harrison, Daniel J. Tobin, Harry C. Bates, W. D. Mahon, W. C. Birthright, W. C. Doherty, David Dubinsky, Charles J. MacGowan, Herman L. Winter, Dan W. Tracy. Mr. Tracy succeeded John L. Lewis, whose name was not placed in nomination for reelection to the Executive Council.

Before adjournment the convention took the following outstanding actions:

1.—Authorized a vigorous campaign for repeal of the Taft-Hartley law on these two fronts:

(a) An educational campaign through radio programs, newspaper advertisements, and motion pictures to inform the American people, public and union members, how dangerous the law is to the nation.

(b) An active political campaign, to be waged by the newly created "Labor's Educational and Political League," to get American labor to go to the polls and bring about the defeat of reactionary, anti-labor candidates for Congress and to elect those Representatives who will favor repeal of the Taft-Hartley law.

2.—Adopted a strong, clear-cut foreign policy declaration which endorsed the Marshall plan for European aid and which assailed unequivocally the aggressive and expansionist policies of Soviet Russia.

3.—Drafted a positive legislative program for 1948, including passage of a long-range and effective national housing program, broadening of social security coverage and an increase in benefits paid, inauguration of national health insurance, and the lifting of the minimum wage level to at least 75 cents an hour.

4.—Protested the rising tide of inflation and called upon the Government to take action to lower prices.

5.—Raised the per capita tax paid by the affiliated unions to the American Federation of Labor from a base rate of 2 cents per member per month to a new flat rate of 3 cents. The increase is expected to yield an estimated \$1,000,000 in additional yearly income.

6.—Amended the AFL's constitution to permit directly affiliated federal labor unions to sign non-communist affidavits and use the services of the National Labor Relations Board for collective bargaining elections and the filing of complaint cases if they so desire.

7.—Voted to intensify the AFL's southern organizing campaign and

## Mediation Service Adopts 'Hands-Off' Policy In Disputes

Washington, D. C.—Cyrus S. Ching, director of the new Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service created by the Taft-Hartley law, announced the service would follow a "hands-off" policy whenever possible in labor disputes arising from contract termination of collective bargaining contracts.

Mr. Ching said the service would put major emphasis on keeping out of as many industrial disputes as it can. Major disputes affecting interstate commerce will get first attention, he declared.

Ching said selection and screening of disputes which the service will enter is necessary because of the "great case-load burden" placed on it by the Taft-Hartley Act.

The law requires that wherever a dispute arises over a new contract or renewal of an old one in an industry affecting interstate commerce the Mediation Service shall be notified 30 days in advance of a threatened strike or lockout. Labor officials said this would apply to 500,000 firms and 15,000,000 members of organized labor—the same groups covered by the Federal Wage-Hour and Labor Relations Act.

Ching said he would shortly issue a form to be used by companies and unions in notifying the service of disputes involving modification or termination of existing agreements.

"This form will elicit information which will assist the service in determining whether in a particular case it has statutory legal authority to intercede and whether such intercession will be in accordance with the principles and policies expressed in this statement," Ching said.

"The cooperation of all employers and unions is earnestly solicited in the employment of these forms as soon as they are made available at the offices of the service, international union and employer associations."

Ching reminded employers and unions that the Taft-Hartley Act "makes it a statutory duty . . . to participate fully and promptly in conciliation and mediation meetings called by the service."

He said he would follow these general rules:

1. Employers and unions will be encouraged to resolve industrial differences by themselves.

2. Labor disputes, primarily local and having but a minor effect on interstate commerce, should be conciliated and mediated, if need be, by agencies of state or local government.

3. The test of whether the Federal service intercedes shall be "whether such a significant interruption of commerce is threatened by the dispute as clearly to require Federal intercession to protect the interest of the Federal Government."

4. The service will refrain from interceding in grievance disputes

extend it ultimately into a nationwide membership drive.

8.—Urged greatly expanded federal aid for the educational institutions of the nation and for the welfare of the children attending the country's schools.

arising over the application or interpretation of an existing collective bargaining agreement, except for unusual cases.

5. The service will suggest that the parties agree to submit the employer's last offer of settlement to a secret ballot of the employees when other means of settlement have failed.

## Labor Queen



Miss McGinty

A member of OEIU Local 30 of Los Angeles, Miss LaVonne McGinty, was chosen "Queen of Labor" in a contest sponsored among AFL union members by the Los Angeles Citizen, weekly labor paper.

She was crowned at Los Angeles city hall and rode at the head of the Labor Day parade.

One of the gifts she received was an all-expense trip to Mexico City where she was entertained for a week.

## Election Slated at Goldenberg Store

Wash., D. C.—The office and clerical force of the Goldenberg Department Store will vote on November 13 in an NLRB election to determine whether they desire OEIU Local 2 as their exclusive bargaining agency, according to Local Business Representative W. R. Probey, who has organized this new group. A substantial majority of all eligibles are at present good standing members of the local union and it is anticipated that in the forthcoming election they will select OEIU as their bargaining representative by an overwhelming vote.

## DISCUSS ELECTIONS

Wash., D. C.—The importance of the 1948 elections to American voters was discussed on the November 4th program in the AFL weekly series of radio broadcasts over a nation-wide network of the American Broadcasting Co. Partici-

## FURTHER INCREASE IN WAGES SECURED

Trenton, N. J.—Renewal negotiations with H. D. Lee & Co. have resulted in an across-the-board increase of \$18 a month for all office and clerical workers, according to International Representative George P. Firth who assisted the local in its renewal negotiations. The \$18 increase just obtained brings the total increases obtained in two years to \$45.50 per member per month.

In accordance with the requirements of the Taft-Hartley Act a union shop election has been scheduled, after which the renewal agreement will be signed.

## Raise Per Capita On AFL Unions

San Francisco—The AFL convention, by unanimous vote, increased the per capita tax paid by affiliated unions to the American Federation of Labor and modified the Executive Council's power to levy assessments by extending the period of time within which such assessments may be made.

Under the new amendment to the AFL's constitution the per capita tax is established at a flat 3 cents per member per month. This is an increase over the old base rate and is payable on a union's entire membership. Under the old tax structure, the rate decreased to 1½ cents per month for all members of any union which had a membership in excess of 200,000.

The convention action gave the Executive Council authority to make assessments on affiliated unions at the rate of 1 cent per member per week for a period not in excess of 26 weeks in any one year "when the interests of the AFL require it," and when per capita tax funds are insufficient. The plan in effect last year limited the period which assessments could be made to a period of 10 weeks and then only to assist a national or international union "engaged in a protracted strike or lockout."

The increase in AFL income per year from the greater per capita tax was estimated at \$1,000,000 by George Meany, secretary-treasurer of the AFL.

No figure can be set for the amount of the increase resulting under the liberalized assessment procedure since there is an emergency situation requiring an assessment and the amount needed to meet the specific condition.

The per capita tax boost was originally recommended by the Executive Council, which set forth no specific purpose for the use of the funds. It is expected, however, that part of the money will be utilized to expand the public relations program of the AFL in line with recommendations of the Executive Council on that subject.

Participants in the discussion were Paul R. Hutchings, International President of the OEIU, Lewis G. Hines, Legislative Representative of the AFL and Philip Pearl, AFL Publicity Director.

## WAGES NOT CAUSE OF PRICE RUNAWAY

San Francisco—The most powerful force which can furnish leadership in the solution of our economic problems must come from the trade union movement in the United States, Secretary of Labor L. B. Schwellenbach declared before the convention of the American Federation of Labor.

The secretary said he was convinced of this because this force represents the largest factor in our population. Also that it touches more intimately than any other factor the problems of the great mass of the American people, whether they are within or without the organized labor groups.

One of the problems facing the United States at the present time discussed by the secretary was the high cost of living. He said that for over two years the favorite vocation of those opposed to trade unionism has been to attempt to blame each price increase upon wage increases.

### Fight Propaganda

"I think we should fight with all of our vigor any effort to continue the campaign to tie upon the wage earners of the country the label of being exclusively responsible for the increase," Schwellenbach remarked. The secretary continued by saying that there is a relationship between wage increases and prices but that it is not a pushing process or a pulling up process.

Giving some statistics on costs of living he pointed out that in the last 15 months living costs have increased 20%. Weekly and hourly earnings of factory workers have risen less than 15%. The \$49 or \$50 take-home-pay of the average worker today buys just about the same goods and services that his \$33 did just after Pearl Harbor. Thus Schwellenbach maintained that wage increases have not been the cause of price increases because they have never succeeded in attaining a goal of level of price-wage relationship.

Schwellenbach remarked further that the fact is that the prices of food products have increased 72 percent over prewar prices; the prices of manufactured products have increased 48 percent during the same period. Very largely the people who grew and processed the food products are not organized into unions. Almost universally the people who produce the manufactured products are organized into unions. Therefore, the facts support the proposition that, regardless of wage increases brought about through collective-bargaining contracts, the increase in prices due to other causes greatly exceeded that in the field where labor unions operated.

### Entitled to Nest-Egg

Discussing profits and savings, the secretary said he objected to people who contend for the right to make their corporations secure and also contend that the wage earners of America should dip into their savings and let their personal futures take care of themselves.

"I think the wage earner is as much entitled to get a nest-egg of insurance for the future as in a corporation," he said. "It is a proved fact that savings by wage

## NLRB Reverses Denham On His Affidavit Edict

Washington, D. C.—The National Labor Relations Board, in a 4-to-1 decision handed down in a test case, ruled that top officers of the AFL and the CIO are not required to sign non-Communist affidavits under the Taft-Hartley law.

Bowing to the ruling by the NLRB, Robert N. Denham, general counsel for the board, announced the new decision would apply in unfair practice complaint cases as well as in representation cases brought before the NLRB.

Denham originally issued a regulation requiring affidavits by all AFL officers before any AFL affiliated unions could appear before the board. The NLRB's decision flatly reversed him.

In San Francisco, AFL President William Green heralded the NLRB decision as an AFL victory. Commenting on the board's action, he said: "The decision sustains our position. The autonomous status of AFL affiliated unions has now been fully recognized. Each union may now decide if it wishes to process cases before the NLRB."

The NLRB's majority decision was signed by three members: Chairman Paul Herzog, and members John M. Houston and James J. Reynolds. A separate concurring opinion was filed by member Abe Murdock.

The only dissenter was member J. Copeland Gray.

The majority opinion said the re-

## UNUSUAL CONTRACTS

Washington, D. C.—A large insurance company has a clause in its collective bargaining agreement which provides that the company will pay its agents money lost while the employees were on a four-week strike.

This and other unusual Labor contract clauses are reported by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

A guarantee of pay for a 47-hour week is provided in another contract, whether employees work the full time or not.

Under another contract employees not only receive hospitalization and medical care when required, but the company pays for the hospitalization and medical care for their families. This contract sets up a stabilization committee to guarantee that production changes will not in any way interfere with the employees receiving full pay.

A chemical plant contract provides for two 15-minute rest periods per shift for each worker.

Another chemical plant contract provides that the company pay for eyeglass frames for those workers who need glasses and for half of the employees' prescription expenses for the glasses.

Earners decreased 45 percent as between 1945 and 1946. It is a proved fact that the present savings of the great mass of the American people are 30 percent below what they were on V-J Day."

On the other hand, he said that profits of corporations for the first quarter of 1947 were \$857,000,000 compared with \$323,000,000 for the same period a year ago.

quirement that all top AFL and CIO officers sign the Communist affidavits did not accomplish the fundamental purpose of Congress which was "to eliminate Communist influence from the labor movement of the United States."

"Are Communists," the board asked, "likely to be eliminated from positions of influence in the labor movement by our barring those local and international unions that are in full compliance . . . merely because certain officers of a parent organization over whose status they have only the most remote control may choose not to sign the required affidavits?"

"We think not."

The majority said that "in the absence of a clear expression of legislative intent to the contrary," they could only conclude that "Congress could not have deliberately intended 'national or international organization' to include the two great national federations."

In his concurring opinion, Murdock said the law was fuzzy on the issue, but "where there are two possible interpretations of the scope of those filing requirements, clearly we should adopt that interpretation which will serve the general purpose of the act rather than the one which will defeat its basic purpose."

The test case before the National Labor Relations Board arose as the result of a ruling by Ross Madden, Regional Director of the board in Baltimore dismissing a petition for certification of bargaining representatives which had been filed by Local No. 1215 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL, in the matter of Northern Virginia Broadcasters, Inc., a company operating radio station WARL in Arlington, Virginia.

The petition for certification was filed July 17, 1947. A consent election was scheduled for September 3, 1947, but was postponed by Regional Director Madden because although the local union and the IBEW had complied with all filing requirements under the Taft-Hartley law, the officers of the AFL had not done so.

Daniel W. Tracy, president of the IBEW, then filed a petition with the Regional Director requesting him to proceed with the election, and subsequently filed a petition requesting the Regional Director either to dismiss the petition for certification or proceed with the election.

Upon the denial of these petitions, Mr. Tracy appealed the Regional Director's ruling to the National Labor Relations Board. He charged that Mr. Denham's ruling which was the basis of the Regional Director's action was a "far-fetched legal interpretation . . . which will prove ruinous, if unchanged, to labor-management relations."

## HIGH PRICES REDUCE AUTO, HOUSE PURCHASES

Washington, D. C.—Many consumers who planned to buy automobiles or houses within the next five years have abandoned their plans for at least 12 months "because of high prices."

## OEU CHOSEN BY KRAFT EMPLOYEES

Buffalo, New York.—The office and clerical staff of Kraft Foods, Inc., plant in this city by an overwhelming vote in an NLRB election have chosen the OEU as their exclusive collective bargaining representative according to Acting Regional Director John Schrier of the A. F. L. who has been assisting this group. Contract negotiations are presently under way and a Local Union charter is being established for this group and other interested office workers in the Buffalo area.

## LIBEL SUIT WON BY AFL PAPER WORKERS

New York City.—The AFL's International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers and two officials of its Local 229 won a court battle over a libel action against the CIO's Wholesale and Warehouse Workers Union, known to be Communist-dominated.

The CIO affiliate entered a stipulation in the New York State Supreme Court agreeing to retract publicly libelous statements made by its officers against Joseph Tonelli, vice-president of the AFL union, and A. N. Weinberg, manager of its Local 229.

In an attempted raid on the AFL membership, the CIO union published and distributed several pamphlets and circulars which referred to the AFL officers as "thieves" and "racketeers." Following the appearance of these circulars, libel action was filed against the CIO union president by Mr. Tonelli and Mr. Weinberg.

Apparently not willing to have the issue brought to trial, the CIO defendants agreed to publish a statement that "these references and characterizations were without foundation in fact" and "unjustified."

## FLEMING URGES 75-CENT HOURLY MINIMUM WAGE

Washington, D. C.—Maj. Gen. Philip B. Fleming, Federal Works Administrator, urged a House labor subcommittee to recommend that the present 40-cent-an-hour national minimum wage be raised to 75 cents.

The committee is studying the Wage and Hour Law preliminary to recommending amendments to Congress. General Fleming was in charge of administering the statute from 1939 to 1941. Describing the present minimum as "grotesque, obsolete and ridiculously low," he said the large number of violations pointed up "the need for an increase and a strengthened enforcement program."

General Fleming proposed that wage protection be extended to workers on large industrialized farms, but not to those on "family sized" farms.

This was revealed in a survey conducted by the Federal Reserve Board on the financial condition and buying plans of consumers.