

THE OFFICE WORKER

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

No. 34

WASHINGTON, D. C., OCTOBER, 1947



OEIU ASKS NLRB TO AMEND RULES

Washington, D. C.—The Office Employees International Union, the first Labor organization to comply with both the registration filing requirements and the non-communist affidavits requirements of the Taft-Hartley Act, has, with a group of other American Federation of Labor International Unions, through its General Counsel Joseph A. Padway petitioned the NLRB to amend its rules so as to not deny the use of the board's services because of the A. F. of L. failure to file non-communist affidavit forms.

The petition for amendment specifically requested the Board to amend section 202.3 of its rules so as to allow International Unions and their Local Unions who have complied with the registration and affidavit filing requirements to have access to the board's services even though the A. F. of L. itself has not met such requirements.

The Board was urged to grant an early hearing on the petition.

In commenting on this action, President Paul R. Hutchings stated:

"Without regard to our feelings in connection with the vicious anti-labor Taft-Hartley law, our International Union and all of its officers immediately met all of the registration and affidavit requirements of the law for the express purpose of not impeding handling by the NLRB of pending cases involving our organization and its local unions, and so as not to stand in the way of our Local Unions having access to the Board for the handling of necessary new cases.

"Despite the prompt action of our International Union in complying with the requirements of the law, our organization and all of its Local Unions have been denied services on pending cases and have been prevented from obtaining Board action in the processing of new cases, including Union Shop Election cases as a result of the policy enunciated by NLRB's General Counsel R. N. Denham, and through the Board's rules in requiring compliance by the A. F. of L. as a condition to handling our cases. This construction of the law has been used to effectively forestall any access to the Board by International Unions such as ours, which have met all their filing requirements.

"It certainly could not have been the intention of Congress to deny self-governing International Unions their right to the use of the Board's services when they have met the requirements under the law. We cannot get the NLRB to conduct consent elections previously agreed to.

"Its regional offices refuse to docket our properly filed Union Shop Election petitions. Under these circumstances the law becomes even more a hollow mockery of deception and stands as an effective block to the promotion and development of industrial peace and increased production."

Request Bargaining Rights Of Big Insurance Company

Galveston, Texas.—Office Employees International Union Local 27 has requested exclusive bargaining rights for the office and clerical force of the American National Insurance Company in this city, according to Business Representative A. G. Wilson of the Local 27, and OEIU Vice-President C. A. Stafford, who is assisting in this organizing drive.

A substantial majority of the more than eight hundred eligible office workers in the home office of this Company have signed up for membership with the OEIU, and exclusive bargaining rights for the entire office force have been requested. It is anticipated that an NLRB election will be held to determine the majority status of the local union.

The Industrial and Ordinary Insurance Agents International Council, A. F. of L., recently established nation-wide bargaining rights for the agents of this company and has

recently concluded signed agreements covering the agents employed in all the operations of this company.

The office force at the home office has been moving rapidly in following the lead of the insurance agents to improve their working conditions through OEIU organization and collective bargaining.

BOARD VOTES TO DROP CONVENTION

Washington, D. C.—At its regular September meeting the executive board of the Office Employees International Union voted unanimously against holding the international convention in 1948 after careful and serious consideration of the matter.

This action is in accord with the International constitution which provides that any regular convention need not be held if the board so determines, provided further that two-thirds of all locals voting thereon approve.

The question has been submitted to all local unions with the request that it be considered at the first meeting after it is received.

Reports on the action taken must be mailed to International headquarters not later than October 31. It was recommended that locals which do not have regular meetings before that date call a meeting to dispose of the matter.

better lighting, cleanliness and ventilation in the offices and washrooms.

The duration of the agreement is from August 20, 1947 until August 20, 1948.

Glen F. Mellenkamp, President, and Joyce Esgar, Secretary-Treasurer of Local No. 5 in Denver signed for the Union.

The stewards at General Iron Works were authorized by the employees to act as the negotiating committee. They are Raymond Wright, Bertha Enax, John Gore, and Margaret Livingston.

RATES BOOSTED BY GENERAL IRON PACT

Denver, Colo.—Office employees at General Iron Works have signed a new agreement with that company calling for 12c an hour across-the-board increase effective November 1, 1947.

Local No. 5 in Denver has negotiated three different agreements for the employees of this company. Total hourly wage increases amount to approximately 45c per hour for each classification since January 1, 1946.

The union security consists of maintenance of membership only, but over 90 percent of the employees eligible are members of the Union.

The plant is on a forty-hour week at the present time. About fifty employees covered by the agreement receive two weeks vacation after one year's service, sick leave, severance pay and six paid holidays. A Safety and Sanitation committee has been active in obtaining

Increases Won at Busch-Sulzer

St. Louis, Mo.—A general wage increase of 11½ cents per hour highlights the gains made in a recently negotiated agreement covering the timekeeping department of the Busch-Sulzer Diesel Engine Co., Division of the Nordberg Mfg. Co., by OEIU Local 13, according to President Leonard Amrhein of the local union.

Other gains won over the previous agreement include provision for six paid holidays and improvements in the paid vacation schedule.

The agreement, effective August 1, provides for the full union shop,

grievance and arbitration procedures and seniority recognition. Overtime in excess of 8 hours per day is paid for at the rate of time and one-half, which rate also applies for the first 4 hours on Saturday, with double time thereafter. Double time is paid for 6 legal holidays worked.

The renewal agreement was negotiated by President Amrhein and committee members Stephanie Murphy and Chas. Lienhard. AFL Representative Frank E. Morton assisted the committee in these negotiations.

IMPROVEMENTS IN DISNEY CONTRACT

Burbank, Calif.—Further substantial gains and improvements in employment conditions were obtained by OEIU Local 140 in its recent renewal agreement with Walt Disney Productions covering the office and clerical workers employed in such studio, according to Local Union Vice President Mel Melton.

Outstanding among the gains made in addition to the up-grading of a number of members covered by the contract, were improvements in the paid vacation clause so as to provide one day's paid vacation for each 21 days work.

The new contract also eliminates lay-offs during the week to compensate for overtime work. Employees working on Sunday receive under the new contract double time for all such work regardless of the number of hours which may have been worked during the week. The agreement also provides, in addition to the regular overtime provisions, that any employee who works fourteen consecutive hours including meal period shall receive two and one-half times his regular rate of pay for all additional hours worked on such day.

Under the new contract the studio is obligated to give any employee a week's notice and a week's severance pay, or two weeks' severance pay if he is laid off or dismissed after two years' service. New shift premiums have been gained so that employees now receive 10 percent for all work between the hours of 8 P.M. and 1 A.M. and 20 percent for work performed after 1 A.M. and before 6 A.M.

Another outstanding gain was an increase of the service brackets from 5 years to 7 years in the wage schedules, thus assuring automatic salary adjustments to all employees through the first 78 months of their employment with the company.

Wages Upped at Fulton Sylphon

Knoxville, Tenn.—All office and clerical workers employed by the Fulton Sylphon Company have received an increase of \$15.60 per month under the terms of an amendment to the agreement which OEIU Local 144 has with the company.

This wage adjustment was made retroactive to June 1, thus giving to each employee retroactive pay of approximately \$33.48, according to OEIU Vice-President Carson, who together with A. F. L. representative R. O. Ross assisted the local committee in the negotiations.

In addition to the general increase all minimum and maximum rates of the agreement have been increased by a like amount.

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Official organ of the
OFFICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION



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51% OF EMPLOYERS "CHISELED" WORKERS

Washington, D. C.—Fifty-one percent, or 20,570 of the 40,350 establishments inspected by the Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions, U. S. Department of Labor, in the year ending June 30, were found to be in violation of the minimum wage, overtime or child labor provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act of the Public Contracts Act. Seven percent of the 550,000 covered establishments in the country were inspected.

More than \$18,000,000 in illegally withheld wages were found due 311,236 employees, according to William W. McComb, Administrator, who announced the results of the Divisions' activities last year. Of this amount, \$8,844,000 was paid at the request of the Divisions or on court order by approximately 15,000 violating employers.

The remaining 5,000 employers failed to pay back wages due under the acts. In these cases employees were notified of their right to sue for back wages under Section 16(b) of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

In cases involving 14,000 employers and 175,000 employees, where restitution was made, violations resulted from failure to pay time and one-half of the regular rate after 40 hours a week as required by the Wage and Hour law.

Minimum wage violations—failure to pay at least 40 cents an hour under the Wage and Hour law—were involved in 2,700 restitution cases affecting 37,000 wage earners.

Violations of the child labor provisions of the Public Contracts Act were found in 185 establishments. For the illegal employment of 942 minors, 141 contractors paid \$232,890 in liquidated damages.

Substantial violations of the record-keeping regulations under the Wage and Hour law were disclosed in 14,000 establishments. In 199 cases, falsification of records was disclosed.

Misuse of overtime exemptions for "administrative," "executive," and "professional employees" and failure to properly compute bonuses

Family Savings Dropped in '46; Outgo Exceeds Income For 27%

Ann Arbor, Mich.—Only 65 percent of American families saved any money during 1946 and another 27 percent exhausted their savings or went into debt, according to a study made by the Survey Research Center of the University of Michigan.

The Federal Reserve Board released the report in its monthly bulletin.

A decline in total net savings by the 46,300,000 spending units in the country was reported. Main factor in the drop-off in total national savings was the fact that 12,500,000 of the spending units spent more money than they earned during the year. Seven percent of all the spending units "broke even," spending what they earned and saving nothing.

A spending unit is defined as all persons living in the same dwelling unit and belonging to the same family who pooled their incomes to meet major expenses.

More than half of the total savings were accumulated by the one-tenth of the people who have incomes of \$5,000 or more. Spending units with incomes below the \$2,000-mark were "minus savers" as a group, the survey indicated.

Expenditures that exceeded income by as much as 25 percent were reported by 11 percent of all the spending units. Another 16 percent spent in excess of income, but by lesser proportions, the survey revealed.

These groups cashed in the liquid assets they had accumulated during

the war years or borrowed. Such occupational groups as clerical and sales, skilled and semi-skilled, and unskilled workers were hardest hit.

Almost two-fifths of the spending units with veterans of World War II members reported that they had spent more than they had earned.

Life insurance policies were the most frequent form of savings, with over 75 percent of all spending units indicating that they had saved money in this form. Other forms of savings were increased holdings of Federal bonds, savings accounts, checking accounts, payments on mortgages, and contributions to retirement funds.

Union Member's Creed

1—I believe that I should be a real member of the union and practice as well as preach the cause.

2—I believe that it is my duty to attend my union meetings regularly and serve on committees when I am called upon to do so.

3—I believe that as a union member I should pay my dues promptly and preferably in advance (thus saving my secretary-treasurer a headache).

4—I believe that those with whom I work should also be paid-up members of the organization.

5—I believe that I should patronize union places of business and demand the union label.

6—I believe that I should observe all safety rules in the place where I am employed and insist upon all other workers doing likewise.

7—I believe that it is my duty to notify my union of any change in my address, telephone number, or place of employment promptly.

8—I believe that I should never indulge in whisperings against an officer or any of the members and should not tolerate such practice.

9—I believe that I should be considerate of all members of the union, especially those who are getting along in years. (I'll be old myself some day.)

10—I believe that I should be always a good American citizen and cast my vote in every national, state, county and municipal election.

VETS' JOB PROTECTION

Washington, D. C.—The Veterans' Reemployment Rights Division of the Department of Labor has ruled that a veteran who reenlists within 90 days after discharge is entitled to be restored to the job he held prior to his original service upon completion of the reenlistment. These rights hold even though the veterans have not applied for reinstatement to their jobs between discharge and reenlistment.

Jobs of those in the merchant marine prior to July 25, 1947, are similarly protected if they apply for certificates of continuous service within 90 days of their last voyage.

MATERNITY CLAUSE IN EIGHT CONTRACTS

Washington, D. C.—The Women's Bureau of the U. S. Department of Labor, noting that the increase in the number of married women in the labor force has been accompanied by growing public interest in provisions for their welfare, announced here that it had recently completed a study of 8 union-contract health insurance plans which are believed to be typical of indemnity plans which include maternity benefits.

Results of the study appear in a bulletin just released, "Maternity Benefits under Union-Contract Health Insurance Plans." In planning the survey the Bureau considered 256 union-contract health insurance plans, of which 137 were known to include maternity benefits. From these, 8 plans covering over 20,000 women were chosen for detailed study.

Benefits for 6 Weeks

It was found that weekly cash maternity benefits are paid under all 8 plans for a period of 6 weeks, though for claims other than maternity the weekly cash benefits are paid for longer periods. In addition, all 8 plans provide hospitalization for from 10 to 14 days in maternity cases, rather than for longer periods as in other types of cases. Five of the 8 plans provide surgical benefits in maternity cases.

Under 6 of the 8 health-insurance plans premiums are paid in full by the employers. The other 2 plans require the workers to pay 25 and 50 percent, respectively, of the costs of their own health insurance.

Of the 20,000 women covered by these 8 health-insurance plans, 251 claimed maternity benefits, and the experiences of 185 individual women were studied by the Women's Bureau.

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACTS OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AND MARCH 3, 1933

OF THE OFFICE WORKER, published monthly at Washington, District of Columbia, for October, 1947. Washington, District of Columbia, ss.

Before me, a notary public in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared Paul R. Hutchings, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Editor of THE OFFICE WORKER and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, as amended by the Act of March 3, 1933, embodied in section 537, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher, Office Employees International Union, Washington, D. C.; Editor, Paul R. Hutchings, Washington, D. C.; Business Manager, J. Howard Hicks, Washington, D. C.

2. That the owner is: Office Employees International Union, Washington, D. C.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgages, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: None.

(Signed) PAUL R. HUTCHINGS,

Editor.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 29th day of September, 1947.

FRED S. WALKER,

(Seal) Notary Public.
(My commission expires December 31, 1947.)

SIGN PACT WITH SAFEMART STORES

Denver, Colo.—After negotiating for over three months, the office employees at Denver Safemart Stores, Inc. signed an agreement with the company only a few hours before the Taft-Hartley law became effective, August 22, 1947.

This is the second agreement signed for these employees by Local No. 5, Denver, which provides for an extension of the union shop until June 1, 1948, and obtains increases up to 10c an hour for all classifications.

Length of service increases are given after the first three months, second three months, and after the first year of employment. It is hoped that this new schedule will encourage employees to remain with the company and reduce the previous large turnover.

Rudy Cook, former business representative for Local No. 5, and Glen Mellencamp, President, handled the negotiations. It was necessary to call in the mediation committee of the Denver Trades and Labor Assembly before a satisfactory agreement could be reached.

President Mellencamp, and Joyce Esgar, Secretary-Treasurer signed for the Union and Barbara Smith and Dorothy Wolfe signed for the employees.

Amended Pact Brings New Gains

Elmira, N. Y.—An amended contract with the Moore Business Forms Co. was entered into by OEIU Local 137 shortly before the Taft-Hartley deadline.

Highlights of the contract include a general wage increase of 5 percent, which is retroactive to May 1, and the elimination from the agreement of a previous no-strike clause and the acceptance by both parties in its place of final and binding arbitration on all contract disputes and differences.

OEIU Representative George P. Firth assisted local Business Representative M. B. Cochin and the committee in these negotiations.

PAY RATES BOOSTED

Stamford, Conn.—Under the terms of a supplemental agreement recently negotiated with the Yale & Towne Mfg. Co. by OEIU Local 90, the previously existing minimum, mid-point and maximum rates in each labor group were increased from \$2 to \$5 per week, according to Raphael O'Connell, local union president.

Another gain was a merit review to apply automatically every three months after employees reach the mid-point of their rate range. Employees passing the merit review are automatically increased to the maximum rate for their classification.

GENERAL WAGE INCREASE

Elyria, Ohio—A general Wage increase of 11½c per hour retroactive to July 1 highlighted the agreement recently entered into by OEIU Local 177 with the Ameri-

Reports Gains in Canada

Washington, D. C.—OEIU Canadian Representative Russell Harvey conferred with the OEIU Executive Board at its recent Septem-



Rep. Harvey

ber meeting and outlined to the Board progress of the OEIU in the Dominion of Canada. The number of OEIU local unions actively functioning in the Dominion of Canada has increased to a present total of 21 due, in a large measure, to the activities and assistance rendered by Representative Harvey who also serves as a general representative of the A. F. of L. in the Dominion. The substantial gains

and progress made in the organization of office and clerical workers employed in the paper and pulp industry highlighted Brother Harvey's report and it was of particular interest to note that the vast majority of all of the large paper and pulp mills in the Eastern provinces of the Dominion now have organized offices and are operating under modified union shop contracts with the OEIU.

At the conclusion of Brother Harvey's report in conference with the Board, the Executive Board by unanimous action went on record as expressing for the International Union its thanks and appreciation to the A. F. of L. for the good work done by organizer Harvey in the building and development of the OEIU in the Dominion of Canada.

Wages Increased 13 Percent

E. Stroudsburg, Pa.—Wage increases averaging 13.2 percent highlight the gains made by the office force of the Line Material Co. in an agreement recently negotiated between OEIU Local 201 and the company, according to OEIU Representative George P. Firth who assisted the local negotiating committee. The local was certified by NLRB several months ago after winning an NLRB election.

Other features in the agreement include 6 paid holidays and one week vacation with pay after six months' employment, with two weeks after a year and one-half. Seniority is recognized as the determining factor in layoffs, rehiring and promotions.

The contract prescribes overtime payment of time and one-half for all hours worked in excess of 8 per day and 40 per week and all work performed on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays is paid for at double time.

The agreement contains adequate machinery which provides for arbitration of any unsettled differences.

The new wage rates were placed in effect as of August 1, with each employe receiving a lump payment of \$25 in lieu of additional retroactivity. The negotiating committee of Local 201 consisted of Bernice Decker, James E. Burrows, Anthony E. Borzillo, R. M. Cobden and S. Neldon Overfield.

Profits Nearly Double 1946

Washington, D. C.—On the basis of current reports prepared by Government agencies the present business boom appears to be rosy only because of the colored glasses we wear.

While profit figures for the first six months soared 98 percent above the same figures for 1946, production, measured in terms of physical output, not dollars, continued, in the words of the Commerce Department, to "drift downward."

Business itself acknowledges and recognizes this trend toward lower production. The "Business Bulletin" published by the Cleveland Trust Company has this to say about industrial production:

"According to this bank's index the physical volume of industrial production was 29 percent above the computed normal level in March. It was 26.8 percent in April, 26.3 percent in May, and the preliminary figure for June is 24.1 percent."

These reports indicate that at a time when most economists state emphatically that for the good of the nation's economy we must have

can Radiator and Standard Sanitary Corporation covering the office employes in its local plant, according to the report of Cecilia E. Diederich, Secretary-Treasurer of the local. The agreement provides for a union shop subject to the local union obtaining NLRB certification that a majority of the employees desire such provision, as required by the Taft-Hartley Act.

ever-increasing production, the trend for the past few months has been in the opposite direction. It is likely that with curtailed buying on the part of Great Britain and other nations, our production index may be in for another skid downhill.

Meanwhile what about profits? The New York Stock Exchange furnishes the answer in its magazine "Exchange."

Net earnings of 402 companies having blue chip securities listed on the Stock Exchange, earned 97.9 percent more in the first six months of 1947 than they did in the same period in 1946.

The steel, iron, and coke industry, which has been vociferously talking of increased costs of operation, led the parade of the profit reapers with a gain in net earnings of 155.3 percent over last year.

Next in line the machinery and metals industries reported a net income gain of 148.3 percent.

Automotive companies and railroads, which suffered losses in the first half of last year, reported fabulous earnings for the first half of 1947.

American workers, struggling to make ends meet in the face of ever-rising prices, do not need the reporting facilities of the New York Stock Exchange to convince them that "sales prices pretty well offset" costs. They know from bitter experience.

INCREASE SECURED AT TAMPA SHIPYARD

Tampa, Fla.—Under the terms of an amendment to the agreement with the Tampa Shipbuilding Company, all the office and clerical workers employed by the company are to receive a general wage increase of 12 cents per hour effective January 19, 1948, according to OEIU Vice President J. O. Bloodworth, Jr., who handled the negotiations on behalf of OEIU Local 46, of which he is business representative.

The closed shop provision of the agreement and all of its other terms will also continue for a period of one year to August 15, 1948.

In addition to the wage increase provided, all of the employes of the company are being paid a cost-of-living bonus amounting in the aggregate to \$20,000.

BRO. JAMIESON

Providence, R. I.—Raymond J. Jamieson who has been working in the New England area as a joint A. F. of L.-OEIU representative passed away on Saturday, September 13 at his home after a short illness. Brother Jamieson was a charter member of Local 76 in Providence and had served over a period of several years as President and Business Representative of that local union. Since his assignment to work in the New England states for the A. F. of L. and the OEIU on the organization of office workers early this year he had been actively carrying forward numerous organizational campaigns as well as assisting local unions in those states with their negotiations and other problems.

International President Paul R. Hutchings participated in the last rites for Brother Jamieson which were attended by large numbers of officers and members of Local 76 as well as by officials of other labor organizations active in the New England area.

WAGES RAISED

Dubuque, Iowa.—Wage increases ranging from \$15.00 to \$20.00 per month highlighted gains achieved by OEIU Local 88 in its recent renewal agreement with the General Dry Battery Inc. In addition to individual increases the local union negotiated a substantial upward increase in the minimum rates of new employees hired under the terms of the contract. The renewal agreement was signed for the Union by its President, Joyce A. Tresidder and its Secretary, Renate Klinge.

HIRING RATE DROPS

Washington, D. C.—Following a seasonal gain in June, the hiring rate for manufacturing industries dropped from 55 to 48 for every 1,000 employes on the payroll in July, according to a report by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Department of Labor. This was the lowest rate for any July since 1940. Quits and lay-offs also declined during the month, reflecting stability in the factory labor force and the effect of summer vacations.

Labor on Vets' Side, Green Emphasizes

Washington, D. C. — William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, declared that organized labor is on the side of the veteran and pledged that it "will not shirk any opportunity to be of service to the veterans in the years ahead."

This was the keynote of a special Labor Day message to veterans delivered by Mr. Green on a Veterans Administration radio program broadcast over the nation-wide network of the Mutual Broadcasting Company.

"Already, the American Federation of Labor has given concrete proof of the sincerity of this desire," Mr. Green asserted. "When the war was on, our members broke all production records to supply the armed forces with the finest equipment and the best fighting equipment. When the war ended and the veterans returned home, our unions gladly did everything in their power to help them get good jobs in private industry."

Mr. Green said the millions of veterans now holding union membership "have discovered that their unions are fighting to protect their interests and to see to it that they get paid vacations, promotions, and other benefits besides good working conditions and fair pay."

"Today, in the building trades alone there are more than 85,000 veterans serving as apprentices, learning skilled trades which will assure them of good, steady jobs in the years to come."

Mr. Green recited recent official figures reporting that 750,000 veterans are unemployed.

"That is a shockingly high figure," he said, "especially at a time when the nation as a whole is enjoying comparatively high employment. But we cannot sit back and talk smugly of full employment when so many veterans and an additional two million civilian workers are without jobs in industry."

"For this reason, the American Federation of Labor will redouble its efforts to bring about an effective full employment program which will mean what it says to every worker, whether veteran or not. In the long run, the welfare and security of veterans will run parallel to those of all other citizens. We certainly cannot afford the risk of inviting mass unemployment and another depression, nor can we afford the loss of productive labor of so many of our citizens when there is so much to be done to improve the American way of life."

"The acute housing shortage stands first on the list of immediate and pressing problem demanding effective national solution."

"The American Federation of Labor will again urge Congress to enact the Wagner-Ellender-Taft bill to bring about the construction of 15 million new homes in the next 10 years."

"I want the veterans to know that the AFL has supported every legislative measure in Congress to advance their legitimate rights and will continue to do so in the future."

"In addition, we are fighting for broader social security, for health insurance and for a higher mini-

Labor Day In Beaupre



Members of OEIU Local 191 marching in Labor Day Parade at Beaupre, Que.

Beaupre, Que.—Citizens of Beaupre, home of the Ste. Anne Paper Company, and surrounding towns, this year witnessed the first local Labor Day celebration since 1941 and discovered that the year-old Local 191 of the Office Employees International Union has already caught up in activity and organizational ability to the older and larger Local 253 of the International Brotherhood of Papermakers and Local 138 of the International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers.

The day was a success from the parade at eight in the morning through to two the following morning when the Pulp and Sulphite-sponsored dance came to an end.

Throughout the day, a portion of the company property, converted for the occasion into an athletic field and amusement center, was filled with people who had come to watch or participate in the continuous program of games and contests.

mum wage, measures necessary to protect our national economy and safety.

"We also favor a broad national defense program including intelligent safeguards against subversive forces. Above all, we in the AFL stand stalwartly behind the efforts of our Government to attain and maintain world peace and to remove the dread of future war from our own and later generations."

It was generally conceded that this year's celebration topped all of those which had been held previous to 1941. A great deal of credit for this has been given to the Office Employees Local, participating in its first Labor Day celebration.

The enthusiasm of the members and the esteem in which they are held by the other locals was well demonstrated. The Tri-Union Committee which planned the event and carried out the necessary work, named Lucien Bruneau, President of Local 191, as their president, and Romeo Blais, also of the OEIU, as assistant treasurer.

OEIU members were chosen as chairmen of three of the five working committees. The sports committee was under Bob Stuart, the construction committee under Clarence Hawkins, and the games committee under Wilbert Atkins. The success of the day is ample confirmation of the wisdom of their choice.

Rail Workers Win 15½ Cent Increase

Chicago.—One million railroad workers, members of the 17 non-operating unions, received a 15½-cent hourly wage increase awarded by a six-man arbitration board headed by Dr. William Leiserson, former chairman of the National

FURTHER GAINS WON AT S. MORGAN SMITH

York, Pa.—A further general wage increase of 6 percent was won through the recent renegotiation with the S. Morgan Smith Co. by OEIU Local 157 of its contract covering the shop clerical workers employed in such establishment, according to local Business Representative Alfred E. Stumpf, who handled the negotiations together with the local union committee.

In addition to the wage gains and other minor contract improvements, further improvements were obtained in the group insurance plan covering the employes involved.

New Rent Boosts Hit Many Tenants

Washington, D. C.—During July and August, 6 percent of the nation's registered tenants signed new leases providing for rent increases ranging up to the 15 percent maximum permitted under the new rent control law.

This fact was revealed in a report made by Frank Creedon, Housing Expeditor, whose office is charged with administration of the law.

While the national average is only 6 percent, 30 percent of the tenants in Illinois and 16 percent of the people who rent homes in Colorado are now paying higher rents than they did on June 30, the day before the new law went into effect, according to the report.

Commenting upon the report, the AFL Housing Committee said the national average of tenants now paying higher rents would have exceeded the 6 percent figure had it not been for action taken by some local public authorities. New York City, for example, passed ordinances designed to protect tenants from wholesale rent increases.

Mr. Creedon announced a nationwide review of the local advisory rent boards is under way to determine whether the boards are representative of the communities they are meant to serve. In a number of instances the local boards are not truly representative, it was revealed. Banana Creek, Florida, for example, has a rent board consisting of 4 realtors and the mayor.

The Housing and Rent Act of 1947 requires the Housing Expeditor to appoint at least 5 representative citizens to the local advisory boards established in each defense-rental area. Appointments are made on the recommendations of the governors of the states in which the areas are located. Whenever the Housing Expeditor finds the boards to be not fully representative, the governors will be asked to nominate additional candidates to balance the representation. It is not expected, however, that the Housing Expeditor will reject any of the original nominations.

Labor Mediation Board.

The arbitration board award to the nonoperating employes was retroactive to September 1. It marked the third wage increase given such employes in a little more than a year. Last year they were awarded wage boosts of 16 cents and 2½ cents hourly.