OEIU ASK 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 non-communist affidavit requirements of the Taft-Hartley Act, has, with a group of American Federation of Labor International Unions, through its General Counsel Joseph A. Padway petitioned the NLRB to amend its rules so as to deny the use of the board’s services because of the F. C. C. law and force 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 the petition, President Paul R. Hutchings stated:

“Without regard to our feelings in connection with the anti-labor Taft-Hartley law, our International Union and all of its officers immediately met the registration and affidavit filing requirements of the law for the express purpose of not impeding the jurisdiction of the NLRB in 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 onus of our International Union in complying with the requirements of the law, our organization and all of its Local Unions have been denied service on pending cases and have been prevented from taking active 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. in the filing of affidavit forms involving our cases. This construction of the law has been used to effectively forestall any access to the Board by International Unions including 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 rights to solicit the Board’s services when they have met the requirements under the law. We cannot agree to the policy which was promulgated on the basis of the consent elections previously agreed to.

“Its regional offices refuse to docket our properly filed Union Shop Election petitions. Under these circumstances we are now confronted with a situation in which comes even more a hollow mockery of deception and stands as an effective block to the promotion and development of our industrial peace and increased production.”

REQUEST BARGAINING RIGHTS

Of Big Insurance Company

Galveston, Texas.—Office Employees International Union Local 27 recently concluded signed agreements covering the agents employed in all the operations 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 encouragement of the Board and improving their working conditions through the efforts of the Union 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.

The conclusion is in accord with the international constitution which provides that any regular convention must 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 locals 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 1.

It was recommended that locals which do not have regular meetings before that date forward 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. Mellencamp, President, reported to the Board that the new contract has been signed by the company. It will become effective September 1.

The future and current salary adjustments to all employees have been granted for the period of the agreement, and the company has agreed to pay the employees the full regular rate of pay for any time worked beyond the regular work week.

Wages Upped at Fulton Sylvania

Knoxville, Tenn.—All office and clerical workers employed by the Fulton Sylvania Company have received an increase of $15.00 per month under the terms of an agreement with the company which OEU Local 144 has with the company.

This wage adjustment was made retroactive to January 1, thus giving each employee an increase in pay of approximately $33.48, according to OEU Vice-President Amwire, who together with A. F. of L. representative R. Ross assisted the local to negotiate the agreement.

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

IMPROVEMENTS IN DISNEY CONTRACT

Burbank, Calif.—Further substantial improvements in employment conditions were obtained by OEU Local 140 in its recent renewal agreement with Walt Disney, featuring outstanding office and clerical workers employed in this 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 has worked a total of 40 hours, plus 2 and one-half times his regular rate of pay for all additional hours worked.

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.

A new holiday schedule has been worked out so that employees may gain two and one-half times their regular rate of pay for all additional hours worked.

Another outstanding gain was an increase of the service benefits from 3 years to 7 years in the wage schedule, thus making the same salary adjustments to all employees through the first 78 months of their employment with the company.
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 reduced their debt, it is reported 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 savings by the 40,350,000 spending units in the national budget was reported. But in the drop-off in total national savings was the fact that 12,500,000 of those 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 expenses.

More than half of the total savings were accumulated by the one-third of the spending units whose incomes range from $5,000 to $8,000 or more. Spending units with incomes below the $5,000 level had "minus" savings as a group, the survey indicated.

Expenditures that exceeded income by as much as 25 percent were reported by one-fifth of all the spending units. Another 15 percent spent in excess of income, but by less than 25 percent of the survey sample.

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. They reported that the income units with veterans of World War II members reported that they had spent a greater percentage of their income than in 1945.

Life insurance policies were the most frequent form of savings, with over 75 percent of all spending units reporting that they had some money in this form. Other forms of savings were increased holdings of stocks, 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 assist my fellow workers 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 bunch of work).

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 stores 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 the union of any change in my address, telephone number, or place of employment promptly.

8—I believe that I should never induce any other worker to approach my 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 always be a good American citizen and cast my vote in every national, state, county and municipal election.

MORE INFORMATION ON NLRB MATTERS

Washington, D. C.—International President Paul R. Hutchings has advised all OEU locals that the NLRB has authorized its regional and state mediation authorities to request based on reasonable grounds, to extend to October 31 the application of the NLRA under the NLRA, if a petition has been issued by the regional offices in connection with pending cases. He recommended that such extension of time be requested by locals which have received such notices.

Local unions have also been furnished with a list of state mediation authorities who must be notified, in addition to federal authorities, if a petition is filed for the purpose of negotiating contracts or to terminate a contract, and is not settled by the parties.

Of course in states where no such authorities exist this does not apply.

MORE WOMEN WORKERS

Washington, D. C.—The number of women workers on the labor force increased during July to a point 400,000 greater than in July, 1940, the first week of the Labor Department reported.

or other special earnings caused most of the overtime violations. "It is difficult to understand why an employer would pay any of his employees less than 40 cents an hour today," McComb said.

MATURE CLAUSE IN EIGHT CONTRACTS

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

Results of the study appear in a bulletin entitled "Maternity Benefits under Union-Contract Health Insurance Plans." In plan

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 some women the benefits are paid for longer periods. In addition, all 8 plans provide for an additional period of from 10 to 14 days in maternity cases, rather than for longer periods as in other plans. Five of the 8 plans provide medical care in maternity cases.

Under 6 plans, the elected 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 cost of their own health insurance.

Of the 20,000 women covered by these 8 health-insurance plans, 281 claimed maternity benefits, and the experiences of 165 individual women were studied by the Women's Bureau.

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., OF THE OFFICE WORKER, Published monthly at Washington, D. C., by Women's Press, Inc., 818 Market St., Washington, D. C., for the Women's Press, Inc., by office workers, principally by Paul R. Hutchings, who having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the owner 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 publication of the publication, if a daily paper, the circulation, etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown below of this statement, namely:

1. That the name and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher, Editor, Paul R. Hutchings, Washington, D. C.

2. That the owner is: Office Employees Union, C. I. O., 577 F. St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders of 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (Signed) Paul R. Hutchings.

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

FRED S. WALKER
Notary Public
Commission expires December 31, 1947.
Washington, D. C.—OEIU Canadian Representative Russell Harvey conferred with the OEIU Executive Board at its recent September meeting in Cleveland, Ohio. Mr. Harvey outlined to the Board progress of the local union negotiations in the Dominion of Canada. The meeting was attended by the local union representatives active in the negotiations. The Dominion of Canada has increased the minimum rate of $21, 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 local offices and are signing shop contracts with the OEIU.

In a continuation 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. Straubes, Pa.—Wage increases averaging 13.2 percent were granted the employees of the G. & W. Co., by the local union. Since the beginning of negotiations in a contract dispute, the employees and the management have been working with the mediation of the local office of the Labor Assembly before a satisfactory agreement could be reached. Mr. Rudy Cook, former business representative for Local No. 5, and Glen Morgan, president of the local, handled the negotiations. It was necessary to call in the mediation committee because of the large turnover of the employees. The local union and the company have agreed to continue the agreement 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. Wages of the previous rates were increased in effect as of August 1, with each employee receiving a lump payment of $25 in lieu of additional retroactive payments. The previous wage rates were as follows: week for four hours, $2.85; week for six hours, $4.20; week for eight hours, $5.55; week for ten hours, $6.90; week for twelve hours, $8.25; week for fourteen hours, $9.60; week for sixteen hours, $11.00; week for eighteen hours, $12.40; week for twenty hours, $13.80; week for twenty-four hours, $15.20; week for twenty-eight hours, $16.60; week for thirty-two hours, $18.00; week for thirty-six hours, $19.40; week for forty hours, $20.80.

Profits Nearly Double 1946

Washington, D. C.—On the basis of current reports prepared by Government agencies the present business condition is a far cry from the depressed days of the last war, as reported by Raphel O'Connell, local union president.

One of the great things we have been hearing a lot about is the tremendous increase in wages that have occurred during the past few months. This increase has come about because of the colored glasses we wear.

According to the profit figures for the first six months soared 98 percent above the figures for 1946. The increase was in terms of volume, output, not dollars, continued, in the words of the Commerce Department, to "drift downward.

Businesses are beginning to realize that the old days of low wages and high profits are gone forever. As a result, wages have been increased in most industries. In some cases, the increases have been as much as three times the previous rate.

This trend towards lower production and higher wages has been known as the "business bulge." This phrase was introduced by the Cleveland Trust Company to describe the trend towards higher wages and lower profits. The "business bulge" has been characterized by "a rise in the cost of living and a decline in the rate of growth of the economy."
Labor Day In Beaufre

Beaufre, Que.—Citizens of Beaufre, 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 268 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.

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 events 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 Brunette, President of Local 191, as their president, and Romeo Blais, also of the OEU, as assistant treasurer.

OEUI 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 15 1/2 Cent Increase

Chicago.—One million railroad workers, members of the 17 non-operating unions, received a 15 1/2 cent hourly wage increase awarded by a six-man arbitration board headed by Dr. William Leijerson, former chairman of the National Labor Relations Board.

The arbitration award to the nonoperating employees was retroactive to September 1. It marked the third agreement this year for the 4,500,000 employees in a little more than a year. Last year they were awarded wage increases of 16 cents and 5 1/2 cents hourly.