

# THE OFFICE WORKER

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

No. 33

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## FIGHT FOR FREEDOM STRESSED BY GREEN

Washington, D. C.—In his Labor Day message to labor papers, President William Green of the American Federation of Labor called upon every member to join in an unrelenting campaign for repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act.

"As true Americans," he said, "the members of the American Federation of Labor will rally to meet this challenge. We are determined not to let our freedoms be throttled. We are ready to fight with every legitimate weapon at our command to protect our right to improve working and living conditions for ourselves and our fellow workers. We will not willingly or supinely permit the forces of reaction to capture control of our country."

He declared that labor must also exert its political strength as never before in its history and "defeat for reelection every member of Congress who voted for this obnoxious law."

"We must," he stressed, "join in electing to our national and state law-making bodies candidates who are truly representative of the will of the people and will not succumb to pressure by the selfish, big-business interests now dominating the 80th Congress."

"A prosperity which will eliminate poverty and needless human suffering is within our grasp," he stated. "It requires the fullest cooperation between free labor and free management, with government intervention limited to the establishment of minimum standards which will assure decent homes, decent wage floors and decent health conditions for the American people. In fighting for repeal of the Taft-Hartley act, labor is striving for the attainment of these goals."

## ANOTHER MILL UNDER SOUTHERN KRAFT PACT

Kreole, Miss.—The office and clerical workers employed at the Moss Point Mill of the Southern Kraft Division of the International Paper Company who have recently organized as OEIU Local 209 have now been included in a blanket agreement between the OEIU and the Southern Kraft Division of International Paper Company, according to OEIU Vice President A. R. Carson who assisted the local negotiating committee in this matter.

Under the terms of a stipulation reached the company recognizes that all of the terms and conditions of its working agreement with OEIU covering the office employes in its Mobile and Panama City mills are extended to include the employes of the Moss Point mill. These benefits include an automatic salary plan, as well as the increases which have been negotiated with the company.

## International Officers File Non-Communist Affidavit

The Office Employees International Union on August 25 filed with the National Labor Relations Board's General Counsel R. N. Denham, its executed affidavit forms sworn to by each of its international officers, affirming individually that they are not members of the Communist party, or affiliated with such party, and that they do not believe in, nor are they members of, nor do they support any organization that believes in or teaches the overthrow of the United States Government by force or by any illegal or unconstitutional methods.

It was the first international union to file these affidavits which are required by the National Labor Relations Board under Sub-section 9 (h) of the National Labor Relations Act as amended, if a labor organization is to have access to the NLRB's services in the processing of its cases.

In commenting on the action taken by the union in filing these affidavit forms, President Paul R. Hutchings stated:

### Not an Endorsement

"This action on the part of our International Union officers does not in any sense constitute an endorsement of the provisions of the Taft-Hartley Act by our International Union or any of its officers. We opposed the enactment of this vicious statute with all the power at our command. In filing the required affidavit forms we are acting expeditiously as we did in the filing of our registration forms with the Secretary of Labor, because such filing is now a prerequisite to the use of the National Labor Relations Board's services by our International Union and its 200 local unions, which may in many instances find it necessary to process cases through the Board. We do not desire to impede the necessary use of the Board's services by our local unions.

"I desire to point out that our International Union from the time of its formation has maintained in its international constitution, which is our basic law, a clear cut and unequivocal requirement reading as follows: 'No person shall be admitted to membership in any local union of the International Union who is not employed in the trade at an occupation under the jurisdiction of this International Union, or who advocates principles or lends support to organizations or movements whose purposes and objectives are contrary to the fundamental principles of the established governments of the United States and Canada, or are in conflict with the policies of this International Union.'"

### Communists Banned

"The requirements of our own law as indicated above, have been officially constructed by our Executive

## PRINT SHOP ORGANIZED

E. Stroudsburg, Pa.—The office force of the Sun Printery has signed up for membership in OEIU Local 201, according to Representative George P. Firth, who organized this group.

Board and by unanimous action of our International Union convention as prohibiting any member of our International Union from advocating principles or lending support to any subversive organization or movement whose purposes and objectives are contrary to the fundamental principles of the established governments of the United States

(Continued on Page 4)

## "Full" Employment Achieved; Wage Lag Detering Factor

Washington, D. C.—Labor Day celebrations this year will see more American workers enjoying the holiday than ever before in the Nation's history.

Slightly over 60 million wage earners have jobs in private industry, a record-breaking figure once believed impossible.

Thus, our free enterprise economy has achieved the "full" employment goal. The much predicted unemployment wave which was to accompany the reconversion of industry to peacetime pursuits has failed to materialize. American workers are enjoying the highest standard of living in the world.

Trade union members can take pride in this accomplishment for they have done their share to boost our economy to its currently prosperous heights. A realistic attitude, however, demands a sober appraisal of the likelihood of maintaining the record level of employment and income in the months and years to come.

President Truman, in his mid-year economic report, sounded a word of caution against overenthusiasm. He said, "The unprecedented prosperity of our Nation must not be a cause for idle self-congratulation."

The President pointed out that the high level of business activity is supported by "temporary props," the removal or weakening of which may have serious implications for our economy. He listed increased exports, the reconversion demands of business, the abnormally heavy consumer demand, and the use of savings and credits as the factors now sustaining the present boom.

To place our economy on a firmer foundation will require basic adjustments, Mr. Truman declared. He called for a downward revision in prices accompanied by increased wages wherever they have lagged

## WAGES RAISED IN RENEWAL AGREEMENT

Kansas City, Mo.—Wage increases from 10 to 12 cents per hour for all office and clerical workers highlight the renewal agreement recently negotiated with the Columbian Electrical Co., according to A. F. of L. Organizer R. E. James who assisted OEIU Local 40 and its committee with these negotiations.

In addition to the wage adjustments, further improvements have been made over the previous pact including an increased paid sick leave provision.

It is interesting to note that during the six years that the office workers of this company have been organized in OEIU Local 40 their minimum wage schedules have more than doubled.

behind the increase in the cost of living.

The whole question of maintaining "full" employment in the months to come is analyzed in the August issue of the AFL's "Labor's Monthly Survey."

The survey points out that under "full" employment conditions and with the expected increase in worker productivity the gross product is continually expanding. All of this product must be taken off the market as it is produced if "full" employment is to continue.

Going to the heart of the problem, the AFL report declares that with exports commencing to drop, and with the gradually diminishing business and government expenditures, an expansion of consumer buying is required to uphold the record business level.

The article states: "The key question in the months ahead is this: Will prices come down so that consumer buying can expand? Can consumers increase their buying enough to save a million jobs? For if the \$5 billion worth of increased product is not bought, more than a million jobs will probably be lost."

The prospects for affirmative answers to these questions are not bright when the situation with respect to workers' real wages is examined. The Survey declares:

"Average factory wages have not kept pace with rising prices since the war. The actual buying power of the weekly pay envelope in June, 1947, was 3 percent below V-J Day, but 30 percent higher than in 1939. Most union workers have fared better than the average, but the striking fact remains that in spite of the exceptionally large wage increases of the last two years the average worker's real income has not risen. Nothing could point more clearly to the need for consumer organization to combat rising prices."

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Official organ of the  
OFFICE EMPLOYEES  
INTERNATIONAL UNION



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J. HOWARD HICKS, *Sec.-Treas.*

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### What Labor Day Means To Office Workers

To the many thousands of office workers who are members of the Office Employees International Union, A. F. of L., Labor Day means far more than just another holiday.

It is a day which commemorates their freeing themselves from fear of job loss and worry over inadequate earnings. To organized office and clerical workers, Labor Day is an evidence of the strength and unity of the great American Federation of Labor movement of which they are proud to be a part.

Historically the workers of our trade have labored for pittance wages and under poor working conditions. The many thousands who have now awakened to the fact that through organization they too can better their working conditions are indeed grateful of their opportunity to show the many thousands of yet unorganized office workers that they too can benefit through collective bargaining.

They have learned that the most effective way to obtain equitable rates, reasonable hours, job security, and the many other things that help to make life more productive, pleasant and meaningful, is through their collective actions as union members.

This Labor Day finds us facing a difficult year—prices jumping to record highs, legislators enacting quack "cure-all" anti-labor legislation, the foreign situation bubbling with heat and trouble. Organized office workers facing this troubled year ahead place great value on their union membership, as a part of the great American Federation of Labor movement. We realize that this is the time when we must each do our part as trade unionists and as citizens as well. We must keep our organization strong. We must each contribute through our active participation.

The year ahead is not one for laziness or for "letting George do it." We must each do our level best in carrying the message of trade unionism to the unorganized workers of our trade. We must conduct ourselves at all times as true trade unionists, as straight-

# THE HISTORY OF LABOR DAY

Labor Day rightfully belongs to American workers who toil diligently day after day to contribute their share to the greatness of this Nation.

Long before Labor Day became a legal public holiday it was celebrated by workers as a day of festive activity and rest from their daily tasks. It was the creation of laborers, not of politicians. It was the brainchild of a union carpenter 12 years before Labor Day was proclaimed a national holiday by Act of Congress.

Peter J. McGuire, a native of New York City who joined the ranks of America's toilers while still a child, was the father of the observance in honor of the country's working people.

In May of 1882, he stood before the newly organized Central Labor Union of New York City and proposed that one day of the year be set aside as a general holiday for the working masses.

McGuire suggested that the holiday be known as Labor Day and that it be set for the first Monday in September, which would put it midway between two national holidays—the Fourth of July and Thanksgiving.

Other delegates to the meeting enthusiastically embraced the idea. A committee was named and soon preparations were underway for the initial celebration of Labor Day.

Approximately two years after this first Labor Day, the 26 delegates to the fourth annual convention of the American Federation of Labor held in Chicago adopted the following resolution:

"Resolved, That the first Monday in September of each year be set apart as a laborers' national holiday, and that we recommend its observance by all wage workers, irrespective of sex, calling or nationality."

During the next few years organized labor devoted its attention to securing state legislation making Labor Day a legal holiday. As early as 1887, Oregon enacted the first State law, but this measure designated the first Saturday in June as Labor Day. This was changed to the first Monday in September in 1893. Ultimately, 23 States proclaimed Labor Day a legal holiday.

The Labor Committee of the House of Representatives in May of 1894 presented a favorable report on a bill making Labor Day a legal public holiday.

By June 26 of that year Congressional action on the bill had been completed and two days later the measure was signed by Presi-

dent Grover Cleveland. The pen used by the President was turned over to Representative Amos J. Cummings of New York City, who sponsored the bill in the House. Cummings then sent the pen to President Samuel Gompers of the American Federation of Labor.

Thus, a dozen years after McGuire first advanced the idea of a special holiday honoring labor before the Central Labor Union of New York City, the proposal had the approval of the American people, expressed through their elected representatives at Washington.

Over the years since 1882 much has been said concerning the significance of Labor Day. One of the best statements was made by Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, in an editorial written 46 years ago for the American Federationist. While the reference to the Nineteenth Century is remote, Gompers' remarks are timeless in point. He wrote:

"No day in the calendar is a greater fixture, one which is more truly regarded as a real holiday, or one which is so surely destined to endure for all time, than the first Monday in September of each recurring year, Labor Day.

"Labor Day differs in every essential from the other holidays of the year of any country. All other holidays are in, a more or less degree, connected with conflicts and battles, of man's prowess over man, of strife and discord for greed or power, of glories achieved by one nation over another.

"Labor Day, on the other hand, marks a new epoch in the annals of human history. It is at once a manifestation of reverence for the struggles of the masses against tyranny and injustice from time immemorial; an impetus to battle

for the right in our day for the men, women and children of our time and gives hope and encouragement for the attainment of the aspirations for the future of the human family.

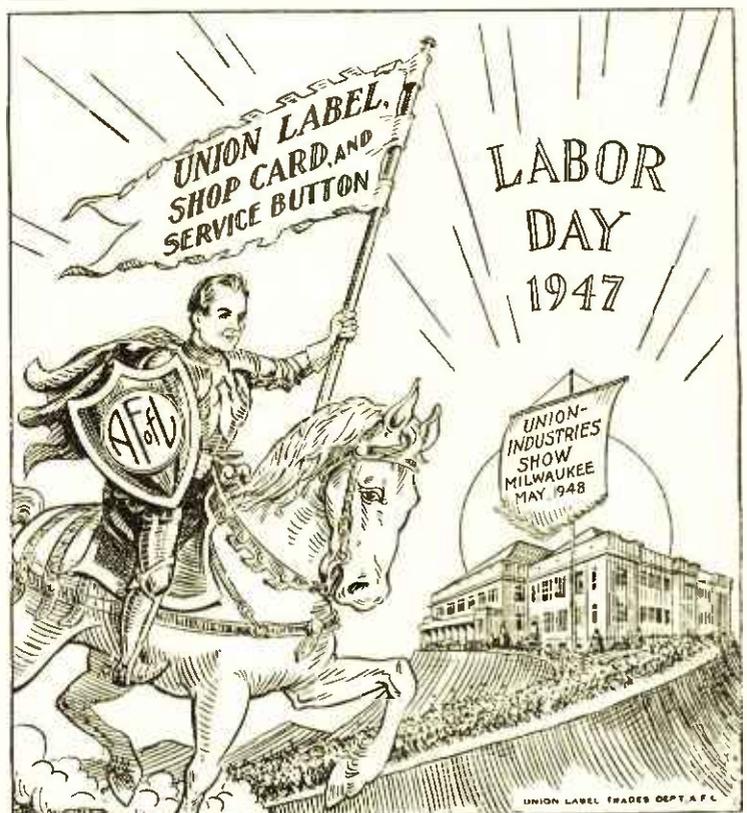
"It is devoted to no man, living or dead; to no sect, race or nation. It is founded upon the highest principles of humanity, is as broad in its scope as the universe.

"It was not given to but conquered by labor, and established as a holiday before any legislature, state or national, enacted it into law.

"The marching toilers in the Labor Day demonstrations signalize no martial glory, brutal domination, conquests or warlike pomp. They are, in their essence, the manifestations of the growing intelligence of the workers who recognize that peace is as essential to successful industry and real progress as air is to lung-breathing animals; that justice to the toilers has too long been denied; that in the midst of the civilization at the close of the Nineteenth Century, wrongs too gross, widespread and well known to require mention here, still abound; that if man is to be free in the time to come, eternal vigilance must be exercised, organization of the workers proclaimed, maintained and extended; education of the educated as well as of the masses be furthered and nurtured, and agitation of labor's wrongs endured and rights denied undertaken, with all the zest and energy begotten by devotion to a cause which is at once holy, noble, pure, lofty, just, wise and humane."

Newspaper accounts have preserved for us the color attendant upon the celebration of the first Labor Day in New York City when American Labor, led by Peter J. (Continued on Page 4)

### ALWAYS THE CRUSADER!



# OEIU Registers With Labor Department

Washington, D. C.—The Office Employees International Union on August 11 filed with Secretary of Labor L. B. Schwellessbach the new registration form required by the Labor Management Relations Act. It was the first union to comply with this provision of the act.

In connection with the filing, International President Paul R. Hutchings and Secretary-Treasurer J. Howard Hicks emphasized: "This action on our part does not in any sense constitute an endorsement of the provisions of the Taft-Hartley act, the enactment of which we opposed along with other bona fide labor organizations."

"There is no question in our minds that our 200 local unions will in many instances find it necessary to process cases through the National Labor Relations Board, and in filing this registration for the International Union, since our filing is a prerequisite to our using such board, we are acting so as not to impede the necessary use by our local unions of the Board's services as provided by the Act.

"During the past two years, office and clerical workers, through our local unions, have used the NLRB in close to 150 elections to establish their bargaining rights, as well as in many cases of discrimination and other unfair labor practices engaged in by employers. It appears to us that even with the severe handicaps to free collective bargaining imposed by the amended statute, a number of our local unions will, of necessity, have to use the NLRB service in the establishment of their bargaining rights for office and clerical workers.

"Office and clerical workers who so greatly need the benefits of organization and collective bargaining in order to preserve themselves and their families at all times and particularly during the era of price inflation, should have no impediment to their necessary use of the National Labor Relations Board through our local unions throughout the country. In filing the registration form for our International Union, thus meeting this requirement of the new statute, we have opened the way to the use of the Board's services by our local unions when such use may prove advantageous to their membership."

## Education Is The Answer

By JOHN D. CONNORS, Director  
Workers Education Bureau of  
America

Labor Day, 1947, finds our organized labor movement confronted with one of its greatest challenges. The Taft-Hartley Bill, passed over the President's veto, has brought us face to face with a grave crisis. We must study how best to secure public recognition of the inequities and contradictions in the act and thus bring about its eventual repeal or drastic amendment.

This legislation points up as never before how important is a continuing program of workers' education if the American labor movement is to meet the demands made upon it for understanding labor's underlying theories and policies and how to put them into practice for the best good of all. Labor must learn also that it has a responsibility to acquaint the general public with those theories and policies so that an understanding and wider sympathy with organized labor may develop which will eventually make impossible such biased legislation as the Taft-Hartley Act.

The American labor movement is now and always has been fundamentally sound, but it needs education and more education for its leadership and general membership. If well informed, labor will think intelligently, and vote intelligently. Only thus will labor measure up to its inherent capabilities and the glorious contributions of its pioneers which this day honors. Only thus can labor convince those out-

side its ranks that it is a responsible part of the American community.

On this Labor Day let us firmly resolve to educate ourselves to this end, and thus help to achieve harmonious and peaceful relations and so insure the preservation and extension of true democracy.

## Green Sees Holiday On '48 Election Day

Green Bay, Wis.—AFL President William Green said a holiday for 10,000,000 working men on Election Day in 1948 will highlight the AFL's campaign to insure the largest possible vote against members of Congress who voted for the Taft-Hartley law.

At a news conference before he addressed the convention of the Wisconsin Federation of Labor, Mr. Green forecast the most intensive campaign of political action in AFL history. He said that most Congressmen who approved the bill would be defeated, adding that he never had seen the workers "so aroused."

Details of the holiday are scheduled for discussion at a meeting of the AFL Executive Council in Chicago, Mr. Green said. He added that workers in essential services would remain at work.

## COVER GIRL

Washington, D. C.—An attractive member of the office and clerical workers' trade is the "cover girl" on the August issue of the AFL monthly magazine, *The American Federationist*. An explanatory note states that "poor pay and lack of security are making office women union-minded."

# Labor Doing Great Job for All

By LEWIS B. SCHWELLENBACH  
U. S. Secretary of Labor

Labor's own holiday, this year, is appropriately a holiday for all the people, just as labor's aims and programs are for the benefit of the country as a whole.

The prestige and dignity of labor have increased greatly since 1882, when the first Labor Day celebration was held in New York City on Peter J. McGuire's motion. The progress made is due to the vital force of organized labor, the very reason for this day's celebrations over the land.

The achievements of the recent past and the problems of the future are uppermost in our minds today. I would like to call attention again to some pertinent but little-noticed facts that bear on both points.

One is the surprising amount of peace in industry, even during such a period of stresses and strains as we have been passing in the last two years.

Another is our great record of production, in peace as well as in wartime. Production is the great stabilizer, the provider of goods and jobs. And goods and jobs are necessary to maintain the faith and courage needed to cope with the great problems ahead. Considering our difficulties with prices and supplies of materials, American industry—both labor and management—has done one of the greatest tasks in history, in achieving a satisfactory

## URGE COOPERATION TO BOOST PRODUCTIVITY

Washington, D. C.—The Labor Committee of the National Planning Association, a private non-profit organization, called for greater cooperation between labor and management to increase the productive efficiency of the nation.

The statement, signed by 33 prominent labor officials, emphasized the need for increased productivity and urged managements to invite the unions they deal with to explore with them how to eliminate inefficiency.

reconversion from wartime.

In this period, the Government's part, properly, has been to demobilize as swiftly as possible, to remove controls where removal would not retard our economy, and to aid our veterans as well as the war-stricken peoples of other lands.

The Department of Labor has helped with vital and accurate information and the services provided by trained and diligent workers. The Department proposes to improve its facilities and expand its usefulness to wage earners in the months and years to come.

After V-J Day we set our faces toward a free economy, and we have kept on our course with few deviations.

Organized labor by its strength has been able almost to keep up with mounting prices and has contributed to maintaining the purchasing power so necessary for continued prosperity. It has increased its numbers, and helped to develop an efficient labor force. Our reports indicate that productivity is resuming its increase in man-hour output, which in peacetime averages about 3 percent a year.

Labor has done much to help itself and by that fact has strengthened our country and its prosperity.

This is a time to keep our eye on the ball, to retain our faith in our democracy and our free institutions, and to build them up stronger than ever before. Labor unions are among the most important of those institutions, and they can operate best only when collective bargaining with employers, without Government dictation, is freely conducted.

The growing activities of unions in our international cooperation efforts, and in education of their own members, are other current indicators of labor's strength and usefulness.

These reflect the good citizenship required by the times, if we are to build energetically and well for peace and prosperity in a free world.

Labor is doing a great job for the Nation and all its people.

## Cost of Living Soars Again; Business Gets Record Profits

Washington, D. C.—Like the thermometer responding to a heat wave, the cost of living soared again as the appetite of Big Business for profits, and more profits, remained insatiable.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported the consumers' price index for June 15th stood at 157.1 for a record high, eclipsing the former level scored in March.

Retail prices of living essentials in mid-June were 18 percent higher than a year ago, and 59 percent higher than the August 1939 level.

It is doubly discouraging to wage earners to realize that this record does not include increases likely to result from the new rent control law foisted upon them by the 80th Congress. Nor does it reveal a true picture of the situation today. Because of the time lag required for the gathering of the material and analysis thereof prior to publication, the price index does not reflect the rising food and meat prices noticed especially during the last month.

What about profits? The answer may be found in the magazine, "Time" owned by a millionaire and itself a business institution.

"Time" was amazingly frank. It said the truth about profits is stranger than fiction. Earnings of corporations, it claimed, "had almost reached the realm of fable."

On the basis of figures for the first six months of 1947, corporations were "making \$33,000 a minute," the magazine pointed out. During that period, aggregate profits ran at an annual rate of \$29 billion before taxes, up \$8 billion over 1946, and of \$17.4 billion after taxes, up 28 percent above 1946.

"Increases of 100 percent to 300 percent were not uncommon," declared "Time."

## RENT CONTROL

Washington, D. C.—OEIU headquarters has sent to all local unions copies of bulletins explaining how tenants can secure maximum protection under the new law which substantially weakens rent control.

## OFFICERS OF OEIU FILE AFFIDAVITS

(Continued from Page 1)

and Canada, including specifically membership in the Communist Party, either at the time of their admission to membership or at any time thereafter.

"Our International Union, by unanimous convention action, subscribed to the conclusion that the Communist Party is one whose purposes and objectives are contrary to the fundamental principles of the established governments of the United States and Canada, and adopted the concept that affiliation with it or any other subversive organization as specified in our constitution by any member of the Office Employees International Union constitutes in and of itself sufficient grounds for, and indeed requires, expulsion from our organization of any such member—be he an officer or not.

### Convention Action

"Our 1947 convention by unanimous action also endorsed the Special Report on Communism, adopted by unanimous action by the 65th convention of the American Federation of Labor in Chicago on October 16th, 1946. This clear speaking report minces no words in exposing the Communist threat. Among other things that report said:

'As American trade unionists we are carrying aloft the torch of human liberty which the Communists now seem determined to extinguish, so that conceptions of human liberty, conceived by our European ancestors in rebellion against tyrannical government, and upon which we have built our nation, with its free institutions, can be eliminated from the world, and a Godless, arbitrary dictatorship established in its place.

'There can be no loyalty by any citizen to our nation's form of government and its institutions of freedom, if they give their first allegiance to the Communist dictatorship and the policies emanating from the Kremlin.

'Communism at present is the most dynamic, reactionary force in our country. If Communism should control, then every social, economic and political right which Americans have won since the Revolutionary War would be destroyed'".

The non-Communist affidavit forms filed include such affidavits from President Hutchings, Secretary-Treasurer J. Howard Hicks, and from the International Union's ten vice-presidents as follows: L. P. Amell, J. O. Bloodworth, Jr., A. R. Carson, R. M. Daugherty, Alice Holz, Sarah E. Keenan, C. C. Newell, L. G. Nygren, Frank F. Randall and C. A. Stafford.

All local unions were immediately supplied with affidavit forms and instructions so that all locals using NLRB services could complete their filing requirements without delay.

## Tells "Red-Licking" Formula Used By Garment Unions

Washington, D. C.—The special tactics and organizational set up by which the big needle trade unions defeated communist attempts to capture control were described in an article which appeared in the Saturday Evening Post.

The article, entitled "How the Garment Unions Licked the Communists," is by J. C. Rich, editor of *The Hat Worker*, official publication of the United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers International Union, AFL.

The article points out that although there are "more communists to the square foot of working space" in the lofts where the nation's clothing is sewn, than in all other industrial plants and centers, the apparel trade unions have contained and stymied the party liners more effectively than such organizations as the electrical or automobile workers' unions.

The garment workers licked the communists not by superior cunning or novel subterfuge, Mr. Rich states, but in tactics which are available to all other unions. The prime objective must be to organize the majority of the membership in the labor organizations, he says, so as to defeat the communist strategy of infiltration and domination by a minority of party liners, fellow travelers and fellow wanderers.

The article lists in detail the measures by which the majority in the apparel trades unions was mobilized to combat the communists. It tells of the committees which exist in the unions for the special purpose of rallying the membership on critical issues. Communist attempts to divide the members on racial and religious issues are also cited as are the measures taken to counter these attacks.

The campaign strategy by which the communists were defeated in this year's elections for office in the International Ladies Garment Workers Union where the communists are most strongly concentrated, is stressed. As a result of this strategy, more than 126,000 members participated in the balloting, and of these less than 15,000 voted the communist ticket. In New York where the communists are most strongly entrenched, not a single candidate sponsored or endorsed by the communists was elected to office.

The article concludes with a statement from David Dubinsky president of the ladies garment union, to the effect that what his organization has done any organization could do.

"Americans who cherish their lib-

### LOCAL OFFICERS SERVE

Elmira, N.Y.—M. B. Cochin, business representative and Vice-President of OEIU Local 137, has been named financial secretary-treasurer of the Elmira Central Trades and Labor Assembly, and another member of the local, Walter Varchet, is the recording secretary of that body. Mr. Cochin is also a member of the governing board of the Elmira Labor Review—the local labor paper.

erties," he says, "and have been dismayed by the communists' skill in infiltration, confusion and division, need not despair. What our members have done, others can do. Communism can win only by the default of a soft and lazy democracy."

### LABOR DAY HISTORY

(Continued from Page 2)

McGuire, paraded in orderly fashion through the streets of the city.

Of the picnic in Elm Park following the parade, one newspaper said:

"It had been arranged that each union would have a certain portion of the grounds marked out for itself, and this facilitated a greater fraternizing than otherwise could have been observed.

"As it was, fellow-workers and their families sat together, joked together and caroused together . . . Americans and English, Irish and Germans, they all hobnobbed and seemed on a friendly footing, as though the common cause had established a sense of closer brotherhood."

From mid-afternoon to nightfall there was speechmaking. One of the best-received speakers, of course, was McGuire himself.

With evening came a still larger crowd, for only a fraction of the city's employers had decreed a holiday, and the Central Labor Union had advised all whose employers desired them to work to do so. Fireworks and dancing both had important parts in the after-dark portion of the festival.

## INCREASES GAINED IN KOEHRING PACT

Milwaukee, Wis.—In its new contract with the Koehring Co. OEIU Local 9 has obtained a general increase of \$3 per week in its salary ranges, according to Business Representative Harold Beck of the local who handled the negotiations together with the bargaining committee from the office.

Another improvement won was the reopening of the clause allowing for negotiations on wages to take place at any time during the year upon 30 days notice by either party. The previous agreement had only allowed for wage negotiations from the anniversary date of the agreement.

## DAVID A. MORSE NEW UNDER SECRETARY

Washington, D. C.—President Truman has appointed David A. Morse as Under Secretary of Labor, Secretary of Labor L. B. Schwelienbach announced.

Mr. Morse has been assistant secretary of Labor since July 1, 1946. He has devoted his activities primarily to the development of the department's program of international affairs. In his new position he will supervise these operations, and also carry on the administrative duties of the under secretary.

Mr. Morse succeeds Keen Johnson, former governor of Kentucky, who resigned on July 31, to return to private industry.

## Labor Oppression Invites Disaster, Says Industrialist

Washington, D. C.—Robert W. Johnson, chairman of the board of Johnson & Johnson, manufacturers of medical and surgical supplies, denounced the NAM as an organization that's trying to turn back the clock and thus bring on chaos in labor-management relations.

Speaking at a labor relations forum conducted by Catholic University, Johnson warned his fellow employers that capitalism is inviting its own destruction by oppression of labor.

His views were similar to those of Cyrus Eaton, another big industrialist, who recently attacked management's anti-labor position and called for "muzzling" of the NAM.

Mr. Johnson said: "Our future will be a race between catastrophe and elimination of labor-management conflict. We can sit still until catastrophe comes; we can hasten it by opposing reforms or by demanding blind reaction.

"To dally, to obstruct, to attempt to return to the past is not merely to court disaster but to guarantee it."

Johnson condemned the NAM leadership for publication of a book entitled the "American Free Enterprise System." Writers of the volume call for destruction of "un-

ion security," elimination of all regulation of industry, no curbs on competition, and freedom for employers to fix wages, he declared.

"In plain English," he said, "these writers for the NAM call for a return to the 'hands-off,' laissez faire economics of the 1800's and demand that labor—which means men and women—shall be reduced again to a mere commodity that can be bought, sold, exploited and scrapped like so much machinery."

The whole secret of industrial peace in the future, Johnson maintained, lies in fair dealing with labor and giving workers a real "sense of dignity," so they will not be mere cogs in a machine.

Striking at proposals for a 65-cent minimum wage, Johnson declared significantly that the figure was too low. He advocated a weekly minimum wage of \$35, nearly 90 cents an hour. He said:

"The time has come to accept the truth that those who earn less than a subsistence living are a liability to society. Modern society must pay this bill either through subsidies, grants-in-aid, or social loss through destitution.

"As business—meaning the national economy—must pay this bill anyway, why not pay it at the source through adequate wage-hour legislation?"