AUTOMATIC INCREASE PLAN NEGOTIATED

Portland, Ore.—Conclusion of negotiations between Local 11 of the Portland Gas and Coke Company and an automatic salary progression plan has been announced by Irving Enna, secretary-treasurer of the local union. Over 200 members of the union employed by the company are immediately affected by the plan.

The salary progression schedule replaces a former merit plan and provides for a $10 a month salary increase after the first six months of employment and an additional $10 a month increase in each rate range for every succeeding six months to the limit of $50 a month.

Dairy Agreement Renewed

Renewal of the agreement between Local 11 and the Arden Farms Company has also been announced by Enna. The renewal agreement provides a 10-cent an hour increase in the base rate effective March 30, the expiration date of the prior agreement. Union members employed by the firm are enthusiastic about the new wage increase.

Auto Firm Organized

A substantial majority of the office workers employed by Tracey and Company, a wholesale auto parts firm, have designated Local 11 to represent them in dealings with their employer. The success achieved in this endeavor stems from an aggressive organizing campaign conducted by the union and the recognition of the benefits of collective bargaining by the part of the firm’s employees. The National Labor Relations Board has been requested to certify that the union represents the group.

Four Union Shop Elections Won

Portland, Ore.—The winning of four union shop elections held in rapid succession by operators whose voting is being hailed by officers and members of Local 11, according to Irving Enna, Secretary-Treasurer.

Victories in the retail and wholesale garment, room service and mercantile industries have been recorded in quick succession and involve a total of 10 firms. In addition, one hundred percent vote in favor of the continuation of union shop provisions was registered by the employees of Montor Sales and Furnace Works and a majority five per cent vote in favor of the continuation of the same contract provision was voted by members of the union representing by Weisfeld and Goldberg, Inc., a retail jewelry and household appliance firm.

SIGNING OF RENEWAL AGREEMENT

Washington, D.C.—A general increase of $2.50 per month highlights the gains obtained by OEU Local 2 in its renewal agreement with the Washington Gas Light Co. and the Washington Gas Light Co. of Maryland, Inc., according to International Union Vice President L. G. Nygren who assisted Business Representative W. E. Proby and the negotiating committee with the negotiations on this new agreement.

In addition to the general $2.50 per month increase, which is effective April 1st and applies to all of the over 400 office and clerical employees within the bargaining unit of Local 2, the basic rates for all classifications were increased by a similar amount.

Automatic Increases

No present employee or new employee with more than three days of service will receive less than $179 per month. Automatic increases are given after 6, 12 and 18 months of service.

Sign New Pact With CBS Station

Hollywood.—An $8 per week general increase for employees on the payroll January 1, and a similar increase in the starting and going rates for the job classifications of such employees highlight the benefits won in the new agreement between OEU Local 174 and the Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc.—Radio Station KNX, according to Max J. Krug, Business Representative of the local who handled the negotiations. Substantial increases in the starting and going rates applicable to new employees were also gained.

Secure Further Gains in Renewal of Utility Pact

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Many other gains over the previous contract between the local and the company were also achieved, making the new contract the outstanding office worker agreement in the radio and broadcasting industry according to Representative Krug.

The agreement provides for a guaranteed 40-hour week with time and one-half for overtime and holiday work. Six paid holidays are provided.

The agreement also provides for dismissal pay related to length of service. Provisions are also made for paid vacations and sick leave.

New York.—Over 1,100 members of Local 8 of the AFL’s Office Employees International Union went on strike March 29 against the New York Stock and Curb Exchanges.

The strike was called when exchange officials refused to grant a union shop and wage increases asked by the union. In elections conducted by the National Labor Relations Board, overwhelming majorities of the members voted for the union security measure.

Support for the striking members of the union came from the Seafarers International Union and the Sailors Union of the Pacific, both AFL affiliates, with a total of about 500 of their members to join picket lines set up by the financial employees group.

Trading Slowed

Reports from the financial section of the city showed that trading activities on the securities exchanges had been hampered and slowed by the strike.

Not involved in the strike is the New York Cotton Exchange which negotiated a new agreement with the union incorporating a modified union shop and providing weekly wage increases amounting to $6.50.

In Washington, AFL President William Green endorsed daily and emphatically the strike being carried on by the Office Employees Union.

"The American Federation of Labor will support the strike and those involved in the strike. We will cooperate to all help and assistance possible. I call upon our labor organizations in New York and elsewhere to extend to these office workers who are on strike a full measure of support."

Executive Board Acts

Paul R. Hutchings, president of the Office Employees International Union, said the union’s executive board pledged its unanimous support to Local 205 in carrying on the strike. He declared:

"The strike is a clear cut example of the failure of this employing group to accord proper and legal union security to its clerical workers, despite the fact that by tremendous unity of effort such members expressed their desire for union shop conditions in NLIUE union shop elections."

"The campaign which we are presently waging in Wall Street revolves around the basic rights of clerical workers in all their activities, union security, job protection, and other collective bargaining benefits."

In accordance with the executive board’s action Hutchings and Hicks sent letters to all local unions soliciting financial assistance,
February Market Slump Had Little Real Effect on Prices

Washington.—Retail food prices have stabilized at levels only about 2½ percent below the high peak recorded during January despite the highly publicized price break which took place on the nation's primary markets in early February.

This was the conclusion to be drawn from a report released by the Bureau of Labor statistics which showed that retail prices declined only slightly after the price slump and have shown little change during the period from mid-February to mid-March.

The BLS report on current prices was based upon a telegraphic survey of 12 representative cities.

Meanwhile, retail prices for other goods and services continued their upward advance, the BLS declared. The bureau's consumer price index for mid-February was 167.9 percent of the 1925-32 average, eight-tenths of 1 percent below the record peak of January.

Retail price increases between January and February were reported for almost all groups except food. Recent changes in wholesale prices in most lines, the bureau said, gave little indication of imminent declines.

The 2.4 percent decrease in retail food prices was partly offset by a 1.9 percent increase in the prices of apparel and fractional increases in house furnishings, fuel, electricity, ice and rent.

The bureau's comprehensive wholesale price index for February, reflecting the full amount of the drop in agricultural prices, was 160.7 percent of the 1925-32 average. The index was 3 percent below the postwar peak of January and slightly above the level of last November.

Ewen Clague, chief of the BLS, pointed out that ordinary primary market trends indicated the direction which retail prices would take in the future.

The most recent information available on general primary mar-
SECURE BIG GAINS IN PURULATOR PACT
Newark, N.J.—In the first agreement to be negotiated with Purulator Products Corp., substantial benefits were obtained for all of the office and clerical workers according to Interstate Joint Committee Representative George P. Firth, who handled the negotiations.

The wage rates ranging from 7% to 21 cent per hour were obtained for all employees, with substantial increases in both the rate and increases in the rate ranges for all classifications. Wage reviews are established on a quarterly basis.

The contract provides for annual paid vacations of two weeks after six weeks of employment, and one week after 8 weeks of employment and vacation pay includes any premium applicable to the employee.

Sick Leave Provided
Sick leave with pay is provided so that employees in service for six months or less are entitled to one week of sick leave per year; employees with 6 months to one year of service, 2 weeks paid sick leave; 1 to 1½ years, 4 weeks; 1½ to 2 years, 6 weeks; 2 to 2½ years, 8 weeks, and 2½ years and over, 10 weeks.

In addition, the individual days lost due to sickness will be paid for but not counted toward the sick leave provided. The agreement calls for a check off of dues upon individual authorization and for the processing of grievances in accordance with the grievance procedure established by the agreement. A seniority clause is provided.

Representative Firth has been taken into membership in OEU Local 32, and Business Representative Nicholas Juliano of that local is servicing the group.

George Firth Injured
Newark, N.J.—While at work on the completion of the Purulator Products Corp. agreement, National Federation of Joint Union Representative George P. Firth suffered a fractured skull when hit by a flare. Firth was taken from his hospital bed, so that the employees involved would have no time in obtaining the benefits under the agreement. Representative Firth has been in St. Michael's Hospital in Newark for several weeks as a result of his injuries. He is now back on the job.

MORE UNIONS FILE
Washington, D.C.—The National Labor Relations Board announced that, as of the end of June, 3,460 local unions and 4,307 local unions were in full compliance with the Communi-

SECURITY VOTE WON AT UTILITY
Toledo, Ohio.—The office and clerical force of the Toledo Edison Company have clearly shown their desire for continuation of their union security by more than an 82 percent favorable vote in the recent union shop election conducted by the NLRB on behalf of OEIU Local 19, according to International Vice President R. M. Daugherty.

The group of some 300 office and clerical employees affiliated with this company have been experiencing the benefits of collective bargaining for more than ten years and the recent union shop election was held in conformity with the requirements of the Taft-Hartley law in order to establish Local 19's continued right to union security clauses in its new agreement with the company.

Further Gains At Square D Company
Milwaukee Wisconsin.—A recent renewal agreement with the Square D Company in Waukesha, Division, and OEIU Local No. 9 obtained further improvements in the rate ranges for each job classification according to B. E. Beck, Business Representative for the local. Increases in the number and maximum of all classifications ranging from $12 to $56 per month were obtained. The agreement allows for wage reopenings after a period of at least six months from its effective date if there is substantial change in the national economy. A semi-annual wage review is provided.

Crippling of TVA Fought By AFL
Washington.—The American Federation of Labor charged that amendments proposed by Senator Kenneth McKellar to the Tennessee Valley Authority Act are so drastic in scope that they "imply the intention to cripple it in order to destroy." Walter J. Manger, national Representative for the AFL, defended the TVA before the Senate Appropriations Committee against the rejection of the McKellar amendments to the basic legislation which promote development, conservation, and power project.

Senator McKellar, a bitter foe of the TVA, has waged a relentless drive year in and year out to hamstring and cripple the project.

Manager defied the structure of the TVA which is organized along regional lines for the purpose of promoting the development of an area comprising parts of several states. He said: "The American Federation of Labor believes that the present Authority is admirably organized to carry out this purpose, which is so

These amendments strike so drastically at provisions which enabled TVA to acquire fame, that they imply the intention to cripple it. The original amendments would serve no purpose. We urge their rejection in the interest of the project that TVA can continue its constructive work and become a keystone in the emergency plans our nation must assume."

Crippled by TVA

Official Emblems
Shown above are the official lapel button and dress pin of the Office Employes International Union, Local 19. The pin is worn by members of the organization who have to make the Senate

Further gains at Square D Company

Suggests Check On S.S. Payments
Washington, D.C.—In a recent communication addressed to local unions in the United States, Alaska and Hawaii, National Secretary-Treasurer J. Howard Hicks urged that OEU members obtain reports from the Social Security Administration on their salaries and wages from which the customary social security tax had been deducted. He pointed out that "it is advisable that all workers paying social security taxes be made aware of the increases in their payments and learn of the reasons for the changes in the rate of contributions."

This information should be obtained from Social Security Administrators in their local unions. The administration of Social Security occurs through local Social Security Administration offices. Each local union should obtain the Social Security Statements of such cards for distribution to its membership. Indications are that many workers will be seeking information following the publication of this recommendation.

Additional information regarding Social Security payments and Social Security Medical Benefit Benefits will be transmitted to local unions at intervals, according to Hicks.

WHERE DO YOU STAND?
How do you regard the Taft-Hartley Act?
Are you for it or against it?

Recently, Senator Robert A. Taft and other supporters of this legislation have been making speeches trying to make the public believe that the Taft-Hartley Act is opposed only by labor leaders that fit the Taft-Hartley Act and that labor union members are really in favor of it.

We think the public ought to know the truth. That is why we are conducting this nation-wide poll. This is an entirely secret ballot. We want you to express your honest opinion.

We have placed a check in the box beside either of the two questions below and mail the clipping to Poll Department, American Federation of Labor, Washington, D.C.

I am for the Taft-Hartley Act

I am against the Taft-Hartley Act

Please mark your ballot above and mail to Poll Department, American Federation of Labor, Washington, D.C.
Czech Tragedy Grim Warning To All Free People, Woll Says

New York — The American Federation of Labor pledged vigorous opposition to the recent violent outbreaks in Czechoslovakia and called upon free peoples and free trade unions everywhere to join hands in halting the outrages of Communist totalitarian tyranny.

In a ringing statement denouncing the Communist invasion of Czechoslovakia, Matthew Woll, AFL executive council member and chairman of the AFL's Committee on International Labor Relations, warned that Soviet Russia's action in sacking out the free lands of Communism is a warning that is to come in other lands if the power mad rulers of the Russian state continue to menace freedom. Mr. Woll declared the overthrow of the former Prague government by the Red hordes was an indication that Russia is a warning that the Kremlin is frantically and fanatically bent upon the subjugation of all free peoples and that its international relations are not aggressive military intentions, they would have ordered their Fifth Column, the Communist Party, to infiltrate Czechoslovakia, to wipe out all its democratic institutions and brutally to murder the land of all freedom-loving forces.

Methods Used

Tracing the pattern and methods of Russia's invasion of the land it calls its own, he pointed to the statement: "The tragedy of Czechoslovakia is a grim warning to the working people of all free lands. The main weapons used by Russia's Fifth Column were the armies and the trade unions. The moment, the democratic forces allowed the Communists to infiltrate and dominate these vital political and economic agencies, they served the needs of Red agents to dominate other free institutions and national independence. Once the Communists in power, Red agents had lost all control of the police, all freedom is lost. Not even the healthiest industry of any country and the smallest trade union can survive in the absence of democratic traditions can serve as a bulwark against the Communists who bring with these weapons." "Having turned the trade unions and the police into instruments of the Communist Party, the Soviet Fifth Columnists proceeded to organize the so-called action committees to terrorize the workers in their own country and the people on the streets of Czechoslovakia's cities. Then these action committees squads of armed Communist gangsters—forthwith set about to usurp the functions of the unions, to seize the inner control of the trade unions, to subvert all legally constituted authorities by brutally imposing their will, and to substitute government by the people chosen with a terrorist dictatorship and subsequently by and subsequently to the ruthless hierarchy in the Kremlin."

Urgent Lesson

"What an urgent lesson for the working people of all countries to learn! The moment any trade union falls into the hands of Communists, that organization is no longer a genuine union but only a pitiful caricature of a trade union, a sham and a fraud like Hitler's "Labour-Front." This holds true for Czechoslovakia no less than for Russia. This would hold just as true for every other country—America not excepted.

Mr. Woll's warning on labor must never allow the ultranationalistic and pernicious virus of Communism to develop in any of our other free countries. If the trade unions of the world are to exist and serve as bona fide labor organizations and pillars of human liberty and progress, they must make no concessions to or traffic to any extent with Cominform or other agencies captured by Communists and turned into police agencies of a foreign power."