

THE OFFICE WORKER

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

No. 38

WASHINGTON, D. C., FEBRUARY, 1948



Vote Union Shop In Wall Street

COMPLETE AGREEMENT WITH PAPER CONCERN

Marathon, Ont.—The first agreement between recently chartered OEIU Local 219 and the Mill Division of the Marathon Paper Mill of Canada, Ltd., has recently been completed according to OEIU Canadian Representative G. Russell Harvey. The contract establishes union security through the modified union shop and assures against discrimination because of union membership or activity.

Wage schedules were gained which are substantially beneficial to the employes involved, with ten salary grades established running to a maximum of \$385 per month. In addition, the local union obtained full rights to sit with management on merit rating of all employes within the established rate ranges. In addition to such merit review to take place after the signing of the contract, provision is also made for similar merit reviews every six months thereafter.

The contract provides for the posting of job vacancies and assures a substantial measure of seniority protection in layoffs and rehiring.

The employes are assured of two full weeks paid vacation each year, and sick or emergency time off with pay amounting to one day for each month worked each year. Six legal holidays are granted with full pay, in addition to two one-half holidays and any other general holiday proclaimed by the Dominion or Provincial Governments. Time worked on such statutory holidays or regular off-days is classed as overtime work.

The bargaining committee of the local union consisted of D. E. Smith, R. A. Wilson, R. E. Blois, S. E. Backay and W. H. Cameron.

YELLOW CAB OFFICE WORKERS ORGANIZE

San Francisco—OEIU Local 36 has established its exclusive bargaining rights for the office and clerical workers of the Yellow Cab Co. through a cross-check worked out by agreement with the company, according to local Secretary-Treasurer Eleanor D. Murphy.

The organization of the Yellow Cab office and clerical force was made possible through the assistance of the A. F. of L. Strategy Committee under the direction of Joe Roberts, with the direct assistance of Beatrice Levene.

The establishment of exclusive bargaining rights was brought about through negotiations with President Jack Shelley of the San Francisco Labor Council rendering splendid assistance. A union shop clause has already been agreed to, subject to the requirements of the

That Sweet Old Witch!



Copyright by THE CHRONICLE, Cincinnati's Labor Newspaper.

Dice Loaded Against Workers By T-H Law, Declares Morse

Washington, D. C. — Senator Wayne L. Morse of Oregon, in an article appearing in "Everybody's Digest," a widely read monthly magazine, declared the Taft-Hartley law "loads the dice against our working people," and called for its repeal.

Senator Morse's presentation of labor's viewpoint stands out like a shining light in a maze of articles widely publicized by leading magazines in which so-called impartial authors over-exerted themselves to show the many "blessings" accorded labor by the Taft-Hartley law.

The Oregon Senator started his article by pointing out that "throughout the long history of the labor movement in this country every demand made by the nation's workers has met with consistent and often violent opposition."

"Then after each gain had been won historians and people generally looked back and agreed that labor's so-called 'demands' were just and necessary," he said.

"Go back as far as you like, the story is always the same. Even labor's long fight for free education

law, and it is anticipated that a full working agreement will shortly be negotiated.

was bitterly denounced. As for the right to organize and bargain collectively, there is still a powerful minority of labor-hating employers who want no part of it. Unfortunately their attitude is reflected in sections of the Taft-Hartley Act."

Many members of Congress who voted for the act, Morse said, are now admitting it has dangerous provisions which "must be changed." He called that "a rather sorry confession" from "supposedly responsible legislators."

The only real way to amend the act now "would be to repeal it," Morse insisted. He charged that the bill "was designed not only to curb certain abuses but to weaken labor's position at the bargaining table."

"It weights the economic scales against millions of Americans who depend on wages and salaries for their livelihood," he stressed.

Then Morse listed some of the "more glaring imperfections" in the law.

"It invites a return to government by injunction," he said.

"Every effort to achieve collective bargaining, every strike can be met and defeated by destructive

(Continued on page 3)

NEGOTIATIONS GET BOOST FROM POLLS

New York, N. Y.—Overwhelming victories were won by OEIU Local No. 205 in union shop elections conducted by the National Labor Relations Board under the Taft-Hartley Act for the Stock Exchange, the Curb Exchange and the Cotton Exchange.

Stock Exchange workers gave smashing demonstrations of their desires for the union shop clause in their renewal contracts with a vote of 691 to 67.

The vote by the Cotton Exchange workers was 74 for union security to only 6 against, while the Curb employes voted for union security by a vote of 178 to 12.

The elections gave a boost to the negotiations which Local 205 is now conducting with all three of the big exchanges for renewal of their agreements with substantial increases in pay.

"This overwhelming majority is a sign that points down a one-way street to higher wages and union security," declared David Keefe, president of Local 205.

Washington, D. C.—Every union shop election in which OEIU local unions have participated up to date have been won by substantial majorities, it was reported at OEIU headquarters.

This is typical of the election results reported by the National Labor Relations Board. Its latest report shows that there were 521 polls in December and in 518 the vote was "yes" by 93 per cent.

VOTE UNION SHOP

Cornell, Wis.—The office and clerical force of the Cornell Wood Products Co., members of Local 74, voted unanimously in a recent NLRB election for the continuation of the union shop clause in their agreement. All eligible employes, except one member ill with pneumonia, voted in favor of the union shop clause.

Organizer Oudinot of the Wisconsin State Federation of Labor has been rendering worthwhile assistance to the local union in its new contract negotiations with the company.

GAS LIGHT PACT

Washington, D. C.—The agreement between OEIU Local 2 and the Washington Gas Light Company has been opened for negotiations according to W. R. Probe, business representative of the local union. Well over 400 office and clerical workers are covered by the terms of the agreement. G. South-

(Continued on page 4)

THE OFFICE WORKER

Official organ of the
OFFICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION



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

1221 G Street, N. W.
Washington 5, D. C.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

Entered in the Post Office at Washington, D. C., as second-class mail matter



Reproduction by the Labor Press of any or all of the material herein contained is not only permitted but wholly desirable in the interest of workers' education.

Subscription Price, \$1 a Year

90 DAYS ALLOWED TO FILE INFORMATION

Washington, D. C.—In a letter addressed to all OEIU local unions in the United States, Alaska and Hawaii, Secretary-Treasurer J. Howard Hicks, of the International Union, pointed out "that labor organizations have 90 days after the end of each fiscal year to refile" required information and materials with the Office for the Registration of Labor Organizations, U. S. Department of Labor. All local unions complying were encouraged to request a certificate of compliance as proof that such requirements had been met.

The National Labor Relations Board has stated that it will continue the processing of cases filed prior to the expiration of a union's fiscal period and will accept and process new cases filed after the close of such period "only after the Board receives a letter from the labor organization giving assurance that all the material and information so required will be filed within the 90-day period," Hicks also informed each local union.

Each local union using or contemplating the use of the Board's services was counseled to certify to its regional or sub-regional NLRB office that copies of the financial data filed with the Department of Labor had been made available to the membership of the local union as required by the Taft-Hartley Act. Such certificate must also be filed within 90 days of the ending of a fiscal period if the local union is not to break the continuity of its eligibility to use the services of the Board.

With respect to the non-Communist affidavit required from all officers of local unions using the services of the Board, Hicks quoted the Board as stating that "If an officer is re-elected and has filed affidavit . . . less than one year earlier, it is not necessary that he refile . . . until the end of the one-year period." Newly elected officers who have not filed such affidavits should do so immediately. A second certificate giving the title, name and expiration date of term

Bring Wage-Hour Rules Up To Date, Hutchings Urges

Washington, D. C.—Views and recommendations of the Office Employees International Union on proposed changes in wage-hour regulations were presented by International President Paul R. Hutchings at hearings conducted by the Wage-Hour Division of the Department of Labor.

Hutchings stressed that his suggestions were in the interest of recognizing the economic changes that have occurred since the present regulations were issued and in order to strengthen the regulations in the interest of equity and the effective administration of the law.

He urged the administrator to exercise great caution in considering changes in order that the exemption provisions of the statute may not become an avenue for destroying the intended protection of the nation's workers.

Wage and hour inspectors, he said, have generally been found reasonable and fair in their application of the regulations and there has been little confusion in the meaning of the provisions. However, some realistic changes must be made to make the regulations more meaningful today, he pointed out.

"We are unalterably opposed to any removal of the salary test in determining exemption for bona fide executive, administrative and professional employees," Hutchings declared, adding that the union is in full accord with the position of the American Federation of Labor whose economist, Boris Shishkin, presented justification for a minimum salary of not less than \$400 per month.

"We wholeheartedly join with the American Federation of Labor in urging that the administrator increase the minimum salary test for all exemptions to at least \$400 per month. Such change is necessary in order to give to the salary test a measure of reality which it presently lacks.

"We propose that such \$400 salary test be applied not only in connection with administrative and professional exemptions, but that it also be applied to executive exemptions, removing the present discriminatory test from such group."

The present differential between the salary test for an executive and administrative exemption would lead one to believe that the former group enjoys privileges and benefits not enjoyed by the administrative or professional exempt groups, but, he pointed out, there actually are none.

"We endorse and concur in the position taken by the American

of office of all officers of a local union must also be executed in the event of a change of one or more officers and must also be filed with regional or sub-regional NLRB office, in those instances where union officers have previously complied with the Taft-Hartley Act.

It was further stated by Hicks that written assurance had been given NLRB that the OEIU would refile the required information and materials and take all other required actions within 90 days from the close of the International Union's last fiscal period which was December 31 1947.

Federation of Labor in opposing in principle any flat allowance in either percentage or hours to permit exempt employees to perform non-exempt work," the international president continued. "The provisions of the statute to exempt bona fide executive, administrative and professional employees and employees engaged in local retailing or as outside salesmen which gives to the Administrator the right to define these terms in the regulations which he establishes, to our mind does not extend a license to him to make these contemplated exemptions less bona fide by allowing the performance of non-exempt work without the payment of overtime therefor.

"The proposal made by the American Federation of Labor to replace such present 20 percent or proposed 8-hour test clause in these subsections meets with our full approval and accord, and wording could be appropriately devised to limit the application of the exemptions to persons who do no work which is not an integral part of the functions described in the applicable subsection of the regulations.

"With regard to the substitution of 8 hours for the 20 percent test as proposed by the Administrator, we agree that such substitution would clarify these sub-sections and facilitate the administration of the Act by clearly specifying the number of hours which an exempt employe could work on non-exempt work. We do not believe he should perform non-exempt work, but if he is to be so privileged then we feel that the setting forth of a specific number of hours will clarify the application of such limitation.

"We object to the proposed removal of the word "non-manual" in Section 541.2(B)(2). The section at present allows for the exemption of an employe who performs under general supervision responsible non-manual office work. The removal of the word "non-manual" would allow for the exemption of employes performing under general supervision responsible office work, and the full burden of the test would fall on whether such work was directly related to management policies or general business operations and whether the same was along special or technical lines requiring special training, experience or knowledge and which requires the exercise of discretion and independent judgment. Certainly it is not the intent of the Administrator through the omission of this word to qualify for exemption persons performing the so-called manual types of office duties and we view with alarm the possible results of the proposed change, particularly in view of the fact that the word "non-manual" has been a part of this sub-section for more than 7 years.

"We wholeheartedly join with the American Federation of Labor in its proposed amendment to Section 541.1(D) by adding thereto after the word "powers" the language "and who participates in the formulation of policy relating to his field of responsibility." As this subsection presently stands it rests entirely on the exercise of discretion-

A TRIBUTE

Millinocket, Me.—At its last regular meeting OEIU Local 192 spread on its records a resolution in tribute to the memory of Lawrence B. Wood, according to Recording Secretary Ouellette of the local union. The resolution adopted by the local union stated in part as follows:

"In his sudden and untimely death, we have lost a kindly man and dear friend. With his magnetic personality, his rare gift of humorous expression, and his wisdom acquired through wide experience, he was a dominant figure among his fellow workers. It is fitting that we should record Mr. Wood's personal qualities as they were revealed to his fellow workers in our daily contact. His was a sterling character. Its genuineness was reflected in his gentlemanly demeanor at all times."

The local extended its sincere sympathy to Mrs. Wood.

HOYT PASSES ON

Miami, Fla.—Organized labor in Florida mourned the passing of Walter Hoyt, secretary-treasurer of the State Federation and a member and trustee of OEIU Local No. 128. He devoted his entire life to union activities.

ary powers and in order to make certain that the person brought under an executive exemption is in fact a bona fide executive the regulations should make certain that he does participate in policy formation in his field of responsibility.

"I should also like to comment briefly on the phrase "on a salary basis" as used in the regulations. It is our opinion that these regulations should be interpreted to mean that such an exempt employe must receive each pay period a specified amount not less than that stated in the regulations. In other words, if such an employe should be guaranteed his regular salary of an amount not less than the amount specified in the regulations, then the present policy of the Wage and Hour Division in allowing for disciplinary deductions for unreasonable absences without defeating the exemption should be discontinued. It should be remembered at the outset that the employe exempted by these regulations lose overtime pay benefits and can be required to work unlimited hours for no additional compensation. The only advantage such employes have is their assured salary basis. It does not seem equitable to us for the Division to allow for disciplinary deductions due to "unreasonable absences" which would reduce the salary payment and especially if below the minimum required for exemption. If the Wage and Hour Division is going to allow the application of such principle, then it would seem to us no more than equitable that it should also consider the reasonableness or unreasonableness of overtime hours worked by such an exempt employe on a flat salary basis. If "unreasonable" overtime is to be construed as justifying "disciplinary deductions below the salary specified" then "unreasonable" overtime should be given similar treatment in connection with such fixed salary payment."

DEPARTMENT STORE WAGES INCREASED

Pittsburgh—Basic wage adjustments of \$3.75 to \$5.25 per week highlighted the gains made in the recent negotiations with Gimble Brothers, Joseph Horne Company and Kaufmann Department Stores, Inc., by OEIU Local No. 33 on behalf of its office workers membership in these stores according to Frank W. Riott, business representative of the local, who handled the negotiations.

In addition to such basic general wage adjustments, additional increases of one and two dollars per week were obtained in several departments.

The vacation clauses were improved so as to provide three weeks of paid vacation for employees of twenty years or more service at Gimbles and Joseph Hornes, and four weeks after twenty years at Kaufmanns. A sixty-day probationary clause was established and the provision was made for employees to be re-hired after lay-offs in accordance with seniority provisions. In all three agreements the employees are guaranteed six paid holidays each year.

Dice Loaded

(Continued from page 1)

lawsuits in the courts.

"There are so many grounds for litigation under this act, that hostile employers can keep a union treasury bankrupt. Add the inevitable delays that legal procedures involve and you have a perfect formula for industrial unrest."

He riddled the law's provisions which require unions to submit all sorts of reports and affidavits before they can use the machinery of the National Labor Relations Board.

"That's like telling a citizen whose house is being burglarized that he can't have police protection because his taxes are in arrears," Morse said.

Morse summed up by warning that, in the end, the act may open the door to Fascism.

"Once a government starts to exercise the power to direct the relations which shall exist between supposedly free workers and free employers," he asserted, "then it is not many steps away from a regimented economy."

More Affidavits Filed Under Taft-Hartley Law

Washington, D. C.—The number of non-Communist affidavits filed by unions under the Taft-Hartley law has doubled since November, it was reported.

Representative Gerald Landis disclosed that the NLRB has received a total of 29,418 affidavits from officers of AFL, CIO and independent unions. The most recent tabulation announced by the board dated Nov. 5, listed a total of 11,098.

Mr. Landis said affidavits had been received from 20,934 local and international officers of AFL unions, 1,769 from those of the CIO, and 6,715 from independents.

Baltimore Installs Officers



Shown above are the officers of OEIU Local 22 in Baltimore and the guests of honor at the installation and banquet held on January 10. Standing, left to right: Dr. Ernest Levy, G. A. Ruark, editor of the "Federationist"; Carl G. Scholtz, business manager of the Electrical Workers; Elayne Cohen, recording secretary; Clark Ellis, president of Baltimore Building and Construction Trades Council; Mary Casale, trustee of Local 22; Marion Dienhart, vice president; France A. Davis, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. Joseph Gillis; Irene Peysner, trustee. Seated, left to right: Edith Gordon, president of Local 22; Harry Cohen, president of Baltimore Federation of Labor; Paul R. Hutchings, International president of OEIU; Estelle Morrisette, trustee; Miss Anna Neary, AFL organizer; Joseph Gillis, AFL organizer.

Woll Hits State Measures as Part of NAM Attack on Labor

New York City.—Matthew Woll, a member of the AFL Executive Council, declared that virtually none of the labor relations legislation enacted by the various states "is soundly conceived with the best interest of labor, management, and the public in mind."

Mr. Woll's charge was contained in the first of a series of six articles on the general topic, "Labor and the Law," to be published monthly by the Workers Educational Bureau of America.

Asserting that the "rash of labor relations bills that appeared in state legislatures" was part of the NAM's campaign "to throttle organized labor at the local and state as well as at the national level," Mr. Woll stressed the importance of this state legislation and the need for action by labor organizations to combat it. He said:

"It is important to recognize the relation of state labor relations legislation to the national problem. In addition to labor-management relations problems, however, emphasis should be placed on the need for improved workmen's compensation laws, minimum wage and hour regulations, safety legislation, liberalization of unemployment compensation laws, and proper child-labor standards.

"It is significant that at the fourteenth annual Conference on Labor Legislation in Washington on December 9 and 10, 1947, labor representatives and state commissioners of labor declared that state legislation had wiped our desirable collective bargaining relationships that had been established for years. Regardless of their political affiliation those attending the conference declared that in many states government by injunction had been restored, and they criticized the various state enactments aimed at wage-earners and labor organizations."

Mr. Woll reviewed briefly the extent to which union activities have been curbed by state action.

"Most of the industrial relations legislation places restrictions on union activities. Missouri, Pennsylvania, and Texas each enacted five types of laws or provisions, and four restrictive measures were passed in each of the following states: Delaware, Michigan, and North Dakota. Two laws of this type were passed in each of 11 states: Arizona, California, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Hampshire, South Dakota, Utah, and Wisconsin.

"Anti-closed-shop laws were enacted by 14 states; laws restricting picketing and other strike activities were enacted by 12 states, and secondary boycotts were prohibited by 11 states. Six states placed restrictions on jurisdictional disputes; 11 states enacted special laws relating to labor relations in public utilities, and 6 states prohibited strikes by public employees, while 3 states require registration of labor unions.

"In most cases the anti-closed-shop laws prohibit not only closed-shop agreements, but also union-security agreements, such as the union shop and maintenance of membership.

"Union members and workers generally will recognize that much of the legislation referred to above is bad, and some of it is decidedly questionable. Virtually none of it is soundly conceived with the best interests of labor, management and the public in mind."

Educational Programs

Started in California

San Francisco—The California State Federation of Labor reported that, as a result of the collaboration between unions and the University of California, educational programs for labor are being developed in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego.

In Oakland, where the program has been under way for several

75-CENT MINIMUM URGED BY McCOMB

Washington, D. C.—Recommendations for the upward revision of the minimum wage level and a revelation of the shocking violations by employers of the Wage-Hour law highlighted the 1947 annual report to Congress submitted by William R. McComb, Administrator of the Wage-Hour and Public Contracts Divisions of the Labor Department.

"Fundamentally a peacetime statute," the Wage and Hour Law's importance to our national social and economic well-being is "now beginning to be fully realized," the report emphasizes. However, the administrator says, despite the peacetime regulatory intent of both the Wage and Hour Law and the Public Contracts Act, the basic labor standards they establish "contributed in many ways to the prosecution of the war."

Included in the report are McComb's recommendations for improvement of the Wage and Hour Law, as made by him before a subcommittee of the House Committee on Education and Labor. These call for increasing the minimum wage from its present 40-cents-an-hour level to 75 cents, a general overhauling of several of the exemptions from the overtime pay requirements of the law, and stress the need for revision of the provision intended to encourage the use of annual employment agreements.

The report shows that the divisions made more than 40,000 inspections under the Wage and Hour Law and the Public Contracts Act during the year ended last June 30, and found that more than \$18,000,000 in illegally withheld wages was due to 311,000 of the 1,705,000 employees at the inspected establishments. Violations of the overtime provisions of the two laws were most frequent, according to the report, although it also was revealed that some 37,000 employees had been paid less than the Wage and Hour Law minimum wage of 40 cents an hour at some time during the period covered by the inspections.

ELECTION WON

Ogden, Utah—OEIU Local 220 by an overwhelming majority vote won the union shop election conducted by the NLRB among the office and clerical force of Pillsbury Mills, Inc., according to Local President Donald G. Merrill. The winning of this union shop election has cleared the way for contract negotiations which are now scheduled to commence on January 26.

The local union has recently won by a substantial vote an NLRB consent election establishing its exclusive bargaining rights for the office force.

weeks. gratifying results are reported.

The educational programs are directed by professionally qualified experts in the various fields, including labor law, contract negotiation, workmen's compensation, unemployment, and other subjects of vital interest to labor.

RENEW AGREEMENT WITH BOAT CONCERN

New London, Conn.—After eleven weeks of almost continuous negotiation, the renewal of the agreement between the New London Metal Trades Council and the Electric Boat Company was "achieved" according to C. J. Frick, secretary-treasurer of Local 106. The local union is affiliated with the council; thus the agreement between the council and the company covers its members.

In discussing the agreement, Frick pointed out that possibly the hourly wage increase was the outstanding achievement, stating that the "Basic rate of office employees increased from \$1.20 per hour to \$1.40 per hour fixed rate, whereas in the past the fixed rate was on escalator basis." In addition, three weeks' paid vacation was gained for employees of the company with 25 years or more of service. Other workers receive an annual two-week vacation. An improvement in the seniority clause will insure greater fairness in promotions, reduction of force and re-hiring than has heretofore existed.

While the renewed agreement is not yet completely satisfactory, Frick describes it as a "wedge" and states that the local union membership is "determined to secure even further gains."

President Joseph F. Fitzpatrick of the local union served on the Metal Trades Council negotiating committee and was one of the signers of the agreement which runs through 1948.

ORGANIZING

Boise, Idaho.—Local 196 is planning organizational activities among office and clerical workers employed by local transfer and drayage concerns, according to Recording Secretary Jo Downend of the local union. AFL Organizer Charles R. Smith, who organized this new local union several months ago, is working closely with its officers in this activity.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Washington, D. C.—Detailed statements on receipts and disbursements of the OEIU during the fourth quarter of 1947 have been mailed to all local unions, according to Secretary-Treasurer J. Howard Hicks of the International Union. The OEIU constitution provides that such quarterly reports are to be sent to all local unions and officers of the International Union.

Women Playing Greater Part In World Affairs

Washington, D. C.—The Women's Bureau of the Labor Department released a report showing the growing part women are playing in international conferences and organizations.

The bureau survey said that 6 countries had women representing them as full delegates at the San Francisco United Nations Conference, while 26 of the 50 nations present sent women in some capacity.

In the League of Nations, it pointed out by contrast, no woman

Food Cost For Family of 3 At \$670 Record High in '47

Washington, D. C.—The yearly cost of food for a worker's family of three hit a new all-time high of \$670 calculated on the basis of prices prevailing in December, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported.

This figure compares with \$340.47 in the five years, 1935-39, and \$528.28 in 1946, the bureau said.

Each month for more than 40 years BAE has figured the cost of feeding an average family of three.

The so-called "market basket" includes the quantities of food an average family of three consumed in the five years, 1935-1939.

Thus the \$670 cost last month may be less than actually is being spent, because BAE has reported several times that the average food consumption last year was considerably higher than prewar.

These foods fall into six classifications, in turn broken down into separate items. The classifications are:

1. Meat products (three items, beef, lamb and pork).
2. Dairy products (four items, butter, cheese, fluid milk and evaporated milk).
3. Poultry and eggs.
4. Cereals, including bakery products (four items) and "other cereal" products (eight items).
5. Fruits and vegetables (23 items, including fresh fruits and vegetables and canned fruits and vegetables).
6. Miscellaneous products (seven items, such as sirup, margarine, cooking oils, sugar, peanut butter, and shortenings).

Since November 1946, soon after

NEWSPAPER INCREASE

Oakland, Calif.—The office employes of the Richmond Independent, daily newspaper at Richmond, who are members of OEIU Local 29, have received a \$15.50 monthly increase in pay as a result of recent negotiations, according to John Kinnick, Local Business Representative, who points out that the local union also obtained a reopening date for wages and hours only six months from the date of negotiations.

FRB SAYS CURB NEEDED TO STOP PRICE HIKE

Washington, D. C.—The Federal Reserve Board predicted that further inflation and higher prices are inevitable unless strong steps are taken to counteract the trend.

The board's monthly bulletin said that a "basic essential" of heading off such economic trouble is to restrain further increases in the total of bank loans. Any appreciable increase in loans, the bulletin said, "can lead only to the further bidding up of prices."

The article indicated that rationing and price controls would be among a "variety of measures" required in "any adequate program" for dealing with inflation.

was a full delegate until 1929, and during the entire 25 years of the league's history only 8 nations sent women delegates.

price controls and consumer subsidies were lifted, the cost of the family market basket has been steadily rising.

In that month it received a new all-time high of \$635—the previous high having been \$615 in June 1920.

Out of the \$664 spent at the retail store at the October figures, the farmer got \$366.92 or 55 cents out of each dollar. The grower's share varied with each type of food. For meat products he got 72 cents out of each dollar; for poultry and eggs 68 cents; for dairy products 62 cents. But he only got 29 cents out of each dollar spent for bakery products and 22 cents out of each consumer dollar spent for canned goods.

In 1935-1939 the farmer got only 41 cents out of each dollar spent for food at retail.

"Prices of farm products probably will average as high in 1948 as in 1947," BAE predicted.

REPORTS PROGRESS ON LABEL SHOW

Washington, D. C.—I. M. Ornburn, Secretary-Treasurer of the Union Label Trades Department, and also director of the Union-Industries show which will be held May 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 1948 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin reporting on progress of the exhibition said:

"Every available space on the floor of the Milwaukee Auditorium will be rented long before the opening date and those desiring to participate should send in their applications immediately.

"All of the outstanding exhibitors who participated in our St. Louis exhibition are coming into the Milwaukee show. Many new union concerns have contracted for space. A new feature of the Milwaukee exhibition, which is an excellent example of labor-management cooperation, will be the booths in which both union members and union employers jointly share the expense of the exhibit. Many national and international unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor have also acquired adequate space to display their Union Label products and demonstrate Union services."

GAS LIGHT PACT

(Continued from page 1)

well Brown, chief steward and chairman of the OEIU negotiating committee, reports that a substantial majority of office employes have signed union shop authorization cards and that it is anticipated a union shop election will be held in the near future. It is quite apparent that the clerical force recognizes the value of its present union security provisions and will vote for their continuation in the forthcoming NLRB poll. The members have shown great interest in the many contract improvements worked out by their committee and unanimously approved by the membership at a recent meeting. It is anticipated that contract negotiations will get under way shortly.

PRODUCTION SLIPS; SALES SHOW DROP

Washington, D. C.—Industrial production failed to maintain the postwar record level attained in November and declined slightly during December, the Federal Reserve Board reported.

In another section of its report, the board said that department store sales for the last 3 months of 1947 were 9 percent greater than for the corresponding period in 1946, but that for the first half of January store sales "showed somewhat more than the usual seasonal decline."

Output of the nation's factories and mines was listed on its production index at 91 percent above the 1935-39 average in December against 92 percent in November and 90 in October.

Despite the general decline, activity in durable goods industries continued to advance in December to a new postwar peak. The board said these factors played an important part:

1. Iron and steel production reached the highest rate of the year in December and continued to increase in the first half of January.

2. Assembly of passenger cars increased further in December and production for the year was about 3,600,000 cars compared with 2,200,000 in 1946 and 3,800,000 in 1941. Output of trucks in 1947 was the highest on record.

3. Production of freight cars in December reached 9,800 units "which virtually met the goal established for the industry last spring."

Gains in durable goods were offset, the board said, by a "slight decline" in nondurable goods output largely because holiday influences reduced production in a few lines.

AFL Pilots Sign New Pact

New York City.—The AFL's Air Line Pilots Association and United Air Lines signed a new contract governing pay and working conditions for the company's 1,000 pilots.

The contract provides that a senior officer flying 80 hours a month, half day, half night, in a DC-3 will receive \$909, and if flying a DC-6 in over-water operations will receive \$1,266 a month. The rate for the same officer on a DC-6 run in the United States will be \$1,186.

The Right to

VOTE

Is Your

*Priceless
Heritage*

Don't Fail to Use It