**ELECTION SOUGHT AT BIG INSURANCE CO.**

Galveston, Texas.—A substantial majority of the close to 700 office and clerical workers employed by the American National Insurance Company's home office in this city have signed up with OEIU Local 27 and the NLRB has been requested to conduct an election among this group to determine the exclusive bargaining rights of the union, according to Business Representative A. G. Wilson of Local 27.

The National Labor Relations Board recently ordered the American National Insurance Company to cease and desist from interfering with, restraining or coercing its employees in the exercise of their rights to self-organization and to join a union of their own choosing.

This order of the NLRB was issued as a result of a settlement stipulation entered into by the NLRB, the company and the Industrial and Ordinary Life Insurance Agents Council, AFL.

Under terms of the settlement four insurance agents were awarded back pay of $5,500 each because of their discriminatory discharge.

The company was ordered to post notices in its Dallas, El Paso, San Antonio and Texarkana offices affirming the fact that it would not question its employes about union membership or about those who are active in soliciting union membership.

The company also promises in such notices that it will not issue veiled threats against employes who are members of or active in a union and that it will not threaten to discharge employes because of their union membership.

It also promises that it will not discourage membership in any labor organization of any of its employes, and to receive over the signature of its Executive Vice President W. I. Vogler that "all our employes are free to become or remain members" and further "We will not discriminate in regard to hire or tenure of employment or the terms or conditions of employment against any employe because of membership in or activity on behalf of any such labor organization".

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**DUN & BRADSTREET WORKERS ORGANIZE**

Boston, Mass.—Employees of the Dun & Bradstreet Corporation operations are rapidly turning toward organization, according to AFL Organizers A. C. Velland and K. H. French.

It is reported that a substantial number of the workers have signed up with OEIU Local No. 9, and that the union is currently seeking exclusive bargaining rights through the NLRB for the group involved.

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**ELECTION WON AT DEPARTMENT STORE**

Washington, D. C.—OEIU Local No. 2 has obtained exclusive bargaining rights and clerical workers of the Goldenberg Department Store as a result of an NLRB election held among this group, according to W. R. Prokay, business representative of the local.

The election was held some months ago, but final determination of the union's bargaining status was held up pending the disposition of challenged ballots on which a subsequent hearing was conducted by the NLRB.

The disposition of the challenged ballots clearly sustained the union's majority vote and exclusive bargaining rights have therefore been won.

The local is presently working with a company representative in planning a draft of a proposed collective bargaining agreement that this month.

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**Seek Pay Boost From 34 Stores**

Thecoma, Wash.—Approximately 350 members of Local 23 are gridiron for negotiation on renewal of their agreement with their 34 retail store employers represented by the Tacoma Industrial Conference Board.

The employers involved are department stores and specialty stores, including such furs as Scott, Rochester and Company; J. C. Penney Co.; Rhodes and Fishers.

C. C. Newell, OEIU vice president, and Secretary-Treasurer E. A. Cleveland of the local have announced that the principal objections to the negotiations center about an across-the-board increase of 10 cents per hour, and a job classification program that reduces relationshhip between positions in the offices of the stores.

The two union leaders stated that on the basis of past practices employed by the furs, a fair job classification plan would result in substantial increases in pay for virtually all office employes.

In addition, the union is seeking pay for all time employes are required to spend on premises of the companies, an adequate sick leave provision and improved vacation allowances.

The remaining employes of the stores are members of the Retail Clerks International Association and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

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**To Rule On Closed Shop Ban**

Washington. The Supreme Court agreed to rule on validity of an amendment to Nebraska's Constitution that would authorize a closed shop. Validity of the ban was challenged by the American Federation of Labor.
The Office Worker

Official organ of the Office Employees International Union

Paul R. Hutchings, President
J. Howard Hicks, Sec.-Treas.
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REFUSES TO SHARE ECA JOBS WITH CIO

Milwaukee, Wis.—The AFL Executive Council refused to share administrative posts in the Economic Cooperation Administration with the Congress of Industrial Organizations, as long as the CIO remains affiliated with the Soviet-dominated World Federation of Trade Unions.

The council's decision followed a consultation procedure with Paul G. Hoffman, AFL administrator, on labor's role in the implementation of the European Recovery Program.

AFL President William Green told newspaper reporters that AFL participants in the administration of ECA, along with the CIO, would be completely inconsistent.

Attempted Sabotage

He charged that the CIO has maintained direct relations with the WFTU, which has sought to sabotage the Marshall Plan.

The AFL, he said, was one of the staunchest supporters of the foreign recovery program and has steadfastly refused to join the Communist-inspired WFTU.

In other fields the council drafted a series of recommendations for platform planks on labor and economic questions to be submitted by AFL leaders to both the Republican and Democratic national convention in Philadelphia.

Contents of the recommendations were not made public and will not be released until they are presented to the conventions.

Earlier Green announced that both parties were asked to adopt planks urging repeal of the Taft-Hartley act.

105th Union Charterd

The council also voted to extend an international union charter to the American Federation of Grain Millers, which will become the 105th national or international union affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

The new international union, with a membership of 29,000 workers employed in the nation's grain

Report Highlights Factors Leading to Industrial Peace

Princeton, N. J. — A recent report issued by Princeton University emphasizes the fact that industrial peace and prosperity can be and are actually attained whenever labor and management work jointly toward that end.

It is regrettable that newspapers, always anxious to give great publicity to the comparatively few examples of strife between unions and employers, gave little or no mention of this significant publication.

"Constructive Labor Relations" is the document's title. It's based on a study of four large eastern plants with "model" union-management relations, selected from a list of 70 recommended by labor and industrial leaders.

The four are: H. Roe & Co., printing press manufacturers, New York City; Alexander Smith & Co., milling and processing plants, was formerly organized as a national council of the federal labor unions chartered in the industry.

The American Federation of Grain Millers, headed by Sam Ming, president, maintains headquarters in Minneapolis.

This year the regular spring meeting of the AFL council was held in Milwaukee rather than Washington in order that the members might participate in the opening of the Union-Industries Show staged here by the AFL's Union Label Trades Department.

The show served as the national highlight for the observance of Union Label Week throughout the nation.

The sun shines bright in the middle of the night. And the Taft-Hartley Act is good for labor.

UPHOLDS CHECK-OFF OF FEES AND LEVIES

Washington.—The check-off of union initiation fees and assessments may be included with the check-off of regular union dues under the Taft-Hartley law, according to an interpretation of the law's provisions issued by the Department of Justice.

This opinion of great interest to unions and to individual trades unionists, was given by the Assistant Solicitor General, George T. Wash-ington, in response to a request by William S. Tyson, solicitor of the Department of Labor.

The interpretation of the law's provisions regulating the check-off of union dues is prohibited unless the employee has given to the employer a written consent to such deduction.

The authorization for the check-off may not be made irrevocable for more than one year or for the duration of the collective bargaining agreement, whichever is the shorter, according to the interpretation.

In his interpretation, the Assistant Solicitor General concluded that the term "membership dues" as used in the law also includes initiation fees and assessments since they are incidents of membership in a union.

He also expressed the view that, as long as the check off authorization could be revoked at a designated period each year, it does not appear to constitute a willful violation of Section 302 (c), and that a cause of action for the enforcement of check-off authorization should not be considered an adequate basis for challenge.

Tyson, in his letter asking for the Department of Justice opinions on these points, said they would "do much to assist in solving difficult labor-management controversies and to remove significant causes of industrial unrest."

Educational Service

For Labor Wins "Okay"

Washington.—Organized labor won the first round in a battle for legislation to establish a "labor extension service," which would provide educational facilities for workers similar to that given farmers.

A subcommittee of the Senate Labor Committee gave its "okay" to the bill, which is sponsored by Morse (Ore.) and Thomas (Utah).

The measure is backed by all unions between the Machinists and the company, it is strike free.

10 years later, it signed with the Machinists again and it was turned from red to black. Now, according to the report, the company is doing well, and the relationship is superior to an open shop policy for efficient, profitable and harmonious operation."
KINCAID SUCCEEDS
ENNA IN PORTLAND

Portland, Ore.—T. M. “Tom” Kincaid was recently elected to succeed L. A. Enna as treasurer of Local 11, according to an announcement made by Ar- thur A. Snyder, general president of the local union. Kincaid was elected to serve the balance of Enna’s unex- pired term, following the resigna- tion of the latter to accept the position of executive secretary of the Port- land Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Kincaid, who has been a member of the local for a number of years, was in the midst of his third suc- cessive term as an executive board member when elected secretary-treasurer.

He has long been interested in the unionization of office and clerical workers and was given the opportuni- ty which his new position affords to be of service to them in their earned and working conditions.

Employed by the Portland Gas and Coke Company for the past six years, Kincaid was given an un- limited leave of absence and con- tinued part-time employment benefits by the company. He is married and the father of two grown sons.

All local leaders, including offices of the Oregon State Federation of Labor and the Portland Central Labor Council, have pledged Kincaid’s full support and co- operation in the fulfillment of his new duties. The ability with which Kincaid will handle his new duties has already become evident and the membership feels that office will fit greatly as the result of his selection.

UNANIMOUS

Osgeo, N. Y.—Without a single dissenting vote, the office clerical workers of the New York Central Iron Works Division of the Pierce Butler Radiator Corp. and the Fitz- geoivd Iron Works all voted for a union shop provision in the recently conducted NLRB union shop election, according to A. Gooye, President of the union, 95% of the members of this company, numbering almost 500, have moved steadily toward organization under the union. This move was not determined by the recent increase of 9 cents per hour granted by the company in an effort to combat organizational efforts.

The workers recognize that this decision is the first direct result of their organizational activities.

Average Government Pay Was $2,839 in July

Washington.—The average annual salary of U. S. government workers in the federal service was $2,839 for the July pay period, according to a report released by the Civil Service Commission.

The commission reported 80 per- cent of the federal jobholders make from $1,500 to $3,500 a year, 3 per- cent get less than $1,500 and the remaining 17 percent earn less than $1,500 or more.

It is noted that the $2,839 aver- age was an increase over the previous year’s figure of $2,680.

If Congress approves one of the new reinsurance plans, workers would get $48 more if paid by the year or $2 more an hour, if paid by the month. The pending measure also would increase postal service wages $585 a year with its hourly workers getting 30 cents more.

WASHINGTON—Carried along by the continued business boom, the cost of living soared again in the month of April and made it more difficult for the average American worker to make ends meet.

Retail prices of goods and services purchased by moderate income families in large cities advanced an average of one per cent over the average for the month of March. As a result of this, the cost of living was slightly lower than that which occurred from January to March, the Bureau of Labor Statistics re- ported.

The consumer’s price index for April, 1939, reached an all-time high of 193.3 percent of the 1926-29 average; 84.4 percent higher than a year ago, 27 percent in 1934, and 77.1 percent above Au- gust, 1939. Retail prices of foods advanced 2.8 percent, while prices of other goods, not food, averaged 0.5 percent higher over the month.

The increase of 2.8 percent in food prices brought the food index for large cities combined to 207.0 percent of the 1926-29 average; 1.7 percent below the mid-Janu- ary, 1949, peak.

Apparel prices rose 0.1 percent. Housing costs increased by the same amount.

ELECTION WON AT SAVAGE ARMS CO.

Rutland, Vt.—By a vote of 98 to 6 the office and clerical workers in the Savage Arms Division of Savage Arms Company voted for representation through NLRB Local 228 in a re- cent NLRB certification election ac- cording to AFL-UEI Representative Frank E. Morton, who assisted the union in making its case.

The members of the new local are very enthusiastic and are pres- ently giving their support to the various items which they desire to propose in contract negotiations with the company.

The full support and cooperation of the AFL federal labor union representing the production em- ployes in this plant has been of great assistance, as has the splendid efforts of AFL Organizer William Malone.

Wins Bargaining Rights at Wards

Longview, Wash.—The winning of bargaining rights for local office and clerical workers in Montgomery Ward and Company by NLRB Local 231 has been announced by Victor W. Snyder, secretary-treasurer. In the same NLRB certification election truck drivers and employes in the same company also voted for representa- tion by the local union by the same margin for the other classes of employees. Working with Snyder on this project was Eva Shiras, president of the Longview union.

According to Snyder, plans are moving ahead rapidly for prelimi- nary meetings with company repre- sentatives on the negotiation of a new agreement. Representatives of each of the three unions will participate in the negotiations.

Other organizing prospects are being eyed by the local according to Snyder. It is possible a full-scale organizing program will be mapped and aimed at a number of large local firms. Support for the workers of the AFL movement has been ex- tended Local 231 and it is expected the union will have a substantial young in the planned activities of the new local union.

BOise Olio Tax Repeal

Washington.—Lewis G. Hines, national legislative representative for the AFL-CIO’s Federation of Labor, declared that if Congress really feels “true concern for the economic welfare of millions of people in America,” the repeal of the federal taxes on oleomargarine is the best solution of the problem, which would take to demonstrate that feeling.

Hines said that Congress has added the antimonopoly act to the other free competition, impose a hardship on the low-income farm family, and are no longer of significant importance to the selfish monopoly-minded pressure group they were originally designed to protect.”

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Apparel prices rose 0.1 percent. Housing costs increased by the same amount.
WASHINGTON.—In a special mes-
sage to Congress, President
man reiterated his former requests
for a broadening of the nation’s so-
tax system with increased taxes
to finance the chances.
Mr. Truman declared that the
present period of high employment,
the time to improve the program by ex-
tending the law’s coverage to some
$3,000 a month and re-
creasing the present average of
about $25 a month paid to retired
workers.
To assure an excess of income
over outgo in the social insurance
trust funds, Mr. Truman recom-
mended:
1. That the ceiling on earnings
taxed for social security purposes
be raised from the present $3,000
to $4,000 a year.
2. The date for increasing
the tax rate from 1 percent to 1 1/2
percent be moved forward from
January 1, 1950, to January 1, 1940.
The effect of raising the tax-
able earnings ceiling would be to
increase the tax from $30 to $48 a
year on a worker earning $4800 or
more. This would climb to 72
when the 1 1/2 percent rate becomes
operative.
Urging adjustments in benefits to
keep pace with rising living costs,
the President proposed that women
become eligible for old-age benefits
at 60 instead of 65. He proposed
raising the premium for limited
work coverage from $30 a month to
$40 a month and cutting the part-
time employment, instead of 15% at
present, without losing benefits.
There’s other recommendations
provide:
Unemployment insurance cover-
age for federal government work-
ers and now-excluded employees of
small firms. He said: “It seems
absurd that the federal government
does not provide to its employees
the same protection that private em-
ployers are required to furnish to
their workers.”
More adequate unemployment in-
surance benefits, particularly for
jobless persons with families to
provide for, is something Truman
already have raised benefits and ex-
tended duration of payments to
covered employees in all states
and all states should do so.
A new type of social security in-
stant relief in the form of the test in
against loss of earnings due to
lasting disability of 6 months or
more. In addition, the government
would offer a strong financial in-
ducement to all states to provide
insurance for loss of income during
illness or disability.
Increased federal benefits to
match “more fully” state aid for
rehabilitation, Income taxes are
usually
and blind. Mr. Truman said federal
guage should be related “more
closely to the financial resources
and needs of each state.”
Utility Workers
Vote Union Shop
Newark, N. J.—Office and cler-
ical workers in the electric dis-
tribution division of the Public
Service Electric & Gas Company
have an impressive affirmative
decision of the National Labor
Relations Board.
Included are clerical workers at
Irons, Gin & Company (Northern
Division), New Brunswick, Port
Amboy, Plainfield and Bound Brook
(Central Division); and the Essex
Division, Glen Rock and Maplewood.
OEU Local 96, 91 and 104 are the
exclusive bargaining represen-
tatives for these workers. API
Organizer Samuel E. Isad
assisted the locals in the election.
One Family In Four To Live
On Credit Or Savings In ’48
Washington.—The devastating
impact of inflation upon American
families was highlighted in a re-
port by the Federal Reserve Board
showing that one out of every four
families will overspend its income
the current year.
This conclusion was based on a
board survey of consumer finances which
figured that Americans plan to
keep spending freely for new
homes and goods—using their
credit or savings if necessary.
The survey, a sampling under
written annually by the board for
the last three years, showed the
inflation has its effect. Consumer’s
is still strong but, it
developed in 1947 “the first signs
of weakening.” Among those
signs were:
Those overspending income
year last included large numbers in the
$25,000 and over—$5,000 a year
class, whereas overspending in
1946 was concentrated in the under
$5,000 class.
There was a “particularly signi-
ficant rise” in the number of over-
spenders with annual incomes run-
ning up to $7,500.
Also, about 3 million more fami-
lies or individuals completely
emptied out their holdings of sav-
ing bonds.
Out of the 17 million persons
buying furniture, refrigerators,
radios, washing machines, ranges
and other appliances, 9 million did
so on the installment plan—nearly
twice the number who did so in
1946.
On the other hand, consumer in-
comes as a whole rose more than
10 percent last year.
“Almost 50 percent of all spend-
form that the families group in
viduals reported higher incomes
in 1947 than in 1946, but
a considerable number felt that be-
because in order to get more
they were worse off financially at
the end of the year than at the
beginning,” the report said.
State Workers Win Boost
Salem, Ore.—Efforts of the AFL’s
American Federation Of State,
County, and Municipal Em-
ployees with success here when
$20 monthly cost-of-living bonuses
were approved for all state em-
ployees. The bonuses, which will be
effective in June, will go to about 4,000
persons on the state’s payroll.
AFL Council Urges
Federal Pay Hike
Milwaukee.—Backing up its
stand at a recent meeting, the
AFL Executive Council called
for a $10-a-month boost in
pay to authorize an $800 salary increase
for U. S. postal workers and other
federal employees.