

# THE OFFICE WORKER

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

No. 39

WASHINGTON, D. C., MARCH, 1948



## Union Shop Won On Big Exchange

### TVA WATAUGA DAM WORKERS ORGANIZE

Elizabethton, Tenn.—On February 3, 1948 at a mass meeting of TVA office employes from Watauga Dam, sponsored by the officers and members of Local 217 a total of 61 members were enrolled.

The meeting, which was attended by approximately 70 employes was addressed by Vice President A. R. Carson, TVA Personnel Officer William N. Rogers, Claude L. Brownell, supervisor in construction accounting, and D. L. Tapley, secretary-treasurer Tennessee Valley Council of Office, Technical and Service Employees Unions.

OEIU Vice President Carson gave a brief explanation and history of the bargaining relations with TVA, outlining some of the accomplishments and objectives.

Mr. Brownell made some interesting and thought-provoking remarks on the responsibilities of unions which he listed as: 1. Responsibility to members, 2. Responsibility to management and 3. Responsibility to the public.

Mr. Rogers supplemented the history of the relationship between the TVA and organizations of salary policy employes which had been previously outlined very briefly by Vice President Carson, and spoke at some length on the policies of TVA with respect to dealing with employes through their unions and representatives of their own choosing.

Recognition for all the individuals contributing to the success of the organizing drive cannot be given here. The report would be incomplete, however, if it failed to recognize the good work of C. F. Birchfield and Charles A. Walker, president and secretary-treasurer of the local union.

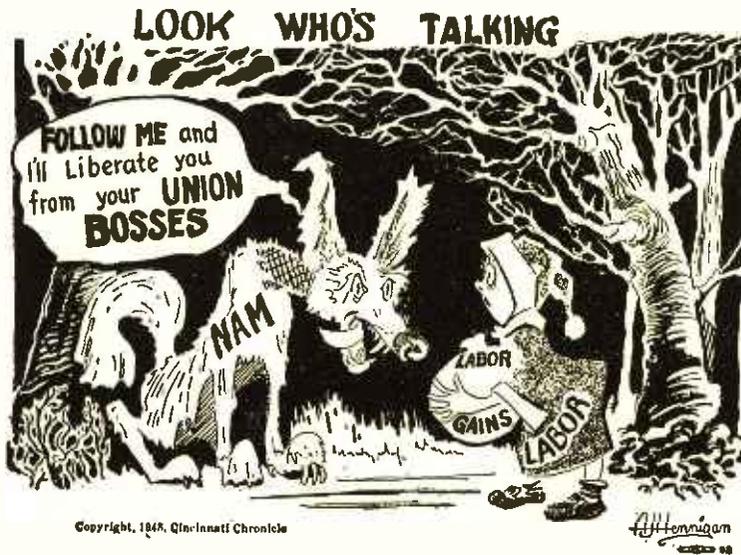
Secretary-Treasurer Tapley and members of PSSEU 24151 also rendered valuable assistance.

Vice President Carson reports that he is looking forward to the early establishment of joint formal cooperative relationships between the local union and management at the project.

### Secure Wage Hike At Utilities Corp.

Oakland, Cal.—Negotiations with the Interstate Utilities Corporation by OEIU Local 29 have resulted in a monthly wage increase of from \$22 to \$32.50 retroactive to January 5, according to Business Representative John Kinnick of the local union. Also obtained are three additional paid holidays for the office staff.

The local has also completed initial negotiations of its new union office agreement which provides several increases of from \$4.50 to



### FURTHER GAINS FOR TIN CORP. WORKERS

Texas City, Texas.—The clerical workers employed in the plant of the Tin Processing Corp. have just obtained a general 14 cent per hour increase, according to Business Representative A. G. Wilson of OEIU Local 27 which represents this group. This is the second general increase obtained under the provisions of the 1947 agreement which has renewed itself by consent of the parties for an additional one year period.

The clerical force at this plant received a general 5 cent increase negotiated last August which, together with the present increase, gives them an additional 19 cents over the rate schedule agreed to last year and a total of 34 cents per hour increase in their base rates over the rates contained in the old 1946 agreement.

The agreement also provides for many other benefits. Time and one-half is provided for all work performed in excess of 8 hours per day and 40 hours per week, as well as for work performed on 7 legal holidays and for all Sunday work. Paid sick leave up to one day per month is provided, and vacations of 14 days after a year's service are also stipulated.

The agreement also provides for 3 days paid leave in the event of death in the immediate family, and protects all employes by assuring them of no loss of earnings while performing jury service. Call-out pay of 4 hours is guaranteed if an employe reports for work and none is available.

\$9.50 per week for the members of the local union employed in the various union offices in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.

### Bag Co. Workers Are Organizing

Savannah, Georgia.—The office and clerical employes of the large Union Bag Company are rapidly turning towards organization into OEIU according to reports received from International Vice-President J. O. Bloodworth, Jr., who is assisting this group in its organizational efforts. Numerous group meetings have already been held and the spirit is high for organization. Good support and assistance is being received from the other trades represented in the plant, and from J. H. Haire of the "Georgia Federationist".

Vice-President Bloodworth also reports that the clerical force of the Savannah Electric and Power Company is showing marked interest in the organization. It is understood this group is still represented by the so-called Independent Association which previously represented all employes of the Company. President C. H. Radford of the Linemen's Local, I.B.E.W., A.F.L. is actively assisting the clerical force in its OEIU organizing drive. The Linemen employed by the company were likewise previously represented through the Independent Association, but presently they enjoy bona fide A.F.L. representation through the I.B.E.W.

### WAGES BOOSTED

Milwaukee, Wisconsin.—General wage increases of \$15.00 to \$20.00 per month highlighted the gains made in the recent renewal agreement with the Eagle's Club of Milwaukee by OEIU Local 9 which holds bargaining rights for the office and clerical workers employed by the Club according to local Business Representative H. E. Beck who handled the negotiations.

### NEW AGREEMENT ALSO UPS WAGES

New York, N. Y.—OEIU Local 205 and the New York Cotton Exchange have entered into an agreement providing for a modified union shop and for substantial wage adjustments according to M. David Keefe, President of the local union.

The agreement, covering employes in the building department and floor operations department of the Exchange, requires union membership as a condition of employment for all present members and for all new employees. This union security clause had been authorized by a 92 per cent favorable vote in a recent NLRB union security election.

A \$52 a week rate for building employees and a \$65 a week rate for senior floor employees was obtained, together with an escalator clause based on rates finally to be arrived at with the New York Stock Exchange permitting further increases to a maximum of \$73.50 per week. The volume bonus arrangement giving additional pay to the floor personnel of the Exchange, based on the volume of trading, has also been increased over last year's bonus arrangement.

Negotiations between Local 205 and all other employers in the brokerage business continue to be deadlocked. The New York Stock and Curb Exchanges persist in refusing the union shop or adequate salary increases. In addition, President Keefe advises that 26 member firms of these Exchanges are refusing to deal with the union and that a strike is regarded as inevitable.

### Utility Election Won

Washington, D. C.—In a sweeping victory OEIU Local 2 won a recent NLRB union security election conducted among the office and clerical force of the Washington Gas Light Company, according to W. R. Probey, business representative of the local union.

More than 85 per cent of all votes cast favored the continuation of the union shop clause, which has been in previous contracts with the company. The local union is presently in negotiations for a renewal agreement.

Chemical Workers Local 63, which represents the production and maintenance employees of the company, also won its union shop election conducted on the same day by a sweeping majority vote.

## 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 Wash-  
ington, D. C., as second-class mail matter.



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

Subscription Price, \$1 a Year

## OEIU FAVORED BY TWO RESOLUTIONS

Vancouver, B. C.—The Conven-  
tion of the Pacific Coast District  
Metal Trades Council meeting here  
recently unanimously adopted a res-  
olution to include the Office Em-  
ployees International Union in any  
proposed Pacific Coast Master Up-  
town Shop agreement negotiated by  
the Pacific Coast District Council  
or its respective local Council ac-  
cording to Eleanor Murphy, Secre-  
tary-Treasurer of OEIU Local No.  
36 at San Francisco, who served as  
International Union delegate to the  
Convention.

The resolution stated in part:  
"Be it resolved that the Office Em-  
ployees International Union be in-  
cluded in any proposed Pacific  
Coast Master Uptown Shop Agree-  
ment negotiated by the Pacific  
Coast District Metal Trades Coun-  
cil and/or its respective local Metal  
Trades Councils, at least to the ex-  
tent that such Master Agreement  
provide for and assure recognition  
of the Office Employees Interna-  
tional Union and its appropriate  
affiliated local by such shop or  
shops whenever that organization  
obtains adequate representation  
among the office and clerical work-  
ers employed in any such shop or  
shops covered by such agreement,  
in which event, upon request of  
such affiliated local of the Office  
Employees International Union, the  
terms and conditions of the Master  
Agreement will apply to the office  
and clerical workers in shops where  
such organization has obtained bar-  
gaining rights and that an appro-  
priate wage schedule will thereupon  
be negotiated covering the office  
classification involved.

Action of the 1947 Convention  
supporting the request of OEIU to  
become an affiliate of the A.F.L.  
Metal Trades Department was re-  
affirmed. The resolution on this  
subject further resolved that OEIU  
be granted a cooperating affiliation  
with the Department if full affilia-  
tion is not found feasible at this  
time.

OEIU delegate Murphy served as  
the Secretary of the Resolutions  
Committee of the Convention.

## "Who's Kidding Who?"

Recently The Carpenter, official  
magazine of the AFL United  
Brotherhood of Carpenters and  
Joiners of America, received a  
letter from a non-union bookkeeper  
in a contractor's office at Columbus,  
O., accusing unions of being "self-  
ish" and blaming them for the high  
cost of living.

The answer by Assistant Editor  
Peter E. Terzick certainly "hit the  
nail on the head."

Herewith are both letter and an-  
swer reprinted from The Carpenter,  
in which they appeared under the  
title "Whose Kidding Who?"

The bookkeeper stated: "In trying  
to run your union workers' pay up  
to the highest possible level, you  
apparently have selfishly lost any  
regard for other classes of people  
earning their living and whose rate  
does not skyrocket with the cost  
of living as it is forced up by your  
greedy union demands.

"For a narrow, one-sided presen-  
tation of the labor situation bor-  
dering many times on misrepresen-  
tation of the facts you certainly  
take the prize; however, instead of  
congratulations, I say 'Shame on  
you!' for you bigotry. I am not a  
'crank' just one of the many caught  
in the middle of the greed and self-  
ishness of the labor unions."

Terzick replied:

"You start out by accusing the  
unions of being selfish and you  
blame them exclusively for the high  
cost of living. If wanting to make  
a living wage is selfishness, then  
the unions are selfish. However,  
your communication is one long  
plaint because you yourself are not  
making a living wage. If you con-  
sider the desire to make a decent  
living selfishness, then certainly  
you must include yourself in the  
same category as organized labor.

"When you blame unionism for  
the high cost of living, you merely  
display your colossal ignorance of  
the economic facts of life. In the  
years since 1940, the unions of the  
nation have fought a losing battle  
against skyrocketing prices. Des-  
pite the best efforts of organized  
labor, the spread between wages  
and prices has grown wider month  
by month. In recent months,  
wages have increased by some six  
per cent but during the same period  
the cost of living has increased  
by about sixteen per cent. The  
fact of the matter is that most  
workers are worse off now than  
they were three or four or five  
years ago despite higher wages  
because the higher wages will buy  
less goods at today's prices. If you  
think this is "bigotry" or "misrep-  
resentation" do not take our word  
for it, write to the Department of  
Labor for the exact figures; or do  
you think that they are untrust-  
worthy too? Recently Secretary of  
Labor Schwollenbach said in a  
speech that each month for the past  
fifteen months prices have pulled  
farther ahead of wages.

"If you read The Carpenter as  
you claim, you probably noted in a  
recent issue that the Department  
of Commerce estimates profits for  
the first six months of this year at  
close to nine billion dollars. This  
is well ahead of total profits for any

Ralph Johns was unanimously re-  
elected President of the Council  
along with Tom Rotell as Executive  
Secretary.

other one full year prior to the war.  
It is the equivalent of total profits  
for the year 1929—long considered  
the boom year of all time. In other  
words, by the end of June, 1947,  
business had already piled up more  
profits in the six month period than  
it did in all of 1929 which was sup-  
posed to be a bonanza year. How  
do you suppose the corporations  
amassed these profits? By lower-  
ing prices and worrying about  
whether or not your pay check was  
going to be sufficient to keep you  
out of the red? I hardly think so.  
You and I paid for those profits  
and we paid for them at the butcher  
shop and the clothing store counter  
and grocery store checking stand.  
Corporations cannot make 200%  
and 300% more (as they have done)  
on net worth than they made in any  
of the immediate pre-war years  
without prices going up.

"So when you blame union de-  
mands for present prices you are  
merely displaying an ignorance of  
facts that borders on the astounding.  
The struggle of the unions  
has been to try to maintain living  
standards, but despite all they have  
been able to do, the gap between  
wages and prices has grown wider  
steadily. As an employe in a con-  
tractor's office, you should be some-  
what familiar with what has trans-  
pired in the building game. Lum-  
ber has increased 200% over pre-  
war prices. Brick and tile are  
roughly 125% above pre-war prices.  
So are paints and most other ma-  
terials. According to the Wall  
Street Journal building trades  
wages are up less than seventy-six  
per cent on the national average.  
It is wages or profits then that are  
contributing most to building  
cost? Is it labor's fault the house  
that was built for \$4,000 twenty  
years ago now sells for \$10,000?

"The one thing I can agree with  
in your communication is the state-  
ment that you, as a non-union  
worker, are caught in an economic  
squeeze. But let me ask you two  
questions; why? and whose fault is  
it? Answering the first one first,  
you are in the squeeze because you  
are a devotee of individual bargain-  
ing rather than collective bargain-  
ing. To my way of thinking, you  
are a walking testimonial of the  
value of unionism. You are an  
example of what the worker can  
expect for his services when he  
tries to go it alone instead of band-  
ing together with his fellow work-  
ers to engage in a little collective  
bargaining. As far as I can see you  
can think of no solution other than  
crying over your unhappy plight  
and damning those who do have  
the good sense to band together in  
an effort to gain something ap-  
proaching economic justice.

But let us get on with the second  
question, whose fault is it. Within  
the American Federation of Labor  
there is an organization for office  
personnel. It is known as the Office  
Employees International Union. Do  
you belong to it? Apparently not,  
since you seem to think union mem-  
bers have horns and forked tails.  
Instead of joining forces with the  
other people in your profession and  
going after a living wage, you  
seemingly prefer to stand alone.

"You do not like what you have,  
but your solution seems to be to try  
to bring everybody else down to  
your economic level rather than

## OEIU BOARD MEETING

Washington, D. C.—The regular  
March meeting of the International  
Executive Board has been called for  
March 22 at the Statler hotel in  
Washington by President Paul R.  
Hutchings and Secretary-Treasurer  
J. Howard Hicks.

trying to pull yourself up to the  
higher standard. For years or-  
ganized labor has preached that the  
individual worker standing alone  
takes it on the chin. Your com-  
munication certainly proves the  
point effectively.

"Nearly a hundred years ago, old  
Abe Lincoln said in effect (I am  
sorry I do not have time to run  
down the exact words): 'If your  
neighbor through diligence and  
thrift builds himself a fine house,  
do not waste your efforts to tear  
it down but rather so apply your-  
self that you can one day enjoy  
a similar fine home of your own.'

"So, dear Madame, in justice  
to yourself as well as to the rest  
of the working people in the nation,  
this might be a good time for you  
to indulge in a little soul searching.  
When you blame the unions for ex-  
isting high prices, you are barking  
up the wrong tree. You do not have  
to take our word for it because, as  
we said before, Secretary of Labor  
Schwellenbach has pointed out the  
same thing, and he certainly is in a  
position to know.

"When you start feeling sorry  
for yourself do not blame the uni-  
ons for your unhappy circumstan-  
ces; rather remember the words of  
Abraham Lincoln. Instead of try-  
ing to tear down your neighbor's  
house, try to build one of your own.  
Fifteen million workers in this na-  
tion belong to unions. They belong  
because they have found out by bit-  
ter experience that only through  
organization can they hope for any-  
thing even resembling economic  
justice. You yourself are finding  
out the futility of trying to go it  
alone. However, like a lot of other  
white collar workers, instead of  
seeking the obvious solution to your  
problems (that is, membership in a  
strong, progressive union) you are  
feeling sorry for yourself and rail-  
ing at those who have used better  
judgment.

"These are indeed unsettled and  
trying times. There is not one of  
us who works for a living but who  
is worried and plagued by a feel-  
ing of uncertainty and insecurity.  
When we find the eventual answers  
to many of our economic problems,  
those answers will stem from or-  
ganized labor. I sincerely recom-  
mend that you think these things  
over. If and when you do, I am  
sure that instead of cursing organ-  
ized labor which is fighting the  
same economic vice you complain  
of, you will become part of it and  
through collective action hasten the  
day when wages and prices can be  
brought into a better economic  
balance."

## On Important Committee

Oakland, Calif.—John Kinnick,  
business representative of OEIU  
Local No. 29, has been appointed  
to the Oakland Advisory Commit-  
tee on Child Care Centers, which  
is working to prevent the closing  
of the centers that take care of  
1,300 children of working parents.

## PILLSBURY MILLS CONTRACT SIGNED

Ogden, Utah.—Numerous improvements in employment conditions highlight the recently signed first agreement between OEIU Local 220 and Pillsbury Mills, Inc., covering the office and clerical workers at the Globe Mills operation of that company at Ogden, according to Donald G. Merrill, President of the local union.

Uniform job classifications obtained in the agreement, together with a general increase obtained, have resulted in an overall average increase to the present employees of 15 per cent. Through its negotiations the union has also increased the number of paid holidays from 6 to 8 per year, and has improved the vacation schedule so as to assure two weeks paid vacation each year after one year's employment.

Another outstanding improvement in the salary schedule is the automatic step increases provided upon the completion of six and twelve months employment with the company. All wage increases and schedules are retroactive to January 1, 1948.

The agreement provides for a modified union shop and also assures all regular employees of 80 hours paid sick leave each year. Two weeks severance pay is also provided.

The agreement was negotiated by the local union negotiating committee which, in addition to Local President Merrill, included H. D. Chard, O. W. Christensen and V. V. Smith. The committee was assisted in its negotiations by A. F. of L. Organizer H. B. Douglas.

## ELECTION WON

Richmond, Cal.—OEIU Local No. 29 has won authorization for a union shop in the NLRB election held recently among the clerical force of the California Steel Products Company, according to Business Representative John Kinnick of the local.

## Plans Made For Union Label Week

Washington, D. C.—Plans for Union Label Week, May 10 to 16, were formulated by the American Federation of Labor and the Union Label Trades Department at recent quarterly meetings held in Miami, Fla. The executive council of the A. F. of L. unanimously voted to place all the facilities of the A. F. of L. back of the excellent idea. The members of the Executive Council also pledged their all-out support to the Union-Industries show which will be held during the same period. I. M. Ornburn, Secretary-Treasurer of the Union Label Trades Department, is director of the exhibition. The fourth convention of the American Federation of Women's Auxiliaries of Labor will also be held in Milwaukee during the same week.

The general purpose of the week period is to create better public relations and promote good will for all organizations in the A. F. of L.

## Wage-Hour Division Issues Regulations Under FLSA

Washington, D. C.—William R. McComb, administrator of the Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions of the Labor Department, announced the publication of a revised interpretative bulletin on compensation under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

The new bulletin deals primarily with a section of the Fair Labor Standards Act, also known as the Wage and Hour Law, which permits and governs the payment of wages in other than cash. The term "wages" includes the "reasonable cost," as determined by the administrator, to the employer of furnishing an employee with "board, lodging, or other facilities" when such items are customarily furnished.

"It appears to have been the clear intention of Congress to protect the basic minimum wage and overtime compensation required to be paid to the employe \* \* \* from profiteering or manipulation by the employer," McComb said, regarding the safeguards which control the payment of wages in other than cash. He emphasized, however, that nothing prohibits the payment of wages in "facilities" furnished either as additions to a stipulated wage or as items for which deductions from a stipulated wage may be made.

According to the bulletin, no limits are set on the amount which may be deducted for "board, lodging, or other facilities," either in

nonovertime weeks or in overtime weeks, in which the employe works at time and one-half his regular rate for each hour beyond 40—provided, these deductions represent no more than the reasonable cost of these facilities "Reasonable cost," states the administrator, "does not include a profit to the employer or to any person affiliated with him."

In addition the bulletin sets forth the principles limiting the amounts which may be deducted in both overtime and nonovertime weeks if "facilities" are furnished at a profit, and the rules governing deductions for articles which do not qualify as "facilities," as, for example, tools, miners' lamps and dynamite caps.

The bulletin also points out that no deductions may be made for any tax or share of a tax which must, under law, be borne by the employer. Where, however, taxes are assessed against the employe, collected by the employer, and forwarded to the appropriate governmental agency, as is the case with social security taxes, for example, the deductions required by law may be made.

This bulletin may be obtained without cost from the Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Division, U. S. Department of Labor, Washington 25, D. C., or from any regional or branch office.

## Businessmen's Magazine Notes Office Workers Organizing

Washington, D. C.—Business Week, a McGraw-Hill magazine published mainly for businessmen, in a recent article takes cognizance of the fact that office and clerical workers are organizing in ever-increasing numbers.

It recognizes that the Office Employees International Union is the largest union of purely office workers, with locals in the United States, Canada, Alaska and Hawaii.

Further, it is pointed out, that while OEIU is opposed to the Taft-Hartley act and is working with

other AFL unions for its repeal, it is the only office employes' union with international affiliation which has complied with the law.

## INCREASE GAINED

Honolulu, Hawaii—Re-negotiation of the agreement between Local 170 and the Von Hamm Young Company with a resulting increase in wages to members of the union employed by the company and other benefits has been announced by Secretary-Treasurer Beatrice T. Pung of the local union.

## VETERAN PASSES

Kansas City—Tom West, one of the first members of the old Federal Labor Union 14268, now OEIU Local 4, passed away recently in Kansas City. For many years he was editor of The Labor Herald. He was initiated into the OEIU predecessor in 1915.

His funeral was attended by many different crafts from organized labor in Kansas City.

"It is more essential now than ever before in the history of the organized labor movement that we in the American Federation of Labor acquaint the citizens of the United States and Canada with the program and policy of the American Federation of Labor with respect to labor-management consumer relations", it was stated.

## POLITICAL LEAGUE SWINGS INTO ACTION

Washington, D. C. — Labor's League for Political Education has swung into action on four fronts, it was announced.

1—Appointment of Joseph D. Keenan, as assistant to the executive officers of the league, was announced by National Chairman William Green and Secretary-Treasurer George Meany. Mr. Keenan, Secretary of the Chicago Federation of Labor, served during the war as Vice Chairman of the War Production Board and later as labor adviser to Gen. Clay in the American-occupied zone of Germany. An energetic organizer, he will undertake the task of setting up the American Federation of Labor's political arm as a powerful force in the 1948 campaign.

2—Mr. Green and Mr. Meany issued an appeal to all affiliated unions to begin a concerted drive among their members for voluntary contributions of \$1 or more to finance the league's activities.

3—National headquarters for the league will be opened on March 1 at 1525 H St. N.W., Washington, D. C., a historic site facing the White House across Lafayette Park.

4—A call was sent out for a national conference on March 10 at the Washington Hotel of the Presidents of all State Federations of Labor. The league's Administrative Committee, which is scheduled to meet in Washington on March 9, will stay over for the conference with the state representatives. The purpose of this meeting is to map perfect teamwork between the league's national organization and the state branches to be set up under the State Federations of Labor.

A number of state organizations, especially those where primary elections are to be held early, already have started functioning on the political front, Mr. Green said.

He disclosed that a subcommittee of the league's Administrative Committee is now canvassing the field for candidates for the job of executive director of ILPE. The recommendations will be submitted to the Administrative Committee at the March 9 meeting and it is likely that a choice will be made and announced at that time.

## Right to Pass Upon Merit Adjustments Won by Union

Cincinnati.—The AFL's Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen's Union won the right to pass upon merit raises given individual employes by an employer who has a collective bargaining contract with the union.

This was the conclusion reached by the Circuit Court of Appeals in a decision handed down here.

The court voted 2 to 1 to enforce an order issued a year and a half ago by the National Labor Relations Board, which had found J. H. Allison & Co., of Chattanooga, Tenn., guilty of refusing to bargain with the union. Refusal to bargain over wages, hours and working conditions is an unfair labor practice, both under the old Wagner act and the new Taft-Hartley act.

The board had ordered the company to grant no more merit raises "without prior consultation with the union," and to provide information requested by the union concerning merit raises already granted. The board then asked the Court of Appeals to enforce the order.

The court finally announced its decision, with one judge dissenting. The majority opinion said, "The labeling of a wage increase as a gratuity does not obviate the fact that a gratuitous increase on the basis of merit does, in actuality, effectuate changes in rates of pay and wages, which are by the act made the subject of collective bargaining." (Note: Full text copies of this decision have been supplied to OIEU locals in the U. S.)

## AFL NAMES MURPHY ORGANIZING HEAD

Washington, D. C.—Appointment of John Joseph Murphy as National Director of Organization for the American Federation of Labor was announced by AFL President William Green. He succeeds Frank P. Fenton, recently elevated to the post of International Representative of the AFL.

Mr. Murphy, while only 45, brings a long background of experience to his new job. He served with distinction as New England Regional Director of Organization since 1938 and carried on several special organization campaigns for the federation.

In 1946, Mr. Murphy was assigned to Japan for three months during which he served as special labor adviser to General Douglas MacArthur.

Married and the father of three children, Mr. Murphy plans to move his family to Washington as soon as he can find a home here.

## Developer of Shorthand Dies

New York—John Robert Gregg, 80, inventor of the Gregg shorthand system, died February 23 at his home, 1 Lexington Ave. He was a native of Northern Ireland.

Gregg had studied shorthand systems since his boyhood, his father having become interested when a friend took down a sermon in shorthand one Sunday. In 1888 while he was teaching shorthand in Liverpool, he borrowed the money to publish 500 copies of the first pamphlet on his own personal system.

From then on his rise was rapid. He started business schools in this country and Canada and at one time had 35 in the British Isles.

## Win Election at Yellow Cab Co.

Philadelphia, Pa.—OEIU Local 14 established its bargaining rights for a large group of clerical workers employed by the Yellow Cab Co. of Philadelphia by winning by about a 75 per cent favorable vote the election recently conducted among this group by the Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board, according to Mrs. Marie Hutchinson, secretary-treasurer of the local union. It is anticipated that contract negotiations will commence shortly for this group of approximately 200 employees.

## Union Security At Aluminum Corp.

Massena, N. Y.—In a sweeping show of strength, OEIU Local 180 won the union security election conducted by the NLRB among the office and clerical workers at the big plant of the Aluminum Corp. of America. Almost 90 per cent of all ballots cast favored union security in the new agreement presently being negotiated with the company, according to AFL-OEIU Representative Frank Morton who is assisting the local union in its negotiations.

## OEIU Locals Forming Councils



Above are the newly elected officers of the Northern California Council of Office Employees Unions, which is the first such council to receive approval of the OEIU International Executive Board. Standing is John Kinnick, Oakland, president. Seated, left to right: Raymond R. Colliver, organizer; Mrs. Elsie Duval, Local 3 San Francisco, recording secretary, and Mrs. Eleanor Murphy, Local 36 San Francisco, secretary-treasurer.

Washington, D. C.—At various places throughout the country, OEIU locals are moving toward the formation of OEIU area or industry councils in accordance with the procedure adopted by the 1947 International Union convention, reports to International Union headquarters indicate.

In Northern California, in the Sabine district of the Gulf Coast, in New Jersey and in the Pacific Northwest, councils are formed or presently being considered.

The International Union constitution provides for the International Executive Board to approve the establishment of councils "where mutual interests require cooperative action by local unions and their membership in effectuating the purposes and aims of the International Union". Councils may be established within limited areas or by industries, as determined by the International Executive Board.

### Northern California Council

The first area council of OEIU local unions established in accordance with this procedure is known as the Northern California Council of Office Employees Unions. This Council began as an organizing conference of six local unions in September of 1946. Several meetings were held over the next several

### Taggart Bag Organizing

Oswego, N. Y.—The clerical workers of the Taggart Bag Company are rapidly moving to obtain the benefits of organization and collective bargaining through joining OEIU Local 125, according to local President Alfred Goewey. A substantial majority of all eligible have already signed up for membership in the local. Exclusive bargaining rights are being requested of the company. AFL-OEIU Representative Frank Morton is assisting the local in this drive.

months, and in January 1947 seven local unions had affiliated. The council has since been formally established as provided by the 1947 convention action. Affiliated local unions, all within a radius of 100 miles of Oakland, California, include Local 3, San Francisco; 36, San Francisco; 29 Oakland; 43, Sacramento; 86, Vallejo; 94, San Jose and 208, Modesto. The recently elected officers for 1948 are shown in the accompanying photo.

Of particular interest is the fact that this council employs a full-time organizer, Raymond Colliver, who devotes all of his time to assisting the affiliated locals which do

not have full-time local representation. The three participating locals which do have their own local full-time representatives, Nos. 3 and 36 at San Francisco, and 29 at Oakland, support the council through active participation and the payment of a per capita tax even though they do not gain the direct service of the council's organizer. Organizing has been particularly good in Vallejo with the help of an active local organizing committee of the Vallejo local. Modesto and San Jose also report progress and a campaign is being planned at Sacramento.

Another area council is presently being formed by locals 169 Beaumont, 66 Port Arthur, Texas and 87 Lake Charles, Louisiana. These three locals, all located within a short distance of each other, have refinery industry agreements covering hundreds of clerical workers in Sabine area refineries of the Texas Company, Gulf Oil, Cities Service and Magnolia Refining. In addition to the council serving as a clearing house for coordination of local union efforts in the refinery industry, it is anticipated that it will serve as an organizing vehicle of these affiliated locals in their activities in bringing organization to office workers in additional plants in the petroleum industry, as well as other industries in the area.

A group of locals representing office and clerical workers of operating subsidiaries of the Public Service Corporation of New Jersey is presently being established. Three of these locals, representing office employees of the Public Service Electric and Gas, Locals 91, 96 and 104, have dealt with the company through a System Council of their locals for some several years. It is anticipated that the proposed council will cover a broader group of locals and additional subsidiaries of the Public Service Corporation of New Jersey.

Interest in the formation of an area council is presently evident among some locals in the State of Washington who have indicated a desire for a council of locals in that area.

## Says T-H Law Denies Rights

New York City.—The determined opposition of labor to the Taft-Hartley law grew out of the conviction that it embodies "a perversion and denial of collective bargaining rights" finally won by labor after years of effort, declared Matther Woll, AFL executive council member.

Mr. Woll's statement was contained in the second of 6 articles on the general topic, "Labor and the Law," which are being published monthly by the Workers Education Bureau of America.

Summarizing labor's basic case against the Taft-Hartley law, Mr. Woll declared that the law:

"Discourages the formation of unions by making organizations difficult.

"Discourages free collective bargaining by increasing dependence on litigation and legal processes.

"Nullifies the spirit and intent of the Wagner Act by weakening the position of workers in the bargaining relationship with their employers."

Mr. Woll hit at the use of strike statistics as a means of proving the effectiveness of the law. He said:

"A decline in man-days lost due to strikes may or may not be due to the operation of a law. Strike statistics cannot be taken as a criterion of the success of any law in promoting peaceful labor-management relations, particularly on a short-term basis."

The AFL leader charged the Taft-Hartley law reverses the position, traditionally taken by intelligent labor and management representatives, that government's role in the collective bargaining process is to facilitate negotiation. He declared:

"The Wagner Act placed labor at a reasonable parity with management by ensuring that obstacles and pressures operating to weaken labor in the bargaining relationship were removed. It strengthened unions only at the point of recognizing their bargaining rights when they represented a majority of the employees. The Taft-Hartley amendments, however, leave only the hollow shell of the bargaining relationship, by setting up restrictions and limitations which operate to embarrass and hamstring the union at every turn.