Trades presently functioning presented all of their votes and fifty-two votes were cast for the union shop according to local Secretary-Treasurer Lillian M. Benoit.

This agreement provides for a general wage increase of $3.00 per week with additional reclassification increases ranging up to another $4.00 per week and its retroactive to August 1, 1948.

This agreement, which in our first full year of a union-manufacturer, was negotiated by the local union committee with the assistance of AFL-OEU Organizer E. C. Nagel, who has been actively helping this local union.

The contract covers for the voluntary irrevocable check-off of union dues, initiation fees, etc. It provided for a 33 1/3% increase in the work-week of five 7 1/2 hour days Monday through Friday. Overtime is paid for at the rate of time and one-half, with seventh day work at double time. Nine paid holidays were obtained and paid vacations of one week for six months' service and two weeks after two years' service are provided.

Other features of the agreement include seniority, grievance handling procedures, and arbitration for grievances not otherwise satisfactorily settled.

Are You a Free Rider?

By George Maney, Secretary-Treasurer Labor's League for Political Education

What would you call a man who crossed a picket line to take a union man's job? What would you call a man who voted against the union shop? You would probably call such a man a SCAB ... a free rider who wants the other fellow to fight for good wages but doesn't want to take any of the responsibility himself.

Did it ever occur to you that if a union man fails to register and vote on election day and refuses to contribute his dollar to Labor's League for Political Education, he is just as bad as the free rider who refuses to join the union or pay dues.

We can only have free trade unions so long as we elect men to Congress who believe in laws guaranteeing the rights of workers to deal through free trade unions. Such men are not elected when the majority of us fail to vote.

Not a Casual Game

The 80th Congress has proven to us that politics is not a casual game. Government is big business ... taxing and spending 400 billion dollars a year, passing laws that drastically affect our freedom and our pay checks.

The Taft-Hartley Act threw us back decades into another era of paralyzing injunctions, company strike-breaking, and heavy damages suits. This Congress sat idly by while prices spiralled upward and gave every worker in this country a 30 per cent wage cut. It did its best to undermine the wage hour act and weaken old age and unemployment compensation. But cutting taxes unfairly the tycoon with $100,000 a year income got a 45 per cent increase in take-home pay and the average worker a tiny 3 1/2 increase. Today only one man in a hundred sells at a price the average wage earner can afford.

Health insurance and aid to education were pigeon-holed by this last Congress.

Who is to blame for this sorry record? We ... the workingmen and women of America are to blame. The Taft-Hartley Act is our fault because the majority of us were political scabs ... free riders ... in 1946. Fifty-six million Americans of voting age failed to vote. The majority of us abandoned our American responsibility to vote and let Congress go by default to the paid agents of the special privilege lobbies.

Non-Voter Threat to All

Labor's League for Political Education was formed to make sure that we would never again make the same mistake. We must organize precinct by precinct and district by district just as we have organized in each shop and industry in this country. Just as the shop and the non-union shop threaten our collective bargaining, the working standards of all union men, the union man who fails to vote and the district where he lives are threatened.

(Continued on page 4)
Maine Rejects Anti-Labor Laws

Bangor, Maine—Workers in the State of Maine won an outstanding victory when voters rejected the Barlow and Tabb bills, vicious anti-labor measures, which were submitted to public referendum at the recent general election in this State. In a telegraphic report to AFL President William Green on the results of the referendum, R. J. Dorsey, president of the Maine State Federation of Labor, hailed the victory as an “indication that the march of anti-labor laws has been stopped,” and an “heartening evidence that the people are in a mood to repudiate the Taft-Hartley law and all other restrictive labor legislation.”

The results were a source of partisan satisfaction to the leaders of the State Federation of Labor. For weeks the AFL organization waged an intensive campaign against great odds in their efforts to bring about repudiation of the labor-shackling measures sponsored and backed by forces opposed to organized labor.

“Little T-H Law” Is Invalidated

Lansing, Mich.—The Michigan State Supreme Court ruled that the antilabor Bonine-Tripp law, known as the “Little Taft-Hartley law,” was invalid.

The law, which has been under bitter attack by organized labor in this industrial state, provided for compulsory arbitration of disputes in public utilities and hospitals. It also set up a system of prestrike elections and bargaining procedure for nonutility damaging and prohibited mass picketing.

The court held that the section providing for arbitration of labor disputes and utility strikes was “inseparably involved in the entire act” and that the whole law was object of bitter attack by labor unions was unconstitutional.

Protect Labor’s rights with your voting rights

ACTION vs. APATHY

By MRS. HERMAN H. LOWE

President, American Federation of Women’s Auxiliaries of Labor

This is the hour for all women everywhere to become conscious of their responsibility as citizens—to exchange APATHY for ACTION—fearlessly to denounce the acts of the 80th Congress which opposed the public interest and to elect public officials who will remember they are representatives of the people. It is we, the home-makers of America, who suffer from bad housing, high prices, neglected schools and low minimum wages. It is OUR problem. Only OUR government can remedy the existing inequities. IT is OUR duty to cast OUR ballots for a better government.

Congress will not alter its course because we are dissatisfied or angry about its actions. OUR power lies in getting enough ballots cast in the November 2 election to speak forcibly for us. The 80th Congress FAILED the women of America. We are in the throes of inflation—Congress did nothing about it. We need adequate low-cost housing. What did Congress do about it? The answer—prices of homes have doubled and tripled. The hope of millions of veterans to obtain homes was tossed aside. The out-moded 40¢ minimum wage was left intact as a monument to the attitude of the 80th Congress regarding industrial democracy. Lack of action on old-age and unemployment insurance leaves only the prospect of insecurity and actual want for our aged and unemployed. Failure to grant Federal aid for schools condemns the youth of America to sub-standard opportunities for education. This was the answer of the 80th Congress to the pleas of the nation for decent schools. How will you register your disapproval of the 80th Congress—by disgruntled acceptance—by resignation—or by exercising your right and duty to VOTE?

One hundred years ago at Seneca Falls, New York, a few courageous women, bent on achieving recognition and broader opportunities for service and specifically the right to vote, assembled to initiate a program of progress for women. The American Federation of Labor, interesting to recall, was one of the very first organizations of men to take up the battle to further women’s privileges. It was during the 1890 Convention of the A. F. of L., held at Detroit, Michigan, December 8-13, that the first resolution was adopted, approving women’s right to vote. For thirty years this organization consistently fought for the cause of women’s rights until Congress granted the privilege of the ballot to all American women.

Let history repeat itself by a re-birth of the courage and tenacity of the women at Seneca Falls, who demanded the right to vote. They wanted to vote, but didn’t have the privilege. Through their initiative and the efforts of organizations, such as the A. F. of L., we have the privilege—LET’S USE IT! What will your answer be? More confusion and APATHY—or ACTION and ballots?

CONSUMER GOUGED FURTHER ON NEEDS

Washington. — American consumers lost another pound of flesh to business Shylocks in July when higher prices continued to boost the cost of living while earning profits.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that its consumers’ price index as of July 15 advanced to another high at 173.7. This figure was 4.7 per cent higher than a year ago; 90.3 per cent above the June 1946 level, and 76.2 per cent over the August 1939 level.

Meanwhile, financial reports for many corporations showed that profits were running well ahead of last year which itself was a record breaking period for earnings. The consumers’ price index, comprising the average prices of goods and services purchased by moderate-income families in large cities, reflected a 1.2 per cent gain in a month’s time in the prices of food, apparel, rent, fuel, house furnishings and all other groups.

The continued rise in retail food prices backed up by higher wholesale prices brought the index for food to 216.8 per cent of the 1935-39 average; 12.3 per cent higher than a year ago. The index was 112.5 per cent of the June 1946; and 131.9 per cent above the August 1939 level.

The principal increases were in prices of meats, poultry, fish, dairy products and eggs. Prices of fresh fruits and vegetables declined less than seasonally. Food prices rose in 50 of the 56 cities surveyed, dropped in 6, and remained unchanged in 2.

Another federal report, price index of prices of factory goods to farm producers with respect to the increasing cost of living. The Department of Agriculture reported that the family “market basket” cost more in June than ever before. Its retail cost rose from an annual rate of $505 in March to $705, more than 1 per cent above the previous month, or 2.5 per cent higher than in January 1948. It exceeded the War II record of $615, reached in June, 1946 by only 5.5 per cent. And it was 107 per cent higher than the 1939-39 average.

An Air Force study of the cost of the “market basket,” the Department of Agriculture uses annual purchase of farm products for a family of three average consumers in the 1935-39 period.

NEW HEADQUARTERS

Washington. — Headquarters of the Office Employees International Union were moved to more suitable offices, October 1. The new address is 625 Bond Building, Washington 5, D. C.

VOTE FOR UNION SHOP

Oakland, Calif.—Office and clerical workers represented by OEU Local 29 have voted by the overwhelming majority of 141 to 2 to retain the union shop at Challenge Creamery, Borden’s Diary Delivery Co., Golden Shores Dairy, Standard Ice Cream Co., & Butter Association, South Berkeley Creamery, Poment’s Creamery, Inc., Oakland Central Office, Diamond Dairy and Alameda Dairy Co.
GENERAL INCREASE AT TOLEDO EDISON

Toledo, O.—A general wage increase of 1½% per month for all office and clerical employees highlights the gains won in a recent renewal agreement between OEIU Local 15 and the Toledo Edison Company, according to the International Union Vice President Ward, who assisted the local union committee in its negotiations.

Rate hikes won on several jobs, in addition to the general increase and other fringe adjustments, bring the total gain an average of about 10 per cent.

The wage differential between the main Toledo office of the company and the various district branches and district branch offices were reduced by $5 per month.

Longer Vacation

The agreement also provided a third week's paid vacation for employees of long service with the company. Various other improvements of a nature minor nature were obtained and the seniority clause was further strengthened in the event of layoffs for lack of work.

(The rest of the article is not visible, so I'll continue with the next section.)

INCREASE SECURED AT SAFEWAY STORES

Denver, Colo.—In a renewal agreement recently completed with the Safeway Stores, Inc., of Denver, the OEIU Local 5 has obtained a general wage increase of 10 cents per hour for all office and clerical employees, according to the local union sec.-treas., Joyce Eager.

The new agreement also provides a new arbitration clause which provides a method for the final settlement of all disputes concerning the agreement. The negotiating committee consisted of local president A. F. Honeck, chairman; B. H. Ward; Ernest Koliba; John Richards and R. E. Klose.

The agreement was assisted by International Vice President Daugherty and by Denison Smith, then president of the local union.

SIGN UP WITH OEIU

New London, O.—The office and clerical employees of the Fireland Electric Co-op have all signed up for Local 15 in OEIU Local 15 and exclusive bargaining recognition has been requested, according to International Union Vice President Ward, who assisted in the organization of this group.

PAY BOOSTED

Kansas City, Mo.—Wage increases ranging from 10 to 12½ cents per hour were obtained in a recent renewal agreement between OEIU Local 40 and the Columbia Electrical Co., according to A. F. of L. Organizer R. E. James, who assisted in the negotiations.

WAGE BOOST WON

Texas City, Texas—A general wage increase of 11 cents per hour has been obtained for the office and clerical employees of the Gulf South Processing Corporation, according to A. G. Wilson, business representative May 1, 1947, who assisted in the negotiations.

The Right to Vote

The Right to Vote is Your Priceless Heritage. Don't Fail to Use It

contracts signed with Boston firms

Boston, Mass.—Substantial further progress is reported by OEIU Local 5 in completing union shop elections and contract negotiations with five firms. The agreements call for union shop elections through NLRB elections in two firms.

The five newly organized firms are Leach-Heckel Company at Salem, where the office employees were organized by the firm, and Delcourt, and where OEIU Local 6 won its bargaining rights by unanimous vote in a recent NLRB election.

The other new firm is Deerfoot Farms, a subsidiary of the General Ice Cream Corp., at Needham, Mass., where a 90% favorable vote established the local's bargaining rights. Union shop elections were also held among the office employees of both these firms with similar results.

The local also achieved 100% victories in its union shop elections among the office employees of Associated Transport and Brinks, Inc., and its union shop election at the Star Brush Shoe Co. was by a preponderant majority vote.

Wage increases highlight the gains won in the first agreements recently negotiated. The Leach-Heckel Co. and Brinks, Inc., where both first contracts, provide a $5 general increase for all office employees. The renewal agreements negotiated with Star Brush and Associated Transport both provide for 10% salary adjustments, while the agreement at the Star Brush shoe company provides increases ranging from $2.50 to $5 per week.

A. F. of L. Organizer Aaron Vollenman has actively assisted the local union, its officers and committees in the completion of the above achievements.

Among other features of the agreements were the inclusion of a provision for a modified union shop, a guaranteed work-week, time and one-half for all employees working over 40, with $1.50 supper money for employees required to work over 10 hours each week, and working more than 10 hours 10:30 P.M. Two 15-minute rest periods with pay are provided, employees who work December 25 enjoy 11 regular holidays, in addition to two weeks' paid vacation each year. Two weeks paid sick leave are provided, with an additional provision for three days off with pay for death in immediate family.

GENERAL INCREASE

Cleveland, O.—A general wage increase of 18 cents per hour, covering all employees for automatic wage adjustments, highlight the gains made in a renewal agreement between OEIU Local 17 and the National Automotive Parts Association, according to International Union Vice President J. M. Daugherty, who assisted the local union in its renewal negotiations, which calls for a 1½% annual increase.

Carl Hana, Business Representative of the Local, Provision was also made in the new contract for check-off of union dues.

You get the Congress that you rate. Don't fail to vote in '48.
NEGOTIATE FURTHER GAINS AT OAKLAND

Oakland, Calif.—Substantial increases highlight the gains won by OEIU Local 29 in recent renewal agreements with the dairy industry, the jewelry industry, and the Simon Hardware Company, according to OEIU Business Representative John B. Kinnick.

In the large creameries including Berkeley, Carquinez, Oakland, and Chalener the local gained monthly increases for its office employees of $330 to $42 per month, with an average total of about $18. It also succeeded in reducing the automatic salary progression period from twelve to three months and assuring office employees of an extra day’s paid vacation if a holiday occurred during their vacation period. In the smaller creameries the wage increases ranged from $15 to $29 per month. Local 29 receipt was renewed for the term in the creamery industry by a vote of 141 to 2.

In the new Simon Hardware agreement, which expired on the 15th of last month, improved vacation clause providing for pro-rated vacations after six months employment, and also upon termination. Substantial improvements were also made in the job description of the Women’s Representative Kinlick. Local 29 has also recently won its union shop clause in the jewelry industry by a substantial majority vote.

In the new Simon Hardware agreement for the month and the establishment of a 5-day work week, this latter gain highlights the gains made. The local also won its union shop election among the office force of this company by an unanimous vote.

ReneW Pact With Monotype Concern

Philadelphia, Pa.—An overall wage increase of 4 cents per hour has been won in a recent renewal agreement by OEIU Local 14 with the Lanston Monotype Company.

Other improvements include the broadening of the sick leave policy, giving up to 4 weeks full pay and 4 weeks half pay to employees of 15 or more years of service.

The union shop clause was continued in the agreement, with the Lanston clerical employees voting in a recent NLRB election by a more than 93 per cent favorable vote for the continuation of their union shop.

The agreement was negotiated by local Business Representative Edward Springer and the negotiating committee composed of Frank Hihn, Howard Jarman, Walter Orr, Russel Lukens, John Yerkes and John Sheehan.

BULL’S EYE

Newburgh, N. Y.—One hundred percent of all office employees voted in a recently held NLRB election and all voted in favor of representation through OEIU Local 112, according to International Representative George P. Firth who assisted the local union in this campaign.

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