

THE OFFICE WORKER

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

No. 45

WASHINGTON, D. C., SEPTEMBER, 1948



OEIU VICTORY AT INSURANCE FIRM

FURTHER GAINS AT TAMPA ELECTRIC CO.

Tampa, Fla.—In a renewal agreement with the Tampa Electric Co., which is operated by Stone & Webster, a general wage increase of 10 percent for all office and clerical classifications has been obtained, according to International Vice President J. O. Bloodworth, Jr., who assisted a committee of OEIU Local 46 and its president, M. B. Burnett, in the negotiations conducted with C. H. Schwaner, secretary-treasurer, and C. G. Campbell, assistant secretary-treasurer of the Utility Company.

The current increase brings to 52% the total increases obtained since organization of this group four years ago.

In addition to the basic across-the-board increase for all classifications, the union was successful in extending coverage under the contract to an additional 17 employees who had previously been excluded, and in securing further adjustments in the vacation clause which now calls for one week's paid vacation after six months service, two weeks paid vacation after one year's service, and three weeks after ten or more years of continuous service.

All beneficial features of the previous agreement were continued, including the union security clause which assures a maintenance of union membership, as well as the payroll deduction of dues and initiation fees.

In addition to Brothers Bloodworth and Burnett, the committee was composed of C. L. Morrow, E. L. Bailey, C. T. Arnold, W. A. Crosby and R. A. Morgan, employees of the company.

The membership of OEIU Local 46 is pleased with the gains won in its renewal agreement and is proud of the good working relationship which it has developed with this company.

Union Shop Wins At Ship Company

Manitowoc, Wis.—By an overwhelming vote of 96 percent of those voting and 93 percent of those eligible, OEIU Local 77 won its state board union shop election among the clerical workers of the Manitowoc Shipbuilding Company, according to Felix R. Budnik, local secretary-treasurer.

The local union is presently in negotiations for a renewal agreement with the company, and the overwhelming vote of the employees involved gives clear proof of their desire to continue the union shop provision which they have been enjoying for the past five years.



Agreement Secured With Big Office Machine Firm

Cleveland, Ohio.—A general wage increase of 13 cents an hour retroactive to June 21, highlights the gains made in a recently completed agreement with the Addressograph-Multigraph Corp. and OEIU Local 49, which holds exclusive bargaining rights for more than 600 office and clerical workers in the company's operations.

Although the local union has held bargaining rights and has won benefits for the clerical workers in the company since 1940, the present pact is the first formal written agreement between the parties, according to International Union Vice President R. M. Daugherty, who assisted the union negotiating committee headed by Robert Balstead, steward and including Ralph Houston, Reuben Levinson, Herbert Rice and Edward Zimmerman.

The agreement, which is in full force and effect until June, 1948, and for yearly periods thereafter, provides for maintenance of union membership. The union has just won its union shop election by approximately a 90% favorable vote.

Hours of work are fixed at 8 per day, Monday through Friday, with time and one-half for over-time and double time for Sunday work.

Provision is made for recognition of 6 legal holidays and all office employees also receive 8 hours pay for any such holidays which fall on a day in the week when they are not regularly scheduled to work. A minimum of 4 hours reporting time is guaranteed for off-schedule work and a night bonus of 10% is provided for second and third shift operation.

A comprehensive seniority program, protecting both the office-wide and departmental seniority of each employee, is provided. Vacancies or new permanent jobs within the department are required to be filled by up-grading of qualified employees within the department and if no qualified employee is available, the job shall be posted for bids by employees from other departments.

Provision is made for leave of absence, with full seniority protection for any employee who is selected or appointed to a full-time office with the union up to a period of 13 months.

Comprehensive grievance procedure is provided, and provision is made for the use of bulletin boards. Employees are protected on transfers and any discrimination in the application of sick leave policy is subject to the grievance procedure.

SECURE BARGAINING RIGHTS IN ELECTION

Galveston, Tex.—The office and clerical employees of the large home office of the American National Insurance Company voted in a recent NLRB election in favor of representation through OEIU Local 27, according to International Vice President C. A. Stafford and Local Business Representative A. G. Wilson, who headed the organizational drive.

The election, held on August 19, was conducted pursuant to formal order of NLRB when the company refused to agree to the holding of a consent election.

Although the victory was achieved by a vote of only 305 for the union to 244 opposition votes, an additional 48 voters' ballots could not be counted, principally because of company challenges. There are approximately 650 eligible office and clerical workers within the bargaining unit. Work on the drafting of a proposed collective bargaining agreement to be negotiated with the company is under way, according to Business Representative Wilson.

Vigorous company opposition was largely responsible for the narrowness of the victory, which is none the less conclusive in the establishment of OEIU bargaining rights for this entire group. The election culminates a lengthy campaign, highlighted by the determined efforts of the clerical employees of this company to achieve OEIU representation and thus to improve existing working conditions through the collective bargaining processes.

Existing low wage rates, with resultant heavy turnover served to slow organization efforts, as also did the fears engendered in the employees by the actions of the company and its representatives.

This company was recently ordered by the NLRB to cease and desist from interfering with, restraining or coercing its employees in the exercise of their rights to organize and to join the union of their own choice. This NLRB order resulted from a case filed by the Industrial and Ordinary Life Insurance Council, A. F. of L., which represents the agents employed by the company.

In the progressing of our organizational drive, Business Representative Wilson received able assistance from an organizational committee of the employees, including Brother Sam Tranchini, Alice Reagan, G. Reagan, E. Moore, G. Muehe, Elsie Fain, Pauline Schuster, Mary Fields, Marie Kovacevich, and Lessie Barnes. Mrs. Wilson, wife of the local's Business Representative also rendered valuable assistance throughout the campaign.

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

A Friend Indeed

There is an old saying which goes "A Friend in Need Is a Friend Indeed". The untimely passing of Francis P. Fenton (known as Frank to most of us) is a major loss of a true "friend indeed" of our International Union. Frank had a genuine and devoted interest in our big task of building a sound functioning office workers organization. His sincere interest and devotion to our problems was evidenced by his continued willingness to give of his time and energy in helping us. From the time of the formation of our International Council of Office Employees Unions in July 1942, right on through our recent Wall Street strike, he was ever willing to sacrifice his personal pleasure and to give generously of his time, energy and skill whenever we called upon him to do so.

Frank was not, himself, an office worker, but he was born and bred in the trade union movement and was known for his militant devotion to the democratic principles of American trade unionism, for his keen intelligence and his readiness to fight for the right with all his might against all comers. His passing is not only a particular loss to our International Union, but to the entire trade union movement which he served so selflessly and well, and to all lovers of true democracy which he practiced as well as preached.

PAUL R. HUTCHINGS,
International President.

Truth From Ohio

Senator Robert A. Taft speaking in April, 1947, about the Taft-Hartley bill said: "The bill is not a milk toast bill. It covers about three-quarters of the matters pressed upon us very strenuously by the employers."

AFL Rushes Aid

New York—Matthew Woll, AFL executive council member and president of AFL's Labor League for Human Rights, ordered 1,000 CARE food packages rushed to Berlin to relieve trade union families in the blockaded city. This action marked



Rise In Consumer Credit Sets New Postwar Peak

Washington.—The expansion of consumer credit is continuing and has reached another record high of \$14,149,000,000, according to reports of the Federal Reserve Board.

Of the \$331,000,000 increase during June, about two-thirds was attributable to further gains in installment buying.

The remainder of the increase was due almost entirely to an increase in the amount outstanding on charge accounts.

The board report showed total installment credit at a record high of its own, \$7,192,000,000 at the beginning of July.

This meant Americans had gone \$1,738,000,000 deeper into debt on the installment plan during the 8 months since time-payment controls died last November 1.

AFL Unions Lead All Qualifying Before NLRB

Washington.—The National Labor Relations Board reported that 171 unions were qualified as of July 31 to use the board's facilities, divided as follows: American Federation of Labor, 93; Congress of Industrial Organizations, 30, and independent, 48. Union officers must file non-Communist affidavits and financial data to qualify.

the opening of a nation-wide AFL campaign to start a steady flow of CARE food and clothing packages to needy European workers striving to rebuild a free democratic trade union movement.

Within 24 hours after Mr. Woll's announcement of the start of the drive, the League for Human Rights received its first contribution from an AFL union—a check for \$50,000.

OVER HALF OF FIRMS FOUND CHISELING

Washington.—Despite continuance of the unprecedented business boom with its high profits, more than half of the establishments investigated by Labor Department representatives in the year ending June 30 were guilty of violating the minimum wage, overtime, and child-labor provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act and the Public Contracts Act.

This was brought out in the annual report on investigations made by William R. McComb, administrator of the Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions of the Labor Department.

In his report for the 1948 fiscal year, McComb pointed out that only 30,053 selected inspections were made. While 15,799 of the inspections showed violations of the three major provisions of the two acts, McComb said this does not necessarily mean that the non-complying employers had been revealed to be in current or prolonged violation during the two-year period of activities covered by the inspections.

Of the employers found in violation, 9,582 arranged to make restitution of \$4,256,761 in back wages to some 100,000 employees. About 90,000 of those employees were owed back wages because they had not received overtime compensation at the rate of time and one-half their regular rate of pay for work beyond 40 hours in a work-week. However approximately 12,000 were owed back wages because their employers had failed to pay them at least 40 cents an hour at some time during the past two years.

LABOR DAY MESSAGE FROM AFL PRESIDENT

By WILLIAM GREEN
A. F. of L. President

On this Labor Day I appeal to the nation's workers to do a little serious thinking about their own future, the future of our country and the future peace of the world.

To a great extent the power to shape that future lies in the hands of the millions of wage earners who constitute our trade union movement.

Today a dangerous tide has set in. Our economic welfare is threatened by inflation, our basic freedoms are endangered by reactionary forces and our social well-being is being undermined by inaction.

Against these perils, you, the workers of our land, possess an invincible weapon—the right to vote. This is a national election year. The citizens of the United States will have an opportunity to elect a President of the United States and almost an entirely new Congress.

Therefore, let the keynote of all our Labor Day celebrations this year be: "USE YOUR VOTE."

Why this urgency? The facts are clear.

The 80th Congress enacted over a presidential veto the Taft-Hartley bill, which is aimed at destroying the trade union movement and tearing down the high standards that the unions have created for America.

The 80th Congress swept aside all the economic protections of our people against inflation and has since refused to lift a finger to halt skyrocketing prices. The brutal and unjustified increase in the cost of living is robbing every worker and his family of his hard-earned wages.

The 80th Congress has done nothing to bring about an effective, low-cost housing program, despite the emergency need for millions of new homes. It has frozen the minimum wage level at 40 cents an

(Continued on page 4)

Introduces Bill To Lift Old-Age Benefits

Washington.—A proposal to expand the benefits payable under the Social Security law was placed before Congress by Representative John D. Dingell of Michigan.

The measure would increase all old-age benefits about 50 percent through a change in formula; reduce from 65 to 60 years the age at which women qualify, and permit outside earnings up to \$40 a month for those on the rolls.

Under proposed amendments, a widow with children who now can draw only \$85 a month at a maximum, would be permitted up to \$127.50.

The changed formula for benefits would provide that they be based on 50 percent of the first \$75 of monthly wages plus 15 percent of any excess not over \$250. The present formula allows 40 percent of the first \$50 plus 10 percent of the excess up to \$250.

The 1 percent payroll tax on employers and employees would be raised to 1.5 percent on Jan. 1, one year earlier than now scheduled.

FRANCIS P. FENTON DIES; AIDED OEIU

Washington.—Francis P. Fenton, international representative of the A. F. of L. and one of the most esteemed leaders in the American labor movement, died here on August 9.

Fenton was always actively concerned with the growth of the Office Employees International Union. It was while he was serving as director of organization of the AFL that OEIU obtained its international charter.

Delegates to the conference of Federal labor unions in Chicago in July, 1942, when the International Council of Office Employees Unions was formed, will recall that he presided. He was also in charge of the constitutional convention in Cincinnati in January, 1945.

Fenton, who was 53 years old, died "in harness." He suffered three heart attacks at his office in the AFL Building. After the second he said to John J. Murphy, director of organization, "Brother, I had a devil of a fight of it to come back to earth again—but I made it." Twenty minutes later he was fatally stricken.

It was a strange coincidence that his predecessor, Robert J. Watt, died almost exactly a year ago while returning from a session of the International Labor Conference in Switzerland.

Fenton was literally born into the labor movement. His father, John J. Fenton, was business manager of a Teamster local in Boston. At an early age he went to work as a printer's devil and lost his right arm in an accident.

Then he got a job in a coal yard and became active in Teamster Local 68. At night he studied law and later was admitted to practice in Massachusetts and before the U. S. supreme court.

He was elected vice-president and then president of the Boston Central Labor Union. After that he served as state representative for the Teamsters, regional director of the AFL and in 1939 he was named national director of organization.

Fenton was appointed international representative last November and was the U. S. workers' delegate to the International Labor conference in San Francisco several weeks ago. There he led an exhausting fight against left-wing influence which resulted in his own election to the governing body and the election of worker delegates from other anti-Communist nations.

He had a keen mind and was ready at all times to fight for the right with all his vigor and against all comers. He was militantly devoted to the democratic principles of American trade unionism.

In addition to his direct work with the unions, he served on a number of government boards and commissions.

Fenton is survived by his wife, three daughters, two sons, his mother, a brother and two sisters.

WAGES BOOSTED

Los Angeles, Calif.—A general wage increase of 10 cents per hour highlights the gains won in a renewal agreement with the Grinnell

Wage Hike and Other Gains Won In Busch-Sulzer Pact

St. Louis, Mo.—A general wage increase of 15 cents per hour highlights the gains won in a renewal agreement negotiated with the Busch-Sulzer Brothers Diesel Engine Company Division of the Nordberg Manufacturing Company, according to Leonard Amrhein, president of OEIU Local 13.

The agreement covers all office and clerical employes in the time-keeping department and AFL-OEIU Representative Frank Morton assisted in the negotiation of the contract.

In addition to the general increase won, the agreement for the first time provides for 6 guaranteed paid holidays.

Automatic step increases are provided for new employes, assuring them of reaching the job rate maximum at the end of six months. The agreement assures employes of the right to take leaves of absence without the loss of seniority and provides for leaves of absence for union business without loss of seniority.

The agreement provides for the

Coach Co. Workers Sign Up With OEIU

Albany, Ga.—A preponderant majority of all office and clerical employes of the Modern Coach Corp. have applied for membership in the OEIU and a new local, No. 234, is being chartered in this city.

International Union Vice President J. O. Bloodworth, Jr., is handling the organization of this group and has received valuable assistance from W. W. Green of the Georgia Federation of Labor and other trade unionists in the area.

Exclusive bargaining rights have been requested of the company and an NLRB petition for certification has been filed.

Job Rights of Ex-GIs Secure Under Old Law

Washington.—Job rights of World War II veterans released from the service prior to June 24, 1948, are not affected by reemployment provisions of the new Selective Service Act but are protected by the older acts which remain in effect, Robert K. Salyers, director of the Bureau of Veteran's Reemployment Rights, U. S. Department of Labor, stated.

"It has come to our attention during the past month that veterans have postponed taking up their reemployment rights problems with this bureau because of uncertainty as to whether such rights continue or what assistance would be available to them after passage of the new draft act," Salyers said.

Prompt submission of cases to the proper field office will expedite settlement, thus preventing further loss to the veteran and difficulty for the employer, Salyers pointed out.

Company of the Pacific by OEIU Local 30, according to local business representative, Anne K. Sweet, who handled the negotiations on behalf of the local with the assistance of International Vice President Frank F. Randall.

union shop as allowed under the Taft-Hartley Act, but specifies that in the event such law is repealed or declared unconstitutional the same will become a full union shop agreement.

Time and one-half is provided for the first 4 hours in excess of 8 hours worked in any one day, with double time applying thereafter. The first 4 hours of Saturday work are paid for at time and one-half, with double time for additional hours. Sunday and holiday work is at the double time rate.

"Me First" Congress

Washington.—A combination of Republicans and reactionary Democrats have controlled the last two sessions of Congress.

Congress refused to increase old age pensions and Social Security benefits to go along with the increased prices which it promoted and encouraged. Congress did, however, pass a law providing substantial pensions for Congressmen and Senators—which did not exist before.

This anti-labor Congress killed all measures for low-rental housing, low-cost housing for ownership, rural housing of any kind, and veteran's housing.

However, Congress at its last session appropriated twenty-two million dollars for a public building to provide additional office space for U. S. Senators. There are only 96 senators.

Congress refused to increase the minimum wage of forty cents an hour.

However, Congress voted to increase the wage of Senators and Congressmen from ten thousand dollars to fifteen thousand dollars a year. In addition each Senator and Congressman was provided with \$2500 tax exempt expense account.

Congress passed a tax reduction bill which gave the greatest benefits to those whose income is ten thousand dollars a year and up. A Congressman's salary starts at fifteen thousand.

Never forget that Congress is very particular about having a drastic rent control for the District of Columbia. For the rest of the nation Congress is inclined to favor giving more power to localities to boost rents.

Wage Hike Won In Renewal Pact

Portland, Oregon.—A renewal agreement has been entered into between OEIU Local 11 and the Associated Food Distributors, embracing the following firms: Wadhams & Company; United Grocers, Inc.; Safeway Stores, Inc.; General Grocery Company; Hudson Duncan Company; Northwest Grocery Company and Gray & Company. Under the terms of the pact all classifications of office and clerical employes have received a 7½ cents per hour general increase effective August 1, plus a similar increase of 7½ cents retroactive to March 1, according to Secretary-Treasurer T. M. Kincaid who handled these negotiations.

RENEW AGREEMENT WITH GREYHOUND

Jacksonville, Fla.—A recently signed renewal agreement with the Southeastern Greyhound Lines has brought further benefits and gains to the office and clerical workers employed on the line who are represented by the OEIU and its Local Unions Nos. 18, 21, 61, 73, 144, 179, 182 and 215.

Under the terms of the amended agreement a general 5 cent per hour increase was obtained with a similar adjustment being made in all wage rates and brackets. The classified wage schedules provide for automatic step increases through the third year of employment. An additional paid holiday was obtained, bringing to a total of six the number of paid holidays received each year, in addition to one-half day granted on December 24. The agreement provides for union security through maintenance of union membership and a voluntary irrevocable check-off clause.

Further improvement was also obtained in the provision giving employes passes so that now employes of less than three years service are granted, upon request, trip passes for such trips as the company deems reasonable, while employes with more than three years but less than seven years of service receive annual passes good over the operating territory to which they are assigned. Employes with seven years or more of service are now supplied with annual passes good over the entire system.

Further improvement was made in the seniority clause so as to assure employes against permanent transfer except where open jobs are not filled by the job bidding process. In that event, the youngest qualified employe is the one to be permanently transferred.

The agreement which is effective until June 30, 1950, was negotiated with General Manager J. B. Eversole representing the company, and by the union negotiating committee composed of Clifford J. Smethers, Anna Ragland, Nellie D. Randolph, Louise Selby and Lorraine Rhodes. International Union Vice President A. R. Carson assisted in the negotiations.

UNION SHOP VOTED

York, Pa.—With only two dissenting votes, OEIU Local 157 has won its union shop election conducted among the shop clerical employes of the S. Morgan Company, according to William Wagonhafer, recording secretary of the local union. Negotiations will shortly commence on a renewal agreement between the local union and the company.

Wage Increase Won

LaCrosse, Wis.—A general increase of 13 cents per hour for all office and clerical workers has been obtained in the new agreement between OEIU Local 44 and the Service Transfer Co., according to information received from George W. Hall, general organizer of the LaCrosse Trades and Labor Council.

URGES BARGAINING RATHER THAN SUITS

Washington.—AFL President William Green, in a letter to all affiliated national and international unions clarifying the issues raised by the recent Supreme Court "overtime-on-overtime" decision in a case involving longshoremen, urged that AFL affiliates refrain from filing court claims for back wages which may be due as a result of the decision.

Declaring that "only in a few cases will the Supreme Court decision affect existing overtime practices," Mr. Green said:

"It would seem particularly wise to avoid taking the matter before the courts and to work out instead, where necessary, whatever collective bargaining arrangements seem desirable."

The AFL leader warned that anti-labor forces may seize upon the court decision as an excuse to tear down the standards which have been maintained for many years under the Fair Labor Standards Act. He said:

"At the present time, management interests are supporting the Goodwin-Wiley bill which was introduced in the closing days of the last session of Congress. This bill purports to restore the conditions which existed before the Supreme Court decision, but would actually go much further and establish conditions under which unscrupulous employers might evade basic requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act."

Mr. Green said that an interpretation issued by the Department of Labor has dispelled most of the union and management fears concerning application of the court's decision.

"Most collective bargaining contracts with clauses concerning premium pay for Saturday, Sunday, or holiday work," he said, "will not have to be modified if the parties wish to continue existing practices."

The basic question in the longshore case was whether the "overtime" rates set forth in the contract between the East Coast longshore industry and the International Longshoremen's Association constituted an "overtime" payment under the Fair Labor Standards Act. The court decision in favor of the employes immediately created a certain amount of confusion among unions and management since they did not know to what extent the decision should be applied to their particular collective bargaining situation.

SIGN WITH OEIU

Newburgh, N. Y.—The office and clerical employes of the Sweet Ore Company have unanimously signed up for membership in OEIU Local 112, according to John McNulty, secretary-treasurer of the local union, who has been working with this group. Exclusive bargaining rights have been requested of the company.

VOTE UNION SHOP

Baltimore, Md.—OEIU Local 22 has won a union shop election among the office and clerical work-

NLRB Election Ordered At Automatic Electric Company

Chicago, Illinois.—The NLRB has directed that a secret ballot election be held among the office and clerical employes of the Automatic Electric Company, with such employes having an opportunity to vote on the question of whether they desire OEIU Local 28 as their exclusive collective bargaining agency, according to Sarah E. Keenan, business representative of the local and a Vice President of OEIU.

The election order has resulted from a petition filed by Local 28 on behalf of the office and clerical employes of the company, a vast majority of whom have signed up for membership in the local union.

Of interest is the NLRB ruling sustaining the union's position for inclusion of duplicating machine operators, payroll and cost accounting clerks, statistical typists and secretaries. The company had sought the exclusion of these groups from the requested bargaining unit on the allegation that they were confidential employes. In its decision the NLRB pointed out that because these groups do not assist or act in a confidential capacity to anyone exercising managerial functions in the field of labor relations, they should properly be included in the bargaining unit as requested by the union.

OEIU was also sustained in its request for the inclusion of employes of the production control department, engineering department clerks, accountants, and a group of employes whom the company alleged to be supervisory. The NLRB, however, would not grant the union's request for the inclusion of shop clerks in the general clerical unit.

Of interest also is the Board's ruling on accountants whom the

Rules NLRB Authority Extends to Retail Field

Washington.—Further evidence of the expanding jurisdiction of the National Labor Relations Board appeared in a trial examiner's determination that a retail photographic store was subject to the Taft-Hartley law. He also found that a local union of the AFL retail clerks had violated the act by insisting on a closed-shop contract in that store.

The examiner, Isadore Greenberg, held that the purchase of 44 percent of its merchandise outside California brought the A-1 Photo Service, San Pedro, under the terms of the act.

The union, in demanding continuation of a closed-shop clause which had been in contracts with the firm since 1944 took the position that the firm's business, being entirely retail, did not "affect commerce" within the meaning of the act.

ers of the American Ice Company by an overwhelming favorable vote, according to local union Recording Secretary Elayne Cohen, who also indicates that the local union is presently in negotiations with the company for wage adjustments and other contract improvements.

employer had attempted to exclude from the bargaining unit on the grounds they they were professional employes and also supervisors under the meaning of the Act. The Board held that it does not appear that the work of these employes requires knowledge of an advanced type in the field of science or learning customarily acquired by a prolonged course of specialized intelligent instruction and study in an institution of higher learning and that they, therefore, did not find them to come under the professional definition of the amended Act. The Board also found that they did not exercise supervisory authority sufficient to warrant their being excluded from bargaining for that reason.

GREEN'S MESSAGE

(Continued from page 2)

hour—\$16 a week for 40 hours of work—a starvation standard. It has shamefully neglected the welfare of elderly, retired workers, now forced to subsist on Social Security benefits averaging less than \$25 a month. It has callously disregarded the health of the nation and its children by refusing to give consideration to the enactment of a national health insurance program.

The foregoing indictment should be sufficient to arouse the American voters to demand and obtain a housecleaning of Congress at the coming elections. The 80th Congress, while ignoring human needs, has responded willingly and promptly to every demand of big business. It has hamstrung labor unions, at the behest of the National Association of Manufacturers. It has adopted tax reduction legislation which offers only minor savings to low-income families, but provides huge savings to the wealthy.

For these reasons, big business is going to bat for the members of the 80th Congress who did its bidding. The voters will be flooded with propaganda praising the legislative record. Money talks in politics, and this year the big money will be talking on the side of anti-labor Congressmen and Senators.

But in America, even the power of money cannot overcome the indignation of a free people. Remember the 80th Congress was elected by only one-third of the qualified voters of the country. The hosts of labor who stayed away from the polls in that 1946 election helped to elect reactionary lawmakers by not voting.

This must be changed in 1948. No union member can be a good union member unless he is a loyal American first. No American citizen can be a good citizen unless he votes.

It is imperative that every union member in our ranks registers and votes in the 1948 election. His duty goes even beyond that. He should see to it that every member of his family of voting age and all his friends, likewise, register and vote.

Remember the slogan: "Use Your Vote!"

From a long-range standpoint,

NEW BENEFITS WON IN HOTEL CONTRACT

New York.—In a new agreement with the Hotel Plymouth in this city, OEIU Local 153 has obtained full protection against discriminatory discharges and substantial wage increases, plus a new bonus plan.

Weekly rates under the agreement range from approximately \$51 to \$75 for the various clerical classifications covered. In addition, such employes receive further benefits from the bonus plan instituted.

Following the recent signing of its agreement with Pioneer Ice Cream Company, the clerical employes of Consolidated Dairies, Ice Cream Division, were rapidly organized.

An NLRB election for this group has been held and the employes voted unanimously for OEIU local 153, thus establishing its exclusive bargaining rights. Agreement negotiations are presently in progress.

ALCOA AGREEMENT

Massena, N. Y.—As a result of a supplemental wage agreement negotiation with the Aluminum Company of America, OEIU Local 180 has obtained general increases for all office and clerical employes in the Massena plant of the company, according to Local Union Secretary-Treasurer Mary A. Botosto. The wage increases, which are effective as of June 28, range from 10¢ to 13¢ per hour for all hourly rated clerical workers, and from \$2.50 to \$6.00 per week for all weekly salaried employes.

The wage increase negotiation also resulted in the extension of the present general agreement until April 1950 with provision for wage reopening in May, 1949.

\$15 TO \$31 INCREASES

Oakland, Calif.—Salary increases ranging from \$15 to \$31 monthly highlight the gains made in a renewal agreement with the Oakland division of McKesson & Robbins, Inc., and OEIU Local 29, according to Raymond R. Colliver, secretary-treasurer of the local. The wage schedules also provide for automatic progressions.

Further improvements were obtained in the grievance procedure and the interruptions of work clauses. Saturday and Sunday were established as premium days, with time and one-half over the premium day rates to apply for all work after 8 hours on such days.

the peace of the world depends upon the power of America to safeguard the peace. America must remain strong. To keep strong, our country must remain politically free and economically healthy. The policies instituted by the 80th Congress are sapping the economic strength of our nation and depriving millions of citizens organized in the trade union movement of basic freedoms. Those policies must be reversed.