

# THE OFFICE WORKER

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

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17

## SHELTER COST IS UNDER-ESTIMATED

San Francisco—The rent index of the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index underestimates the rise in the cost of rent and shelter payments by a considerable amount, according to a recent article by Sherman J. Maisel, of the University of California. His article, published in the *Journal of Political Economy* of the University of Chicago for April, 1949, shows that the BLS rent index has risen between 1940 and mid-1948 by about 12 per cent, but he estimates that "rents and shelter expenditures, as normally used in housing and cost-of-living analyses, have actually risen 40-70 per cent, or three to six times as much as the rent index."

### Some of the Flaws

The BLS rent index covers only changes in rents for identical dwellings over a period of time and is limited to housing units occupied by tenant families who live in large cities. Actually, throughout the country as a whole, 53 per cent of all families own their own houses and their shelter costs are in no way reflected in the BLS index. Maisel estimates that the cost of shelter payments for owner-occupiers has risen from 50-60 per cent between 1940 and mid-1948 as a result of increases in housing cost prices, interest charges, insurance, taxes and maintenance.

A somewhat more adequate indication of the increase in rents is given by the U. S. Census Bureau's surveys of 1940 and 1947, which showed an increase of 37 per cent. However, this Census survey, as well as the BLS rent index, does not take into account any of the changes in the quality of housing covered in the two periods. It is common knowledge that because of the lack of construction during the war period, the quality of housing has deteriorated markedly, due to the lack of adequate repairs. In addition, there is considerably more overcrowding than there was in 1940 in many of the units now occupied by moderate income families.

### Repair Cost Shifted

The BLS index and the Census survey also failed to adjust for the shifting of repair costs from owners to tenants, for the loss of rent concessions, and for additional costs or extras now charged by many landlords.

As a result of these difficulties, all unions should realize that the BLS Consumer Price Index continues to understate the increase in the cost of living.

## Further Benefits Secured In Agreement With Utility



Newark, N. J.—Shown above is the committee which negotiated the new pact that brought additional benefits to office and clerical workers of Public Service Electric and Gas Company. Left to right: James McWilliam, president of Local 104; Earl Cooper, president of Local 96; Joseph Simmons, president of Public Service System Council; William G. Baldwin, president of Local 91; Samuel Isard, AFL representative; John Isenhardt, delegate of Local 96; Tom Fennessy, delegate of Local 91; and Dayton Beidleman, delegate of Local 104.

Newark, N. J.—OEU Local 91, 96 and 104 have recently completed their negotiations for a new agreement with the Public Service Electric and Gas Co., resulting in a 6½ per cent increase across the board for all classifications, according to William G. Baldwin, president of Local 91. AFL Organizer Samuel R. Isard assisted in these negotiations.

In addition, a pension plan was written into the agreement and left open for further discussion with the unions. Group insurance benefits were increased from a flat \$2,000 to a range of \$2,000 to \$5,000 based on earnings.

The above-mentioned improvements are in addition to a union shop, 12 paid holidays, two weeks paid vacation after 10 months and three weeks after 15 years employment, a disability benefit plan substantially better than required by New Jersey state law, and other conditions of employment of benefit to the employees.

### Utility Workers Vote OEU

Madison, Wis.—The office and clerical force of the Madison Gas & Electric Company has overwhelmingly voted in favor of representation through OEU Local 39 and has similarly voted in favor of the union shop in a second election conducted among such employes, according to Ralph T. Peterson, president of Local 39.

The local union has embarked on an organizational campaign among the as yet unorganized office and clerical workers in Madison and has employed a local union organizer to head up its drive.

## Election Slated At Transport Co.

Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.—The office employes of the Central Wisconsin Motor Transport Company have an opportunity to vote in an NLRB election to determine whether they desire to be represented by OEU Local 95.

The NLRB, by formal decision, sustained Local 95's contention that the office force at the Wisconsin Rapids terminal of the company constitutes an appropriate bargaining unit. The company maintains terminals with branch offices in Appleton, Madison and Milwaukee, Minneapolis, and Chicago, in addition to Wisconsin Rapids.

## P. M. Kaiser Nominated To High Labor Dept. Job

Washington—Philip M. Kaiser, director of the Department of Labor's Office of International Labor Affairs, was nominated by President Truman to be Assistant Secretary of Labor.

Kaiser, a native of New York City, was graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1935, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and sent to Oxford University, in England, as a Rhodes scholar. In 1939 he received a degree in philosophy, politics and economics from Oxford. While abroad he studied the labor movements and economic structures in Great Britain, France, Italy, Germany, Austria, and Scandinavia.

## FURTHER GAINS AT BUSCH-SULZER CO.

St. Louis, Mo.—Further substantial gains were obtained in the recent renewal agreement between OEU Local 13 and the Busch-Sulzer Brothers Diesel Engine Company Division of the Nordberg Manufacturing Company, according to Local President Leonard A. Amrhein.

The new contract, in addition to preserving all previous gains, provides for a 6½ cents per hour general wage increase and adjustments in classifications ranging from 4 to 10 cents per hour. A weekly payday has been established replacing the former semi-monthly paydays. Three weeks vacation has been obtained for employes with 25 years or more with the company.

Provision is also made for job posting and for the bidding on second or many-graded jobs. The union's recommendations as to classification for promotion are to be given consideration.

## Brompton Paper Workers Sign Up

Nipigon, Ontario—According to Secretary-Treasurer F. H. Polnicky of OEU Local 235, this local union has extended its organizing activities so that it now has signed applications from a majority of the office staff of the Beardmore offices of the Brompton Pulp and Paper Company, Limited, and application has been filed with the Ontario Labor Relations Board for certification as the bargaining representative.

Local 235 had formerly received certification from this Board establishing its bargaining rights for the office employes of this company at its Nipigon Woods office and Local President G. M. Smart indicates that discussions are under way with the company for an agreement covering this group. Canadian Representative Russell Harvey is assisting in these negotiations. The local is now planning to complete the organization of other offices of the company in which the local has members and to consider broadening the scope of the local's activities.

### REFLECTED BY ASSEMBLY

Galesburg, Ill.—Leola D. Simmons, secretary-treasurer of Local 221, has recently been reelected secretary-treasurer of the Galesburg Trades and Labor Assembly. Robert S. Burgoyne, president of Local 221, was elected trustee of the Trades and Labor Assembly.



## Editorial COMMENTS

### OUR NEW LOOK

How do you like our "new look"? With this issue numerous changes have been made in our official publication in an effort to meet the various suggestions of our recent St. Louis Convention and, at the same time, to not increase the cost of our publication.

This was rather a difficult order, however, with splendid cooperation from our publishers we are pleased to present our August issue.

You will note that in addition to the use of color, adding to the attractiveness of our paper, we are featuring numerous columns of special interest and hope to add several more in future issues.

We will indeed be pleased to receive the reactions of our local unions and their members to the changes. All local unions are again urged and reminded that they can perform a major service toward making our paper newsy and interesting by furnishing us with pictures and stories which would be of interest to our membership in other cities.

\* \* \*

### THE PRICE OF NO UNION

The name and nature of the big manufacturing firm in this story cannot be told, but here is the present pattern in the firm's office and sales departments:

It has fired outright 750 employees, hiring 350 new workers at much lower salaries. It has discharged several department heads and handed their duties over to their assistants without a pay raise. It has cut the salaries of a number of remaining minor executives by 10 per cent or more, and announced a policy of hiring beginning workers who can be had cheap.

"Times are bad, and you can't expect wartime conditions," it has told its office and sales staff. Meanwhile sales and profits are skyrocketing, and the firm has just finished the biggest fiscal year of its half-century history.

Needless to say, the sales and office departments are unorganized. The production workers are protected by union contracts.—*The Labor World* Spokane.

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### THE WELFARE STATE

What is that horrible monster businessmen call the welfare state?

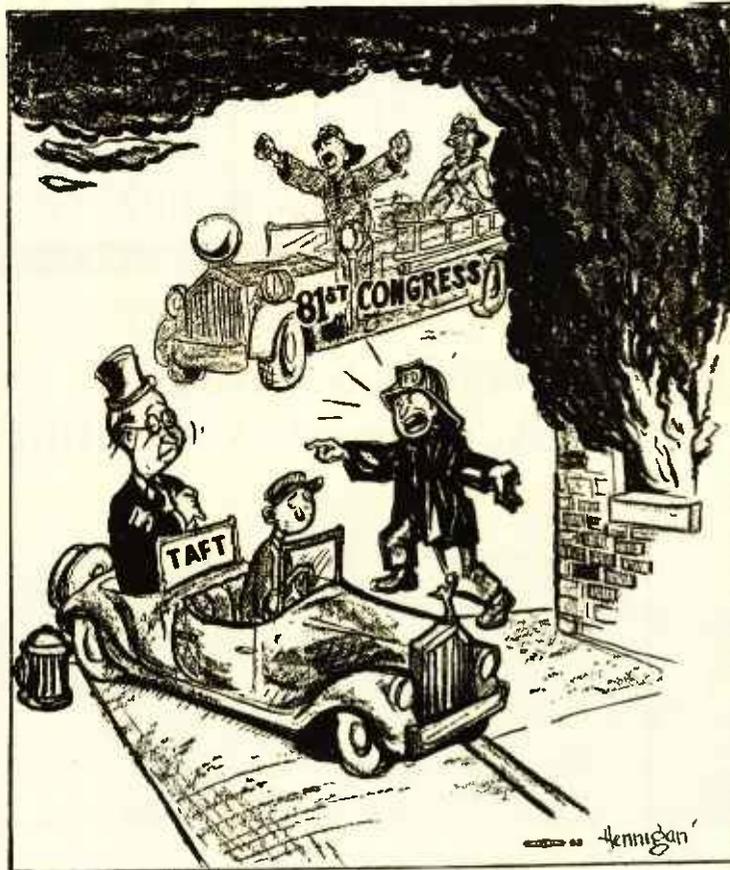
Here is an answer given by Nelson H. Cruikshank, director of social insurance activities of the American Federation of Labor.

"This is the idea that the state can be the servant of the people. The idea that Lincoln expressed as 'government of the people, by the people, for the people,' is not three ideas of government, but one.

"The only kind of government that can genuinely be for the people is one that is by and of the people. The state is made for man and not man for the state.

"If a people succeed in maintaining this concept of government, the state then becomes the instrument through which they do those things for themselves which they cannot do individually.

## CONGRESSIONAL ROAD BLOCK



## Premium Payments Under New Overtime Law Are Explained

Washington—New principles established by the congressional amendment to the overtime compensation provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act signed by President Truman were announced by Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin.

Under the amendment, certain premiums paid by employers for work on Saturdays, Sundays, holidays, nights, or on the sixth or seventh day of the workweek need not be added to an employee's straight-time pay in determining his "regular rate" for overtime pay purposes, and may be credited toward overtime compensation which may be due under the Wage and Hour Law for work in excess of 40 hours in a workweek. Thus, the amendment, which is retroactive in effect, makes it lawful to treat as overtime premiums, for purposes of the act, certain payments which the Supreme Court held were not "true overtime" pay under the act.

The types of premium payments which now may be treated as overtime premiums under provisions of the amendment are:

(1) Extra compensation provided by a premium rate paid to the employe for work on Saturdays, Sundays, or holidays, or on the sixth or seventh day of the workweek, provided such premium rate

"Though they use the instrumentality of government they are still performing these functions for themselves.

"Under such a concept, individual opportunity can be maintained and enlarged and individual initiative can be encouraged."

is not less than one and one-half times the rate established in good faith for like work performed in nonovertime hours on other days;

(2) Extra compensation provided by a premium rate paid to the employe under an applicable employment contract or collective bargaining agreement, for work outside of the hours established in good faith by the contract or agreement as the basic, normal, or regular workday of not more than 8 hours, or as the basic, normal, or regular workweek of not more than 40 hours, provided such premium rate is not less than one and one-half times the rate established in good faith by the contract or agreement for like work performed during such workday or workweek.

F. Granville Grimes, Jr., acting administrator of the Labor Department's Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions, stated that these principles are, under the amendment, applicable to all industries. He emphasized, however, that they are limited to premiums actually based on rates and work periods "established in good faith."

This phrase is used for the purpose of distinguishing the agreements conforming to the act as amended from fictitious schemes and artificial or evasive devices such as have been condemned in a long line of decisions by the Supreme Court and several United States courts of appeals. The congressional committee reports explaining the amendment states that its enactment would in no way validate such schemes or devices or affect the principles established by this line of decisions.

## DO YOU KNOW YOUR Constitution

Each local union of this International Union is required to submit its adopted constitution and by-laws or amendment thereto to the President of the International Union for his approval, and such approval shall be obtained prior to their being put into effect by the local union. See Section 7 of Article IX of the International Union Constitution.

Your International Union has drafted a model "LOCAL UNION CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS" (Form No. 32). This model incorporates all of the changes required as a result of amendments made to the International Union Constitution through the 1949 Convention. In addition, a pamphlet of instructions and comments relating this model has been prepared and when used in conjunction with Form No. 32 will enable a local union to quickly adopt a constitution and by-laws which will meet the requirements of the International Union Constitution subject, of course, to any possible revisions resulting from incorrect insertions or deletions from the same.

Many if not a majority of the local unions have found it to their advantage to use the model in its entirety making only the minimum of insertions in the spaces which have already been provided in the same; and have purchased sufficient copies of the same from the International Union at 10 cents a copy to cover printing costs for distribution to their members after making the necessary insertions in each copy. Smaller locals particularly find it advantageous as they need only purchase enough copies for their membership and thereby eliminate the much greater expense involved in having their constitution and by-laws printed.

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INTERNATIONAL UNION



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## UNION SHOP VOTED BY BIG MAJORITIES

Richland, Wash.—OEIU Local 100 has won sweeping victories in three recent union shop elections conducted by NLRB, according to C. C. Newell, international vice president.

The office staffs of three sub-contractors on the big Hanford Atomic Energy Project voted overwhelmingly for union shop protection. The vote among the staff of Atkinson-Jones was 232 to 22 with 4 challenged ballots. The office staff of Urban, Smyth & Warren voted without dissent in favor of the union shop with 1 ballot challenged. All office employes of Newberry-Neon Electric except 1 voted in favor of the union shop also.

These three sub-contractors are covered under recently negotiated agreements with Local 100 which established its exclusive bargaining rights for these office workers some time ago.

## AFL Victorious in Prudential Vote

New York City—The American Federation of Labor won the right to represent the 15,000 insurance agents of the Prudential Life Insurance Co. after a hotly contested NLRB election covering 31 states.

The Prudential agents voted 7,405 to 4,789 for the National Federation of Insurance Agents Council (AFL) as their collective bargaining representative. They were formerly represented by the United Office and Professional Workers of the CIO.

George L. Russ, president of the National Federation of Insurance Agents Council, said the workers became fed up a year ago with the communist leadership of their CIO union and appealed to the AFL to step into the picture. The organization drive has been going on since last September.

AFL President William Green congratulated Mr. Russ and Harry O'Reilly, AFL organization director, on the successful outcome of the election campaign and predicted that the AFL will eventually win over all the insurance agents in the nation.

It is anticipated that this Prudential victory will help stimulate interest in organization among the clerical staffs of this and other insurance firms throughout the country.

## Tells Business To Cut Prices, Get on Ball

Los Angeles.—Decrying the economic "defeatism" which he said now pervaded the nation "from boardroom to barroom," Charles Luckman, president of Lever Brothers Co., urged that American business revitalize its efforts so the country would not worry itself into illness amid untold possibilities of expansion and prosperity.

Business, he said, must shake off the buyers' market psychology, and refurbish its advertising, selling and productive processes to meet a post-war demand which has not been fulfilled, and "sell" the private enterprise system by performance rather than words.

## Richmond Charter Installed



Richmond, Calif.—OEIU Vice President Frank F. Randall is shown installing the charter of OEIU Local 243. Pictured above are, left to right: Lucy Owen and Margaret McGreevy, new local officers; Daniel V. Flanagan, western representative of the AFL; Russ Roberts, organizer; Hugh Caudel, president of the Contra Costa County Central Labor Council, and OEIU Vice President Randall.

## Senators Urge Government To Buy Union Label Goods

Washington—Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey, liberal young Minnesota Democrat, declared here that he was "outraged" to learn that United States currency is printed on non-union paper.

Sen. Humphrey, in an interview published in the July 11 issue of *The Paper Maker*, said he endorsed an earlier request by Sen. Claude Pepper of Florida that Government purchasing agents look for the union label on all products they buy. *The Paper Maker* is published by the International Brotherhood of Paper Makers, with headquarters in Albany, N. Y.



The time has come for women to stop talking about women's rights and work harder on their responsibilities—to vote, to hold office and to be at least as interested as men in civic and government affairs.—Dr. Frances Scott, President of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women.

The U. S. Bureau of Census reports that in December of 1948, 17,272,000 women were employed out of a total female population (14 years and over) of 55,412,000. A greater number of married women—8,281,000, and a greater proportion, 23 per cent of all the married women—were in the labor force in April, 1948, than in 1940, when the figures were 5,040,000 or 17 per cent.

Married women have constituted a growing portion of the female labor force over the years. Of 17,000,000 women in the labor force in April, 1948, 48.3 per cent were married, 34.6 per cent were single.

Both Senators had indicated their surprise in learning through stories in *The Paper Maker* that United States currency is printed on scab paper.

"The Government of the United States should set the example for peaceful labor relations and collective bargaining," Sen. Humphrey told Editor Ed Wall of *The Paper Maker*. "In doing this it should take the lead in encouraging the development of trade unionism."

"It was the Democratic Party—the New Deal and the Fair Deal—which helped establish and strengthen the principle of collective bargaining and the importance of our democracy."

"It should therefore be the policy of the United States to use union-made products whenever they are available."

"I was outraged to learn that the paper used by your Government in the manufacture of currency is non-union."

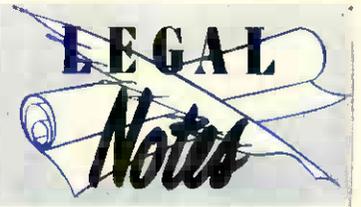
"I trust that this policy will soon be corrected."

## VETS RECOVER LARGE SUM OF OVERCHARGES

Washington—A total of \$1,596,735.47 has been recovered for veterans in connection with priority-built houses they purchased and for which they were either overcharged or failed to receive all of the items called for in specifications, Housing Expediter Tighe E. Woods reported to the Veterans Advisory Committee.

On hand in regional OHE offices are cases representing 20,085 houses in various stages of investigation.

17 per cent were widowed or divorced. This represents a reversal of the proportion of married and single workers in 1940, at which time 36.4 per cent were married, 48.5 per cent were single, and 15 per cent widowed or divorced.



Insurance Plans—If pension plans are the subject of collective bargaining—and the U. S. Supreme Court has left in effect a ruling so holding—then an employer's group insurance plan is also a matter on which he is obligated to bargain with the union. This is the conclusion reached by the U. S. Court of Appeals (Boston) in deciding the case of *Cross & Co. v. NLRB* and the *CIO Steelworkers v. the same company*.

This conclusion, says the court, follows as night follows day from the decision of the court of appeals in the *Inland Steel Case*, which the Supreme Court declined to review. Continuing, the Boston court pointed out that a group insurance plan falls within the scope of the word "wages" in the collective bargaining provisions of the Taft-Hartley Act. "Wages," states the court, must have been meant to embrace anything which is a "direct and immediate benefit flowing from the employment relationship." Under this test, according to the court, attendance at a company picnic or participation in a company ball game would generally not be an "immediate" benefit subject to bargaining.

Must Consult Union—It is an unfair labor practice under the law, rules the U. S. Supreme Court (NLRB—Crompton-Highland Mills, Inc.), for an employer to grant employees a general wage increase without first consulting the certified bargaining representatives of those employees.

In so ruling, the court reversed the decision of the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals (New Orleans), which had refused to enforce an NLRB "cease and desist" order against the above-mentioned employer.

The Board had directed the firm to stop refusing to bargain collectively with the union "by taking action without prior consultation with the union with respect to rates of pay."

Injunctions—The National Labor Relations Board reported that during May more petitions for injunctions against labor unions were filed than in any month since enactment of the Taft-Hartley Law.

The Board's statistical summary covering its operations for the month said that nine requests for injunctions were filed under the law's return-to-government-by-injunction provision.

The Board also reported an 11 per cent increase over the previous month in the total number of cases filed. The 1,685 cases represented the highest number filed since November, 1948. The increase was due to petitions for collective bargaining and union shop elections. The number of unfair practice cases filed with the Board declined 9 per cent, the report said.

Strike Ban—The Wisconsin Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of a two-year-old state law prohibiting strikes, lockouts or slowdowns involving public utilities.

## TODAY and CONGRESS



**Low-Rent Homes**—AFL President William Green appealed to Congress to approve pending legislation which would enable "moderate income" workers' families to obtain decent housing at reasonable rents.

Mr. Green testified before the Senate Banking and Currency Committee's housing subcommittee in behalf of the Sparkman bill which would make possible low-interest Government loans to building cooperatives.

The measure, he said, would be only an "experiment" toward helping families with an annual income between the \$2,000 and \$3,750 annual income brackets to obtain satisfactory living quarters. About 40 per cent of the nation's families fall within this income bracket.

This would be a non-subsidized program, he emphasized, one which would not cost one cent of the taxpayers' money, yet would provide acutely needed assistance to families who cannot qualify for the low-income public housing program but are too poor to buy or rent the high-priced housing now being constructed by private real estate interests.

"We think that a solution has been reached," Mr. Green told the Senate committee, "in the provisions of this bill which would make possible large-scale rental housing projects by cooperative and other nonprofit corporations. These projects would be financed by direct loans from the Federal Government at the going Federal rate of interest (now 2½ per cent), plus one-half of 1 per cent for administration, for an amortization period of up to 60 years, but not to exceed the useful life of the project.

"We firmly believe that this cooperative housing program will meet the practical test of providing decent housing that moderate income families can afford. Under this program total monthly payments or rents can be reduced to as low as \$50-\$60 by savings which would be achieved in at least four ways: (1) Reduced monthly financing costs through the lower interest rate and the longer amortization period; (2) savings through the nonprofit feature; (3) savings because of an extremely low vacancy rate comparable to the experience in public housing; and (4) reduced operating and maintenance expenses made possible by avoiding luxury services to tenants and arranging for a certain amount of tenant maintenance. In addition, states and localities could make major contributions toward the achievement of additional savings by granting partial or complete tax exemption to cooperative and nonprofit housing groups set up under this program.

"The bill wisely provides for a new separate constituent unit within the Housing and Home Finance Agency, the Cooperative Housing Administration, the head of which will be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate.

## Truman's Economic Program

1. Repeal the tax on the transportation of goods, liberalize the provisions for carry-over losses by corporations, and raise estate and gift taxes. No major increase in taxes should be undertaken at this time.

2. Extend the maximum time limit now fixed by law on the maturity of loans to business made by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation.

3. Provide for a broad study of investment and development needs and market opportunities in an expanding economy.

4. Adopt an improved program of farm income supports.

5. Increase the minimum wage to at least 75 cents an hour and broaden its coverage.

6. Strengthen the unemployment compensation system by increasing

the amount and duration of benefits and extending coverage.

7. Extend to July 25, 1950, the availability of readjustment allowances for veterans not protected by state unemployment compensation law.

8. Raise benefits and extend coverage under the old-age and survivors insurance system and improve the public assistance program.

9. Enact legislation to permit Federal agencies, and assist states and localities, to intensify their advance planning and to acquire sites for useful projects.

10. Enact legislation to provide technical assistance to underdeveloped areas abroad and to encourage investment in such areas.

11. Restore the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act.

## NEW CONTRACT AT AMERICAN SMELTER

Tacoma, Wash.—The new contract recently completed between OEIU Local 23 and the American Smelting & Refining Co. pegs the base salary scale for office staff members at the Tacoma smelter for the coming year at from \$187 to \$370 a month, Local 23 officials report, and gives 20-year employees of the company a third week of annual vacation with pay.

The provision for two weeks vacation after one year of employment was retained, of course.

E. A. Cleveland, Local 23 secretary, and Cal Winslow, assistant business representative, represented the union in negotiations. E. R. Marble, manager of the Tacoma plant, represented the company.

Other contracts are in process of negotiation with Nalleys, Hotel Winthrop and the YWCA.



**Clothing Stores**—fourteen stores, Local 29, Oakland, Calif., \$2 per week, retroactive to April 8.

**Pharmaceuticals**—Wyeth, Inc., Local 20, Newark, N. J., \$3 per 35-hour week.

**Steel Products**—California Steel Products Co., Local 29, Oakland, Calif., 5 cents an hour in all classifications and to premium employees, retroactive to April 1. Other benefits include six days sick leave after two instead of after four months, wage review for new employees after six months, and pro rated vacation pay after six months service.

**Retail Jewelry**—six stores, Milens, Gensler-Lee, Brents, Lloyds, Kays, Davidson & Licht, Local 29, Oakland, Calif., effective June 1.

**Dairy Industry**—ten creameries, Alameda Dairy, Bordens, Carnation, Challenge Creamery, Diamond Dairy, Fentons, Golden State, Oakland Central Creamery, R. A. Shuey Creamery, South Berkeley Cream-



File room Susie soaks her strapless evening gown in coffee so it will stay up all night.

Reporter: "I've got a perfect news story."

Editor: "A man bit a dog?"  
Reporter: "No; a bull threw a politician."

"How did you come to fall in the stream?"

"I didn't come to fall in. I came to fish."

Irate Parent: "I'll teach you to make love to my daughter, sir!"

Young Man: "I wish you would, Old Boy. I'm not making much headway."

Clerk: "That will be \$1.50 for the nylon stockings and 5 cents for the tax."

Betty: "Never mind the tacks, I'll fasten them to my girdle."

Nothing is more frequently opened by mistake than the mouth.

A German was a guest of a Frenchman who asked him how they distinguished in Germany between an optimist and a pessimist.

"It's very simple," the German replied. "The optimists are learning English, the pessimists Russian."

A new messenger was heard making a telephone call.

"Do you need a good messenger boy?" he asked.

"No, I have a good boy."

A broad smile came over the boy's face, and he was asked: "Why are you smiling; did you get the job?"

"No, sir! the job is already mine. I just wanted to know how I stood with the boss."

ery, Local 29, Oakland, Calif., \$2 per week, effective June 1.

## BATTLE FOR RIGHTS OF STORE WORKERS

Portland, Oreg.—OEIU Local 11 is making a strenuous effort to assist the office employes of the large Meier & Frank department store to obtain the benefits of collective bargaining through the local union.

A large number of the office employes signed up for membership in Local 11 earlier this year and efforts were immediately instituted to request bargaining rights of the company. Because of the position taken by the company, it was necessary for the local union to petition the NLRB for an election and to proceed through formal NLRB hearing in support of its contention.

The point at issue is one of vital interest not only to Local 11 but to all OEIU local unions. The company contends that a unit of its office force is not appropriate for bargaining purposes and that all of its department store employes must be lumped together in one store-wide unit. Local 11 opposes the company's position and contends that a unit of office employes is just as appropriate in the Meier & Frank department store as it is in many other various retail and industrial establishments whose office staffs are organized in OEIU.

Because of the vital importance of the case the International Union, through its general counsel, has also filed a brief with the Board and has requested that the Board grant oral argument on the question involved.

T. M. Kincaid, secretary-treasurer of Local 11, indicates that the local union will continue its organizational efforts among the office force of this store and will protect the many office employes who have signed up with the local union while awaiting the NLRB decision and election order.

The formal hearing before NLRB Hearing Officer R. J. Wiener lasted for several days. Local 11 was represented at the hearing by Attorney R. M. Dimick, who also filed a brief on behalf of the local union. General Counsel H. S. Thatcher and Attorney John Foley filed a brief on behalf of the International Union. There are approximately 300 office employes involved in this case.

## Anti-Union Law Repeal Secured

Jefferson City, Mo.—Organized labor won its fight for repeal of Missouri's Union Control Act. Gov. Forrest Smith, with labor leaders as witnesses, signed a bill repealing the Madison Act almost two years after it was approved July 22, 1947.

His action climaxed one of the hottest fights of this year's legislative session, including an all-night Senate filibuster against the repealer.

The Madison law barred jurisdictional strikes, sympathy strikes, strikes against government and secondary boycotts. It also set up compulsory arbitration. It said no strike could be called unless a majority of the eligible union members voted for it.