

THE OFFICE WORKER

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

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PILLSBURY MILLS PACT UPS WAGES

Ogden, Utah—Negotiations have just been completed with Pillsbury Mills, Inc. (trade name Globe Mills) by OEIU Local 220 on behalf of the office employes of the company who are members of the OEIU, according to Local President Donald G. Merrill who handled the negotiations with the assistance of the negotiating committee composed of Henry D. Chard, Bernard B. Smith and Wayne Harris, assisted by A. F. of L. Organizer H. B. Douglas.

Under the renewal agreement all classifications have been increased by \$18 per month effective January 1, and PBX operators' classification has been re-graded to the next higher classification.

A strengthening of the union security clause was obtained so as to insure the full union shop clause with a shortening of the probationary period from 90 to 30 days.

The total number of paid holidays was increased to nine through the addition of Washington's birthday. Revisions were also made in the vacation and grievance procedures so as to make the same more workable, and a military service clause has been added, adequately preserving each employe's legal rights as to seniority upon return from military service.

10% Increase Won At Liquid Carbonic

Boston, Mass.—All of the office and clerical employes of the Liquid Carbonic Corp. have received a 10 per cent general increase under the terms of a renewal agreement just completed by OEIU Local 6, according to Aaron Velleman, AFL representative who assisted in the negotiations. The wage adjustment is retroactive to December 1.

All other conditions of the previous agreement were preserved except that an additional holiday was obtained for all employes and provision was made for a quarterly review of the salaries of newly hired employes.

TRUMAN SAYS LABOR HELPED REELECTION

Washington, D. C.—President Truman gave a large share of the credit for his election victory to organized labor.

Questioned by a reporter at his press conference on whether he would give credit to any particular elements, the President replied in the affirmative. The farmers and labor, Mr. Truman said, along with Senator Alben Barkley, his running mate; Secretary of Labor Tobin, Secretary of Agriculture Brannan, and a whole list of other people.

Let's Go, 81st Congress!



Further Substantial Gains Won In Department Stores

Pittsburgh, Pa.—In its recent renewal agreements negotiated with the leading department stores in this city, OEIU Local 33 has obtained a general 8 per cent increase in all salary rates, according to Local Business Representative Frank W. Riott. All wage schedules, including all six-month experience step increases, have also been increased by this amount. The increase is retroactive to November 1.

The agreements cover the many hundreds of office employes of Gimbel Brothers, the May Store (formerly Kaufmann's), and Joseph Horne Co. All conditions of the new agreement are retroactive to November 1, 1948. The agreement covers a two-year period from that date with a wage reopening clause provided for November, 1949.

The renewal agreement preserves previous gains made for the office employes of these stores, including union security through maintenance of membership clauses. The union's right to continue union security clauses was established through recent NLRB union shop

elections held under the provisions of the Taft-Hartley Act, in which elections the vote was almost unanimous for continuation of union security. In addition to wage adjustments, further clarification was made in the seniority clause of the agreements.

Assisted by Business Representative Frank W. Riott, the negotiating committee was composed of Mildred Weaver, Peg Yochum, Virginia Ackerman, May Wratney, Dorothy Kelly, and Ann Litfin.

The Local reports that its recent dance for members and guests at the William Penn Hotel was such a great success that it is planning to hold another one annually. Oscar Adams was chairman of the committee that arranged the affair.

AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH CAPITAL STORE

Washington.—OEIU Local 2 has just completed its first agreement with a department store in this city, according to W. R. Probey, business representative of the local union.

(Continued on page 3)

WAGE HIKE WON AT FRISCO TRANSPORT

St. Louis, Mo.—OEIU Local 13 has recently completed a renewal agreement covering the office employes of the St. Louis operation of the Frisco Transportation Co.

The renewal includes a general 10 cents per hour increase for all employes, as well as various improvements in specific working conditions such as the establishment of double time for Sunday and holiday work, the establishment of a weekly pay-day instead of the former semi-monthly pay arrangement and a guarantee of no further holdups of pay for several weeks as occurred in the past.

The revised contract also provides for employes alternating on necessary Saturday work, thus assuring at least one-half of the office force one-half day off every Saturday.

The renewal agreement was negotiated by the negotiating committee of three members employed in the establishment, assisted by Local Union President Leonard A. Amrhein.

1949 CONVENTION

Washington, D. C.—“Meet Me in St. Louis” will be the theme of the officers and delegates of the OEIU 1949 Convention, according to the Convention Call issued recently by Paul R. Hutchings, President, and J. Howard Hicks, Secretary-Treasurer of the International Union. The regular March, 1949, Convention is being called to meet at the Statler Hotel in that city commencing March 21, 1949.

The selection of St. Louis was made in response to the cordial invitation of St. Louis Local No. 13, which will be the host Local to the convention.

This convention will have particular significance for the many OEIU Locals in the Dominion of Canada for, in accordance with the action taken by the International Union's 1947 Convention, this convention will elect a Vice President from Canada, in addition to 10 Vice Presidents from the various regions of the United States and a President and Secretary-Treasurer. A pre-convention forum on Local Union organizational problems is planned for Sunday, March 20.

ANOTHER VICTORY

Albany, Ga.—An NLRB election for office and clerical employes of the Modern Coach Company has resulted in OEIU Local 234 winning collective bargaining rights by an overwhelming majority, according to International Vice President J. O. Bloodworth.

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Who Is Labor?

"You talk of Labor on the floor of this House as though Labor was composed of villains, thieves and cut-throats. Who is this Labor you talk about?"

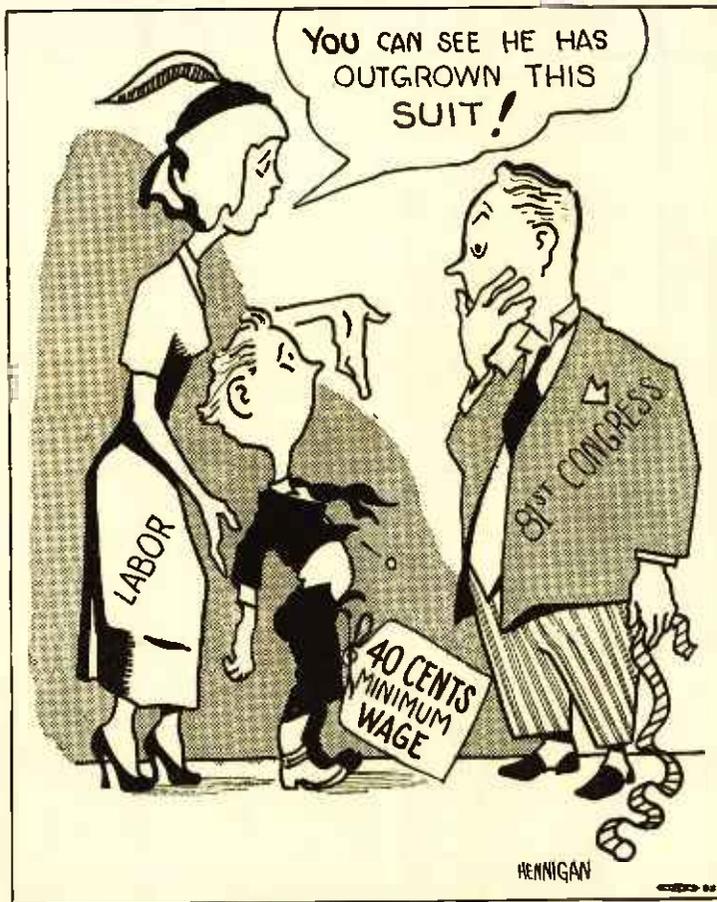
"Sixty-eight million American men and women—your neighbors, your friends, the people who live next door to you, the man who lives upstairs, the people who pay 80 per cent of the taxes of the United States, the people who supplied 75 per cent of the armed forces in time of war, the people who have built this great country and who have contributed their time and money and their blood in every important moment of its existence, the people who today merely ask to be treated as Americans and seek a continuation of the guarantees of the Constitution and of the Bill of Rights."—*Rep. Donald O'Toole (D., N. Y.)*

Urges Support of Paralysis Appeal

Washington.—AFL President William Green urged all members of AFL unions to support the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis in the appeal for contributions being made by the Franklin D. Roosevelt Birthday Memorial Committee.

"Because the people residing in many communities throughout the land have suffered during the past year from infantile paralysis epidemics, the need for financial contributions to this worthy cause has increased," he said.

"The mention of the disease, infantile paralysis, creates a feeling of fear in the hearts and minds of every parent in every community throughout our beloved country. This is particularly true in the families of working men and women. I, therefore, urge that all respond to the appeal of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Birthday Memorial Committee for financial contributions to be used by the



Rebellion Against AMA Seen By Head of Liberal Physicians

Washington, D. C.—"A grass roots doctors' rebellion" against the American Medical Association's plan to raise a \$3,500,000 war chest to fight the Truman administration's proposed national health insurance program was predicted by Dr. Channing Frothingham, twice president of the Massachusetts State Medical Society, and chairman of the Committee for the Nation's Health.

AFL President William Green is an honorary vice chairman of the Committee for the Nation's Health, a national group of doctors and laymen spearheading the fight for national health insurance.

Also active on the committee is AFL Vice President Matthew Woll and AFL Director of Social Insurance Activities Nelson Cruikshank.

Dr. Frothingham further charged that the AMA's House of Delegates is not representative of the 140,000 AMA members. "Whereas half of the country's active physicians are under 45," he pointed out, "only 5 per cent of the delegates are below this age level. Half of our active doctors are general practitioners but only 10 per cent of the delegates fall within this category. The rest are specialists."

Dr. Frothingham criticized the House of Delegates, the AMA's ruling body, for "pursuing a course unworthy of the medical profession and repugnant to the ethics of American doctors." He declared that AMA officers are failing "to take the leadership in conjunction with the AFL, CIO, farm, busi-

National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis during the coming year. You cannot contribute to a more worthy cause."

ness, and consumer organizations to work out a program to bring adequate medical care within the reach of all Americans."

The Committee for the Nation's Health, Dr. Frothingham announced, would support "wholeheartedly" the administration's proposals for national health insurance.

MORE LABOR OFFICIALS FILE NON-RED AFFIDAVITS

Washington, D. C.—Some 106,234 officials of national and local unions have filed non-Communist affidavits in compliance with the Taft-Hartley Labor-Management Act, the National Labor Relations Board reported.

This gave 95 national American Federation of Labor unions, 31 Congress of Industrial Organizations unions, and 50 independent organizations the right to use the services of the board in filing unfair labor practice charges or to obtain elections. A total of 11,078 local unions met the requirements.

Canada's High Court Knocks Out Oleo Ban

Ottawa.—Oleomargarine will appear in Canadian stores for the first time as the result of a decision by Canada's Supreme Court. The court knocked out the 62-year-old ban on the manufacture and sale of the product.

According to reports, the probable price of oleo will be from 35 to 38 cents a pound, roughly half the price of butter.

EDUCATIONAL NOTES



(Written for the Workers Education Bureau of America by Arthur A. Elder, Consultant, A. F. of L. Committee on Taxation.)

Tax collections at all levels of government—local, state and federal—amounted to \$49.6 billion or \$344 for every man, woman and child in these United States during 1947. The Federal Government collected three-fourths of these taxes, \$37 billion, while state and local governments received \$12.5 billion.

Alarmists are all too ready to point to this huge tax bill and declare that our economy is going to the bow-wows. Intelligent members of organized labor, however, raise only two pertinent questions regarding the desirability of one-fourth of our present national income being devoted to defraying the costs of government. They ask, first, whether the present tax burden is necessary. Their second very natural question is how the tax burden affects the economy. It is obvious that a tax policy that unduly burdens one sector or another of our economy may be one of the major contributing factors to a future depression.

Are Taxes Too High?

So in a discussion of labor's tax program, we must concern ourselves first with the amount of taxes. At the present time account must be taken of various prevailing factors such as high prices, full employment, abnormally high profits and a national income at an all-time high on the asset side of the ledger. Then, on observing the huge national debt, heavy defense expenditures and costs of the ERP on the cost sheet, we cannot escape the conclusion that taxes should remain high, certainly as long as the present inflationary trends continue and income and production continue at a high level.

It is true, then, that taxes should and probably will remain high for the indefinite future. However, we realize that when 25 cents out of each \$1.00 in the income stream goes for taxes, there is a very real danger that certain groups will bear a disproportionately heavy share of the tax burden.

Consider the wage-earner in the \$3,000 yearly income class, an income somewhat higher than millions of Americans are receiving even in this current period of high dollar income. If such a wage-earner should pay 25 per cent of his income in taxes, his total tax bill would be \$750 and he would have \$2,250 left after local, state and Federal tax collections have each taken their share. In terms of purchasing power, the 57.4-cent dollar of today would enable his \$2,250 to buy only what could be bought with \$1,292 in 1940. It is obvious that the taxpayer at the \$4,000, \$5,000 and higher annual income levels is in a much better position to pay 25 per cent or more of his income in taxes without any suggestion of the denial or hard-

(Continued on page 4)

PIPE & FOUNDRY CO. OFFICE ORGANIZED

Chattanooga, Tenn.—The office and clerical employes of the U. S. Pipe & Foundry Company in this city have organized into OEIU Local 179, according to Mattie Henry Hale, president of the local union.

The local union has requested exclusive bargaining rights of the company and petitioned the NLRB to hold a representation election among this group.

An overwhelming majority of the eligible employes have signed up for membership in the local union and there is no question but that the NLRB election, when held, will result in an overwhelming victory.

The clerical forces of the U. S. Pipe & Foundry Company at its operations in Burlington, N. J., and Birmingham, Ala., have for a number of years been working under collective bargaining agreements negotiated by their OEIU local unions and have achieved benefits as a result of their union representation.

Handbook of Labor Statistics Is Issued

Washington, D. C.—The Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor, has issued what its Commissioner, Ewan Clague, describes as "the biggest bargain package of labor statistics ever compiled."

It is a 220-page Handbook of Labor Statistics which the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, has placed on sale for 75 cents.

The volume contains all of the important statistical series of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, showing each series from the beginning through the year 1947. In addition to BLS statistics, the handbook includes data relating to the labor field which are produced by other Government agencies. The book is published in loose-leaf form, and insert sheets issued at intervals will keep it up to date.

Divided into 12 sections, the handbook covers the following fields: Employment and unemployment; labor turnover; pay rolls, earnings, hours of work, and wage rates; prices and cost of living; productivity and unit labor cost; industrial relations; work injuries; building and construction; housing and rents; social security and related programs; consumers' cooperatives; and production, income, and expenditures.

New Income Tax Guide Prepared by Government

Washington, D. C.—The Government began selling a 115-page booklet telling Americans how to prepare their income tax returns.

George J. Schoeneman, Commissioner of Internal Revenue, said the booklet could be obtained from the Government Printing Office for 25 cents.

He said it gave detailed information on the new income tax law under which taxpayers would file

Food for Europe Through CARE



AFL unionists are being urged to help feed European workers by purchasing CARE food packages. Shown at the CARE display at the AFL convention are, left to right: Stanley C. Elsis; OEIU International Vice President R. M. Daugherty; OEIU Secretary-Treasurer J. Howard Hicks; Miss Madeleine C. Dillon, and OEIU International President Paul R. Hutchings. Orders for packages or donations should be addressed to Elsis or Miss Dillon, who are AFL staff representatives at CARE offices, 50 Broad Street, New York 4, N. Y. The AFL-CARE national campaign is aimed at keeping a steady stream of food packages flowing to Europe as a means of bolstering the efforts of workers in rebuilding a free, democratic trade union movement.

RENEWAL CONTRACT BRINGS MORE GAINS

Trenton, N. J.—A renewal agreement has been negotiated between OEIU Local 70 and the R. L. Polk Company, which brings further benefits to the office and clerical employes of that company who are members of the local union.

All employes received at least a 5c per hour wage increase, with some hourly adjustments running up to 20c per hour.

All of the benefits of the previous contract were preserved, including the union shop, check-off of dues, and full seniority rights, as well as overtime for all work over eight hours a day and 40 hours a week, and double time for work performed on Sunday and six recognized holidays.

Dominic Santore, business representative of Local 70 served as chairman of the local union committee in the recent negotiations.

\$6,000 House Great Need, U. S. Housing Chiefs Say

Washington—The nation's housing chiefs emphasized again the need for adequate housing in the \$6,000 price range:

"About half the families in America are restricted by their incomes to that price or less, if they are to buy with confidence," said Raymond M. Foley, Housing and Home Finance Administrator.

Foley's views were echoed by Franklin D. Richards, commissioner of the Federal Housing Administration and Tighe E. Woods, National Housing Expediter, in articles written for the *Evening Star*.

Woods put the average annual income of non-farm families at about \$3,000 and said this means: "The average family can't afford to pay more than \$6,000 to \$7,500 for a home."

their returns next March 15, including specific illustrations.

The Commissioner said the booklet should not be confused with the 16-page booklet to be mailed to all taxpayers along with their income tax blanks.

Vote for OEIU at Radiator Plant

Louisville, Ky.—By more than a two-thirds favorable vote, OEIU Local 61 has won bargaining rights for the brass checkers and clerks in the American Radiator Standard Sanitary Plant, according to Vice President A. R. Carson, who assisted the Local Union in this matter.

All timekeepers employed by this company have been members of OEIU Local 61 for some time and are covered under the terms of a union shop agreement with the company. Negotiation of an agreement for the new bargaining groups are under way.

SUBVERSIVE SCHOOLS

Washington—Included in the list of Communist organizations made public by Attorney General Tom C. Clark are the following so-called "labor" schools:

- Abraham Lincoln School, Chicago
- California Labor School, Inc., San Francisco
- George Washington Carver School, New York
- Jefferson School of Social Science, New York
- Ohio School of Social Sciences
- People's Educational Assn. (incorporated under name Los Angeles Educational Assn., Inc.). Also known as People's Educational Center, People's University, People's School.
- Philadelphia School of Social Science and Art
- Samuel Adams School, Boston
- Seattle Labor School, Seattle, Wash.
- Tom Paine School of Social Science, Philadelphia
- Tom Paine School of Westchester, N. Y.
- Walt Whitman School of Social Science, Newark, N. J.

IN LEGISLATURE

Portland, Oreg.—A member of OEIU Local 11, Mrs. Grace O. Peck, has been elected to the Oregon Legislature. Backed by Local 11 and the whole Central Labor Council, she defeated one of the

WAGE HIKE WON AT DEPARTMENT STORES

(Continued from page 1)

The Goldenberg department store, in which the local union established its exclusive bargaining rights for all office and clerical employes some months ago through an NLRB election, is now operating under a signed contract with the local union, which brings benefits to more than 75 office employes of the establishment who are represented by the local union.

The agreement, which runs until March, 1950, assures the employes of an eight-hour day and a 40-hour week, with time and one-half for overtime work. Wage adjustments ranging up to \$5 per week were obtained for the employes, and the agreement protects the employes against discharge except for just or sufficient cause. Final and binding arbitration is provided. The agreement also provides for paid sick leave and for paid vacations ranging up to three weeks after 10 years of service.

The contract provides for the continuation of the policy of paying employes of one year or more service an extra week's pay at Christmas time. Employes of lesser service to receive pro-rated similar treatment.

WAGE RATES BOOSTED AT BREUNER'S STORE

Oakland, Calif.—OEIU Local 29 has negotiated an agreement with Breuner's Furniture Store at Richmond, Calif., under the terms of which the office and clerical employes' rates have been increased from \$26 to \$41 per month above the rates existing prior to organization, according to Local Union Secretary-Treasurer Raymond R. Collier.

The agreement assures a 40-hour work week, with time and one-half for overtime and for all work performed after 6 P. M., as well as for Sunday work.

Paid vacations, time off without loss of pay on legal holidays, and provision for arbitration of any unsettled disputes are among the other matters covered under the contract.

AFL ISSUES CHARTER TO FLIGHT ENGINEERS

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green issued a charter to the Flight Engineers International Association, which becomes the 106th national or international union affiliated with the AFL. Issuance of the charter was approved by the AFL Executive Council recently.

The union representatives explained that flight engineers are responsible for mechanical efficiency and safety on the larger type of commercial airplanes. The Civil Aeronautics Board now requires that a flight engineer be a part of the crew of airline planes with a gross weight of 80,000 pounds.

most reactionary of Multnomah County legislators.

RETROACTIVE PAY BOOST AT BREWERY

Houston, Tex.—A wage increase of 20 cents per hour, retroactive to October 1, highlights the gains won in a new agreement between OEIU Local 129 and the Galveston-Houston Breweries, Inc., covering the office and clerical employees working for the company in this city.

Other gains in the agreement included an 8-hour day and 5-day week, establishment of premium pay for overtime, full pay for six holidays not worked and paid vacation of from one to three weeks, based on length of service up to 10 years. The agreement also provides for seniority rights and for methods of settling grievances.

Negotiation of this first agreement was announced by Local Secretary-Treasurer Rena Mae Chadick who, together with Ferne Mayberry, Felix Newton, and Geo. Spindler, served as the negotiating committee for the Local. They were ably assisted by George A. Wilson, secretary of the Houston Trades and Labor Council.

Educational Notes

(Continued from page 2)

ship that must be faced by those in lower income groups. We must conclude, therefore, that while taxes may not be too high for the economy as a whole, they may bear too heavily on particular groups in our economy.

Burdening Low Income Groups

Any shifting of the tax burden to the low income groups over a period of time, therefore, will result in decreased purchasing power that will be reflected in a falling of consumption and production that will invite depression.

This shifting sanctioned by the 79th and 80th Congresses has already reached dangerous proportions. The decline in corporation income tax collections of from \$15.5 billion in 1945 to \$9.1 billion in 1947 has been accompanied by steadily rising prices. Whether the rising prices were or were not stimulated by the cut in taxes is beside the point. The important fact is that while taxes on corporations declined \$6.4 billion yearly, taxes on consumers in the form of levies on sales, use and gross receipts increased approximately \$3 billion yearly. During the same period the cost of living index rose from 128.4 to 158.5, while corporation profits increased from \$8.9 billion to \$16.9 billion after taxes.

The two successive reductions in the personal income tax which chiefly benefited those in the upper income tax brackets also combined with the cut in corporation income tax to increase the proportion of total tax revenue secured from taxes on consumption.

Labor's Program

The direction of labor's future tax program is quite clear. Taxes on sales, amusements, cigarettes, payrolls, utility bills and taxes on dozens of necessities should be reduced or eliminated. Taxes on income should continue to provide the bulk of our revenue, both nationally and within the states. Labor should continue, too, to op-

UNION LABEL TRADES HAILS LABOR PRESS

Washington, D. C.—The 40th convention of the Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor which was held recently in Cincinnati unanimously passed resolutions expressing appreciation for the outstanding cooperation this active department is receiving from the editors of the labor press, the *American Federationist*, and the *AFL Weekly News Service*.

Another resolution expressed the deep gratitude of the convention for the unusual support the Union Label Department is receiving from the officials and members of the American Federation of Women's Auxiliaries of Labor.

OEIU Officer On Governor's Staff

Tallahassee, Fla.—J. O. Bloodworth, Jr., an international vice president of the Office Employees International Union has been commissioned an honorary lieutenant colonel on the official staff of Governor Fuller Warren, the recently elected governor of the state of Florida. Governor Warren was elected with the strong support of organized labor in the state at the last general election.



Bloodworth

State Labor Statutes Top Taft-Hartley Law

Washington—The Taft-Hartley law yields superiority to state laws which "prohibit" compulsory union membership agreements but not to state laws which merely "regulate" such agreements, the National Labor Relations Board ruled.

The issue came up in the case of Northland Greyhound Lines, Inc., and the Street Railway and Motor Coach Employees, AFL. The union petitioned the NLRB to poll the employees.

pose local payroll and nuisance taxes proposed to relieve the owners of real estate. Usually the substitute tax proposed is not based on ability to pay and bears more heavily on the workers than would a moderate increase in the real estate tax or a state-imposed locally-shared income tax that provides suitable exemptions.

Central bodies and state federations should study current tax developments. They should be prepared at all times not only to oppose unsound tax proposals, but to advance positive measures based on considerations of sound economy and equity. At the national level the A. F. of L. in cooperation with other progressive organizations must be vigilant in protecting and promoting the people's tax interests.

Hope Belongs



Radio and screen comedian Bob Hope, a member of the AFL actors' union, was one of the stars who participated in organized labor's drive to get out the vote that re-elected President Truman and a Democratic Congress.

Gather Data On Industrial Peace

Washington—A new type of report to determine how many of the over 100,000 labor-management agreements are signed each year without a strike is now being developed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor.

An article in the December *Labor Information Bulletin* explains that at the present time no statistics exist which show the extent of peaceful collective bargaining in the United States.

The article goes on to say that "strikes are news. They make the headlines. The day-to-day, even year-to-year, peaceful and uninterrupted union and employer relations go unheralded and unnoticed."

The Bureau of Labor Statistics is now developing a program intended to supplement its statistics on strikes with statistics on "industrial peace." This new approach will, for the first time, attempt to collect data on the number of agreements signed each month, the workers covered by the agreements, and whether the agreement was reached without a stoppage.

Unions will be asked to supply this information to the BLS at regular monthly intervals.

It is expected that BLS will obtain information which will show not only work stoppages but also a number of agreements signed without any loss in production time or workers' earnings.

RENEW CONTRACT WITH GAS UTILITY

Portland, Ore.—Negotiations on the renewal of the agreement between Local 11 and the Portland Gas and Coke Company are presently underway, according to T. M. Kincaid, secretary-treasurer of the union. Negotiations are being conducted jointly with company management by Local 11 and International Chemical Workers Union Local 133 which represents production employees.

Principal aims of Local 11 in the contract renewal include an improved union shop provision assuring union membership to all office workers employed by the company, salary increases coupled with an improved job classification program and adjustment of any existing inequities, an increase in the minimum monthly pay, and an improved sick leave program based on length of service.

Cognizant of the growing trend toward a shorter work week, Local 11 is also requesting a 37 and one-half hour work week comprised of five, seven and one-half hour days, plus premium pay for work starting between four p. m. and eight a. m. Among other proposed changes in the agreement are an improved seniority provision, additional insurance against strikes and lockouts and a participating pension plan for all employees of the company covered by the agreement.

Wholesale Paper Agreements Up

Negotiations on the renewal of the agreement between the local union and the Blake, Moffitt and Towne Company, wholesale paper distributors, are to commence soon. The union recently completed renewal of its agreement with the Carter-Rice Company, a similar concern which resulted in salary increases of nine cents per hour for all employees retroactive to October 1 plus additional benefits.

Other agreements presently being renewed or upon which negotiations will soon start include Miller Clothing Company, Montag Stove and Furnace Works and the agreement between the union and the retail grocers association involving all local chain food stores.

Corporations Pile Up Huge Capital Reserve

Washington—Corporations must be buying more and bigger "strong boxes" to accommodate their accumulating piles of cash. At least, that's the picture conjured up by a Securities and Exchange Commission report.

"Net working capital" is cash, government bonds and other assets which are practically the same as cash. It does not include the value of the plants and equipment owned by the corporations.

From \$24,500,000,000 in 1939, the report shows corporations' "net working capital" went up rapidly and steadily in the war and post-war years, to \$60,400,000,000 at the end of September, 1947.