FURTHER GAINS IN
OAKLAND PACTS

Oakland, Calif.—Wage increases for the members of OEIU Local 29 were obtained in recent renewal contracts with the California Steel Products, the Olympic Press, the Oregon-Nevada-California Fast Freight, and in the local union's city-wide men's clothing industry agreement.

The California Steel Products settlement was on the basis of 5c general wage increase for the office force, according to Business Representative John Kinney.

At the Olympic Press the local received an increase ranging from 3c to 11c, while in the Oregon-Nevada-California Fast Freight, the local union's city workers received a 75c per hour increase obtained with an additional holiday and provision for proportionate vacation pay.

The recent men's clothing industry agreement brought an additional 5c per hour increase in all classifications under which the local union has members employed, according to Representative Kinney.

Renewal Agreement
Boosts N.B.C. Wages

Providence, R. I.—A general wage increase of 32 per week was obtained in a renewal agreement just negotiated by OEIU Local 70 with the National Biscuit Company covering its office employees in this city. AEIU Rep. E. C. Nagel assisted the local union with the negotiations.

In addition to the general wage increase, an added holiday was obtained in the new agreement, bringing the total number of paid holidays up to ten per year.

Profits for First
Quarter Go Higher

New York—A tabulation of reports from 500 major manufacturing and nonmanufacturing companies shows profits up per cent greater after taxes in March, 1948, than for the same companies in March, 1947. These findings are reported by the National City Bank of New York in its regular publication for 500.

The Bank points out that profits show a better total than had been anticipated, and it seems clear that much of the business pessimism of recent months is completely unfounded.

For example, in the steel industry, physical output in the first quarter was 9 per cent above last year and profits increased by 66 per cent. In the nonmanufacturing industry, the output of cars and trucks was 7 per cent above last year and profits were up 42 per cent.

Publishing Co. Signed Up

The first agreement between the Goodrich Publishing Company, publishers of the Trentonian Newspaper, and OEIU Local 70 was recently signed. Pictures at the time of signing are shown, seated, Nicholas Santoro (C. 112), business agent for the Goodrich Publishing Company, publisher of the Trentonian. Standing (left to right), Henry Hoever, president of Local 70; Mary A. Mehane, shop steward; Mary A. Renzi, negotiating committee member and Ann E. Beck, secretary of Local 70.

Local 70 has retained in its agreement all of the good conditions established in the agreement with the former publisher, the Trentonian Publishing Company, which was wholly owned by the Typographical Union. Paid sick leave was clarified so as to provide 10 days leave for one year of service; 20 days for two years and 30 days for three years.

Blue Cross Agreement Signed;
Substantial Benefits Won

Newark, N. J.—The large clerical force of the Hospital Service Plan of New Jersey (Blue Cross) has received substantial improvements in their working conditions under the terms of an agreement recently signed by OEIU Local 32, which holds bargaining rights for the close to 320 eligible employees of that organization.

Business Representative Nicholas Juliano of OEIU Local 32 advises that under the terms of the recently signed contract wage adjustments and increases were obtained ranging from $.50 to $15 per week, with a few individuals receiving $.80 per week over their previous rates.

35-Hour Week

The agreement establishes a 7-hour work day, Monday through Friday, and a 35-hour work week for the office force, with time and a half for all daily or weekly overtime. The agreement also establishes 12 holidays which are granted with full pay each year. Employes are required to work on any such holidays receive time and a half for such work in addition to their regular holiday pay. All Sunday work is paid for at the rate of double time.

Equal Pay Principle

The contract recognized the principle of equal pay for equal work and provides for the establishment of weekly pay periods commencing in September. Union security through the maintenance of union membership is provided, and the employer pays union dues each month on each employee in the unit. The pact also establishes procedures for handling of grievances, with arbitration provided for controversies not disposed of satisfactorily.
Per Capita Increase

In accordance with action duly taken by the recent International Union convention at St. Louis, amendments were made to our International Union constitution increasing the amount of our International Union per capita tax and raising the minimum monthly dues which local unions may charge. Such amendments become effective and applicable to all dues and work per cents collected on and after July 1.

At the time our International Union was formed in January, 1945, a 45-cent per capita tax was adopted. There have been no increases in our International per capita tax since that time, although we have experienced very great increases in the costs of the operation of our International Union. In my report to the convention I dwelt in some detail on the necessity of a "fair and proper" living of our OEIU since January, 1945. There is hardly an item which we use which has not substantially increased in price during that period. We have been bearing substantial increases, also, resulting from the very high per diem increases voted by our Chicago 1947 convention. The per capita taxes which we pay to the A.F. of L., to the Union Label Trades Department and to the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada have all increased from 50 per cent to 100 per cent during that period. Transportation costs, both by air and rail, have shown marked increases. The same goes for a wide variety of other items including telephone, telegraph, printing costs, office salaries, office rent and the various other items which are essential to our proper functioning.

An examination of the per capita tax structure of 100 other National and International Unions indicated that 81 have basic per capita tax rates above our own, and the rate, and of the remaining 19 almost half were unions of government employee and the rest included some of the strongest of the International Unions which have achieved a high degree of organization in their respective trades.

Depression Scares Flouted

By AFL Executive Council

Cleveland, Ohio.—Confidence that the United States is not headed for a depression was expressed by the AFL Executive Council in session here.

In a formal statement, the council took an optimistic view of the nation's economic prospects and voiced opposition to the use of "recession propaganda as an argument to curtail government spending," especially in the fields of housing, education and health.

The council made no specific reference to the subject of wage increases at this time, but emphasized that general prosperity could be maintained only as long as "the purchasing power of American workers and the public as a whole remains high."

AFL President William Green told a press conference after the council session that there was no merit to arguments that unions should forego demands for higher wages this year.

"Each international union is clothed with authority to decide its own wage policies," he declared. "A number of our affiliates are going to insist on wage increases."

(Job security is again becoming of vital importance. General wage increases, even though well justified, are becoming harder to obtain. The need for building and maintaining a strong union is a great one. Practically without exception, the entire membership can testify to the benefits which they individually have gained through collective bargaining.

In acting to increase our OEIU per capita taxes and to fix a higher floor on local union dues, our local union delegates assembled in convention and gave thought not only to the need to offset the increased costs which we have been bearing, but also to the need to financially strengthen our International Union and the many local unions with low dues structures so that we might be better prepared to protect the gains presently enjoyed by our present membership and to move forward further in our gigantic lack of organizing our trade.

P. R. Hutchings, International President.

ILO to Prepare Slave Labor Probe

New York.—The major task of the International Labor Organization delegation to the United Nations conference in Geneva starting June 8 will be to institute a commission to study the extent of slave labor in the Soviet Union, according to George Delaney, U. S. workers' delegate to the ILO.

Mr. Delaney, who is also international representative of the AFL in a shipboard interview before his departure for Europe, said that the ILO commission, when set up, would also take up the question of infringement of trade union rights in Venezuela and Peru.

A major event is expected to take place in Geneva where a preliminary conference setting up a new free democratic trade union international organization will get underway.

The AFL international representative disclosed that the work of the commission and particularly that of Serafino Romualdi, AFL Latin-American representative, had resulted in major defeats of Communist penetration into the labor movement in Central and South America.

"We witnessed the reversal of the entire situation from what it was like in 1946," said Mr. Delaney. "At the last regional ILO conference of American States, Lombardo Toledano and his CTAL representatives were defeated. They dominated the ILO sessions. At the last conference, from which I have just returned, in Montevideo, Toledano didn't even show up.

"The AFL and the free unions of Latin-America have been able to defeat the CTAL, to an extent that the CTAL had no influence whatsoever at the last conference. Financially and normally, the labor movement in Latin America has thrown off the Toledano influence." Mr. Delaney said that the AFL would present detailed evidence as to the extent of slave labor in the Soviet Union. He pointed to thick dossiers he was taking with him to Geneva which he called a combination of DP's and refugee and affidavits which led the United Nations to recommend that the ILO's governing body study this question.

Further Gains at DeLaval Company

Poughkeepsie, N. Y.—A renewal agreement with the DeLaval Separ-ator Company has brought further gains to the members of Local 112 employed by this company, according to Local Secretary-Treasurer John McNeil.

The renewal agreement completed after nearly 30 months of nego- tiations includes a 5 per cent wage increase with no one receiving less than 38 cents an hour in any labor grade. Three weeks paid vacation after 20 years' service was also included. A new clause was strengthened through the dropping of the former escape clause. The agreement was submitted a monthly review jointly with the company on all merit increases.
START NEW DUES RECEIPTS IN JULY

Washington, D. C.—Commencing July 1, each OEIU local union will acknowledge and receipt all payments by the use of receipts issued from conventional bound receipt books. The receipt issued by the local secretary-treasurer to a member will be the only official and recognized evidence of payment. The present method employed in acknowledging dues and other payments will be eliminated.

These receipts will be wallet size. A member upon making payment, will receive the white original of the receipt, bearing the words "Official Receipt" and the seal of the International Union.

In announcing this change to secretaries-treasurers of local unions, OEIU Secretary-Treasurer J. Howard Hicks pointed out that in instances where a local union membership may so instruct, each member can be furnished with a small card identified as "Personal Payment Record" upon the back of which the member can note the numbers of the official receipts issued in acknowledgment of dues and other payments during a calendar year. These cards will be issued by local unions only for the convenience of their members and will not be recognized as official evidence of payments. The only formal evidence of payment will be the original receipt issued by the local union when payment is made.

Pay Increase at American News Co.

Oakland, Calif.—A general wage increase of 7c per hour highlights the demands won in a recent renewal agreement between OEIU Local 29 and the American News Company.

Business Representative John Kinneck reports that the local union also gained a pro rata vacation clause. The local is also empowered to inspect the premises as well as an extra day's vacation if holiday occurs during an employee's vacation period.

The new agreement also assures employees of receiving credit in the automatic wage progression scale for all past experience in other branch offices of the company.

The local union was assisted by the Alameda Central Labor Council and by Warehousemen's Union No. 853 and the Circulation and Delivery Driver's Union. The effective date of the renewal agreement is April 1, 1949.

Catholic Unionists Urged To Back Taft Act Repeal

New York—Ralph Wright, assistant secretary-treasurer of local unions and members of the Association of Catholic Trade Unions, is urging for removal of the Taft law because its philosophy was "in direct conflict" with 2 papal encyclicals.

The encyclicals, he said, were "The Condition of Labor," issued by Leo XIII in 1919 and the "Red construction of the Social Order," issued by Pius XI in 1931.

At Union Industries Show

Shown in the booth of the Office Employes International Union at the Union Industries Show in Cleveland are, left to right: Elmer Lukes, treasurer of Cleveland Local 17; Pearl A. M. Shuey, business representative of Local 17; Robert M. Daugherty, International Vice President; Marjorie O'Reilly, a member of Local 17, and International President M. Ornburn. The opening of the show and also addressed a special joint meeting of Locals 17 and 49.

Cleveland.—The 1949 Union Industries Show held here in the huge public auditorium proved to be one of the most outstanding in the 1-year history of the events staged by the AFL's Union Label Trades Department.

Capacity crowds thronged the huge exhibit hall each and every day of the 5-day exhibition which offered a great display of union-made products and interesting demonstrations of union service.

One of the features of the show was the booth of the Office Employes International Union. Here members of Locals 17 and 49 gave out literature and addressed envelopes made for the visitors by union workers in an adjoining booth and mailed with a special cachet at the post office set up in the exhibition hall.

M. Ornburn, director of the show and secretary-treasurer of the Union Label Trades Department, declared that he was well pleased with the results of this year's exhibition. He added that the annual events were becoming so popular that it is increasingly difficult to find large enough halls to adequately handle the varied displays of both manufacturers and union members. He said that if it keeps on expanding, he intends to explore the possibilities of using a large circus tent to house the exhibition.

Mr. Ornburn said that the date for the 1950 exhibit has been set for May 8-14 and will be staged in Philadelphia.

The effective date of the renewal agreement was May 1, 1949, obtained in all basic wage schedules and rates.

The overtime provision of the agreement was improved so as to guarantee time and a half for all hours worked in excess of 8 per day or 45 per week. Paid vacations were improved by the gaining of three weeks' paid vacation after twenty years' service, rather than after twenty-five as had previously prevailed. The amount of sick leave which can be accumulated was increased from twenty-five to thirty days.

Negotiations for the local union were conducted by Business Representative Harold E. Beck, who is also a vice president of the International Union, together with a negotiating committee of employees.

New Firms Under OEIU Agreements

Oakland, Calif.—Several new offices have been opened and organized by OEIU Local 28 according to its Business Representative John Kinneck.

The Market Laundry office has been organized and the company has signed the local union's standard laundry agreement. The office of the Shuey Creamery has been organized and the company has signed the standard Dairyagreement of the local union.

Representative Kinneck also reports the recent organization of the American Sheet Metal Supply offices where the local union won an NLRB representation election and a union shop election, both by overwhelming votes.

The first agreement negotiated with the Oakland Sheet Metal Supply Company includes a wage increase averaging 9c per hour, paid vacations of one week after six months and two weeks after one year, six days sick leave per year after four months employment. The agreement also provides for seven paid holidays, set Tuesday and two weeks termination notice or two weeks pay after six months employment.

Election Won at Tennessee Corp.

Mulberry, Fla.—OEIU Local 237 has recently won an NLRB election affirming the bargaining rights among the clerical employees of the U. S. Phosphoric Products Division of the Tennessee Corporation, according to International Union Vice President J. O. Bloodworth, Jr., who has been working on the organization of this group.

Splendid cooperation is being given by the officers and members of the International Chemical Workers Union, AFL.

Department Store Bargaining Rights

Trenton, N. J.—In a joint campaign conducted by local unions of the Retail Clerks International Association, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and the OEIU, bargaining rights have been won for more than 300 employees of the Swern & Company department store in this city, according to OEIU Representative George Firth, who worked on this drive.

Bargaining rights were established as a result of a recent NLRB campaign in which a substantial majority of the employees voting favored A. F. of L. representation.

Improvements Won In Renewal Of Electric & Transport Pact

Milwaukee, Wis.—A general wage increase, plus improvements in overtime pay provisions and further improvements in paid vacations and sick leave, were obtained by OEIU Local 9 in its recent renewal negotiations with the Milwaukee Electric & Transport Company. A general wage increase of 3c per hour retroactive to January 1, 1949, was obtained in all basic wage schedules and rates.

The overtime provision of the agreement was improved so as to guarantee time and a half for all hours worked in excess of 8 per day or 40 per week. Paid vacations were improved by the gaining of three weeks' paid vacation after twenty years' service, rather than after twenty-five as had previously prevailed. The amount of sick leave which can be accumulated was increased from twenty-five to thirty days.

Furulator Pact

Increases Wages

Newark, N. J.—A recent renewal agreement between OEIU Local 32 and the Furulator Products, Inc., resulted in a general increase for OEIU members of 5c per hour, according to Business Representative Nicholas Juli.

The agreement signed by two of OEIU Local 32 members provides for bargaining rights in this office.

Further improvements in the agreement include the tightening up of the seniority clauses and of the grievance and arbitration procedure, and making merit increase reviews subject to the grievance procedure.

BOARD MEETING

Washington—The June meeting of the Executive Board of the Office Employes International Union, AFL, has been called for June 20 at the Hamilton hotel here.
Committee Praises Unions, T.V.A. for Labor Relations

Washington.—A group of AFL-ONU and the Tennessee Valley Authority were given high praise by Congress' Joint Committee on Labor-Management Relations for the manner in which they have conducted industrial relations during the 18-year life of the T.V.A.

The final report of the congressional group, prepared by Alexander K. Christle, committee consultant, declares: "The TVA has been in existence over 16 years, and during that period relations with labor have been relatively free of strife and discord."

"Some of the reasons are:"

1. The board of directors of TVA early decided on a policy of work known as force account, which made TVA the employer.

2. Management has proved by its deeds that it is constantly striving to deal fair and square with labor.

3. Labor has complete trust and faith in the motives of TVA.

4. The Tennessee Valley Trades and Labor Council is composed of responsible unions.

5. The officers of the Tennessee Valley Trades and Labor Council are real labor leaders, men of exceptional ability and character.

6. Labor and management both know the value and meaning of cooperation.

The conditions which our government has made for European recovery and national defense assure a steady and continued demand for the products of American farms and factories for years to come. "As long as the purchasing power of American workers and the public as a whole remains high, consumption will keep pace with production and prosperous conditions will continue."

Pay Increase at Leach Hechel Co.

Boston, Mass.—A $2 a week general increase for the office employees of the Leach, Hechel Co., 52-11 West Street, was included in the retroactive agreement for Local 19 of the AFL-OEU, according to AFL-OEU Representative E. C. Nagel who assisted the local union. Two additional paid holidays were also obtained in the renewal pact, with a reduction in the probationary period from 90 to 60 days.

BARGAINING RIGHTS AT PAPER COMPANY

Quebec City, Can.—OEU Local 241 in Quebec City, which has been represented by the Quebec Relations Board, established its bargaining rights for the office and clerical staff of the American Paper Company in this city, according to International Union Vice President L. B. Bruneau, who has been assisting this group together with A. F. of L. Organizer J. M. Landriault.

A preponderent majority of the more than 125 eligible clerical workers in this plant are already members of Local 241, and Local President J. D. Dussault indicates that the remaining few employees are expected to join shortly with their fellow workers.

The local union charter was formally issued by the International Relations Board last month and the local proceeded with the election of its officers for the coming year and with the drafting of its constitution and by-laws. Substantial work has been done in the drafting of a proposed agreement for negotiation with the Anglo-Canadian Company, according to Vice President Bruneau.

Quebec Charter Installed

Quebec City, Can.—A. F. of L. Organizer J. M. Landriault is shown installing the Quebec Local 241 of the AFL-OEU. Official hour and a half session, including the installation of a new charter, resulted.

"The banner is set up and the local is on its feet, and I, for one, am very glad with the results," said Bruneau.

"I feel it is certain that these workers will do the company and their fellow workers a great service as they go on their way to fight for the right thing."