**THE Office Worker**

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

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**BARGAINING RIGHTS AT ATOMIC PROJECT**

Richland, Wash.—In three sweeping victories, OEU Local 100 established its exclusive bargaining rights for a total of more than 600 office and clerical employees of three subcontractors on the Hanford Project of the Atomic Energy Commission, as a result of recent NLRB elections.

OEIU Vice President C. C. Newell, who headed up the campaign, advises that as a result of the election victories, Local 100 now holds bargaining rights for the clerical force of Atkinson & Sons, Urban, Smythie & Warren Company and the Neon Electrical Company. Negotiations with these subcontractors are presently underway.

An organizing campaign has also started among the office employees of the General Electric Company, where it employs several hundred workers.

A substantial number of the General Electric office force has already signed up for membership in Local 100 and a full-fledged organizational drive among this group is presently underway. A. F. of L. Organizer Kenneth Scott has been actively working on both drives, with an initial interest shown by this group, the Local Union expects to shortly be in a position to petition for an NLRB election for G. E. clerical workers.

In addition to group meetings, hand-billing and newspaper advertising, widespread use is being made in the campaign of spot broadcasts over radio stations in the area, according to Vice President Newell.

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**WAGES BOOSTED**

Pittsburgh, Pa.—A general increase of $4 per week was obtained for all office employees covered by the agreement between OEU Local 33 and the Lewis Dairies, Inc., according to Local Business Representative Frank W. Blott, who handled the negotiations on behalf of the local union. All other conditions of the previous agreement were continued for a one-year period.

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**IMPRESSIVE VOTE**

Minneapolis, Minn.—Office employees of the Minneapolis Gas Co. represented by OEU Local 12, voted almost unanimously for the union in a recent NLRB election. The vote was 218 for the union shop and only three against.

Arthur J. Fritz, business representative of Local 12, pointed out that such a vote is a continuation of a city-wide trend for the local.

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**Contract Signed With Chase Co.**

Cleveland Local Wins Fine New Contract for Brass Works

Cleveland, Ohio.—An agreement has recently been completed between OEU Local 17 and the Chase Brass & Copper Company covering the office and clerical employees of its Cleveland Mill division and which brings to those employees further gains and benefits.

This contract concludes a long period of negotiations with this company and reflects substantial improvements over the agreement with the CIO which formerly bargained for this group.

OEIU Local 17 was approached last year by a group of the Chase Brass office employees who were very anxious to obtain OEU affiliation because of their dissatisfaction with the manner in which CIO then handled their problems. As a result of the persistent efforts of the employees to bring about OEU representation an NLRB election was finally held last October, with a majority of the office voting for OEU representation.

The recently signed agreement, which is the first agreement of the OEU with this company, is a two-year agreement with wage reopening being provided on August 31 of any year.

The seniority protection obtained in the agreement is substantially better than that previously enjoyed by this group. Substantial improvements were also obtained in the merit rating system. The agreement provides for a voluntary irrevocable dues deduction upon individual authorization of the employee.

Negotiations were conducted on behalf of the local union by a committee of employee members of OEU Local 17, assisted by Business Representative Pearl Hanna and OEU Vice President R. M. Daugherty, who played an important part in the campaign and the conclusion of contract negotiations with the company.

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**OEIU GREETs UNION-INDUSTRIES SHOW**

We extend our most cordial greetings to all of the participants and guests at the Union-Industries Show being held in Cleveland, Ohio, May 18 through 22 at the Cleveland Municipal Auditorium.

The Office Employees International Union is proud of its membership in the Union Label Trades Department of the A. F. of L., which is sponsoring this dramatic spectacle of union-management cooperation. We are indeed happy to participate in this worthwhile endeavor.

The sincerest greetings of our International Union are extended to the citizens of Cleveland, the merchants and office employees to advise that we have two local unions of office employees functioning in the Cleveland area. Our Local 17 has members employed under contract with many Cleveland establishments, including the American Store Co., the Apex Electrical Mfg. Co., the Oliver Corp., Chase Brass & Copper Co., Wm. Edwards Co., Weideman Co. and many others. Local 56 is located at 1316 Superior Avenue, Cleveland. Telephone Cherry 5067.

Our second local in the Cleveland area is Local 49, which is composed entirely of the large office staff of the Addressograph-Multigraph Corp. at Euclid.

Paul R. Hutchings.
President

J. Howard Hicks,
Secretary-Treasurer

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**10% INCREASE WON FOR CAB WORKERS**

Philadelphia, Pa.—An additional 10 per cent wage increase, effective April 1, has just been negotiated by OEU Local 14 for its members employed by the Yellow Cab Company of Philadelphia.

The increase, which was negotiated under a wage reopening clause in the union's current contract with the company, supplements the increases received last December at the time of several contract negotiations, according to Edward Springman, business representative of the local and a vice-president of the International Union.

The general wage increase just negotiated has also resulted in adjustments in the contract wage schedule which provided for automatic adjustments at periodic intervals.

The recent negotiations also resulted in the establishment of a 6 cents per hour night shift differential. The contract was also amended so as to provide for it remaining in force and effect until March 31, 1951.

Professor Says Workers Want To Be Appreciated

Rochester, N. Y.—Workers in modern industry want appreciation for good performance and they want to feel that they are part of a team, Dr. Temple Burling said here. Otherwise, they cannot be happy.

A professor in the New York State School of Industrial and Labor Relations at Cornell University, Dr. Burling asserted that wage-earners are not concerned exclusively with compensation for their toil but want to be considered as human beings. He urged employers to recognize the psychological needs of their employees.

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**Write Your Senators and Congressman To Repeal Taft-Hartley Law**
The Office Worker

Official organ of the Office Employees International Union

Paul R. Hutchings, President
J. Howard Hicks, Sec.-Treas.
225 Bond Building
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More Highlights of OEIU Convention

Washington.—Supplementing the report carried in The Office Worker last month, the resolution urged the promotion of effective political action in every congressional district to insure a more liberal Congres. 

The convention went on record as demanding the immediate repeal of the Taft-Hartley law and the enactment of the Thomas Act. It also unanimously adopted a demand for the return of the Conciliation Service to the Labor Department, where it had functioned satisfactorily for many years.

Back Housing Program

The convention adopted a strong resolution on housing, urging that President Truman request Congress to enact a housing program which would provide substantial urban rental housing units and low cost housing accommodations.

The convention also endorsed the media campaign being conducted by the A. F. of L. and took similar action with regard to civil rights legislation. It took action on the antitrust laws which have been enacted in numerous states and called for the outright repeal of such restrictive anti-labor statutes.

Action was taken to call for broader coverage of office employees under the Fair Labor Standards Act and to increase the minimum wage provided in such act to $1 per hour. The meeting went on record as favoring a 6-day 35-hour week for office employees with no loss in pay; and the right of all workers endorsing the provisions of a wage increase program for OEIU members.

Starting Rates

In another resolution the convention urged affiliated locals to strive campaign with 88,000 precinct captains of its own, Director Joseph D. Keenan told the 22d general convention of the Hotel & Restaurant Employees and Bar tenders International Union, in Chicago. Keenan and George Meaney, secretary of the American Federation of Labor, another speaker, stressed the importance of effective political action in every congressional district to insure a more liberal Congress.

"We were successful in electing many people that we supported in 1948," said Keenan. "They are working with the American Federation of Labor, with the hope that we can repeal the Taft-Hartley Act and replace it with the Thomas-Lesinski bill."

"We may not be successful, but that is just going to be a reason for us to carry on in a way that will make these people who are so determined to destroy the labor movement realize that we mean business."

"We are going to keep Labor's League for Political Education going on a permanent basis. We are going to set up organizations in every central body and in every local union."

"It is our hope very shortly to set up a chairman in every congressional district in the United States, and also before the end of next year have a precinct captain in every one of the 88,000 precincts."

Meaney reminded the 1,200 attending delegates that the Taft-Hartley act was put over on labor because "members of the National Association of Manufacturers and representatives of the large reactionary employers banded together with the Republican leaders in Congress and picked up some reactionary Democrats from the South."

The LLPE will do a better job in 1950 than in 1948, he said, because this year the organization is going into the organization.

"Under no circumstances is this league going to be the political tail to the kite of any other political party," he said. "Under no circumstances are we going to align ourselves with either one of the major political parties."

I am sure that labor will become the largest and perhaps more so in the political field than our enemies in the NAM who feel that all they have to do is send their contribution. I think last November a lot of them sent in their contributions and then neglected to vote."

Columbia Valley Authority Sought

Washington.—To aid the further economic progress of the Pacific Northwest, President Truman proposed the establishment of a federal development of the Columbia River Valley under a Columbia Valley Authority patterned after the TVA.

The request was contained in a lengthy message to Congress in which Mr. Truman said establishment of a "will provide not only for a balanced program of constructing dams, irrigation works, power transmission lines and other facilities, but also for a working operating plan for using these facilities simultaneously for flood control, navigation, power generation and transmission, fish protection and other purposes."

Not only would this program give better balance to development of the valley's resources, he said, but would bring the government "closer to the people closer to the grass roots." And he adds: "This means government action that will be more responsive to the needs of local people."

While the President offered no estimate of the cost of such a project, he said that the advantage of planning and construction already accomplished. It should, he continued, be required.

"To follow the reclamation laws in contracting for the disposition of land or water in reclamation projects.

"To give the customary preferences as priorities to public agencies and cooperatives in disposing of electric energy.

"To demonstrate the economic soundness of various projects it undertakes and to repay reimbursable costs, in accordance with laws established by Congress."

The President pointed out that the Columbia River system is second only in the United States and that the three million kilowatts of electric energy now being produced there would be increased tenfold.

Anti-Labor Law Out

Through the efforts of the labor movement in New Hampshire the state antilabor law, known as the Willy Act, has been repealed by the legislature.
FRATERNAL ORDER SIGNS AGREEMENT

Pittsburgh, Pa.—An agreement has just been completed between OEU Local 33 and the Croatian Fraternal Union of America covering the office staff of this fraternal and insurance organization. Business Representative Frank Rickett of Local 33 advises that this group of office workers were formerly represented by the CIO but that they are dissatisfied with that organization and sought representation through OEU Local 33.

The agreement provides for a full union shop, 40-hour work week with time and a half for over time and double time for Sunday and holiday work. Seven legal holidays will be paid and all employees receive a minimum of two weeks paid sick leave annually and two weeks paid vacation each year after one year of employment. Dismissal pay ranging up to four weeks is provided.

Price Probe Slated

Washington.—Congressional investigations of prices and economic conditions were approved by the Senate Rules Committee. It was recommended that $500,000 be given the Senate Banking Committee for that purpose.

There will be an attempt to determine why farm prices have dropped sharply while retail prices of goods made of farm products remain high. These investigations will also delve into problems of housing, small business, and aid to farmers.

At the same time, $30,000 was recommended for the Senate-House Economic Committee for a special study of investment funds and federal monetary, credit and fiscal problems as well as low-income families and unemployment trends.

Needs Active Support

Washington.—President Truman’s national health insurance program must have the active support of all AFL members in order to beat the American Medical Association’s multi-million-dollar lobby for private insurance.

The committee for the Nation’s Health, Inc., with offices at 602 Pennsylvania Avenue S. E., Washington, D. C. and 1700 Broadway, New York 19, New York, has just issued a reprint from The New York Times, written by Oscar Ewing, Federal Security Administrator, which states the case for national health insurance. His recommendations are very similar to those made by A. F. of L. President William Green and Nelson Graulshank, A. F. of L. Social Security Director, before Senate Committees.

Congressmen are available by writing to the committee for the Nation’s Health at either of the above addresses.

A great number of doctors throughout the country are opposed to the reactionary policies of the American Medical Association, and they, as well as other people, are being mobilized by this committee to counteract the campaign to discredit the national health insurance program that is being sponsored and supported by the federal administration.

Wage Increases Highlight Contract Gains In New York

New York.—General wage increases negotiated by OEU Local 133 highlight contract gains with several New York employers.

Local union negotiations with Sharp & Dohme Pharmaceutical Company have resulted in wage increases of $3.50 per week for all employees represented by the local union.

This general increase was also applied to the minimum and maximum of the contract rate ranges. Other contract improvements were also obtained.

The general increase brings the total wage increases of OEU Local 133 members up to about 50 percent more than the salaries they were receiving at the time they organized about two years ago.

Negotiations have also been completed with Bigelow-Sanford Carpet Company, bringing wage increases of $3.90, $3.50 and $4.50 per week to all employees represented by the local union. These increases also apply to the minimum and maximum of the salary rate ranges.

In addition, the clerical employees in the warehouse recently established by Sharp & Dohme received an $8 per week across-the-board increase. All employees are also to receive greater insurance and health benefits as a result of the negotiations.

AFL HEAD HAILS UNION LABEL SHOW

Washington.—AFL President William Green gave his full support to the Union Industries Show to be held in Cleveland, Ohio, from May 18 to 22.

The show, another in the series of annual events sponsored by the AFL’s Union Label Trades Department, promises to exceed in event size and significance the position staged last year in Milwauk ee, according to plans which have been announced by I. M. Orn burn, show chairman and secretary-treasurer of the department.

“The union label stands for everything that is fine, constructive and decent in the industrial life of the nation,” said Green. Just as the American flag represents freedom, the union label symbolizes the highest form of industrial progress.

“As a marvel at the beauty and precision and usefulness of the products of our machine age, we must pay tribute to the inventive genius of the millions who went into their manufacture. Yet these alone would not have been sufficient if we were not first of all to bring such products within reach of the public. It took sound investment, intelligent management and plenty of hard work to perform our industrial miracles.

“We once recognize these facts, we are happy to do our part in the structure of our free enterprise system. Money alone will produce nothing. It is necessary to combine money, skill and labor, unless it has guidance and material. But together they form a perfect team which can produce the high quality merchandise which the consuming public requires and will view with the Union Industries Show in Cleveland.”

Eliminate Coolie Overtime, OEU Urges Senate Committee

Washington—Appearing before the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, OEU President Paul K. Hutchings recommended that the Fair Labor Standards Act be revised so as to provide genuine overtime pay for all salaried workers and eliminate “coolie” overtime.

“We do not ask this selfishly,” he pointed out. “Members of our union are practically without exception enjoying wage and overtime conditions which far surpass those enjoyed by the working man who toils for the benefit of the millions of unorganized office and clerical workers who are largely victims of this evil. We are voting this in behalf of the millions of unorganized office and clerical workers who are largely victims of this evil. We are voting this act for their minimum wage and overtime rate protection.”

“Much has been said in recent years both in the Congress and out, about the plight of the white collar worker. By taking appropriate and effective steps to assure all covered salaried employees the same overtime protection enjoyed by other workers, this committee and the Congress will be showing to the millions of salaried workers a sincere and genuine desire to see that they receive equal treatment under the law.”

To illustrate the discrimination which the administrative interpretation of this section of the act has permitted, President Hutchings asked members of the committee to consider the experiences of employees of a large banking organization who have been paid a regular weekly salary of $40.

Then a “Chinese” calculation of the “Chinese” calculations which would cut their overtime pay for 180 hours of work at a little over $8 instead of the $30 to which they would otherwise be entitled.

To eliminate this inequitable situation, President Hutchings suggested that this language be inserted in the act: “Any salaried worker employed in excess of 40 hours in any work week shall be paid for each such hour in excess of 40 hours at a rate not less than one and one-half times the hourly rate obtained by dividing his weekly salary by not more than 40.”
WAGE INCREASE WON AT SENTINEL PAPER

Milwaukee, Wis.—Weekly wage increases ranging from $2.50 to $5 per week were obtained for all the office and clerical employees of the Milwaukee Sentinel daily newspaper in recent interim wage negotiations by OEU Local 9, which has an agreement and bargaining rights covering this group.

The negotiations which were conducted on behalf of the local union by its Business Representative Harold E. Beck, who is also a vice president of the International Union, resulted in numerous gains for the employees, according to OEU Vice President R. E. Fierst, who handled the negotiations.

A general wage increase of 5 cents per hour was obtained for all covered employees, with individual adjustments up to 15 cents per hour.

The agreement provides for pay double time for all work performed on Sundays and holidays and the establishment of a vacation in the month of January and six weeks after 20 years of service.

The agreement also places a 36 cent deduction on the basis of voluntary irrevocable authorizations.

Numerous Gains For G.E. Employees

Richmond, Va.—Negotiations with the General Electric Supply Corp. on behalf of its clerical force who are members of OEU Local 989, have resulted in numerous gains for the employees, according to G. E. Union Representative E. J. McCall, who handled the negotiations.

A general wage increase of 6 cents was obtained for all covered employees, with individual increases of 1 to 5 cents per hour. Other important gains include the agreement to pay double time for all work performed on Sundays and holidays and the establishment of a 20-day vacation after one year of service and three weeks after 20 years of service. The agreement also provides for vacation time with a $10 per day increase as negotiated for all covered employees.

The agreement was reached after lengthy negotiations by a newly organized group of employees who have been working in the company for less than one year.

American Radiator Pact Hikes Wages

Louisville, Ky.—Wage increases ranging from 10 to 25 cents per hour, retroactive to December 14, highlight the gains made in a new contract recently negotiated by OEU Local 499, the American Radiator and Sanitary Corp., covering a new group of recently organized plant clerical workers in the company's Louisville works.

OEIU Vice President A. R. Carson assisted the local union officers and committee in the negotiations. The contract provides for the full union shop and for other improvements beneficial to this group.

PAPER OUTPUT UP

New York.—Newspaper production in North America during the first 3 months of this year was 122,959 tons, or 8.9 per cent greater than in the corresponding month of last year. It was announced by the Newspaper Service Bureau.

Truman Urges Health Program Based on Contributing Insurance

Washington.—President Truman appealed to Congress for the early approval of a national health program "to make available enough medical services to go around, and to see that everybody has a chance to obtain those services."

To accomplish this purpose, bills were introduced in both houses of Congress to provide a compulsory insurance system as the only democratic approach to a demonstrated national need.

This controversial feature of the program, which has the backing of the American Federation of Labor, immediately raised a storm of protest from opposing groups ranging from the American Medical Association to the Daughters of the American Revolution. These groups freely lost with verbal barbages which had for their central theme the old well-worn charge that the President's program was "socialized" medicine.

Within Congress itself strong opposition is expected from Senator Robert A. Taft and his supporters who are plugging for federal aid to the states for medical care purposes based on the charity principle.

The administration measure provides that employer and employee contribute 1% per cent each on payrolls into a personal health fund for medical care purposes on the basis of voluntary irrevocable authorizations.

OFFICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION

(Affiliated with the American Federation of Labor)

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Desiring to become a member of a Local Union chartered by the Office Employees International Union, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, I hereby make application for admission to membership and authorize such organization to be my exclusive collective bargaining representative.

Applicant's Name

Street Address

City

State or Province

Occupation

Name of company now employed

Clock No.

Badge No.

Signature of Applicant

THE PRESIDENT ENDORSES THE
UNION INDUSTRIES SHOW
CLEVELAND, OHIO

MAY
18 thru 22
1949

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

L. M. ORRWIN, DIRECTOR
RECEIVING THE MESSAGE
FROM JOHN R. STEWART
ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

ELECTION WON AT GARDNER- DENVER

Denver, Colo.—OEIU Local 5 has just established its exclusive bargaining rights for the clerical staff of the Gardner-Denver Company as a result of a recent NLRB run-off election.

In the first ballot conducted among the clerical force of this company upon the petition of Local 5 last month, the OEIU was successful in defeating the UAW (CI.O.) but failed to achieve the required 50% of the vote necessary to a victory. In the recent run-off election, the employees, by almost a two to one majority, voted for the OEIU as their bargaining representative according to Theodore A. Clark, President and Organizer of the local union.

The Gardner-Denver Company manufactures mining machinery equipment, and in a group organization presently being shown by its clerical force in its large Quincy, Illinois, operation.

Secure Increase In Renewal Pact

San Francisco, Calif.—A general wage increase of 7½ cents per hour has been won in the recent renewal agreements with two trucking firms by OEU Local 56. The new agreements with the Valley Express Company and the Oregon-Nevada-California Fast Freight have been completed according to Business Representative E. J. McCall. In addition to the general wage hike the local union was successful in obtaining a pro-rated vacation clause and an additional paid holiday.

Local 56 also completed its renewal negotiations with the Yellow Cab Company and has cemented for their clerical staff a general $10 per month increase as well as a pro-rated vacation clause which has been made so that the largest contribution by any person would be $72 a year. The federal government would add to this provisions an amounting to 1% per cent of payrolls through 1954 and 1 per cent thereafter through 1957.

This insurance would cover care not only of the individual worker but all of his immediate family.