OEIU Wins Important NLRB Decision

Signing of Greyhound Contract

Jacksonville, Fla.—A recent agreement negotiated by OEIU Local 73 on behalf of the office and clerical employees of the Florida Greyhound Lines, Inc., has resulted in a 5 cents per hour salary increase applied across the board, improved the sick leave provisions so as to provide an accumulation of unused sick leave up to a maximum of three weeks, provided for strict seniority in case of layoff, and provided for “bumping,” and if an employee is forced to bid down in order to remain with the company because of layoffs, he will suffer no reduction of pay although he might be assigned a lower job.

The vacation period was extended an additional two months to allow for a greater choice of vacation time by the employees. Employees will suffer no loss in pay when called for jury duty, or when required to attend court in any capacity applicable to the operations of the Company.

OEIU Local 73 was represented at these negotiations by President James A. Browning, Committee Member Frederick Pollett and OEIU Vice President J. O. Bloodworth, Jr. The company was represented by Comptroller J. D. Segall and Assistant Office Manager of Florida Greyhound Lines, Inc. Seated are: J. D. Segall, Comptroller for Florida Greyhound Lines, Inc. and James A. Browning, President of Local 73.

Nightly Newscasts

To Offset 'Poison'

St. Paul.—The AFL will begin a newscast five nights a week over 147 radio stations on January 1 to offset anti-labor attacks.

This was announced by George Meany, secretary-treasurer of the AFL and Labor's League for Political Education, during the 68th AFL convention.

Mr. Meany said that final arrangements have been made for a 15-minute newscast sponsored by the AFL and League Monday through Friday. He said the broadcast will be heard at 10 p.m. Eastern Standard Time over 147 stations of the Mutual Broadcasting System.

The selection of a news commentator will be made next month. "It is the hope," Mr. Meany said, "that by this nightly newscast we will be able to counteract in the public mind the adverse charges and insinuations made against labor's legitimate economic and legislative aspirations by most of the commentators now on the air."
In a statement to Wage and Hour Administrator William R. McComb, OEU President Paul R. Hutchings took vigorous exception to some of the proposed revisions to that portion of the Fair Labor Standards Act which defines the terms “Executive,” “Administrative,” “Professional,” and “Outside Salesman.”

He objected to the proposed revision which would allow persons in executive, administrative or professional positions to devote up to 20 per cent of their hours in their work week to activities which are not directly and closely related to the performance of their work, pointing out that he opposed in principle any flat allowance in either percentage or hours which would permit exempt employees to perform non-exempt work and that he did not believe the Administrator was given any license by the Act to make such exemptions less bona fide by allowing such exempt employees to perform non-exempt work without receiving overtime payment therefor.

He further pointed out that the old regulation was preferable in that the non-exempt work permitted was not more than “20 per cent of the hours worked in a work week by non-exempt employees” whereas the new regulation permits not more than “20 per cent of their (the exempt employee) weekly hours.” However, he further stated that if the Administrator was determined to allow exempt employees to perform a certain amount of non-exempt work, the regulation should be accomplished by setting forth a specified number of hours rather than on a percentage basis.

He also took vigorous exception to the proposed $55 per week wage test as applying to all employees, stating that it was unfair to have a differential between a salary test for an exempt office employee and a minimum wage test for non-exempt employees, for which a $75 per week wage test has been proposed. He urged that the Administrator give consideration to a minimum salary test to be applied in connection with administrative, professional and executive exemptions of not less than $400 per month for all three of these groups.

In connection with specifying minimum salary rates for exempt positions, he stated that he felt the regulation on this matter should be written so that it could only be interpreted to mean that such an exempt employee must receive each pay period a specified amount not less than that stated in the regulation.

Another objection concerned the proposed revision which would allow exempt employees who are excluded on a salary basis at a rate of not less than $100 a week to be considered administrative or professional employees and exempt from the protections of the Act without being required to meet the specified requirements otherwise necessary to such exemption.

He pointed out that such a test would only encourage reclassification of individuals to meet the $100 test and give the employer a license to work them unlimited hours and to have them devote an unlimited portion of such working time to non-exempt work. He urged that a further hearing be held to correct these objectionable features.

WASHINGTON—A new Social Security law looks like a good bet to get on the books in the early part of 1950 if the recent House vote is any indication of Congressional feeling on the matter. The House okayed the new law by 229 to 14, and it appears that the Senate will probably go along with the provisions of the bill pretty much as they stand.

Even management may not be so opposed to this bill as many union secretaries believe, since it contains the amount of Social Security benefits and the more benefits that are forthcoming from Social Security the less bite there probably will be on management’s pocket.

Under the new law, about 11 million more workers stand to benefit, bringing the total, including those already covered, up to 40 million. The main group that would be affected by this change are self-employed workers in non-agricultural work, numbering some 4½ million. A large number of domestic workers, at present left out in the cold, would also be included in the new law, as well as employees of non-profit institutions, and employees of local and state governments if local governments work out a special deal with Federal officials. Farmers make up the largest group still left out of the Social Security Act.

Under the House-approved bill pensions and other benefits would be increased to 150 per cent, and retired workers would be allowed to earn up to $50 a month above their benefit payments from the government.

PASSES AWAY

Ogden, Utah—The officers and members of Local 220 are aggrieved by the untimely death of Brother Owen O. Christianson, a trustee of the local union for the past two years and one of its charter members.

Basic Hourly Wage Is Fixed at 75 Cents

Washington—The AFL won its long fight to raise the minimum wage when Congress voted to increase the rate from 40 to 75 cents an hour.

The sweetness of victory was marred though because Congress failed to bring the new top up to the $1-an-hour favored by the AFL and because other amendments to the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act absorbed away coverage and protection from thousands of deserving workers.

The increase is the first important progressive change in the law since its enactment in 1938.

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Snapshots at ST. PAUL

Int'l. President Hutchings tells AFL convention: "Organization in any establishment is not complete and secure until the office and clerical staff has been brought within the fold of the AFL."

Dinner given by St. Paul OEIU Local 16 for OEIU delegates to AFL convention and executive boards of St. Paul Local 16 and Minneapolis Local 12.

IMPORTANT ACTIONS OF AFL CONVENTION

St. Paul, Minn.—Of particular interest to the members of the OEIU are actions taken by the recent AFL Convention with respect to the calling of a national white collar organizing conference and the AFL's Samuel Gompers Memorial Organization Drive.

White Collar Conference

A resolution instructing the officers of the AFL to call a national organizing conference of white collar workers was referred to the Executive Council for appropriate action to carry out its intent of increasing emphasis on extending organization among white collar workers.

In commenting on this resolution, Paul Hutchings, president of the Office Employes International Union, told the 68th annual convention that "organization in any establishment is not complete and secure until the office and clerical staff of such establishment has been brought within the fold of the AFL and its appropriate international unions."

The resolution said that the economic position of white collar workers has shown less improvement than any other section of the working population and tends to depress the rates and conditions of all individual workers.

Samuel Gompers Memorial

The AFL will embark on a gigantic organizing campaign next January to enroll at least a million new members during 1950 as a memorial to the AFL's former great President Samuel Gompers.

All State Federations of Labor are being called upon to hold full and complete state-wide organizational rallies in every state during January, 1950 to launch this vigorous and militant campaign. All national and international unions are expected to cooperate fully with these rallies and take an active part in the formulation of the state-wide campaigns and in the execution of their programs.

The convention recommended that these state-wide organizational rallies adopt a program of local and district rallies subsequent to state rallies in order to inaugurate in every congressional district, county and precinct organizational campaigns among all types of unorganized wage earners in every section of the continent.

Political activity is to be coordinated with this organizing activity.

OEIU Committee Participation

International Secretary-Treasurer J. Howard Hicks served as Secretary of the Committee on Union Labels and presented the report for that committee to the convention. The report emphasized and praised the annual Industries Shows and termed them a potent vehicle "to create good relations through labor-management cooperation."

International President Paul R. Hutchings was a member of the Committee on State Organizations. It was this committee that brought in the report which was adopted by the convention for state-wide organizing rallies.
Council Maps Organizing Drives

Represented above are the officers and delegates of the Northern California Council of Office Employees Unions meeting recently to map further organizing drives. From left to right, seated, are: Vice President Helen Dean; Trustee Mildred Gonzalez; President John Kimnick; Secretary-Treasurer Eleanor Murphy; and Trustee Marian Alcmano. In standing order, standing, are: David Morse (visitor); and Delegates Marilyn Anglin, Phyllis Mitchell, Rose Steinbacker, Ed McCall, Mildred McCarthy, Kathleen Kimnick and Cliff Andrew. Recording Secretary Helen Pechette and Delegate Beatrice Levine were also in attendance but not present when photograph was taken.

Oakland, Calif.—Delegates from the seven local unions affiliated with the Northern California Council of Office Employees Unions held their quarterly meeting at the El Cortado Restaurant, Oakland, Calif., recently and elected the following officers to fill vacancies: John Kimnick, Oakland Local 29; President; Mildred Gonzalez, San Francisco Local 3; Trustee; and Marian Alcmano, Modesto Local 208, Secretary.

Other officers of the Council are: Eleanor Murphy, San Francisco Local 3, President; Agnes Granger, Vallejo Local 208, Secretary-Treasurer; Helen Dean, Modesto Local 208; Vice President; Agnes Granger, Vallejo Local 86, Treasurer; Helen Pechette, Vallejo Local 86, Recording Secretary.

Reports on the activities of each union were made by the delegates in addition to reports on the recent convention of the California State Federation of Labor. The greater part of the meeting was spent in a discussion of organizing. The Council has as its primary objective the organization of office employees in the jurisdiction of the Council, which covers an area within 100 miles of Oakland. Since the formation of the Council, Vallejo Local 86 has grown sufficiently to enable the hiring of Agnes Granger as a full-time representative of the Union. Other affiliated locals include Local 208, Modesto; Local 29, Oakland; Local 43, Sacramento; Local 3, San Francisco; Local 36, San Francisco, and Local 26, Stockton.

He: "I'm knee deep in love with you."

She: "I'll put you on my wanted list."

Employes of Grain Co-op Choose OEU

Ogden, Utah.—By a vote of nearly 100 per cent the office and clerical employees of the Ogden, Utah, Grain Cooperative's Ogden office, have, in an election conducted by the NLRB, designated OEU as their collective bargaining representative, according to Local Union President Donald G. Merril.

Local 220 has also petitioned the NLRB to conduct a union shop election among these employees, has submitted a proposed agreement to management and was expecting to start negotiations the latter part of October.

In connection with the winning of the representation election and in observance of the second anniversary of the granting of its charter, the local celebrated by holding a Charter Day meeting and dinner for its officers and members on October 18.

President Merril advises that the evening increased the interest of the members and further welded the present group into a cohesive group working together towards a common purpose.

This being the season for buying four cent stamps, the following hint is offered: "You never know what you can do until you try."