CHARTER GRANTED TO SHIPYARD UNION

Bath, Me.—The office and clerical staff of the Bath Iron Works, who have been attempting to bargain with the company on an independent union basis, have recognized their need for affiliation with our International Union and the A. F. of L. and have applied for and obtained a charter as OEIU Local 249.

AFL-OEIU Representatives Ed. C. Nagel has been meeting with this group and assisted in their shift over to a local union of the OEIU.

It is of interest that the clerical staff of the Bath Iron Works is the first group to obtain proper affiliation with their AFL International Union. The other trades are all still represented by independent organizations.

The recognition shown by the clerical group of its need for proper AFL affiliation has aroused considerable interest among the other trades in the yard and it is anticipated that they will be following in the footsteps of the clerical group in seeking affiliation with their proper AFL unions.

President Benjamin Dorsky of the AFL-OEIU President's Council has been helping in bringing about the initial contact of this group with OEIU. The Bath Iron Works is a shipyard operation engaged in the construction of destroyers, crashing machinery and in yacht reconstruction.

When the clerical staff found that they could not adequately bargain with the company on an independent organization basis, they overwhelmingly approved action to obtain an OEIU charter for their organization, according to Russell W. Thurston, president of the local.

Truscon Steel Co.
Workers Sign Up

Youngstown, Ohio.—The production clerical staff at the large Truscon Steel Company operations have overwhelmingly signed up for membership in OEIU Local 312 and a petition has been filed with the National Labor Relations Board to establish the exclusive bargaining right of such workers for the group, according to International Union Vice President R. M. Daughtery. Local President John J. Creighton has been heading the local drive to obtain a majority sign-up among this group.

Negotiate Union Shop Pact With Automatic Electric Co.

Chicago, Ill.—The completion of a union shop agreement between OEIU Local 28 and the Automatic Electric Company has been announced by Local Business Representative Sarah 6.5 billion, bringing to a close many months of negotiation with this company.

The basic agreement was entered into last January and since that time the local has negotiated four supplemental agreements, the last of which has just recently been signed.

Among the outstanding features of the contract are its union security provisions assuring union shop conditions to the office force and paid vacations ranging up to weeks each year upon the completion of 15 years service.

Business Representative Keenan advises that the classification of office employees under the various classifications of the agreement had resulted in salary adjustments averaging about $30 per member and running in some cases to as much as $75 per month.

In addition to covering the basic general office force of the company, OEIU Local 28 during the course of its negotiations completed organization and obtained recognition for the shop clerks and foreman's assistants who are included under and receive the benefits of the union contract.

Labor's Share Declines Under Taft-Hartley Act

Washington.—In 1939 the national income amounted to $72.5 billion. Labor got $47.8 billion out of that amount, or 65.9 per cent. The corporations got $5.5 billion, before taxes, and $6 billion, after taxes, or 8 per cent and 6.9 per cent respectively.

In spite of the fact that the cost of living jumped 20 points in the second half of 1946, from 133.3 in January to 153.3 in December, labor also held its own during this period. The national income ran at an annual rate of $179.9 billion a year in the 3rd quarter and $191.1 billion in the 4th quarter of 1946. For the same periods, labor got $110.3 billion and $122.3 billion (or 66.3 and 64.0 per cent) of the total, respectively. The corporations did not do badly either; they got $58.5 billion, after taxes, in the first quarter of the 6-month period, and $61.1 billion in the second quarter, or 7.8 per cent.

But beginning with the second half of 1948, the picture changes. The direction of the change was, in fact, already noticeable in the last quarter of 1946, when the reaction against the '80th Congress was up for election. Throughout the election, that Congress was fixing its muscles in anticipation of putting labor in its place. That demonstration, while reaping the employers and job, frightened labor somewhat. But it was only after the election was (Continued on page 4)

BREWERY INDUSTRY CONTRACT RENEWED

San Francisco, Calif.—A renewal agreement between OEIU Local 36 and six breweries operating in this city has brought substantial benefits to the office employees of these concerns who are members of the local union. These breweries include the Acme Breweries, Luck Lager, Rainier Brewing Corp., Regal Amber Brewing Corp., San Francisco Brewing Co., and Weibel's Brewery.

Ed. McCall, local business representative, reports that after the local union went through an NLRI representation election and a union shop election, both of which were won by landslide majorities, the six breweries, represented through the California Small Brewers Institute, agreed to a general increase of 2% per cent but not to exceed $25 per month for all clerical employees.

All contract schedule minimum rates to be increased by a like amount. Any wage adjustments are retroactive to April 1, 1949, with the provision that any individual increases granted since April 1, 1947, except for reclassifications, shall be deducted from the increased adjustments.

Other points of improvement in the new contract include the establishment of Sunday as a double-time overtime day, and the recognition of any holiday falling within the employee's vacation period as entitled time to an extra day's pay or an extra day's vacation.

Business Representative McCall also points out that this is the first contract with the breweries in which the local union has been able to obtain a health and welfare program which brings further benefits to its members. The contract runs until April 1, 1951.

Company Negotiators Fare Well

Minneapolis, Minn.—How did you fare during the so-called "third round" of wage adjustments? The men you negotiate with on the other side of the table did, all right according to a recent survey made by staff members of the University of Minnesota Industrial Relations Center. It found that, on the average, salaries in the personnel field increased by $1,000 a year between January, 1948, and January, 1949.

Vice presidents in charge of industrial relations, usually employed by firms with about 20,000 employees, boosted their income by $4,700 over the previous year, raising their average yearly income to $30,227.

Industrial relations directors' incomes increased an average of $2,000 during the year. Employed by firms with an average of 8,000 employees, these executives boosted their annual earning to an average of $12,262.

Salaries of personnel directors, usually employed by smaller companies with about 2,000 employees, were raised generally by $600, bringing their average yearly income to $7,388.

Farmer Grain Co-op
Workers Signed Up

Ogden, Utah.—OEIU Local 220 has organized and taken into membership approximately 30 per cent of the office and clerical employees of the Farmers Grain Cooperative's Ogden, Utah, office, according to the local union president, Donald G. Merrill, who made the initial contacts with this group.

A petition has been filed with the NLRI office in San Francisco by the local union to have it act as the bargaining representative for this group. Local 220 is also assisting the new group in drafting a proposed agreement to be presented following certification.
THE OFFICE WORKER

IT WILL BE A DIFFERENT STORY IN 1950

The Supreme Court of the State of Florida has upheld a law requiring lawyers to pay dues into their "union," the Bar Association, before they can hold any public office. That is the principle of this law that the Supreme Court has approved. This same state has a law on its statute books forbidding this same thing to other people who make their living at other kinds of work.

And now just don't have any choice about joining or not joining their "union." They join—or they don't practice law. What is that if not a closed shop?

A majority of our Congressmen, and many of them are lawyers, have voted to keep their actions on the Taft-Hartley Act, that workers have absolutely no right to a closed shop, even if it is satisfactory to all concerned. Some have said that some citizen might come along who wants to go to work in a good shop which he wants to go to work, but which he doesn't want to join the union, and if he is forced to join, that would be taking his American rights away from him.

It seems all right to the lawyers, doctors, business men, politicians, and many in this country that have what is good for us, and to have laws passed "protecting" our individual rights, and to have laws passed which want their own individual freedom thus "protected"? Not much.

The lawyers must join the Bar Association. The doctor belongs to the American Medical Society. The manufacturer holds membership in the National Association of Manufacturers. And so on down the list—until we come to the craft and industrial workers. Then a closed shop is: un-American?

PRICE OUTLOOK BETTER

The living cost outlook for workers is much better now than at any time since the war. Production is catching up with demand and competition is coming back—not in just a few industries here and there, but in many industries throughout the country. The shortage of consumer buying power is being felt; consumers are resisting high prices. Consequently prices are beginning to come down; wholesale prices are weakening or declining in such basic items as foods, cotton and rayon textiles and clothing, lumber, heavy fuel oil, chemicals, paper, soap and rubbers.

Many price declines are already being passed on to consumers. Workers are also forced to face lower prices for foods made from grains (cereals, bread, etc.), milk, butter, dry milk, bacon, fruits, fish, codfish, vegetables, meat, fish, and all kind of other foods. In January, for instance, the average of all workers' index was 105.5. Prices dropped to 102.2 in January, and then, to 100.8 in February. Since then, prices have remained at the February level.

Employment Service Goes Back to Labor Department

Washington—Congress has taken the first step to strengthen the Department of Labor so that it can serve the nation's workers adequately. Both the Senate and the House have approved a proposal by President Truman to return the Bureau of Employment Security to the Labor Department. The BES has been in the Federal Security Agency.

The Senate voted 57 to 32 to approve the President's plan. Sen. Hubert Humphrey (D. Minn.) led the fight for approval. Leading opposition speaker was Irving M. Ives (R. N.Y.), who maintained that the President's plan carried out only part of the reorganization proposals made by the Hoover Commission for the Bureau of Employment Security. The House approved by vote the transfer of the BES. During the debate on the proposal Rep. John W. McCormack (D. Mass.), House Majority Leader stated:

"The only argument against the transfer is that the Department of Labor is biased in favor of labor. It seems to me that there is no logic in this argument. The Department of Labor was set up by a Republican Administration. I will admit it is supposed to and should defend and advance the proper interests of labor in relations to all of our people and to our regional economy. There is nothing wrong in this. It is its duty."

Most important part of the work of BES involves the Federal aspect of the administration of the U. S. Employment Service. The bureau was one of the first agencies which conservative Senators and Representatives ordered removed from the Labor Department in their drive to strip the department of its important functions.

NLRB Election Won

Wisconsin Rapids, Wis. — Office personnel of the Central Wisconsin Motor Transport Co. here have by a large majority voted chosen Local 96 of the Office Employees International Union as their collective bargaining representative in a NLRB conducted election, according to the local union president, Harry R. Kiappe, who has been working with and assisting this group.

Negotiations for a contract covering these employees are expected to commence in the very near future.

Do You Know Your Constitution?

The attention of each member is called to one of the many privileges afforded our membership under the Constitution of the O.E.U.U. That is the privilege of filing a complaint to become up to three months in arrears before a member is automatically expelled.

The purpose of such a provision is for the protection of a member's standing in case of illness, accident or other happenings beyond the control of the member, and which would prevent the timely payment of his dues.

Some members lose sight of the purpose of the safeguards, and constantly lag behind in their dues payments. By so doing, they are endangering their membership standing.

Our attention is frequently called to members who have made a practice of paying their dues two and three months late, being suddenly faced with the necessity of paying a reinstatement fee, because of some sudden emergency that prevented them from making any provision in the Constitutional limit.

Aside from possible loss of membership who pay a few weeks late is a constant problem and worry to the Local Union Secretaries. Your local union Secretary-Treasurer is charged with the responsibility of keeping a true and accurate accounting of your payments and membership, and he must transmit a true report of them to the International Union by the 15th of the month following the one for which it is rendered.

Many of the Secretary-Treasurers serve with little, or no, compensation at all, and some of their own time in an effort to serve you. Certainly it is not too much for us to ask the members to assist them by paying their dues on time.
Win Fight To Prevent Purge of Liberal NLRB Examiners

Washington, D.C.—Organized labor won an important fight against an attempt to pack government agencies with employes satisfactory to big business and to purge those who looked like troublemakers.

A panel of "experts" which had been doing "the packing" resigned in a huff, because the Civil Service Commission overruled some of its findings.

The examiners are the men who make recommendations in all kinds of cases of great significance, arising under such federal laws as the Securities and Exchange Act, the Interstate Commerce Act, the Federal Trade Act and the Taft-Hartley Act.

They report back their findings, and on those findings the federal courts and commissions act, relying on the laws base their decisions to a great extent. Obviously, whoever has the coin, or at least has the worst coin, will influence the ultimate decisions.

About the time the Taft-Hartley Act was passed, the reactionary 80th Congress also put through a law creating an advisory board to permit the hiring of examiners, qualifications of whom in special cases are reserved to the federal government. The board also appoints the examiner, and thus the government has a strong hand in the selection of men, since it knows the examiner and influences the ultimate decisions.

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The commission yielded and named a panel of 6. Two of these turned out to be former presidents of the National Association of Bar Associations, and the other 4 represented antilabor corporations prosecuted under the Wagner Act. Two others were former chairman of Bar Association committees. Another came from a firm serving as special counsel to the National Association of Manufacturers.

Some time ago, this panel, after 6 months, came down with its "tentative" findings. Under that, 55 examiners out of 216 were marked for dismissal, mostly in the National Labor Relations Board and Interstate Commerce Commission, and mostly progressive-minded men.

The AFL and other organizations condemned the purge. As a result the panel reconsidered its action, and its final report-whittled down to the number who faced ouster to 18-

Then, indignant because its findings weren't "okayed" on all counts by the Civil Service Commission, the panel quit. Angrily, it denied charges of bias or "ulterior motives."

An AFL attorney welcomed the resignation of the panel as "good riddance."

"However, the fight isn't over," he said. "The register of approved trial examiners proved by that big business panel is packed with a lot of men who are cronies of Bar Association leaders or have connections with corporation law firms."

"For years, trial examiner vacancies will be filled from that register, and the evil effect will continue indefinitely. There's only one real way to clear the air—that is, to throw out the whole register and start over from scratch."

In the U.S. House of Representatives debate over wage-hour act exemptions, Rep. Helen Gahagan Douglas (D., Calif.) opposed changing the law as it applied to employees of small telephone companies. The exemption would have exempted exchanges with wage-hour acts which were not unionized. The act became law.

Some Findings by Voice of Business

Washington—Unions During 1949 are reasonable. So says Business Week, the industrial magazine and voice of business generally. Thus, it is much of the steam taken out of any excuse for continuing the punishment designed for unions under the Taft-Hartley Act. Waves of protest in 1948 became the complaint of the Taft forces for getting the Taft-Hartley Act onto the New York scene even at that time stories were dropping steadily in numbers.

But now Business Week comes along saying unions have a "reasonable attitude" in a survey it has just conducted in 16 industrial cities and in Washington.

It is to be remembered that Business Week was among the clubs that here at the expiration date of a contract. It is employed in connection with negotiations extending to now beyond 3 years.

The Board ruled that, since the picketing was limited to the premises of the Struck plant, it was not a "general" picketing and therefore beyond the reach of the boycott ban.

The ruling was made in a case brought by Lodge No. 1600 of the International Association of Machinists and Nonunion Members, Control Company, Glendale, Calif.

The trial examiner found that the company was guilty of a refusal to bargain by refusing to furnish the union the names of employees who receive merit raises; (2) the amount of such increases; (3) complete seniority lists of the various departments; and (4) the rating review cards of all employees. He recommended the company be required to furnish this data.

Merit Ratings—A trial examiner of the National Labor Relations Board has recently held that a union is entitled to full information on the merit ratings of employees, even though its contract gives the company complete power to make merit ratings and pay raises based upon such ratings without consulting the union.

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Anti-Monopoly—The House of Representatives on the antitrust bill designed to check the drift toward greater concentration of economic power in the hands of monopoly interests.

The measure, approved by a vote of 223 to 32, would prohibit large corporations from buying up the stock of small competing concerns to extend monopoly control, but does not cover the acquisition of assets for the same purpose.

Spending for the bill, Representatives Emanuel Celler of New York and Wright Patman of Texas stated, a decade ago, when the Clayton Act was passed, large corporations could absorb their smaller competitors through stock acquisitions. Bargained for companionship by this procedure, they said, the big corporations then circumvented the law by buying up the assets of smaller competitors, thus "leaving only an empty shell behind." Today, they said, shareholders of this nature must be stopped "or business will get so big that the only thing government can do is take them over."

Social Security—Winding up 28 weeks of waiting, the House Ways and Means Committee put the finishing touches on a bill to revamp the nation's social security and public assistance programs.

Reporting the bill to the House, the committee added a new section to provide benefits for elderly persons who are permanently and totally disabled.

The bill was agreed to extend wage credits to veterans of World War II to cover the time they were in military service and authorized at the rate of $180 a month for service between September 16, 1940, and July 24, 1947.

Other sections of the bill already approved by the committee would lift social security benefits and broaden the coverage of the law by taking in an estimated additional 11,000,000 persons.

A bill for the disabled would be available to all persons who are covered by the old-age and survivors' insurance and who had been contributing for at least 5 years and could meet certain other requirements. These requirements are coverage for 5 or less last 2 years, and for 20 of the last 40 quarters.

Both benefits and average wage would be based on the quarters as old-age benefits, but there would be no payments available for the dependents of disabled workers.

There was hope in the House that the program could be passed at the present session, but that the need for action that the Senate would act on the measure this year.

Senator Walter F. George, Dem-

THE OFFICE WORKER

TODAY and

CONGRESS

Big . . . Bigger . . . Biggest

New York, N.Y.—The traditional big business claim that government has stifled business growth in the last decade and a half does not balance with the monetary survey issued recently by the National City Bank.

The following bank chart compares assets of major corporations with those enjoyed in 1930:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Corporation</th>
<th>1930</th>
<th>1949</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Standard Oil Co. (N. J.)</td>
<td>$1,707,000,000</td>
<td>$3,500,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Motors Co.</td>
<td>1,355,000,000</td>
<td>2,900,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States Steel Corp.</td>
<td>2,385,000,000</td>
<td>5,550,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. I. DuPont de Nemours Co.</td>
<td>342,000,000</td>
<td>1,585,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard Oil Co. (Ind.)</td>
<td>695,000,000</td>
<td>1,060,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas Co.</td>
<td>610,000,000</td>
<td>1,577,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulf Oil Corp.</td>
<td>697,000,000</td>
<td>1,191,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Electric Co.</td>
<td>510,000,000</td>
<td>1,177,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bethlehem Steel Corp.</td>
<td>802,000,000</td>
<td>1,029,000,000</td>
</tr>
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Labor's Share Declines Under T-H

(Continued from page 1)

Labor's loss and management's gain under Taft-Hartley is not inconsistent with what used to happen in periods of prosperity long before Taft-Hartley, but also long before labor was organized.

Since the general rate of increase of wages over the last 22 years has averaged about 4 per cent, whereas the national income has increased by about 60 per cent, there is no longer proportionate upward movement of wages and the income from wages. From 1940 to 1949, the national income increased by about 60 per cent, whereas the gain under Taft-Hartley was only 4 per cent.

Wages Boosted By Renewal Contract

Hasleton, Pa.—In addition to preserving all previous employment gains, a renewal agreement between OEIU Local 202 and the Interfiltered Filters, Inc., has been signed for an adjustment in the brackets for the various classifications and in addition general increase of approximately 6c per hour (amounting to 2 cents, 3 cents and 4 cents per hour) for all employees.

The total wage agreement was greater than the general increase, permitting additional leeway for merit increases during the year.

The agreement was negotiated by August Kellmer, local union president, Joseph Podlasy, vice president, Members Azriel Kohn, Anthony Jurus, and Earl E. Edwards, and assisted by International Representative George F. Firth.

The car skidded and overturned. The driver and his new girl friend found themselves sitting together, unurt, alongside the completely smashed car. He put his arm around her waist, but she drew away.

"It's all very nice," she sighed, "but wouldn't it have been easier to have run out of gas?"

Hostess (passing plate full of small cakes): "Could I interest you in a hot cookie?"

Guest: "No thanks. I brought my date along."

A little old lady entered the post office with a package containing a Bible. The postal attendant looked over the tightly-wrapped parcel, shook it and asked, "Is there anything breakable in this?"

"Nothing but the Ten Commandments," was the reply. Uncle Mat-

'BSCAB PAPER' FOR CURRENCY SCORED

Washington.—Two more United States senators called for the use of union-made paper in federal currency.

State Senator Douglas of Illinois and Matthew M. Neely of West Virginia, in their support to Sens. Claude Pepper of Florida and Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota, who earlier demanded that the government stop using scab paper in money.


"Our administration labor policy is to encourage responsible union organization by both the unions and the employers, and this will advance the security, welfare and freedom of workers and promote industrial peace."

"Union paper print our money. Our paper purchasing practices should not work at cross purposes to this." Sen. Pepper said.

"Union paper I am confident is as good or better than nonunion paper, and I believe that as a government of distinction we should switch—to union paper."

BLS. Makes Study Of Wage Changes

Washington.—A new Bureau Labor Statistics' bulletin entitled "Wage Movements—Changes in the years 1948, War and Postwar Trends" indicates that rising living costs as well as high levels of employment and consumer demand are among the underlyings factors behind a general wage increase movement in the year 1948.

Between October, 1947, and October, 1948, manufacturing wage-earners averaged a nine per cent increase in wage rates, amounting to about eleven cents per hour. Most workers receiving increases over the average, 1948 obtained less than fifteen cents per hour, although in the building and printing trades increases of twenty cents or more were common. In general, high wage industries provided larger increases, widening the cent-per-hour differential between high and low wage industries.

Pay Boosted

Boston, Mass.—A general wage increase in the Philadelphia area, highlighted the gains made in a renewal agreement between OEIU Local 6 and the Associated Transportation Company, covering its office staff in this city.

The renewal agreement negotiations were handled by AFL-OEIU Organizers, and in addition to the general increase improvements were also obtained in the paid vacation guarantees.