

THE OFFICE WORKER

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

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17

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 245.

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 Maine Federation of Labor, has been helpful 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, crushing machinery and in yacht reconversion.

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 workers at the large Truscon Steel Company operations have overwhelmingly signed up for membership in OEIU Local 239 and a petition has been filed with the National Labor Relations Board to establish the exclusive bargaining rights of our local union for this group, according to International Union Vice President R. M. Daugherty. 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 Keenan, 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 three weeks each year upon the completion of 15 years service.

Business Representative Keenan advises that the classification of employees under the job and rate 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 \$5.8 billion, before taxes, and \$5 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 June to 153.3 in December, labor 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 \$119.2 billion and \$122.2 billion (or 66.3 and 64.0 per cent) of the total, respec-

tively. The corporations did not do badly either; they got \$13.5 billion, after taxes, in the first quarter of the 6-month period, and \$16.1 billion in the second quarter, or 7.5 and 8.4 per cent of the total.

But beginning with the second half of 1947 the picture changes. The direction of the change was, in fact, already noticeable in the last quarter of 1946, when the reactionary 80th Congress was up for election. Throughout the election, that Congress was flexing its muscles in anticipation of putting labor in its place. That demonstration, while rallying the employers no doubt, frightened labor somewhat. But it was only after the election was

(Continued on page 4)

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 \$20,227.

Industrial relations directors' incomes increased an average of \$2,300 during the year. Employed by firms with an average of 8,800 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.

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 employes of these concerns who are members of the local union. These breweries include the Acme Breweries, Luck Lager, Rainier Brewing Co., Regal Amber Brewing Corp., San Francisco Brewing Co., and Wiebrands Brewery.

Ed. McCall, local business representative, reports that after the local union went through an NLRB representation election and a union shop election, both of which were won by landslide majorities, the six breweries, represented through the California State Brewers Institute, agreed to a general increase of 2½ per cent but not to exceed \$25 per month for all clerical employes, all contract schedule minimum rates to be increased by a like amount. These basic 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 negotiated adjustment.

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 entitling him 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 brewers 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.

Farmer Grain Co-op Workers Signed Up

Ogden, Utah—OEIU Local 220 has organized and taken into membership approximately 85 per cent of the office and clerical employes 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 NLRB 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.



IT'S 'OKAY' FOR THEM

The Supreme Court of the State of Florida has upheld, by a vote of six to one, a law requiring lawyers to pay dues into their "union," the Bar Association, before they could work at their profession in that state. 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.

Lawyers 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 told us by 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 pays high wages but would not 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 manufacturers to tell us workers what is good for us, and to have laws passed "protecting" our individual freedom. But do they want their own individual freedom thus "protected"? Not much!

The lawyer 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 worker. 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 rubber.

Many price declines are already being passed on to consumers. Workers are beginning to find lower prices for foods made from grains (cereals, bread, etc.), milk, butter, dairy products, house furnishings, men's and women's cotton and rayon clothing, second hand automobiles. We may expect better quality in furniture even if prices do not decline at once.—*Labor's Monthly Survey, A. F. of L.*

IT WILL BE A DIFFERENT STORY IN 1950



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 H. Humphrey (D., Minn.) led the floor 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 voice 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

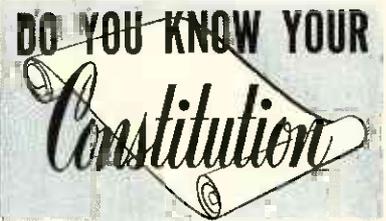
Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.—Office personnel of the Central Wisconsin Motor Transport Co. here have by a large majority vote chosen Local 95 of the Office Employees International Union as their collective bargaining representative in an NLRB conducted election, according to the local union president, Harry R. Klappa, who has been working with and assisting this group.

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

LABOR and the FARMER

"Labor and the farmer share as their common goal the desire to live at a decent standard and to rear their children in a healthy and democratic social and moral atmosphere. The attainment of this goal depends up the prosperity of both, and the prosperity of each contributes to the well-being of the other and to the general health of our democracy."—*Maurice J. Tobin, Secretary of Labor.*

"The best basic economic aid for agriculture is a fully employed labor force at good wages. But labor is not likely to be fully employed and industry is not likely to be expanding production when agriculture is in economic trouble. Agriculture is not merely a recipient of good fortune, but a partner in the making of prosperity."—*Charles F. Brannan, Secretary of Agriculture.*



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

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 this safeguard, 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 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 getting their dues in within the Constitutional limit.

Aside from possible loss of membership, members who pay dues late are a constant problem and worry to the Local Union Secretary-Treasurers that serve them. 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 spend many hours of their own time in an effort to serve you. Certainly it is not too much to ask the members to assist him by paying their dues on time.

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PITTSBURGH LOCAL WINS WAGE BATTLE

Pittsburgh, Pa.—As a result of negotiations just completed, approximately 200 employees of OEIU Local 33 employed in the offices of Spear & Company, Pittsburgh's largest home furnishing store, have received a general increase in wages of \$2 per week retroactive to July 1, the expiration date of their previous agreement.

In addition to the general wage increase, a third week's paid vacation each year was negotiated for employes having 25 years or more of service.

Negotiations extending over several weeks were finally completed only after the local union membership had voted strike action in support of their request. The union was represented by its business representative William F. Kelly, and a bargaining committee of employes headed by Rose Cohen, chief steward. George P. Firth, representative of the International Union, assisted in the settlement negotiations.



Trucking—Pennsylvania Truck Lines, Inc., Local 33, Pittsburgh, Pa., \$2 per week retroactive to May 1.

Associated Transportation Co., Local 6, Boston, Mass., \$3 per week and improvements in paid vacation guarantees.

Motor-Vehicle Parts—Oliver United Filters, Inc., Local 202, Hazleton, Pa., average general increase of 2½ percent and slightly higher adjustment in brackets permitting additional leeway for merit increases.

Retail Furniture—Spear & Co., Local 33, Pittsburgh, Pa., \$2 per week retroactive to July 1 and 3 weeks vacation after 25 years.

Newspapers—The Aurora Beacon News, Local 158, Aurora, Ill., 10% increase and rates effective May 26, 1949.

Diesel Engines—Busch-Sulzer Bros. (Div. of Nordberg Mfg. Co.), Local 13, St. Louis, Mo., 6½-cents and 3 weeks vacation after 25 years.

Duplicating, etc.—Margueritta Wheeler Letter Shop, Local 86, Valejo, Calif., 5 cents retroactive to March 9, 1949, and extra week's vacation after two years.

Telephone Equipment—Automatic Electric Co., Local 28, Chicago, Ill., adjustments up to \$75 per month, averaging \$30 per month.

Malt Liquors—Acme Breweries, Luck Lager, Rainier Brewing Co., Regal Amber Brewing Corp., San Francisco Brewing Co., and Wiebrands Brewery, Local 36, San Francisco, Calif., 12½ per cent increase retroactive to April 1 with maximum of \$25 per month.

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 trial examiners satisfactory to big business and to purge those who looked like progressives.

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 conduct the preliminary hearings 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 boards and commissions administering the laws base their decisions to a great extent. Obviously, whoever can control the examiners can color the findings and influence the ultimate decisions.

At about the time the Taft-Hartley Act was passed, the reactionary 80th Congress also put through a law creating an advisory board to pass on the qualifications of trial examiners, including those already on the federal payroll and those to be hired in the future. Bar Association officials immediately exerted pressure to gain control of the Advisory Board.

The commission yielded and named a panel of 6. Two of these turned out to be former presidents of the Bar Association who had represented antilabor corporations prosecuted under the Wagner Act. Two others were former chairmen 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 secret sessions, came down with its "tentative" findings. Under that,

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, is much of the steam taken out of any excuse for continuing the punishment designed for unions under the Taft-Hartley Act. Waves of strikes in 1947 became the complaint of the Taft forces for getting the Taft-Hartley Act onto the law books. Even at that time strikes were dropping steadily in numbers.

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

Two industries are exceptions in the findings made by *Business Week*. They are steel and automobiles. These industries are not included in the conclusion that unions are reasonable in their demands.

It is to be remembered that *Business Week* was among the clear-thinking publications that declared some months ago that the Taft-Hartley Act was a sad mistake and that it will not work.

54 examiners out of 218 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 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 prepared 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 thus 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 (Dem., Calif.) opposed changing the law as it applied to coverage of employees of small telephone exchanges. A proposed amendment was being discussed which would have exempted exchanges with 750 or less phone connections; the act at present exempts those with 500 or less connections.

Such a move by Congress, Rep. Douglas told her predominantly male colleagues, would "uncover" about 10,000 switchboard girls.

Congressmen present laughed for two minutes; then in high good humor defeated the amendment.

* * *

In one out of every four American families the wife is now bringing in at least 25 per cent of the family's total income, an advertising official declared recently.

Less than 10 years ago only 15 per cent of the wives worked, but today 18,000,000 women are wage earners, and 6,000,000 are heads of families. Undoubtedly high living costs have forced many wives back into the wage earner group.



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 employes, even though its contract gives the employer complete power to make merit ratings and pay raises based upon such ratings without consulting the union.

The ruling was made in a case brought by Lodge No. 1600 of the International Association of Machinists against the General Controls Company, Glendale, Calif.

The trial examiner found that the company was guilty of a refusal to bargain collectively by refusing to furnish the union: (1) the names of employes who received merit raises; (2) the amount of such increases; (3) complete seniority lists of the various departments; and (4) the rating review cards of all employes. He recommended that the company be required to furnish this data.

He held that the union needed this information to determine whether or not the contract was being properly administered, and to present grievances properly. The merit ratings were used by the company also in determining layoffs, discharges and promotions.

The trial examiner further held that the company should be required to furnish merit rating information on all employes in the bargaining unit—both union members and non-union members.

Unless contested before the board members by one of the parties within 20 days, the trial examiner's recommendation take effect as a board order, enforceable in U. S. Court of Appeals.

Primary Picketing—The NLRB recently ruled that picketing the premises of a primary employer does not become illegal because it affects employes of a secondary employer located on the same property, and rejected a contention by the NLRB General Counsel Denham that such picketing constituted a violation of the Taft-Hartley Act's secondary-boycott ban.

The Board ruled that, since the picketing was limited to the premises of the struck plant, it was primary picketing and therefore beyond the reach of the boycott ban.

The ruling was made in a case based upon charges filed by the Ryan Construction Corporation of Evansville, Ind., which was building an addition to the Evansville plant of the Bucyrus-Erie Company when members of a CIO local union in the Bucyrus plant went on strike in a wage dispute. The union posted pickets at a gate cut through the fence of the Bucyrus plant for employes of Ryan. The Ryan employes who were members of AFL building trade unions ceased to report for work. They remained away from work until an injunction was issued by the U. S. District Court.

TODAY and CONGRESS



Anti-Monopoly—The House of Representatives passed a 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 92, would prohibit large corporations from buying up the assets of smaller competitors.

The Clayton Act, which went on the statute books in 1914, bars the nation's industrial giants 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.

Speaking for the bill, Representatives Emanuel Celler of New York and Wright Patman of Texas stressed that 35 years ago, when the Clayton Act was passed, large corporations could absorb their smaller competitors through stock acquisition. Barred from expansion 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."

They argued that mergers 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 work, 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 needy persons who are permanently and totally disabled.

The group also agreed to extend wage credits to veterans of World War II to cover the time they were in service. The credit would be figured at the rate of \$160 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.

Assistance for the disabled would be available to all persons who are covered by the old-age and survivors' insurance and who had been contributing at least 5 years and could meet certain other requirements. These requirements are coverage for 6 of the last 13 quarters and for 20 of the last 40 quarters.

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

There was high hope in the House that the program could be passed at the present session, but there was little expectation that the Senate would act on the measure this year.

Senator Walter F. George, Dem-

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 of New York.

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

Corporation	1930	1949
Standard Oil Co. (N. J.)	\$1,767,000,000	\$3,526,000,000
General Motors Co.	1,325,000,000	2,958,000,000
United States Steel Corp.	2,286,000,000	2,535,000,000
E. I. DuPont de Nemours Co.	542,000,000	1,585,000,000
Standard Oil Co. (Ind.)	697,000,000	1,500,000,000
Texas Co.	610,000,000	1,277,000,000
Gulf Oil Corp.	687,000,000	1,191,000,000
General Electric Co.	516,000,000	1,177,000,000
Bethlehem Steel Corp.	802,000,000	1,029,000,000

Labor's Share Declines Under T-H

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over, and the Taft-Hartley Act was passed that the change becomes pronounced.

The national income continued to increase rapidly, from \$179.9 billion in the 3rd quarter of 1946 to \$232 billion in the 4th quarter of 1948. Labor kept on gaining throughout that period, from \$122.2 billion in the earlier quarter mentioned to \$142.8 in the later, but no longer proportionately. From 66.3 per cent of the national income in the 3rd quarter of 1946, it slipped down to 61.5 per cent by the 4th quarter of 1948. Corporate profits after taxes, however, edged up from \$13.5 billion in the earlier of these two quarters to \$21.7 billion

in the later, or from 7.5 per cent of the national income to 9.4 per cent.

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 prices generally rise faster than wages in periods of prosperity, labor could not, before it was organized, mobilize itself fast enough to overcome the handicap.

Now that labor is organized, all the delays inherent in Taft-Hartley have put labor, as the table shows, in the same position it was before it was organized. That, of course, is what Taft-Hartley is aiming at.

Wages Boosted By Renewal Contract

Hazleton, Pa.—In addition to preserving all previous employment gains, a renewal agreement between OEIU Local 202 and the Oliver United Filters, Inc., provides for an adjustment in the brackets for the various classifications and in addition a general increase of approximately 2½ per cent (amounting to 2 cents, 3 cents and 4 cents per hour) for all employees.

The bracket adjustment 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 Podlesny, vice president, Members Agnes Korkinda, Anthony Jurus, and Earl E. Edwards, and assisted by International Representative George P. Firth.

ocrat, of Georgia, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, confirmed this latter view on the Senate floor. He stated flatly that the program could not be considered by his committee this year. And he added that when the committee completed action on some pending veterans' measures, it would end its work for the rest of the session.

Heads Central Union

Stamford, Conn.—Roland A. Lounsbury of OEIU Local 90 has recently been elected president of the Stamford Central Labor Union.



The car skidded and overturned. The driver and his new girl friend found themselves sitting together, unhurt, 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.

Floridian (picking up a melon): "Is this the largest apple you can grow in your state?"

Californian: "Stop fingering that grape."—South Side Federal News.

'SCAB PAPER' FOR CURRENCY SCORED

Washington.—Two more United States senators called for the use of union-made paper in federal currency. They were Paul H. Douglas of Illinois and Matthew M. Neely of West Virginia.

They added 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.

"I can see no good reason why our government should not have its money printed on union paper," Sen. Douglas said in an interview with The Paper Maker, published by the International Brotherhood of Paper Makers (AFL).

"Our administration labor policy is to encourage responsible union organizations. We are convinced this will advance the security, welfare and freedom of workers and promote industrial peace.

"Union men print our money. Our paper purchasing practices should not work at cross purposes with these objectives.

"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."

B.L.S. Makes Study Of Wage Changes

Washington.—A new Bureau of Labor Statistics' bulletin entitled "Wage Movements—Changes in 1948; War and Postwar Trends" indicates that rising living costs as well as high levels of employment and consumer demand were the underlying factors behind a general wage increase movement in the third postwar year, although, on the average, 1948 brought a smaller increase to the individual worker than did 1947.

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 in 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 cents-per-hour differential between high and low wage industries.

Pay Boosted

Boston, Mass.—A general wage increase of \$3 per week highlights 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 Organizer Ed. Nagel and in addition to the general increase improvements were also obtained in the paid vacation guarantees.