FURTHER GAINS AT BIG CARPET CONCERN

New York, N. Y.—A new two-year agreement between the Bigelow-Sanford Carpet Company and OEIU Local 183 bringing further improvements to the more than 350 clerical employees in its general offices has recently been completed.

Important gains made include the establishment of automatic increases from the minimum to the maximum of the rate ranges in the lower labor grades, plus an automatic system of increases to points within the rate ranges in the higher labor groups.

Promotion progression paths were established in accordance with an agreed-to list of promotions for those higher labor grade jobs, while promotion in the first six labor grades will be practically automatic.

A new layoff procedure was established giving greater guarantee to senior employees. The recognition of Jewish holidays with pay for employees of the Jewish faith was also obtained.

A pension plan which will provide payment of $100 per month at age 65, inclusive of social security benefits, was agreed to and the plan also provides for voluntary retirement at the age of 60.

The renewal contract was negotiated by an employees' committee headed by Chairman John Tracy, who is also president of Local 183, assisted by Local Business Manager Howard Coughlin.

$30 PAY BOOST

Washington.—Thirty members of Local 2, a part of the large office force of the Washington Gas Light Company, are enjoying increases of $30 per month, retroactive to last October as a result of an arbitration decision.

The Local Union had processed through the grievance procedure its request for an upgrading in classification of 32 employees. The company refused to make these upgrading, forcing the union to resort to the arbitration procedure.

The case for the union was presented by Attorney John Foley and the Local's Business Representative Robert Proby. The neutral arbitrator was John E. Duvier, and W. Herbert Gill representing the company and OEIU Vice President L. Nguyen representing the union.

The arbitration board found that the position of the grievant was justified in 30 of the 32 cases.

Step Up Vote and Fund Drives

Washington.—Officers of international and national unions threw their full weight behind the twin drives of Labor's League for Political Education for political campaign funds and to register voters.

The action climaxned a grove two-day meeting of officers of the international unions, state federations and central labor unions with AFL President William Green and Joseph D. Keenan, LLPE director.

The policy statement said:

"To fight communism abroad and to safeguard democratic rights and economic well-being at home, that is the job which faces the next Congress."

"The reactionary opponents of labor have proven incompetent to set policy. Not only on domestic policy but in fighting the communists abroad, they have proven high security risks."

"The National Committee of LLPE recommended that all national and international unions and all AFL affiliates shall immediately instruct their regional and district representatives to call on the local union deputy collectors (financial secretaries) and to call regional meetings of all local union officers to get the following action rolling."

1. Establish in each local union a Registration Committee whose goal is to register every member and his or her family so that they will be qualified to vote in the November elections.

2. Establish in each local union a Contribution Committee whose goal shall be a voluntary contribution from every member and from friends, these funds to be forwarded weekly to LLPE.

3. Conduct a continuing campaign urging each member's full and complete participation in LLPE and the over-all political effort.

4. The national and international unions and all AFL affiliates to obtain complete periodic progress reports on registration and contributions, the first to be made by September 1.

"The policy statement said, "It is absolutely necessary for us to see that labor's vote does not stay home in 1950 but appears in full force at the polls on November 7, next."

ELECTION SLANTED AT ATOMIC PLANT

Albuquerque, N. Mex.—Many hundreds of office and clerical employees in the Sandia Corporation, the operating contractor of the Atomic Energy installation of Sandia, West Laboratory and Salton Sea, have rapidly signed up for membership in OEIU and a National Labor Relations Board consent election is to be conducted this month which will determine the OEIU's exclusive bargaining rights for this large group of atomic energy clerical employees.

The production and maintenance employees on the project have recently by a substantial majority vote chosen the "F. of L." labor relations organization as their bargaining representative and it is anticipated that the clerical staff will overwhelmingly vote for representation through their A. of L. organization—the OEIU.

A. F. of L.-OEIU Representative H. F. Erwin is in charge of the campaign.
Editorial Comments

A NEW FIFTH COLUMN

Ever since the Korean Reds transgressed the 38th Parallel and the United Nations forces have been struggling to repulse them, a new fifth column has been growing here at home. This new fifth column is a most effective aid to Mr. Stalin and the Kremlin. It is composed of boarders and profiteers. It is indeed regrettable that at a time when we are buying time so dearly in Korea with thousands of our fellow citizens giving their all, that we are again faced with short-sighted selfishness on the part of some here at home. Panic buying and uncalled-for price increases work effectively together. Every unionist, every employer, and every consumer together have a problem in the making.

The cost of living is rising fast. The rise, reported for the month between May 15 and June 15 by the U. S. Department of Labor, was a big 0.9 per cent.

(Ervin's Note: Will the business press and industry trade journals please refrain from calling the use of "big" slanted reporting? In such a detailed and heavily weighted index as the government's Consumer Price Index, a jump of nine- tenths of 1 per cent is big and any honest economist will say so.)

Chairman W. Stuart Symington of the National Security Resources Board told the Senate Banking Committee that "prices of 28 basic commodities have risen 10 per cent since the invasion of South Korea." That the latter word could be substituted for "Korea" as well as for "South Korea" as a whole could be said of the entire world since the invasion of South Korea.

The risen prices would bring with them sizeable benefits in the form of larger pay checks, welfare and health insurance and many other benefits. But they can't see that far. They believe the dollar is more important. In other words, they are afraid of investing in their own future.

These workers will have to find out the hard way that they can't get something for nothing. If you want to get the best possible working conditions and wages in your trade, you just have to join your union. There is no other way to prosperity.—Michigan Teamster.

Way of Democracy

The structure of the A. F. of L. is that of a democratic organization—the membership making the decisions on policy, operation, etc. With the officials being charged with the responsibility of carrying out these policies.

Any organization which does not follow that policy is not an effective organization of labor and is out of line with normal A. F. of L. procedures.

A good working organization is one where the members and officials are working together for the welfare of the entire group.

Cost of Living Soaring Again

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BOSSES ORGANIZED

Washington.—American business men are very highly organized, much more so than the workers are. The test is the first proof of why every worker should belong to a union.

The U. S. Department of Commerce recently published an enormous directory, "National Associations and Organizations of Employers," giving detailed information on approximately 4,000 trade, professional, civic, labor, religious, and other organizations of which are national in scope.

Fifteen hundred national trade associations and 360 professional associations made up predominantly of businessmen are listed. The 1,500 trade associations have a paid staff of 16,000 persons and a gross membership of over 1,000,000 business firms. Including local's and branches, it is estimated by the editors of the directory that there are 12,600 trade associations and 4,000 Chambers of Commerce, to say nothing of 15,000 civic service and 40,000 professional organizations of business and professional men and women.

LABOR'S LIBRARY

New York.—The AFL Workers Educational Bureau, 55 E. 12th St., New York 10, N. Y., has recently published its 1950 edition of an annotated list of publications dealing with the labor movement. Single copies can be secured from them at 25 cents each and at reduced prices in quantity.

"Labor's Library," the title of the publication, should be indispensable to students, labor educators, editors, writers, students, librarians and all others interested in the literature of the labor movement.

The publications listed deal with labor problems, industrial background and labor history, trade union policies and practices, and programs, workers' education, social insurance, labor relations, the government and the labor movement, labor and the community, labor and international relations, labor songs, research and statistical studies and audio-visual aids.

THE OFFICE WORKER

Official organ of the
Office Employees
International Union

Covers 22,500,000
Washington.—Approximately 22,500,000 workers are covered by the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Subscription Price, $1 a Year
Union Label Week—Coming Up!

Washington.—This year Union Label Week was designated for September 2nd through the AFL resolutions unanimously adopted by the last conventions of both the American Federation of Labor and the Union Label Trades Department.

The AFL resolution read in part, "...in all our previous resolutions it is our desire to keep a constant reminder before members of labor organizing, the family and friends of the necessity of giving preference to union label goods and the patronage of union services."

"We depend upon our friends all during the year to demand the Union Labels, Shop Cards and Union Buttons and we spearhead our campaigns by conducting a Union Label Week."

Mathew Woll, President of the AFL Union Label Trades Department, says, "Every community in America to plan appropriate ceremonies at once to publicize Union Labels, Shop Cards and Union Buttons to also promote the sale of Union-made goods and the use of all Union labels."

Union Label Week affords an excellent opportunity to build good will with potential customers and show relations with manufacturers, unionized industries and other "fair" business establishments. Cooperation with merchants and other firms should make this eight-day period the outstanding event of the year.

This year also marks the Centennial Celebration of the birth of Samuel Gompers, the founder of the AFL. It will be fitting to have joint executive committees, to include both Union Label Week and commemoration of Samuel Gompers, during the year.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Ottawa, Can.—The recent $1,000,000 drop in unemployment in Canada was hailed as impressive by its Department of Labor and the Canadian press. But other factors also account for the jobless figures with the total for the corresponding date last year and saw an increase proportionate to a $1,000,000 drop in unemployment a year ago. Thus Canada's unemployment, before summer employment, which is expected to reach its peak, is just 2% of the labor force, or twice as great as it was a year ago.

Interesting to say that the situation is otherwise normal.—(Sammons v. Hotel & Restaurant Employees, AFL.)

Decertification—A union won a representation election in November 1947, reached an agreement with the company in October 1948 and final details were settled in the summer of 1949. However, the agreement was presented to management for signature, the company refused, saying there wasn't any use as a decertification petition had been filed with the NRLB by a group of employees who had told the petitioning employees they could ask for the company to send them forms and help them prepare the papers.

As a result of an unfair labor practice charge filed by the union, the NLRB held a hearing on the decertification petition. No one appeared. The decertification petition no longer had any validity under the law and the company was able to resolve the problems.

In addition to the splendid assistance rendered by Representatives Russell Harvey, AFL Newfound-Land Pulp & Paper Mill, Ltd., and John Woods, Department of Labor, the local union has engaged in an intensive membership drive and has been very helpful to the local during its organizational campaign.

OEIU Wins Election

At Bowater's Mill

Corner Brook, Nfld.—The exclusive bargaining rights of OEIU Local 254 are now fully recognized at the large Bowater's Newfoundland Falls & Paper Mill, Ltd.

Arrangements for a secret ballot election were worked out by the company and the local union. The election was held in early September and approximately 90% of the votes cast by the clerical staff of this large mill favored representation through OEIU Local 254.

Negotiations are expected to get underway shortly on the terms of a collective bargaining agreement. The local union is now engaged in an intensive membership drive and is very helpful to the local during its organizational campaign.

Baby Boom

Our country's still in the midst of a baby boom and the experts who monitor birth rate figures state that they are not at all sure—nor whether—it's going to stop.

Remember

That when raising the children, all of us are responsible for doing our share toward getting good housing, education, health facilities and future jobs for all of them. Not just because babies are wonderful, but because all of us will lose unless they grow up as intelligent, healthy and happy citizens.

Socialism

Just about any service mentioned for a great number of people these days is called Socialism by people who don't like it. To get it right for the Government to help them just so long as it doesn't help others, too.

This is not new, of course, parcel post was called Socialism by people who think the same way.

Space Enough

Speaking of children, the Housing Act of 1950 gives them a much needed break. For instance: Rental housing developments getting FHA help must now meet fire facilities with children and must have enough 3 and 4-bedroom units to balance their i-bedroom units.

You and Me

Democracy, we heard someone say recently, is that form of government in which the individual is the important. It isn't a paga in a history book, or a monument or a parade, but YOU and ME and what we do. And in most of us know, we're not doing nearly enough about it.

One thing we can do is find out more about our Congressional can didates ... their principles and beliefs. We can study their rec ord and their actions as well as their words are aimed in the right direction.

Cantaloups

In addition to tasting good, some melons are high in food value, too. Cantaloups, for instance, are a good source of Vitamin C. You can alternate them with oranges, grapefruit, and tomatoes in supplying the needs of your family.—Polly Edition.

Women Working

More women are now employed outside their homes than a year ago, according to U. S. Labor Department. A number of women in the labor force has increased by 20% and a half million, a third of a million more than a year ago.

Over half of the women in the labor force are married, a third unemployed or widowed, or divorced. In 1940, the percentage was almost exactly the opposite. Then, almost half of all employed women were unmarried and only a third married.
LABOR ASKS VOICE IN MOBILIZATION

Washington.—American labor wants a flexible emergency mobilization program. That’s the gist of the message delivered last week by the AFL-CIO, the Miners, Machinists, Railroad Trainmen and Railway Labor Executives to Stuart Symington, chairman of the National Security Resources Board and in charge of the mobilization program.

AFL President William Green, spokesman for the group, said that discussions seep into negotiation on only one agency—the War Labor Board—as full working partner with industry and the public.

The labor leaders backed Symington’s suggestion to appoint a temporary committee of nine to work with him in no-regrets for labor participation on the NSRB.

Green pointed out that full representation of U. S. workers in all Government agencies would insure maximum use of labor’s resources.

BLUE CROSS PACT (Continued from page 1)
The date of signing, and also provides that the employer, together with the union, will explore the possibility of initiating a pension plan for its employees.

In addition to preserving the liberal vacation allowances and paid sick leave, the agreement also grants to any employees who have a death in their immediate families three days off with pay, and one day off with pay on the event of death of a near relative.

Job Vacancies Posted Under the terms of the new agreement, job vacancies will be posted, including vacancies in jobs that are not within the bargaining unit but which are similar to jobs within the bargaining unit, so as to provide opportunity for present employees to fill such jobs.

Mileage Allowance Increased

The new agreement provides many additional benefits for enrollment in the plan for employees who are required to use their cars in connection with their employment. The mileage allowance for employees operating their cars on authorized business in the area of Essex County was upped from 7 to 10 cents per mile and the allowance for driving outside of Essex County was increased from 7 to 8 cents per mile. In addition, the new contract assures that the employer will maintain a master automobile liability insurance policy covering one-half of the cost of $5,000 personal liability and $10,000 property damage.

A unique further feature of the new contract provides that the employees not within the bargaining unit, assist members of its field staff to secure the benefits of fleet rates in the purchase of new automobiles. The new enrollment agreement was negotiated by Local Business Repre- sentative Nicholas Juliano, assisted by a 20-member committee.

OEIU headquarters is supplying copies of both the 1949 and the 1950 agreement to OEIU local unions located in cities where Blue Cross plans maintain offices. The splen-