

THE OFFICE WORKER

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

No. 61

WASHINGTON, D. C., JANUARY, 1950



Cooperation With State Drives Pledged

SOUTH LEADS OFF ORGANIZING DRIVE

New Orleans.—AFL leaders of 14 southern states led off the 1950 Samuel Gompers Memorial organizing drive for 1,000,000 new members with an enthusiastic hard-working planning conference that aimed to gain 500,000 of the total.

Harry O'Reilly, AFL director of organizing, said that the rally was an auspicious start for the drive authorized by the 68th AFL convention and gave the campaign a tremendous momentum.

The state and central labor union representatives set up plans to see that every wage-earner in the South is given a chance to join the AFL union of his choice. The canvass will be conducted section-by-section in every state in industry, agriculture and white collar fields.

"We received reports," Mr. O'Reilly said, "from every section of the South that in every locality union and non-union wage earners are awakening not only economically but to their rightful place in the civic, social and political life of their communities."

Participating with Mr. O'Reilly, were J. L. Rhodes, southern director; Joseph Keenan, director of Labor's League for Political Education, and others including OEIU Vice Presidents J. O. Bloodworth, Jr., and A. R. Carson.

Born January 27, 1850

Died December 13, 1924

SAMUEL GOMPERS



Founder and first president of the American Federation of Labor whose 100th birthday will be celebrated throughout 1950 by the 8,000,000 AFL members with a drive for 1,000,000 new members and the election of a liberal Congress.

REDOUBLE EFFORTS, HUTCHINGS URGES

Washington.—The Office Employees International Union is gearing its organizational activities to those of the American Federation of Labor and the various State Federations of Labor in connection with the A. F. of L.'s current drive for a million new members in 1950, according to Paul R. Hutchings, President of OEIU.

In line with the unanimous action taken by the A. F. of L. convention in St. Paul last October, the A. F. of L. has called on all State Federations of Labor to hold full and complete statewide organization rallies for the purpose of launching vigorous and militant organizational campaigns among the yet unorganized workers of the various trades throughout the nation. In responding to the A. F. of L.'s call for full and complete cooperation of the various International Unions, the OEIU is making every effort to stretch its field force so as to insure coverage and participation in the various statewide organizational rallies that have thus far been scheduled.

Need Organization

In commenting on the need for cooperation in these drives President Hutchings said: "The gigantic series of organizational rallies and campaigns, which have been called for by the A. F. of L. through its State Federations of Labor and which will get underway this month, are a kick-off toward the goal fixed by the 68th A. F. of L. convention for 1,000,000 new A. F. of L. members in 1950.

"Great emphasis should be given to the need for bringing organization and its benefits to the millions of unorganized white collar workers who constitute the single largest group of yet unorganized workers in the U. S. and Canada.

Great Opportunity

"I am calling upon every member of our International Union and upon all local union and International Union officers and representatives to work closely with the American Federation of Labor and their respective State Federations of Labor so that in these drives and rallies proper emphasis can be given to the need for concerted organizational effort among the vast number of unorganized office clerical employees in every part of the

(Continued on page 4)

LLPE URGES PLANS FOR REGISTRATION

Washington.—It's time to start planning registration campaigns for the 1950 congressional elections.

That's the advice from AFL Labor's League for Political Education to state federations, central and local labor unions and their affiliate leagues.

Although general elections are still 11 months away, registration deadlines for 1950 primaries are only a few months off.

AFL affiliates are urged to check local election officials before making final plans for registration campaigns. The drives should begin at least two months before registration deadlines so that as many persons as possible can register.

Gompers' Stamp

Washington.—Postmaster General Jesse M. Donaldson has authorized issuance of a new 3-cent stamp to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Samuel Gompers, founder and first president of the American Federation of Labor.

The stamp will be purple, carry a likeness of Mr. Gompers and will be one of the "Famous Americans" series. It will be placed on sale for the first time at Washington, D. C., on January 27, 1950, the 100th anniversary of Mr. Gompers' birth in London, England.

Issuance of the stamp is one of the events marking the Gompers' Centenary.

'I'm Winning Because of You'

JOIN THE MARCH OF DIMES

January 16-31

FIGHT INFANTILE PARALYSIS

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT founded

The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis



WE ARE 5 YEARS OLD

On January 8, 1950, our International Union will enter its sixth year. Just five years ago on that date President William Green officially installed our International Union charter at its constitutional convention in Cincinnati.

The task of building a strong, effective International Union is neither a short nor an easy one. We are fortunate in having the opportunity to be guided by the tried and tested patterns and policies of the American Federation of Labor as we work together as a team in pulling forward toward our common goal—the bringing of true collective bargaining benefits to the millions of yet unorganized workers of our trade in the Dominion of Canada and the United States.

During our first five years we have had to meet many of the basic problems inherent in the building of an effective International Union. Many more difficult problems lie ahead.

As we commence our sixth year, let us again resolve, together, our united determination to organize the unorganized workers of our trade in ever-increasing numbers—to hold fast to the sound and tested principles of the American Federation of Labor, and to diligently strive together in the further building of our OEU as the effective instrument through which office and office clerical workers can obtain and maintain job security, advancement opportunities, adequate compensation, and all other justifiable employment protections. Let's keep our sleeves rolled up and our determination firm as we tackle the problems that lie ahead.

RAIL CLERKS ARE 50

As we complete our fifth year, another A. F. of L. office and clerical union completes its fiftieth. The Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks celebrated its fiftieth anniversary last month, having been chartered in 1899.

From a very humble beginning, the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks has moved forward until it now embraces more than one-quarter million members and speaks for the clerks of all of the nation's railroads and major steamship lines. We congratulate our big brother clerical union in the transportation industry for the splendid job done by its leaders, and its record of successful achievement inspires us as we start our sixth year.

CLOSED SHOP

"One of the oldest techniques in the art of collective bargaining is the closed shop. It protects the integrity of the union and provides stability to labor relations."—Supreme Court Justice Sherman Minton, Dec. 5, 1949.



"Pop says those are the foundation blocks—you got to build from there!"

35% of All Canadian Workers Benefit By Union Agreements

Ottawa, Can.—Humphrey Mitchell, Minister of Labor, reported that a study conducted by the Economics and Research Branch of

the Dept. of Labor had revealed that about 35% of wage and salary workers in Canada were employed under the provisions of collective agreements in 1948.

An increase of 8.3 per cent over the 1947 figure in the number under agreements was due partly to higher general employment, but mainly to the completion of additional agreements. Almost 4,000 agreements were in effect during 1948, affecting 1,212,964 workers.

The percentage of the estimated total number of employed wage-earners and salaried workers in Canada (3,441,000 at November 20, 1948) who were covered by collective agreements in 1948 was 35.3. The numbers under agreement in certain main industrial groups expressed as a percentage of total paid workers in the industry were: Forestry, Fishing, Trapping, 39.3; Mining, 58.8; Manufacturing, 51.5; Electricity and Gas, 46.4; Transportation and Communication, 76; Trade, 6.4; Service, 10.3.

Actual union membership in Canada was 977,594 in 1948 while the number of workers affected by agreements numbered more than 1,200,000. Mr. Mitchell explained this situation by the fact that all agreements, with the exception of those for closed and union shops, affected non-union employees in the bargaining unit as well as union members.

The number of workers involved in strikes during the year was about 42,800. The relatively small number of strikes and of workers involved is an indication of the success of collective bargaining and of conciliation procedure during the year, the Minister stated.



A considerable increase in women's non-agricultural employment, a decrease in agricultural employment, and a decline in the number unemployed resulted in a net increase of 144,000 women in the civilian labor force between September and October 1949, according to Census monthly reports.

Compared to a year ago (October 1948) women in the civilian labor force had increased over $\frac{1}{2}$ million. Nonagricultural employment had risen markedly; but employment on farms was almost $\frac{1}{2}$ million less than at this time last year. There was a considerable rise in the number of women unemployed.

* * *

The AFL at its 68th Annual Convention endorsed the principle of equal pay for women workers. The resolution passed recommends the inclusion of equal pay clauses in all collective bargaining agreements to assure that women workers will receive the same rate of pay as men workers for work of the same or comparable character. It also recommends the enactment of Federal and state laws to safeguard the principles of equal pay for equal work.

Also the International Labor Organization has requested its member countries to define their positions on the question of equal pay for women and to propose measures for putting the principle into practice.

* * *

Three additional states now admit women to jury duty, through 1949 legislation. Florida and Massachusetts have voluntary service; Wyoming's law is compulsory, but allows a woman to be excused for urgent household duties or family obligations. Only ten states bar women jurors at present and several of these are actively seeking jury law changes.

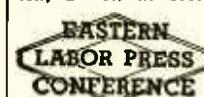
THE OFFICE WORKER

Official organ of the
OFFICE EMPLOYES
INTERNATIONAL UNION



PAUL R. HUTCHINGS, President
J. HOWARD HICKS, Sec.-Treas.
625 Bond Building
Washington 5, D. C.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY
Entered in the Post Office at Washington, D. C., as second-class mail matter



Reproduction by the Labor Press of any or all the material herein contained is not only permitted but wholly desirable in the interest of workers' education.

Subscription Price, \$1 a Year



MADE U.S. UNION LABEL CONSCIOUS

Washington.—The man who made America AFL union label conscious is dead.

Ira M. Ornburn, 60, secretary-treasurer of the AFL Union Label Trades Department since 1934 and founder of the gigantic annual "Union-Industries Show," succumbed Dec. 17 at the Cornwall, N. Y., Hospital. He entered the hospital after suffering a stroke and was ill two weeks.

AFL leaders, rank and file members, industry and government officials attended the funeral services held here Dec. 20 and paid tribute to his genius in fostering the sale of union made goods.

Our International Union particularly mourns his passing. We will miss his sincere interest in our future growth. We will miss his assistance and advice. We will miss his attendance at our conventions.

Under "Dick" Ornburn's leadership, the Label Trades Department made greater progress than at any time since its establishment in 1909. It is the clearing house for promotion and publicity activities for union labels, shop cards and service buttons.

These symbols assure the purchasers that the workers receive union wages, decent hours and under the best conditions. And "Dick" Ornburn planted that knowledge in the heads and buying habits of more people than any other man in American history.



Ornburn

Skelton Greets OEIU Delegates



Hollywood, Calif.—Red Skelton, star of screen and radio, is shown at the extreme right of the above picture greeting representatives of OEIU locals during the recent California Federation of Labor convention in Los Angeles. The picture was taken at the M-G-M studios in front of one of the sets for Skelton's latest show, "The Yellow Cab Man."

Skelton is a good union man, belonging to the A. F. of L. Screen Actors' Guild. He emphasized to the OEIU delegates the need for regular attendance at local union meetings in order to build and pre-

serve strong local unions.

The picture was taken during a tour of M-G-M studios by the OEIU group. They were guided by Gloria Train, M-G-M employee, member of Hollywood Local 174.

Others shown in the picture, from left to right, are: Kathleen Kinnick, San Francisco Local 3; John Kinnick, Business Representative Oakland Local 29; Edna Kostow, Executive Board member, Los Angeles Local 30; Phyllis Mitchell, Secretary-Treasurer, San Francisco Local 3; Glenn Groll, Office Manager, Hollywood Local 174 and Gloria Train.



Trucking—Frisco Transportation Co., Local 13, St. Louis, Mo., 5 cents per hour.

Dairy Products—Meadow Gold Dairy Products Corp., Local 153, New York City, \$6 for present employees.

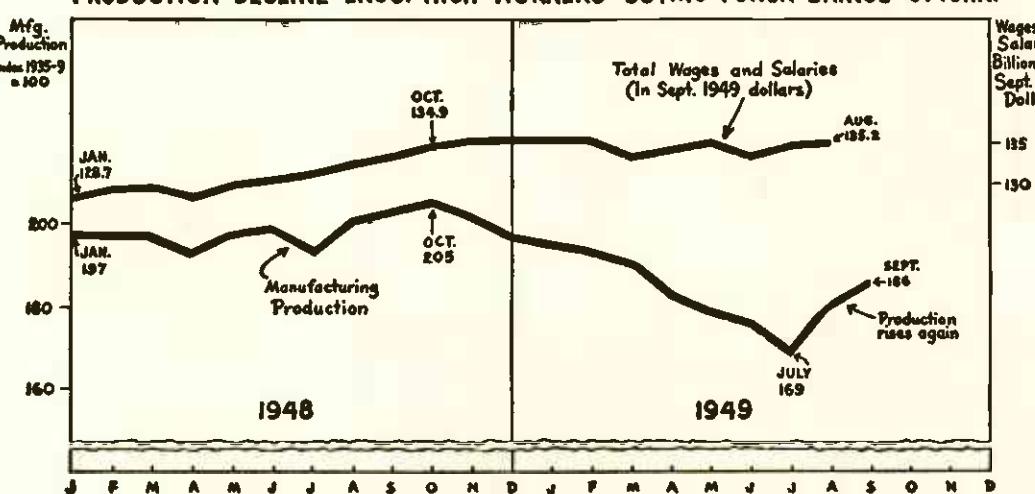
Hospitals—Permanente Foundation Hospital, Local 29, Oakland, Calif., minimums and maximums of ranges increased from \$2.50 to \$50.00 per month, length of service to reach maximums lowered from three to two and one-half years.

Grocery Stores—Safeway Stores, Andrew Williams, Lucky Stores, Hagstrom Food Stores, Lincoln Market, Piedmont Grocery, Washington Market, Fairfax Bread Co., Sherwood-Swan and E. Petri, Local 29, Oakland, Calif., \$2 per week.

Department Stores—Tiedtles, Local 19, Toledo, Ohio, \$1.50 per week.

Badges and Buttons—Bastian Brothers Co., Local 34, Rochester, N. Y., 5 per cent general increase.

PRODUCTION DECLINE ENDS. HIGH WORKERS' BUYING POWER BRINGS UPTURN.



An outstanding union achievement is shown in this chart.

Workers' buying power (upper line) has been maintained in spite of business recession, because (1) Union agreements prevented wage cuts; (2) Unions negotiated wage increases adding hundreds of millions of dollars to workers' incomes. Cost of living declines from September 1948 to February 1949 also increased workers' purchasing power slightly by making pay en-

velope dollars buy more.

Factory production (lower line) was cut back sharply from October '48 to July '49 as stores stopped ordering and sold off top-heavy inventories.

But workers with money in their pockets kept on buying and soon this strong demand for goods forced stores to reorder from factories. Production has risen sharply since July and business has recovered from recession. By Decem-

ber most of those laid off had gone back to work.

By winning wage and other gains for some 5 million workers in the first 10 months of 1949, with a minimum of industrial strife, the AFL has contributed not only to workers' welfare but to recovery from business recession, thus benefiting all.—From *Labor's Monthly Survey*. (Source of figures: U. S. Commerce and Labor Departments.)



Right of Assembly—The U. S. Supreme Court has upheld an Arkansas law making it illegal for one or more persons to assemble near the scene of a work dispute for the purpose of using force or violence to prevent employes from going to work. The Court rejected the argument that the state law was unconstitutional because it was so broad and had the effect of interfering with the right of assembly.

The Court is careful to explain, however, that it's not deciding "whether a state has power to incriminate by his mere presence an innocent member of a group when some individual without his encouragement or concert commits an act of violence." (*Cole v. Arkansas*)

Non-Communist Affidavits—The NLRB has amended its rules so that it may require the filing of non-Communist affidavits under the T-H law by other union officials in addition to those listed as officers in the union's constitution.

Where the Board "has reasonable cause to believe that a labor organization has omitted from its constitution the designation of any position as an office for the purpose of evading or circumventing the filing requirements of the (T-H law), the Board may, upon appropriate notice, conduct an investigation to determine the facts and where the facts appear to warrant such action the Board may require affidavits from persons other than incumbents of positions identified by the constitution as offices . . ."

In an earlier case the Board, on the ground that this was a job for the Department of Justice, refused to let a company present proof that certain officials of a union, no longer designated as officers in its constitution, should actually have filed affidavits. Such proof will probably now be admitted as evidence by NLRB.

Americans Abroad



Geneva, Switzerland.—Shown above at the American colony Halloween party, are left to right, Paul R. Hutchings, President OEIU; Mrs. John Lawyer, Herman D. Kenin, American Federation of Musicians, and John Lawyer. OEIU President Hutchings and AFM Executive Board Member Kenin were in Geneva as the two U. S. worker delegates to an ILO conference. Mrs. Lawyer (the former Annabel Lee Glenn) is a good standing member of OEIU Local 2, and writes the interesting Junior Union story page of the *American Federationist* magazine each month. Mr. Lawyer is a member of the Geneva staff of the ILO and was formerly an attorney with the NLRB.

TODAY and CONGRESS

A number of measures stand small chance of enactment in the Congressional session which begins this week unless they are pushed—and pushed hard—by working men and women and their friends.

These include repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act; Columbia Valley and Missouri Valley projects; the Brannon farm plan; aid to farm cooperatives; equal rights for women; and national health insurance.

Write your Congressman, if only on a penny postcard. Tell him you believe these measures should pass. Make him see that workers, farmers and women need his help, and need it badly. Make him see that their welfare would be improved by his voting for the above proposals.

If enough persons tell Senators and Representatives that these bills should go through, they will. One letter from back home will have more effect on a Congressman than 20 propaganda pamphlets from the NAM or the Chamber of Commerce.

REDOUBLE EFFORTS

(Continued from page 1)

country. These office workers must be shown that there is a place for them in the A. F. of L. and that they, too, can win substantial improvements in their wage and employment conditions through collective bargaining.

Carry the Message

"It is most fitting that these drives start during the month of January, the One Hundredth anniversary of the birth of the founder of the American Federation of Labor, Samuel Gompers, which is also the fifth anniversary of the founding of our International Union.

"Every member of the OEIU is urged to carry the message of organization to the many unorganized office employees in his community. Let's talk organization! Let's talk OEIU! Tell them about what you have been able to do through OEIU membership and how they, too, can benefit by joining our ranks.

"Let us together cooperate diligently with the rest of the A. F. of L. movement in our respective localities and see that the organizational efforts put forth together are directed toward including office and clerical employees who so badly need the security and benefits which we have obtained through collective bargaining."

BUY
UNION LABEL GOODS

NOTES from the field

Massachusetts—A substantial majority of the close to 100 office and clerical employees of the American Writing Paper Company at Holyoke have signed up for membership in OEIU and are being chartered as Local 247. An NLRB consent election will be held among this group this month, according to A. F. of L. Organizer Wm. Malone, who is handling the organizational drive, assisted by AFL-OEIU Organizer Frank E. Morton.

Boston Local 6 reports signing up another group of clerical employees of the City Fuel Company. **Pennsylvania**—An organizational campaign is underway among the clerical staff of the Blue Cross Hospital Service at Philadelphia, according to OEIU Vice President E. P. Springman. Representative George P. Firth has assisted on the drive.

Canada—Representatives of all local unions of the various organizations holding agreements with the Abitibi Power & Paper Company will meet with officials of the company at Toronto, Ontario, this month, in response to the company's invitation. International officers of each organization will also be present. In addition to local union delegates, OEIU will be represented by President Paul R. Hutchings, Canadian Vice President Lucien A. Bruneau, and Canadian Representative Russell Harvey.

Washington—OEIU local unions in this state are moving forward toward the establishment of a Washington State Council of Office Employees Unions. Several meetings of locals in the state have been held and at the request of the local unions, the International Union Executive Board at its meeting last month, authorized the establishment of a Washington State Council of Office Employees Unions.

Texas—Dallas Local 45 has completed a survey of organizational possibilities in that city and is moving forward with an organizational drive, according to Vice President C. A. Stafford. The local has employed an organizer to head up this drive.

Wisconsin—A union shop election held recently by the NLRB among the office and clerical employees of Oshkosh B'Gosh, Inc. has resulted in a 100 per cent vote for our Oshkosh Local 59.

California—Los Angeles Local 30 is engaged in an organizational campaign in the furniture industry in that city. Its efforts have already resulted in some success—it is presently in negotiations with the Lamareaux Furniture Company.

Missouri—Judging from the substantial sign-up and the degree of interest shown by the clerical employees of the Midland Tractor Co. and the Jay Allen Wood Co., a shoe manufacturing concern, it is anticipated that the NLRB elections requested by our St. Louis Local 13 will result in establishing the union's bargaining rights by sweeping majorities in both cases.

Bowlers of OEIU 112, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.



Kneeling: Harold Hover, Manager; Standing, left to right: William Gets, John McNulty, Harold Jackson, Captain; Erwin Dodge, George Haselkamp.



Traffic Cop: "Listen, lady, didn't you hear my whistle?"

Young Thing: "Yes, but you're wasting your time; I'm engaged."

Mary: "Do you think we will ever have a woman president?"

Susie: "No, of course not. A president has to be at least 35 years old."

"How do you keep your children out of the cookie jar?"

"I lock the pantry door and hide the key under the cake of soap in the bathroom."



"Would you mind repeating the part that comes between 'Dear Sir' and 'Yours Truly'?"

Old Maid: "Has the canary had its bath yet?"

Servant: "Yes, Ma'am. You can come in now."

Reader: "Do you make up these jokes yourself?"

Editor: "Yep, out of my head."

Reader: "You must be."

"If you kiss me, I'll call a member of my family," she warned.

So he kissed her.

"Bro-ther!" she whispered.

A mountaineer led his overgrown son into the schoolroom and announced: "This here boy's arter larnin'. What's yore bill o' fare?"

Teacher: "Our school, sir, teaches arithmetic, reading, spelling, algebra and trigonometry."

Mountaineer: "That'll do, load him up with trigger-nometry; he's the only pore shot in the family."

Speeder: "Was I driving too fast?"

Traffic Cop: "Not exactly. You were flying too low."

"Pop, what does it mean when it says a man attends a convention as a delegate-at-large?"

"That means his wife wasn't along."

Store detective: "Why do you insist on doing all your shoplifting in this store?"

Unruffled lady: "Where else could I find such bargains?"