OEIU WINS AT ATOMIC PROJECT

NEW CONTRACT UPS VALVE FIRM WAGES

Bridgeport, Conn.—A two-year contract, recently negotiated by Local 123 of the OEIU and Jenkins Bros. and covering approximately 125 employees of this valve manufacturing concern, grants these members a general increase of 5 per cent and assures them of several other important gains. The contract may be reopened after one year for salary adjustments.

This local recently extended its organization in this company to include plant clerks, expediters and time clerks. These employees have been classified and will receive an additional increase of more than $4 per week.

The agreement provides for seven paid holidays, two weeks vacation with pay—three weeks after twenty-five years of service, the company assumes the entire cost of sickness and hospitalization insurance including all the provisions of the previously existing Contributory Employees Benefit Plan.

Ratings Improved

Seniority and merit ratings have been improved to assure the employees greater job security and the grievance procedure is considered one of the best in the area.

The company pays two-thirds of the cost of a retirement plan providing for benefits of up to more than $2,000 per year depending on length of service and yearly earnings, over and above social security benefits.

The committee representing the Union consisted of Chief Steward Peter R. Sandahl, chairman; local president, William J. Ruane; local secretary-treasurer, William Domonkos; Raymond Grant; Helen Gavlik; Charles MacNamara. The union was assisted by AFL-OEIU Organizer Edward C. Nagel.

Gain Pay Increase

Washington—Wage increases and a special vacation allowance were won by agents employed by the Sun Life Insurance Company of Washington, D. C., in a new contract negotiated by the AFL National Federation of Insurance Agents’ Council.

RECEIVES MAJORITY AT SANDIA BASE

Albuquerque, N. M.—The office and clerical employees of the Sandia Corporation—operating contractor on the Sandia Atomic Energy Base—have voted overwhelmingly for representation through the Office Employees International Union.

The NLRB conducted a consent election on August 30 and approximately 62 percent of all valid votes cast favored OEIU representation, thus enabling exclusive bargaining rights for this group of some 95 clerical employees on this atomic energy base.

The election victory culminated five months of organizational effort among the employees involved, under the direction of AFL-OEIU Organizer Frank E. Morton, assisted by representatives of other trades, the officers of the Metal Trades Department, and AFL Organizer James Scott, who was assigned to assist for the last few weeks of the election campaign.

Another Forward Step

The successful organization of this large group of clerical employees represents another forward step by OEIU in the organization of office and clerical workers employed on the various atomic energy installations throughout the country.

OEIU Local 100 at Pasco, Wash., won its bargaining rights in the spring of 1949 for the approximate 500 clerical employees of Atkinson-Jones and its various sub-contractors at the Hanford Atomic Energy Works.

Hanford Campaign

Local 100 is presently commencing a drive among the more than 1,200 eligible employees of the General Electric—the operating contractor at the Hanford Project. The successful organization of the clerical staff of the operating contractor on the Sandia Base should give further stimulus to this drive.

The clerical employees of the Zia Corp. and the other companies engaged in the operation of the Los Alamos Atomic Energy Project, which is less than 100 miles from the Sandia Base, are also showing interest in OEIU organization, according to Representative Morton.

Washington.—The 75-cents-anhour minimum wage, effective last January 25, meant direct pay increases to about 1,000,000 workers.
"UNION MAID"

Comments from the PRESIDENTS desk

Now Is the Time

With the signing by President Truman of the Defense Production Act of 1950 the possibility of government control on prices and wages becomes imminent. The law as presently enacted delegates to the President the right to establish price ceilings on particular goods and services and it requires that whenever a ceiling is imposed on a particular material or service, that wages, salaries, and other compensations in the industry or business producing such material or performing such services shall also be stabilized.

While we doubt that there will be any substantial exercise of the presidential authority to control prices and wages yet this year there is a strong likelihood that at least by early 1951 price controls and the wage controls which the law requires, if it is simultaneously adopted, will be upon us. The period between now and then is a time when the wage freeze can be very effective in securing needed wage and salary adjustments for their members. Foreseenly employers should be responsive to union demands for necessary wage and salary adjustment during this time yet remaining to bargain without governmental restrictions.

During the last few months, employers with unorganized office staffs kept postponing needed office wage increases until they were caught in the wage freeze. After the imposition of wage controls it was too late for them to effectively rectify the inadequate office wage rates and thousands of wage increase requests were denied by the War Labor Board. Such increases could have been made a few weeks earlier without restriction.

Many employers who were brought around through collective bargaining to granting wage increases to their office staffs prior to the imposition of wage controls, were very happy about it later on. They found that as a result of their improved office wage rates they could hold their office employees and also hire new ones as needed. Thus organization not only helped solve the office workers problem, but also helped the employer as well.

The next few months are a particularly worth while period for unorganized office workers to join their local BEIU local. There is still time for them to achieve the fruits of collective bargaining and particular to gain substantial needed improvements in their wage rates.

The value of office unionism is very great, even after wage controls go into effect. We know that many employers used the World War I period of government control as an excuse for not giving sorely needed increases to their unorganized office employees. The "back" and told their workers that the government would not allow them to increase office rates.

Talk Labor, Gompers Urged In His Last Labor Day Message

From The American Federation of September, 1921, was the last Labor Day message of Samuel Gompers, AFL founder whose centennial is being observed this year.

Labor Day is the one holiday in all the year dedicated to humanity. It is a day set apart for the consideration of human problems and for rejoicing at progress made toward that better day for which we strive constantly.

Labor Day is a day on which the leadership of the trade union movement in the fight for human betterment is universally acknowledged and acclaimed.

There could be no Labor Day without labor. There could be no Labor Day without organized labor.

Those who do not belong to the labor movement may here and there make speeches on Labor Day. Usually their speeches are unnecessary, and where they are helpful they are filled with a recounting of the services rendered by the trade union movement.

Labor—organized labor—the labor movement—that is what makes Labor Day possible; that is what makes it real.

Labor Day was set apart as a holiday because organized labor demanded it. It was a recognition of labor's right to celebrate its victories and to carry to all the people its great message of hope and freedom.

On this Labor Day TALK LABOR. Do not anywhere permit Labor Day to be anything but LABOR DAY. Talk Labor, preach the great message of Labor, carry forward the message of human freedom and human aspiration as a LABOR message.

Welcome the friends of labor in all gatherings. Welcome these friends when they come with their report and their encouragement. But see that everywhere the day is observed as Labor Day.

The labor movement in America is a movement of wage earners, for wage earners, conducted by wage earners. It is a movement primarily for the protection and advancement of the rights and interests of the wage earners through trade union organization.

Let us observe Labor Day in the spirit of the labor movement. Let us blazon the message of trade unionism across the horizon. Let us give of its inspiration to those who are oppressed, who are without hope and whose souls are hungering. Let us unfurl its banners and sing its songs.

Labor Day is for labor and labor is striving to enlarge the life of the great masses of our people. Labor Day is for labor and labor fights the fight for all who are heavy laden.

Upward and onward, this Labor Day, for humanity, for the right, for justice, for freedom and democracy, in the name of labor, through our great trade union movement.

Taft-Hartley Act Claims Shattered

Washington. — Another false claim made by the champions of the Taft-Hartley Act has been shattered. In a recent Bureau of Labor Statistics report, a survey showed T-H had not brought peace to industries.

T-H backers claimed industries would be peaceful. But a study by that government agency showed the Act had not brought peace to industries.

There have been more strikes, more man-days lost and more workers involved in strikes under T-H than during the five years under the Wagner Act.

Fair from creating industrial peace, T-H has caused more discontent and strikes that could be caused by any other single means.

Pocketbook Hit


The U. S. average consumers' price index for mid-July stood at 172.5 percent of the 1935-39 average, 2.4 percent over last year's level and only 1.1 percent of the all-time high reached in the late summer of 1948. The May 15 to June 15 increase was 0.9 percent.

A considerable rise in food costs is primarily responsible for this rapid increase although other increases were noted in house furnishings, rents and fuel prices.

This is the third month in which substantial increases have occurred.

Official organ of the OFFICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION

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

Labor Press Conference

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Subscription Price, $1 a Year
Bargaining — A union had received an NLRB certification three years ago, but the company suddenly decided to stop recognizing it, pointing to a large labor turnover and lack of interest in the union among employees and other facts along the same line; however, management did not file an election petition, as it’s now allowed to do under the T-H law, despite this suggestion of a Board official.

Under this set of conditions, the NLRB found that the company had refused to bargain, that it was up to the company to ask for an election if it doubted the union’s representation, and as the employees had not requested a decertification election, that the union had not rebutted this finding, that the certification is good until proved otherwise. — (U. S. Gypsum Co. Line Longshoremen Workers).

Operating Costs — A union requested a company to furnish information and was refused by the company to prove its argument that it couldn’t afford a wage increase. The union’s request for a financial statement and a breakdown of costs was rejected by management.

The NLRB found the company guilty of a violation of the T-H Act, finding the company’s refusal to make and disclose the necessary information to support or justify its position, erected an insurmountable barrier to successful conclusion of the bargaining and “such conduct does not meet the test of good faith bargaining.” — (Southern Suddery Co. and Other Workers, AFL

Salc de Company — A new company was formed which held the same business in which a union had been certified as the bargaining agent by the employees of the old company. No union was present in the plant, property, equipment or products of the company. The union requested the NLRB to change its certification to the new company. The new company objected on the ground that it had not been a party to the earlier election and was not the legal successor of the old organization.

The Board finds that the working force has not been changed in any way, there is nothing to indicate the employees did not want the union to represent them, that the union was still the certified bargaining agent for the employees and grants the union’s request. — (Miller Lumber Co. and Woodworkers, CIO).

Authority of Negotiator — A company bargained with a union for several months; but when the negotiations nearly terminated, the board of directors refused to permit it to be signed, saying the wage section was ‘way off’. Wages had been settled by the negotiators when the talks first began.

The NLRB finds that a company can’t back out of an agreement if it lets its bargaining agent come to an agreement, without running the risk of being cited for refusal to bargain.

The Board said it was all right

Atomic Victory Team

Corner Brook, Nfld. — The first collective bargaining agreement between OEIU Local 254 and the large Bowaters Newfoundland Pulp and Paper Mill, Ltd., has just been signed according to Canadian Representative Russell Harvey, who assisted the local union in its negotiations.

Highlighting the gains achieved in this contract are the reductions in the hourly wages and work days. The regular work week was reduced from 42 hours to 37½, and the 5-day work week was established. The clerical staff of this mill will also enjoy an additional half day statutory holiday negotiated in this agreement. There are approximately 285 clerical employees covered, including about 185 in the mill offices and 100 in the Woods Department, but not machine workers.

OEIU Local 255 at Grand Falls, Nfld., has now been fully recognized by the Anglo-Newfoundland Development Co., Ltd., which operates the paper mill opposite the OEIU mill. The clerical staff of this company, acting through its local union, anticipates the start of its negotiations within the next few weeks.

Information Sources

"Sources of Information on Union-Management Relations" published March, 1950, Extension Bulletin No. 4 of New York State School of Industrial and Labor Relations, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y. 34 p., 10 cents per copy. Provides brief outline of sources of information useful to persons engaged in day-to-day practice of industrial and labor relations. Sources and publications divided into five sections: (1) Handbooks, (2) Services, (3) Surveys and Analyses, (4) Periodicals and (5) Organizations and Agencies.

(For the company to appoint a bargaining committee, then later ratify the settlement. But here, the committee wasn’t told how the directors felt about the wage business until the whole agreement was nearly finished. The Board called this treatment a refusal to bargain.—(Bilgin Brick Mfg. Co. and Brick & Clay Workers, AFL).

Count Ten

Before you let yourself board ANYTHING during this Korean war period, have some losing game for the housewife—and when she tries it she walks right into the trap with it. Profit groups with large holdings of goods are not above setting her.

There’s plenty of everything you need, and will continue to be unless this turns into a long full-scale war. Our economy is so rich and varied that there’s hardly any one thing we just have to have.

Don’t Just Spectate

Participate! Democracies don’t just happen. And they can’t be run by spectators can’t be run by spectators.

Don’t forget that there are plenty of people who’d like to run your country for you while you looked. But that way you lose and frankly as a country you’re not a real democracy without YOUR VOTE.

Widow’s Mite

There are six million widows in the U. S. today. Too many of them, unfortunately, don’t know how to take care of what their husband left them. For those who want to start learning we recommend a pamphlet which talks about ‘Women and Their Money.” Write and send twenty cents to Public Affairs Committee, 22 East 42nd St., New York City, if you want it.

Two-Party System

Only woman in the U. S. Senate — Mrs. Margaret Smith, Republican of Maine — believes very strongly that our country needs two good and strong political parties, and that people them should stay in power too long.

Although Senator Smith would naturally like to see her party in top position, she believes in her conscience more and has several times voted against actions sponsored by her leadership.

You probably read the Senator’s speech against Senator McCarthy and his Communist-scare investigation. She made it plain she would be ashamed to win on such a platform.

Senate Rose

One way to tell whether a woman is in Congress these days is to note whether she wears a rose. Most of them wear one every day, keeping it fresh in one of those plastic pins that hold water. The day we visited Senator Smith she was wearing an aqua suit and her rose was a cartoon — she didn’t need it. The slick magazines would have called her chic and charming. And we would have agreed.

Wagging Notes

DDT—a 5 per cent strength in No. 2 fuel oil—gives complete protection against termites to wood in contact with soil for less than five years says the Department of Agriculture. The insecticide is applied to the soil surrounding the wood so as to stop the pests on their way through.—Jolly Edinson.

Valves & Fittings—Jenkins Brothers, Local 123, Bridgeport, Conn., 5 cents per hour.

Gas Control Devices—Milwaukee-Glendale Mfg. Co., Local 9, Milwaukee, Wis., 10 cents per hour.

Unclassified—Play Stores, Inc., Local 155, New York City, $5 per week.

Bridge Operation—San Francisco Bay Toll Bridge Co., Local 36, San Francisco, $10 per month.

Engines—Bush-Sulzer Bros. Diesel Engine Co. Division, Nordberg Mfg. Co. (production control dept.), Local 12, St. Louis, Mo., 5 cents per hour retroactive to May 1 with an additional 5 cents per hour on May 1, 1951 and on May 1, 1952.

Trucking—Frisco Transportation Co., Local 185, Springfield, Mo., 4 cents per hour.

Broadcasting—Radio Station WBZ—CBS, Local 6, Boston, Mass., $2 to $3.75 per week.

Milk Dealers Deerfoot Farms Co., Local 6, Boston, Mass., $3 to $5 per week.

Canned Fruits—Washington Gunners Cooperative, Local 63, Vancouver, Washington, 6 cents per hour.

Housing Authority—Birmingham Housing Authority, Local 18, Birmingham, Ala., 10 cents per hour.

Heating & Plumbing Supplies—American Radiator and Standard Sanitary Corp., Local 177, Elyria, Ohio, average of 10 cents or 12 cents per hour.

Bus Lines—Southeastern Greyhound Lines; Local 18, Birmingham, Ala.; Local 21, Atlanta, Ga.; Local 61, Louisville, Ky.; Local 73, Jacksonville, Fla.; Local 141, Knoxville, Tenn.; Local 179, Chattanooga, Tenn.; Local 215, Lexington, Ky.; 1 cent per hour plus 1 cent per hour in 1951.

Texas — A representation petition has been filed with the NLRB by Port Arthur Local 65 covering all mechanical employees of the Fort Neches Works of the Texas Co. These employees are presently represented by the CIO oil workers.

Pennsylvania — The Metals Protection Company, as a result of organization of its office staff by Pittsburg Local 33, has agreed to start negotiations.

Washington — Tacoma Local 21 has by a substantial majority won a representation election among the office and clerical employees of the Puyallup Plant of Hunt Foods, Inc. A union shop election petition has also been filed for these employees and is expected to be held in the near future.

California — The office and clerical employees of the Karnage Corporation have through an NLRB election designated Richmond Local 243 as their bargaining representative.

Electric Motors — Lamb Electric Co., Local 75, Kent, Ohio, $17.50 per month.

Wholesale Drugs — Colgin Hedin- ton Co. and S. F. Massingill Co., Local 36, San Francisco, Calif., $7.50 per month.

Small Arms — J. Stevens Arms Co. (Div. of Savage Arms Corp.), Local 228, Chiricoque Falls, Mass., $3 to $5 per week.

Electrical Controls — Square D Co., Local 8, Milwaukee, Wis., $7.50 to $800 per month.

Wholesale Groceries — Wm. Ed- wards Co and Wiedeman Co., Local 17, Cleveland, Ohio, 71/2 cents per hour.

Automotive Equipment — Automotive Parts Co. (NAPA), Local 17, Cleveland, Ohio, 71/2 cents per hour.

Representation election petitions covering the office staffs of Western Truck Lines, Ltd., and Bigge Drayage Co., have been filled with the NLRB by Oakland Local 29.

Ohio — A formal NLRB hearing having been held, Cincinnati Local 27 filed a formal order of a representation election among the over 800 employees of R. L. Poli Co. This local is also making substantial organizational progress in its efforts to bring to the approximately 500 office and clerical employees of Fashion Procks the benefits of collective bargaining.

Louisiana — Through an NLRB election, Lake Charles Local 57 was recently selected by a substantial majority as the bargaining representative for the office and clerical employees of Sid-Con Oil Corporation, a lubricating oil refinery owned jointly by City Service Refining Corporation and Continental Oil Company.

Kentucky — A representation petition covering the office and clerical employees of Magnavox Radio Company has been filed with the NLRB by Local 172 of the CIO.

Frances J. Ritchie, a member of Louisville Local 61, has been attending the fifth annual session of the Louisville Local 61 Honor School at Morehead State College, Morehead, Ky.

New Jersey — An overwhelming majority of the office and clerical employees of Philip Carey Mfg. Co. have voted in an NLRB election in favor of having Newark Local 32 represent them for purposes of collective bargaining.

Newark Local 20 has filed a representation petition with the NLRB for a unit of office and clerical employees employed by P. Ballantine and Sons.

President Truman signed the new Social Security Bill, increasing retirement benefits by an average of 90 per cent and adding almost 10,000,000 more Americans to coverage of the Social Security system.

In a statement, he declared: "Expansion and coverage of increased benefits in old age insurance should now be matched by steps to strengthen our unemployment insurance system.

"At the same time, we urgently need a system of insurance against loss of wages through temporary or permanent disability.

These and other vital improvements in our social security laws are needed in addition to the act which I have signed today.

Mr. Truman attacked as "very unfortunate" the "Knowland amendment," sponsored by Sen. Knowland (R., Calif.) which would prevent the Secretary of Labor from withholding unemployment compensation funds from states failing to meet federal standards.

A summary of the most significant changes are:

1. Changes in benefits both for those currently receiving benefits and for those who will be eligible in the future. The overall average of increases is about 90 per cent.

2. The coverage of the program will be extended to about 7,000,000 new persons.

3. Eligibility — the conditions which must be met by workers to be eligible for benefits are greatly liberalized.

4. The average base used both for contributions and computation of benefits is raised from $3,000 to $5,000 which is a recognition of the need for adjusting the base in terms of the changing value of the dollar.

5. The types of benefits are broadened to include new categories.

6. The public assistance program under which aid is extended to those not eligible for insurance benefits is improved and liberalized.

Are Your Fellow Union Members Registered?

1. Local union officers should check the list of union members against the names of citizens who have registered to vote.

2. Officers should urge workers to register and to contribute voluntarily to LLPE.

3. Trade unionists should not just simply register themselves. They also should bring their wives to the registration place.

4. After registering, working men and women then are ready for the most important step of all — voting on Election Day.