Convention Action Program To Benefit All Office Workers

Toronto, Ont.—The regular 1951 convention of the OEIU was held at the King Edward Hotel and opened on the morning of June 11 with more delegates and local unions represented than at any previous convention.

Our Canadian local unions were particularly well represented, with delegates coming from all parts of the country. The convention was held in cooperation with the AFL-TLC's biennial convention.

The convention was opened by the invocation given by Rev. H. E. McCallum, president of the Toronto District Trades and Labor Council. After the opening ceremonies, temporary Chairman Whitten turned the gavel over to President Archibald the convention and the delegates were duly seated.

Committees Appointed

The following committees were appointed to consider the various resolutions, officers' reports and recommendations: Rules, Constitution and Laws, Organizing, Officers' Reports, Official Publication, Legislation, Resolutions and Press Relations.

The report presented by President Archibald detailed all the activities of the International.

(Continued on page 2)

Atomic Project Workers Sign Up

Clinton, Ind.—A substantial majority of the 350 office and clerical employees of the Girdler Corporation (construction contractor at the atomic energy installation in this city) have signed authorization cards designating the OEIU as their bargaining representative. OEIU Representative R. M. Daugherty, who has been working with this group, has filed a representation petition on their behalf with the NLRB.

Overwhelming Majority Vote OEIU at Great Aircraft Plant

Fort Worth, Tex.—By an over 80 per cent majority, the approximately 1,500 office and clerical employees of the Consolidated Vultee Aircraft Corp., have voted to establish the OEIU-AFL as their exclusive collective bargaining agency.

Production workers in the big plant are represented by the AFL International Association of Machinists, whose representatives ably assisted in this campaign.

The successful organizing campaign was conducted by southwestern AFL Director Lester Graham, AFL General Organizer James M. Scott and OEIU-AFL Representative Frank E. Morton.

Machinery is already being set up whereby these employees will select committees in their respective departments and sub-sections to represent them, and a committee to draft a proposed agreement and establish the policies of their local union.

We welcome this large group of office and clerical employees to the swelling ranks of the OEIU, and assure them that we will do everything possible to secure for them all of the benefits of collective bargaining.

Abitibi Head Prefers Unions

Toronto, Ont.—D. W. Ambridge, president of the Abitibi Power and Paper Co., Ltd., believes in unions and thinks collective bargaining is the only sound way in which wages can be satisfactorily established.

Mr. Ambridge held that collective bargaining was the only way for employers and employees to deal with each other. He rejected both the idea of management making take-it-or-leave-it proposals, and that of unions adopting a similarly recalcitrant attitude.

Improved Bargaining

Emphasizing that he wanted to see unions strengthened and the process of collective bargaining improved, Mr. Ambridge said that better methods of bargaining will have to be devised for the less prosperous years that may come.

In recent years any kind of collective bargaining had been able to get by because wage increases had been passed on to the consumer and profits had continued to rise, he said. But, he warned, the period of uninterrupted increases was bound to end.

He told the delegates that: (1) much more time should be devoted by labor and management to drawing up and negotiating labor agreements; (2) that local unions should be given more guidance by union officials and that unions and management should devote more study to their mutual problems.

Keep Lawyers Out

Emphasizing that lawyers have no place in collective bargaining, he stated that "The first time I see a lawyer in a labor negotiation of ours, I will walk out of the room. "I have no use for lawyers in collective bargaining, on either side," he said, amid applause from the delegates. "We are not there to win an argument, but to solve a problem. Lawyers can't help us solve our (collective bargaining) problems. They are there to win arguments."

WASHINGTON, D. C., JULY, 1951

No. 79
HELP BUILD YOUR UNION

Building your union is very much in your own interest. If you do your part to make your organization alive and strong, you can look forward to better pay and better working conditions in the future. And, also greater security than you enjoy today.

On the other hand, if you neglect your union and it becomes debilitated, you can't expect it to do an effective job for you. Whenever you can, if you neglect your union, is economic setbacks and miseries.

So, in fairness to yourself and fellow trade unionists, won't you do your part to help build your union? It isn't hard. Just take a genuine interest in union affairs. Attend your meetings regularly. Study your union's problems and take part in the discussion. Bring new members into the fold.

This is the sensible, practical way to build a union, for it will pay off for you in deep down satisfaction as well as in dollars and cents.

—American Federationist, May, 1951.

GET THE HABIT

Are you listening to Frank Edwards? He's the best news commentator on radio. Broadcasting nightly Monday through Friday over the American Broadcasting System. See your daily papers for times and stations.

Get the Frank Edwards Habit! Sponsored by 8,000,000 American Federationists. Frank Edwards calls the shots as seen by them. He gives complete coverage to news of national importance and he sees it through the eyes of America's common people.

POWERFUL WEAPON

Unions were originally organized for just one thing—to better the wages, working conditions and living conditions of the men and women who toil. Whenever these unions reach an impasse where the usual procedures of collective bargaining seem inadequate, then, as a last resort, the members are asked to demonstrate their economic power by walking off the job. The strike and the right to strike, have been recognized for years as probably the most powerful instruments in the hands of organizations working for the general welfare.

But there is an additional way to show our economic power, which, if all members of unions and their families stick together, would also attain great results for all workers. It would be possible to strike, to some extent, but there are no substitutes for them.

This other way is to take the Union Label Pledge—"I promise to patronize firms which display the union label, shop card or union button."

And then keep the pledge. If all union members buy only union-made goods, this pledge is worth more than the value of all the union labels, shop cards or union buttons.

"UNION MAID"

"Pardon me—it's time for Frank Edwards and the news!"

Everything But the Leg Irons

Harrisburg, Pa.—The Pennsylvania Unemployment Compensation Board of Review has ruled that an employer has no right to restrict employee-romancing before and after office hours.

Pennsylvania laws on unemployment compensation bar benefits to anyone breaking company work rules.

A male employee of the J. C. Murphy Co., Mount Joy, Pa., made and kept an after-work date with a woman co-worker, which violated a company rule which barred men and women employees from associating socially at any time—before going, or after work hours. The company fired him.

The review board granted full job pay benefits to the discharged employee, ruling that an employee should be considered guilty only for a violation of rules on company time and company premises—employe-dating at other times and places is none of the employee's business.

Organize Joint Labor Group

Ottawa, Ont.—A joint standing committee to deal with problems of manpower, production, price control and defense mobilization in general has been formed by the four major Canadian trade union organizations.

Over a million workers are represented by the four organizations involved—the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, the Canadian Congress of Labor, the Canadian and Catholic Federation of Labor and the Dominion Joint Legislative Committee of the Railway Transportation Brotherhoods. The TLC and the CCL include unions which are also affiliated with the AFL and CIO, respectively.

Formation of the committee followed by some months the opening of the first joint labor federation campaign in Canadian history. Toward the end of 1945, organized labor in Canada issued a joint announcement launching a nationwide campaign to urge imposition of price controls and retention of rent controls.

One out of every three Canadian workers is a union member.

Air Line Hostesses

The first convention of the Air Line Stewards and Stewardesses Association, AFL, was held last month in Chicago. Formed in 1946, the Association has, in the past 5 years, won representation rights for flight attendants from practically all, if not all, scheduled air lines. The Association now bargain for the employment agreements of more than 3,500 stewards, hostesses, flight agents, stewards, and pursers.

Since 1946, working conditions have been greatly improved, monthly flying hours have been reduced, so that it is rare to find cabin personnel flying more than 65 hours in a month. In 1946 starting wages for flight attendants were about $125 per month. Now starting pay is closer to $200 a month.

Pulitzer Prize Winners

Two women were among the 1950 pulitzer prize winners: Marguerite Higgins for international reporting, and Margaret Louise Colt for a biography of John C. Calhoun.

Notable Award

During the last year, there has been a net increase of over 700,000 employed women in the United States. The greatest increases were among operatives (chiefly in factories) and women office workers. These gains probably result from the defense program which requires both production and clerical workers. The greatest decline was among saleswomen.

Women in Diplomatic Service

President Truman has appointed Frances Willard, legation counselor at Helsinki, Finland, for promotion to Class I in the diplomatic service. She is the first American woman to reach that rank as a professional diplomat. Only the permanent rank of career minister is higher.

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Delegates Adopt Action Program

International Officers Installed

Service, extended to the convention the best wishes of their respective unions. Numerous delegations of other national and international unions also brought greetings to the convention—some in person and others by letters and telegrams.

Constitution Amendments

The convention adopted a series of amendments to the International Union constitution.

Resolutions Adopted

Approximately 50 resolutions were accepted for consideration by the convention, referred to the respective committees and acted upon by the convention. These resolutions, in addition to constitutional amendments, embraced a variety of subjects. Included among the actions taken by the convention were amendments to the Taft-Hartley law and the reinstatement of the Wagner Labor Relations Act, urging the maintenance of the present 75 cents per hour level and informing the public of price ceilings by means of posters and the continuation of federal rent control, urging reduction of the tax burden of workers in the lower income brackets by increasing the amount of deductible exemptions for each dependent or decreasing the percentage of tax, requesting the combining of earnings of man and wife as a basis for determining eligibility for old age benefits where the applicant is not otherwise entitled to the same, urging the U. S. Congress to reverse the action of the House of Representatives which had cut the 1952 program for building public housing from 135,000 to 8,000 units, requesting the International Union to support a direct blow at recognized union operations, and removing the right of employers to conduct any possible effort in obtaining a reversal of the same.

Inspiring Address

On Tuesday afternoon, June 12, the delegates were inspired by the address of D. W. Ambridge, president of the Abitibi Power & Paper Co., Ltd. See separate story on page 1.

Irvin R. Kuenzli, secretary-treasurer of Teachers; Harry O'Reilly, A. F. of L. director of organization; and Walter A. Magliolo, commissioner, Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, extended a special invitation to the convention to visit the OEIU for its valuable service in Canada.

On Wednesday of the convention week the delegates heard an address by Ralph Godson, labor attaché of the United States Embassy at Ottawa, Ontario, in which he discussed some of the labor facets of American foreign policy.

Officers Elected

The following members were elected as officers of the International Union: President Paul R. Hutchings, Secretary-Treasurer: J. Howard Hicks, and Vice Presidents: Reg. I.—Harold E. Beck, Howard J. Coughlin, George P. Firth, Edward P. Spooner, Harold E. Beck, A. R. Carson; Reg. III—Winifred Evans, L. G. Nygren, J. Howard Hicks, Milan A. Kinnick, Max J. Krug, Terry Parker; Reg. V.—Walter W. Milne.

The full convention proceedings are being prepared in printed form and a copy will be supplied to each of our local unions shortly, in accordance with established procedure.

Delegates Given Fine Reception

Toronto, Ont.—Under the capable leadership of its President, Marjorie Whitten, who served as chairman of its committee on convention entertainment, the Toronto Local 153 provided numerous events for the entertainment of the delegates to the recent International Union Convention.

On Sunday evening, June 10, the local sponsored a pre-convention buffet supper party at which time the delegates as they arrived had an opportunity to get acquainted informally with the convention committee, the International Union officers and the delegates from other local unions.

A tour of Toronto on Wednesday evening of the convention week offered those delegates not otherwise serving on committees meeting that evening to see the sights of this growing industrial province.

An exceedingly well planned convention banquet was arranged by the Toronto Local and served in the King Edward Hotel on Thursday evening. In addition to an excellent menu, a program of entertainment, including music and floor show was presented.

Three Rivers, Que.—Anglo-Canadian Power and Paper Co., Ltd. and Northeastern Paper Co., Ltd. of Three Rivers, Que.; Broadcasting—Radio Station WEVD, Local 153, New York City, 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. each day.

Milk Products—The Borden Company, 233 Bay St., Toronto, Ontario, $4 to $13.50 per week, merit increments increased $3.50 per month.

Newspapers—Goodrich Publishing Co., Local 153, Jersey City, N. J., $2.50 to $7 per week.


Periodicals—American News Co., Local 29, Oakland, Calif., $2.90 per week.

Washington, D. C., New York, Calif., 3 cents per hour.


Trucking—Consolidated Freightways, Inc., Local 29, Oakland, Calif., 10 to 15 cents per hour.

Designers & Bidra.—The Luminus Co., Local 153, New York City, 12½ cents per hour.

Garcia A.G. Stores, Inc., Local 10, Detroit, Mich., 8 cents per hour.


Canadian International Paper Co. and its affiliated companies, Local 110, Gatineau, Que.; Local 114, Dalhousie, N. B.; Local 154, Temiskaming, Que.; Local 165, Hawkesbury, Que.; Local 166, Cap-de-la-Madeleine, Que.; Anglo-Canadian Pulp and Paper Co., Ltd., and Northeastern Paper Co., Ltd., Local 241, Quebec City, Que.; 12½ per cent. on being selected and crowned as the Queen of the Convention.
Paul R. Hutchings, OEIU President: "We must dedicate our full energies to building our organization into a strong capable and respected union."

Marjorie Whitten, Pres., Toronto OEIU Local 131, immediately after being crowned Queen of the Convention. We know of no one more deserving of the honor.

J. Howard Hicks, OEIU Secretary-Treasurer: "We know our problems...we know we are going to overcome those problems, and increase the unionization of Office Workers."

Leslie Saunders, Toronto Controller: "All of us enjoy many privileges—never forget it is because of organization."

C. J. Foster, Civil Service Commissioner for Ont. and Man.: "Labor and capital can find a common basis to work out their problems."

William Jenoves, Pres., Toronto Trades and Labor Council: "We are proud of our accomplishments here in Toronto."

Russell Harvey, AFL Rep. and OEIU Canadian Rep.: "We are with you in making our Continent a glowing example of what can be done when people believe in themselves, their government, and freedom."

OEIU 4th CONVENTION, TORONTO, CANADA