LAUNCH CAMPAIGN AGAINST HIGH PRICES

Washington — United labor launched a nationwide campaign to mobilize mass protests against the rooking being given to American consumers by the big business interests dominating the defense program.

First step in the campaign will be conferences in Washington of state and local representatives called for March 20 by the AFL, the CIO, the Railway organization, and the Machinists.

On the following day, all of these locals will hold a joint indignation meeting—the first combined rally of grass-roots labor leaders in many years.

Purposes of the meetings is to organize community action against sky-high price controls, against unfair tax policies, and against failure to permit democratic representation on all defense agencies.

AFL President William Green will extend the call to officials of state federations of labor and central labor unions.

"No one is looking out for the interests of the consumer in this situation, and no one else will take the leadership," the committee said.

Members of the committee, representing 15 million workers in the AFL, CIO, Railroad Employees and International Association of Machinists, will bring the regional offensives to the attention of the big business-dominated war program.

The United Labor Policy Committee, which approved the conference, has withdrawn all representatives of its unions from the Wage Stabilization Board and other defense mobilization agencies to dramatize the blotched job being done on and against the American people by the big business executives who have been selected to run the program exclusively.

The committee thanked President Truman its complete list of grievances which included:

1. The failure to freeze prices;
2. The unfair and unworkable absolute freeze on wages;
3. The failure to request Congress to strengthen the Defense Production Act;
4. The failure to extend and strengthen rent controls;
5. The failure of the administration to propose a tax program that would shift the load from the low income groups;
6. The failure to provide help for small business;
7. The failure to prevent Mr. Wilson from grabbing control over all manpower;
8. The failure to give labor adequate and equal voice in the mobilization program.

View of OEU Convention City

TVA Labor Relations Laundered

Chattanooga, Tenn. — The Tennessee Valley Authority has built many useful monuments throughout the valley, but none stand out any brighter than the development of its outstanding union-management relations program, according to Paul H. Hutchings, president of the Office Employees International Union, who recently addressed the closing dinner session of the second valley-wide meeting of Union-Management Cooperative Conferences here.

Speaking to the more than 1,000 officials of TVA and of the unions representing its more than 5,000 salaried employees, Hutchings complimented TVA management and its salaried employees unions on the spirit of good will and oneness of purpose which they demonstrated in all phases of their relationship.

Speaking of the recently signed collective bargaining agreement, Hutchings pointed out that it constituted the first agreement between an agency of the Federal government and the union representing its white collar employees. The agreement, he indicated, "is in no sense a truce agreement as is sometimes the case when the parties have not recognized each other as full fledged working partners."

The spirit behind our TVA agreement "is genuine and wholesome."

The enlightened approach of TVA management to the development of its relationships with the unions representing its non-manual employees has provided a real stimulus to our program of mutual cooperation.

"Only through sound stable employee unions can true employee participation on a result-producing basis be assured," he stressed.

"Cooperation and teamwork cannot grow in an atmosphere of instability, fear, and lack of faith."

President Hutchings outlined the basic highlights of the formation and growth of OEU. He urged all eligible office and clerical employees of TVA to join their local of the OEU and to actively play their part in the development of teamwork and cooperation on matters of mutual interest.

Other speakers included Mr. Gordon R. Clapp, chairman of the TVA board of directors, and Mr. Harry L. Coce, TVA personnel director, who announced the commemoration made by the Conference to local conferences for their outstanding work during the past year in matters of mutual interest.

BUFFALO, N.Y.—A strike of more than two weeks' duration by the clerical staff of the Hospital Service Corporation of Western New York has been settled victoriously and an agreement signed between this Blue Cross organization and the OEU Local 212.

Terms of the settlement include an immediate 7½ cents per hour increase for all clerical employees with an agreement for an additional 3 cents per hour increase in 6 months. Individual adjustments were also negotiated resulting in additional increases to correct inequities and ranging upward to 25 cents per hour. The total average increase will amount to between 15 cents and 16 cents per hour for the employees involved.

The contract also provides for a cost-of-living escalator clause and for an additional paid holiday.

Union security is assured through a modified union shop clause. It provides for the retention of membership of all present members and providing that all new employees must become members of the union within the stipulated regular period.

Paid vacations on the basis of one week after 6 months, two weeks after a year and three weeks after five years' service are provided. Sundays served in the capacity of maintenance are paid as vacations. The two weeks' vacation clause patterned after that presently in effect in the agreement between OEU Local 212 and the New Jersey Hospital Service (Blue Cross) and which clause provides for a day a month paid sick leave up to 100 working days per year for employees of less than one year's service with additional paid sick leave having added each year up to a maximum of five weeks per year after four years service.

OEIU Local 212 at Buffalo was forced to resort to strike action after prolonged efforts to negotiate a satisfactory agreement proved unsuccessful. International Representative George P. Firth has been assisting the local union and obtained splendid cooperation from the other labor organizations which assisted and supported our member in their successful efforts to obtain a worthwhile agreement with this company.

"Unorganized workers are workers without the right of franchise in economic life—inevitable of taking part in and enjoying the benefits of our system of economic democracy." —William Green.
Withdrawal of Members of Wage Board Spotlights Crisis

Washington—The action taken by the United Labor Policy Committee—AFL, CIO and Railroad Brotherhoods—directing the labor members of the Wage Stabilization Board to submit their resignations, climaxd a whole series of developments which convinced Labor's Policy Committee that labor has been getting a complete runaround from Defense Mobilization Czar Charles E. Wilson and his organization.

In a formal statement, outlining the "shocking" series of confrontations, insults and grievous inequities from the government under the Defense Mobilization Program, the Policy Committee emphasized that:

There is no group in America more alert to the dangers of Communist aggression against the free world than the 15 million American wage earners we represent. There is no mass group in the nation more definitely committed to all-out resistance against communism than the members of our free trade union movement. We have offered our full support to the defense program. We have accepted in advance our responsibility for making all necessary sacrifices. We have willingly volunteered to bear our fair share of the burden because our hearts are in this fight. From the very beginning of the national emergency, American labor has led the fight for effective control of the cost of living and other matters necessary to insure economic stabilization.

We have hoped that our government would take advantage of our earnest determination to cooperate to the fullest extent in advancing the national defense program. Instead, our offers of cooperation have been rejected.

This has not been good enough for the government. Our decision here cannot and must not be interpreted merely as a protest against an unfair and unworkable wage formula which is now being imposed. That formula culminated a whole series of shocking developments which we find inescapable.

These developments add up to nothing less than a crisis in our defense mobilization program.

This crisis must be quickly resolved if America's mobilization program is to move ahead with the speed which our national skills, techniques and resources make possible.

The crisis has developed because the men who are in control of the mobilization program have ignored the necessity for "equality of sacrifice" by all the people. Only through such equality of sacrifice can we fully and effectively win the voluntary cooperation and the intense will to win of every American citizen.

The unworkable and unfair wage formula adopted by the Wage Stabilization Board is both a symbol and a symptom of this crisis in our domestic affairs.

It is a symptom of concern for the needs and welfare of the plain people of this country. It is a symbol of ill-considered action, lacking an understanding of the problems and viewpoints of wage earners.

The withdrawal of the labor representatives on the Wage Stabilization Board did not create the crisis; it merely called public attention to the dangers which confront us.

This claim is not only wages but prices, taxes, rent control, manpower and housing, and the general management of the defense program.

T-II Jurisdiction—The NLRB will not give attention to labor-management disputes in the hotel industry. The Board announces this in a case involving a hotel association with 22 members doing more than $15 million worth of business a year.

The Board's recently published rules, explaining which cases it considered to be in its jurisdiction, would easily cover this hotel operation; however, the NLRB points out that Congress had the chance to change the Board's old policy under the Wagner Act of refusing hotel cases when the legislators enacted the T-II Law. Since Congress didn't criticize this policy, the Board holds, it indicated satisfaction. So the policy sticks—(Hotel Assn. of Operating Engineers, AFL).

Meetings—The company owned the whole town with the next settlement 16 miles away, and refused to permit a labor organization to hold its meetings on company property where all the handy meeting places were.

While unions generally don't have the right to hold meetings on company property unless management agrees to it, in this case the Board is convinced that a ban on union meetings on the company property is unreasonable burden on unions organizing. It orders the company to quit keeping the union out of the company's community hall used by all the other community groups.—(Phillips Petroleum Co. and Operating Engineers, AFL).

Back Pay—If a company is ordered to give a worker back pay because he was unlawfully discharged, NLRB will not deduct from the back pay the amount of money the discharged worker gets unemployment compensation while he was out of work.

The U. S. Court of Appeals at New Orleans, however, said in one case last year that the Board was wrong, pointing out that: giving the employee back pay plus unemployment compensation was making him more than "whole," the word used by NLRB to describe a person who's got what's supposed to be his.

The Appeals Court, though, is overruled by the U. S. Supreme Court. AFL says its payments come from the state government as a matter of state policy. They aren't something the company is obligated to pay. So the company doesn't get credit on its back pay check if the discharged worker gets unemployment compensation.

However, the Supreme Court points out some states provide for return of unemployment compensation if the worker gets money from his company as well as from the state during the period in which he was unemployed. This will have to be threshed out in the states, notes the High Court.—(NLRB v. Gulf Oil Co., Inc.).
Cigarette Machines — Wright's Automatic Machinery Co., Local 84, Durham, N. C., 11 cents per hour, to 9 cents per hour each of next four years plus cost of living escalator clause.

Automotive Repair — National Audit Bureau, Local 36, San Francisco, Calif., $10 per month.

Health and Safety — National Audit Bureau, Local 36, San Francisco, Calif., $12.50 to $12 per month.

OEU MEMBERSHIP PAYS

Washington — OEU Local 2's Federal Credit Union, after only 10 months of operations, has found it possible to vote a 4 per cent dividend to its members.

In announcing the dividend, the credit union's president, William Ball, said that much of the credit for this accomplishment to the excellent cooperation of the various committees actively participating in the credit union's operations.

Brother Ball hopes that this will be an incentive to all OEU locals to establish a credit union of their own for their membership.

VALUE OF CREDIT UNION STRESSED

Washington — OEU Local 2's Federal Credit Union, after only 10 months of operations, has found it possible to vote a 4 per cent dividend to its members.

In announcing the dividend, the credit union's president, William Ball, said that much of the credit for this accomplishment to the excellent cooperation of the various committees actively participating in the credit union's operations.

Brother Ball hopes that this will be an incentive to all OEU locals to establish a credit union of their own for their membership.

He goes on to point out that "often times the working-man and working-woman are at the mercy of the money-lenders. A credit union eliminates the necessity of dealing with unscrupulous money-lenders. Through the promotion of loan and savings, makes useful loans available to members at reasonable cost, and makes members shareholders of their credit more effectively. A well-organized credit union proves helpful to its members by rendering a valuable and worthwhile service."

Another Challenger

Elmira, N. Y. — Recording Secretary Ruth E. Ferguson of OEU Local 217, writes: "Now that you have shown us what the East Coast and the Central Section can do in the way of feminine beauty it is only fair that the West Coast be represented also."

"We give you Mrs. Alice Johnson, whose personality is as pleasing and gracious as her smile. Alice is a charter member of Local 157 and her presence in the membership has added much to the unity and prestige of the local.

"She is the way any other local to persuade or even match our candidate for Local Loveliness."

are no less than 1,000 separate jobs open to them. These run from radar, electronics, communications, food services, flight control operators, parachute riggers and maintenance mechanics, to mention a few, to the regular clerical and administrative positions.

How Old

If you're between 18 and 34, a high school graduate, a citizen of the U.S., in good physical shape and can pass a normal medical aptitude test, you can enlist in the Army or Air Corps. You can receive while in the service.

After 20 years you can retire on half-pay; after 30, you get three-quarter pay. To enlist in the Marines, you must be between 18 and 31; in the regular Navy, 20 through 25; in the Naval Reserve, 18 to 40.

Urgent

Graduate registered nurses, dentists, occupational and physical therapists are urgently needed. Right now the Army is looking for 3,000 nurses.

Volunteers

If you're not ready—or you're young enough—to enlist, and yet want to help, you can be of important service as a Red Cross volunteer. Blood donor collections are to be increased almost 100 per cent.

Or you can take home nursing instruction. The Red Cross plans to train 700,000 to give nursing care at home, or mass care in an area of emergency. If you're limited to free time, you may want to spend a few hours sewing or knitting, or making surgical dressings. Find out from your Red Cross how you can help.—Polly Edson.
OVER 3 MILLION
VOTE UNION SHOP

Washington—A total of 3,434,329 workers voted in 374 union shop in NLRB elections in 1948-49-50 under the T-H Act. Under this law, union members can demand a union shop only if 51 per cent of the eligible workers in bargaining unit vote in favor of a poll conducted by the NLRB. The provision was written in by Senator Taft and his colleagues in the belief that the right to work in the unions completely. They had already forbidden the closed shop — a long-honored, responsible worker-employer relationship. They believed that if the union members had a chance to vote seriously in a government election they would repudiate their union organization.

In the union members have voted overwhelmingly for a union shop and this form of security has spread under Taft-Hartley to many industries. As unhappily for the unions but contrary to the evil purposes of the Taft-Hartley Act's authors.

HIGH COURT KILLS
STATE STRIKE BAN

Washington—The U. S. Supreme Court killed u to 2 the Wisconsin law which banned strikes by public utility workers and required them to submit labor disputes to compulsory arbitration.

The suit, which led to the placement of a new right by the APL Amalgated Street Electric and Railway and Motor Coach Employees against the Milwaukee Electric Railway and Transportation Co.

The union voted to go on strike after prolonged negotiations between employers brought no contract failed. The Milwaukee circuit court issued and Wisconsin State Supreme Court granted a permanent injunction against the strike.

The U. S. Supreme Court decision puts in jeopardy similar laws in New York, Michigan, Massachusetts, Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, Kansas, and Wisconsin and similar courts have ruled in favor of the Wisconsin law.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Champaign-Urbana, Ill.—A filmstrip on "Public Relations for Labor," which can be adapted to the specific needs and problems of local unions and labor groups has been developed by the Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations at the University of Illinois.

The film emphasizes the importance of mutual understanding between management and labor, and the necessity for labor to explain to the public its own goals and practices. It points out that the methods unions can use to build better relations with other groups in the community.

Rather than a straight lecture, a set of lecture notes are included. Detailed suggestions for adding illustrations and problems which apply to individual communities are given.

LEAD MONTREAL OEU LOCAL 57

Montreal, Quebec—Shown above are the newly elected officers of Local 57 who were recently installed by OEU President Paul R. Seated, left to right: Blanche Labelle, secretary-treasurer; Roger Belanger, vice president; Romeo Girard, president; and Yolande Millette, English recording secretary. Standing, same order: Claude Ouellet, sergeant at arms; executive board members Louis A. Beauchet, Rene Dion, and Helene Antonuk; trustees Reginold Bivert and Dominique Vachestein; Robert Bertrand, executive board member; and Lucien Tremblay, trustee. Clarke Perron, elected as the French recording secretary, was not present at the time the picture was taken.

Notes
FROM THE FIELD

California—The office and clerical employees of Norbert Cronin Insurance Company have recently selected San Francisco Local 36 as their bargaining representative and contract negotiations are proceeding. A majority of the office and clerical employees of the Ramey Foundation Hospitals employed in San Francisco have also designated this local as their bargaining representative and recognition has been requested. Local 36 is also conducting organizing campaigns at General Insurance Company and Marumsee Hospital.

Considerable interest in organization into Oakland Local 29 is being shown by the office and clerical employees of Westinghouse, Inc., with a number having already signed application cards.

San Jose Local 94 has organized and filed an NLRB representation petition covering the office and clerical employees of Central Scientific Company at Santa Clara.

Washington—Seattle Local 8 has organized the office and clerical employees of the Hood Rubber Company.

Illinois—The winning of an NLRB union shop authorization election has made effective the union security provisions in its agreement with this firm.

Michigan—Detroit Local 109's effectiveness is expected to increase with the winning of an office in downtown Detroit. Congratulations to the members of this local in this forward-looking step.

Oregon—Recent organization of the office and clerical employees of the Avery Transportation Company by Portland Local 11 followed by successful negotiations of an agreement has resulted in substantial improvements in the employment conditions of these employees.

Quebec—Marcel France, a member of Montreal Local 57, has been appointed Labor Representative on the Quebec Labor Relations Board.

Kentucky—The office and clerical employees of Magnavox Company of Kentucky have, by voting favorably in an NLRB election, made effective the union security clauses contained in the agreement between Ludowich Local 152 and this company.

New York—New York City Local 453 has increased its representation in the hotel industry to 24 hotels by its recent organization of the George Washington, Webster and Chase and Seville hotels. Contract negotiations have been completed at the Hotel Marguary and are continuing at the Hotel Langwoll. It has also recently organized the salesmen of Hydrosol Ice Cream Company.

Maryland—The winning of an NLRB union security authorization election at the Strauss, Royer and Apparel Company permits Baltimore Local 22 to bargain for union shop conditions for this firm's office and clerical employees.

Unions may purchase the film (single frame, about 13 min.) directly from the Institute at 704 South Sixth Street, Champaign Illinois, at $2 each.