WASHINGTON, D. C., AUGUST, 1952

No. 92

PAPER MILL

Woodland, Me.—With only three dissenting votes the clerical staff of the St. Croix Lumber Company of this city overwhelmingly voted for representation through the Office Employees International Union in a recent NLRB election. OEIU Representative E. C. Nagel is assisting this group of approximately 85 in preparation for their forthcoming contract negotiations with the company, and Local 296 has been chartered at Woodland for this group.

OEIU CERTIFIED FOR CLERICALS IN WOODS

Council Enlarged

Washington, D. C.—The International Union Executive Board at its recent meeting in San Francisco approved the request of the Washington State Council of Office Employees Unions to change its name to "Northwest Council of Office Employees Unions" and to increase its geographical jurisdiction so as to include British Columbia, Canada, in addition to Washington.

The Northwest Council, with the assistance of the Washington State Federation of Labor and OEIU, has placed a full-time organizer in the field who will work initially on office organization in Longview, Kelso and Vancouver, Wash.

Survey Shows Shorter Week In Offices Gaining in Canada

Ottawa, Ont.—The Canadian Department of Labour, in its monthly publication, The Labour Gazette, sets forth the results of a survey made of the normal work week for 156,000 office workers in 6,500 manufacturing establishments in Canada. The survey was made by the Labour Gazette, and by five large Canadian cities.

The "normal" work week, as defined for purposes of the survey, was a week of 57 1/2 hours or less, and by most of the employees, exclusive of any temporary over-time or short time.

The average normal work week of the 156,000 office workers in manufacturing covered in the 1951 survey was 56.6 hours. This is a decrease of about 12 minutes from the average for 1950, but the reduction, however slight, is in evidence in most of the provincial and city figures.

The most noticeable trend has been a decrease in the proportion of office employees working more than 40 hours and an increase in the proportion working less than 37 1/2 hours.

More than 10 per cent of office workers in manufacturing are working 35 hours a week or less. About half of the office employees were on the pay rolls of firms receiving a certificate from the NLRB for the new "normal" work weeks.

Changes in the distribution of white collar workers since 1940, according to the survey, are not found commonly, are shown below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Normal Weekly Hours</th>
<th>Per cent of Workers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1949</td>
<td>1951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 57 1/2</td>
<td>16.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57 1/2 to 63</td>
<td>20.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63 to 69</td>
<td>29.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69 to 75</td>
<td>29.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 75</td>
<td>11.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Normal Work Week by Province

Eighty-four per cent of the total office employees were in establishments

ATOMIC PROJECT SIGN-UP BEGINS

Aiken, S. C.—The OEIU is moving forward on the organization of clerical employees at the big Savannah River Atomic Energy project. Local 294 has been chartered at Aiken, S. C., and substantial progress has already been made in signing up hundreds of the construction clerical employees on the project.

OEIU has also affiliated with the Savannah River Atomic Trades and Labor Council which is sponsoring a consolidated drive for the operating employees of the project including production, maintenance and clerical employees.

The OEIU campaigns are under the general direction of International Vice President J. O. Bloodworth, Jr.

Millions Face Rent Increases

Washington—More than 6 million families face rent increases ranging from 10 to 100 per cent unless their local governments continue time rent controls, Rent Stabilizer Tieghi Woods warned.

The new Defense Production Act provides for rent ceilings to be abolished after September 30 except in "critical defense areas" and in communities which ask for an extension of controls.

William Green, AFL president, has requested all Central Labor Unions to sponsor petitions asking their city government to continue rent ceilings where such action is found necessary to protect workers.

ATOMIC VICTORY

Amarillo, Tex.—The Amarillo Metal Trades Council of the A. F. of L. established its bargaining rights at the Pan- tex Atomic plant here as a result of a recent NLRB election. By a substantial majority vote the production and maintenance employees, including shop clerical, chose the A. F. of L. as their bargaining representative. The organization work at Pantex has been under the direction of Southwestern A. F. of L. Director Lester Graham. Organization of the general office clericals is presently underway.

NLRB Elections Scheduled At Badger Ordnance Plant

Baraboo, Wis.—The Liberty Powder Company operating the big Badger Ordnance Plant here has entered into an agreement with the OEIU for consent elections to be conducted by the NLRB on September 3 to determine whether employees in the plant including the lab work force are employed by the company, in addition to Washington.

The elections were petitioned for by OEIU after a preponderance of employees signed with the union. The elections will be conducted in two voting units, one embracing the general office and area office clerical workers and the other theballistics laboratory, lab operators and lab technicians employed at this plant numbering in aggregate close to 400 workers.

OEIU elections were held after a preponderance of employees signed with the union. The consent elections were held after the death of the board scheduled by the NLRB.

OEIU General Counsel Herbert S. Thatcher and International Vice President Harold E. Beck participated in the consent election negotiations together with Local Organizer Vernon Peckham, a committee of employees and Robert Thissell, Business Representative of the International Union, which held bargaining rights for the production and maintenance employees.

In addition to obtaining consent elections for the office and clerical employees, collective bargaining rights for the shop workers were also established. The storekeepers had, upon the insistence of the company, been excluded from the bargaining unit of the production and maintenance employees. When they were excluded from that unit they signed up with OEIU which agreed to gain for them the bargaining rights which they sought. In connection with the consent elections agreement the company has now reversed its position and agreed to include the storekeepers in the production and maintenance unit.

The office and clerical and lab employees are overjoyed with the promises of their forthcoming elections which will give to them an opportunity to establish OEIU as their exclusive bargaining representative and to assure them of the many benefits which they know can be obtained through collective bargaining.

(Continued on page 4)
Editorial Comments

What's old is encouragement and that little wedgish instrument which no one seemed to be able to identify. "That tool," said the Devil, "is my most valuable one. It opens many doors with if I can break down many a strong soul, for few people know that it belongs to me. That little tool is my weapon, Dis- encouragement."

How many of us, beset by discouragement and failure, give up—we don’t finish a job begun, we don’t even start others, we refuse to get our hands into the old Devil Discouragement that says, “What’s the use!”

There are a few tried and true sayings we might recall to mind, to drive home the point we’re striving to make in this editorial. One is—'The battle is won by the army which stays in the field the last 15 minutes.' Another—'The fighter who becomes champion is the one who refuses to give up!'

New Wage Board Is Formed; A. F. of L. Unions Represented

Washington—President Truman issued an Executive Order establishing a new Wage Stabilization Board with curtailed powers after the AFL reluctantly agreed to serve on it. The new board, like the old WSB which was disbanded by order of Congress, will function on a tripartite basis with 16 members—representing labor, 6 industry, and 6 the "public." On AFL President Green’s recommendation, Pries exhibited the WSB represented on the old board to serve in the new agency. They are Harry G. Cox, president of the Bricklayers; William C. Birthright, president of the Painters; and Elmer Shacter, vice president of the Machinists.

Archibald Cox, member of the faculty of Harvard Law School, was named chairman of the WSB by the President.

Shorn of Authority

Under the new Defense Production Act, the WSB was shorn of authority to deal with disputes. It cannot take jurisdiction over non-economic issues and even in wage disputes it can render advisory opinions only when requested by both parties or by the government. Thus its function will be limited largely to the formation and administration of over-all wage policies for industries who stays in the ring and punches until the last bell is rung.

We must let discouragement get us down, it’s certainly dis- graceful to fall, and fail fallen to the ground. The disgrace comes from lying there, be insensible to that weapon which Satan calls his most powerful and most priceless. Keep on keeping on—The Electrical Worker.

Living Costs Up
To Record High

Washington—Living costs reached an all-time high in mid-June. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that on June 15 it took $18.56 to buy the same amount of goods and services that $10 bought in 1938-39.

That represented an increase of 11.4 per cent in the cost of living since the Korean war began, and 2.4 per cent since June, 1961. The bureau said that prices rose between May and June on food, rent, fuel, electricity, and miscellaneous goods and services.

Here is how the cost of living increased since 1938-39 in 18 large cities on a percentage basis:

- Baltimore, 94.2; Birmingham, 94.5; Boston, 86.4; Chicago, 96.6; Cinncinati, 90.1; Detroit, 92.3; Houston, 94.6; Jacksonveille, 98.2; Los Angeles, 91.9; Memphis, 91.2; Minneapolis, 90.3; Mobile, 88.4; New York, 83.8; Philadelphia, 89.2; Pittsburgh, 90.8; Portland, Me., 82.3; St. Louis, 92.7; San Francisco, 96.3.

the War Labor Board which did an outstanding job during the last World War.

The case which caused the WSB’s downfall was the steel dispute. Industry refused to accept the board’s recommendations and raised such a furor that Congress deliberately overrode the board’s limited powers, as big business demanded.

Read Your Union Paper

"Were it not for the labor press, the labor movement would not be what it is today, and many a strong soul who injured a labor paper is a traitor to the cause."

SAMUEL GOMPERS,
Founder and First President, American Federation of Labor.

The Office Worker

Official organ of the Office Employees International Union

Paul R. Huthins, President J. Howard Hicks, Sec-Treas.

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Backs Equal Pay
Washington—David A. Morse, Director-General of the International Labor Organization, has announced that the ILO Convention calling for equal remuneration for men and women workers for work of equal value would come into force May 23, 1953.

The Convention stipulates that it shall come into effect a year from the date upon which the second ratification of it is registered by the ILO.

The second ratification deposited was that of Belgium. Yugoslavia registered the first early in July.

The Convention declares that each of the countries in operation by means appropriate to the method of work to determine rates of remuneration, promote, and insofar as is consistent with such methods, ensure the application to all workers of the principle of equal remuneration for men and women workers for work of equal value.

The Convention was adopted by the ILO's General Conference in June, 1951.

Modest Living For Family of Four Averages Over $80 a Week
Washington—The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that it costs from $3,812 to $4,454 a year to maintain a family of four on a modest budget in 34 of our largest cities. The average is $4,106.11, or $80.12 a week.

The cheapest city of the 34 to live in is New Orleans. The most expensive is Washington, D. C.

The following table shows how much it costs to support a man, wife and two children on a "modest but adequate" standard of living:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Minimum</th>
<th>Moderate</th>
<th>Maximum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>$3,664</td>
<td>$4,106</td>
<td>$4,544</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milwaukee</td>
<td>$3,487</td>
<td>$3,929</td>
<td>$4,454</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richmond</td>
<td>$3,439</td>
<td>$3,881</td>
<td>$4,309</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlanta</td>
<td>$3,415</td>
<td>$3,857</td>
<td>$4,286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>$3,411</td>
<td>$3,853</td>
<td>$4,283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Houston</td>
<td>$3,404</td>
<td>$3,846</td>
<td>$4,281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td>$3,420</td>
<td>$3,864</td>
<td>$4,304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Francisco</td>
<td>$3,423</td>
<td>$3,867</td>
<td>$4,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cincinnati</td>
<td>$3,408</td>
<td>$3,850</td>
<td>$4,288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleveland</td>
<td>$3,421</td>
<td>$3,863</td>
<td>$4,302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Louis</td>
<td>$3,412</td>
<td>$3,854</td>
<td>$4,287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portland, Me.</td>
<td>$3,413</td>
<td>$3,855</td>
<td>$4,288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baltimore</td>
<td>$3,438</td>
<td>$3,880</td>
<td>$4,309</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
<td>$3,478</td>
<td>$3,928</td>
<td>$4,378</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleveland</td>
<td>$3,463</td>
<td>$3,913</td>
<td>$4,363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rochester</td>
<td>$3,483</td>
<td>$3,923</td>
<td>$4,373</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indianapolis</td>
<td>$3,444</td>
<td>$3,894</td>
<td>$4,344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portland, Or.</td>
<td>$3,421</td>
<td>$3,861</td>
<td>$4,281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scranton</td>
<td>$3,412</td>
<td>$3,852</td>
<td>$4,282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile</td>
<td>$3,416</td>
<td>$3,856</td>
<td>$4,286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas City</td>
<td>$3,490</td>
<td>$3,930</td>
<td>$4,380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Orleans</td>
<td>$3,812</td>
<td>$4,261</td>
<td>$4,712</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

California Wage Minimum Boosted
San Francisco—California's minimum wage for women and minors was increased from 65 to 75 cents an hour, effective July 1, according to issuance of the Bureau of Labor and Employment of the Department of Industrial Welfare. The revised rate is contained in a new minimum wage orders recently approved by the state's Industrial Welfare Commission. These orders enforced by the Division of Industrial Welfare, regulate minimum wages, maximum hours and working conditions for women and minors in all industries in California except agriculture and domestic service in private households.

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Job Prospects In Accounting Good
Washington—Continued improvement in employment opportunities for accountants is expected during the next few years, according to a report just issued by the United States Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Expansion of defense production is making it necessary for private business, public accounting firms, and government agencies to hire more accountants. About 300,000 professional accountants are now employed, and additional personnel, particularly cost accountants, will be needed.

The Bureau's new report, Employment Outlook in Accounting, is designed to acquaint persons interested in becoming accountants with the nature of the work performed by accountants, accounting services, fields of accounting (public, private, and governmental), training and qualifications required, earnings and working conditions, as well as the employment trends and outlook. The 32-page report, Bullet in No. 104, was prepared in operation with the Veterans Administration, for use in vocational guidance of veterans and young people in schools and colleges. Copies of the bulletin may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., at 20 cents each.

Future Food Requirements
Under Secretary of Agriculture Clarence J. McCormick says that for every four people who sat down to a meal in 1950, there will be another person at the table in 1975.

This will require a 20 per cent increase in the consumption of farm commodities just to keep even with our 1950 level of diet. To improve our diet we will need a great deal more meat, eggs and other food products. McCormick said that the one sure way of expanding farm production is by building up the yield per acre.

Ironing Hint
A good way to prepare sprinkled shirts for ironing is to roll them up and put them in a plastic sheet or in a sprinkling bag for about 2 hours. The plastic sheet or sprinkling bag will help distribute the moisture, whereas terry cloth towels, which are frequently used, tend to absorb it.

Home Dyeing
Washing machines should ordinarily not be used for home dyeing of fabrics of clothes because most dye call for boiling the fabric in water for a few minutes which is not possible in a washing machine. However, the machine can be used for tinting—dyes that are permanently color. The best utensil for home dyeing is still a big, old-fashioned dye which is large enough to keep the clothes moving in the dye bath and is made for boiling.

Home Business Center
It is a good idea to have a sort of business center in your home—a place where you can do "paper work" and store records and other data. If you have a place nearby for book records; good light; and such accessories as waste basket and pencil-sharpeners.

In your home business center, you will put up your business papers in separate files for account books, addresses, automobile records, bank deposit slips, bank statements, bills paid (receipts); bills to be paid; canceled checks—current year; food records; banking information; tax returns; insurance information; letters—answered and unanswered; tapes, which are invaluable and can be kept in safety boxes.

Oregon—Portland Local 11 has filed an NLRB representation petition on behalf of the Board which has ordered an election among all office and clerical employees of Western Cooperage, Inc.
Reimbursed For Lost Pay

Detroit, Mich.—Georginna Whitley and Lenore Eason, members of OEU Local 42 of this city, are shown leaving NLRB offices where they were received back pay from the Radio Distributing Co. The two, with Elda Sandana, not shown, received $3,000 in pay they had lost after they were fired by the firm for union activities. Shown with them is Robert Corrigan, business representative of the local union.

Southern Union Gas Organizes

Galveston, Tex.—The office and clerical employees of the Southern Union Gas Company in this city have overwhelmingly voted for representation by OEU Local 57 in an NLRB election held earlier this month, thereby establishing the exclusive bargaining rights of our Galveston local union for this group. The office and clerical staff of the Albuquercue N. Mex., office of the same company are also rapidly moving forward with organization. A substantial majority have already signed up with OEU Local 267 and it is expected that an NLRB election petition will shortly be filed for this group.

Southern Union Gas Organizes

Galveston, Tex.—The office and clerical employees of the Southern Union Gas Company in this city have overwhelmingly voted for representation by OEU Local 57 in an NLRB election held earlier this month, thereby establishing the exclusive bargaining rights of our Galveston local union for this group. The office and clerical staff of the Albuquercue N. Mex., office of the same company are also rapidly moving forward with organization. A substantial majority have already signed up with OEU Local 267 and it is expected that an NLRB election petition will shortly be filed for this group.

Shorter Week Gaining in Canada

(Continued from page 1)

largely responsible for the over-all increase. In Quebec, the proportion which fell from 57 to 75 per cent, and in Ontario, from 84 to 88. The 5-day week was much more common in four of the major cities than in the province in which the city was located.

The proportions of employees of the OEU Local 267 and the proportion in descending order of magnitude as follows: Percentage of Employees on Five-Day Week

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>1952</th>
<th>1951</th>
<th>1950</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ontario</td>
<td>87.4</td>
<td>85.7</td>
<td>82.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quebec</td>
<td>72.1</td>
<td>73.3</td>
<td>74.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British Columbia</td>
<td>56.8</td>
<td>56.1</td>
<td>55.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alberta</td>
<td>44.4</td>
<td>44.9</td>
<td>45.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newfoundland</td>
<td>34.6</td>
<td>34.0</td>
<td>33.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British Columbia</td>
<td>45.5</td>
<td>46.0</td>
<td>46.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saskatchewan</td>
<td>28.5</td>
<td>28.0</td>
<td>27.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nova Scotia</td>
<td>20.1</td>
<td>20.5</td>
<td>21.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prince Edward Island</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The five-day week was distinctly predominant in Montreal and Toronto. In Winnipeg, the concentration of employees was on a 40-hour schedule, and in Vancouver 37 1/4 and 40 hours were the normal weeks for 31 and 26 per cent respectively. Average normal hours in the five major cities are as follows: Hallifax, 38.4; Montreal, 37.2; Toronto, 37.7; Winnipeg, 39.7; and Vancouver, 39.2.

The Five-Day Week

About 70 per cent of the office workers in manufacturing were on a 5-day week in 1951. This compares with the proportion of 69 per cent existing a year previously. Increased are the proportions on the 5-day week in Quebec and Ontario, where more than four-fifths of the total number were located, were

Defamation League of N'Nai Brith, Local 6, Boston, Mass., $2 to $3.75 per week.

Hydraulic Tools—Oilgear Co., Local 9, Milwaukee, Wis., up to $30 per month resulting from job evaluation study (apart from 90 cent reported in March, 1952, issue).

Paper Mills—Consolidated Water Power & Paper Co., Local 95, Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., $3 to $4 per week.

LEGAL NOTES

Rad-Faith.—A consent election had been agreed to, but just before the election the employer interrogated employees and threatened wage cuts if union. The election was called off on union's request because of employer's pre-election conduct. The NLRB in an undated order based on a showing of authorization cards. The employer refused, insisting on an election. The NLRB finds that the union was the majority representative, and that the majority status was not in good faith, and that the refusal of recognition was a refusal to bargain.—(Safeway Stores, Inc. and NFA, 72 NLRB No. 9).

Affirming Signatures.—A company had signed the proposed negotiated agreement. Before it was ratified by the union's membership and signed an agreement with the local union a petition was filed for election. The Board holds that a contract which lacks the signature of one of the contracting parties is not enforceable. (Filtration Engineers, Inc., 78 NLRB No. 182).

Reimbursement.—Just prior to the time union A filed its election petition with the NLRB, union B and the company corrected the illegal contract with an amendment signed by the union's representatives although the union members or if ratified by them. The NLRB decides that such circumstances are inadequate to bar the election sought by union A since union B's officials "had apparent authority and are bound by the parties and the parties understood that the amendment became effective immediately on ratification."—(New Jersey Oyster Planters, etc., 78 NLRB No. 174).

Reduction in Force.—A company in New Orleans, in giving enforcement power to an order of the NLRB, declares that an employer is obligated to bargain with a certified union even though its majority status has been challenged by employees in a decertification proceeding. The company's ruling specifies that such obligation continues until certification is lawfully rendered invalid and the employer may not decide for himself the question of union majority status. Hence, the employer is ordered to bargain with the union for duration of its certification.—(NLRB v. Samsos Oyster Mills, Inc.).

Wage Gains


The Borden Co. of Canada, Local 28, Ottawa, Ont., $15 per month.

Rise-McDonkin Dairy Co., Local 33, Pittsburgh, Pa., $20 per month effective last April plus $10 per month (return effective April 15).

Restaurants—Texan, Georgian, Californian, Virginian and Bird-in-Hand, Local 153, New York City, $8 per week.

Organizations—Jewish National Workers Alliance, Local 153, New York City, $15 per week.

Credit Unions—Raytheon Em- ployees Credit Union, Local 6, Boston, Mass., 9 to 16 cents per hour.

Stock Exchanges—New York Stock Exchange, Local 205, New York City, 5 cents per.

Periodicals—American News Co., Local 3, Oakland, Calif., $2.40 per week.

Hardware—Saginaw Hardware Co., Local 79, Detroit, Mich., 5 to 25 cents per hour.

Minneapolis Iron Store, Local 12, Minneapolis, Minn., 5 to 14 cents per hour.

Wholesale Grocers—William Ed- wards Co. and Weideman Co., Local 17, Cleveland, Ohio, 6 cents per hour.

Tanner and Daily, Inc., Local 10, Detroit, Mich., 5 cents per hour.

Lee and Casey (Saginaw), Local 10, Detroit, Mich., 15 cents per hour.

Utilities—Tampa Electric Co., Local 46, Tampa, Fl., 10 cents per.

Madison Gas and Electric Co., Local 30, Madison, Wis., 8 cents effective last May (separate and apart from 2 1/4 cents last November).

New England Power Co., Local 54, Meridian, Miss., 10 cents per.

Trucking—Fredco Transportation Co., Local 105, Springfield, Mo., 4 cents per mile.

Wholesale Drugs—McKesson and Robbins, Inc., Local 69, Fresno, Calif., 16 cents per.

Printing Machinery—Dexter Folder Co., Local 159, Pearl River, N. Y., 7 cents per.

Department Stores—Gimbel Brothers, Joseph Horne Co., May Department Stores Co. (Kaufmann Div.), Local 33, Pittsburgh, Pa., 5 cents per.

Retail Furniture, etc.—John Brunner Co., Local 243, Richmond, Calif., 7 cents per.

Mfg. Elec. Controls—Square D Co. (Industrial Controller Div.), Local 9, Milwaukee, Wis., $7 per month cost of living (plus $10 to $40 per month from job evaluation study).

Charitable Organizations—Anti-