Submarine Local Installs Officers

New London, Conn.—Approximately 100 members and guests of OEIU Local 106 were in attendance at the installation of its officers at a banquet in the Grocer House.Shown at the head table (left to right) are Executive Board Members William Cooper and Isaac Gavitt, Secretary-Treasurer A. LeRoy Bolter, President Charles Peltier, General Chairman and Master of Ceremonies Michael E. Zaradnik, OEIU Representative Edward C. Nagel, Executive Board Member Mildred Jones, Recording Secretary Olivere Hancock and Thomas Griffin, who is a member of the City Council of New London as well as member of Local 106, though not in above picture. Charles Noyes was also installed as vice president of the union. Nagel as principal speaker outlined regulations of the wage stabilization board and urged the new local officers to become well acquainted with them. City Councillor Griffin extended the city’s greetings on behalf of the Mayor of New London. Members of Local 106 are employed at the Electric Boat Co., which builds submarines for Uncle Sam.

Inadequate Funds Hampers Speedy Functioning of NLRB

The National Labor Relations Board is again faced with the problem of obtaining from the Congress an appropriation adequate to cover the work of the Board in administering the National Labor Relations Act as amended.

Last year the Congress assigned about $900,000 off the President’s appropriation request for the NLRB. As a result, the NLRB was forced to furlough over 200 employees—almost 20 percent of its entire staff—and to cut back on various of its normal services.

The House of Representatives Appropriation Committee, Subcommittee on Labor and Federal Security Appropriations is presently considering President Truman’s appropriation request of $8,800,000 for the National Labor Relations Board for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 1952. The NLRB presently cannot keep up with its case load because of staff reductions required because of its inadequately current year’s appropriation. As a result, the processing time required on representation and unfair labor practice cases filed with that Board is growing rapidly.

The Office Employees International Union vigorously opposed the passage of the so-called Taft-Hartley amendments made in 1947 to the National Labor Relations Act. We still oppose and condemn those vicious amendments. We nonetheless recognized that the growth and life of our local unions was dependent, in great part upon them continuing to have access to NLRB services. Therefore, in August, 1947, the OEIU was the first labor organization to meet the filing requirements of the amended Act, thus assuring our local unions of uninterrupted access to NLRB services on their representation election and unfair labor practice cases.

It is essential that the agency charged with the responsibility of administering the U. S. Labor Relations Law receive sufficient appropriations from the Congress so as to allow it to do a good job. The welfare and growth of our local unions, to a large measure, are dependent upon the prompt processing by the NLRB of reports in the case load because of staff reductions required because of its inadequately current year’s appropriation. As a result, the processing time required on representation and unfair labor practice cases filed with that Board is growing rapidly.

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Fast Work!

Bingham Canyon, Utah—Newly-appointed International Organizer David C. Sharman, within 48 hours of his arrival in this city on his first assignment, had secured OEIU authorization cards from over one-third of the approximately 70 office and clerical employees employed by the Kennecott Copper Corporation in this city.

The OEIU has assigned Local 286 to this new group of employees and an OEIU representation petition is presently being processed on their behalf.

New Organizer On Staff in Region IV

Washington—International President Paul R. Hutchings announced this month the appointment of David C. Sharman as a member of the regular full-time organizing staff of the International Union to work in Region IV, embracing the Pacific Coast and adjacent states.

Organizer Sharman is a graduate of the University of California, and prior to his appointment to the OEIU staff has been organizing and representing local unions of Public Employees in the East Bay area of California.

Brother Sharman will work out of Oakland, Calif., covering organizing and servicing assignments in the Pacific Coast region.

CHICAGO PNEUMATIC
WON BY LANDSLIDE

Utica, N. Y.—A landslide victory was chalked up by the OEIU earlier this month in a representation election conducted by the NLRB among the office and clerical employees of the Chicago Pneumatic Tool Company plant in this city. There were 168 votes cast out of a total of 177 eligible employees, with 138 voting in favor of the OEIU, 8 against and 2 challenged. This is the first organization by the OEIU of any of the plants of this company with the exception of Utica, are located in Franklin, Pa., Garfield, N. J., Montreal, Can., South Africa and Australia. The company also has branch offices and service stations in some twenty-five principal cities throughout the United States. Its main office is in New York City.

Principal products of the company are compressors, pneumatic and electric tools, gas and diesel engines, rock drills and hydraulic aviation accessories.

International Vice President George F. Firth led this successful organizational campaign and will assist these new members of our local union in Utica in the negotiation of their initial agreement that they may secure the full benefits of collective bargaining.

IATF District Lodge 970, International Vice President David L. Giglio and AFL (representative Michael Walsh gave valuable assistance to the OEIU in this campaign. District Lodge 157 of the IAM represents the production workers in this plant.

Voting is the duty of every citizen. And every citizen must register before he can vote.
Outlaw High Prices

Elect your friends to Congress

Give 'Em today
L.A.B.O.R.'S LEAGUE FOR POLITICAL EDUCATION

Shrinking Value of Dollar Lowers Standard of Living

Washington—The U. S. dollar took another beating in actual buying power last year, shrinking to 52½ cents as compared with 100 cents in 1939, according to an article in Labor's Monthly Survey. This steady decline in the value of money, due to price increases, has serious and far-reaching consequences for everyone. It robs every worker, and lowers his living standard. The damage done cannot be offset by cost-of-living increases. Unions have struggled in vain under WSB regulations to raise wages enough to maintain real income.

Since every wage increase automatically raises the worker's income tax payments, his take-home pay will never rise as much as living costs. In November, tax rates were raised and real income reduced still further. And these are not the worker's only losses. The shrinking value of money has reduced his savings to scarcely more than half what he put aside in 1939. And every dollar invested in war bonds during the war has lost a large part of its purchasing power.

Creeping inflation is changing the worker's outlook. In the past he could look forward to a steadily rising standard of living as productivity rose. Today he fights a losing battle and cannot even maintain his present standard, or the value of his savings. Other groups fare much worse than union members.

School teachers and other white collar workers have fallen far behind the rise in living costs; Secretary Tobin estimates that 20 million workers, 45 per cent of all, have taken very serious reductions in living standards. People living on pensions are worse off still, for all pensions, all life insurance, health and welfare benefits and unemployment insurance have lost almost half their value since 1939. Workers have lost not only in current income, but in security against the future.

Universities, colleges, hospitals and other service institutions supported by endowments find the value of their income shrinking away. Government has to pay more for defense equipment, which results in further tax increases. Businesses firms have to pay far more to replace worn out equipment, and consequently must plough back more profit into the business; they have to borrow more to pay for raw materials.

Investors, who lend money, lose out because their loans are repaid later in money which buys less. Creeping inflation, by steadily cutting away the value of money, strikes at the very heart of our free economic institutions and cripples the process of creating wealth on which all of us depend for income. Money of stable value is fundamental to progress in a democratic society.

A continuing inflation confiscates the savings of the people and the capital on which industry depends to carry on production.

The chart below shows what has happened to the value of money in various European countries since 1939. In Britain, with widespread war destruction and trade dislocation, has maintained its money at 51 per cent of 1939 only because its citizens have cooperated in programs of "sacrifice," reducing living standards to bare essentials, and because of help from the U. S. and other European countries have not done so well.

Experience in these countries is a sharp warning of what could happen here in U. S. A. If creeping inflation continues indefinitely or if it turns into runaway inflation.

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Labor Press Conference

Reduction by the Labor Press of any article published in the Labor Press is not only permitted, but wholly desirable in the interest of labor's right to know.
One Woman Worth Ten Men

"One woman is worth ten men in getting out the vote" is the way Joe Keenan, former Director of Labor's League for Political Education, expressed it. And we heartily agree.

Too often there is a tendency in some of our unions not to think of women as part of our political team. This may be natural in unions made up predominantly of men, but it is one tradition that we would pay us to change.

Women Achieve Results

Look at the political results achieved by some of our unions which have a larger number of women members. We don't think this was just a coincidence after watching the successful door-to-door campaign waged by women's committees in the last Philadelphia election. We are sure in our own minds that the women's committees brought in the margin of victory.

On Political Team

Just because most or all of the members of a local union are men, that is no reason why women can't be part of the union's political team. Nearly every male member has a mother or a sister or a daughter who would like to help LLPE in this coming election. Right in these families, we have millions of votes that we have made very little effort to bring out on election day.

It stands to reason that trade union women want to vote for favorable candidates and help get out the vote if the local LLPE units will only make use of their services.

Local Cage Beauty

Boston—Helen Mejan (left), business representative of Boston Local 1 of the International Longshoremen's Association, has been named to the three-man executive board of the union. This local has recently been successful in winning three straight LLPE elections—at Hunt-Spiller Mfg. Corp. (a foundry), Upholstery Shoe Co. (shoe mfg.), and C. H. Fleming & Co., Inc. (a bookbindery). Photograph courtesy of "The Christian Science Monitor."

Nobody understands the economic problems of the day better than the housewife who, after all, does the bulk of the purchasing for the family. It is she who has to meet each price increase at the grocery check-out.

It is the housewife who has to figure out what sacrifices are necessary to make the pay-check stretch. She does not have to be told that Congress did her wrong when it put a lid on wages and an escalator for prices. Recent events have tended to make women more politically conscious than at any other time in history.

Vote-Getters

Not only as voters but as vote-getters there is nobody who can do the work like Elsie F. Cahill, president of the Housewives' Union of Boston. She usually knows her neighbors better than her husband does. Every pragmatic political worker will tell you that neighbor-to-neighbor word-of-mouth boosting is better than all the publicity a candidate can buy.

How many political revolts for better schools or civic improvement are started by women? The initiative, the leadership and the work usually came from the ranks of women who were strict amateurs at politics.

Do a Better Job

Men cannot always lay off work to give their time as volunteer workers at the polls on election day. Their wives would probably welcome a break from everyday routines. They would probably do a better job anyway.

Forced Into a Fight

We are trade unionists forced into a fight we traditionally stayed away from. We are new in politics, but in case after case we have beaten the professionals at their own game. However, we still need additional seats in the Senate and to the House. Before we have a friendly Congress. We are not going to win these additional seats by fighting with one hand behind our backs. And we are doing just that so long as we don't make this a family fight with every member of a trade union family on the town.

Copper Mining—Kemecott Copper Corp. (Chino Mines Div.), Locals 62, Hurley, N. Mex., 8 cents per hour general increase plus 8.5 cents per hour average increase for reclassifications.

Truckers—Western Truck Lines, Ltd., Local 36, San Francisco, Calif., 9 cents per hour.

Asbury Transportation Co., Local 11, Portland, Ore., 5 cents per hour.

Wholesale Groceries—Lee and Cady, Local 253, Saginaw, Mich., 15 cents per hour.

Flour Products—General Mills, Inc., Local 26, Chicago, III., 7 cents per hour.

Elec. Switches—Cutler Hammer Co., Local 153, New York City, 5 cents or $0.25 per week which ever is greater.

Retail Sporting Goods—Abernathy & Fitch Co., Local 153, New York City, $3.50 per week.

Retail Trucks—Mack Interna. Trucking Co., Local 153, Pittsburgh, Pa., $17 per month.

Valves & Fittings—T. McGraw & Sons, Ltd., Local 297, Saint John, New Brunswick, $2.25 per week plus cost of living adjustment plan presently amounting to $4.50 per week.

Restaurants—Reuben's Restaurant, Local 153, New York City, $4 per week.

Health Centers—United Health, Local 153, New York City, $4 per week.

Associations—Jewish Labor Committee, Local 153, New York City, $5.50 per week.

Utilities—Firelands Electric Cooperative, Inc., Local 12, Toledo, Ohio, 5 per cent (cost of living).

Detroit—Attractive suburban-hairied Lillian Potenga, a member of OEIU Local 42, employed at Midland Steel Products Co., gets ready to shoot the basketball to a team-mate during a recent game in this city. Her participation in the cage league under the sponsorship of her union is another example of the many community activities of the OEIU.
Third 1951 Canadian Conference

Niagara Falls, Ont.—In the January, 1952 issue of THE OFFICE WORKER, the annual winter-end occupational conference of OEU local unions held in the Niagara Peninsula section of Ontario Province. Shown above are the leaders of our local unions in attendance at this conference, held in Canada in 1951. OEU Canadian Representative Russell Harvey, International President Paul R. Hutchings and Vice President George P. Firth are seated (left to right) at the head table.

California—The office and clerical employees of RCA Service Co., Inc., in an NLRB election, have chosen San Francisco Local 3 as their bargaining representative.

Vallejo Local 86 has gained voluntary recognition as the bargaining representative for approximately 100 office and clerical employees of the Permanente Hospital in this city.

Oakland Local 29 is attempting to secure recognition, under its master jewelry industry contract, for the recently organized office and clerical employees of the Crescent Jewelry Co. The recently organized office and clerical employees of Louis Stores, Inc. are now covered by this Local's standard food industry agreement.

A large majority of the office and clerical employees of the City of Hope hospital in Los Angeles report that they are providing official rest periods now.

Normal Office Hours

Regarding working hours, the tendency now seems to be to start work a little earlier and to stop work a little later than in 1950. Seventy-two per cent of the companies now report that there are no regular office work is done on Saturday as against 56 per cent in 1946.

The standard work week in hours is also shrinking. Almost twice as large a percentage of companies show a work week of 40 hours as did in 1946. The group working from 37 to 39 hours per week has grown by over 25 per cent, while the companies working over 40 hours have decreased rapidly.

There is a 25 per cent reduction in the range of hours worked from 42 to 44 hours. Only two-fifths as many companies work from 41 to 43 hours and just less than half as many companies work over 41 hours.

Brother MacLean also advises that since the inclusion of this group the turnover in the woods field has been considerably reduced—the great amount of turnover being one of the biggest problems by the company which this group should not be organized by the local union.

All-pinners are being studied to the end that working conditions and wage classifications under the contract plan in the company may be equitably established.

Canada Leads In Paper Production

New York.—According to the United Nations' 1951 Yearbook, Canada produced in 1950 more than half of the newsprint outside of Russia. Second largest producer was the United States, with the Kingdom and the Scandinavian countries next in order.

The U.S. is proud to have been a part of this magnificent production record, representing as it does more than half of the office and clerical employees in the paper industry in the eastern provinces of Canada.

The yearbook goes on to point out that the U.S. led the world in newsprint output in 1950, but it stood only seventh in circulation per thousand population. It was the size of the paper, not the yearbook indicated, that placed the United States first among the newspaper consumers.

In consumption, the U.S. used more than 60 per cent of all the newsprint produced in the world. The figure was 3,580,000 metric tons, an increase of two-thirds over the prewar use.

New Pact Covers Woods Clericals

(Continued from page 1)