OEIU SIGNS UP ATOMIC PROJECT

Additional Gains at Addressograph

Euclid, Ohio—Additional benefits have been obtained by OEIU Local 49 of this city for the 600 office and clerical employees of the hoing office of the Addressograph-Multigraph Corporation.

Contract negotiations concluded last month resulted in a general increase of $2.25 per week, retroactive to November 1, an additional weeks vacation for employees with 18 years service (previous vacation allowances were limited to one week after six months and two weeks after one year), classification adjustments to eliminate inequities, and an improvement in the job bidding system.

The above benefits are in addition to those agreed to last August when a strike by this local union against this firm resulted in a general increase of $10.40 per month, a modified union shop, a number of classification adjustments to eliminate inequities, and improved seniority provisions.

The general increases gained by this local for employees of this firm during 1961 are in excess of eleven cents per hour as a result of these two separate negotiations. Local 49 has represented the office and clerical employees of this firm for a number of years.

Phony Membership Claims Exploded

Washington—According to its own official financial report, the CIO has no more than four million per capita tax-paid members.

The figures explode CIO claims of six million members.

The total CIO per capita tax is 10 cents per member per month. Its total per capita tax receipts, as listed in the financial report, aggregate $4,138,602. This figure includes some initiation fees from members of local industrial unions. Assuming it all to be per capita tax at the rate of $1.20 per year, simple arithmetic shows it is based on a membership of 4,062,322.

Thus, CIO claims to equality status with the AFL are shattered. Instead of having equal strength, the CIO has barely half the tax-paid membership of the AFL.

Unorganized “White Collar” Salaries Are Lagging Behind

Washington—Wages of more than 20 million unorganized American workers, a great many in the white collar field, have failed to keep pace with the rapid rise in living costs.

Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin indicates that a reasonable estimate of the amount of purchasing power of these 20 million lost during the year and a half from January, 1950, to June, 1951, exceeds three billion dollars, during which time the cost of living has skyrocketed.

Secretary Tobin, writing in the U. S. Labor Department Labor Information Bulletin, emphasizes the fact that it is largely the unorganized workers whose salaries and wages have failed to keep pace with the increases in cost of living and he points out that a great many unorganized workers in this group are white collar workers who are still more than 85 per cent nonunion. These unorganized white collar workers have been the worst victims of inflationary price trends.

The tremendous losses in purchasing power that have resulted menace not only the living standards of the workers directly affected, but also the entire national economy, Secretary Tobin warns.

He challenged the trade union movement to remedy this dangerous situation, which he indicates should serve unions as an additional motive for redecorating themselves to that mission that is summed up in the three words: "Organize the unorganized."

Wages Boosted By New Contract

Terre Haute, Ind.—The first working agreement between recent-ly chartered OEIU Local 280 and the Girdler Corporation, construction contractors on the nearby Dana Atomic Project, has just been completed.

The agreement brings to some 250 clerical employees a general wage increase of 10 per cent, with a similar increase applying to the minimum and maximum of all rate ranges. In addition, the contract establishes three automatic four-month steps to the mid-point of each rate range.

The wage increase is retroactive to November 12 and the contract is a one year contract effective January 8. It provides for substantial improvements in general working conditions and assures the employees of job security and promotional opportunities. The pact provides for a modified union shop.

The local won its bargaining rights in an election conducted by order of the NLRB on November 6. Contract negotiations commenced shortly after his return from receipt of the contract and the local committee headed by local President Ike Johnson and Secretary-Treasurer Maynard Allen was assisted by International Representative R. M. Daugherty.

It is anticipated that the achievements won by the construction clerical force at this project will provide a real stimulus for organization of the operating clerical force as the project comes into operation.

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Elected Mayor

Iroquois Falls, Ont.—Leadership qualities evidenced by the past president of our Local 151 of this municipality have been recognized by the town’s citizens.

Percy W. Burton, Local 151 president for the last several years, has been chosen as mayor of Iroquois Falls in an election conducted last month. The local unions in that community gave him good support in his campaign for this high office.

Brother Burton continues to hold office in our local union, but as a trustee instead of president, recognizing that he will thereby be better able to carry out his new responsibilities.

Cleveland in ’53

Washington—The International Union Executive Board, at its regular December meeting, approved the cordial invitation of OEIU Locals 17 and 49 to hold the next regular International Union convention in Cleveland in June, 1963. The invitation was extended by the Cleveland delega-

The Executive Board plans to hold its June, 1962 meeting at San Francisco.
The Cost of Inflation

The chart shows why strong price controls are needed. You can do something about it. It's this: Support candidates for Congress who will vote for a law that will stop runaway inflation that swells profits for the rich and corporations and while it picks your pocket.

25 Million Receive Free Medical Care
Washington—Uncle Sam provides medical and hospital care for more than 25 million persons, according to The Washington Post. Included are 18,500,000 veterans, 3,500,000 members of the armed services and families, 2,500,000 employees, in case of illness or injury in line of duty, 100,000 merchant seamen, 400,000 Indians, Eskimos and other natives of Alaska, 50,000 civilians in the Panama Canal Zone, 30,000 Coast Guardsmen and families.

Produced More and Spent More in 1951
Washington—The American people produced more and spent more in 1951 than in any previous year in history. Secretary of Labor John B. Connally said in a year-end report. He predicted the new records will be broken in 1952.

Read Your Union Paper
"Were it not for the labor press, the labor movement would not be what it is today, and any man who tries to injure a labor paper is a traitor to the cause."

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

THE OFFICE WORKER
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Warms Against New Drive
For ‘Millionaires’ Amendment

Washington—State Federations of Labor were warned to keep their guard up against a new drive in 1952 to get the "millionaires’ amendment" approved by their state legislatures.

AFL-President William Green sent letters to all state federations. He advised that there will be renewed attempts in 1952 by the Western Tariff Council, Inc. and other big-business-financed organizations, to get state legislatures to call upon Congress to convene a constitutional convention.

‘FAME’ IS FLEETING

In the November, 1951, issue of The Office Worker we credited The Lather (publication of the International Union of Wood, Wire and Metal Lathers) as the source for the editorial entitled "My Union Card."

Fred J. Carver, a long-time member of our Los Angeles Local 30, writes to advise us that he won a $250 cash prize for this article, winning first place in the A. F. of L., national essay contest in 1940. The title then was "Why I Am a Labor Unionist."

We regret our failure to give credit, Fred, but are proud that an OEU member won this outstanding honor.

The object of that convention will be to repeal the 16th Amendment to the Constitution providing for a general income tax. This amendment would then be replaced by a 22nd Amendment limiting the power of the United States to a tax of 25 per cent on incomes.

This scheme would wreck the nation’s federal financial structure and force enactment of a general sales tax.

Mr. Green said the AFL objects to this shifting of the national tax burden to the wage earners and other low-income groups. The millionaires and high-income portion of the population would escape their fair share of taxes.

Mr. Green pointed out that since he appealed last May 8 to the state federations to halt the headway gained by the millionaires’ amendment, the number of states approving the plan had been reduced from 22 to 14.

"But the issue has not been settled decisively," Mr. Green said. "This is why I am addressing these remarks to you at this time.

"Eight legislatures convened early in 1952, others later the same year. Success for the amendment in all these states could bring the total back nearly to the previous 22-state total.

"It is necessary to carry on our fight and to remain vigilant even in those states where we seem to have defeated the proponents, at least for the present."
The women of Canada make up by far the largest group of women workers available to that country in an emergency. Other groups, such as retired women and physically handicapped, were never the last and came forward in the last war, but they are likely to be called again in any future emergency, but their numbers are small compared with those who could enter the work force.

In the last war, 500,000 Canadian women entered the employed force, to help fill vital jobs in war industries, essential civilian industries and in the armed forces. In 1938, however, many young women in Canada were not working, and many of those who were employed found their less attractive than the jobs offered them in war work.

Today, on the other hand, large numbers of young women in Canada are in satisfactory employment or are raising families. The employment situation is quite different. Generally speaking, women who wish to work now have jobs and there are fewer unpaid family workers and fewer girls remaining at home without employment.

In 1938, most of the Canadian women working today are in jobs which they consider desirable and suited to their training. Nearly half of them are in “white-collar” jobs—clerical or commercial occupations. Only about 18 per cent are in the service occupations, as compared to one-third in 1938.

Marital Status

Marital status is, apparently, no longer sufficient to prevent women from entering employment in Canada as in most other countries in 1938. Today about 320,000 married Canadian women hold down jobs. Barriers against their employment are continually being removed.

No General Shortage

There is no general shortage of women workers in Canada at present, although there are shortages in certain fields such as nursing and secretarial work.

The shortage of stenographers in Canada is being partially relieved by the use of typewriters in the United Kingdom. The girls are recruited through the efforts of the London office of the federal department of labour with the cooperation of the Canadian Immigration Authorities. Each girl, before being stenographer is asked to state her preference as to type of employment and location where she would like to work. These preferences are given consideration in placement. Most of the girls, however, are willing to work at any stenographic work if their choice in placement is not possible.

If a general shortage should develop, however, there is a reserve of women available which has been almost untapped up to now—the one million women between the ages of forty-five and sixty-four who are not now in the labour force.

Some of these have been away from the labour market for many years, and the experience they have gained in managing households and raising families could be a real employment asset. Many of these are interested in taking jobs and continuing their useful activities.

Health and Welfare Contracts

Approved by WSB Ruling

Washington—The Wage Stabilization Board now permits unions to negotiate health and welfare clauses in collective bargaining contracts without having the cost charged up as a wage increase.

Preferable to Freeze

Industry members of the WSB whom dissented from the decision, labor members protested the limitations but went along with the public members because the new policy is preferable to the existing complete freeze.

The rule provides that no health and welfare benefit, regardless of its cost, is automatically approve in any union contract unless the employers contribute at least 40 per cent of the gross cost.

Non-contributory plans are also automatically approved within set standards. If they exceed the WSB standards, they must be submitted to a special health-welfare panel of the board for an official okay.

The permissible standards for non-contributory health and welfare agreements include:

1. Free life insurance up to $1,000 or 60 per cent of the employee’s annual pay roll, whichever is more.

2. Disability payments for time lost due to sickness or accident, limited to 26 weeks when payments average more than 50 per cent of an employee’s average weekly pay roll.

3. Hospitalization expenses, short of a private room; special nursing care, up to 30 days; medical care in hospital; surgical expenses, except for “unusual types,” such as plastic surgery; maternity care.

Other Plans Considered

The foregoing benefits would cover only employees. They cannot be extended to cover families of employers unless permissible non-contributory standards, but such coverage is approved in all plans where employers contribute at least 40 per cent of the total cost.

The Wage Stabilization Board often has under consideration proposed plans dealing with collective bargaining for pensions and retirement systems. It is also considering proposals for permitting wage increases, beyond the limitations of the present formula, which are earned by increased productivity.

Big Business Is Never Satisfied

Last summer the U. S. Chamber of Commerce and other big business groups got Congress to pass a by-law price control law. You would think that now big business would be satisfied. High prices are guaranteed by Congress. Wages are not keeping up with the ever increasing cost of living.

But the Chamber of Commerce is not satisfied. Its Economic Policy Committee declares that all price controls, whether strong or weak, are bad. But big business is continuing its fight against price controls trade unionists must keep working for a better price law.

And the best way to get real price control and fair wage stabilization is to go out and vote in 1938 for liberal Senators and Representatives.

Jurisdiction—The NLRB has declined to assert jurisdiction over Cement Pipe and Foundry Workers in New York City in a case involving employees of the university libraries even though the union engaged in business in interstate commerce met the board’s general standards for asserting jurisdiction.

The board distinguished this ruling from past decisions in which it had asserted jurisdiction over enrolling employees of commercial enterprises operated by schools for profit.

The board said that it did not believe that it would effectuate the policies for which the board was established to assert jurisdiction over commercial employees of commercial enterprises operated by schools for profit.

In its decision, the board states: "We find the technique of calling the employees into the union roll and in small groups and in small offices that they reject the union was in itself coercive which warrants setting aside the election. And in any case, the board finds that the employers had no cause for the election while engaged in asserting jurisdiction over employees who were active members of the union."
Michigan—The office and clerical employees of the East Side branch of RCA Service Co., Inc., in Detroit have voted in an NLRB election designated Local 10 of Detroit city as their bargaining representative. With only one dissenting vote, the 36, and clerical employees of Lee and Cady Co., Saginaw Branch, have in an NLRB election chosen Saginaw Local 255 as their bargaining representative. In still another NLRB election, this same local was designated as the bargaining representative of the office and clerical employees of the Saginaw Hardware Company.

Huntington—The Akibhi Power & Paper Co., Ltd., has voluntarily recognized our newly chartered Local 219 in Sturgeon Falls, as the bargaining representative of its office and clerical employees at its mill in this community.

Local 11, Portland, Ore., 8 cents per hour.

Local 3, Lansing, Mich., 2 cents per hour.

Local 8, Des Moines, Iowa, 25 cents per week.

Local 28, Chicopee Falls, Mass., $1.25 per week (2% average).

Local 17, Cleveland, Ohio, 3 per cent plus 6 per cent under cost-of-living adjustment plan plus length-of-service increase.

Local 2, Huntsville, Ala., Stevens Arms Co. (Div. of Savage Arms Corp.), Local 288, Chicopee Falls, Mass., $1.50 per week (2% average).

Local 38, Lawrence Alloys & Metals, Ltd., Local 262, Brabant, Quebec, $20 to $35 per month.

Local 52, Johnstown, Pa., 10 cents plus living allowance.

Local 36, San Francisco, Calif., $21 per month.

Local 10, Sacramento, Calif., 5.7 cents per hour.

Local 8, Toledo, Ohio, $8 per week.

Local 34, Chicago, Ill., 5.7 cents per hour.

Local 10, San Francisco, Calif., $30 per week.

Local 34, New York City, $35 per week.

Local 100, Los Angeles, $40 per week.

Local 205, Chicago, $50 per week.

Local 153, New York City, $3 per week.

A representation election has been filed with the Ontario Labor Board by the Local 236 on behalf of a unit of clerical employees employed by Northern Wood Preserve.

New York—Organization of the cashiers at Duval and Stanley Caffetorias has been completed by New York City Local 153 and initial agreements with these firms concluded.

Local 153 Business Manager R. W. Atkinson, who is also an OEU Vice President, has fully recovered from an emergency appendectomy.

Lavina Mitchell has terminated her long service with New York City Local 153. She had been a business representative of the City Local since 1945. Her resignation is a distinct loss to the members of that union. Many of us throughout the OEU remember her as a member of our International Union conventions. In private life Sister Mitchell is Mrs. Stephen Mitchell, the Vice President of the Assistant Secretary of Labor.

An NLRB representation petition has been filed by Local 205 on behalf of the office and clerical employees of the Belgian-American Bank is being processed.

Quebec—Most of the office and clerical employees of Canadian Iron Foundries in Three Rivers have designated Local 283 as their bargaining representatives and a representation petition has been filed with the Quebec Labor Relations Board on their behalf by this local union.

California—Richmond Local 243 is awaiting approval by the Federal Housing Commissioners of its new agreement with the Richmond Housing Authority.

Wisconsin—A 100 per cent favorable vote for representation by the 142, was cast in a recent NLRB election by the office and clerical employees of RCA Service Co., Inc., in Wisconsin.

Rancho Cordova—Local 212 is the largest OEU local in the Sacramento area of California.

Pittsburgh—Local 13 of the OEU has been chartered.

Local 219 has been chartered.

A meeting was held in the early part of December for the election of new officers.

The American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations holds a meeting in the early part of December for the election of new officers.

If you purchased more Union Label goods on buy-day—you'll have more money on payday.