Look at Record First, Says LLPE

Washington.—No matter which candidate wins the Presidency, it is still Congress which writes the laws and Congress is better than its majority. Forty-eight good Senators are not enough—it takes 49 to repeal Taft-Hartley. Two hundred and seventeen good Congressmen are not enough—it takes 218 to pass a strong price control law. Your Congressman could make the difference.

We Americans have developed a habit during the last few years of electing a liberal President while at the same time electing an anti-labor Congress. We should blame ourselves. By now every American of voting age should know that party labels mean nothing in this country. Neither party has controlled Congress since 1938. It has been a coalition of reactionaries from both parties which has held the controlling majority and stifled decent legislation year after year.

If we want a decent labor law, if we want fair taxes, if we want a price control law that is not shot full of loopholes, then we have got to know the policies of the men running for Congress. I mean their policies—not the party's policies.

Obviously, it is hard to find out how our Congressmen voted from the newspaper stories and from the TV and radio. Digging the facts out of the Congressional Record is even harder. That is why the AFL-formed Labor's League for Political Education—to make the individual voting records of each Congressman and Senator available to AFL members all over the country.

With the facts before him, each trade union citizen can see with his own eyes whether his Congressman deserves re-election. Local L.L.P.E. units are able to make endorsements democratically and intelligently. In this way, our own AFL members and the public at large can have confidence in the L.L.P.E. endorsed candidates.

As one person believes that the labor vote can be "delivered" in a bloc by anyone, there are many men today who remember when the bosses in company towns lined up all the men (Continued on page 4)

New York City.—Special organization efforts to enlist women workers and to train them as good trade unionists were urged by the Executive Council in its report to the AFL convention here.

The council said every national and international union within whose jurisdiction women are employed should initiate such programs. It also called upon AFL Director of Organization Harry O'Reilly to promote a concerted drive to organize women.

Today women constitute about 50 per cent of the total labor force in the nation, the council notes out, with 17,000,000 employed in industry and 1,210,000 in agriculture.

As the defense production program expands, additional employment opportunities will open for women and trades previously barred to them will open up provided they can obtain the necessary craft training.

Under these circumstances, the council emphasized, women need unions to protect their interests and to assure them equal pay for equal work.

Even if some women workers later give up their jobs because of marriage or other reasons, their experience as union members will help them "in a world where workers are better off as a result of universal sharing in progress," the council found.

The Executive Council's report was unanimously adopted by the convention.

Authorize Concerted Drive To Organize Women Workers

Negotiated Arsenal Contract

Minneapolis, Minn.—Substantial gains were won by OEU Local 12 in its first contract for the office and clerical employees of the Twin Cities Arsenal, operated by Federal Cartridge Corporation at nearby New Brighton. These are the local union's negotiators: Back row, left to right: Donald R. Hilliker, assistant business representative, and Curtis C. Smith; front row, same order: Curtis C. Smith; Ralph Moorhead, committee chairman; and Gordon Tronson. Business Representative Arthur J. Fritz (see inset) who headed up these negotiations, was out of the city at the time the picture was taken.

Minneapolis, Minn.—Wage adjustments ranging from 9 to 14 cents per hour highlight the numerous gains won by OEU Local 12 of this city for more than 800 office and clerical employees of the huge Twin Cities Arsenal operated by the Federal Cartridge Corporation at near-by New Brighton.

These adjustments are retroactive to September 9, which is one week following the date on which the local union won its NLRB representation election by an overwhelming majority, and are in addition to a 2.4 per cent increase already obtained earlier, and a health and welfare plan paid for by the company at a cost of 6 cents per hour per employee.

A new schedule of rate ranges for all of the 42 classifications was negotiated, which pegs the minimum rate for the lowest of these classifications at $1.33 per hour, and up to a maximum of the top classification at $2.50 per hour, with other classifications adjusted proportionately.

Agreement negotiations extended over nearly three months and were only successfully concluded when the membership of the local union employed at these operations indicated to the company its militant attitude by taking a strike vote, which was approved by a majority of 5 to 1.

The strike vote was taken after conferences with a state labor consultant had failed to bring about a settlement of the issues involved. At that time practically every question involved in any labor-management dispute—wages, union recognition, security, hours, working conditions, holidays, vacations, fringe machinery —was in controversy.

Within two weeks following the taking of the strike vote, but less than five hours before the local union could legally strike, a settlement was reached.

In addition to the wage adjustments and the health and welfare plan, the agreement also provides for a full union shop and dues checkoff, 10 cents per hour shift premium, time and one-half for all work on Saturday, 80 cents for any work day and 40 in any work week, and for the sixth day worked in any (Continued on page 4)
Members make the union succeed or fail. A union's strength comes from the loyalty and devotion of its individual members. Good officers and a sound financial structure are fundamental, but the long run determines the success or failure of your union. So, attend your local union meetings; help the union's business and it will be able to serve you more effectively at all times. Return the support your union gives you.

They See 'Eye to Eye'

The not infrequent charge that "big business," or the business policy, that a large metropolitan daily can be bought with an ad, is innocuous.

It is more precise to say that great newspaper organizations are in themselves "big business," rooted in economic motives, and therefore seeing "eye to eye" with other "big business" in so far as their identical aims are affected.

This is not to overlook the fact that the press as a whole is peculiarly public-spirited—crusading against corrupt government officials, frequently leaving out advertising to make room for important news. They are citizens.

But in the final analysis, the responsibility of the greatest portion of the press to the public interest is inevitably subordinated to its business interest.—*Writer's Handbook on Basic Journalism*, by Michael L. Simmons.

Those Darned Unions!

So, he doesn't believe in unions. And he thinks he should be permitted to work on an assembly job without joining the union.

All right, let's see if he is.

Is he willing to work at whatever wages the union calls a day? This is the boss, after all, who has given him his job—what the boss thinks he's worth?

Is he willing to work the number of hours the boss calls a day?

Is he willing to work extra hours and days at straight pay?

Is he willing to work Sundays and holidays without extra compensation?

Is he willing to work under the threat of constant dismissal at the whim of the boss?

Is he willing to forget about vacations?

Is he willing to forego sickness insurance and pensions the unions provide?

There may somewhere be an anti-union worker who is willing to accept these conditions, but we have never met him.

Usually his hate for the union means merely that he gags on paying a fair price for the extra pay the union job gives him.—The *Trades Unionist*, Washington, D. C.

LLPE Director Tells Why AFL Endorsed Stevenson

Washington.—The record shows that the election of Adlai Stevenson is in the best interest of the working people. That was the decision made by the AFL delegates at the recent New York AFL Convention. What does an AFL endorsement mean? Why was it made?

First of all, the convention resolution made it clear that "each and every one of the (AFL) members are free to make their own individual political decisions without any compulsion on our part." In short, the AFL leaders are not trying to dictate whom anyone should vote for. But, as the resolution further stated: "We must face the fact. We have an obligation to inform our members of the facts. Not only immediate consideration, but also their entire future course of our country requires us to express our carefully considered choice as between the two Presidential candidates."

Unions were formed to protect the wages, conditions, and welfare of working people. From its origin, the AFL has recognized that direct action with employers was not enough. Legislation was necessary to prevent judges and bureaucrats from crippling the collective-bargaining process. In addition, legislation was necessary to get good public schools, factory inspection laws, and other public laws.

The AFL Executive Council refrained from making any premature recommendations immediately following the party conventions. In good faith they refused to make any recommendation in spite of the strong pressure, because they wanted to afford both candidates an opportunity to appear before the AFL convention to give their views on the issues affecting our people. Prior to the convention, the AFL leaders carefully scrutinized the two party platforms. The AFL executive officers had gone before the platform committees of both party conventions and asked for legislative reform in 11 major fields. In every instance the Republican platform either opposed the AFL position or offered only vague platitudes. In every instance the Democratic platform favored the AFL proposals.

But since the Republican platform had been written by the defeated Taft forces, there was hope that Eisenhower might have different views. AFL leaders consulted with both candidates prior to the convention. In answer to their queries, the AFL position was endorsed.

Just a week prior to the convention the New York meeting between Eisenhower and Taft was held. Taft wrote out the terms of Eisenhower's surrender in Cincinnati before coming to New York. After getting Eisenhower to agree to his terms, Taft then presented the whole statement to the newspapers. It was then that many Americans gave up hope that Eisenhower would be an independent candidate who could lead the Republican Party along more realistic twentieth century lines.

When the AFL convention met to consider what political position to take, the record was clear. General Eisenhower was a fine American general who had served his nation well, but lacking any knowledge of civilian problems and without an active part in the government, he was helpless in the hands of shrewd reactionaries who were using him as a popular figurehead to front for their ticket.

Stevenson, on the other hand, had demonstrated himself to be one of true Presidential stature. He made his position clear that he would not bow to any pressure group but would conduct himself in office so as to protect the interests of all Americans. His wide experience in private life, in domestic and foreign government service, and as one of the outstanding reform Governors of the country had given him the civilian experience needed to run a civilian government.

The AFL is non-partisan. We have worked in behalf of progressive Republicans as well as Democrats running for Congress. In this campaign the AFL recommendation of Stevenson is in no way an endorsement of all Democrats or their party.

The AFL recommends that all AFL members vote for Adlai Stevenson because the record shows that he will be the working people's choice of this country.—James L. McDevitt, Director, LLPE.

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

Official organ of the OFFICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION

PAUL R. HUTCHINGS, President J. HUBBARD WILCOX, Managing Editor 605 Bond Building Washington 5, D. C.

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March in Labor Day Parade

Toledo, Ohio.—Members of OBU Local 19 are shown at the assembly point of the Labor Day parade in the city. Local union President John Richards and Business Representative John C. Taylor were busy taking pictures of the parade or they, too, would have been in the group. Federal government's informal plan, including the parade lunch, dancing, singing, and card playing, was held in the union hall.

New Booklet Aid On Pension Plans

Washington.—Local union officers and business agents will be interested in a new publication, entitled “Pension Plans Under Collective Bargaining,” just released by the American Federation of Labor. This 106-page pamphlet is designed to serve as a sort of handy general guide for those who will have to deal with the many difficult problems which unions face in this relatively new area of collective bargaining.

There are nine chapters, covering such questions as “Pension Cost Factors,” “Methods of Administration,” “Benefit Provisions,” and others.

Copies can be obtained from the American Federation of Labor, Washington, D.C. The price is 25 cents a copy.

Majority of Cities Extend Rent Bill

Washington.—About 70 per cent of the major cities and more than half of the 2,400 incorporated communities in normal defense rental areas have voted to extend the Federal rent program until next April 30.

Congress last June extended Federal rent stabilization for nine months in critical defense housing areas but required local governing bodies in the normal defense rental areas to ask for continuance before September 30 if they wished to remain under Federal rent levels and eviction protections beyond that date.

Of 181 normal defense rental areas, continuance is assured in 127, or more than 70 per cent. Latest major cities to vote continuance of rent levels are San Francisco, Cleveland, Columbus, Ohio, and Erie, Pa. This brings to 34 the number of cities of 100,000 or more that have asked extension.

In addition to 38 of the 48 United States where communities have voted for continuance, eight-eight Puerto Rican municipalities also have asked extension. In Alaska, extension action has been taken by governing bodies of Juneau, Sitka, Skagway, and Douglas.

Local governing bodies which failed to take action before September 30 lost all opportunity to reapply the program after that date. No action is necessary in the nation’s 118 critical defense housing areas.

The man who is so busy that he does not have time to read his union paper is the man who was so busy chopping wood that he didn’t have time to sharpen his axe.

A pat on the back develops character, if administered young enough, often enough and low enough.


to the Ladies

A Long Way

Women have come a long way, politically at least, when they got the right to vote. Women were given top billing at both of the recent Democratic conventions. At both conventions there were more women delegates, both parties paid tribute to women speakers, both parties considered women as Vice Presidential candidates.

Must Go Further

A speaker at one of these conventions urged women to get into local politics. Only 235 women are members of state legislatures, less than 2 per cent of the total. In 48 states, 2,500 women hold appointed jobs which can make a real contribution by running for local office.

Teen-Agers, Too

If your teen-agers are given a chance, they will help. Start talking NOW about politics—about THEIR responsibility as citizens.

A boy with a paper route is pure gold. Give him the slate of candidates endorsed by labor to leave at every door just before election day. Let the word get around, give him a big hand, let him know how much he helps. Other boys will want to do it, too.

Girls will baby-sit. They WANT responsibility. Explain that giving a few hours a week to where a mother can register to vote or help make the kind of WORLD THEY WANT.

Platforms and Promises

Thanks to radio and TV, we all went to the Chicago conventions. We all got into the act. Let’s stay in it. Let’s look—and listen—carefully from NOW ON.

A lot of promises were made in Chicago. Nobody expects party platforms to be carried out to the letter. But in November will be the party MOST Americans agree with.

Candidates Chosen Afterward

REMEMBER—BOTH PLATFORMS were written BEFORE candidates were chosen. The millennium is not around the corner. The real test is not of WORDS but in the MEN behind them.

Scrap of Paper

SOME SAY PLATFORMS ARE JUST SCRAPS OF PAPER. BUT in this war between parties, these scraps are the battleground.

YOU ARE IN THIS WAR.

VOTE FOR THE MEN WHO WILL MAKE SCRAPS OF PAPER INTO LAWS YOU BELIEVE IN.—Polly Edison for L.D.P.E.

Dry Typewriter Ribbons

Ribbons in home typewriters tend to dry out rather than wear out. The inside of a typewriter-ribbon tin box with glycerin, remove the ribbon from the typewriter-ribbon, and leave closed tightly for a few days. It will come to life!—"Office Employees News," OBU, Local 14, Philadelphia.
Look at Record First, Says LLPE
(Continued from page 1)

Many Gains Won
For 800 Employees
(Continued from page 1)

The grievance procedure, which also provides for final and binding arbitra-
tion, is one of the most important features of the agreement. The grievance
procedure for any employee, whether employed by the company or the
union members employed by the company, will be used to settle any griev-
ance. The grievance procedure is designed to provide a fair and impartial
method of settling grievances.

The agreement also provides for a 10-week rest period each year, during which
time employees will not be required to work. The agreement further provides
that employees who are laid off for any reason other than production
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