PLEA TO DECERTIFY UNION TOSSED OUT

Boston, Mass.—The NLRB has dismissed a petition in which the secretary to the general manager of the Star Brush Manufacturing Co. Inc. sought to decertify OEIU Local 8 of this city as the representative of the firm’s office employes.

Although the union had insisted and the company had acquiesced in the inclusion of the secretary in the bargaining unit in previous agreements, the union contended that she was disqualified from filing the decertification petition because she is a confidential employe.

In upholding the contention of the union, the Board majority found that Congress intended decertification to provide a remedy exclusively for and in behalf of employees and not of employers, and that supervisors are disqualified from filing such petitions because they are management representatives and owe special loyalties to their employers which would subject them to conflicts in allegiance if they were permitted to participate in union activities with employees.

Similarly, they regard confidential employes to whom an employer entrusts secret labor relations information vital to the interests of those fellow employes with whom they may seek to engage in union activities, as persons who, like supervisors, owe and are expected to manifest special loyalties to their employers, and because these loyalties would subject them to conflicting allegiances if they were encouraged by the Board to participate in such activities, the Board rules that they are disqualified to act as supervisors in decertification proceedings.

The Board majority also finds that it is totally irrelevant that the petitioner had been included in the bargaining unit because of the union’s insistence.

Election Won at Badger Ordnance

Harahan, Wis.—Earlier this month, the approximately 135 employes in the ballistics laboratory, lab operators and lab technicians, employed at the Badger Ordnance Plant here, operated by the Liberty Powder Company, chose the OEIU by a large majority in an NLRB representation election.

On TVA Training Tour

Knoxville, Tenn.—OEIU members employed by the Tennessee Valley Authority in this city have recently completed in-service training tours from which they are better able to understand what their work means. One of the groups is shown above in front of the Chemical Engineering Building at Wilson Dam.

The tours were arranged at the suggestion of an OEIU member at a recent meeting of the Cooperative Conference of the Agricultural Relations Division of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

On the trips, the OEIU members saw fertilizer being made in TVA plants and being used on Valley farms. At Wilson Dam they studied the entire operation of making triple superphosphate fertilizer and also went through other parts of the chemical plant.

Other stops included the Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station at Crossville, the Columbia Phosphate Plant, two test-demonstration farms in the Columbia area, and two farm cooperatives in Alabama.

Supervisors of the TVA’s Agricultural Relations division have been pleased with the employees’ serious interest in relating the trip to their work. The OEIU members expressed great appreciation for the trip.

Credit Union of Local 2 Growing

Washington.—In the first two and one-half years of its operation, the Federal Credit Union of OEIU Local 2 of this city has made 418 loans, totaling $102,293.

Eleven charter members and $74 in assets at its inception in March, 1952 began the continuing growth of the local’s own Credit Union. On July 31, 1952, Assets/Liabilities were $104,431.

The purpose of the Credit Union is to provide an opportunity to accumulate savings and to make loans to members for worthwhile purposes. Membership is open to all members of Local 2 and to members of their families.

Deposits to shares savings may be made in any amount. Dividends are declared each January on the preceding year’s shares savings balances. Four per cent was paid on 1951 shares balances; 4½ per cent on 1950 shares balances. Current earnings indicate that 4 per cent will be paid and a suitable amount transferred to reserves at the end of 1952.

Loans are made in amounts up to $2,000. Loans up to $400 are made on the member’s signature only. All loans are subject to the approval of the Credit Committee.

All loans balances are insured for death and total disability, at no additional cost.

During 1951 loans were made for such purposes as clothing, furniture, furnishings, vacations, travel, automobiles, medical and dental care, hospital bills, appliances, TV sets, Christmas, tuition, education, home improvements, taxes, insurance, legal fees, fuel oil, jewelry, weddings, repairs, emergencies.

Briefly—Credit Unions are a cooperative enterprise of the members. Committees, organizations and corporations endorse Credit Unions—most pertinent to mention here is that the American Federation of Labor is prominent on the roll.

Many Benefits in Tool Firm Pact

Utica, N. Y.—Completion of negotiations for the initial agreement between Local 281 of this city and the Chicago Pneumatic Tool Company has resulted in substantial improvements in the salaries and working conditions of the approximately 150 office and clerical employees of this firm.

Highlights of the agreement include an eight cents per hour general increase; 40-hour work week—Monday through Saturday, time and one-half after 40 hours; double time on Sundays and after 11 hours in a week for the employee and on holidays if worked; five and ten cents per hour shift premiums; 15-minute rest periods in the morning and afternoons, sick leave up to 30 days; four-hour guaranteed call-in pay, and all employees to be paid weekly instead of semi-monthly.

The agreement is for two years with a wage reopener permitted after one year. It also provides for maintenance of membership with check-off of dues. New employes are on probation for 90 days.

Promotions and transfers are to be governed by seniority where ability is relatively equal. Employees are to be paid according to their pay before being changed from departmental to plant-wide seniority after two years. Merit raises and promotions in the plant are to be notified of job openings.

The four steps in the grievance procedure ends with final and binding arbitration with arbitration chairman appointed by the New York State Mediation Board if not otherwise agreed upon. Members of the grievance committee are paid for time spent in grievance procedures. The right to inspect bona fide picket lines is protected.

The company will pay the full cost of $1,000 life insurance and $1,000 accidental and membership insurance. Disability insurance provides for 50 per cent of the employee’s weekly wages to maximum of $36 for a maximum of 13 weeks, beginning with the eighth day of disability. Hospitalization, surgical and medical benefits are also provided for under the plan.

Inequities discovered through a job evaluation plan to be worked out will be corrected by adjustment of the date of agreement on the plan.

All present privileges not otherwise combined in the agreement are to be retained.
Editorial Comments

'Right to Quit Job'

There isn't much to stir the longings, the imagination or enthusiasm of American workers in the labor planks adopted recently by the Republican convention.

They start right off with a fearlessly pledge on the part of the GOP that it will defend the right of a worker to quit his job at any time. Now that ain't a pile of dead ashes to warm your toes at on a cold night!

Surely this must be one of the most remarkable "rights" ever accorded to the people by a political power, akin only to the historic advice that people who can't afford to buy bread should go to work on their own! Taffy's solution to the high cost of food: "eat less."

The GOP platform says nothing about the right of a worker to have a job in the first place or to hold on to it once he does have it. Just that in case you're thinking of quitting, the platform drafters of the GOP are in your corner.

The Republicans hold that people are also a little vague about when you can find another job should you happen to interpret this plank as a suggested course of action. Perhaps they are leaving this up to the Democrats.

The old labor planks in the platform, many of which are direct affronts to unions but none of which threaten plant owners unnecessarily. Might be a good idea to keep your dues paid up, Bud! It looks like a long, tough winter.

—The Oregon Teamster

Who's to Blame?

The franchise (right to vote) is one of the free citizen's most valuable assets. Opinions the August 14 New York Times. Whether it be his right to vote for President or town selectmen, the franchise is his lot in a group representing his calling. When we protest that affairs are out of joint, or at least not to our liking, perhaps a glance into the mirror may help shed light on who is to blame.

Another New Peak

Cost of living for the country as a whole reached another new peak in July, 90.8 per cent above pre-war. This means that, compared to pre-World War II (1935-1939), the dollars in our pay envelopes are worth only 23 cents.

The very slow climb of total living costs in the last two months has brought the figure to a new peak level 1 per cent above the previous peak at the end of 1951. But the July figure is not a dollar per week above the July, 1951, according to the U.S. Labor Department's unadjusted index. This means that, in order to keep living costs, we need salaries 3.6 per cent above what we were getting a year ago. While a worker receiving $65 a week last July would need $67.34 to maintain the same standard of living today; an

"UNION MAID"

Not Belonging To A Union

Was the Biggest Mistake

Washington.—In the woman's magazines of today you are likely to find most anything from how to make bathroom curtains out of old inner tubes to how to make inner tubes out of old bathroom curtains. However, in a recent issue of one of the leading female magazines we found something entirely new—an editorial on the need for unions.

It was not exactly an editorial. For that matter, it did not even mention unions at all, but to our way of thinking it pointed up the evils that can befall an unorganized worker more eloquently than anything we have read in a long, long time.

This particular magazine runs a feature called "How America Lives." Each month it takes one family and tells you all about it. In a recent issue of the magazine, the family chosen for discussion was that of a bank teller. By the time he had been at the bank 12 years he made a mistake—a justified one at that.

It seems a forged check for $80 came across his desk, and he honored it in good faith. When the check was found to be a forgery, the president of the bank and half a platoon of vice presidents tore his hair and spat on their leader.

This office worker receiving $45 a week would need $46.62.

Rents have been creeping up month by month for almost five years; food prices are high, partly because this is the high price season for eggs and some vegetables, and partly due to the drought. The price of coal has been increased because railroad freight rates are higher. The result is an increase in the price of anything that costs of clothing and house furnishings are still declining a little.

Workers are also hard-hit because the costs of medicines, medical care and other services are going up gradually.

"Stop dreaming of a wonderful Labor victory—Go register and vote!"

"Must Open Books

On 'Poverty' Plea

Pictou, Ontario.—A company pleading inability to pay going wage rates in an industry ought to be prepared to open its books to union representatives, in order to establish a case before a conciliation board.

This was the contention of Judge W. S. Lane of this city, chairman of a conciliation board in a dispute between Otaco Limited of Gliril and the CIO United Steelworkers.

Noting that there was a substantial differential between wages paid at Otaco and those paid at companies like International Harvester and Cockshutt Plow, Judge Lane held that it is not proper for the company to argue that they cannot pay unless they are prepared to have that statement analyzed by experts acting for the opposite party.

He recommended an increase, qualifying his recommendation by pointing out that the reopening of conciliation proceedings on the wage increase by Otaco had filed copies of its financial statement with the Minister of Labor for distribution to the board and to the union representative, the union representative not to make the statement's contents public.

TURNING TO GLAD RAGS?

Washington.—The U. S. Commerce Department says white collar shirt production has dropped 31 per cent while sports shirt production has increased 55 per cent.

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.

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Two Million Votes

In round numbers, Americans old enough to vote this year total 100,000,000. Of these, 51,000,000—count them—are women.

This means that women, if they elected to do so, could "outvote the men" by 5,000,000 ballots. They could swing elections in 32 States. In the other 16 States voting men still outnumber the women.

No Women's Bloc

In the 32 years, they've had the vote, however, women have not voted as WOMEN, but as citizens. No "women's block" has developed, nor is there any sign of one. Women divide up pretty much as other people vote—Democrat, Republican, Independents, and Non-Voters.

Not Enough Vote

It's not known for sure what percentage of women actually vote. The claim is that their percentage gets better each election. It is known for sure that not enough of them vote. Otherwise America's voting record would be better. Neither sex can be too proud of the number of votes cast in our elections.

More Will Vote

More women—and men, too—will vote, we believe, when all of us do a better job of the education the idea that politics is something separate and apart from every day living. When it is clear to women and men alike that the life of every FAMILY is affected by politics every day.

We Can All Help

Perhaps it will take a long time to do that, but meantime we can see to it that MORE WOMEN vote this year. Let us make sure those 2,000,000 extra votes behind candidates supported by AFL's Labor's League for Political Education.

How?

By helping get out the vote. By reporting to your LL.P.E. and finding out how you can help. It's really simple—sign up for whatever needs doing. Give what time you can. Take your husband's place while he stays on the job. What happens before and on election day—is where you come in.

You Will Decide

This year, YOU are going to decide which candidate is the best. Democracy has to sell. Don't be fooled by shiny words and fancy promises from a smile—handshake—a TV sitter. Your intuition is sound. Be guided by it.

Prove Our Alertness

Let's prove WOMEN are as alert at the polls as they are at the market place. Women choose the best buy for the money. This year's buy—in politics—cannot be exchanged. It is tax, for two, four, or six years. REMEMBER—You can't take him back.—Polly Edson for LL.P.E.

OEU Baseball Team In Detroit

Detroit, Mich.—OEU Local 42 of this city is sponsoring a baseball team in the Federation League. Members of the team are, first from left to right: Art Gorsalki, 3b; Jack Behr, ss; Bill Croteau, p; Norm Guild, 1b; second row: Jerry Foley, cf; Orville McKnight, rf; Louis Yeager, 2b; Ed Cinnamazzo, 3b. In the 26 years that the Federation League has been in existence, this is the first time that the office employees have been represented.

Membership Roles of Unions In Canada Reach New High

Ottawa, Can.—Hon. Milton F. Gregg, Canadian Minister of Labor, reports there were 1,146,121 members of labor organizations in Canada at the beginning of 1952, according to the forty-first annual survey of the Canadian Department of Labor. Many unions covered by earlier surveys reported gains in membership. However, the increase of 117,600 over the 1951 figure results in part from an increase in the coverage of the survey rather than from an increase in union membership. The report includes returns from independent groups having a total membership of 24,360 which, although previously in existence, were not included in earlier surveys.

"More Canadian workers are members of labor unions today than at any other time," Mr. Gregg said. Not only is union membership at its highest level numericaly, but the proportion of workers who belong to labor organizations is greater than in any previous period. In 1911, the year of the first published survey of the Department, less than one-tenth of non-agricultural workers were members of labor organizations. In contrast, more than 30 per cent of the present-day labor force belong to labor unions. Union development as reflected in the survey has been uneven through the years. For example, the membership increase of 11.4 per cent over the past year has only been exceeded in 12 separate years, and the numerical advance of 117,600 members is among the largest recorded in the same period.

Unions active in Canada include 105 international and 62 national and regional organizations, which take in nine of every 10 trade unionists. Directly chartered and independent locals account for the remaining one worker in 10. The internationals have in their membership seven out of every 10 Canadian unionists as compared with two out of every 10 who belong to national or regional organizations.

One hundred and twenty-five international, national and regional unions are affiliated with one or more of the three Canadian central bodies—the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, the Canadian Congress of Labor, and the Canadian and Catholic Confederation of Labor.

According to the total membership figures shown by the survey, the membership of the AFL in Canada is nearly double that of the CIO. Nearly all of AFL's membership in Canada being affiliated with the Trades and Labor Congress, and that of the CIO's with the Canadian Congress of Labor.

RED FEATHER

Washington.—October is RED FEATHER month, the time each year when health and welfare agencies unite in one campaign to raise money for the continuance of their services.

In towns and cities all over the United States and Canada these services for babies and young people, for families, for the ill, the aged and the handicapped are vital to the welfare and happiness of everyone in the community.

Home town needs and national health and welfare programs such as those made necessary by the defense effort are met by your contributions to the United RED FEATHER campaign.

GIVE NOW. THE UNITED WAY. FOR ALL RED FEATHER SERVICES.
California—Increased organizing activity of Local 56 in San Francisco, as a result of the Specialty Mfg. Co., the Service Building Department of the Stonestown Properties, Inc., C. W. Sweeney Insurance Consultants Co., Olgay Kaye Court Reporter and Transcribing Service, Goebel, Bakery, Union Buyers League and Henry Budde Publications. A labor agreement has been signed with the California Service Consultants, and the Union Buyers League.

Missouri—St. Louis Local 15 has secured a 100 per cent sign-up among the office and clerical employees of the Complete Auto Trans, and has filed a representation petition on their behalf with the NLRB.

New York—After two years in the armed services of the United States, President John Tracy of New York City Local 153, who has been on leave of absence from his office with the local during this period, has been welcomed back from his active duty with the NLRB.

Nearly 100 per cent of the approximately 25 office and clerical employees of the McCall Telephone Secretarial Service have designated Local 11, Portland, Oreg., 3 cents per hour.


Charitable Organizations—Community Chest and East United Fund, Local 29, Oakland, Calif., $15 per month.

Pneumatic Tools—Chicago Pneumatic Tool Co., Local 281, Utica, N. Y., 8 cents per hour.

Duplifying Services—Whitfield Enterprises, Local 36, San Francisco, Calif., 25 cents per hour.

Bus Operation—Southeastern Greyhound Lines, 8 cents per hour plus additional 4 cents per hour effective during coming year.

Restaurants—Marco Polo, Manny Wolf's, the Lobster, Avenue Restaurant, Ogunquit, Ken's Chest House, Ronnies Steak House, Nino's and Al Schach's, Local 153, New York City, $3 per week.

Jewelry Mfg.—J. A. Meyers & Co., Local 30, Los Angeles, Calif., $1.75 per week.

Shoe Wholesale & Retail—Karls and Kirby's Shoe Store, Local 30, Los Angeles, Calif., $4.50 per week.

Further Gains Are Noted in New York

New York—During recent weeks almost 600 office and clerical employees of Local 153 of this city as their collective bargaining representative. This has been true of that local's most concentrated periods of growth.

The 330 office and clerical employees of the Home News Company of the American News Company are now represented by Local 153 as the result of a recent NLRB election. Votes totaling 2 to 1 for the union culminated a two months' drive to organize this small book and magazine distributor.

In a later NLRB election, the 12 office and clerical employees of the International News Company, another branch of the American News Company, voted favorably for Local 153 in a representation election.

During this same period, another representation election among the about 25 office and clerical employees of the Canadian Dry Ginger Ale Company chose Local 153 in preference to another union on the ballot. The local currently represents the salesmen of this company in New York City.

Greater Interest Is Being Taken by Government Urged

Atlantic City, N. J.—Government should be of particular interest to Miss Mary Donlon, chairman of the New York State Workmen's Compensation Board, told the American Home Economics Society meeting here.

Intolerant because many women regard politics as "dirty," Miss Donlon said such women are like a housekeeper who would close a door on a dusty room and live in the rest of the house.

These women, she said, do not realize that their homes are a two-way channel of influence. An "assassin's shot in the dark" like an attack on Pearl Harbor is something they realize because those events will touch other homes, but they fail to understand that their homes can influence the course of human events.

She urged the association's members to help teach women about the structure of government and the part women can play in it.

AFL Tops 8 Million

Atlantic City, N. J.—For the first time in history, the official membership of the American Federation of Labor has topped the 8 million mark.

Secretary-Treasurer George Meany reported to the AFL Executive Council session here that the per capita tax-paid membership as of June 30, the end of the fiscal year, was 8,098,000. This represents a gain of 292,000 over the