ASK TAX RELIEF FOR MOTHERS

475 WIN RAISES AT CURTISS-WRIGHT

Paterson, N. J.—Pay raises, job protection and important fringe benefits have been won by 475 members of OEIU Local 279 in a first contract with the Curtiss-Wright Propeller Division.

A six-man union negotiating committee, assisted by OEIU Vice President L. G. Nygren, won 11 major gains after rejecting management’s original offer.

The contract, signed this month after ratification by the membership, includes pay raises of at least $2.40 a week for all employees, with additional raises resulting from upgrading of several job classifications.

Other gains include:

- Sick leave doubled, going up to four weeks after one year. Leave with pay for illness or death in the immediate family.
- A union shop.
- Eight paid holidays, regardless of the day of the week on which they fall.
- Interval between automatic sick cuts from 13 and 17 weeks to 8 and 10 weeks.
- Union stewards allowed 30 hours a month on company time to adjust grievances.
- All night shift employees get a 10 per cent bonus and a 30-minute paid lunch period.
- Time-and-one-half for Saturdays as usual; double time on Sundays.
- Equal distribution of overtime.
- Improved retirement and health insurance plan.

Negotiations are now under way for nearly 200 additional office employees at the company’s electronics division, OEIU Vice President Nygren reports.

Francis X. O’Neill is president of OEIU Local 279, which includes Curtis-Wright office employees at both the propeller and electronics divisions of the company.

BUFFALO DIVISION VOTES FOR OEIU

Buffalo, N. Y.—Still another group of Curtiss-Wright office workers has voted for OEIU representation.

OEIU Vice President George P. Firth reports that office employees of the Metal Processing Division at Buffalo gave OEIU Local 212 a decisive majority in an NLRB election this month.

Of 75 votes cast, 54 were for OEIU Local 212, 16 for the CIO Steel Workers, who represent plant production workers, and only five for no union.

Contract negotiations are scheduled to get under way in the very near future.

First Contract at Propeller Plant

A first contract covering office employees at the Curtiss-Wright Propeller Division is signed at Caldwell, N. J. Seated (from left) Robert Ingram, Local 279; OEIU Vice President L. G. Nygren; Francis O’Neill, Local 279 president; F. R. O’Leary and J. M. Hetherton, company executives, and James McRae and George Tierney, Local 279 officers. Local 279 members standing are Ernest Rimble, left, and Lawrence Morris, Jr., third from right.

The $64 Question

Has Leopard Changed Spots?

New York, N. Y.—Has the leopard changed its spots or have they just been covered over by a coat of whitewash?

That is the big question in labor circles following the announcement that the CIO will welcome back the Distributive, Processing and Office Workers of America. This is in the same group that the CIO once charged with being Communist-dominated. It is now reported that it will merge with the CIO Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union.

The merger was made possible when DPOWA President Arthur O’Man reported “broke” with the Communists.

But, according to the anti-communist newsletter Counterattack, the “break” wasn’t very deep. Instead of kicking out the Commies, Counterattack says, the DPOWA is reported to be merely reshuffling them to other jobs within the union.

Commented OEIU President Paul R. Hutchings: “The DPOWA will have to prove with actions instead of words that it has rid itself of Communist control.”

BACK ROBERTS BILL OEIU LOCALS URGED

OEIU members in the United States can help end a longstanding injustice to working mothers.

A bill is before Congress to exempt working mothers from paying federal income taxes on the portion of their salary that goes to pay for the care of their children while the mothers are at work. The bill, H.R. 2861, was introduced by Rep. Kenneth Roberts of Alabama and is to be considered by the House Ways and Means Committee.

OEIU President Paul R. Hutchings urges upon union members in the United States to sponsor a letter-writing campaign in support of the Roberts bill.

Hutchings said:

“Thousands of working mothers are members of the OEIU.

Many more work in still-unionized offices. Because working mothers have no organized lobby, the Roberts bill faces an uphill fight in Congress. Our union can render a real public service by championing this cause.

Passage of the Roberts bill in the United States would also make it easier to bring similar tax relief to Canadian working mothers.”

Copies of the Roberts Bill are being mailed to all OEIU locals in the United States, Hutchings stated.

Congressman Roberts said he welcomes the support of the OEIU. He pointed out that employers can deduct all expenses even remotely connected with their business, including “entertainment.”

But a mother—even if she is the sole support of her children—can’t deduct the cost of her care while she is at work. She may pay half of her salary for a maid to look after them. The mail pays income tax on the money. But the working mother also pays income tax on the same money.

Members who feel this is unjust are asked to turn to page 2 for the OEIU Blueprint for Action.
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all opinions and
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R. H.
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Bill
working mothers
as
working mothers
write letters. Most effective is the
letters to newspapers will also
local union can start the ball
Rolling. A local can pass a resolution
supporting the Roberts bill and see that the
newspapers get the story. The local can send letters
to their Congressmen and both
But the rest is up to the
individual working mothers.
Here's a suggestion:
Set up a working mothers' committee, starting within the local
and expanding it to include as many
others as possible.
Their job will be to write letters and
get other working mothers to
write letters. Most effective is the
personal letter to your Congressman, telling him in your own words
of your economic problem and asking
him to use all his influence to
get the Roberts bill, H. R. 2861,
reported out favorably by the House Ways and Means Committee.
Letters to newspapers will also
help. But most important of all,
personal letters to Congressmen.
If you belong to other organizations,
you can interest them in the
bill. It has received a lot of support.
But it will take a big push to bring
action.
At the last session of Congress,
a similar bill never got to a vote
because there was no pressure on Congressmen to act. Working
mothers had no organization to
present their case.
This year, it can be different.
It's up to us.

Our Convention
For many locals, sending a delegation to the OEIU Convention this
year will present no serious prob-
tems. Convention issues will be
discussed, elections will be held and the
degregation will be on its
way.
But there are other locals where the
problems are much greater. When the
local treasury is small and the
distance to be traveled is
great, it is a strong temptation to
pull up the convention as a luxury.
The full participation of all
locals in shaping the policy of the
OEIU is no luxury. It is a bread
and butter necessity if our union
is to remain true to its democratic
traditions.
In previous convention years,
many small locals proved it could
be done. They held dances and
barbecues to raise money. They
made it a matter of pride for the
local to be represented at the
OEIU convention.
Important issues have been
declared by a very few votes. There
is nothing wrong with that. Honest
differences of opinion are a sign of
health and vigor. What is important
is that all opinions and all local
problems be represented.
A local that passes up its right
to a voice and vote in shaping the
policies of the Office Employees
International Union places itself in
the same class as the citizen who
fails to use his right to vote.
Both weaken our democracy.
See you in Cleveland.
P. R. H.

AFTER HOURS

"I know we're members of the same union, but can you stop
calling me 'Brother'?

Working Mothers' Bill

OEIU Blueprint for Action

Success or failure of the OEIU campaign to end tax dis-

Advancement is the only
right. A simple bill passed by the
Congress and signed by the
President could end this
injustice. But the only
tools we have are our
voices and our votes. And
what will we do with
them?

25 Congressmen
Hold Tax Power

OEIU members in 25 key
Congressional districts have the best
opportunity to help pass the
Roberts bill providing tax relief
for working mothers. These are
the districts of members of the
House Ways and Means Committees,
which must approve the bill before
Congress can act.

A letter to one of these Congress-
men will be doubly effective.
The committee members, their
Congressional districts and home
towns are as follows:

Republican—Daniel Reed, Chairman, 43
CD, Fort Wayne, N. Y.; Thomas Jenkins, 10
CD, Ironwood, Ohio; Richard Simpson, 18
CD, Huntington, Pa.; Robert Keen, 13 CD,
Livingston, N. J.; Carl Curtis, 1 CD, Min-
don, N. H.; Noah Mans, 15 CD, Oklahoma
III; Thomas Martin, 1 CD, Iowa City,
Iowa; Hal Holmes, 4 CD, Ely, Iowa; Paul
Van, Wash.; John B. Byrnes, 8 CD, Green
Bay, Wis.; Arrad Goodwin, 8 CD, Meade,
Mass.; Alphonso Weat, at Tex, Conn.
Howard Baker, 2 CD, Huntsville, Tenn.
Thomas Curtis, 5 CD, Webster Groves, Mo.
Victor Knox, 11 CD, Saint St. Marie
Michigan; James Uts. 2 CD, Santa Ana,
Calif.

Democrat—Jare Cooper, 8 CD, Dyer-
burg, Tenn.; John Dingell, 13 CD, Detroit,
Mich.; William Mille, 2 CD, Kansas City, Ark.
Noble Gregory, 1 CD, Marshfield, Ks.; Al-
Sidney Beam 2 CD, Newman, Ga.; Alphon-
Foord, 1 CD, Cambridge, K. I.; Herman
Eberhart, 2 CD, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Cecil
Kinz, 17 CD, Los Angeles, Calif.; Thomas
O'Brien, 4 CD, Chicago, Ill.; Hale Bogue,
2 CD, New Orleans, La.

19 MILLION JOBS
HELD BY WOMEN

Nineteen million women now
hold jobs in the United States, the
Women's Bureau of the Depart-
ment of Labor reports in its 1952
handbook. This represents an
increase of 500,000 over the 1951
figure.
The increasing femininity role
in the labor force is shown by the
fact that one-third of all women
14 years of age and over are at
work. They constitute 30 per cent
of all working people.

Director Frieda Miller of the
Women's Bureau said, "The
revised facts and figures brought

together in this handbook give
impressive evidence of the growing
importance of women's work in
this country.

About half the female workers,
the survey revealed, are in clerical
work; one-fifth are in service
positions; and one-fourth are in
professional or technical fields.

More than 600,000 women hold
positions in state and local

governments, including 3,000 who
serve in U. S. embassies.

The Women's Bureau also
showed that women
workers earn about half
as much as men. The median annual
wage in 1950 averaged $1,250 for
women and $2,659 for men.

Public Relations Man
Named to OEIU Staff

A public relations specialist
has been added to the OEIU staff,
President Paul R. Hutchings an-
nounced.

He is David L. Perlman, re-
cently on the staff of "The Ma-
chinist" newspaper. Brother
Perlman has also been a reporter
for Transradio Press Service, the
Beaumont, Tex., Journal, and the
Jeannette, Pa., Daily News.

In addition to publicity cover-
age of the Cleveland convention,
his work will include the develop-
ment of a long-term public rela-
tions program for the OEIU.

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desirable in the interest of workers' education.

WE"
Visitors from Canada

The top officials of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, with which the Office Employees International Union affiliated, stopped in at OEIU headquarters in Washington during their recent visit to the United States. L to r are C. G. Cushing, secretary-treasurer of the Congress; Percy R. Bengough, president of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, and OEIU President Paul R. Hutchings.

Victoria Island Office Union Votes to Affilate with OEIU

A union of office employees on Victoria Island, B. C., has voted unanimously to affiliate with the OEIU. The union, which has 160 members, has been affiliated with the British Columbia Electric Company, has issued an order to OEIU Local 300.

A. S. Harris is the president of the union, which has been known as the Victoria Island branch of the British Columbia Office Employees Association, affiliated with the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.

Harris, in a letter to OEIU President Paul Hutchings, had this to say about his union’s decision to seek affiliation with the Office Employees International Union:

“Our organization feels that it is the only satisfactory way that any office employee group could take, and trust that we will be the start of a mass movement into the OEIU in the Province of British Columbia.”

Members of the new local were warmly welcomed into the OEIU in letters from International President Hutchings and Secretary-Treasurer J. Howard Hicks.

British Columbia now has the oldest and newest OEIU locals in Canada. Local 15, at Vancouver, was the first Canadian local charted by the Office Employees International Union. Local 300 officers said their local will also affiliate with the OEIU’s Northwest Council.

Ontario Contract

Hamilton, Ont.—Employees of the Credit Union National Association at Hamilton, Ont., are working a 37 1/2-hour week under their first OEIU contract, negotiated recently by Local 256. Other features in the contract, which will be in effect for two years, are:

1. The minimum wage will be $18.50 a month for the first four months.

2. There will be a 10 cent increase in the minimum wage every six months.

3. The union will be permitted to have ainker in the plant, and the employer will guarantee 40 hours of work per week.

4. The union will have the right to a 30-day notice of the closing of the plant.

5. The employer will guarantee a 6-month supply of food to employees in case of a strike, and the union will guarantee a 3-month supply of food to employees in case of a lockout.

6. The employer will guarantee a 10 cent increase in the minimum wage every six months, and the union will guarantee a 5 cent increase in the minimum wage every six months.

7. The employer will guarantee a 10 cent increase in the minimum wage every six months, and the union will guarantee a 5 cent increase in the minimum wage every six months.

8. The employer will guarantee a 10 cent increase in the minimum wage every six months, and the union will guarantee a 5 cent increase in the minimum wage every six months.

9. The employer will guarantee a 10 cent increase in the minimum wage every six months, and the union will guarantee a 5 cent increase in the minimum wage every six months.

10. The employer will guarantee a 10 cent increase in the minimum wage every six months, and the union will guarantee a 5 cent increase in the minimum wage every six months.

Hamburger again?

It’s a familiar complaint in households where a woman comes home after a full day at the office and has to make a full meal. Sure, steaks don’t take long. But how often can you afford steaks these days? And those fancy low-cost menus you see in newspapers are sometimes the only time-preparers.

That is the problem of an OEIU member who asks Office Workers readers to send in interesting recipes for one-dish meals which can be prepared and put on the table within half an hour.

How about the following tried by a reader?

1. Baked potatoes in the microwave oven

2. Green beans

3. Rice

4. Mushroom soup

5. Buttered bread

6. A salad

7. A fruit dessert

How about it? Send your recipe to: Office Workers, 625 Bond Building, Washington, D.C. And if you have a recipe for a particular dish, we’ll be glad to print your request in this column.

Freezer Food Plan

A good freezer is a handy thing to have around—if you really need it and if you can afford it. Otherwise, you may be letting yourself in for trouble.

Better Business Bureaus in many cities have been getting complaints about the heavily advertised freezer food plans, often sold by door-to-door salesmen. The buyer gets a freezer stocked with what is supposed to be a six-month supply of food and pays for both freezer and food on the installment plan. The sales argument is that the money you save on food bills will pay for the cost of your freezer.

It isn’t so, consumer organizations report. In most cases, there is little or no saving on the actual food purchased. For example, a side of beef at 65 cents a pound will contain a few expensive cuts of steak. But it will contain many more cheaper cuts which sell for considerably less at retail.

In addition, supplies which the salesman says will last six months are often run out at the end of four months.

You are also paying a high interest rate for your installment purchase. Add that to the cost of the food before you convince yourself that you are getting a bargain.

As we said, a freezer is a nice thing to have. But make sure you really need one. A sales talk should sometimes be taken with a grain of salt.

It's a SELLER’s GUARANTEE of GOOD WORKMANSHIP
At Atomic Energy Base

What a Big Difference a Union Makes!

HUNDREDS of office workers at the Hanford, Wash., atomic energy project know the difference a union contract can make. They found out the hard way.

Office employees of several construction companies operating at the Hanford installation were members of OEU Local 100. Some months ago, the work handled by these companies was largely taken over by the Kaiser Engineering Company.

Most of the office employees then went to work for Kaiser. But they found conditions were a lot different at a company not covered by OEU contract.

The non-union wage scales were as much as $10 a week below the rates in their old OEU contracts.

In addition, vacation time and sick leave benefits were only half as good as the Local 100 contracts had provided.

You can guess what the next step was. The office employees who had worked under OEU contracts went ahead and signed up the Kaiser Engineering office workers in Local 100. Recently, Local 100 won recognition as collective bargaining representative for the Kaiser office workers.

Now the fight is to bring Kaiser working conditions up to union standards and to continue the forward progress towards better conditions. As this issue of THE OFFICE WORKER went to press, the Local 100 members were determined to win their case.

After experiencing OEU working conditions, they have no desire to move backwards.

Union Label Exhibit

An OEU booth is one of the attractions of the AFL Union Label Industries Show, now being held in Minneapolis.

Business Representative Arthur J. Fritz heads the Local 12 committee which is staffing the OEU booth at the Municipal Auditorium. The show opened April 18 and runs through April 25.

OEIU members in the Minneapolis area are invited to attend.

Housing Project Named After Samuel Gompers

New York, N. Y.—A housing development here will be named after Samuel Gompers, founder and first president of the American Federation of Labor.

To be located on New York's lower East Side, the Samuel Gompers houses will replace nine acres of city slums. It is being developed with federal aid to house more than one thousand low income families.

The buildings will occupy less than 15 per cent of the project site, with the remaining space set aside for lawns, walks and park areas.

Delegates to Cleveland Convention Can Expect Everything but Sleep

If any delegates average more than five hours sleep a night during the OEU Convention, which opens at Cleveland June 22, it won’t be the fault of the convention planners.

Between the business agenda being drawn up in Washington and the social agenda planned by locals 17 and 49 at Cleveland, it will be a crowded week. That’s the report from Edward C. Trausch, chairman of the convention arrangements committee.

A special attraction this year will be the pre-convention forum on contract negotiations, scheduled for 1 p.m. on Sunday, June 21.

S. Herbert Unterberger, OEU research consultant, will lead the discussion which will be devoted to practical problems of negotiations and wording of contracts.

Special emphasis will be given to the study of health and welfare and pension programs.

Although the convention does not formally open until Monday, June 22, delegates are urged to make every effort to arrive in time for the pre-convention contract forum.

Locals are reminded that all resolutions to be considered at the Convention should reach the office of the International Secretary-Treasurer not later than 21 days before the convention opens.

Company Too Late With Too Little

Aiken, S. C.—When OEU Local 261 began signing up office and clerical employees of the Miller Electric Company at the Savannah River H-bomb project, management got worried.

The company started handing out $250 a week raises and, for the first time, announced a vacation policy.

OEIU Vice President J. O. Bloodworth reports that the organizing committee of employees wrote the company that the raise was appreciated.

But, they pointed out, it was much too small and there are a lot of other grievances that have to be ironed out. This could all be taken care of in negotiations for a union contract, they said.

Bloodworth commented: “The company got there too late with too little.”