600 ATOMIC WORKERS VOTE OEIU

Portsmouth, Ohio—By a sweeping vote of 10 to 1, the 600 office employees of Peter Kiewit Sons’ Company voted for representation by the OEIU in an AEC project but also one which is devoted exclusively and is equipped to meet the needs and problems of workers of their trade. The election conducted by NLRB followed a representation hearing at which the OEIU was effectively represented by Attorney Joseph E. Finley. Actual unionization of the group was carried on mainly by an aggressive committee from among the office employees of the company and headed by Glenn D. Dearing and Mary E. Teager, president and secretary-treasurer of the OEU.

The company is engaged in a multi-billion dollar construction project for the Atomic Energy Commission known as the Pine County Atomic Energy Project. The decisive vote given the OEIU by office and clerical employees on this project is further testimonial to the effectiveness of the International Union’s representation of similar employees at AEC installations elsewhere, including the Hanford Project, Fort, Washington; Sandia Corporation, Albuquerque, New Mexico; Savannah River Project, Aiken, South Carolina; and elsewhere.

Although an interloper CIO union managed to gain a place on the NLRB ballot, it was roundly rejected by the office workers in the local election who made it clear that they desire representation not only by a union which has demonstrated the effectiveness of its representation of such workers on other projects. Has Vital Task

President Howard Coughlin recently announced the appointment of Brother H. B. Douglas as OEIU Director of Organization. “Doug,” as he is known to many, is well known in the field of office employe unionization. He was employed originally as an office worker in the American Federation of Labor headquarters at Washington, D. C. Subsequently in the late 30’s he directed the A. F. of L. organizing staff and, for the most part, was assigned to office organization.

During the early days of World War II he served the A. F. of L. on the War Production Board. He subsequently entered the U. S. Navy and for a short period of time after his release from service at the end of hostilities was a business representative of OEIU Local.

Benefits Won In First C-W Pact

Buffalo, N. Y.—Completion of negotiations on the initial agreement between Local 212 and the Curtiss-Wright Corporation, Metals Processing Division, resulted in benefits totaling more than 22 cents per hour in the aggregate to the 150 members of the local union employed by the firm, according to an announcement made by President Frank W. Roberts and Secretary-Treasurer V. Richard Coles of the union.

Probably no one of the benefits gained was a 14-cent per hour pay increase for all members of the union, 1 additional holiday per year with pay, adjustment in vacation allowances to permit 1 week after 6 months and 2 weeks after 1 year’s employment, incorporation in the agreement of the company’s hospital and surgical plan for all members and an improvement in the existing retirement program. In addition, the

PLUGGIDS AID

The American Federation of Labor, through its Director of Organization Harry O’Reilly, has pledged the full support of its field staff in the organizational program of OEIU. Director O’Reilly has already assigned numerous A. F. of L. organizers to the existent organizational problems of our union. He has also notified all regional directors in accordance with the new organizational program of A. F. of L. that they are free, without further clearance, to assist us in the field.

With the help of the American Federation of Labor and affiliated National and International unions we will accomplish the job of unionizing unorganized white collar workers.

800 to Vote in Poll Ordered

At Atomic Project by NLRB

Paducah, Ky.—Following unwarranted delay resulting from ill-founded intervention by a rival union, the 800 office and clerical employees of the F. H. McGraw and Company are to be afforded the opportunity to vote for OEIU representation as the result of a decision recently handed down by the National Labor Relations Board. Unionization of the group has been under way for several months and a hearing was held before the NLRB early in June. Leaders among the group have expressed confidence that their fellow workers will choose representation by the OEIU by an overwhelming number as did other atomic energy project workers recently at Portsmouth, Ohio, and previously at similar projects at Savannah River in South Carolina; Hanford, Wash.; Albuquerque, N. Mex.; and Terre Haute, Ind.

OEIU Organizer A. R. Carson, who is directing the program on behalf of the International Union and stated, “I know the group here desires to be represented not only by an organization with proven accomplishments for other atomic project office workers but that they recognize this can be done most ef-

(Continued on page 4)
Trouble Brewing For Russia

New York City.—"The truce in Korea was largely influenced by difficulties behind the Iron Curtain," George Meany, AFL president, said in a press conference aboard the Queen Mary, upon his return from the Congress of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions in Stockholm.

"It is having so much trouble behind the Iron Curtain," the AFL chief executive declared, "that she believes it necessary to try to fix up the difficulties outside the curtain."

The significance of the Berlin and East German uprisings, he said, cannot be lost on the workers of the world.

"Back through long years," Meany continued, "the Communists have been insisting that they were the champions of the workers against the bosses. They pictured capitalists as oppressing the workers, and now a window has been thrown open upon the situation behind the Iron Curtain, and what do we see there? We see conditions much worse than the Communists charged against the employers. We see high wages, and in slave labor—no wages at all; speed-up systems, and we see that when men strike, they get shot down. We see workers forced to rise against inhumane conditions; instead of being in what had been called a worker's paradise they have suffered as nowhere before. They fought cold steel with bare hands."

Douglas Director Of Organization

(Continued from page 1)

organization of white collar workers is well known throughout the American Federation of Labor. In announcing Douglas' appointment, President Coughlin said, "We are happy to have a man of Henderson Douglas' qualifications and experience to work with us in the monumental task that lies ahead."

President Coughlin has initially instructed Douglas to assist in drawing up a plan of organization designed to unionize large numbers of white collar workers in the shortest possible period of time. He is working in close cooperation with Secretary-Treasurer J. Howard Hiram, who has contributed in drawing up this plan so vitally important to the future of workers of our trade. When this plan is put into operation, in conjunction with the AFL, international officers, Douglas will participate actively in the promotion of the plan and will work closely with OEU and organizers both through the International office and in the field.

Organized Labor

Some retailers, some manufacturers, some newspapers invariably array themselves in thinking and often in action, against organized labor. They would bargain with employees as a matter of grace, not of right. The thought that prevails seems to be that the organization of men and women to bargain over their working conditions is some interference with freedom. Actually good wages, good working conditions, fringe benefits, are all highly beneficial to the economic well-being of employer, management and worker.

In the long view of matters, it is buying power generated by well-paid men and women, their constant quest for a higher standard of living for themselves and their children that have provided a market for the mass production of this nation.

Take away the man and his wife striving to build and pay for their home and the bulk of the lumber market collapses. Look at the employed worker and the market for cars and radios, home appliances and better clothes, wanes and vanishes.

Sometimes in the welter of disturbance and striving which is often associated in the minds of the public with the organized labor movement, the average citizen loses sight of the many improvements of the trade unions have been to the state and the nation. One reads of strikes and threat of strikes; of contention over picket line legislation and fringe benefits. This jumps to an unwarranted conclusion that labor unions are some un-American enterprise not associated with economic and political freedom.

With industry inevitably becoming larger, and more complicated; with jobs becoming more complex in number and the individual worker more and more a part of a complex economic gear, only organization makes possible the average citizen's voice in terms of pay, working conditions, retirement and the kindred problems of the employe in this modern day. It is unwarranted and unwise to condemn union labor solely for its excesses and errors; one must never forget that on balance it has been the most salient factor for the improvement of the lot of millions of men and women.

Who, for example, years ago fought the battle for compulsory industrial accident insurance? Organized labor.

Who, at the time of the 40-hour, then the 48-hour and now the 40-hour work? Organized labor. Who in recent times has led in securing protection for employed men and women against the hazards of illness, of sudden death, and the inevitability of age and retirement? Organized labor.

These worthy gains, from which the American nation is not going to retreat, were not easily won; there was literally "blood and tears," "sweat and tears," spent on a million fronts to make them possible, and the nation in its entirety should be grateful to organized labor for its prime role in such accomplishments.—Coos Bay (Oreg.) Times.

TVA Worthwhile Eisenhower Told

Seattle.—President Eisenhower talked to the Governors' Conference here and also was talked to.

Gov. Frank G. Clement of Tennessee, a Democrat, was the one who spoke to the President. He said that Eisenhower was wrong in his estimate of the Tennessee Valley Authority, the TVA.

Gov. Clement told the President that the people of the Tennessee Valley think the Administration policy on the TVA is unsatisfactory and uninformed. He asked that the Administration take part in an impartial survey of the TVA's accomplishments and value to the nation before taking future legislative policy on the program.

Gov. Clement also said that Administration officials, including Budget Director Joseph M. Dodge, had told him that they based some of their findings on information supplied by the Edison Electric Institute.

The people of the TVA area, Gov. Clement said, "recognize what has been accomplished for the entire South."

Howlin of AFL Staff Passes On

William H. Howlin, 70, a staff member of the American Federation of Labor since 1906, died in Georgetown University Hospital after a long illness.

Howlin, a familiar figure at all AFL conventions, was still active with the federation when he was taken ill. During his long service he had worked with AFL Presidents Samuel Gompers, William Green and George Meany.

He was an active member of OEU Local 2 for the past 47 years.

The Office Worker

Editorial Misses President's Speech

WASHINGTON D. C.—President Eisenhower missed the address on organized labor delivered by Gov. Frank G. Clement of Tennessee, Governor Clement of Tennessee, a Democrat, was the one who spoke to the President. He said that the President was wrong in his estimate of the Tennessee Valley Authority, the TVA.

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Decertification Move Defeated

Philadelphia, Pa.—By a crushing vote of better than two to one, members of Local 14 employed at Lanston Monotype Machine Company turned back an attempt to decertify the local union as representa- tive of employees of the company in a move allegedly sponsored by management.

President Edward P. Spring- man of the local union hailed the victory as a clear-cut and decisive expression of the high regard which employees of this company have for their union after many years of enjoying benefits won for them by Local 14.

Springman gave principal credit for the success in defeating the decertification move to Vice Pres- ident Howard W. Jarman and Secre- tary-Treasurer Marie M. Hutch- inson of the local union, AFL Or- ganizer Robert Warner and OEU Vice President Nicholas Juliano.

Factory Workers' Earnings Higher

Factory workers earned an average of $72.64 a week in mid- June, $13.39 more than at the start of the Korean War three years earlier, the Bureau of Labor Sta- tistics reported.

The BLS said that advances in hourly wage rates were the chief reason for the earnings increase.

Factory workers' gross hourly wages, including overtime and other premium pay, averaged $1.77 this June, 32 cents more than in June 1950.

The workweek of factory pro- duction workers averaged 40.4 hours in June 1953, one-fifth of an hour more than in June 1950.

One dollar is a small investment to make to help your friends to Congress, the state legislature and the city council. Don't forget to contribute to Labor's League for Political Education.

Rail Clerks Chief Honored

CINCINNATI—George M. Harrison (left), grand president of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, is being congratulated by AFL Secret- tary-Treasurer William F. Schnitzler at a testimonial dinner in Cinci- nati celebrating his 25th consecutive year as grand president of the Rail- way Clerks organization. Nearly 1,000 officers, members and guests at- tended the testimonial dinner.

RCA Negotiates With Local Unions

Washington, D. C.—Despite strenuous efforts by a negotiating committee representing the Inter- national Union looking toward the renewal of the national agreement with the RCA Service Company, Inc., negotiations were halted and referred directly to affected local unions. Negotiations were halted following refusal by the company to negotiate an agreement truly national in character.

Subsequent negotiations with indi- vidual local unions has resulted in settlements between the company and OEU local unions in Detroit, St. Louis and Chicago, which agreements are to run for two years with provision that the wage structure of each can be opened on the anniversary date for further negotiations on rates of pay, an hourly rate increase of slightly less than 6 cents per hour effective immediately, improvement in the holiday provision so as to allow a day off for holidays falling on Saturdays, improved sick leave allowances for employees with more than 1 year of service, plant-wide seniority and several other lesser gains.

Vice President J. O. Bloodworth represented the International Un- ion in the initial negotiations and was assisted by President Thomas O'Dell, Local 10, Detroit; Adel- e

Pact Renewals Bring More Gains

Oakland, Calif.—Renewal of four agreements between Local 29 and local firms resulted in substantial salary, employment and other ben- efits to a large group of members of the local union. President John B. Kimnick of the Local outlined the gains won in the renewal of these agreements as follows:

Alameda County Milk Dealers Association—A two-year agree- ment providing for a $1.25 a month pay raise, retroactive to June 1, 1953, plus vacation bene- fits of 10 working days a year after one year's employment, 11 working days after 5 years, 12 after 6 years, 13 after 7 years, 14 after 8 years, and 15 working days' vacation after 9 years' employment.

Welfare Fund Hiked

Consolidated Freightways Com- pany—A $1.50 per month pay boost, an increase in the Health and Welfare Fund from $8.65 to $9.50 a month, and an extra 2 days' vacation after 1 year, bringing the new vacation schedule to 12 working days a year. These provisions are retroactive to January 1, 1953.

United Fund and Community Chest—A 3 per cent general wage raise in addition to an average increase of 4 per cent in the mini- mum and maximum wage classi- fications. Other provisions include an added holiday (Lincoln's birth- day), and an agreement by the em- ployers to provide for unemploy- ment insurance for their office workers.

Todd Shipyards, Alameda—A wage increase of $5 per month plus $1.00 per month per member, employer contributed, health and welfare plan.

WIN SECOND BOOST IN LESS THAN YEAR

Buffalo, N. Y.—Renewal of the agreement between OEU Local 212 and Pallack Paper Print Com- pany resulted in a salary increase of $3.75 per week for all employees retroactive to January 25, accord- ing to Frank W. Roberts, president of the local union. This is the sec- ond salary increase won for em- ployees of this company by the OEU Local since September, 1952.

Retail Food Prices Up

The same basket of groceries which the housewife paid $10 for in mid-June 1950 cost her $13.20 in mid-June of this year.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that retail food prices, led by higher prices for meats and vegetables, climbed 1.6 per cent during the three weeks just prior to last June 15.

Bultas, Local 13, St. Louis; and Business Representative Sarah E. Keenan, Local 28, Chicago.

Dividend Payments Reach Record High

New York City.—Dividends paid to stockholders of issues traded on the New York Stock Exchange reached an all-time six-month rec- ord during the first half of 1953, The Exchange magazine reported.

A total of $2.8 billion repres- ented an increase of more than four per cent over the amount paid out during the same period of 1952.

"Got some small change? ... That non-union firm is paying today!"
800 to Vote at Atomic Project

(Continued from page 1)

festively on skis through a union of office workers.

The rival union which delayed the election order by NLRB had sought to disqualify the OEU on the bare contention that it represented a handful of material checkers employed on the project. The NLRB used strong language in rejecting the contention of the rival union and ordered that all employees in the unit held appropriate by the OEU be afforded an opportunity to vote in the election.

Effectiveness of Union Representation Experienced

Office workers employed at the project had a taste of effective union representation two months ago when three IBM operators of long service were laid off despite the employment of new employees in their department only the week before. Employes in the IBM department left their jobs and remained idle while their positions had been restored to their positions.

This informal display of collective action was an eye-opening experience to all other employees of the company.

Food Chain Pact

Renews Hikes Pay

Buffalo, N. Y.—Recent renewal of the agreement between Local 212 and Loblaw's, Inc., retail grocers, resulted in 10-cent per hour pay increase for all members of the union employed by the company. The increase was retroactive to February 1.

Proposed 'Checkoff' For 'Free Riders'

Chicago.—A new sort of "checkoff" is proposed by the Federation News, publication of the Chicago Federation of Labor. It suggests that "free riders" be called on to sign a card with this authorization to their employers:

"If you refuse to accept any benefits won by the union and hereby authorize and direct the company to withhold the amount of the union won benefits from my pay check each week and donate it to charity."

Such benefits, the paper points out, would include Social Security, unemployment insurance and workmen's compensation, as well as wage increases, paid vacations and holidays, seniority rights and job security. There has been no rush by non-unionists to sign such cards.

Maggiolo Outlines

Arbitration Rules

Washington, D. C.—Walter A. Maggiolo, general counsel and assistant to the director, Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, recently outlined to International Union President Howard Coughlin the proper procedure to be followed by local unions when appealing to the Conciliation Service for the appointment of a panel of arbitrators. He also pointed out the policy of this Service to designate panels of arbitrators on the request of one party only. Upon receipt of a unilateral request, we must, under our policy, communicate with the other side and inquire as to whether they joined in this request. This entails only delay, but a considerable clerical burden upon our limited staff. I suggest that local unions in the first instance seek to have the company involved joint in their request to the Service for the designation of an arbitration panel.

"We have now prepared our roster so as to reflect the experience in particular fields of each arbitrator listed thereon. In order to better service disputes going to arbitration, we suggest that the base for the designation of a panel of arbitrators spell out the general nature of the dispute, such as discharge, lay-off, seniority, termination of employment, pension plan, and need not be spelled out with the particularity of a submission agreement, but should be sufficiently specified enough to enable us to select for the panel men who have demonstrated past experience with the type of problem involved."

C-W Pact Signed

(Continued from page 1)

agreement carries provision for sick leave allowance computed on the basis of 1 day per month for the first year of employment and a flat 20 days per year thereafter. The agreement provides for absences from work resulting from illness or death in the employee's family or jury duty can be applied against accrued sick leave. The pact also requires union membership by all employees, thus assuring all benefits resulting from collective bargaining to all affected workers.

NAM Urges Federal 5 Per Cent Sales Tax

The National Association of Manufacturers continues to demand a national sales tax. It asked Congress to enact a tax of 4½ to 6 per cent on all manufactured goods except food and food products.

NAM President Charles Sligh, Jr., told the House Ways and Means Committee that roughly $10 billion could be raised through a federal sales levy.

Secretary of the Treasury George Humphrey has said he is considering a sales tax as part of a broad tax revision formula.

The NAM proposal would mean that such things as dresses, suits, shoes, books, automobiles, medicine, cooking utensils and thousands of other items bought daily by working people would automatically jump in price.

AEC Contractor

Blasted by NLRB

Aiken, S. C.—An attempt by the Miller Electric Company to have the NLRB remove an AEC contractor from its list of contractors because of its union activities was brought to a rude halt by the labor board recently. The company, an electrical subcontractor on the Savannah River atomic energy project, filed its requests with NLRB in an obvious attempt to squelch the outcome of the election. The company had appealed the earlier rejection of its complaints by the NLRB regional director to NLRB authorities in Washington.

In its complaint, the company not only found fault with the conduct of the election by an NLRB representative but also alleged that OEU representatives improperly and improperly eavesdropped on the factory premises during the time and at the place scheduled for voting. In rejecting all issues raised by the company, the NLRB said with respect to the latter: "We fail to perceive how the conduct complained of could have interfered with a free choice in the election."

Immediately following formal notification by NLRB of its rejection of the company's charges, OEU President Guy M. Farmer, Jr., and a committee of the firm's employees submitted the local union's proposed agreement to company management. Agreement negotiations presently under way are expected to bring substantial benefits to the office and clerical employees of the firm.

Under OEU Banner

(Continued from page 1)

put forth in behalf of their fellow workers. The part played in this campaign by Vice President Bloodworth and myself was incidental to the excellent job done by the committee. We served merely to implement the committee's work."

The fact that office workers employed at the project were firm in their conviction that the OEU offered them the best possible vehicle of representation with their employer was evidenced from the resounding defeat handed the CIO union which imported a number of its local officials and attempted to wave away the thinking of those participating in the vote by wild promises, coupled with parties and entertainments. Office employees of the project could not see where this type activity was in any way indicative of the effective representation which they wanted and they made their feelings in this respect known at the polls.

Further Organization Under Way

Following swiftly on the heels of the victory among office and clerical employees of the prime contractor, Firth and the organizing committee leveled their sights on similar employees of the Grinnell Corporation, plumbing subcontractor and the Reynolds-Newton Joint Venture, electrical subcontractors. The office employees of these firms immediately sought unionization and steps have been taken to establish the OEU's bargaining rights for these groups.

The negotiating committee was comprised of Charles McGill, Frank Nappo and Robert Swanks and was assisted by Emil Stock, see negotiator of the local union.