

THE OFFICE WORKER

Official Organ of the Office Employees International Union of the A. F. of L.

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17

600 ATOMIC WORKERS VOTE OEIU

Portsmouth, Ohio.—By a sweeping vote of 10 to 1, the 600 office employes of Peter Kiewit Sons' Company voted for representation by the OEIU in an election conducted by the National Labor Relations Board. The company is engaged in a multi-billion dollar construction project for the Atomic Energy Commission known as the Pike County Atomic Energy Project. The decisive vote given the OEIU by office and clerical employes on this project is further testimonial to the effectiveness of the International Union's representation of similar employes at AEC installations elsewhere, including the Hanford Project, Pasco, 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 oth-

er AEC projects 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 employes of the company and headed by Glenn D. Dearing and Mary E. Teager, president and secretary-treasurer of the committee. The committee was assisted in the pre-election campaign by OEIU Vice Presidents George P. Firth and J. O. Bloodworth who paid high tribute to the capable and energetic work done by the organizing committee. Firth said, "Those employes of the company who will now be represented by the OEIU owe a debt of gratitude to all members of the committee and to Mr. Dearing and Miss Teager for the quality of their leadership and the untiring efforts which they

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Has Vital Task



H. B. Douglas



Harry O'Reilly

Douglas Director Of Organization

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 was appointed to 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 Lo-

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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 most notable 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

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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 employes 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 among employes at the nearby Atomic Energy Commission project has expressed confidence that virtually all of those participating in the poll will favor representation by the OEIU. Carson pointed with pride to benefits won for other AEC project office workers by

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-

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PLEDGES 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.

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.

“Russia is having so much trouble behind the Iron Curtain,” the AFL chief executive declared, “that she believes it necessary to try to fix up 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 long hours, low 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 inhuman 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

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cal 2. For the last six years he has served as an A. F. of L. organizer in the Rocky Mountain states.

His excellent record in the 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 Hicks and President Coughlin 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 International officers, Douglas will participate actively in the promotion of the plan and will work closely with OEIU organizers both through the International office and in the field.

Organized Labor

Some retailers, some manufacturers, some newspapers invariably array themselves in thinking and action “against labor.” Or they would bargain with employes 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 weal 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 the nation. Take away the man and his wife striving to build and pay for their home and the bulk of the lumber market collapses overnight. Strike hard at the employed worker and the market for cars and radios, home appliances and better clothes wanes and vanishes.

Sometimes in the welter of dispute and striving which is often associated in the minds of the public with the organized labor movement, the average citizen loses sight of the value labor organizations 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 and jumps to an unwarranted conclusion that labor unions are some un-American en-

terprise not associated with economic and political freedom.

With industry inevitably becoming larger, and more complicated; with jobs becoming more complex in number and the worker increasingly a smaller 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 alone 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 was pioneer in the 60-hour, then the 48-hour and now the 40-hour week? Organized labor. Who in recent times has led out 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 sweat and tears,” expended 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*.

Union Label Week

The Union Label and Service Trades Departments is making plans for the nationwide observance of Union Label Week, Sept. 7-13. The event will be dedicated to the promotion of the union label, shop card and union button.

Mrs. Gompers Dies in New York

New York City.—Mrs. Samuel Gompers, 70, widow of the founder and first president of the American Federation of Labor, died after a short illness.

She was married to Gompers in 1921, three years before his death. Gompers was a widower at the time. Mrs. Gompers was Mrs. Gertrude Ainsley Gleaves Nuescheler.

For the last several years, Mrs. Gompers did organizing work for various trade unions.

Mrs. Gompers was a native of Zanesville, Ohio.

NLRB Dismisses Charge Against Bob Hope

Chicago.—Charges of unfair labor practices against Comedian Bob Hope and the AFL Guild of Variety Artists, of which he is president, were dismissed by the National Labor Relations Board.

The complaint was brought by the Chicago Cafe Owners Association and the Entertainment Managers Association of the Midwest which objected to employers paying \$2.50 a week for each entertainer into a welfare fund. They also brought a \$2,740,000 lawsuit against Hope and the union.

Regional NLRB Director Ross M. Madden said the board had no jurisdiction in the case; that commerce had not been affected by the union action.

Majority For Unions

Seventy-six per cent of workers voting in representation elections conducted by the National Labor Relations Board during the first quarter of 1953 voted to be represented by unions in dealing with their employers.

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 fixing future legislative policy on the program.

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

The people of the TVA area, Gov. Clement said, “recognize what the program has accomplished for the entire South.”

Howlin of AFL Staff Passes On

William H. Howlin, 70, a staff member of the American Federation of Labor in Washington 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 OEIU Local 2 for the past 47 years.

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INTERNATIONAL UNION



HOWARD COUGHLIN, *President*
J. HOWARD HICKS, *Sec.-Treas.*
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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 representative of employees of the company in a move allegedly sponsored by management.

President Edward P. Springman 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 President Howard W. Jarman and Secretary-Treasurer Marie M. Hutchinson of the local union, AFL Organizer Robert Warner and OEIU Vice President Nicholas Juliano.

Factory Workers' Earnings Higher

Factory workers earned an average of \$72.04 a week in mid-June, \$13.19 more than at the start of the Korean War three years earlier, the Bureau of Labor Statistics 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 production workers averaged 40.7 hours in June 1953, one-fifth of an hour more than in June 1950.

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



"Got some small change? . . . That non-union firm is paying today!"

Rail Clerks Chief Honored



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

RCA Negotiates With Local Unions

Washington, D. C.—Despite strenuous efforts by a negotiating committee representing the International Union looking toward the renewal of the national agreement with the RCA Service Company, Inc., negotiations were broken off 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 individual local unions has resulted in settlements between the company and OEIU 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 9 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 Union in the initial negotiations and was assisted by President Thelma O'Dell, Local 10, Detroit; Adele

PIE CLERICALS VOTE FOR OEIU

Oakland, Calif.—Employees at the nearby Emeryville Terminal of Pacific Intermountain Express, a motor freight line, have chosen OEIU Local 29 as their collective bargaining representative, according to John B. Kinnick, business representative of the local union. The determination was made through an NLRB election. This action by PIE employees materially strengthens the substantial representation by Local 29 of office workers in this industry in the East San Francisco Bay area.

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.

Pact Renewals Bring More Gains

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

Alameda County Milk Dealers Association—A two-year agreement providing for a \$11.75 a month pay raise, retroactive to June 1, 1953, plus vacation benefits 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 Company—A \$12.50 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 May 1, 1953.

United Fund and Community Chest—A 3 per cent general wage raise in addition to an average increase of 6 per cent in the minimum and maximum wage classifications. Other provisions include an added holiday (Lincoln's birthday), and an agreement by the employers to provide for unemployment insurance for their office workers.

Todd Shipyards, Alameda—A wage increase for timekeepers of \$5 per month plus a \$13 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 OEIU Local 212 and Pollack Poster Print Company resulted in a salary increase of \$3.75 per week for all employees retroactive to January 25, according to Frank W. Roberts, president of the local union. This is the second salary increase won for employees of this company by the OEIU Local since September, 1952.

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 record during the first half of 1953, *The Exchange* magazine reported.

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

800 to Vote at Atomic Project

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fectively only through a union of office workers."

The rival union which delayed the election order by NLRB had sought to disqualify the OEIU 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 employes in the unit held appropriate by the OEIU 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 employes in their department only the week before. Employes in the IBM department left their jobs and remained idle until the three operators had been restored to their positions.

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

Food Chain Pact Renewals Hikes Pay

Buffalo, N. Y.—Recent renewal of the agreement between Local 212 and Loblaws, Inc., retail grocers, resulted in a 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:

"I refuse to accept any benefits won by the unions 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 appointment of a panel of arbitrators and at the same time explained changes in the policies governing the assignment of arbitrators. This revamping will facilitate services requested by all labor organizations while at the same time permitting the assignment of the most qualified arbitrators possible to disputes brought to the attention of the Conciliation Service.

Maggiolo in outlining proper procedures and changes stated as follows:

"Many times this Service receives a unilateral request from local unions for the appointment of a panel of arbitrators. It is not 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 not only delay, but a considerable clerical burden upon our limited staff. I suggest that local unions in the first instance seek to have the companies involved join with them 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, may we suggest that the request for the designation of a panel of arbitrators spell out the general nature of the dispute, such as discharge, lay-off, seniority, time and motion, pension plan. This 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

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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 that 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 employes, thus assuring all benefits resulting from collective bargaining to all affected workers.

NLRB Chairman



Guy Farmer, Washington attorney, was named chairman of the National Labor Relations Board to succeed Paul M. Herzog who resigned recently.

Under OEIU Banner

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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 OEIU 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 organizers and attempted to sway the thinking of those participating in the vote by wild promises, coupled with parties and entertainment. Office employes on 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 employes of the prime contractor, Firth and the organizing committee leveled their sights on similar employes of the Grinnell Corporation, plumbing subcontractor and the Reynolds-Newbery Joint Venture, electrical subcontractors. The office employes of these firms immediately sought unionization and steps have been taken to establish the OEIU's bargaining rights for these groups.

The negotiating committee was comprised of Charles McGill, Frank Nappo and Robert Swanka and was assisted by Emil Steck, ace negotiator of the local union.

AEC Contractor Blasted By NLRB

Aiken, S. C.—An attempt by the Miller Electric Company to have the National Labor Relations Board set aside results of an election in which 65 per cent of the company's employes voted for representation by Local 294 was brought to a rude halt by the labor board recently. The company, an electrical subcontractor on the Savannah River atomic energy project, filed objections with NLRB in an obvious attempt to squash 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 OEIU representatives improperly electioneered 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, OEIU Vice President J. O. Bloodworth and a committee of the firm's employes 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 employes of the firm.

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 5 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.

