

THE OFFICE WORKER

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

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17

CONVENTION OPENS AT CLEVELAND

Growing and Gaining . . .

OEIU Membership Up 30 Percent in Two Years

Delegates to the fifth convention of the Office Employees International Union heard some encouraging news as they met at Cleveland this week to chart the OEIU's course for the next two years.

Their union's membership was at a record high—a 30 per cent increase since the last convention, in 1951. And as the delegates met, major organizing campaigns involving thousands of potential new members were in full swing.

OEIU President Paul R. Hutchings told the delegates that the big gains in wages and working conditions negotiated by OEIU local unions has been a big factor in the union's growth.

Hutchings reported that the growth in total membership has been accompanied by an increase in the number of OEIU local unions in both the United States and Canada, in the average size of the local unions and in the number of offices covered by union contract.

He added:

"Organization begets organization. Members who have benefited under the OEIU banner help to unfurl it elsewhere."

Convention delegates were reminded, however, that the OEIU's rapid growth in recent years could only be regarded as an encouraging beginning. The big job ahead is to bring union benefits to the vast multitude of still-unorganized, low-paid office and clerical employees.

Local unions were urged to step up the pace of their organizing activities so as to extend the gains they have won to the unorganized office workers in their communities.

Otherwise, Hutchings warned, it will be increasingly difficult to continue to negotiate new benefits for employes working under OEIU contracts.

ANOTHER RECORD

The press run for this month's Office Worker set another OEIU record. The total for this edition is 60,500 copies. A special issue of 7,000 copies has also been printed, with a front page devoted entirely to the OEIU's atomic energy campaigns.

First Group of Delegates Arrive

Cleveland, June 20—It's still two days before the formal opening of the OEIU's fifth convention. But unofficially, it's already under way.

The lobby of the Carter Hotel is crowded with delegates. They've been arriving in a steady stream all day. If you listen closely to the continuous hum of voices, you can pick out the twang of the Midwest, the soft drawl of the deep South, the clipped New England accent and the musical French-Canadian intonation.

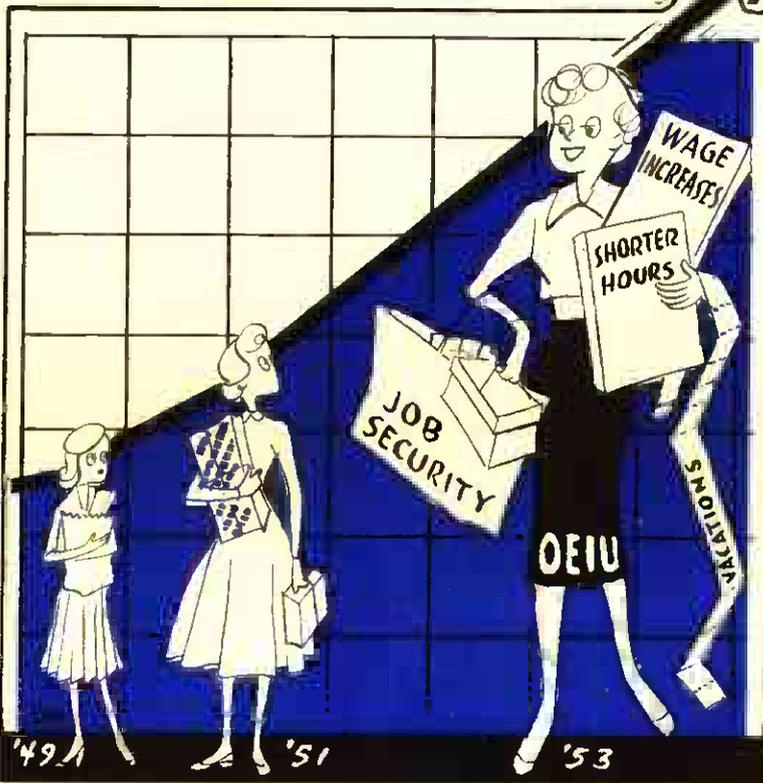
For the past week, the OEIU Executive Board has been in session. Most of the Board members are in the lobby now, greeting old friends and being introduced to first-time delegates.

There are rumors of strategy conferences going on. Some of the locals have favorite son (or daughter) candidates for various offices. Their delegates are busy circulating among the newcomers. There is talk of resolutions and of a possible floor battle over some of the more controversial proposals.

Anyway, everyone agrees, it won't be dull. That's for sure.

Around coffee cups, the talk goes on. Some delegates take off to see the city. The Cleveland OEIU locals make sure that everyone knows of the big Convention-eve reception that's planned.

One veteran delegate ambles up to his room determined to get some sleep in anticipation of the hectic week to come. But he's the only one. There's too much going on.



Frances Perkins on List

Guest Speakers Announced

Headliners from the ranks of labor, government and public affairs were scheduled to address the OEIU Convention this week.



Miss Perkins

21. Miss Perkins, a co-worker with the late President Roosevelt in the tremendous task of raising the United States from the depths of

depression, was the first woman ever named to a Cabinet post.

A. F. of L. Secretary-Treasurer William F. Schnitzler, dynamic spokesman for labor's rights, will speak at the June 23 session. And James A. Brownlow, president of the A. F. of L. Metal Trades Council, will greet the delegates on June 25.

Rep. Kenneth A. Roberts of Alabama, sponsor of the working mothers tax relief bill, "accepted with pleasure" an invitation to address the Convention, providing that important legislation before Congress does not keep him from leaving Washington.

In addition, the OEIU delegates were to be greeted by Mayor Thomas A. Burke of Cleveland and representatives of the Cleveland trade union movement.



Wholesale Grocers—John Sexton Company, Local 33, Pittsburgh, Pa., \$4 per week,

Hudson House, Inc., Local 11, Portland, Oreg., \$25 to \$40 month. month.

Retail Grocers—Fred Meyers, Inc., Oregon Piggly-Wiggly Co., and Safeway Stores, all Local 11, Portland, Oreg., five cents per hour plus two cents on September 1.

Drummonds' Appliances, General Appliance, Friedman-Jacobs Co., Good Housekeeping Shops and Andrew Williams Appliances, all Local 29, Oakland, Calif., average \$15 per month increase, retroactive to January 1.

Manufacturing — Gladding, McRean Company, tile products, Local 30, Los Angeles, Calif., five cents per hour general increase plus six cents additional in starting rate.

Fred Mueller, Inc., riding equipment, Local 5, Denver, Colo., 15 cents per hour general increase.

Wholesale & Retail — General Mills, Inc., Local 86, Vallejo, Calif., \$10 to \$30 per month increase.

Utilities — Firelands Electric Cooperative of New London, Ohio, Local 19, Toledo, five per cent.

Public Service Electric & Gas Company, Locals 91, 96, 104 and 258, five percent increase.

Transportation — Tanner Motor Livery, Glendale Branch, Local 30, Los Angeles, 30 cents per hour.

Tamiami Trailways, Local 46, Tampa, Fla., eight cents per hour.

Service — Mohawk Petroleum Corp., Local 36, San Francisco, Calif., \$15 per month.

Pipe — U. S. Pipe and Foundry Company, Local 179, Chattanooga, Tenn., \$7 per month.

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

June 4, 1953

Dear Mr. Hutchings:

Please convey to the delegates and members attending the fifth convention of the Office Employees International Union, American Federation of Labor, my warm greetings and sincere best wishes for a successful convention.

While the Office Employees International Union is young in point of years, I am sure it is old in the honored traditions of the labor movement of which it is a part.

I am sure that the Office Employees International Union will be devoted in its efforts to advance the well-being not only of its members but also of the entire nation.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Paul R. Hutchings

Mr. Paul R. Hutchings President Office Employees International Union 625 Bond Building Washington 5, D. C.

Congressional Hearings Set On Working Mothers' Bill

The OEIU's campaign to end tax discrimination against working mothers brought its first results this week. The House Ways and Means Committee scheduled public hearings on legislation to allow income tax deductions to working mothers for their child care expenses.

Congressman Kenneth Roberts of Alabama, whose bill has been actively supported by OEIU mem-

bers, credited the scheduling of the hearings to the letter-writing campaign of the OEIU and other interested groups.

While national defense needs will probably prevent any tax revisions this year, supporters of the bill are hopeful that it can be written into law for the coming year. Strong public support makes it likely that the Roberts Bill can be passed if it can clear the hurdle of the Ways and Means Committee.

OEIU President Paul R. Hutchings said the International Union will have an opportunity to testify on behalf of the intent of the Roberts Bill. He urged OEIU members who are working mothers to write detailed letters to the International Union telling how much they make, the reason why they must work, and the actual cost of caring for their children during working hours.

Hutchings said this will make it possible for the OEIU to present the strongest possible case for the working mothers bill at the Congressional hearings.

Letters should be addressed to: Office Employees International Union, 625 Bond Building, Washington 5, D. C.

From The OEIU Mail Bag

Here are just a few of the comments from the OEIU mailbag on the working mothers tax bill:

From Congressman Roberts, who introduced the bill:—

"I want to express again my deep appreciation of the wonderful part your union has played in sponsoring this legislation, and I think we may well say that a signal victory has been won by your group in the fact that this bill is scheduled for hearing."

From Sylvia Porter, syndicated newspaper columnist:—

"I read with great interest what the union is doing to support child care deductions for working mothers. This is indeed a worthy cause. . ."

A clipping from The Machinist, weekly newspaper of the AFL Machinists Union:—

"There's a bill in Congress to permit working mothers to deduct the cost of child care from their income taxes—just as businessmen can deduct the cost of membership in their golf clubs as a business expense. If each of us would write our Congressman on Mother's Day and ask his support for H. R. 2861, we would be of real help to the most overworked mothers of all."

From the mother of two children who saw a story of the OEIU campaign in a Boston newspaper:—

"I'd like to know what I can do to help . . ."

From a member of OEIU Local 28, Chicago, Ill.:—

"I have sent letters to Congressman Thomas O'Brien of Chicago and Congressman Daniel Reed of New York, chairman of the Ways and Means Committee urging them to support the Roberts Bill."

NEWS CAPSULES

Tribute

OEIU Local 153's business manager, Howard Coughlin, was honored last month at a testimonial dinner attended by an estimated 1,200 members and guests at New York City's Hotel Astor. His friends presented a station wagon to the American Cancer Society in Coughlin's honor.

Author

"Did I write that?" asked OEIU President Paul R. Hutchings when he was shown a copy of Rodo Pacific, the Japanese language publication of the AFL Free Trade Union Committee in Japan. The magazine is edited by Dick Deverall and Harry K. Nishio, both OEIU members. Hutchings was assured that



the article in question is a translation of one he had written on the accomplishments of the OEIU for the AFL magazine, The American Federationist. A section of the article is reproduced above. You read it from the top down, from right to left—that is, if you can read Japanese.

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PAUL R. HUTCHINGS, President J. HOWARD HICKS, Sec.-Treas. 625 Bond Building Washington 5, D. C.

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We have two more OEIU favorite recipes this month. Together they add up to a tasty main dish and a delicious dessert.

The recipe for the main dish—a sausage, potato and cheese combination—comes from Mrs. A. B. Balfour of Galveston, Tex.

"Prepare the usual amount of mashed potatoes and put them in a baking dish. On top of the potatoes, lay smoked sausages which have been fried done or almost done. Then top them with slices of cheese (I use American cheese). Put in medium oven and bake until the cheese is melted."

Mrs. Balfour also has a request to make of other readers of this column. She says: "I would appreciate it if anybody can contribute unusual recipes for preparing potatoes. My husband loves potatoes and I would like some new ideas on fixing them."

Send your recipes to: THE OFFICE WORKER, 625 Bond Building, Washington 5, D. C. Incidentally, I hope some reader comes through with a recipe for those good German potato dumplings.

* * *

For dessert, OEIU members can turn to a super-duper devils food cake, as prepared by Mrs. Alberta Padgett, a member of Local 2.

Devils Food Cake

(All measurements level)

- ½ cup shortening*
- 1½ cups sugar
- 2 eggs
- ½ cup buttermilk or sour milk
- 2 cups flour
- ½ cup cocoa
- 1½ teaspoons soda
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup hot water
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- * vegetable shortening, margarine, butter or combination.

Cream shortening and sugar until fluffy. Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Add buttermilk alternately with flour, cocoa, soda, baking powder and salt which has been sifted together. Beat well. Add hot water and vanilla and beat until smooth. Batter will be thin. Line cake pans with wax paper and bake 10 minutes at 400 degrees, then 25 minutes at 325 degrees. Yield: 2 9-inch layers or 18-24 cupcakes. Frost with mocha frosting or serve plain with vanilla ice cream.

Excellent results using electric mixer as follows: Mix shortening and sugar, using beater at medium. Add eggs and buttermilk and beat at same speed for about one minute. Add all other ingredients except hot water and beat at high speed for about two minutes. Add hot water and beat at medium speed one minute or until batter is smooth.

In British Columbia

Organizing Drive Gets Results

An active OEIU organizing drive in British Columbia is bringing union benefits to hundreds of new members who are employed on construction projects where the total clerical employment is expected to more

than double in the months to come. The oldest OEIU affiliate in Canada—OEIU Local 15 at Vancouver, B. C.—is taking the lead in the organizing campaign.

Bernice Gibson, secretary of Local 15, reports that the OEIU has won bargaining rights for office and clerical employees of two big construction firms—Kitimat Constructors Ltd., at Kitimat, B. C., and the Morrison-Knudson Company of Canada at Kemano, B. C., and nearby areas.

That section of British Columbia is destined to become Canada's largest aluminum manufacturing center and one of the world's largest suppliers of aluminum. Ultimately, a city of 50,000 will spring up in what was once a sparsely-settled area.

Local 15 has been certified as collective bargaining representative of the 300 clerical workers now employed by the two construction companies, and negotiations for a union contract are getting under way.

In organizing the clerical employees on the project, the OEIU

got a helping hand from the AFL construction unions. It was, Local 15 officers stated, in the best tradition of trade union cooperation.

While contract talks were starting on the construction projects, Local 15 completed negotiations for a first contract covering office employees of the Neolite Company at Vancouver. The OEIU contract provides for a 35-hour week, at least nine paid holidays a year, paid sick leave and two to three weeks vacation a year.

Research Manuals

Three manuals, designed to help OEIU local unions in their contract negotiations, have been prepared by the International Union as a research and education service. The mimeographed pamphlets cover the negotiation of jointly administered job evaluation programs, progression through the rate range and a sample clerical job evaluation manual. Copies of all three manuals have been mailed to each OEIU local union.

Membership Gain Highest in Canada

OEIU membership in Canada has risen 44 per cent in the two years since the Toronto convention, OEIU President Paul R. Hutchings told convention delegates this week.

Eleven new OEIU local unions have been chartered, bringing the total number of locals in Canada to 37. Seven of the new local unions are in Ontario Province, three in Quebec Province and one in British Columbia.

Convention delegates were scheduled to hear a first-hand report on organizing activities in Canada. Russell Harvey, the OEIU's Canadian representative, will address the convention.

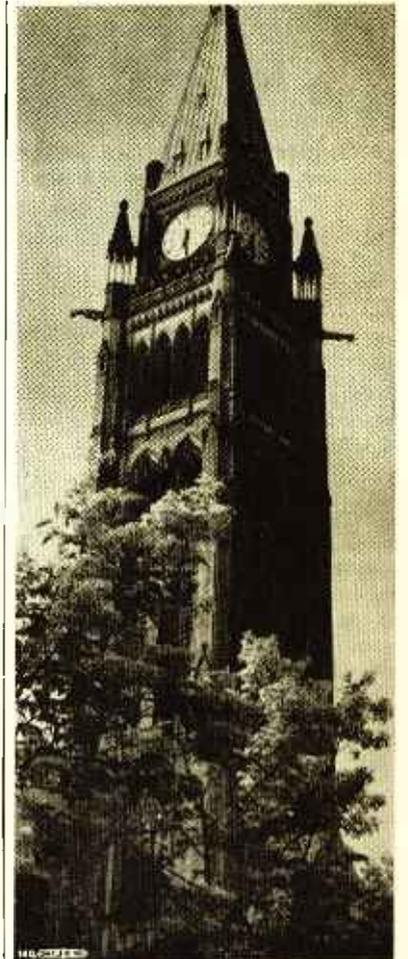
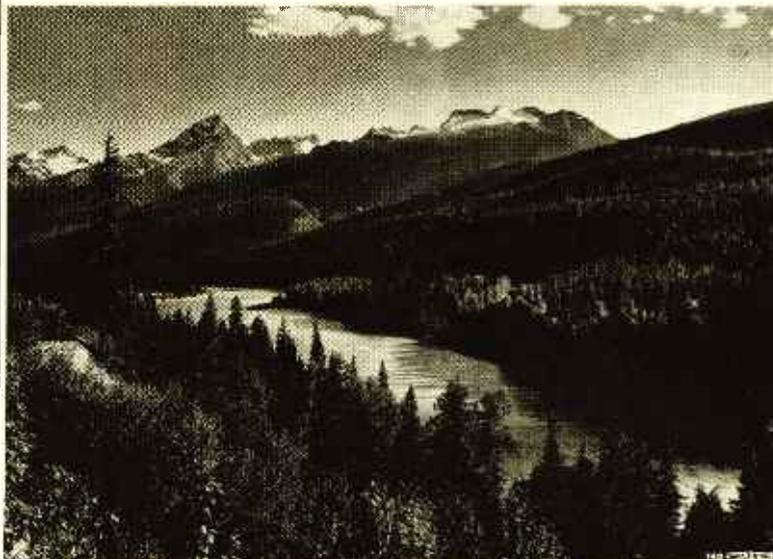
Most of the Canadian delegates will stay in Cleveland an extra day after the convention adjourns. A conference has been set up with members of the OEIU research staff and international officers for discussions on the forthcoming negotiations in the paper industry of Canada, where the OEIU holds bargaining rights for a majority of clerical employees.

Only Woman Mayor

Ottawa is the only capital city in the British Empire with a woman mayor—Charlotte Whitten.

Canada Offers Sights and Thrills for Vacation Season

Looking for something different in the way of a vacation trip this summer? The majestic beauty of Canada makes it a favorite with OEIU members with big ideas and a modest budget. Below is a typical breath-taking scene of the Canadian Rockies as the Columbia River winds around a bend. At right is the historic Peace Tower of the Parliament Buildings at Ottawa—typical of the picturesque attractions of Canada's cities.





A bank is an institution that will always lend you money if you can prove you don't need it.

A young man, applying for a job, asked for quite a high salary.

"You're asking big pay for a man with no experience," the boss remarked.

"Well, the work is much harder when you don't know anything about it."

The rejected girl was bitter, vengeful and not a little angry at the man who had just broken her heart. With care, she wrapped the engagement ring, packed it in a box and addressed it to the cad. Then she pasted a label next to the address.

Large red letters on the label announced: "Glass—Handle With Care."

Today's definition: Children — creatures who often tear up a house, but seldom break up a home.

A man and his young son stood in the gallery at the Capitol as Congress was called to order.

"Dad," the lad asked, "why did the minister pray for all those men?"

"He didn't, son. He looked them over and prayed for the country."

Wife—I was a fool when I married you.

Hubby—Yes, but I was so infatuated with you that I didn't even notice it.

One of the best ways to make your old car run better is to have a salesman quote you a price on a new model.

They were huddled closer together than houses in Boston. The lights were low . . . very low. He whispered, "What are you thinking about, darling?"

"The same thing you are, dear," she answered shyly.

"Then I'll race you to the ice-box," he shouted gaily.

The judge finished his lecture to the defendant in a divorce case. "So I've decided to give your wife \$75 a month," were his last words.

The husband's face lit up as he smiled. "That's fine, Judge, I'll try to slip her a couple of bucks now and then myself."

Pay Raise at Stock Exchange

Pretty Pickets Win Quick Victory



HOLLYWOOD—Pay checks for the 256 office employees at the Columbia Broadcasting System studios are seven per cent higher after a short, effective strike by OEIU Local 174. Pictured above are Helen Phelps, Peggy Peterkin and Mary Olexa.

Be Active in Your Union, Durkin Tells OEIU Members

(Here is the text of U. S. Secretary of Labor Martin Durkin's message to the OEIU Convention, in session this week at Cleveland.)

WHILE looking through the April, 1953 issue of the Office Employees International Union's official organ, THE OFFICE WORKER, I noticed quite a thought provoking article by President Hutchings, which read in part: "A local that passes up its right to a voice 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."



Martin Durkin

We should all think long and hard about this statement and its truth. Modern history has shown that control of labor organizations of a country is one of the first steps taken by dictators. Despotism cannot exist in a nation where there is a strong free trade union movement.

To keep America's labor unions strong and free, it is necessary not only for local unions to take an active part in forming the policy of their international, as your President recommends, but also as important for the individual union member to participate in the affairs of his or her local. For example, apathy of good loyal American members in the few labor organizations in the United States now under Communist domination or influence, helped the pro-Communist element gain control. In other words, patriotic trade union citizens failed to attend union meetings and to vote for the officials and policies of their choice. It is the old story of "let Joe do it." Some union members, however, failed to find out which "Joe" it was, until too late.

I join with OEIU President Hutchings in urging greater participation in union affairs and in the affairs of the nation and local community by union members. Freedom is hard to come by and harder yet to hold. Let us not lose it by default.

Local 205 Wins Benefits for 800

The New York Stock Exchange—the world's greatest financial market place—came to terms with its union employees this month.

Under their OEIU contract, nearly 800 employees from pages to skilled financial specialists will receive increases averaging more than \$3 a week. For some classifications, the raises go as high as \$8.50 a week.

The new contract was ratified enthusiastically at a "Standing Room Only" meeting of United Financial Employees Local 205 of the OEIU. Signing of the agreement is expected to pave the way for speedy negotiations with other New York City exchanges under contract with Local 205.

T. Scott Walters, special representative of the International Union, assisted the Local 205 committee during the weeks of negotiations. Walter C. Schulze, Local 205 president, headed the negotiating committee, which included George Neilson, Jr., Joseph W. Sparago, Albert E. Glasser and John P. Norton.

Under the new agreement, the starting base salary for stock clearing clerks is increased from \$48.50 to \$57. The maximum for this classification, formerly \$70 after six years of experience, now becomes \$73 after three years of experience.

In addition to their base salaries, all employees receive quarterly bonuses of up to 20 per cent, based on the volume of trading on the exchange during each three-month period.

The OEIU agreement also provides for severance pay, ranging from two weeks for employees with one year of service up to a maximum of 26 weeks for employees with the greatest seniority.

OEIU 87 to 5 Choice In Wisconsin Vote

Office and clerical employees of the Manitowoc, Wis., Shipbuilding Company had another chance to decide whether they were satisfied with OEIU representation.

The company was reorganized into two separate firms. Management insisted on a Labor Board election to see if the employees still wanted to be represented by OEIU Local 77.

They sure did. In one unit the vote was 31 to 1. In the other unit, it was 56 to 4. That made a total of 87 votes for continued OEIU representation and only five opposed.