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 have 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 employees 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 campaign.

First Group of Delegates Arrive

Cleveland, June 23—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.

Guest Speakers Announced

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

Former Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins—a woman who has devoted her life to building a better America—accepted an invitation to address the Convention on June 24. 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 25 session. And James A. Browning, president of the A. F. of L. Metal Trades Council, will greet the delegates on June 26.

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.

Frances Perkins on List

Miss Perkins
Wholesale Grocers—John Sexton Company, Local 30, Pittsburgh, Pa., $4 per week.

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

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

Deenahmu’s Appliances, General Appliance, Friedmann-Jacobs Co., Good Housekeeping Shops and Andrew Williams Appliances, all Local 59, Oakland, Calif., average $15 per month increase, retroactive to January 1.

Manufacturing—Gladding, McBean Company, tile products, Local 30, Los Angeles, Calif., five cents per hour general increase plus six cents additional in starting rate. Silver Stacker, Inc., virtual equipment, Local 14, Denver, Colo., $10 to $30 per month increase.

Utilities—Fresno Yellow Cab, Cooperative of New London, Ohio, Local 18, Toledo, five per cent.

Public Service Electric & Gas Company, Locals 91, 96, 104 and 268, five per-cent increase.

Transportation—Tanner Motor Lines, 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 26, 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 5, 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, our 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,

[Signature]

Mr. Paul R. Hutchings
President
Office Employees International Union
625 Bond Street
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 members, 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.
Organizing Drive Gets Results

An active OEUU 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 OEUU affiliate in Canada—OEUU Local 15 at Vancouver, B.C.—is taking the lead in the organizing campaign.

Bernice Gibson, secretary of Local 15, reports that the OEUU has won bargaining rights for office and clerical employees of two big construction firms—Kittimat Contractors 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 OEUU 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 Neonite Company at Vancouver. The OEUU 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 OEUU 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, progress through the wage rates and a sample clerical job evaluation manual. Copies of all three manuals have been mailed to each OEUU local union.

Membership Gain Highest in Canada

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

Eleven new OEUU 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 OEUU'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 OEUU research staff and international officers for discussions on the forthcoming negotiations in the paper industry of Canada, where the OEUU 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 OEUU 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.
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, 1933 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.”

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 union. 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.

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 end. 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.

I had been looking for a job, and my son turned up in the store. The lights were low, the air was cold. The man asked, “What are you thinking about, darling?”

“I’m thinking about my work,” he 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,” he said in his last words.

The husband’s face lit up as he exclaimed, “That’s fine, Judge. I’ll try to slip her a couple of bucks now and then myself.”

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’ve asked 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 end. 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 in the corner. 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.

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 reconvened 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 51 to 1. In the other unit, it was 48 to 4. That made a total of 87 votes for continued OEIU representation and only five opposed.

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 reconvened 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 51 to 1. In the other unit, it was 48 to 4. That made a total of 87 votes for continued OEIU representation and only five opposed.