



# THE OFFICE WORKER

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

No. 101

MAY, 1953

17

## RAISES WON AT ATOMIC PROJECTS



Congressman Kenneth Roberts of Alabama (seated), sponsor of a bill to allow working mothers to deduct the cost of child care in their federal income tax returns, gets a report on OEIU support for the bill. OEIU President Paul R. Hutchings points to the banner story in last month's "Office Worker" endorsing the bill.

### Portland Local Backed Bill

## Oregon Working Mothers Get Tax Relief

Oregon OEIU members proved it can be done! They helped push a working mothers tax relief bill through the Oregon state legislature.

James N. Beyer, secretary-treasurer of OEIU Local 11 at Portland, tells how Portland OEIU members got behind the bill.

State Rep. Maurine Neuberger introduced the bill, which allows working parents to deduct the cost of child care in their state income tax returns.

Labor gave it strong support, but this was a year when reactionaries dominated the Oregon legislature and the bill seemed doomed for de-

feat. But the efforts of the bill's supporters rallied public opinion and, on the last day of the session, the bill was passed. It was passed in a watered-down form, but the principle of tax deductions for child care was established and written into law, Beyer points out.

Here's how OEIU Local 11 helped pass the child care tax bill:

Through its newsletter, Local 11 alerted its members to the importance of the bill. They were asked to write to their state legislators in support of the measure.

In addition, the OEIU local union conducted a detailed survey of its members. It discovered that one-

## OEIU Locals Negotiate Top Pay Rate for Clericals

Pay raises of \$11.50 a week for typists and receptionists and at least six dollars a week for all other office and clerical employes highlight the OEIU's first contract with the Kaiser

Engineering Company at the Hanford, Wash., atomic works project. The 600 Kaiser employes are represented by OEIU Local 100.

This dramatic proof of how union organization can help office workers climaxed a month of OEIU organizing activity at atomic energy projects throughout the United States.

### H-Bomb Clericals Vote for OEIU

Aiken, S. C.—Another group of atomic energy clerical employes has just voted decisively for OEIU representation.

OEIU Vice President J. O. Bloodworth reports that employes of the Miller Electric Company at the Savannah River H-bomb project gave the OEIU a 56-to-21 majority in an NLRB election.

Raises handed out before the election only strengthened the desire of employes for a union contract, Bloodworth said.

Bloodworth reports this is just the beginning of OEIU organizing at Savannah River. Three hundred field clerical employes of the DuPont Company's Construction Division also want union representation. A majority of them have signed union authorization cards and the OEIU has petitioned for a representation election on their behalf.

### BULLETIN

A 12-cent hourly raise has been negotiated for 850 office employes of the Sandia Corporation at the Albuquerque, N. Mex., atomic energy project. Kenneth Shinn, president of OEIU Local 100 reports the raise will be retroactive to April 1. A key feature of the agreement is a 24-days-a-year paid vacation for all OEIU-represented employes. In addition, they receive eight paid holidays.

As this issue of THE OFFICE WORKER went to press, 1,800 clerical employes at two big atomic energy projects were seeking OEIU representation.

OEIU Representative R. M. Daugherty reports the overwhelming majority of office employes of Peter Kiewit & Sons Company at the Pike County atomic energy project, Portsmouth, Ohio, have signed OEIU cards. The OEIU has petitioned for an NLRB election on their behalf.

Daugherty also reports that a majority of clerical employes of the F. H. McGraw Construction Company at the Paducah, Ky., project are supporting the OEIU organizing drive.

E. M. Pursley, business representative of OEIU Local 100, credited the big gains at the Hanford atomic project to the determination of clerical employes not to accept sub-standard conditions.

Pursley said many of the Kaiser  
(Continued on page 4)



**Transportation**—Milwaukee & Suburban Transportation Corporation, Local 9, Milwaukee, Wis., increase averaging 15 cents per hour.

**Wholesale Drugs**—McKesson and Robbins, Inc., Fresno Division, Local 69, Fresno, Calif., \$17.10 to \$25.60 per month.

**Taxis**—Yellow Cab Company, Philadelphia, Pa., Local 14, \$4 to \$8 weekly increase, averaging \$6.

**Yellow Cab Company**, San Francisco, Calif., \$14.50 to \$60 per month increases.

**Trucking**—Navajo Freight Lines and Denver-Chicago Trucking Company, Local 5, Denver, Colo., eight cents per hour increase.

**Newspaper**—Minneapolis Star and Tribune, Local 12, Minneapolis, \$1 to \$4.50 additional increase.

**Finance**—Community Finance Corporation, Local 57, Montreal, Que., \$10 per month increase.

**Public Utilities**—Central Illinois Electric and Gas Company, Local 167, Lincoln, Ill., 6.6 per cent general increase.

**Work Clothes Mfg.**—Sweet-Orr and Company, Local 112, Poughkeepsie, N. Y., \$2 to \$6 weekly increase.

**Gas Control Devices Mfg.**—Milwaukee Gas Specialty Company, Local 9, up to \$43 as result of job evaluation.

**Laundry Firms**—Twenty laundry and dry cleaning establishments at Oakland, Calif., Local 29, \$2 per week.

**Business Forms**—Yawman & Erbe Mfg. Company, Local 34, Rochester, N. Y., five per cent increase.

## AFTER HOURS



117. 153 © 1951 CARL STANWITZ  
"I left my last job because of illness. It was non-union, and I got sick of it!"

## From the President's Desk

# They're Making Trade Union History . . .

**FROM** Hanford, Wash., to Albuquerque, N. Mex., from Portsmouth, Ohio, to Paducah, Ky., in the great atomic energy projects throughout the United States, office and clerical employes are making trade union history.

The man and woman at the desk now carries a union card. And what a big difference that makes!

Ask the typist at Hanford who is getting \$11.50 a week more under an OEIU contract. . . .

Ask the clerical employes at Albuquerque who will have 24 days of paid vacation this year because the OEIU refused to trade a cut in their vacation time for a raise in pay. They got the raise in pay anyway!

This month, we are looking forward to welcoming more than a thousand new OEIU members at atomic energy projects where NLRB elections have been scheduled for office workers.

They will find that the pioneering job

done by other OEIU locals will make their task of raising wages and working conditions a lot easier. And they, in turn, can use their bargaining power to make further gains.

Our union's accomplishments in this field are proof that office employes, when they work together, can break the shackles that have kept the so-called white-collar group from sharing fully in the general prosperity of our economy.

The stirring story of OEIU gains at atomic energy projects would not be complete without a word of appreciation for the cooperation of other AFL unions. Their support has been in the finest traditions of trade union brotherhood.

We are prouder than ever of being associated with eight million other men and women in "The House of Labor."

*Fraternally yours,*  
**Paul R. Hutchings.**

## All Roads Lead to Cleveland For Fifth OEIU Convention

From the southernmost tip of the United States to the northern provinces of Canada, all roads lead to Cleveland for the Fifth Convention of the Office Employees International Union, opening June 22.

And all signs indicate that it will be the most exciting convention in the union's history, with a record number of locals represented.

Convention delegates were being chosen at OEIU local meetings this month. With every mail bringing in a growing number of delegate credentials, it appeared certain that there will be more delegates from more locals than ever before.

Some of the smaller locals, determined to be represented at the convention, are arranging share-the-ride car pools with delegates from OEIU locals in nearby cities.

Pre-convention activity includes a forum on techniques of contract negotiations, scheduled for 1 p. m. on Sunday, June 21, the day before the convention formally opens. S. Herbert Unterberger, OEIU research consultant, will lead the discussion.

Arrangements are also being made for a special conference of delegates from Canadian locals with members employed in the paper industry, immediately following the OEIU convention. Delegates from these locals will discuss forthcoming contract negotiations in the industry.

While a busy week of convention activity has been planned, the Cleveland locals are determined

that there will be at least one night of relaxation for the OEIU delegates.

Ed Trausch, chairman of the joint convention committee of Cleveland Locals 17 and 49, has announced plans for a convention banquet on the night of June 22, complete with dance band and guest entertainment. Both the banquet and the convention business sessions will be held at the Carter Hotel.

The convention is scheduled to run through June 26, with election of officers for the coming two years winding up the business program.

## New Trails Blazed In TVA Bargaining

The Tennessee Valley Authority celebrates its twentieth anniversary this month, and OEIU members on the project were generous in their praise of TVA accomplishments in the field of employe-management relations.

OEIU Vice President A. R. Carson, who represents office employes on the TVA Salary Policy Employee Panel, writes that unions and management at TVA projects have blazed new trails in collective bargaining accomplishments.

The Office Employees International Union was instrumental in setting up the Salary Panel, which has done much to improve working conditions for office and clerical employes at TVA projects.

## Dollar for LLPE Can Bring Results

For one buck, OEIU members can help elect fair-minded Congressmen and state legislators, men and women of both parties who will defend labor's rights and represent the interests of all of the people.

Labor's League for Political Education is asking for one dollar voluntary contributions from union members. LLPE membership cards are available through all OEIU local unions in the United States.

It's a strictly voluntary investment in the welfare of our country.

## THE OFFICE WORKER

Official organ of the  
OFFICE EMPLOYEES  
INTERNATIONAL UNION



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625 Bond Building  
Washington 5, D. C.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY  
Entered in the Post Office at Washington, D. C., as second-class mail matter.



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Subscription Price \$1 a Year.

to the  
*Ladies*

In comparing meat prices, we are often led astray by the cost-per-pound. Thus a seemingly inexpensive cut, which includes a large amount of bone and fat, may actually cost more per portion than higher-priced meats.

All this is by way of introduction to a letter from a Chicago OEIU member who writes:

"Chicken liver may not seem like a cheap dish when you look at the price for a pound, but a little of it goes a long way. It is something different in the way of taste and it can be prepared very quickly, which is a big advantage for those of us who have to fix a meal after we get home from work.

"I have a very simple recipe for making half-a-pound of chicken liver and half-a-box of noodles into a good dinner for three people.

"While the noodles are boiling, simmer the chicken liver over a low flame with lots of margarine. When the noodles are ready, put a generous hunk of margarine on top of them, then add the chicken livers and the sauce they have been cooking in. If you have a few mushrooms to mix in as well, it makes an especially outstanding dish. It only takes 15 minutes from start to finish. A small salad on the side completes the meal."

\* \* \*

The Government's Food and Drug Administration is the consumer's police force in keeping dangerous, unsanitary and falsely-labeled food off the market. In a single month last year, FDA inspectors found horse meat being sold as beef, cheap pink salmon marketed as fine Alaska salmon, oysters sold with half their weight in water and dozens of other cases of fraud.

At present, the inspection activities of the Food and Drug Administration have been curtailed because of a recent Supreme Court ruling that government food inspectors can not enter processing plants to check on the manufacture of food and drugs.

To remedy this situation, a group of Senators and Representatives from both political parties have introduced legislation in Congress to give the FDA the power to inspect food processing plants. The bill is supported by responsible retail food dealers and is supposed to have the backing of the Eisenhower Administration. But, thus far, Congress has not acted on the bill. The wheels of Government often grind exceedingly slow when the protection of the consumer, rather than the special interests of big lobbies, is at stake.

# Big Gains Won at Canadian Paper Company

## Wisconsin Local's New Contract



At the signing of the new Badger Ordnance Contract, left to right. Seated: Venor Peckham, OEIU Local 293 president, and Ben Gibbs and E. C. Kohl, company officials. Standing: Eli Beals and Paul McFee, Local 293 officers; OEIU Rep. Arthur Lewandowski, and Pat Caruso, company executive.

## \$300 in Back Pay Raises At Badger Ordnance Labs

Baraboo, Wis.—Laboratory employees at the Badger Ordnance Works will average more than \$300 in back pay raises as a result of OEIU negotiations. Lab technicians and operators at Badger Ordnance, employed by the Liberty Powder Defense Corporation, are members of OEIU Local 293.

The big back pay checks include raises retroactive to April 25, 1952—more than four months before the OEIU won bargaining rights at the plant.

This unique situation came about, OEIU Representative Arthur P. Lewandowski explains, because the company skipped lab employees when it handed out 9.2 per cent increases as of April 25, 1952.

The company first claimed that it could not negotiate with the union for the period before the OEIU won bargaining rights. Therefore, management insisted, any increase could only be retroactive to September 8, 1952.

Armed with facts supplied by the International Union disproving the company claim, the OEIU negotiators successfully challenged the company's position and won the point. The company finally agreed to ask Ordnance approval to pay all lab employees the 9.2 per cent raise for the period between April 25, 1952 and September 8, the date the OEIU won bargaining rights.

Then, under the OEIU contract, lab employees get increases of \$25 and \$27 a month, retroactive to September 8. In addition, employees who did not receive a merit increase during the period of negotiations get an additional three per cent raise. The contract is awaiting final Ordnance approval.

Lab employees also won a modified union shop in their contract, after voting 107 to 35 for such a provision in a state-supervised union shop election last month.

Other contract gains include a night differential for shift workers, in addition to a paid lunch period, six month maternity leaves, automatic pay increases, job posting and OEIU sick leave, vacation, seniority and grievance benefits.

## St. Louis Strike Action Brings Raises for All

St. Louis, Mo.—Office employees of the Lewis Invisible Stitch Machine Company at St. Louis had to take to the picket line, but they won a 12½-cent hourly increase in their first OEIU contract.

Margaret J. Ritch, president of OEIU Local 13, reports that upgrading of individual jobs in the contract resulted in raises of up to 45 cents an hour in some cases. The contract provides time-and-one-half for the first four hours of work on Saturday and double time thereafter, plus standard OEIU sick leave, rest period and vacation provisions. Chester Leigh and Reba Carson represented the employees on the negotiating committee.

The 125 production workers, members of Machinists District 9, voluntarily respected the OEIU picket line and helped the office employees win their contract.

Employees of still another Canadian paper company are now enjoying the benefits of OEIU representation, Lucien Tremblay reports.

Tremblay, OEIU-AFL representative at Montreal, says negotiations have been completed for a first contract covering office employees at the Consolidated Paper Company's Wayagamack Division at Cap-de-la-Madeleine, Que.

The new OEIU contract assures all employees of a raise of at least five per cent. The increase is fully retroactive to May of last year.

Tremblay reports the salary structure at the plant has been improved to bring it in line with standards established by the OEIU in other Canadian paper companies.

Consolidated Paper employees discovered that an OEIU contract can also remedy many minor grievances that are so irritating in an office. For example, the new contract gives employees the right to smoke in the office at any time. Employees are also paid weekly by cash, instead of check.

Standard OEIU grievance procedure and seniority benefits are also written into the contract, including the posting of all job openings and promotion opportunities.

## Gregg Tells Bosses Unions Aid Canada

Trade unions have contributed to Canada's rising standard of living, Canadian Minister of Labour Milton F. Gregg told a businessman's conference at Ontario recently.

Gregg stated:

"The public hears much of the conflicts that arise in union-management relations. Certainly, these conflicts exist. But how easy it is to overemphasize their importance. Long before there were unions, labour and management were disagreeing over wages and working conditions.

"Certainly the union member of today may put forward more grievances than did his non-union predecessor. But this is largely because grievances, which may have existed for a long time, are now being brought to light.

"Problems such as standard of living, leisure time, old age and workers' security on the job are all reflected in collective bargaining. The advances in working conditions represent continuing results of joint decisions by management and labour. They have grown out of the meeting of the different points of view that are brought to bear on mutual problems."

The Minister of Labour pointed out that there are 7,000 collective bargaining agreements in Canada today. But last year, only 69 strikes were necessary.



There is a great difference between the right word and the word that is almost right. For example, you can call a woman a kitten, but not a cat; a chicken, but not a hen; a duck, not a goose; a vision, but not a sight.

*The busy executive asked his secretary where his pencil was.*

"It's behind your ear," she replied.

"Come, come," snapped the big boss. "I'm a busy man, which ear?"

Little Butch was having a birthday party and his mother insisted he invite a neighbor boy with whom he had just had a fight. Came the party and the little neighbor didn't show up. "Did you invite Johnny?" asked Butch's mother suspiciously.

"Of course I did. I not only invited him—I dared him to come."

*The girdle manufacturer lives off the fat of the land.*

Two opposing political candidates argued on a busy street, while a crowd of spectators listened.

"There are hundreds of ways of making money," one of the campaigners declared, "but only one honest way."

"And what's that?" jeered the other.

"Ah, ha!" gloated the first. "I thought you wouldn't know."

*Girl answering the telephone:*

"Marie isn't in just now. This is her 110-pound, five foot two, blonde, blue-eyed sister."

Wife—I'm getting fed up catering to your every whim. Just suppose we wives went on strike. What would you do then?

Husband—Well, you just go ahead and strike. I've got a peach of a strikebreaker in mind.

*Two smart alecks walking up the street came upon a beautiful girl. One said to the other, "Beautiful but dumb."*

*Overhearing the remark, the girl walked up to the smart aleck and said, "I'll have you know the Lord made us women beautiful so you men could love us, and then he made us dumb so we could love you men."*

## At Twin Cities Arsenal

# \$50,000 Lunch Pay Dividend

Two hundred and fifty Federal Cartridge Corporation office employes at the Twin Cities Arsenal, Minneapolis, will share a \$50,000 dividend on their OEIU membership. They will receive pay for their half-hour daily lunch period dating back to May 9, 1952—the date they voted for OEIU representation.

To collect the lunch period pay, OEIU Local 12 and the International Union carried the case to the highest levels of the Defense Department.

Here's the full story:

Most employes of the Federal Cartridge Corporation had been receiving a half-hour paid lunch period. But about 30 per cent of the clerical staff—those who worked in separate buildings—did not.

When OEIU Local 12 negotiated its first contract at the plant last spring, one provision of the agreement was the extension of the paid lunch period to all office employes, retroactive to the date the union won bargaining rights.

But since the company operates under a Government contract, the union agreement was subject to Ordnance approval. Regional Ordnance officials said they could not approve the extension of the paid lunch period to all office employes. But OEIU Local 12 refused to take no for an answer.

Local 12 and the International Union appealed the decision to the Defense Department. Ralph Moorhead, OEIU unit chairman at Twin Cities Arsenal, and Arthur J. Fritz, Local 12 business representative, came to Washington to personally help with the case. Accompanied by OEIU President Paul R. Hutchings and OEIU Attorney John Foley, they met with high Ordnance officials at the Pentagon.

Last week, the payoff came. President Hutchings and Attorney Foley were called into a full-dress conference at the Pentagon, attended by top Ordnance and company officials. Once again, they stated the union's case.

Before they left the Pentagon, they had a promise that their case would be approved. The 250 office employes would receive full pay for their lunch periods dating back more than a year. Official notification of the ruling will be made in the next few days, Ordnance officials indicated. Individual back pay checks are expected to average approximately \$200 each.

## New York City Local To Honor Coughlin

New York, N. Y.—A testimonial dinner honoring Howard Coughlin will be given by OEIU Local 153 at the Hotel Astor on May 24. Coughlin is business manager of the New York local and an OEIU vice president.

James L. McDevitt, director of Labor's League for Political Education, is scheduled to be master of ceremonies. Harry Avrutin heads the Local 153 committee in charge of the testimonial dinner, assisted by Lavina Michl. Frank Ellis is in charge of arrangements and Charlie McDermott is handling printing. An eight-piece orchestra will play dance music.

## Top Rates Won At Atomic Projects

(Continued from page 1)

Engineering employes had worked under an OEIU contract for other companies in the area. They knew the benefits an office workers' union could bring.

In addition to the \$6 and \$11.50 pay raises, the contract provides for a joint job survey, based on the union's request for upgrading employes in 14 job classifications. The joint committee will be composed of two representatives of the OEIU, one representative of management and one representative of the Atomic Energy Commission. Pursley predicted this will mean additional pay raises for many employes.

Other highlights of the new contract include:

- A full union shop
- Eight paid holidays
- Vacation at the rate of 9½ hours a month (more than two-and-a-half weeks a year)
- Paid sick leave and two paid rest periods daily
- Ice water, drinking cups and insulated lunch boxes provided for all clerical employes working in the field

Plus, of course, standard OEIU job protection, seniority benefits and grievance procedure.

## FIRST CONTRACT

San Francisco—Office employes of the Morton Salt Company received pay raises averaging \$24.66 a month in their first contract, H. L. Sander, secretary-treasurer of OEIU Local 36, reports. The contract provides for a union shop, 80 hours paid sick leave, a 37½-hour week, job bidding and other OEIU benefits.

## OEIU Booth at Minneapolis Union Label Show



Local 12 members at Minneapolis staffed the OEIU's booth at the AFL's big Union Label show, which drew a record attendance of hundreds of thousands of visitors. In the booth at the time the picture was taken were, left to right: Don Hilliker, Irene Robinson and Arthur J. Fritz of Local 12, and OEIU Vice President Larry Nygren, who represented the international union. Visitors to the show are shown answering a quiz on the OEIU in a contest to win a typewriter donated by Local 12.