Wage Increase Announced for Two Thousand OEIU Members

OEIU Works for Cancer Fund

Two thousand members of OEIU Local 153 in New York City have been awarded a wage increase of $2.60 per person per week retroactive to June 1, 1954.

Edward P. Mulrooney, Imperial Chairman of the Hotel Industry; Robert Hoyt, Chairman of the Committee on Industrial Relations of the Hotel Association of New York City, Inc., and J. Rubin, President of the New York Hotel Trades Council, handed down the joint decision in which the award was made effective.

OEIU Local 153 is a member of the New York Hotel Trades Council, A. F. of L., along with local unions of ten other crafts.

When representatives of the New York Hotel Trades Council were unable to reach an agreement on wages with the New York Hotel Association, the matter was referred to the three-man Commission mentioned above for adjudication. Thereafter, as a result of arguments presented by both the union and the Association the award was handed down.

Actually, this award affects 35,000 union hotel workers employed in New York City, who are also involved in the arbitration conducted under the terms of a master collective bargaining agreement. A different type of wage increase was awarded to tip-category workers.

Pension Recently Announced

This award came on the heels of an announcement by the union and the Association that all employees in the hotel industry with 25 years of service at the age of 65 would be entitled to a pension of $40 per month, in addition to social security.

The pension was jointly announced after an actuarial study of the pension plan was completed in June, 1953.

Our members in the hotel industry are now receiving all benefits of their own hotel medical center, one of the finest of its kind in the United States; a welfare plan involving life insurance—sickness and disability benefits and hospitalization and the pension referred to above.

OEIU Veteran Retires

Portland, Oreg.—Kelley Loe, for almost 30 years an active member of Local 11, recently retired from his position as assistant secretary of the Oregon State Federation of Labor.

His retirement climaxed a career of more than 30 years of active and able service to the American Federation of Labor movement in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest generally. During his long service, Brother Loe established a notable record as a legislative representative for labor, as a writer on labor matters and a political strategist.

Just a year ago, the Oregon State Federation of Labor published Loe's brief history, "The Story of American Labor," which has received widespread distribution nationally and abroad. Large quantities of the booklet have been purchased by AFL organizations as an educational vehicle for their membership.

Local 1 Honors Charter Member

At 50th Anniversary Celebration

Indianapolis, Ind.—Local 1 recently observed the 50th anniversary of its chartering and took the occasion to honor the only living charter member of the local union. Pictured below is a partial view of the dinner commemorating the 50th anniversary and which was attended by more than half of the local union's membership. Harry Allen, the only remaining original charter member of the local union, was presented a certificate in behalf of his local union by its president, Alvin Yetter, expressing appreciation of the contribution he has made to the local union during this long period and acknowledging his continuous active membership. Brother Allen, now 73 and who retired in 1942, was formerly employed in the headquarters office of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of the AFL. An interesting sidelight disclosed at the observance was that 31 of the local union's members have continuous unbroken membership of 25 years or more, with 15 of the 31 having more than 35 continuous years' membership. Secretary-Treasurer Lewis M. Veltri of the local union has 45 years of unbroken active membership in the local union. Local 1 was originally chartered as a directly affiliated AFL trade union and was known as Stenographers, Typewriters, Editors and Bookkeepers and Assistants Union, Local No. 11597.

Northeastern Conference to Meet

The second meeting of the Northeastern Organization Conference has been called in Boston on September 12 at the Parker House, beginning at 11 a.m.

The agenda of this meeting is of extreme importance to each of the local unions in the area, and it is, therefore, imperative that every local be represented.
Conference and Local Union Activities

Southwestern Organizational Conference

Recently the second meeting of the Southwestern Organizational Conference was held at the Robert Driscoll Hotel in Corpus Christi, Texas. At this meeting Mr. Charles Morris, an attorney of the firm Mullinax & Wells, Dallas, Texas, addressed the meeting and reported some organization techniques that he felt would be helpful to the office employee's program. Each local union delegate made a report to the Conference meeting of the state of the union in their local community. Secretary-Treasurer W. O'Dell submitted a financial report.

Director of Organization Douglas addressed the meeting and outlined the activities of the various Organizational Conference throughout the country. He then explained the pamphlet put out by the International Union "Organizational Techniques and Procedures". Secretary-Treasurer Hicks addressed the meeting and reported on his recent trip to the Western and Pacific Northwestern Organizational Conferences.

Delegate W. J. Hoover, Local 27, introduced a resolution to send a letter to the AFL for the assistance of Regional Director Lexton Graham and his staff of organizers. The resolution was unanimously adopted. Later in the meeting Regional Director Graham addressed the Conference and secured the delegates of the continued support of the AFL and its organizational staff.

Representative Frank Morton reported on the progress that had been made in the Southwestern Organizational Conference.

Erie Organizational Conference

The Erie Organizational Conference held its regular meeting at the Labor Temple at Newark, Ohio, late in June. The meeting was presided over by President Thelma O'Dell, who outlined the activities of the officers of the Conference since the previous meeting. Reports were made on the program that had been carried out to have affiliated local unions send delegates to the meetings of local unions who had voted to affiliate with the Conference.

Director of Organization Douglas elaborated somewhat on the pamphlet "Organizational Techniques and Procedures" issued by the International Office.

Following the financial report by Secretary-Treasurer Firth, Organizer Polo gave a report of his activities since the last meeting. Delegates O'Dell, Local 10, reported that due to local union jurisdictional trouble, organizing activity had been limited to a minimum, but explained that the International Union Executive Board had directed a settlement of the jurisdictional problem and that he felt they now would be able to increase organizing activity in the Detroit area.

Vice President Firth and Director of Organization Douglas made an appeal to all local unions to send reports of their activities in order that they may be published in WHITE COLLAR. The delegates took action to hold the next Conference meeting in Cleveland, Ohio.

The various delegates from local unions in Ohio discussed the possibility of a meeting of office employees local unions prior to the forthcoming State Federation of Labor Convention in order to present a resolution to the State Federation of Labor Convention regarding the appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court by the NLRI General Counsel on the adverse decision Local 19 received in the Allen-Chaftmers case by the Seven-Circuit Court of Chicago.

Midwestern Organizational Conference

Recently the Midwestern Organizational Conference held a meeting in the Eastgate Hotel in Chicago. At this meeting a financial statement was submitted by Secretary-Treasurer Fissey and the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Organizer Dwyer gave a report on the activities in the Midwestern Organizational Conference since the previous meeting.

Director or Organization Douglas made a report on the organizational activities in the various conferences throughout the country. After a good deal of discussion he recommended that because of the geographical division by the National Labor Relations Board Regional Office that the Midwestern and North Central Organizational Conferences consider amalgamation. He explained that this would not interfere with the established practice with respect to organizers in each of the Conferences. After further discussion a motion was made to take action to amalgamate the two Conferences. The motion was unanimously passed and the Midwestern Organizational Conference will now act as the agenda of the joint Conference which will be on the agenda of its next meeting.

Organizer Appointed

President Coughlin announced the appointment of Conference Organizer Jack Schlacht to work in the Pacific Northwestern Organizational Conference. Prior to his appointment, Brother Schlacht was connected with the Teamsters' union for many years as secretary of its local union, president of the Building Association, Secretary of the Joint Council and member of the policy committee of the Western Conference of Teamsters. At the present time Brother Schlacht has headquarters in Portland, Oregon and is assisting OEU Local 11.

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John Bullock

Portsmouth, Ohio—Miss Mary Yeager, secretary of Local 308, reported the election of John Bullock as business agent of Local 308. He attended a labor relations course at the University of Kentucky in preparation for his new job.

Mobile, Ala.—Negotiations between Locals 71 of Mobile, 80 of Panama City, Fla., 209 of Kreole, Miss., and 233 of Georgetown, S. C., and International Paper Company resulted in a wage increase of $2.11 per week, retroactive to June 1, 1954, improved vacation plan, maternity leave and checkoff plan.

(Continued on Page 4)
Administration TVA Policy Endangers International Union

The members of the OEIU have always found the Tennessee Valley Authority to be a fair employer.

That is why we are alarmed by the President's order that the Atomic Energy Commission contract with a private utility combine to build a plant to generate additional electricity in the TVA area. The power will cost 91 million dollars more than a similar bid submitted by TVA. This overpriced power won't be purchased directly by AEC, but TVA will be ordered to buy it for all its customers including AEC. That means higher power rates for everybody including every farmer, businessman, and homeowner in the area.

It means that the new employer won't deal with TVA as an employer. If the Atomic Energy Commission has final say over rates paid by the utility, it means labor trouble.

There must be some reason why Atomic Energy projects are plagued with strikes and TVA has peaceful relations. One widely circulated theory is that the AEC has a tendency to refuse to let their contracting companies agree to legitimate wage demands. Thus, the companies have no choice but to let the situation go to a strike.

For the sake of power customers in the TVA area and for the sake of good labor relations, we hope that the President can be prevailed upon to reverse his decision.

A Gratuitous Decision

THE NLRB has decided not to wait for the Congress to pass a law permitting the states to outlaw the right to strike and picket. On July 15th the NLRB rushed in an administrative decision of its own giving up jurisdiction over thousands of employers and their employees. It is turning these people over to the tender mercy of the state legislatures to do with what they will.

Many OEIU members will be affected. If you work for a retail store, utility company, transit system, radio and television station, newspaper, certain multi-state and industrial service companies, and defense plants, you may wake up to find your employer can tell you and your union that your contract is off and wages are going down.

Boiled down to simple terms the NLRB has decided that unless you work for big business, the Federal government won't lift a finger to prevent your employer from firing you for joining a union in order to bargain for better pay and job security.

For instance, employees of a retail store would be denied their rights unless the store was part of a 10-million-dollar chain or purchased no less than one million dollars worth of goods out of state each year.

This is another case of appointed government officials rewriting the laws to their own liking without waiting for the elected representatives of the people to express themselves.

Right to Organize Is Civil Right

Without a free and vigorous union movement, the incomparable standards of living we enjoy in this country would not have been achieved. The right to organize is not merely an economic right, it is a civil right.

Free trade unions contribute to the delicate but durable balance of a free society in which the individual is protected against the potential excesses of concentrated wealth and arbitrary power.

—Senator Wayne Morse, (Ind.) Oregon.
from the desk of the
PRESIDENT
HOWARD COUGHLIN

7th Circuit Court Decides Against OEU

A DECISION of far-reaching importance was rendered by the U. S. Court of Appeals, 7th Circuit, Chicago, on May 21, 1954, affecting our Toledo Local 19 and its membership employed by the Allis-Chalmers Mfg. Company.

The court rendered a decision which allowed the company to incorporate within labor agreements provisions which would give non-union employees in the bargaining unit the right to vote for or against a contract, and the right to vote for or against a strike.

This peculiar decision was the result of four years of legal procedures. Our Toledo Local 19 was selected as the bargaining agent for the office and clerical employees of the Allis-Chalmers Company on November 6, 1949. The company deliberately brought the negotiations to an impasse by demanding (1) an open shop, and (2) the right of non-union employees to vote for or against a contract and for or against a strike.

On April 24, 1952, a complaint was issued by the General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board after charges were brought by our Local Union against the company alleging refusal to bargain. On April 30, 1953, the National Labor Relations Board upheld Local 19's charges and ordered the Allis-Chalmers Company to bargain collectively with our union.

On October 23, 1953, the NLRB denied an appeal of this order by the company. Thereafter, the company refused to comply with the Board's order and the General Counsel of the Board went to the Federal courts to compel compliance. Thereafter, on May 21, 1954, we were assured by the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals' decision which, in effect, overruled the Labor-Management Relations Act of 1947.

The Labor-Management Relations Act of 1947 states in its preamble that it is designed to foster and encourage collective bargaining. It further states that the union when certified shall be the sole collective bargaining agency for the employees involved. In effect, if non-union employees are given the same rights as union members, this decision will discourage collective bargaining. It will also do away with some collective bargaining rights, as is intended and spelled out clearly in the Act.

When non-union employees have the same bargaining rights as the union which has been chosen as the collective bargaining agency; such as is implied by this court decision, it brings about a situation where there is more than one bargaining agency, thus disrupting the collective bargaining relationship.

Worse still, in accordance with this court decision, it is now legal for a company to make these proposals to the union. If the union refuses to agree to such ridiculous proposals and thereafter wages a strike against the employee, it is possible that this strike may later be termed as illegal. For example, if an employer prefers charges of refusal to bargain against a union, in such a situation, the National Labor Relations Board will have to issue a complaint against the union, based on the 7th Circuit Court's decision. This complaint, when upheld by the Board, will, in effect, put the union in the position of having waged an illegal strike, thus subjecting it to penalties through state courts.

The U. S. Supreme Court in the Labor Union Decision stated that the company could sue a union through a state court to recover losses suffered as a result of the union's illegal strike.

In Frankfort, Ky., that state's highest court upheld a $75,000 judgment against the United Construction Company for an illegal strike against the company.

Our union has petitioned the National Labor Relations Board to appeal this regrettable decision to the U. S. Supreme Court. We have also called upon the American Federation of Labor to join with us in our request to the Board for an appeal.

This decision, if allowed to stand, will not only hinder the organizational work of the OEU, but will adversely affect the interests of all unions in the organized labor movement. Through a weapon of this kind, as expressed by this court decision, it is possible for each and every union of the organized labor movement to be used out of existence.

Union Activities

(Continued from Page 2)

At the conclusion of the negotiations, representatives of the four locals set up an informal council of OEU Southern Kraft pulp and Paper Industry unions and elected L. W. Barrier, Jr., chairman for the coming year.

Milwaukee—Amendment of the agreement between Local 9 and Milwaukee & Suburban Transport resulted in a general wage increase of 2.63 per cent, 4 weeks vacation after 25 years (affecting nearly 15 of our members in this company), sick leave cumulative to 50 days and improvements in the pension plan. Our members also have received seniority in layoff, union shop and automatic increase through the rate range.

Lewsville, Ky.—Local 61 reports renewal of their agreement with American Radiator & Standard Sanitary Corp. with 4 cents per hour increase in base rates and for those on piece work a 4 cents per 100 lb. increase. Other features of the contract include union shop, checkoff of dues and initiation fees and a $150 per member bonus on earnings paid at Christmas.

Providence, R. I.—Local 76 has obtained a wage increase up to 52 per cent, and improved vacation of 3 weeks after 12 years in a 2-year agreement with the National Biscuit Company. These members also have 10 holidays and straight seniority in layoffs and life insurance, hospitalization and accidental death and dismemberment benefits.

Lexington, Ky.—Joint negotiations with Southeastern Division member, Greenbough Corporation resulted in a wage increase of 5 cents per hour effective August 1, 1954, and 5 cents per hour, August 1, 1955. In addition the contract rates were increased 13 cents per hour reflecting into these rates, the cost of living increases gained over the past several years, and bringing the total to 24 cents per hour increase over old contract rates. Improvements were gained in vacation and sick leave allowance. Involved are Local 18, Birmingham, 21, Atlanta, 61, Louisville, 73, Jacksonville, 144, Knox-

Dollars for LLPE

At last report, the members of the OEU were still tops in per capita contributions to Labor's League for Political Education.

The one dollar voluntary contributions made by members are being put to good use in this year's important Congressional contests. It costs thousands of dollars to run for office. If union members don't support their friends at election time, then we have nobody but ourselves to blame if anti-labor men are elected.

Thanks to contributions from OEU and other AFL members, already this year Senator John Sparkman has been reelected from one-party Alabama, and good friend John Kerr beat the old-guard Senate incumbent in Okalla. Senator Margaret Chase Smith was a close second in Maine over her pro-McCarthy opponent in the Republican primary. Things are also looking good in all parts of the country in the two-party contests in November.

We all have a stake in electing better men to all public offices. We can all do our part. Combine Register. Study the records of the candidates. Vote for your friends of working people on election day.

Washington, D. C.—Local 2 won an election conducted by the NLRB at the Wonder Bakery plant of Continental Baking by a margin of better than two-to-one. This election was ordered by the Board after the company disputed the unit on the ground that the local should organize all bakers in the city. The company requested a multi-employer unit of the baking industry of the District of Columbia. In view of a previous decision of the NLRB in an OEU case, the Board ordered a single unit election.

St. Louis—President Margaret J. Risch of Local 13 announces the signing of the first contract with American Lithofoold Corporation which manufactures business forms. The benefits obtained include a wage increase of more than 20 cents an hour, length of service increase, three-week vacations after one year, six paid holidays, pay for jury service, paid insurance and the union shop.

An employee committee composed of Miss Anla Roekhat, Cliff Jannjan and Joseph Poulage assisted in the negotiations.

Millinocket, Me.—William M. Poullag, president of Local 192, reports an overall wage gain of 4.9 per cent in a new agreement with Great Northern Paper Company. Our members with this company now have an average weekly wage of $74 and enjoy benefits such as 3 weeks vacation after 10 years and 4 weeks sick leave after 5 years, non-contributory pension plan and hospitalization.

NLRB Continues Anti-Union Practices

By a vote of three to two, with the three Republican-appointed members of the National Labor Relations Board making up the majority, employers were granted the right to interrogate workers as to their affiliation or activities within a union.

Chairman Guy Farmer, Phillips Ray Rodgers and Albert C. Beason, as the majority, gave to employers this right of interrogation as long as the interrogation did not restrain or interfere with employees in exercising their right to organize.

Abbe Murdock and Ivan H. Peterson, in their dissent, stated that the decision was uncalled and ignores the realities of industrial life. They said that the Board from the beginning had found that interrogation by the employer prevails on employees from exercising freely their right to organize.

Once again the Republican-appointed Board members have evidenced their true intentions of breaking trade unions. The actions of the Republican majority are most shocking, particularly in view of some of the statements made by Candidate Eisenhower before the last presidential election.

Albert C. Beason, one of the majority members, was the subject of much debate in the U. S. Senate prior to his confirmation. He was confirmed by only a handful of votes when his close allegiance and ties to industry were exposed.

Can there be any doubt in anyone's mind as to the intention of this administration toward labor after reading decisions of this kind?

LLPE Women's Head

Mrs. Margaret Thorsburgh is the new director of the women's division of Labor's League for Political Education. Mother of two teenagers, Mrs. Thorsburgh will work toward making the league program more of a family affair rather than one just for AFL members alone.

Mrs. Thorsburgh has been prominent in labor and civic affairs in her hometown of Okmulgee, Okla.