OFIU Executive Board Agrees to No-Raid Pact

Western Conference

The plenary meeting of the Western Organizational Conference was held at the Huntington Hotel in San Francisco on June 5. The meeting was preceded over by Conference President John Kinnick, assisted by Secretary-Treasurer Amado. All local unions reported on the various activities in their respective cities and communities and delegates were enthusiastic in their support of Conference activities. If anything, the delegates were impatient for expansion of the organizational conference activities to their respective cities as soon as circumstances will allow such expansion.

International Secretary-Treasurer Hicks and Vice President Springman were in attendance.

International President Howard Coughlin addressed the Conference and reported on the activities of other Conferences and the International Union in particular. He stressed his complete faith in the success of the Organizational Conference program. He emphasized again and again that it was the intention of the International to expand the organizational program within the Conferences as soon as finances permit such expansion.

He emphasized, too, that local unions were not to consider the Organizational Conference as the only source of activity insofar as the International Union is concerned within the Conference area. He expressedly stated that local unions desiring to promote organizational activity of their own can request such help directly from the International Union and obtain it without the expense being charged to the Organizational Conference. Representative Carl Shugaar, now working out of San Francisco, and Representative Charles Henderson working in Los Angeles, were introduced to the Conference delegates.

Kansas City Locals In Merger

Kansas City—A very important merger has been effected between Locals 4 and 40 at Kansas City. After some discussion, these two local unions agreed to an amalgamation. As a result, on June 15, President Coughlin installed the officers of the new combined Local 20. At this installation President Coughlin also presented the new charter. The officers of the new union are: Louise Headrick, president; Joseph Shufflebumb, vice president; Winifred Evans, financial secretary, and Lillian Hawkins, recording secretary.

Much credit is due to Vice President Emily Burns of former Local 40 and to Margaret Clifton of former Local 4, for their splendid cooperation in the discussions which led to the merger. Both are members of the Executive Board of the new local union.

Action At L. A. Session

The Executive Board of the Office Employees International Union met in Los Angeles at the Hollywood-Roosevelt Hotel June 8 through 11.

Many matters of immediate importance were discussed by the Board. Most important of these concerned our ratification of the AFL-CIO anti-raiding pact. It was felt by the Executive Board that AFL President George Meany's effort to eliminate raiding, both within and without the AFL, was something that was sorely needed by the American Federation of Labor and the American labor movement.

Details of this pact were discussed at great length by the Executive Board. After much discussion it was agreed that the International Executive Board unanimously authorizes the President to sign this pact.

One of the greatest problems in the organization of unorganized clerical employees is the matter of raids in our jurisdiction both by CIO unions and AFL organizations. The Board felt that the AFL-CIO pact was the first step toward the eventual solution of raiding insofar as CIO and other AFL unions are concerned. The Board optimistically feels that the next convention of the AFL will adopt a pact which will end raids within the AFL.

The International Executive Board took cognizance of the fact that our own union is engaged in a fight to establish office clerical units as recognized bargaining units by the National Labor Relations Board. In view of the possibility that a local union may, on its own, take a position before the National Labor Relations Board which might be contradictory to national OFIU policy, it is recommended that all such formal hearing books be channelled through the International office. The Board was unanimous in its approval of the merger of Locals 4 and 40 at Kansas City, 94, 43 and 29 in California, and 70 and 32 in New Jersey.

Many matters of jurisdiction concerning our own local unions were discussed and decisions rendered. Our organizational conferences and present make-up and plans for the future were discussed at great length. The Board is wholeheartedly and unanimously in support of the organizational program of our International Union.
Conference and Local Union Activities

Erie Conference

Joseph Polo, representing the Erie Organizational Conference, announced the organization, recognition and collective bargaining agreement for the employees of the Cleveland Linen Supply Company. Polo is now engaged in organizational campaigns in the Cleveland Group Health Company and in the trucking industry.

International Vice President John Finucy has taken a leave of absence from his regular employment to lead a large organizational committee of Cleveland Local 17 in the campaign in the Blue Avionics.

Local 33 of Pittsburgh announced the successful unionization of the International Harvester Company. A. F. of L. Organizer Son Nielsen led this campaign on behalf of our local union and International Union.

** Eastern Conference

William Prevost, Conference Organizer, is following up his recent victory at the Baltimore Transit Company with an active organizational campaign at Blue Cross and the Allegheny Airlines.

Joseph Curatola, who is appointed Eastern Conference Organizer, is leading a number of campaigns in the City of Philadelphia, including the hotel industry, Federal Container Corporation, RCA Victor, Philadelphia Blue Cross-Blue Shield and the Pennsylvania Sugar Company.

North Central Conference

Arthur Lewandowski, Conference Organizer, is actively working on a campaign at the Edwards Paper Company in Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., who will listen to them in an NLRB election. He is also working on other organizational ventures, which include the Service Transfer Company and the Kocher Corporation.

** Midwestern Conference

Conference Organizer Eugene O'Farrell is engaged in numerous campaigns in Chicago, which in addition to the Sullivan Reporting Company, Hines Lumber Company, Plumbing Supply House, Gary Hotel, and others.

Canadian Conference

Alainair McArthur, Conference Organizer, has applied for certification before the Ontario Labor Relations Board for the employees of the St. Lawrence Company, Ltd. He has also offered the Scollers andfuller of the Alatihi Power Paper Company at Port Arthur, Ontario. He also reports that a Board of Conciliation has been set up for the Port Arthur Medical Clinic and the case is now being prepared for the Department of Labor at Queen's Park, Ontario.

Port Arthur Local 236 officials are to be commended for the tremendous job they are doing in organizing the unorganized officer and clerical employees in that area.

Vice President Conroy, along with the officers of Galloway Local 110, have applied for certification for the employees of the Commercial Alcoholic Company. This petition for certification is before the Quebec Department of Labor. Conroy further reports progress in our campaign to organize 120 employees of the British-American Bank Note Company at Westboro, Ontario.

Western Conference

Charles Hanemann has recently been assigned as Western Organizational Conference Organizer in the City of Los Angeles. Hanemann immediately proceeded to involve our International Union in a number of organizational campaigns, including the Graining Enmondling plant and the department stores in the Los Angeles area.

Curl Shugart, International Representative assigned to Son Francisco, is actively engaged in working out the details of a merger between his local union and the American Federation of Labor. Shugart is also working on behalf of our Valley local union, which is a constituent of the American Federation of Labor.

Locals 94 at San Jose and 43 of Sacramento have just voted to affiliate with the International Union. Our Executive Board approved this action.

Southwest Conference

President James R. O'Brien recently rendered his resignation as the organizer for our local union in Seattle. During the interim, prior to the appointment of a successor for the office of Organizer in the Southwest Conference, we have organized the following local unions in our Southwest Conference.

Our local union at Galveston is fighting to head off a strike at the CIO Brewery Workers in the OEUJ brewery plant in that city.

Our International Union expects to announce the appointment of an organizer for the Northwest Organizational Conference in the near future.

** Northwestern Conference

Our International Union has just announced that James Ruch has been engaged to work as a Conference Organizer in the New York-New England area.

Tom Flynn of Ottawa Local 6 was assigned to a merger campaign to perform services for our existing locals in the British Columbia, and at the same time has announced the completion of several organizational projects. In this capacity he has chafed a local at Portland, M. H. Molin of Seattle and clerical employees of the Ports mouth Shipyards. He is conducting a campaign in this area, and our International Organizer at the Continental Supply Company in that city.

** Local Unions

Richmond Cold—A general wage increase of $50 a month was obtained in the removal of an agreement between the International Union and the Merchants' Appliance Company.

Minneapolis, Minn.—An agreement negotiated by Local 12 with D. L. Bunting Company increases wage range from $12.50 to $15 an hour.

Local 12 also obtained increases ranging from 5 to 8 cents an hour from the Minnesota Sun Company, presses Co., and increases of $1 to $1.50 per week in its agreement with Minnesota Sun Company.

Improved vacation benefits were obtained by Local 39 in the agreement with Blue and White Liberty Co.

Donald R. Hilticker, assistant business representative and organizer of Local 12, is beginning a period in having the collective bargaining agent of General Transportation Company of

(Continued on page 4)

Delegate from OEUJ local unions in Oregon, Washington and British Columbia lined up for the photographs following the meeting of the Pacific-Northwestern Organizational Conference in Seattle.

The second meeting of the Pacific-Northwestern Organizational Conference was held at the Bancroft Hotel in Seattle on Sunday, June 13. Delegates from local unions located in British Columbia, Canada, and the states of Oregon and Washington were present.

Conference President Al O'Brien presided. Secretary-Treasurer Terry Parker presented financial reports.

Everett King and a delegation representing the British Columbia Electric Light, Power and Light Association, affiliated with the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, were present to the delegates and sat at observers throughout the meeting. During the course of the meeting, Everett King and his associates reported on activities being carried on by the office employees in the British Columbia area.

All delegates to the Conference reported on activities within their respective areas.

The work of Organizer Gene Corn was praised by various delegates, including Cato Windows of Tacoma and Conference President Al O'Brien. The International Union was congratulated on the selection of a number of representatives, Gene Corn, while appointed only two months ago, has engaged in organizing work with several cases now pending before the National Labor Relations Board. Corn particularly stressed his activities at the Washington Inland Port Board for the Swa- bacher's Hardware store and other hard- ware companies. It is anticipated that the NLRB will conduct an election at Sokactive's Welch Hardware Company.

President Coughlin outlined the activities of the International Union and other Organizational Conferences. He stressed the continued support of the International Union to bring about the Organizational Conferences, and the necessary financing of these Conferences. He reported on the grant of $50,000 for the year 1954 by the AFL. In addition, he reported on the various International Union changes in system which will make available additional resources for our organizational program.

He stated that the International would be willing to work out an organizational program with any affiliated organizations affiliated with the Conference and help to defray the cost of such activity, separate and apart from the Organizational Conference. He emphasized to the dele- gates the necessity of giving the organization the time and support of their members.

The International Union through the organiza- tional program has already trebled the number of International Representatives in the U.S. and Canada.

Pacific Northwestern Conference

Gene Corn has petitioned the National Labor Relations Board, for an election involving the Schwabacher Hardware Company. We are expecting an election in that company shortly. Gene has other campaigns going on in the same field involving, the employees of the Seattle Hardware Company. He is also conducting campaigns among the office and clerical employees of the Alaska Air Lines, the State Insurance Examiners, and the Day's Manufacturing Company at To- cinea.

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Jurisdictional Machinery

WHICH worker should belong to which union has been a question plaguing the union movement since the AFL was born in 1881. "One industry, one union"—"Everybody in one big union"—all are slogans voiced in the past as answers. Actually there is no simple answer. Industries change, techniques change, markets change, jobs change. So it is impossible to expect that unions can remain unchanged and still meet the needs of their members.

However, jurisdictional raids between unions receive a great deal of unfavorable publicity, and disrupt union energies with little benefit for the members.

The unions which suffer the most in inter-union fights are those younger unions such as the OEU, which are struggling to organize a relatively new field.

Our task is hard enough without older and more powerful unions picking up office workers and lording them in with production employe units.

Our Executive Board at its recent meeting in Los Angeles authorized President Howard Coughlin to sign a no-raiding pact on behalf of the OEU. Nearly-four AFL and CIO unions representing 10 million workers joined in this agreement. Unfortunately, some of the biggest unions in both Federations refused to go along.

Even more important to the OEU was the May 14 conference at which more than one hundred AFL International Union officers unanimously recommended a plan of peaceful arbitration of jurisdictional rows within the AFL. The plan will be whipped into final shape at the AFL executive council meeting in August for presentation to the AFL annual convention in September. The OEU pledges its full cooperation. However, only time will tell how effective and just either of these plans will be.

4 Million Unemployed

FROM a low of 1,200,000 unemployed in October of last year the number of unemployed snowballed to a high of 3,755,000 in March of this year. Then, as the President said, unemployment appeared to be "stabilized." There was even a moderate decline for several weeks. But, after the week ending June 12 the Department of Labor officially announced that initial claims for unemployment insurance were on the increase again. New unemployment was widespread with 34 states showing an increase in unemployment caused chiefly by layoffs in automotive, appliance, leather, apparel and machinery.

Now, we are told by officials in government to be prepared to see unemployment figures shoot up to more than 4,000,000 as students swell the summer labor market.

The question: do we want permanent "stabilized" unemployment at 3, 4, or 5 million? Or do we want effective government measures to encourage full employment? Never in history has our economy stood still. We have either been in the economic dumps or pushing ahead with business expansion and jobs for everyone. The "peddlers of doom" are not the AFL leaders who demand action to end unemployment, but those who say that a little unemployment is a good thing and necessary for a sound economy.

The Ten Ton Touch

It seems that it takes a 14-ounce pressure to budge the average type writer key. A typed line averages six inches, or 60 impressions for a line, totaling 360 an. A 15-line average letter translates into 12,600 ounces. Make it 30 letters as the typist's daily output and you have 378,000 ounces, or 23,625 pounds, or 10% tons.

So, the little lady with the delicate touch and spayed fingertips does more work than a 10-ton truck!11
from the desk of the President

HOWARD COUGHLIN

NLRB Does A Flip-Flop

Several editions back I wrote a lengthy article describing our reactions to the American Potash and Chemical Corporation case. We are, I believe, deserved with optimism our future in view of that decision. I pointed out to our membership that for the first time in 18 years the National Labor Relations Board had recognized the right of office employees as a class of workers to sew themselves from an overall group of employees which included various types of manual workers. The American Potash decision and a subsequent meeting of our officers and counsel with Guy Farmer, chairman of the National Labor Relations Board, our Local Union 153 in New York City was in the process of organizing 250 clerical employees of a publishing firm. In this firm a company-type union existed which included all workers such as printers, binders, typesetters and various manual and office clerical employees. Based on prior decisions of the Board, it appeared certain that we would have to organize all of the manuals and the clericals together in order to successfully bargain. We have an agreement negotiated by Long Island's Chemical Corporation decision and our discussions with Guy Farmer, we were confident that we could successfully petition for the clerical employees in this overall unit.

We did so. petition, and behold, much to our amazement and dismay, the Board handed down a decision ordering an election including all manual, mechanical and office and clerical employees. The decision was a complete reversal of the American Potash doctrine and a complete contradiction of Guy Farmer's interpretation of the expressed policy of the Board. On examining the decision, we find that the Board was unanimous in its opinion which further confused us in our discussion with the Board.

On advice of Woll, Glenn & Thatcher, our International Union counsel, we moved for reconsideration of the Board's decision. In our motion for reconsideration, we pointed out that the Board had not only contradicted the American Potash & Chemical Corporation case but that it had included all employees in the bargaining unit who were not even employed by the employer in question. The cafeteria referred to is operated by another employer. However, the Board evidently, for reasons of its own, threw these employees into the bargaining unit too. The National Labor Relations Board thereupon denied our motion for reconsideration with no reference to the point we made with respect to the cafeteria employees.

Let me say, at this point, that I am concerned with the welfare of white collar workers as a class of employees and to anyone interested in fair play, that the Board evidently did not read the record or the motion for reconsideration as written.

As a result, we are in the unique position of being forced to go through an election involving workers for which we are not chartered and have never had any experience in representing. Further, we must employ employees involved in the balloting who are not employees of the employer for whom we petitioned. I dare say that this decision is unique in the annals of the National Labor Relations Board.

White Collars Still Forgotten

It appears from this decision and from many previous decisions examined by your International officers and counsel for the International Union, that the Board seems to feel that it can change from day to day when handing down decisions on white collar cases without worrying about the effect such decisions will have on the public at large. We have heard public figures, including radio commentators, for purposes of politics working conditions. Vice President Biedeworth, of the NIB 153, the committee of Marvin Wallace, Jack Campbell, Douglas Wilson, James Fitzgerald and Joe Hillman are all congratulated on the splendid assistance that they gave to AFL-CIO representatives and some of the office employees Max Huxter, as well as to Vice President Biedeworth.

Local Union 153 is now in the process of expanding the organization to include all of the office employees in the Oak Ridge atomic city.

**Activities (Continued from page 2)**

approximately 50 office employees is composed of a small unit Local 12 represented in Minneapolis and an unorganized group from St. Paul. Local 153 are presently in progress.

**New York—Local 153**

Represented in the New York City Board on the conclusion of negotiations on a new contract with the Administrative Billings District, in a new contract with the New York City Board on the conclusion of negotiations on a new contract with the Administrative Billings District which calls for some per week general in the 153 Welfare Plan from 3 to 49 cent, and an increase in the minimum wage rate of $45 per week for clerical workers and $76 per week for private investigators. The board of directors of the New York area have been organized by Local 153 and a petition for an election has been filed with the National Labor Relations Board.

An agreement negotiated by Local 153 with E. J. Trimar Paper Company provides a wage increase of $4 a week across the board and other improvements.

Chattanooga, Tenn.—Local 179 was chosen as their collective bargaining agent for the photographic and clerical employees of the Wheeling Southern Company in an NLRB election.

**Buffalo, N. Y.—**Each pay grade was increased 2.5 cent an hour in a new agreement for the office employees of Local 212 and Hospital Service Corporation of Western New York and Western New York Medical Plan, Inc., Business Agent Emil Steck reports.

**Chicago—**Organizer Gene Dwyer reports that Local 28 is in negotiation with the Patrick J. Sullivan Reporting Co. for an agreement covering court reporters.

or publicity, publicly grieve about the plight of the white collar workers.

We as white collar workers know that there is only one answer and that is to organize in what the Brotherhood of Oranges reports that they find themselves. That answer in unionization. Politicians and demagogues will not accomplish the desired result unless they, too, stress unionization as the necessary solution. White collar workmen are a unique group through lack of unionization, find themselves on the short end when it comes to decisions handed down by the National Labor Relations Board. In other words, not only are they receiving the lesser wages in our American society, but they are also failing to get their due in the employment of special edition salesman.

A new wage scale has been set in the agreement—a minimum of $16.25 to $23 a week, according to the number of years of experience.

Twelve salespeople were on strike supported by 80 office employees, members of Local 36. In addition to the office workers, there were also some people in the printing trades. It is a foregone conclusion that the strike could not have been a success without these key crafts.

President Jack Goldberg and Assistant Secretary Gus Katzensky conducted a special subcommittee of the S. F. Labor Council in charge of negotiations. Members of the strike committee were Alan Buc- kman, chairman, Helen Kerr, and Murray Leventhal. The interim Executive Board of Local 36 Executive Board were Ruth Greenberg and Beatrice Levene.

Pearl River, N. Y.—Secretary-Treasurer James Bowers of Local 153 reports a general wage increase of $1 per cent was included in the new renewal of a agreement with Dexter Folder Company.

**Local 36 Wins Strike**

Members of OBEU Local 36, the display advertising force with a victory on a 3 day strike against Budduc Publications of San Francisco gained a union shop, which was one of the issues that are of dispute, and recognition of experience on newspapers to more than 25,000 circulation.

Seniority provisions were set up as a two-step system. This was a primary issue, for the employees of the craft that are off any salesperson for "economy" reductions in force. The agreement points out that 30 of the 32 employees in the employment of special edition salesman.

It will be cheaper in the fall. Rely on me. We have a cop of unorganized people, reasonably, which (now at the low price) and eggs (still comparatively expensive) may be carry over.

Mid-summer is also a good time to shop for furniture. It is usually a very good time to break after July 4.

The annual mid-summer home sale at the advertisers in some of their ads. You can find furniture which will give you the lowest prices on household goods. They sometimes cut on rugs is especially keen among retailers this summer because the hours sales are sometimes under deal the department stores, but the department stores may estimate the yardage required more closely on wall-to-wall carpeting, so the final price may be cut to a lower rate.