

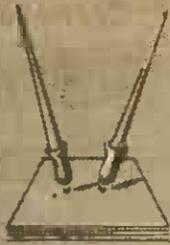


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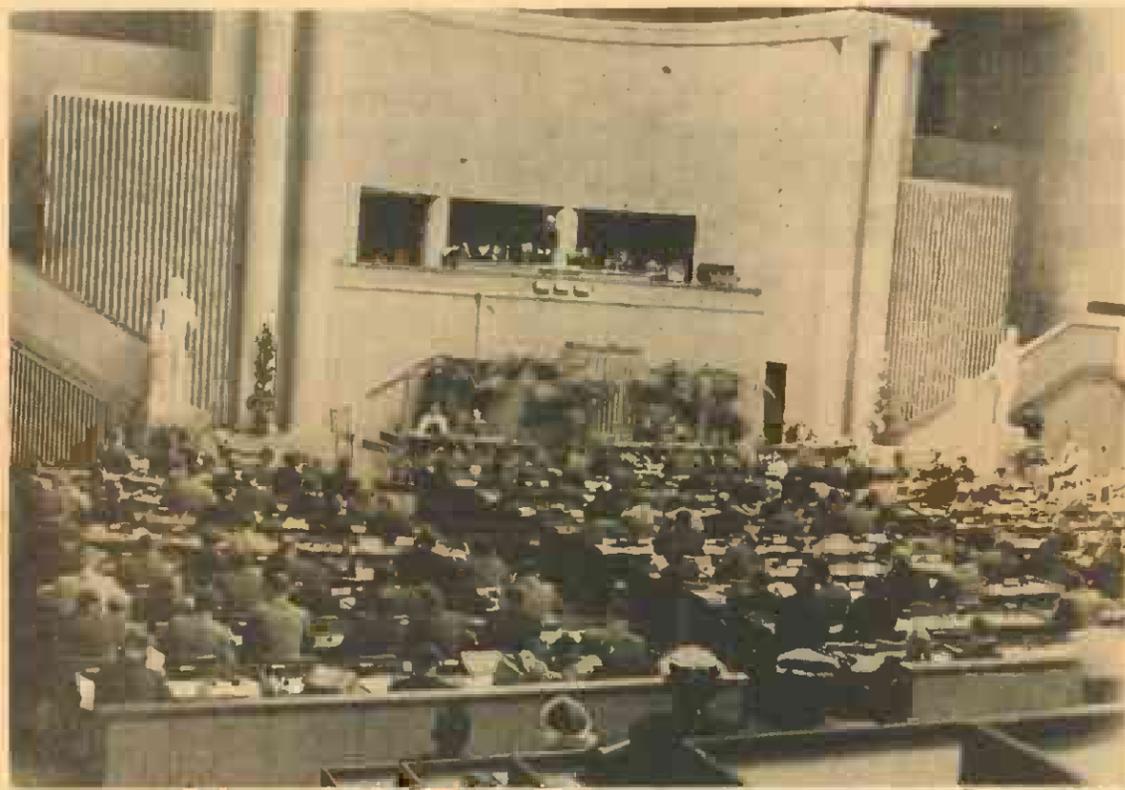
COLLAR

("The Office Worker"—Official Publication

of the Office Employees International Union)



OEIU President Smashes Communist Attack on U.S.



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Addresses Session Of ILO Committee

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President Coughlin cited the social gains achieved in America through free collective bargaining under free trade unionism and free enterprise.

He emphasized that "the opinions and views I have presented are based on my personal knowledge and experiences of the problems. They are presented neither by instruction nor direction—they are my own." Obviously the Pole's false statements were echoes of the Communist "line."

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"We are particularly enthusiastic in our feelings that the problems of salaried employees and professional workers are of paramount importance. We join with you in your endeavors to improve the lot of these white collar employees—the largest single category of workers in the world today.

Cites Achievements

"In our American society of free enterprise and free trade unionism which we strongly espouse, we have achieved through free collective bargaining many of the social gains which continue to be problems in other parts of the world.

"In many instances these attainments have later been incorporated into the laws of our land. Typical examples of legislation which was first achieved by free collective bargaining are a 40-hour workweek, unemployment insurance and social security, which laws are constantly being improved and broadened to increase coverage and benefits.

"Vocational training and guidance has been established through the efforts of the American labor movement. Free public employment centers accenting the need for special counselling and placement of older workers have been established through legislation. (Special reference is made on page 69 of Report II by the ILO to the success of America in this direction.)

Older Workers Protected

"Through collective bargaining we have further protected the rights of older employees by contractually providing seniority protective clauses for older employees. Further and more important, in addition to legislation, we have established pensions and other welfare benefits through collective bargaining.

"In addition to unemployment insurance, our union contracts in the vast majority of instances provide for liberal severance payments in the event of economic layoffs.

"My fellow worker delegate and I were amazed to hear Mr. Altman, a government representative of Poland, make a number of completely false statements regarding conditions within the United States. As free American worker representatives of the American Federation of Labor, we will not lower the prestige and dignity of the American labor movement by specifically referring to his many obvious falsehoods.

"Mr. Altman referred to the number of older salaried employees of 35 and 40 years of age in the U. S., France and England and other Western countries, who may have difficulties securing a position in the event of unemployment. I would like to remind the Polish government representative that in a free society it is impossible to legislate against people getting old.

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(Continued on page 4)

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The committee recommendation also provided that the plan developed by the Executive Council be presented to a conference of national and international union officers.

Such conference was held May 14 in Chicago, with ranking officers (Continued on page 2)

Happenings Here And There

Albuquerque, N. Mex. — An across-the-board increase of 6 cents an hour was obtained by Local 251 in negotiations with Sandia Corporation, an atomic contractor, pursuant to a wage reopener. Starting and job rates also are increased 6 cents.

New Organizer



Joseph Carrella

OEIU President Howard Coughlin announced the appointment of Joseph Carrella as organizer for the Eastern Organizational Conference.

Mr. Carrella formerly worked for the Firemen and Oilers International Union and the International Brotherhood of Papermakers. He was highly recommended by AFL Regional Director Henry McFarland of Philadelphia and many other leading labor men in the area. His headquarters are in Philadelphia.

"We feel sure that the appointment of Mr. Carrella will speed the success of the Eastern Organizational Conference," said President Coughlin.

Oakland, Calif. — Wage increases were won in contracts between Local 29 and the laundry and cleaning industry, American News Company and 20th Century Markets. Strike votes were necessary in the first two.

The laundry and cleaning industry increase is \$8.66 a month, with \$4.33 retroactive to April 1 and \$4.33 additional effective August 1. Also 8 hours' pay for holidays, regardless of the day of the week. This means two additional days' pay this year as Christmas and New Year fall on Saturday. The negotiating committee consisted of Adelle Cowell and Madeline McDonald.

In addition to a wage increase of \$8.66 monthly, the American News pact provides a better sick leave and holiday clause.

Average wage increases for the newly organized 20th Century Markets employees are \$20 monthly, retroactive to April 12. A health and welfare plan also was gained.

LLPE Names Women's Leader

Mrs. Margaret Thornburgh was named in May as the director of the Women's Division of Labor's League for Political Education. Long identified with union and political affairs in her own state of Oklahoma, Mrs. Thornburgh is the mother of two teen-age children.

Creation of the Women's post by the League came as a result of the 1952 election. President Eisenhower's victory is credited in large part to the women's vote. Mrs. Thornburgh knows from experience what effective political organization can do. While Eisenhower carried Oklahoma in 1952, Adlai Steven-

son swept Okmulgee County, where Margaret Thornburgh as campaign chairman had organized a spirited grass-roots campaign.

Mrs. Thornburgh is an officer of the Glass Bottle Blower's Union, but she is familiar with the problems of office employees as a result of her early schooling at Okmulgee Business College.

According to LLPE Director James L. McDevitt, "her job will be to bring into our program more of the wives who are not out working for wages but are at home bringing up their children."

Los Angeles, Calif. — Local 30 has completed negotiations with Aeronautical Industrial District Lodge 727, resulting in an across-the-board increase of \$2.80, retroactive to April 1, and three-week vacations after 10 years' service.

Negotiations have also been completed on a contract with Hotel and Restaurant Employees Trust Fund Office which provides a pay increase of 9.5 per cent and other benefits under standard clauses.

A revaluation study at Karl's Shoe Stores yielded retroactive checks totaling \$5,700.

Chattanooga, Tenn. — A contract settlement between Local 179 and U. S. Pipe and Foundry Company provides, among other gains, a wage increase of \$8 per month.

Florida — Locals 43 of Tampa and 73 of Jacksonville have signed a two-year agreement with Tamiami Trailways providing a wage increase of 8 cents an hour, effective May 7, and an additional 7 cents an hour, effective a year from that date.

Elmira, N. Y. — A further increase in wages and other benefits were secured by OEIU Local 137 in an extension of the agreement with Moore Business Forms, Inc., at Elmira, N. Y.

Weekly rates on the schedule of job rates are boosted three per cent, effective June 1; the company assumes the cost of Blue Cross insurance, and vacations are liberalized, ranging from one week after six months of service to three weeks after 10 years of service.

Represents 212



Emil Steck

OEIU Local 212 at Buffalo, N. Y., announced the appointment of Emil Steck as business representative. He has been a member of the local since 1951 and a member of the executive board for two years, during which time he gave valuable assistance in the successful negotiation of a number of agreements.

Brushing Up on the Fine Points



A dozen members of the OEIU recently went to school in Mineral Wells, Tex., to learn more about labor law, history, educational methods, bargaining techniques, legislation and public relations. Texas State Federation of Labor sponsored the three-day course. Left to right: John McCully, Austin Local 298; Eugene Sutherland, Fort Worth Local 45; H. S. Brown, Austin Local 298; William Cullen, Houston Local 129; L. A. Wilson, Amarillo Local 306; W. N. Newman, Galveston Local 27; Kay Fishback, San Antonio Local 120; Frank Morton, Fort Worth, organizer; Doris Cates, Fort Worth Local 277; William Martin, Texarkana Local 303; Jean Lee, and May McCully, Austin Local 298.

OEIU Local 153 Breaks LLPE Record

A check for \$2,200 representing individual contributions to Labor's League for Political Education was formally presented by Local 153 at the membership meeting on May 18 in New York City.

The check was formally turned over to LLPE Assistant Director Glen Slaughter, who accompanied OEIU Director of Organization, Henderson Douglas, to New York to attend the meeting.

Slaughter told the membership meeting, "This is the largest amount collected from the members of any local union so far in 1954. Maurice McKay, your local union LLPE chairman, and your other officers are to be congratulated. They have demonstrated that the members are eager and ready to help elect their friends to Congress. All it takes is sincere effort on the part of the union officers."

The officers of Local 153 indicate that they expect to collect several hundred more dollars. The check for \$2,200 represented voluntary donations for only the first two months of the drive which was launched at the last membership meeting.

Every dollar contributed to LLPE is used to help elect friends of labor to Congress in 1954. Fifty cents of each dollar goes back automatically to the respective state Leagues. The other 50 cents is kept in a national reserve fund to be used wherever the need is greatest. The League hopes to raise at least a half-million dollars nationally this year.

Internal Disputes

(Continued from page 1)

of approximately 100 affiliated organizations present. The initial draft of the Internal Disputes Plan was unanimously adopted by the conference.

AFL officers have indicated that affiliated national and international unions will be urged to advance suggestions calculated to improve the plan before it is submitted in final form to the AFL's September, 1954, Los Angeles convention for ratification.

Once the plan is ratified by convention action, it will presumably be immediately made available for signing by national and international unions desiring to do so.

Good Public Relations



Local 137 at Elmira, N. Y., made the best of an opportunity to put the OEIU before the public in a big way when the members participated in the recent baseball parade. The "floats" of 137, displaying white collars, were seen by 25,000 people on the streets and by thousands more on television.



● Social Security Surgery:

Many thousands of young doctors got a sharp setback recently when the American Medical Association won its campaign to deny social security coverage to physicians. The official position of the medical hierarchy has been one of unalterable opposition to social security protection for doctors.

But to young physicians, struggling to get a foothold in their difficult and expensive profession, social security offers real protection at a price they can afford. Let us say that a young doctor is insured by social security under present provisions. If he dies, leaving a wife and two small children, for example, his wife and children will receive payments until the children both reach the age of 18. If the children were three years old, or less at the time the doctor died, his family would receive more than \$30,000 worth of insurance payments between that time and the time the children became 18.

● No Mail Call:

When the military planes carried the mail to Guam, the boys got mail several times a week. But the Defense Department took the mail away from the military and gave it to Pan American Airways a few weeks ago. Now one soldier on Guam writes: "Mail service is terrible. Nobody got a letter in the past seven days, and mail means a lot to us out here in this lonely outpost."

● The Great Giveaway:

It is a scientific fact that one pound of uranium equals millions of pounds of coal in the production of electricity. The American taxpayers have paid for the entire atomic energy program—\$14 billion worth of tax dollars from the pay envelopes and market checks of Americans have made this marvel possible. Used for the benefits of those who bought and paid for it, it will mean cheap electricity for lighting and heating American homes and factories. Used for the benefit of the corporations that are about to grab it, it means tremendous profits for them and continued high-cost electricity for everyone else.

White Collar—THE OFFICE WORKER

Official Organ of
OFFICE EMPLOYES INTERNATIONAL UNION
Affiliated with the American Federation of Labor



HOWARD COUGHLIN, *President*

J. HOWARD HICKS, *Secretary-Treasurer*

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Washington 5, D. C.

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Unfair to Women

THE U. S. Census Bureau has just announced that in 1952 36 million families were husband and wife "teams," and 5 million were "broken" families. Of these 5 million "broken" families 4 million were headed by women as the sole providers. But, the average weekly income of "broken" families headed by women was only \$44.31 as contrasted to \$78.85 for "broken" families headed by men.

We have all heard the old argument that women don't need as much pay because (a) they are living at home with their parents; (b) their husbands also work; (c) they have only themselves to support.

These arguments fail to make sense when 4 million American families are headed by women who have to work because they are the sole breadwinners.

Seventy-five dollars per week was the average income for all families in 1952. Eight million families, or one in every five, lived on less than \$2,000 a year in 1952. In short, the average American still had trouble making ends meet even in a prosperous year like 1952. That explains why 9 million wives went to work in 1952 to supplement their husband's income. It wasn't just to fill idle hours—but an economic necessity.

Office employes in general and women in particular deserve higher pay. The Census Bureau shows they need it. Organizing more and more office employes into the OEIU is the way to get it.

Taft-Hartley Changes Dead For '54

TAFT-HARTLEY will not be changed this year. That was decided on May 7 when the Senate voted 50 to 42 to send the Administration-sponsored amendments back to the Senate Labor Committee.

Since the Eisenhower-sponsored amendments contained more bad than good, killing the bill was a victory for labor.

However, the vote itself did not reveal who labor's true friends and enemies are. Every Democrat in the Senate voted to kill the bill as the AFL had asked. It was this unheard-of Democratic unity, plus the votes of three Republicans and Independent Wayne Morse, which saved us from further restrictions.

This vote represented a masterpiece of Democratic leadership and the all-time low point for Republican ineptness. William Knowland, the anti-labor Republican Majority Leader, has fumbled the ball repeatedly, but never with such political repercussions. Imagine the leader of the party in power letting himself to be boxed into a position where every member of the other party is allowed to appear on the record as a friend of labor while practically every member of his own party is forced to appear as unfriendly.

How did it happen? First of all, both good and bad amendments were lumped in one bill. Thus pro-labor Democrats opposed it because it was too tough, and those Southern Democrats who traditionally oppose unions voted against the bill because it was not tough enough.

Secondly, dictatorial handling of amendments in Committee and a civil-rights amendment offered on the floor also served to keep the Southern votes in line.

Thirdly, Republican Leader Knowland confidently predicted victory right up to his hour of defeat and cracked the whip unmercifully to keep even pro-labor Republicans in line.

We were saved by good fortune this time—not because we have more friends than enemies in Congress. We may not be so lucky next time.

The next time will be after the 1954 Congressional elections. So it is up to each of us to give our dollars to Labor's League for Political Education and to vote this year for Congressmen and Senators who are proven friends of labor.

Progress Recorded On Canadian Front

Three-Rivers, Que. — Local 265 of the Office Employees International Union, A. F. of L., has announced, through the medium of its representative, Brother Lucien Tremblay, representative of the American Federation of Labor, that it has applied to the Provincial Conciliation Service in order to settle a contract which Brother Tremblay has been negotiating for several months with the Three-Rivers newspaper *Le Nouvelliste*, on behalf of its office employes.

All the demands of these office employes concerning salary increase, system of paid vacation, union security, group insurance and pension fund have been rejected by the employer.

Brother Tremblay affirms that he has been signing contracts for many years now on behalf of the Office Employees International Union, with four (4) well-known and important companies in Three-Rivers. These contracts have always been signed in a very friendly manner, as a result of direct negotiations. This is the first time that the O.E.I.U. has had to appeal to Conciliation in the City of Three-Rivers.

Brother Lucien Tremblay, representative of the American Federation of Labor, announces the signature of four (4) Collective Labor Agreements covering over 250 office employes in four well-known companies of the Province of Quebec.

Beauharnois—Local 262 of the Office Employees International Union, A. F. of L., has just signed a contract with the Electro-Metallurgical Company, Division of Union Carbide and Carbon Corporation.

This contract, whose two-year term expires December 31, 1955, grants a general increase of 5 per cent, retroactive to January 1, 1954, and permits a re-opening for salary negotiations only on December 31, 1954. The office employes represented by Local 262 have been enjoying, since their organization, the 35-hour week, 8 paid holidays a year, and a group-insurance and hospitalization plan entirely paid by the company.

Present at the signature of this agreement were, for Local 262,

Chosen 'Man of Year'



Ruth Lukowski, chief shop steward of Saginaw and Bay City, Mich., for OEIU Local 10 is shown with Michigan Governor G. Mennon Williams at a banquet in her honor after she was selected as the "Man of the Year" for "the greatest contribution to labor in the area during the year." The executive board of Local 10 presented her with a clock.

Brother Lucien Tremblay, negotiator, who was temporarily replaced during a lengthy illness by Brother Jacques Dorval, president of Local 262, Gilles Lemay, Romuald Dubuc and G. de Serres. Electro-Metallurgical Company was represented by Mr. Andrew Turnbull, plant superintendent, and Mr. Alex Hainey, director of Industrial Relations.

Kenogami, Jonquiere and Riverbend—Locals 272 and 278 of the Office Employees International Union announce the signature of a Collective Labor Agreement with the Price Brothers Company Limited, whose paper mills located in Kenogami, Jonquiere and Riverbend, Que., are all organized.

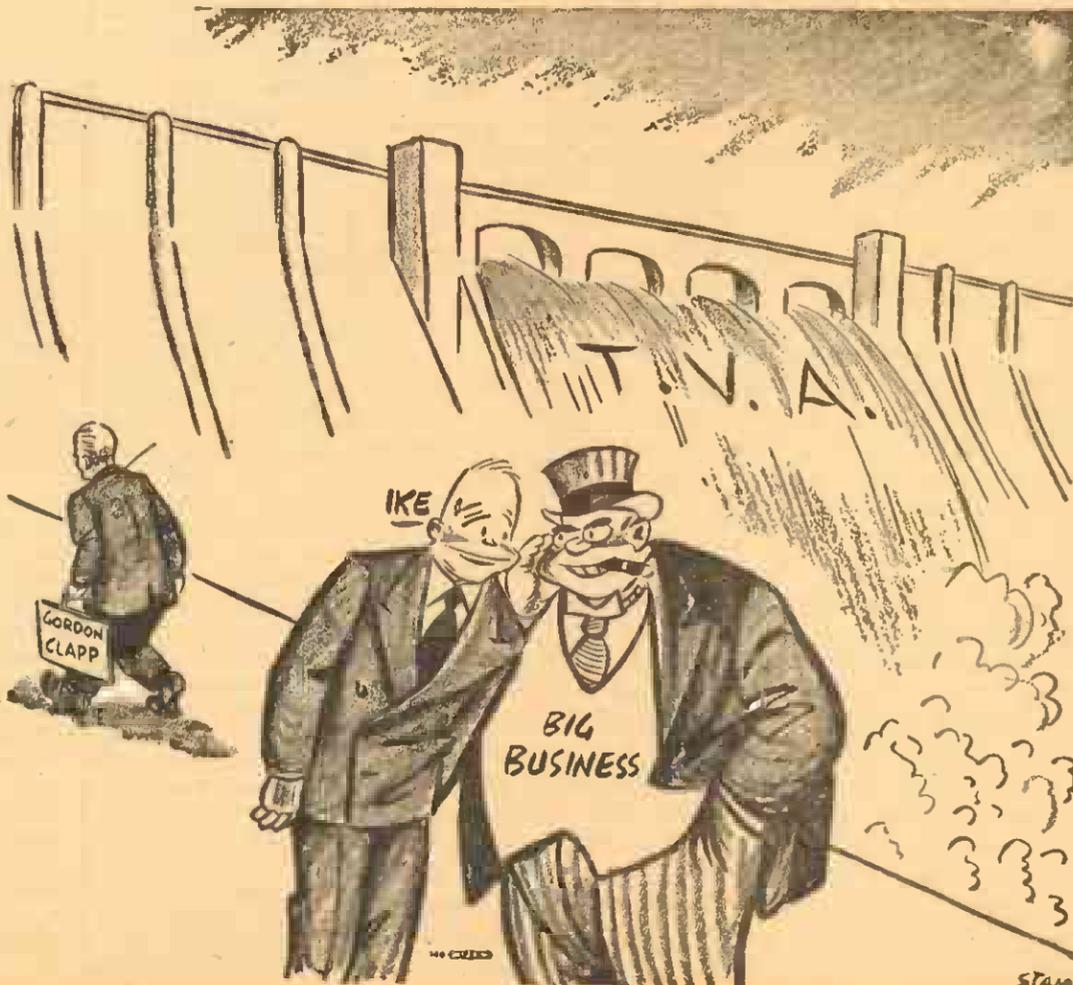
The new contract provides for a general across-the-board increase of 3 per cent, and a reduction of the work week to 33 hours a week, which represents a new minimum in the Province of Quebec. This

agreement is for a duration of two years, ending with April 30, 1955.

The signing of this agreement put the finishing touches on negotiations which had lasted for over two years, followed by three conciliation sessions. The latter part of the delay was caused by the lengthy serious illness of Brother Lucien Tremblay who directed negotiations on behalf of Locals 272 and 278. Brother Pierre-Paul Bouchard, president of Local 272, and Brother Jack Foster, president of Local 278, as well as Brother Martial Langlois signed on behalf of their fellow members. The company was represented by Mr. Hector Cimon, its vice president.

Three-Rivers—Local 283 of the Office Employees International Union which represents approximately one hundred office employes of Canada Iron Foundries, in Three-Rivers (Continued on page 4)

Another Giveaway?





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