Season's Greetings
From Your International Officers

Your International Officers take this opportunity at year's end to bid Friendliest
Yule greetings to all members of the great family of the Office Employees
International Union. We hope that the coming year brings to all
a full measure of Health and Prosperity.

Ed Beaupre
Vice President
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

Howard Coughlin
President
Washington, D. C.

J. Howard Hicks
Secretary-Treasurer
Washington, D. C.

Miss Marie Mann
Vice President
Denver, Colo.

J. O. Bloodworth
Vice President
Decatur, Ga.

Joseph T. McCasker
Vice President
Pennington, N. J.

John T. Finnerty
Vice President
Cleveland, Ohio

A. J. Fritz
Vice President
Minneapolis, Minn.

Nicholas Juliano
Vice President
Newark, N. J.

A. R. O'Brien
Vice President
Seattle, Wash.

George P. Firth
Vice President
Pittsburgh, Pa.

John B. Kincaid
Vice President
Oakland, Calif.

Henderson Douglas
Director of Organization
Washington, D. C.

Max J. Krug
Vice President
Hollywood, Calif.

Edward P. Springman
Vice President
Activities of Conferences and Local Unions

**Good Contract Won At Curtiss-Wright**

Buffalo, N. Y.—In an agreement reached recently, Curtiss-Wright granted a package increase in excess of 25 cents per hour to all its office employees, members of Office Employees International Union Local 212, Buffalo, N. Y. This new pact establishes a pattern of industrial office rates which are outstanding in this area.

The package includes an across-the-board wage increase from 12 to 18 cents per hour, based upon labor grades; revaluation of job classification when inequities existed; $3,000 increased life insurance coverage with premiums paid entirely by the company; improved hospital and medical coverage paid entirely by the company, and guaranteed call-back pay. Together with this package, the union organizers were successful in obtaining the company's agreement on 40 other contract improvements dealing with working conditions.

The newly signed agreement will run for two years, with a wage re-opener in October 1956.

**Portland, Oreg.—Salary increases ranging upward to $20 per month have been gained by Local 11 in renewal of its agreement with Consolidated Freightways, Inc. The renewed agreement runs for 2 years and in addition, provides 3 weeks vacation with pay for all employees with more than 15 years' service. Increase for the current year is to be 4 cents per hour with further upward revisions of 3 and 3 cents per hour for the following years.

Secretary-Treasurer James H. Beyer also announced renewal of the agreement between the local union and Associated Food Distributors, wholesale grocers association. The renewed agreement, which also is for a 3-year period, provides premium pay for night-shift work and salary increases of 7, 6 and 5 cents per hour for each of the 3 years, respectively.

Beyer also announced renewal of the agreements between Local 11 and Montey Stone and Furnace Works and Roberts Brothers Department Store. The first of these agreements provides a 6-cent an hour increase for all employees, plus an additional 5-cent per hour for all union members with more than 3 years' seniority. The second of these agreements grants members of the union a 5-cent an hour increase, a 5-day week and provision for reopening the agreement for salary adjustments.

All four agreements are retroactive to their anniversary date and affect 600 members of the union.

Negotiations on renewal of the agreement between Local 11 and McKesson and Robbins, wholesale drugists, are under way and the local union will soon be commemorating negotiations on renewal of agreements with Ashby Transportation Company and the Associated Bakers of Oregon. Similar gains are expected to be won in the renewal of these agreements.

The improvement in salary and working conditions recently achieved by the local union are expected to be similarly reflected in negotiations between the union and employers of new groups recently organized by Organizer Frank H.

**Western Conference Reelected Officers**

The semi-annual meeting of the Western Organizational Conference was held at Santa Barbara, Calif., at the Carrillo Hotel on November 5.

After adopting a constitution and bylaws which will govern the affairs of the Western Organizational Conference, the delegates unanimously reelected John B. Kintzick, Local 29, and Phyllis Mitchell, Local 3 as president and secretary-treasurer, respectively. During the course of the meeting delegates from all the local unions reported on the activities in their respective areas.

Tom Randall, AFL representative in Southern California addressed the delegates and had much praise for the work of the OEU organizers in that part of the country. He encouraged the continued cooperation of the AFL, which calls for cooperation on the part of all AFL representatives with the OEU in its organizational drives.

President Howard Caughlin reported to the Conference on the work of the OEU in all parts of the U. S. and Canada. He gave a detailed report on the total cost of the organizational conference program. He urged local unions to meet with and work towards amalgamation of the two local representatives of their employees with the OEU.

Conference Organize Joseph McCabe reported on his activities which appear promising in the San Diego area. Organizer Henderson was absent due to illness.

Chicopee Falls, Mass.—Negotiations between Local 226 and Savage Arms Corp. resulted in a wage increase of $2 a week; pay for holidays falling on Saturday; payment of Blue Cross and Blue Shield by the company; $1,000 additional life insurance paid for by the company separate from sick leave.

Holyoke, Mass.—A general increase of $2.50 a week was won by Local 247 in a contract settlement with American Writing Paper Co. A Federal conciliator assisted the settlement.

**Pacific Northwest Group Gets Pledge of Support**

The Pacific Northwest Organizational Conference met at the Columbia Athletic Club at Portland, Oreg., on Saturday, October 29. The meeting was highlighted with an address by Daniel Flanagan, regional director of the AFL on the West Coast. Brother Flanagan pledged the full support of the AFL to the organizational activities of the Local Industrial Unions of the AFL representing office employees.

At a meeting held at the Seattle Labor Temple on Saturday, October 29, the Conference delegates adopted a constitution which will govern the affairs of the Pacific Northwestern Conference.

New York City—Business Representative John Tracy reports that benefits gained in a new contract for the New York Subway Advertising Company includes total over $30,000. At a meeting recently held at the Cornish Arms Hotel, members of Local 153 employed by the New York Subways Advertising Company ratified their new agreement.

The new agreement provides for twelve paid holidays, an additional 1/4 per cent of wages earned toward their health and welfare fund which amounts to 10.3 cents per hour. All benefits are retroactive to May, 1955.

**Boost for Union Label of OEU**

OEU Local 301 provided this display at the Union Label Show recently held in Baltimore, Md., by the Baltimore Federation of Labor. The young lady seated at the typewriter is Debra J. Chiche, a member of Local 301 employed in the Baltimore office of the Seafarers International Union.
Canadian Corner
By Lloyd Chapman
President, Canadian Organizational Conference

COMMITTEE REVAMPS CONSTITUTION

Constitutional Committee, Local 214, Sauli Ste. Marie, Ont. From left are Don Montgomery, Rene Doaphile, Oram Beatty and George Pitt

The Canadian Organizational Conference held its annual meeting in Montreal November 19 at the Mt. Royal Hotel. The Conference was well attended and was considered by all the delegates to be quite successful as well as informative. AFL Canadian Director Russell Harvey addressed the delegates and assured them of cooperation from the AFL in the organizational efforts of our International Union in Canada. He then introduced the AFL representative in Montreal who also gave his assurance of complete cooperation with our local unions in that area.

Each local union gave a report of their activities since the last conference meeting. Some of the local unions reported a great deal of success in their organizational efforts. Conference Organizer A. F. MacArthur outlined his activities for the past year. As a result of his report it was disclosed that he had spent two-thirds of his time in the servicing of Canadian local unions. In addition, he reported progress in several large companies where organizational drives are underway.

Director of Organization Douglas gave a resume of the activities of the International Union in the field of organization for the past year. He pointed out that our International Union is constantly growing. He informed the delegates that two additional organizers had been added in Canada—one of whom is in Vancouver, B. C., and has met with considerable success since his appointment September 1 of this year. He reported that Brother Lowe, our international representative in British Columbia, had organized several companies and negotiated several agreements. Brother Lowe is the president of OEU Local 378, which embraces the employees of the B. C. Electric Company who were formerly members of an independent union.

Brother Douglas further reported on an organizer employed to work in eastern Canada with his base of operations in the city of Montreal. After a period of approximately six months it became necessary to discharge this organizer. He further stated that immediately following the Conference meeting, he would be interviewing candidates to replace the representative in the Montreal area.

During the afternoon session the delegates approved the constitution and by-laws which will govern the operations of the Canadian Conference. They have been sent to President Coughlin for approval. The delegates assembled re-elected Marcel Roy as secretary-treasurer and elected Lloyd Chapman of Local 110, Gatineau, Que., as their new president. These officers will serve for a period of one year. The Conference took further action to hold the next annual meeting in the city of Port Arthur during the month of October, 1956.

After the meeting, Conference Organizer MacArthur and Director of Organization Douglas met separately with the various local union delegates who had problems concerning their own local unions and worked out solutions in most of these cases. Director Douglas stated that another representative would be employed in eastern Canada as soon as practicable.
Ohio Defeats GAW

Walter Reuther, the United Automobile Workers and the entire labor movement received a set-back in the State of Ohio as a result of the defeat of a labor-initiated referendum to improve the State's unemployment compensation law. Under the terms of the agreement negotiated with General Motors and the Ford Company the guaranteed annual wage provisions of the contract would become legal if the laws of the state in which two-thirds of the company's hourly-paid workers live were changed either through administrative ruling or legislative enactment to conform to the provisions of the contract to allow payments. The change proposed would allow the integration of company pay with unemployment benefits without affecting such unemployment insurance benefits.

Governor Williams of Michigan, through administrative ruling, O.K'd the plan whereby supplemental unemployment payments can be made by General Motors or Ford without affecting unemployment insurance benefits during times of unemployment.

In view of the two-thirds requirement necessary to effectuate GAW, the loss in the State of Ohio is a terrific blow to workers employed by General Motors and Ford. It has been estimated that Ohio business and industry spent a little more than half a million dollars to defeat the labor-initiated referendum. Some of the nation's major corporations undertook the campaign to defeat the referendum to the tune of seven million pieces of printed material. The State was blanketed with radio, TV, and newspaper advertisements calling upon the voters to defeat the referendum. Business and industry in the state formed a group known as the Ohio Information Committee which assessed employers in the state 50 cents per worker to block the proposal. Some of the companies listed as contributing to the campaign were U.S. Steel, Sears Roebuck, Montgomery Ward, Swift & Co. and General Electric. Ford and General Motors were also listed among the contributors to defeat the referendum, although the law would have helped put into effect the supplemental pay provisions of the contract which those companies negotiated with the CIO Automobile Workers.

Phil Hannah, secretary-treasurer of the Ohio State Federation of Labor, AFL, charged that the Ohio Information Committee "waged an insidious propaganda campaign designed to confuse the electorate of Ohio." He charged that the business-industry group were guilty of one of the worst propaganda stunts of our time.

Jacob Clancy, secretary-treasurer of the Ohio CIO Council, stated, "We could not break through the iron curtain of deceit thrown up by the business-one-party press combine."

The proposed change in the state's jobless pay law would also have increased weekly benefits, increased dependency allowances and duration of benefits. The complete but unofficial tally was 1,458,483 votes against the proposed changes and 870,775 for.

Ohio's rejection of the proposal puts the United Automobile Workers' Union in an adverse position. Under the terms of its agreement it must win over states in which two-thirds of the company's hourly-paid workers live. It has until June 1, 1957 to win over the other states with smaller percentages of workers.

The United Automobile Workers' Union, in conjunction with the organized labor movement of those states, will work diligently and earnestly in order to insure the workers' rights to collect company unemployed benefits together with state unemployment insurance compensation.

While it is difficult to understand why any segment of American society would want to oppose a company plan to pay unemployment benefits in conjunction with state benefits, we have an example here of representatives of American industry spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to defeat this proposal in the State of Ohio. Worse than that, we find two of the largest corporations of our country, who were co-signatory to the plan, spending large sums of money to defeat a proposal designed to legalize their own agreement.

OEU promises its support in the struggle for legal recognition of supplemental unemployment insurance benefits.