A.F. of L. and C.I.O. to Merge

Meany Names Arbitrator In ILGWU Contract Dispute ★ ★ ★

Elmer Walker of IAM Holds Hearing

On January 6, 1955, George Meany, President of the American Federation of Labor, acted in a dispute that arose between the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union and its 200,000 employees of Local 153 of the OEU in New York City. Negotiations for a union agreement broke down between OEU Local 153 and ILGWU at its international headquarters in New York. As a consequence, members of Local 153 voted overwhelmingly to conduct a strike against the ILGWU. President David Dubinsky and Coughlin agreed to accept an arbitrator appointed by President Meany. On the following day, President Meany announced the appointment of Elmer Walker, general vice president of the International Association of Machinists, as the arbitrator to hear and decide the dispute between OEU Local 153 and ILGWU.

To Work in New York
Mr. Walker immediately made plans for the arbitration and within a matter of days he announced that the arbitration would take place in the Hotel Statler, New York City, on January 25 and 26.

The OEU is well pleased with the selection of IAM Vice President James Walker, an outstanding trade unionist.

Organizer Appointed

FRANK H. SAWYER
President Coughlin announced the appointment of Frank H. Sawyer as a Pacific Northwestern Organizational Conference organizer. Mr. Sawyer will replace Jack Schlake, recently resigned as a result of ill health.

Endorsed by Movement
Organizer Sawyer has been strongly recommended by members of the trade union movement in the Portland area. He will work in Portland and will be available for organizational campaigns in the Pacific Northwestern Organizational Conference area.

Florida Insurance Company In Contract Signing With Local 73

Former Gov. Charley E. Johnson, now president of Presidential Insurance Company, along with officials of the OEU, signed an agreement between the two organizations.

The 20-year split of the AFL and CIO will end with complete labor unity this year. A detailed formula for labor peace was proposed and signed at Miami Beach on Feb. 7. This signed agreement will assure the existence of one organization of some 16,000,000 members. Under the terms of the pact agreed to, existing CIO organizations will be taken into the American Federation of Labor as they are presently constituted. There are some 34 organizations in the CIO which will be affected. The merged organization's constitution will contain a specific clause that affiliated unions are to respect the collective bargaining relationships of sister unions. It will call on all unions to avoid raiding any other. While appropriate machinery to handle the raiding problem has not been specifically agreed to, the Labor Board has been charged with the task.

Under the terms of the agreement such workers will be a total of 27 vice presidents. The AFL will have 17 and the CIO, 10. They reflect the present membership of the two

OEIU Triumphs In Teamster Decision

Trial Examiner Martin S. Bennett held for the OEIU and against five local groups and the Teamsters International Union itself. The trial examiner held the Teamsters guilty of unfair labor practices and ordered the reinstatement of those OEIU members who had been discharged, all with back pay, and in addition ordered the Teamsters to cease and desist their efforts to keep OEIU members from joining the Teamsters International Union.

This sweeping decision came as a result of a case brought to the National Labor Relations Board at Portland by OEIU Local 11. The local was forced to take this course of action when Teamsters' groups in the city of Portland, Ore., completely disregarded a history of bargaining with the OEIU by ordering their own employees to join Local 223 of the Teamsters, called Great West Motor Co. and National Motorcycle and Miscellaneous Drivers Union.

This action was taken despite the fact that these office employees have been members of OEIU Portland local for a number of years. All efforts on the part of the local union to amicably resolve its differences with the Teamsters were completely disregarded.

When the employees of the Teamsters Security Administration Fund, Warehouse Local 20, the Teamsters Building Association, Inc., and the Joint Council of Drivers 37 objected to joining Local 223 of the Teamsters, J. B. of T., five of them were discharged. James Beyer, secretary-treasurer of Portland Local 11, made every effort to settle the dispute without recourse to the National Labor Relations Board. These efforts were in vain. As a consequence the charges were filed by OEIU Local 11 with the NLRB.

(Continued on page 4)
Activities of Conferences

Midwestern and North Central Organizational Groups Merge

Conference organizer Art Le-

wadowski reports a new approach in

the organization of white collar

workers through the local unions

affiliated with the North Central

Organizational Conference.

Local 12 is sparking a drive in

which union officers will make

members of other unions voluntary

organizers of their own sons and daugh-
ters working in offices. Local 12 offi-
cials estimate there are about

75,000 office workers in Minne-

apolis and suburbs, including em-
jobs and insurance companies.

The "family plan" will get under

way when each of the 160 AFL

local unions in Minneapolis cir-
culates its members on the ad-
vantages of white collar unions.

Union parents will not only be

urged to sell unionism to their un-

organized sons and daughters but

will be asked to submit their names to

the Office Employees International

Union. This plan should give

officers of Local 12 a prospect list

to build a committee within the

white collar organization.

North Central Conference Session

shown at the North Central Organizational Conference meeting in

Milwaukee are (left to right) Mrs. John Finnerty, Harold Beck,

Conference president; Robert F. Keller, president of Local 9; Inter-

national President Howard Coughlin, and Art Lewadowski, Confer-

cence organizer; standing (left to right) Edric Graves, president of

Local 37; International Vice President John Finnerty, Eugene Dwyer,

Conference organizer, and A. J. Fritz, Conference secretary-treas-

urer. The conference meeting was well attended. Approximately

50 delegates representing

local unions in the North Cen-

tral states attended this important

session.

During the meeting the Con-

dference passed a motion to allow local

unions having less than 25 mem-

bers to affiliate with the Conference

at a per capita tax charge of 25

cents per member.

Robert F. Keller, president of

Local 9, opened the session at 10

a.m. He welcomed the delegates to

Milwaukee and assured them of

a pleasant stay. Thereafter,
delegates from all local unions, includ-
ing Art Lewadowski and Gene

Dwyer, reported on organizational

activities within their respective

Conference areas. President Coughlin addressed the conference and

reported on organizational activities of the OEU in the U.S. and Can-

ada. His report was enthusiastically received by the delegates in

attendance.

Harold Beck, business represen-

tative of Milwaukee Local 37 and Art

Fritz, secretary-treasurer of Minne-
apolis Local 12, were elected presi-

dent and secretary-treasurer of the

combined conference. It was agreed

unanimously to call the combined

conference the North Central Or-

ganizational Conference.

Delegates to the conference were

most cordially received by the of-

ficers and members of Local 9. An

excellent luncheon was served after

the conclusion of the meeting. This

luncheon was one of a number of

things planned by host Local 9.

Delegates in attendance enthu-

siastically expressed their thanks to

the officers and members of Local 9

for the manner in which they were

received and entertained in Mil-

waukee.

Western Conference Meets

Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.-Local

95, with the assistance of North Central Conference Organiza-

tion Lewadowski, has completed nego-

tiations for a group of 20 at Con-

sowood Corporation. The com-

pany agreed to recognize Local 95

as bargaining representative with-

out an election. The contract con-

tains provisions for a union shop;

time, including double time

plus regular pay for holidays;

vacations of 1 week after 6 months,

2 weeks after 1 year and 3 weeks

after 15 years; sick leave of 8 to 9

weeks per 5 years service with an

additional week of personal leave

with pay; seniority; automatic in-

creases and grievance procedure.

Local 9 Officers Installed

President Coughlin administers the oath of office to new officers of Local 9. Left to right: President Robert Keller, Secretary-

Treasurer Helen Hender and

President Coughlin.

On January 20, OEU President

Howard Coughlin installed the

newly elected officers of Local 9.

President Robert Keller, Vice

President Lester Balow and Record-

ing Secretary Helen Hender.

On the installation ceremony

President Coughlin addressed

the membership of Local 9.

North Central Conference Tries New Approach

At the semi-annual meeting of the Pacific Northwestern Organizational Confer-

cence held in Seattle, December 19, the delegates elected A. H. Rymon, as

President and Elizabeth F. Ryan as Secretary-Treasurer. The conference was very happy to welcome delegates from the Vancouver branches of the British Columbia Electric employees to the meeting in order that they may become more familiar with the operation of our Conference program.

Local 153 Signs Agreement With White Rock After Long Effort

New York City.-Gains have been

obtained by Local 153 in a

renewal agreement with Cutler

Hammer, Inc., which include a

3% per cent general wage increase

for the period September 6, 1954

through January 3, 1955 and there-

after increases to the minimum

and maximums of the Labor

Grades of $1.50 up to $2.50 per

week; health and accident insur-

ance benefits were increased to

60c per cent for a maximum of

26 weeks and include pello cov-

erage, and improvements made in

hospitalization and surgical benefits.

Negotiations were conducted by


Local 153 also reports increase

for cashiers and checkers at Bard's

Restaurant of $3 per week retro-

active to November, 1954, with a

$2 additional increase effective in

November, 1955. Part-time em-

ployees will receive $2 per hour.

Local 153 was chosen as the

bargaining representative of the

Carlton House Hotel white collar

workers in an election conducted

by the State Labor Relations Board

by a vote of two to one.

Richardson Falls.—Secretary-

Treasurer Mahle DeForest, Local

143 reports $15 per month increase

for members at Richardson Service

and a 3 per cent increase at

Owens Publications.

On Thursday, December 29th,

Mr. Al Morgan, President of the

White Rock Beverages Company

and Ben J. Cohan, Business Rep-

resentative of Local 153, signed a

stipulation which attested to the

fact that 153 represented a major-

ity of the White Rock salesmen

and that the employer recognized

Local 153 as the sole collective bar-

gaining agent for the entire sales

force.

This meeting was a climax to

efforts of the period on the part

of Local 153 and included a brief

strike which erupted on the Tues-

day before the signing.

The first election for the White

Rock salesmen was held in 1950.

There were such a number of un-

fair labor practices involved, the

results, which were negative, were

set aside.

This time, under the direction

of Cohan, the leaders in the group

left no possibility untried. The

members got the cards signed by

the other salesmen and were

successful in obtaining the signa-

tures of over 90 percent of the

eligible voters.

The company was notified by 153

that the Local represented the men

and asked for a meeting with the

company to discuss recognition.

The company then used one of

the oldest tricks in the book. They

requested an extension of time from

(Continued on page 4)
Court Orders Employer to Bargain

The U.S. Supreme Court ordered an auto dealer in Van Nuys, Calif., to recognize and bargain with the IAM, even if the employer claimed that the union no longer represented a majority of his employees.

Justice Frankfurter, who wrote the decision, stated in effect that the employees should, by election, determine that they no longer wanted a union to bargain for them. He further ruled that an employer cannot arbitrarily take the position that the union no longer represents employees. He stated that employer procrastination or stuffercide would be encouraged if he thought such dilatory tactics might cause the union to lose its majority and status as collective bargaining representative.

The court, in effect, denied the employer's right to take the law into his own hands simply because he believes that the union no longer has a majority. In essence, therefore, the court ruled that the removal of a union's certification is a matter for the National Labor Relations Board and not the employer.

Taft-Hartley and Seniority

A labor-management contract which gives to the union the right to settle seniority is illegal under the Taft-Hartley Act.

The general counsel of the National Labor Relations Board has indicated in a number of decisions that a union can actually settle seniority problems as long as the contract does not give the union this type of control. It is, therefore, possible for a union committee to make a seniority decision in layoffs, for example, without violating the Taft-Hartley Act, so long as the wording of the contract does not contain this provision as a contractual guarantee.

Minimum Wage

The American Federation of Labor has strongly recommended the establishment of $1.25 per hour as a minimum wage. The A. F. of L. position is that $1.25 per hour would bring the minimum wage up to date.

President Eisenhower feels otherwise and has recommended to Congress that a rate of 90 cents per hour, 15 cents higher than the present figure, be put into effect.

It is estimated by the Bureau of National Affairs that if a 90-cent minimum wage is adopted, 1,300,000 hourly paid workers, mostly employed in Southern apparel, footwear, tobacco, textile, leather goods and sawmill companies will get an immediate boost in wages.

Unfair Labor Practice Charges

The NLRB recently ruled that a union cannot file unfair labor charges and go through with an election. It has to be one or the other. It cannot be both. Previously the Board had allowed a union to file unfair labor practice charges while an election was pending and waive the charges until an election was held. A union could also file unfair labor practice charges and automatically stop the holding of an election until the unfair labor practice charges were determined by the Board. However, under the new procedure, a union must either petition for an election or file unfair labor practice charges.

It is easy to see that this type of ruling will bring about all sorts of additional unfair tactics on the part of an employer to avoid the possibility of a successful union election.

Negotiate 10-Cent Increase for 1,500

Contract negotiations between our Local 308 and four A-plant contractors in the Portsmouth, Ohio, area were completed in the past month.

Contract approval involved renewal of last year's agreement, with a general pay increase of 10 cents per hour for all classifications.

The agreement has been made effective as of January 26.

The proposal approved in final negotiations was the one submitted by the union at a previous meeting for presentation to management of the four A-plant contractors.

Local 308 started negotiations last November with the contractors—Peter Kiewit Sons Company, George Koch & Sons Company, Reynolds-Newberry Company and Grinnell Corporation.

The agreement covers 1,500 Ohio employees at the A-plant who are represented by the union.

Mr. Frankfurter, Business Representative of Local 308, was in charge of negotiations.

The purpose of this meeting is to make a seniority decision in layoffs, for example, without violating the Taft-Hartley Act, so long as the wording of the contract does not contain this provision as a contractual guarantee.
Labor's League for Political Education

The political arm of the American Federation of Labor revealed that it spent a two-year total of $734,339.66 in the years 1952 and 1954 in order to elect candidates favorable to labor.

In 1952 alone, however, H. R. Cullen, a wealthy Texas oil man, spent $750,000 to elect reactionary candidates, according to an estimate of the St. Louis Post Dispatch. The amount spent by LLPE in 1952 was $249,257.92.

LLPE's total represents the contribution of 10,000,000 working men and women. It is ironic that one wealthy Texas oil man can spend three times as much as the contributions of 10,000,000 working men and women.

This comparison only points out in a small degree the job confronting the American labor movement. It also gives some indication of what we are facing in the seventeen states which have enacted legislation which makes the open shop compulsory.

In these "right-to-wreck" states the contributions of men like H. R. Cullen dwarf the dollars spent by organized labor.

The Portland Teamsters

Recently, for reasons unknown to us, the Teamsters Union in the Portland area ordered their employees to join one of their own affiliates, known as Local 223, Grocery, Meat, Motorcycle and Miscellaneous Drivers Union. These employees had been, and were at the time of this order, members of OEU Local 11 at Portland.

The employees of the Teamsters Security Administration Fund, Warehouse Local 206, the Teamsters Building Association, Inc., and the Joint Council of Drivers 37, objected to joining Local 223 of the Teamsters. As a result of their objections, five of these employees, members of Local 11, were fired. Our union attempted to work this matter out amicably with representatives of the Teamsters, but this became impossible in view of the attitude of local Teamster officials.

In order to protect our membership and the workers who were fired, it became necessary for our union to go to the National Labor Relations Board and charge the Teamsters with unfair labor practice charges, refusal to bargain, and company unionism.

Teamsters Found Guilty

The Board's trial examiner, Martin S. Bennett, upheld our union and found the Portland Teamsters and its International Union itself, through its representative, guilty of unfair labor practice charges. He ordered the reinstatement of those employees who were fired, and the payment of all lost wages. In addition, he ordered the Teamsters to stop trying to keep their office employees from joining the Office Employees International Union. These directives were contained in a 62-page report.

The trial examiner also ordered the secretary of the Western Conference of Teamsters to cease and desist from inducing prospective witnesses at the NLRB proceedings to change their statements and to abstain themselves from such proceedings.

It appears certain that the Teamsters will appeal these findings. It is equally certain that the Board will uphold Trial Examiner Bennett. Our union does not ordinarily as a policy practice the tactics used at Portland. However, the actions of the Teamsters union as an employer made our course of action mandatory.

The American Federation of Labor has set up as part of its machinery the internal disputes plan, which would ordinarily have been the machinery open to our union in a dispute of this nature. Unfortunately, however, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters has refused to sign the internal disputes plan and, therefore, no other course of action except through the National Labor Relations Board was open to us.

It is our intention to protect our membership, regardless of the type of employer involved in any dispute.

Activities of Local Unions

Haberdasher Sales Force Joins Up

The sales force of A. Sullivan and Company selected Local 153 to represent them for purposes of collective bargaining by an overwhelming vote.

Local 153 petitioned originally for the salesmen only. But the company claimed that this would not constitute an appropriate unit and insisted that their traveling salesmen, stock clerks and part-time employees on the show floor be included in the unit.

Recognizing the extraordinary sales ability of Edward Paulsen, who has been in the employ of the company for the past 33 years, and realizing the valuable job he has done selling organization to the other employees, Local 153 agreed to the unit specified by the company.

The union agreed to this unit fully realizing that one of the traveling salesmen had not been in New York at any time during the campaign, that one of the men came to Europe for the company each year as a buyer, that another serves as a member of the company's advisory board-plus the fact that the company has entered into compensation at the rate of time and one-half for all hours worked in excess of twenty hours each week to two-part-time employees.

The campaign was conducted by Business Representative John F. Truex, who started negotiations for the first contract on January 6, 1955.

White Rock (Continued from page 2) the local and in the meantime called a meeting of the key men in the organizing drive to discuss the situation.

When informed of the meeting Local 153 requested that a representative be allowed to be present. When this request was refused the union requested that the meeting be called off. The company again refused.

The Union then took the position that it would be forced to call a meeting at the same time in the Union office. Management refused to move from its position and the Union did call the meeting. Over 90 percent of the sales force, including all but one of the men called to the company meeting attended the union meeting instead.

When the company was notified by phone that all of the men were in the union office, it refused to believe the fact. The union then invited management to send a representative to the union office to see for themselves. Again the company refused.

Faced with the adamant stand of management, the salesmen voted unanimously to strike that evening at 6 o'clock. It was then up to the union to prove the economic strength of salesmen, when they are backed up by a strong trade union. This 153 did with dispatch.

When the employer's trucks rolled out of the plants on Thursday morning, the salesmen in their cars left for the first stop the trucks were to make. The salesmen arrived first and explained their story to the grocery owner or tavern owner before the truck with the order arrived. By mid-afternoon 65 percent of the inventory which had been dispatched in the morning was back in the warehouses—refused.

The salesmen were helped in their efforts by many of the other local unions in New York City.

Detriot—Robert G. Corrigan, business representative of Local 42, reports a renewal of a contract with the McCred Corporation's Automotive Parts Division. The agreement was reached just before the deadline for a strike and followed long conferences with federal and state mediators. Highlights are a per cost wage increase, greater seniority protection, more flexible leave provisions, additional sick leave and special provisions for time off and removal of the escape clause from union security provisions.

More on Merger

(Continued from page 1) existing organizations. However, in order to expedite the business of the merged organizations, much authority will pass to a smaller group composed of the president, secretary-treasurer and six vice presidents. This group will probably be called the Executive Committee. The vice presidents represent the AFL and three from the CIO.

It has been agreed that President George Meany and Secretary-Treasurer William Schieltzer will be president and secretary-treasurer of the merged organization. The CIO will continue an Industrial Department within the merged organization. This group will promote industrial organization in limited industries not now organized.

While the pact has been signed by representatives of both the AFL and CIO, it must be ratified by future conventions of both groups. The AFL is scheduled to hold its regular convention in Chicago on September 15, 1955, and the CIO will meet in Buffalo on October 17, 1955. Therefore, a joint convention of both the AFL and CIO will probably take place.

Overlapping state and city central bodies will probably be merged on a gradual basis within a two-year period. This same formula will apply to the merging of individual unions having similar jurisdictions in the CIO and AFL. There will be no competition on unions to get together. Where conflicts exist between units, the new parent body will encourage but not force any organization to work out merger arrangements.