Sixth Convention Directs Conference Participation

Delegates Extol Organizing Program

The sixth convention of the Office Employees International Union enthusiastically adopted the organizational conference program previously put into effect by the executive officers of the International Union.

Under the terms of a resolution presented to the convention, participation in the conferences which have already been established or which may be established in the future, will be mandatory on the part of the local unions falling within the geographical areas of the conferences. All local unions in existence on July 1, 1955 must affiliate with and become members of their appropriate conference by September 1, 1955. All local unions chartered after July 1, 1955 must affiliate with and become members of their appropriate conference within 30 days after the issuance of their charters. Failure to join the appropriate conference will be a violation of the constitution.

Convention delegates felt that the organizational conference program constituted the most successful organizational step taken by our International Union in its history. Delegate after delegate extolled the merits of the conference program and referred to it as the machinery through which a strong International Union of office employees will be built.

The resolution which, when passed, made conference participation mandatory, provides for a method of participation which is similar to the affiliation requirements already in effect in the conferences previously established. It provides for the selection and assignment of organizers by the president of the International Union. It also authorizes affiliation fees on a sliding scale basis. Conferences will meet at least once a year and may meet semi-annually. All conference by-laws shall be subordinate to the constitution of the International Union.

The convention also called on all CIO and independent unions of office and clerical employees to merge with the OEU to obtain the necessary improvements in wages, hours and working conditions commensurate with the education and skill and experience of office and clerical workers. The convention emphasized that the Office Employees International Union is the only organization in America successfully representing office and clerical employees exclusively.

Convention delegates also went on record approving the proposed

Convention Attacks Non-Union Banks, Insurance Firms

The sixth convention of the Office Employees International Union called upon organized labor to do business with only those insurance companies, banks and trust companies that are under agreement with the Office Employees International Union.

The convention called the attention of organized labor to the fact that many of its segments are doing business with banks and insurance companies which are nothing more than air-conditioned sweat shops. Convention delegates declared that it is contradictory for union members' money to be entrusted to companies which are actively resisting the legitimate efforts of their employees to organize trade unions. Indirectly, therefore, union members' money is being used to fight unionization.

Convention Calls on NLRB to Change Plant Clerical Policy

The sixth convention of the Office Employees International Union called upon the National Labor Relations Board to change the plant clerical policy in the following way:

1) To call for the appointment of a National Labor Relations Board to deal with the problems of plant clerical employees. The Board should be composed of five members, three to be selected from the National Labor Relations Board and two from the labor side. The Board should have the power to appropriate all funds necessary for its operation.

2) To establish a new system whereby all plant clerical employees will be represented in the NLRB by a labor representative selected by the employees themselves. The Board should have power to appropriate all funds necessary for the operation of this system.

3) To provide for the appointment of a National Labor Relations Board to deal with the problems of plant clerical employees. The Board should have power to appropriate all funds necessary for its operation.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS ADDRESS CONVENTION

OEU President Howard Coughlin, at left, and Governor Averell Harriman of New York and William F. Schmitter, secretary-treasurer of the AFL, who were guest speakers at the 1955 International convention in New York City.

AMENDMENTS PASSED AT THE 1955 CONVENTION

I—To Change the Date on Which Convention Fund Calculations Are to Be Made to Conform to the Fiscal Year of the International Union.

Change Article II, Section 2 to read as follows:

"Each local union eligible to participate and participating in a regular Convention by sending at least one delegate to such Convention shall be paid a portion of the total amount in this Fund, based on monthly payments received from local unions through the month of February of the regular convention year and including any balance in such Fund, subject to the following provisions:

1) To Allow Local Unions Contributing Less Than One Year to Participate on a Pro-Rated Basis.

Add to Article II, Section 4:

"Any local union contributing to the Convention Fund less than one year prior to February of the Convention year, shall participate in the Fund at the rate of one-twelfth (1/12) of a normal share for each month of participation."

(Continued on page 2)
Delegates in Session at International Convention

Amendments Passed by the 1955 OEU Convention—(Continued from page 1)

VI—To Avoid the Need for Separate Certificates of Intent to Participate in Convention
Change Article VII, Section 5 to read as follows:
"Upon receipt of a properly executed delegates' convention credentials, the Secretary-Treasurer shall locate the local union and address it in writing of the credentials of its president and secretary-treasurer, the International shall be notified."

VII—To Elect Vice-Presidents on the Same Equitable Basis with Regard to Our Current and Potential Membership
Change Article VIII, Section 4 to read as follows:
"For the purpose of selection of Vice-Presidents, the United States and Canada shall be divided into seven (7) regions."

IX—To Bring Constitution Up-to-Date
Change Article IX, Section 1 to read as follows:
"Officers of the International shall be elected and installed at such regular convention of the International."

XI—To Provide for the Distribution of Vice-Presidents in Accordance with Current and Potential Membership
Change Article XI, Section 3 to read as follows:
"Vice-Presidents shall be divided into seven (7) regions as follows:


Region II—Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota.

Region III—Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania.

Region IV—Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri, Arkansas, and Louisiana.

Region V—Arkansas, Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and New Mexico.

Region VI—Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico.


XII—To Allow for Voluntary Assignments of Officers among the Members of Local Unions located in Region VI
Add to Article XI, Section 11, to read as follows:
"Vice-Presidents shall be selected from among the members of local unions located in Region VI as follows:

Region VI—Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico.

XIV—To Have the Constitution Cover the Reimbursement of Local Unions
Change Article XIII, Section 3 to read as follows:
"The Executive Board is authorized to determine the amount reimbursed under Section 4 to local unions for the action of any disciplinary appeal taken to the Board.

XVI—To Provide That Any Member Shall Have the Right to Appeal to the President in Case of Special Circumstances
Add new Article XIV, Section 5, to read as follows:
"The President may appoint a hearing officer to hear and determine the matter.

XVIII—To Include "Suspension" in Article XVII, Section 3
Add new Article XVIII, Section 2, to read as follows:
"In the case of expulsion, suspension, or disqualification, the Executive Board shall decide as follows:

a) To Expel
b) To Suspend

c) To Reinstatement

(Continued on page 4)
GAW A Reality

As a result of the recently completed negotiations between the United Automobile Workers, CIO, the Ford Motor Company and General Motors, the guaranteed annual wage is now a reality. For the first time in the history of the automobile industry laid-off workers will receive payment from the newly-created fund, in addition to unemployment compensation. It is anticipated that a laid-off worker will receive 66 per cent of his normal take-home pay during his first four eligible weeks, and 60 per cent of his take-home pay for the following 22 weeks, for a total of 26 weeks.

President Meany stated that this type of lay-off pay will be sought by many American unions in future collective bargaining sessions.

Walter Reuther, president of the United Automobile Workers, CIO, is to be congratulated for this historic achievement.

Hotel Strike Continues

The strike of the employes of the nation's plush hotels at Miami Beach continues. Despite numerous court injunctions against picketing, these underpaid workers are pressing their fight against sub-standard conditions in the Florida luxury resorts.

It is reported that many of these workers receive no more than $1.00 a day for 12 hours work, 7 days a week. This strike is everyone's business. We of the Office Employes International Union stand solidly with the Florida strikers. We fervently pray that the anti-picketing decisions of the Florida court will be upset by the Federal courts. It is about time that the constitutional guarantees of freedom of speech and freedom of assembly were recognized in the State of Florida.

Dollar Minimum Not Enough

William F. Schnitzler, secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Labor, recently stated that the Senate passage of the $1 per hour minimum wage is substantial progress in the right direction but is insufficient to meet the needs of workers in low-paid industries.

In an appearance before the House Labor Committee to bolster labor's cause for $1.25 an hour, Mr. Schnitzler said that all Americans must be given a chance to share in the abundance that is being created. "We fail in this part of the job," said Schnitzler, "as long as the much vaunted American standard of living is denied to any group of Americans."

We agree with Secretary-Treasurer Schnitzler. One dollar an hour is an improvement, but not a sufficient improvement.

Mexican and U.S. Labor Pact

A pact was recently signed by the San Antonio Building and Construction Trades Council with Mexican unions, which is designed to eliminate wage differentials on international construction projects along the Texas-Mexican border.

This trail-blazing pact is aimed at the vast pay differentials between Mexican and U.S. workers, which on some jobs favors U.S. workers by rates which are 10 times greater than those of the Mexicans.

This important pact can lead the way to greater things in the relationship between U. S. and Mexican workers. By eliminating wage differentials we will eliminate unfair competition and go a long way toward resolving the "wet-back" problem.

Highlights of the Convention

Wisconsin’s Catlin Bill

Governor Walter Kohler of Wisconsin recently signed a bill which strikes at the very heart of democracy in the United States. This act, known as the Catlin bill, provides that no union shall contribute any money or thing of value directly or indirectly to any political party, political organization, political committee, or individual candidate for any political purpose whatsoever. This act is designed to prevent working people in the State of Wisconsin from using their resources to elect friends of labor and defeat its enemies.

It is also designed to prevent an organization such as Labor’s League for Political Education from functioning. It can be interpreted to mean that a trade union could not even use its meeting hall to discuss politics, or to make plans to support a candidate for political office. It might also mean that no business agent or other representative of a union could be active on behalf of a candidate for office.

Taft-Hartley Shackles

Organized labor has been shackled by the Taft-Hartley law. In 18 states of the country “right-to-work” laws have been passed which are designed to wreck labor unions. These laws make it illegal for a union and a company to sign a union shop agreement. It makes it compulsory on the parties to provide for an open shop.

Anti-Labor Forces Working

The anti-labor forces which are responsible for the Taft-Hartley Act and the “right-to-work” laws are not standing still. They are now introducing into the various state legislatures bills which would deprive organized labor of its constitutional guarantees, particularly that of free speech. These anti-labor forces would deprive organized labor of its rights, but at the same time would insure the continuance of political contributions by other groups representing industry.

Over ten million members of the American Federation of Labor contributed only $289,573.20 in voluntary contributions for the year 1954. These contributions were made up mostly by those who gave $1. Records on file with the Secretary of the U. S. Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives show that donors of $1,000 or more make up only 50 per cent to more than 75 per cent of the campaign chests of the various political committees.

Business Political Spending

The chairman of the National Citizens for Eisenhower, Nixon told a congressional committee that his organization spent $1.2 million and that independent state clubs spent an additional million before General Eisenhower had even won the Presidential nomination in 1952. In 1950 the Senatorial candidates in Pennsylvania spent approximately $800,000 each. Also in 1950, three members of the Tinkler Roller Bearing Company family contributed $3,000 a piece to the campaign of Senator Taft. The Pew family of Philadelphia chipped in $10,000 to the Taft fund.

LLPE Limited by Comparison

It is apparent, therefore, that the voluntary contributions of $1 to LLPE from trade unionists is nothing to what is given generally throughout the country by industrialists seeking to elect their candidates.

If the Catlin bill, or similar legislation now operating in the State of Wisconsin, was enacted in other states of the Union, it would only be a matter of time before organized labor would be trampled out of existence.