New Gains Scored by OEIU
As 6th Convention Opens

300 K. C. Employees For OEIU

In a history-making election, 300 office and clerical employees at the New Haven office of the Knights of Columbus, in an NLRB election, overwhelmingly chose the OEIU as their bargaining representative. This election followed a six-month campaign on the part of the OEIU led by Justin Manning, OEIU conference organizer. Officials of the Knights of Columbus refused to recognize the Office Employees International Union as the collective bargaining agent for its employees and stated, in effect, that they were exempt under NLRB jurisdiction. However, during the course of the hearings, conducted before the NLRB, the union was able to prove that the Knights of Columbus, through its insurance business, was engaged in commerce. As a result, therefore, the NLRB conducted an election on May 5 which resulted in an overwhelming victory for the OEIU.

Justin Manning feels that this successful campaign at Knights of Columbus, particularly in view of the NLRB order, will have a far-reaching effect on both the state of Connecticut and the nation itself. It is believed that this is the first order of election in the fraternal field.

The contract has already been drawn up and negotiations have been scheduled with officials of the K. of C.

OEIU Wins at Koehring Co.

After a campaign of approximately six months, Local 9 in Milwaukee was chosen in an NLRB election as a representative of 100 employees of that company. Conference Organizer Leonard and Harold Beck, business representative of Local 9, started this campaign in November, 1954, as a result of meetings of representatives of the ironworkers and technical engineering employees at Koehring. These union representatives arranged for meetings with these employees and other office clericals. From the start of the campaign there was an indication of much interest and as a result of the election conducted on May 6 the employees chose Local 9 by a score of 54 to 38.

The local union is in the process of drawing up proposals to be submitted to management.

Pres. Eisenhower's Message

Edward Coughlin, President
Office Employees International Union
707 Continental Building
1012 Fourteenth Street, Northwest
Washington, D. C.

Please extend my greetings to those attending this year's convention of the Office Employees International Union.

Office workers have a most important function in our ever-expanding economy. To keep the machinery of modern business running requires the abilities and resourcefulness of the man and woman who do the bookkeeping, typing, filing, and the multitude of other office jobs. Moreover, the development of office machines of increased complexity—such as the electric typewriter and electric computer—requires that office workers become capable of higher and higher skills.

By interest in young people in office careers and by urging their adequate training in modern methods and, at the same time, by seeing that older office workers acquire a knowledge of new inventions and techniques, the Office Employees International Union can be of real and lasting service to our country.

Dwight D. Eisenhower
Activities of Conferences and Local Unions

St. Louis — Margaret J. Ritch, president of Local 113, reported a general wage increase of 5 cents an hour, and pay for Saturday holidays among the improvements obtained in an agreement negotiated with the St. Louis Steel Products Company.

Milwaukee — Contracts negotiated by Local 9 with the Milwaukee & Suburban Transport Corp. and Milwaukee Gas Specialty Co. provide, respectively, a general salary increase of 2.56 per cent and seniority and sick pay improvements, and a general increase ranging from $8.50 to $13.50 per month. Business Representative John P. Tracy reports salary increases ranging from 50 cents to $2.35 per hour, retroactive to October, 1954; dues check off, modified holiday shop and super seniority for union stewards; 10 holidays with pay; overtime pay; life insurance and hospital and medical coverage.

EASTERN AREA

Harrisburg, Pa.—Friday, June 3, 1955—Penn-Harris Hotel (Malea Ball Room), 9:30 a.m.; —Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

Boston, Mass.—Sunday, June 5, 1955.—Bradford Hotel (Rose Garden), 9:30 a.m.—Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.

SOUTHERN AREA

Columbia, S.C.—Wednesday, June 8, 1955.—Jefferson Hotel (Club Room), 9:30 a.m.—Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia.

Birmingham, Ala.—Saturday, June 11, 1955.—Carpenters Hall, 1810 7th Ave., North—Headquarters: Dinkler-Turnbull Hotel, 153 Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma and Texas.

MIDWEST AREA

Chicago, Ill.—Friday, June 17, 1955.—Sherman Hotel (Bal Tabarin Room), 9:30 a.m.—Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri and Wisconsin.

Des Moines, Iowa—Sunday, June 19, 1955—Conference: Labor Temple, 9:30 a.m.—Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota.

WESTERN AREA


Phoenix, Ariz.—Wednesday, June 29, 1955—Conference: Labor Auditorium, 9:30 a.m.—Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah.

Strike of Local 251 Terminated at Sandia

A nine-day strike of the Office Employees International Union, Local 251, against the Sandia Corp. in Albuquerque, N. Mex., ended after nine days with an agreement by our union and the Metal Trades Council to submit all issues to a panel of the Atomic Energy Commission. The Sandia Corp., which operates this important atomic energy project, has consistently refused to negotiate with the union in an impartial program. This important collective bargaining provision, along with the wage question and other matters obtained in the dispute, has been submitted to an Atomic Energy Commission panel for decision. This decision must be rendered by June 13.

New Organizer

Donald A. Filmer was recently appointed to the OEIU staff as an organizer for the Erie Organizing Conference. Mr. Filmer is assigned to the city of Erie, Pa., and has considerable background in the labor movement, having worked as an organizer for the Retail Clerks for a period of five years. He has known the labor movement in the Cleveland area.

Woodland, Wash.—Local 295 has concluded negotiations with St. Croix Paper Co. which resulted in an agreement increasing wages 4 per cent, improving the hospitalization and pension plan, increasing timekeepers’ pay five cents an hour, and increasing vacations to four weeks after 25 years of service.

Newark, N.J.—Local 32 reports a resolution passed by Mercer County Central Labor Union pledging active support and cooperation in efforts of the Office Employees International Union to organize the unorganized white collar workers.

The White Collar
Canadian Corner

By Harold Ogilvie
President, Canadian Organizational Conference

CIP Negotiations Reach Deadlock

After extended negotiations between the Canadian International Paper Company, representing the New Brunswick International Paper Co., Industrial Cellulose Research Ltd., International Plywood Ltd., International Fibre Board Ltd., Mas- sonite Company of Canada Ltd., Gypsum Boom Company, International Fibre Board and Plywood Sales Ltd., and Commercial Alco- hols Ltd., and the Office Employes International Union representing their various local unions, a deadlock was reached.

The issues on which the companies and the unions were unable to agree upon were the automatic progression within rate ranges and the application of an increase uniformly to all employees covered by the agreement. The position of the company was that the salary schedule should be based upon merit or service of the individual to be changed unilaterally by the company representative after the individual employee had reached the standard for the rate range. The company also would not agree to apply the same increase to each employee whose wages, as a result of the job evaluation program, were considered to be above the situation. The rate of the job being performed. The unions took the position that wages are a matter of collective bargaining and once established should not be sub- ject to the unilateral action of management. They also took the position that when job evaluation was installed the employer stated that the employees whose jobs may be rated at a lower rate than they were currently receiving would suffer no loss as a result of the evaluation and that to refuse these employees the same increase as the balance of the employees would be inequitable to them was the result of the job evaluation program.

Before the negotiations dead- locked, the companies and the unions agreed to amend the current contract to include the following:

(1) Contribute $1.25 per month to the cost of each employee's hospitalization insurance.

(2) Issue salary checks bi-weekly instead of semi-monthly.

(3) Provide statutory holidays falling on Sunday on Monday.

(4) Increase the shift differential to 4 cents and 6 cents per hour for the second and third shifts of operation.

(5) Increase the current rate of pay by 5 cents per hour for those employees now receiving a higher rate of pay than the normal rate for the job they are performing.

(6) Provide the French-speaking employees with a copy of the agreement printed in French.

(7) Allow the employees paid on an hourly basis to be paid on a monthly basis.

(8) Allow the hourly paid employees to receive the benefit of the improvements negotiated by the manual employees' union.

The unions have started concili- ation proceedings in the various provinces of Canada.

These negotiations were carried on by OBIU Representative A. F. MacArthur, who was assisted by H. B. Douglas, Director of Organiza- tion for OBIU.

Canadian Organizer

Robert R. Hennessy of Three Rivers, Que., has been appointed as an organizer to work on behalf of the Canadian Organizational Con- ference in Eastern Canada. It is believed that the work of A. F. MacArthur and Robert Hennessy will serve to expedite OBIU organi- zational campaigns in Canada.

Port Arthur, Ont.—Certification of the sealing group employed at Abitibi Power & Paper Company, Ltd., was successful and completed early in May.

As a result of these negotiations the company has agreed to increase the contribution toward employees' hospitalization insurance by $1.25 per month per employee; to observe statutory holidays falling on Sunday on Monday, and to allow one-half day of pay off on Friday when a statutory holiday falls on Saturday; to increase shift differentials from 4 and 6 cents per hour for the second and third shifts and to grant a 5 cent increase in wages to all em- ployees covered by this agreement; to agree to the most highest dollar. Several other articles in the agree- ment were clarified in order to avoid the possibility of grievances resulting from misinterpretation.

This new agreement between the company and OBIU Locals 151, Seven Islands, 161, Smooth Rock Falls, 214, Sudbury; 136, Ontario; 140, Port Arthur; 252, Sturgeon Falls, 191, Wmgs., 191, Kapuskasing, and 216, Pine Falls, Manitoba, expires April 30, 1956.

During these negotiations the local delegates and Representative MacArthur were assisted by H. B. Douglas, director of organization, OBIU.

In Order to Form a More Perfect Union...
Secretary of Labor Rebuffed

The 21st annual conference on state labor legislation held recently in Washington resulted in a rebuff to Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell. Mitchell was responsible for his own rebuff because of his declaration at the opening session of the conference that "the states are once again demonstrating to the delight of their friends and the surprise of their critics that they can meet the social and economic needs of their own citizens. They are showing that they can in many ways do more for working people than is possible or practicable for the Federal Government to do."

Mitchell further told the delegates: "There is occurring in the United States today a fundamental change in the course of government... We have felt certain that progress could be achieved and that the people's needs and hopes could be met and satisfied more easily, fully and economically if the took action to help themselves or if their state governments took action to help them if sole or even primary reliance were placed on the Federal Government."

Delegates Resent Failure

The resentment of the delegates to this 21st annual conference on state labor legislation was particularly bitter with regard to the unemployment compensation issue. President Eisenhower and Secretary Mitchell have consistently refused to back Federal legislation setting up minimum standards for states to follow regarding benefit payments and their duration. Instead they wrote letters to the State Governors urging the states to improve their unemployment compensation laws. The standards urged were compensation at a rate not less than 50 per cent of regular earnings nor more than 65/2 per cent, along with a uniform duration period of not less than 26 weeks.

The delegates recognized the futility of such recommendations when they discovered that not a single state has as yet met these standards.

Delegates Demand Federal Action

More than 150 delegates from every part of the country adopted resolutions in direct opposition to the fundamental position of the Secretary of Labor. The following are some of the resolutions adopted:

1. Request that Congress establish by Federal law minimum standards for unemployment compensation "because of the failure of the states to accept their clear-cut responsibility."
2. That the Federal Government adopt a model worker's compensation law covering workers engaged in interstate commerce. The Labor Department has been working for two years on developing a model law as a guide to the states, but has failed to produce anything yet.
3. That the AFL-CIO modify Section 14 (b) of the Taft-Hartley Act which makes possible "Right-to-Work" laws prohibiting union security. Secretary Mitchell, while publicly in opposition to the "Right-to-Work" legislation, has failed to come out against this change in Taft-Hartley.
4. That the Federal minimum wage be raised to $1.25 an hour, as against the 90 cents figure favored by Mitchell and the Eisenhower administration.

It must be apparent to President Eisenhower and Secretary of Labor Mitchell that the country cannot be sold on so-called states' rights. It is impossible to believe that a country can be healthy when some of its states encourage collective bargaining and high wage levels, while others prohibit union security clauses and foster sub-standard wage rates.

Representatives of certain state chambers of commerce, from areas where low wages and "right-to-work" legislation co-exist, constantly call on firms in areas of higher wages and free collective bargaining to relocate. Can President Eisenhower and Secretary of Labor Mitchell feel that this condition is desirable?...