

# WHITE COLLAR

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Office Employees International Union

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## Big Meat Packer Under OEIU Pact

Atlanta, Ga.—A wage increase of \$2.50 an hour and other gains were won by Local 21 in the settlement of a dispute with Wilson & Co., big meat packing concern.

This is the first group of office and clerical employees of this nationwide concern to be organized and covered by an agreement. The company fought both the organizing efforts of Local 21 and the improvements it proposed in wages and working conditions. The settlement was reached after a strike was authorized.

The \$2.50 pay increase is in addition to the \$4.50 a week given the employees during the organizing campaign in a futile attempt to discourage them from joining the OEIU.

The agreement further provides for eight paid holidays, paid sick leave, paid vacations, seniority rights, grievance procedure, paid jury duty and election service, and a retirement, insurance and hospitalization plan.

## OEIU Wins In Wisconsin

North Central Organizational Conference Organizer Art Lewandowski reports a victory of the OEIU in an NLRB election at the Nekoosa-Port Edwards Paper Company of Nekoosa-Port Edwards, Wisconsin.

Last year the OEIU carried on a campaign in this company and was defeated by 7 votes. Those who were in favor of organization in the Nekoosa plant continued their organizational activity throughout the year and as a result on August 23, 1955, the OEIU won a substantial majority of the votes in this unit of 175 employees.

Organizer Lewandowski is in the process of setting up negotiations for a contract to cover these employees.

## Local 329 Victorious After Four-Day Strike



Officers of Local 329, left to right, front row: Catherine Daly, trustee; Joseph Mattei, president; Justin Manning, Northeastern Conference Organizer; and Margaret Egan, recording secretary. Back row, left to right, Raymond O'Connor, trustee; Robert Tracy, chief steward; Jack O'Keefe, steward and press secretary; Edward Cullom, secretary-treasurer, and George Flanagan, vice president.

Local 329 of New Haven, Conn., which has the bargaining rights for about 300 clerical workers at the Knights of Columbus National Headquarters, has signed an agreement to be effective from July 1, 1955 to September 30, 1956.

The agreement was arrived at

following a 4-day strike during which picketing was carried on at the Headquarters building and the K. of C. Printing Plant. Benefits obtained are as follows: An immediate wage increase of \$2 or 3 per cent, whichever is greater, retroactive to July 1, 1955, with a further agreement that Schwab

Associates of Bridgeport, Conn. will act as arbitrator of further wage increases after a classification system has been installed. These further wage increases will also be retroactive to July 1. In addition, the Local has extended the cumulative sick leave to 20 days, obtained 3 days with pay for death in the family, improved vacations for employees with more than 15 years of service, 9 paid holidays, job posting, grievance procedure with arbitration clause, and a maintenance of membership. The Local

has also received a guarantee that no employees will be replaced through technological changes. They have also reduced to writing the present pension and insurance benefits which the employees enjoy.

The contract signing culminated almost three months of bargaining talks following certification of the Local as bargaining representative for the K. of C. employees after an N. L. R. B. election was held on April 28 of this year.

The Union Negotiating Committee was comprised of President Joseph Mattei, Chief Steward Bob Tracy, and Trustee Roy O'Connor. They were assisted by Organizer Justin Manning, International Representative Leo Wallace, and Local 153 Business Representative John Fleming. Connecticut State Mediator Phillip J. Koons and Federal Mediator Walter Maggiolo represented state and federal agencies both before and during the strike.

To assist in the settlement, Director of Organization Douglas met with company representatives and conciliation services.

## United Fund Pact Signed in Portland

Portland, Oreg.—Contracts covering the office employees and the professional and social workers of United Fund and Community Council of Portland have been negotiated by Local 11.

Wage gains range from \$10 to \$45 per month.

Other highlights of the agreement are union security; an allowance of 8 cents a mile for use by employees of their automobiles required in the course of business; paid vacations; morning and afternoon rest periods; 10 days' sick leave per year; paid leaves of absence for deaths in the family and jury duty; refunds of the cost of any luncheon or dinner required in the course of business, and grievance procedure.

Locals 286 and 62 have announced the settlement with Kennecott Copper for their Western operations, which include Bingham Canyon, and the Chino Mines property in Hurley, N. Mex.

The settlement provides for a 10c wage increase, with a 2c increase in the increment between the rate ranges; an increase of \$1.75 per month in the pension plan with no maximum service limitations, and reduces to 15 years the minimum service for disability benefits. It also provides for compulsory retirement at the age of 68.

Presidents A. E. Webb of Local 286 and Al Valenzuela of Local 62 would like to express their deep-felt thanks for the assistance received from OEIU local unions who contributed financially to these employees during the extended strike. The officers and members of both local unions also wish to extend their thanks to Commissioner S. Lyle Johnson of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service for his assistance in the settlement of this long dispute.

## Conference Meetings

The Northeastern Organizational Conference will meet on October 1 at 10 a. m. at the Parker House in Boston.

The Eastern Organizational Conference will meet on October 15 at 11 a. m. at the Sheraton-Belvedere Hotel in Baltimore.

The Erie Organizational Conference will meet in Buffalo at the Touraine Hotel on October 15 at 11 a. m.

The Pacific Northwestern Conference will meet on October 29 at 11 a. m. at the Columbia Athletic Club, Portland, Oreg.

All local unions in the respective conferences are urged to have delegates at these meetings.

## New York Hotels Win Wage Increase

New York Local 153 reports that as a result of negotiations between 185 hotels and the A. F. of L. New York Hotel Trades Council, a 10c wage increase has been won for the city's 35,000 organized hotel workers. The new contract, which runs for

three years, provides for 5c an hour payable immediately and retroactive to June 1, 1955. Five cents more will be added on June 1, 1956. The new contract also provides for higher accident and sickness benefits and greater job security guarantees.

Local 14 lost the March 30 election by an 18-8 vote. AFL Teamsters' Local 107 has filed its application cards too late to get on the ballot. But its business agents, within the restricted 24-hour period asked for and got employer permission to speak to the three workers on the night shift.

The Teamsters, which represented the employer's truck drivers, helpers and platform men, urged the employees to vote "no union."

The next day, Local 14 got employer permission and addressed the employees.

Local 14, losing the election, asked it be set aside on grounds the employer violated the 24-hour rule by letting the Teamsters address employees on company time after the deadline. The board upheld this objection, pointing out it did not condone the employer's further misconduct in allowing the second union speech.

The company argued, in effect that Local 14's speech cancelled out the Teamsters' speech but Members Abe Murdock, Ivar H. Peterson and Boyd Leedom refused to accept this argument. They

# Activities of Conferences and Local Unions

## Southeastern Conference Meets in Tennessee



On August 20, 1955 the Southeastern Organizational Conference held its semi-annual meeting in the Read House, Chattanooga, Tenn. At this meeting a by-laws committee was appointed who submitted a set of by-laws which were adopted by the Conference and forwarded to the International Union for approval.

During the Conference, AFL Regional Directors J. L. Rhodes of Atlanta and Joseph Heath of Richmond, both addressed the delegates and assured them that the AFL is ready and willing to assist any of our local unions in organizational campaigns. Paul Aymond, retired AFL organizer, also addressed the Conference and gave a very enlightening dissertation on methods of organization of the unorganized workers.

Local 179, of Chattanooga, the host local, entertained the delegates at a luncheon in the Read House which was thoroughly enjoyed by all the delegates.

At the afternoon session, Director of Organization Douglas held a forum on techniques and procedures of organization. At the close of this forum was a question and answer period which provoked a great deal of discussion with respect to the establishment of organizational campaigns in the various local unions.

The delegates established the regular meeting time of their Conference as May and November of each year. The next meeting will be held in New Orleans, La., in May of 1956.

Before the close of the meeting, President Manning introduced President A. R. Carson, of the TVA Salaried Employees Union who reported on the activities of the TVA Council and expressed the great interest TVA employees have in the Organizational Conference. It is very important for the TVA employees that we continue to make progress in the organization of white collar workers in the watershed area of the Tennessee River, since TVA wages are established by a survey of area practice.

Fifteen local unions were represented at the Conference meeting.

**St Louis**—Margaret Ritch, President of Local 13, reports signing of the initial agreement with Hostess Cake Bakery (Continental Baking Company). This is a 2-year agreement retroactive to April, 1955. A general wage increase of 12½ cents per hour, union shop, 6 holidays with time and one-half plus holiday pay when worked, vacations of 2 weeks after 1 year and 3 weeks after 15 years are the main improvements in working conditions for these members.

**New York City**—American Stock Exchange and the American Stock Exchange Clearing Corporation has signed a 2-year agreement renewing their contract with Local 205 which expires in September. A wage increase, which is retroactive to July 1, is estimated to average about 9.3 per cent and in some cases will be as high as 13.1 per cent. Local 205 President

Walter Schulz gives much credit to the negotiating job done by Barney Kamp at the New York Stock Exchange which paved the way for this agreement to the point where formal negotiations could be dispensed with.

**Seattle, Wash.**—A settlement by Local 8 and Booth Fisheries has resulted in a pay increase of \$25 per week for office and clerical employees of the company in a new contract. In addition, \$12 per week in overtime is provided. Other gains include full union shop, two-week vacations after one year, automatic increases of \$4.33 every six months over a period of five years, and termination notice.

**Oakland, Calif.**—Business Representative Kinnick reports a 6-day strike against Kaiser Foundation Hospital was successful in winning the local's demands for wage in-

creases in negotiating a new agreement for the next year. The new agreement will include a 5c per hour increase. Management also agreed to complete a job classification program with the Union by November 1.

**Oakland, Calif.**—Business Representative Harold Stearn reports that the newly organized firm of Gentry Building Materials has signed a contract with Local 29 calling for a 35-hour work week and a \$12 monthly wage increase retroactive to June 1, 1955, with an automatic wage increase of \$10 monthly effective June 1, 1956.

**Kansas City**—Local 320 reports negotiations concluded with Union Freightways for an initial contract. A \$10 weekly increase was obtained and other union security. The contract was negotiated by AFL Organizer Charles Hill assisted by officers of Local 320.

## On the Picket Line in Denver



Determined girls. Here are three of the girls (and an interested fourth party) who picketed the O'Boyle Secretarial Service in a dispute over wages and working conditions. The girls are all members of Local 5. Left to right are Patsy Blackman (whose little son has temporarily replaced her picket sign), Goldie Campbell (whose teen-age daughter, not an employee of O'Boyle's, sometimes spells her on the picket line) and Dottie Dyer (whose offspring was left at home). A more militant yet fine-spirited group of pickets and union members would be hard to find.

**Washington, D. C.**—President John P. Cahill announced that Local 2 has negotiated a contract with a printing and publishing house.

Cahill reports that the National Publishing Company and the local agreed to a contract which provides for a \$4 wage increase, 3 weeks' vacation after 5 years, a good seniority clause, and a full union shop. He also reported that the Trades Unionist, a smaller job shop, has likewise agreed to the contract.

Negotiations with other printing houses are now in progress.

In the National Publishing Company case, International Secretary Hicks was instrumental in the organization of these employees.

The Louise Apartment Hotel has signed a contract with Local 2. Robert Probey, business representative, advises that a \$4-per-week wage increase, retroactive to May 26, and many other improvements were obtained for these employees.

**Los Angeles**—International Representative Charles Henderson reports the organization of the employees of M. A. Cornell Insurance Company. Representative Henderson was able to obtain recognition by a show of cards and was not required to go to an election.

At the present time representatives of Local 30 and the company are in the process of negotiating a contract to cover these 60 people.

**Springfield, Mo.**—An increase of 5 cents an hour and an improvement in vacations are provided in the renewal of an agreement between Local 185 and Frisco Transportation Company.

**Tampa, Fla.**—In a contract settlement with Tampa Electric Company, Local 46 secured a general wage increase of 5 per cent, retroactive to June 1, 1955, plus many classification adjustments, Vice President J. O. Bloodworth reports.

## Organizing Drive at U. S. Rubber



**Detroit**—Local 42 is pressing an organizing campaign among the 600 office and clerical employees of the big U. S. Rubber Company.

Leaflets pointing out the benefits to be gained by joining the union, and membership cards have been distributed at the entrance to the

plant by Business Representative Robert G. Corrigan. He reports a very encouraging response to these efforts.

The leaflets stress that it is only through organization that wages and working conditions may be improved.

**Kankakee, Ill.**—Employees in the Distribution Sales & Service Department of O. A. Smith Company, excluded from the original bargaining unit, have requested Local 311 to represent them. The company consented to include these additional 18 workers in the new contract which is presently being negotiated.

**Pittsburgh, Pa.**—Erie Conference Organizer Cole assisted Local 33 in negotiations with Metals Protection Company, obtaining \$4 per week increase for our members, which is retroactive to May 1, 1955.

**Hollywood, Calif.**—Office and clerical workers of Vision Productions of America, producer and distributor of films for television, have chosen Local 174 as their collective bargaining agent. Local 174 is engaging in a concerted drive in the television production industry to bring to these office and clerical workers comparable working conditions enjoyed by the majority of the motion picture production office workers, who are represented by this local.

**Chattanooga, Tenn.**—An adjustment obtained by Local 179 in its contract with Koehring Southern resulted in a pay increase of 3 per cent, retroactive to April 4, 1955, a seventh paid holiday, Christmas eve, and an improved group insurance plan.

**St. Louis**—President Margaret J. Ritch of Local 13 reports an improved agreement with Lewis Sewing Machine Company providing among other gains a general increase of 5 cents an hour and half days off with pay before Christmas and New Year.

**Chicago**—Renegotiation by Local 28 of the agreement with RCA Service Company resulted in an increase of \$2 per week and a day off with pay when holidays fall on Saturday.

**Elyria, Ohio**—American Radiator & Standard Sanitary Corporation has agreed to a 4 per cent general increase for employees who are members of Local 177. Erie Conference Organizer Filmer assisted Local 177.

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Official Organ of

OFFICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION  
Affiliated with the American Federation of Labor

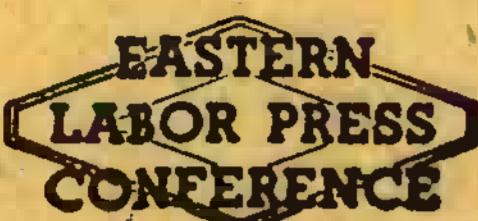
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**Social Security Twenty Years Old**

Twenty years ago, August 14, 1935, President Roosevelt signed the first Social Security Act. This Act, in addition to its many other features, has provided benefits to those retiring because of age. Twenty years ago opponents of the Social Security Act referred to it as socialism. Today, millions of Americans are receiving benefits as a result of this far-sighted legislation. Even its opponents now refer to it as a bulwark against a depression. Since the Act was originally passed it has been enlarged and expanded to include coverage to more people and to provide greater benefits. It should be every public-spirited American's goal to continue to improve the Social Security program.

**NLRB Gives Employer More Leeway**

For years the National Labor Relations Board has held that it is an unfair labor practice for an employer to threaten to take away conditions of employment if a union was selected as the collective bargaining agent for his employees. The present pro-business Board has pretty well reversed that policy. In a case recently decided, the NLRB held that a company can tell its employees that it might set out to negotiate a wage cut, shorter vacation and elimination of group insurance if one union won as opposed to another. The NLRB sees nothing wrong in this and does not construe the company's attitude as a threat. We can't help but wonder how far the Board is going to go in its pro-business policy.

**Pirating of Industrial Firms**

The A. F. of L. recently published a document report on one of the nation's growing economic headaches—the pirating of industrial plants from established locations with resultant unemployment in abandoned areas. Among the recommendations of the report is a proposal that Federal income tax exemption be lifted from municipal bonds issued to finance industrial construction. We are heartily in accord with this and other recommendations of the report. We enthusiastically agree with the A. F. of L. in calling for the elimination of other types of lures such as substandard wage rates, antiunion and low standard state labor legislation, and a state atmosphere openly hostile to unionism.

**Closed Shop**

A man was jailed the other day because he didn't pay his union dues. Tell that to a lawyer, and he may say something about "union tyranny."

But he'll probably change his tune when you tell him that the man was jailed for not paying his dues to the lawyer's union. The "San Francisco Chronicle" reports it this way:

An Oakland attorney, Byron L. Dusky, is serving a three-day jail term because he practiced law while under suspension by the State Bar Association of California. Dusky was arrested when he appeared in municipal court to defend a client. A check by Deputy District Attorney Melvin Dykman revealed that Dusky was suspended by the Bar Association for failing to pay his dues."

The report explains that "an attorney must maintain paid-up membership in the Bar Association in order to practice law in California."

The same is true in many other states, including Oregon. They require all lawyers to join the Bar Association, which is the "lawyers' union," and to keep their dues paid up. Otherwise, if they try to make a living by practicing their profession, they can be fined or jailed.

**Calif. Governor Visits O. E. I. U. Booth**

Governor Goodwin J. Knight of California visited the Los Angeles Union Products and Service Show and stopped at the booth sponsored by Locals 30, 305 and Fazig Rainer Associates. From left are Fazig Rainer, Mrs. Goodwin Knight, Thelma Thomas of Local 30, Governor Knight, Organizer Charles A. Henderson and Jane Hankin. Fazig Rainer and Jane Hankin both are members of Local 30 and are engaged in labor reporting work.

**Construction Co. Pact Boosts Pay**

Philadelphia—A general wage increase of 13 cents an hour highlights a new agreement between Local 14 and Catalytic Construction Company.

Office and clerical employees of the company at the Marcus Hook refinery of Sun Oil Company recently chose the Office Employees International Union as their collective bargaining representative in an NLRB election. Material checkers, material clerks, material expeditors and timekeepers are included among the employees covered.

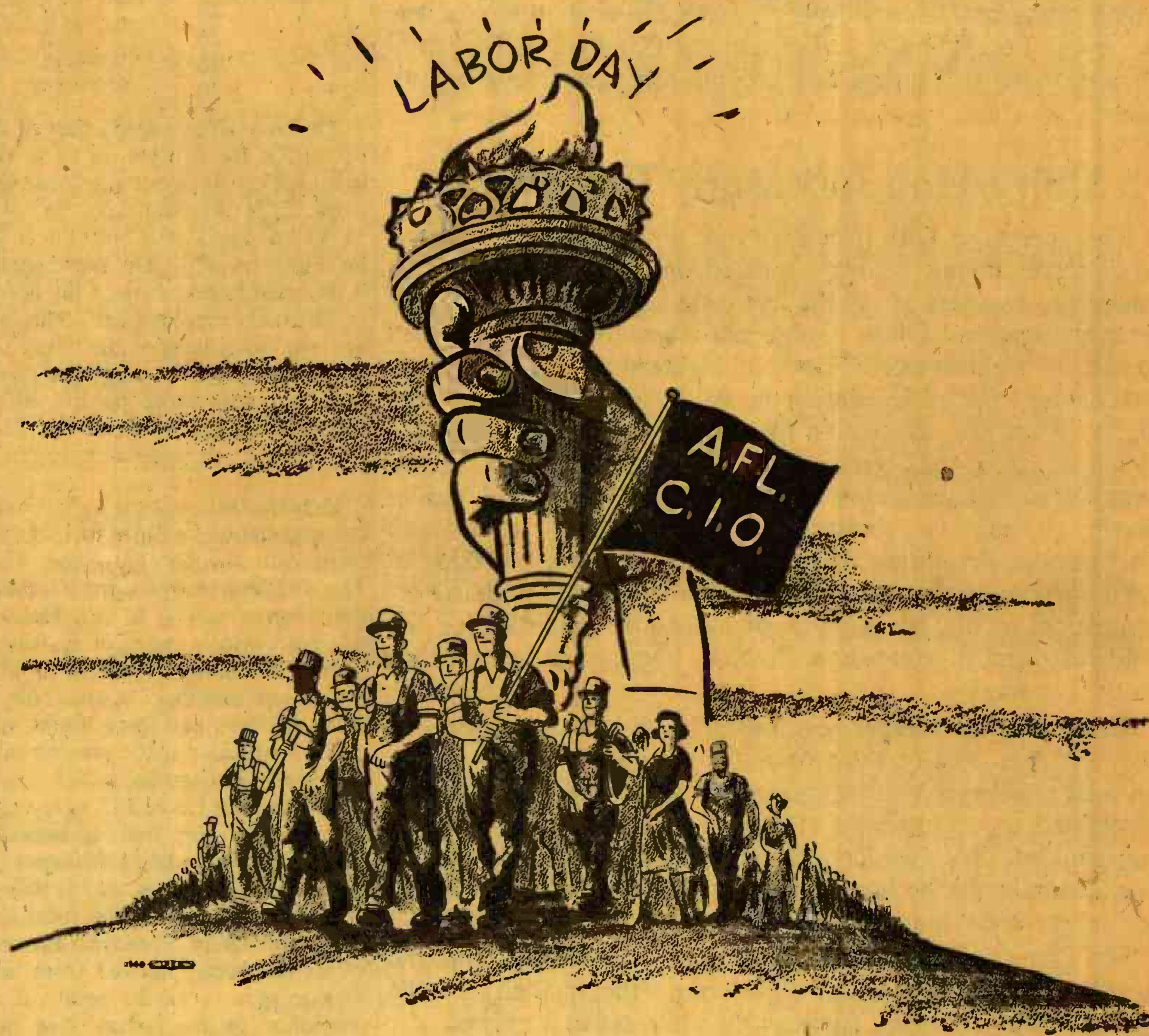
Union membership, seniority, 40-hour week with time and one-half for regular overtime and double time for Sunday and holiday work, six holidays with pay, vacations, grievance procedure, and job classification are provided by the agreement signed by International Representative Thomas E. Maloney.

With the election victory and successful contract negotiations at

Catalytic as a starter, Representative Maloney is now contacting office and clerical employees of other big construction firms in an effort to bring them under the OEIU banner.

**DON'T BUY KOHLER**  
Plumbing Fixtures, Fittings  
**MADE BY SCABS and STRIKEBREAKERS**

Local 833 UAW-CIO on Strike  
527-A N. 8th St., Sheboygan, Wis.

**Marching Along Together****Agreement Reached With Iron Foundry**

Local 309 reports the renewal of its agreement with the Chevrolet-Saginaw Grey Iron Foundry. Local 309 is very proud of this agreement as it exceeds any settlement by any other organization in the auto field.

The gains won under this new agreement include a general wage increase of from 27 to 31 cents per hour, the largest percentage of the employes receiving the 31 cents. The retirement program is liberalized providing for payments of \$2.25 per month for each year of service and permits pension credits for all service including that in excess of 30 years. Other liberalizations make the pension plan more flexible.

Under the new agreement OEIU members will receive time and one-half for Saturday work as such and triple time for holidays worked. The shift premium is increased to 10 per cent. The vacation plan is improved to give employes with over 10 years but less than 15 years seniority 5½ per cent of annual earnings as vacation pay. An additional paid holiday has been added, bringing the total to seven. The annual improvement factor is increased to 6 cents and full union security is provided by a union shop clause. Greater seniority protection in layoffs and a quicker method of settling grievances were added to the contract. Company paid life insurance is increased from \$2500-\$5000 to \$3500-\$7500; accidental death benefits were increased from \$3750-\$7500 to \$5250-\$11,250. An improvement in the escalator clause and a jury duty allowance of \$5 per day for 14 days was also included in the new agreement.

The membership at a meeting voted overwhelmingly to accept the new agreement and thanked Bob Corrigan, Business Representative of Local 42 for his assistance in the negotiations.

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*from the desk  
of the*

# PRESIDENT

**HOWARD COUGHLIN**



## Labor's National Holiday

Labor Day is truly a day set aside to honor the working men and women of America. It had its inception in organized labor and has been celebrated as a laborer's national holiday both unofficially and officially since the closing years of the nineteenth century.

On May 18, 1882, Peter McGuire, General Secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, at a meeting of the Central Labor Union in New York City, moved that a day be set aside as a festive day to honor America's working men and women. He also proposed that parades and picnics be held, at which speeches would be made by trade unionists and sympathizers. The motion was adopted. The first Labor Day celebration was held on Tuesday, September 5, 1882. Between twenty and thirty thousand men and women, representing the various trades and labor organizations in New York City, took part in a parade and picnic. Labor's most prominent speakers addressed the trade unionists.

In 1884 New York's Central Labor Union decided to hold the Labor Day celebration on the first Monday in September. It also communicated with labor bodies of other cities to urge them to celebrate the first Monday in September as a universal holiday for workingmen.

## Adopted by AFL in 1884

At the convention of the American Federation of Labor held in Chicago October 7, 1884, A. C. Cameron of the Typographical Union introduced a resolution calling for the first Monday in September to be set aside as a laborers' national holiday to be observed by all wage earners. This resolution was adopted.

By Act of Congress June 28, 1894, the first Monday of September was set aside as a holiday and was called Labor Day. By 1900 all forty-eight states had passed legislation recognizing Labor Day as a holiday.

Thus for more than sixty years the nation has officially recognized the contribution of labor.

This Labor Day of 1955 will be the last such holiday in which organized labor is split. In December of this year the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations will merge and become one great labor organization.

## Unity Needed More Than Ever

This merger is both necessary and timely. Today the anti-labor forces in this country, spurred on by an administration that is pro-business to say the least, are striving to shackle and destroy organized labor. These antilabor forces have passed so-called "right-to-work" laws in eighteen states. They are introducing similar legislation in the remaining states of the union. They are responsible for the Taft-Hartley Act and the fact that it has not been repealed. These same forces are attempting to eliminate labor's role in political action and legislation by passing laws similar to Wisconsin's Catlin Act, which 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." Now, more than ever, labor unity is needed.

Even with the merger, organized labor will only represent about 25 per cent of the working force of the United States. President George Meany and President Walter Reuther are committed to an intensive campaign to organize the nation's unorganized. Both leaders recognize the fact that white collar workers make up the largest number of the unorganized. They are in agreement that a white collar campaign has priority.

We earnestly hope that future Labor Days will find the American labor movement representing the majority of the country's wage earners, particularly white collar workers.

## Canadian Corner

By Harold Ogden  
President, Canadian Organizational Conference

## New Unemployment Insurance Legislation

### Benefits—Increase and Decrease—New Contributions . . .

The benefit rates are increased (maximum, married worker \$30 per week, single worker \$23). The maximum period for which benefits are payable is decreased (51 weeks to 36 weeks). A new "contribution" class is established (for those earning \$57 per week or over) and the contributions of the lower classifications are reduced. The following tables show the new rates:

TABLE I—CONTRIBUTIONS

UNDER NEW ACT		FORMERLY	
Weekly Earnings Range	Employees' Weekly Contributions	Weekly Earnings Range	Employees' Weekly Contributions
Less than \$9.....	\$0.08	Less than \$9.....	\$0.18
\$9 and under \$15....	.16	\$9 to \$14.99.....	.24
\$15 and under \$21....	.24	\$15 to \$20.99.....	.30
\$21 and under \$27....	.30	\$21 to \$26.99.....	.36
\$27 and under \$33....	.36	\$27 to \$33.99.....	.42
\$33 and under \$39....	.42	\$34 to \$47.99.....	.48
\$39 and under \$45....	.48	\$48 or more .....	.54
\$45 and under \$51....	.52		
\$51 and under \$57....	.56		
\$57 and over .....	.60		

TABLE 2—BENEFITS

UNDER NEW ACT		FORMERLY	
Range of Average Weekly Contributions	Weekly Benefits Single	Weekly Benefits Married	Average Insured Person's DAILY Contributions
Less than 20c .....	\$6	\$8	\$0.03
20c and under 27c.....	9	12	.04
27c and under 33c.....	11	15	.05
33c and under 39c.....	13	18	.06
39c and under 45c.....	15	21	.07
45c and under 50c.....	17	24	.08
50c and under 54c.....	19	26	.09
54c and under 58c.....	21	28	
58c to 60c .....	23	30	
			\$4.80
			7.50
			12.00
			15.00
			18.00
			21.00
			24.00

Weekly Basis of Contribution—Contribution will now be made on a weekly instead of a daily basis. This will simplify somewhat the contribution collection procedure.

Casual Earnings, Effect on Benefits—A graduated scale of allowable earnings has been provided. The following table will illustrate its effect.

TABLE 3—ALLOWABLE EARNINGS

UNDER NEW ACT		FORMERLY	
Weekly Benefits Single	Maximum Nondeductible Additional Weekly Earnings	Up to a maximum of \$2 per day.	
\$6	\$8	\$2	
9	12	3	
11	15	4	
13	18	5	
15	21	6	
17	24	7	
19	26	9	
21	28	11	
23	30	13	

The over-all intended effect of this new legislation is to provide better protection for two classes of workers—young people just entering into insurable employment and those workers who are not able to find steady work. It is estimated that the cut in the maximum benefit period from 51 to 36 weeks will only affect some 5 per cent of all claimants for insurance benefits. The new benefit formula (more money but less time) is designed to take care of the needs of the majority of people who work in insurable employment. This is accomplished without upsetting the actuarial soundness of the whole scheme, without increasing the over-all rate of employee or employer contributions and without burdening the employer with more book work than is absolutely necessary for the effective administration of the plan.

Dryden, Ont.—Local 237 reports the negotiation of their first agreement with the Dryden Paper Co. The contract provides for substantial improvements in the salary structure, with a range of increases from a minimum of \$20 per month to \$45 per month, also nine recognized holidays and three weeks vacation with pay for the present employees of the company.

Members of Local 327 were very happy about this first agreement, which so outstandingly brought to light the advantages of a union agreement. However, the local regrets that their President Harold Wood has been removed from the bargaining unit as the result of a promotion by the company to the position of Superintendent of the Stores Department. The membership stated that although they are very sorry to lose the capable leadership of President Wood, they wish him the best of luck in his new position.

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Port Arthur, Ont.—Local 236 reports negotiation of a contract covering scalers at the Abitibi Power & Paper Co. Also covered by the agreement recently negotiated are the wood preservers. These negotiations resulted in substantial wage increases for the employees covered. It is anticipated that this contract will be approved by the membership.

## Central Bodies in Canada Merge

A joint meeting consisting of A. F. of L. and CIO Local Unions in Northern Ontario was held in Cochrane, Ont., July 8, 1955. There were 60 trade unionists representing some 20 locals.

The meeting decided that the new Council would be called "The Northern Ontario District Labour Council, A. F. of L.-CIO" and all local unions in the area from Long Lac to Cobalt would be invited to join.

A temporary slate of officers were elected which consists of the following:

President, Leo A. Behie (CIO); vice president, H. Gareau (CIO); financial secretary, Arnold Peters (CIO); recording secretary, V. Therrien (CIO); treasurer, Joseph Laforce (A. F. of L.); warden, Wayne Sawyer (A. F. of L.); trustees, A. Rate, J. Burns, Alex Rutinski (A. F. of L.).

The next meeting will be held in Kirkland Lake on Friday, September 16, where a constitution will be drawn and a permanent slate of officers will be elected.

★ ★

Grand Falls, Nfld.—Local 255 reports that they have negotiated a renewal agreement with the Anglo-Newfoundland Development Co., Ltd. The membership is very happy with the improvements obtained in this renewal contract.

Fort William, Ont.—Local 81 reports the satisfactory settlement of a grievance with the Canada Car Company, which had reached the fourth step. The material controller has been upgraded as a result of these proceedings.

The local union states that there is still an unsettled grievance at the McKeller Hospital with reference to wage increases agreed to during their negotiations. The question involved is whether or not the increase is to apply to the presently existing salary structure as set out in the agreement or, to the rates paid to the individuals covered by the agreement. It is expected that a settlement will be reached in this matter in the near future.

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Corner Brook, Nfld.—Local 254 reports the renewal of its agreement with Bowater's Newfoundland Pulp & Paper Mills, Ltd. and the Newfoundland Export and Shipping Co., Lt. As a result of these negotiations, the membership has received improvements in wages and working conditions and are very happy with their new contract, which runs through May 31, 1957. However, the contract may be re-opened on June 1, 1956 for consideration of wage rates and reduction in the number of hours.