Big Meal Packer Under OEUU 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 $2.40 an hour the employees were receiving after the区域性 workers were organized. The agreement were for paid vacations, seniority rights, grievance procedure, paid jury duty and election service, and a retirement, insurance and hospitalization plan.

Board Upholds OEUU in Philadelphia Case

The National Labor Relations Board recently upheld the settlement which is an agreement on company time and property within 24 hours of a union representation election.

The board, by a 3-0 vote, reversed the findings of the National Labor Relations Board which had found that the company had been guilty of unfair labor practices in the conduct of the election. The board ordered the company to cease and desist from such practices.

The new Peerless and Murphy rules, which have been in effect since the election, were upheld by the board.

Organizer Lewandowski is in the process of getting up negotiations for a contract to take advantage of this decision.

OEIU Wins in Wisconsin

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

Last year the OEIU carried on a campaign in a futile attempt to discourage them from joining the OEIU.

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

Local 329 Victorious After Four-Day Strike

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: ...

United Fund Pact Signed in Portland

Portland, Ore.—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 week, with the higher increases going to employees on the staff.

Kenneecott Strike Wins Improvements

Locals 280 and 62 have announced the settlement with Kenneecott Copper for their Western operations, which include Blaine, Caribou, and the Chino Mines property in Harlow, Mont.

The settlement provides for a 10c wage increase, with a 2c increase in the increment between the wage rate ranges, an increase of $1.75 per month in the pension plan, and extended insurance and retirement benefits.

The contract calls for the employees to work 33 1/3 days per month, with the employees being paid for the remaining 2 days.

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 Torraine 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 a settlement between 183 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 a 10c an hour payable immediately and retroactive to June 1, 1955. Five cents more will be paid on June 1, 1956. The new contract also provides for higher accident and sickness benefits and greater job security guarantees.
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 Red House, Chattanooga, Tenn. At this meeting a by-law 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 E. L. Rhodes of Atlanta and Joseph Ricks, Richmond, both addressed the delegates and assured them that the AFL is ready and willing to mobilize any of its local unions in organizational campaigns. Paul Amarel, retired AFL organize, also addressed the Conference and gave a very enlightening dissertation on methods of organization of the unorganized workers.

Local 178 of Chattanooga, the host local, entertained the delegates at a luncheon in the Red 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 proved 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 Saltdale Employee Union who reported on the activities of the TVA Council and expressed the appreciation of the local employees for the assistance of the TVA in their organizing campaign.

Aymond, Hostess Baking Company, at the close of the conference, made a special presentation of the new 1955 annual picture production to the Conference. It was agreed that the pictures be distributed to all employees in the Chattanooga area.

On the Picket Line in Denver

Chase Brass Contract Renewed

Cleveland, Ohio—Vice President John Finnerty reports that Local 17 has just concluded negotiations with the Chase Brass Co., which resulted in a 7 percent contract wage increase which will amount from $17.40 per month to $31.60 per month. Also included in the negotiations was an increase in the unemployment benefits paid to employees who are sick, an increase in the health and welfare plan, and an increase in the company's profit sharing plan which is presently being negotiated.

Pittsburgh, Pa.—Local 33 of the Metals Company has signed a contract with the International Association of Machinists, which provides for a 7 percent increase in wages, a 7 percent increase in the health and welfare plan, a 7 percent increase in the unemployment benefits paid to employees who are sick, and a 7 percent increase in the profit sharing plan which is presently being negotiated.

Hollywood, Calif.—Office and service employees of the Picture Production Company, who are represented by the International Association of Machinists, have agreed to a 7 percent increase in wages, a 7 percent increase in the health and welfare plan, a 7 percent increase in the unemployment benefits paid to employees who are sick, and a 7 percent increase in the profit sharing plan which is presently being negotiated.

Chicago—Re-negotiation of Local 28 of the agreement with RCA Service Company resulted in an increase of $2 per week and a day off in the event of layoffs.

Elyria, Ohio—American Radio-Television and Theater Operators Association has agreed to a 7 percent increase in wages for employees who are members of Local 171. A new conference organizer has been appointed.

On August 20, 1956 the owner of the O’Riley’s Secretarial Service in Denver threatened to picket a group of clerks who demanded an increase in wages and working conditions. The girls are all members of Local 5. Left to right are Betty Blackman (whose little son has temporarily replaced her picket sign), Gladie Campbell (whose two-week-old daughter, and an employee of O’Riley’s, sometimes spells her on the picket line) and Danise Syer (whose offering was left behind). A more militant yet four-spirited group of pickets and unions members would be hard to find.
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 a union won its case. 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 hearty 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 fences such as substandard wage rates, antilabor 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.
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 (31 weeks to 36 weeks). A new "contributions" schedule 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 1—CONTRIBUTIONS

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<thead>
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<th>WEEKLY EARNINGS</th>
<th>EMPLOYEE WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS</th>
<th>WORKER WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS</th>
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<tr>
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Canadian Corner

By Harold Ogden
President, Canadian Organizational Conference

Central Bodies in Canada Merged

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 Lake to Cobalt would be invited to join.

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

President, Leo A. Behie (CIO); vice-president, H. Gereau (CIO); financial secretary, Arnold Peter (CIO); recording secretary, V. Therrien (CIO); treasurer, J. L. Lefebvre (A. F. of L.); wardens, Wayne Sawyer (A. F. of L.); trustees, A. K. Bath, J. Burns, Alex Ruchinski (A. F. of L.).

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

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 laborer's 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 anti-labor 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 Cattin 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 percent 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.

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

The local union states that there is still an unsettled grievance at the McKellar 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, if the rates paid to the individuals covered by the agreement are to be increased.

It is expected that a settlement will be reached in this matter in the near future.

Corner Brook, Nfld.—Local 254 reports the renewal of its agreement with Bowater's Newfoundland Pulp and Paper Mills. Ltd. and the Newfoundland Export and Shipping Co. Lt. As a result of these negotiations, the membership has agreed to a wage increase and some other improvements in wages and working conditions and are very happy with their new contract.

However, the contract may be re-opened on June 1, 1956 for consideration of wage rates and reduction in the number of hours.

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 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 spokesmen 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.

Walter Therrien, Grand Union, 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.

Drummondville, Que.—Local 127 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, and also recognizes holidays and three weeks vacation with pay for the present employees of the company.

The membership states that although they are very sorry to lose the capable and loyal service of President Wood, they wish him the best of luck in his new position.

Fort Arthur, Ont.—Local 236 reports on negotiations of a contract covering salaries at the Abitibi Power and Paper Co. Also covered by the agreement recently negotiated are the wood preserves. These negotiations resulted in substantial wage increases for the employees covered. It is anticipated that the contract will be approved by the membership.