**Confer on Problems of IUD**

The strike of Local 84 at Durham, N. C., has been brought to a successful conclusion. The officers and members of this local union wish to thank all of the OFIU local unions who sent contributions to their strike fund.

3 of OFIU Serving Civil Rights Group

Joseph M. Rourke, secretary-treasurer of the Convention of Labor of Labor in accordance with a constitutional requirement adopted at the Federation's convention in September of 1955, has resigned a Civil Rights Committee and has been elected to serve on this statewide body three OFIU members. They are James G. Grady, chief named of the K. of C. Local 329, Leonard Bright, trustee of Blue Cross, Local 123, and Kenneth Manning, Northeastern Conference organizer and member of Local 123.

**Industrial Union Department in Session**

The newly-formed Industrial Union Department met in Washington on March 15 in an all-day session. This Department, which now represents in excess of seven million members in one day conducted considerable business, including action on requests for affiliation, statement of program, election of vice presidents and action on resolutions which came before the meeting. In addition to the CIO vice presidents already elected, H. Hayes, president of the IAM, Peter Scheneman, president of the United Automobile Workers of America, and James Cross of the Bakery Workers International Union, were unanimously elected to represent their AFL unions.

A program for the Industrial Union Department which will promote the interests of industrial unions within the AFL-CIO consistent with the principle that both craft and industrial unions are appropriate, equal and necessary, was adopted.

The program also includes assistance to affiliates in improving working wages, hours and working conditions, legislative activity, research, legal and public relations. The Department will also act as a clearing house for the exchange of information and experience among the unions affiliated with it.

At the meeting the Department recorded itself in favor of extension of the Minimum Wage and Hour coverage to workers now employed in the wholesale and retail field, as well as the elimination of the Fullbright amendment and protection of union interests in the special application of the Walrath

**Notice of Conference Meetings**

Southeastern Organizational Conference, May 5, Biltmore Hotel, Birmingham, Ala.

Northwestern Organizational Conference, May 26, Roosevelt Hotel, Seattle, Wash.

Western Organizational Conference, June 2, Sir Francis Drake Hotel, San Francisco, Calif.

Southwestern Organizational Conference, June 24, Stephen F. Austin Hotel, Austin, Tex.

**Hicks to Make German Study Tour**

Washington, D. C.—OFIU Secretary-Treasurer J. Howard Hicks has accepted an invitation from the German Federal Government to be its guest on a four-week study tour of that country.

The West German government has described the expense-paid tour as the means of acquainting Hicks and a small group of other AFL-CIO officials with that part of present-day Germany to the west of the Iron Curtain, and including the non-Russian part of Berlin. Included in the study tour will be visits with German labor, industrial, governmental, cultural and public leaders, as well as the opportunity to view first hand the great strides made during post-war years by the German people in their living and working conditions. Hicks will be particularly interested in the functioning and achievements of German white collar unions and is expected to spend much time with such groups.

In Second Invitation

The tour, which is to take place between mid-April and mid-May, is the second such invitation extended Hicks. The first, a year ago, was declined because of the pressure of International Union meetings and preparations for the June 1955 OFIU convention.

While in Europe, Hicks will take advantage of the opportunity to visit briefly with white collar union leaders in many other countries. He will make a report on the white collar union visit and other aspects of his trip to the International Executive Board at its meeting in early June in San Francisco.

**Have You Given Your $8 to Cope?**

OFIU Wins Another Election

Vice President Bloodworth reported another OFIU victory with Associated Contractors, Inc., in Chillicothe, Ala. The employees voted better than 9 to 1 in favor of Local 18.

This was an unusual case due to the fact that the company charged the OFIU with being a company-dominated union because it were their contention that the most active member of the organizing committee in signing up the employees was a supervisor within the meaning of the Act. After many delays through the NLRB an election was held and the employees chose the OFIU as their bargaining representative.

Vice President Bloodworth stated that a good deal of credit for the victory goes to the organizing committee, with Peter Smith who worked untiringly during the long period of organization of Associated Contractors, Inc. At the present time the local union is in the process of negotiating an agreement to cover wages and working conditions for these employees.

Umpire Upholds OFIU in No-Raiding Dispute

A dispute involving the American Newspaper Guild and the Office Employes International Union at the Minneapolis Star-Tribune Company, Minneapolis, Minnesota, was submitted to David Cole, impartial umpire, under the AFL-CIO No-Raiding Agreement.

Violation Charged

The dispute arose when the OFIU charged the Guild with violating the No-Raiding Agreement because of its activities in signing up office employees of the Minneapolis Star-Tribune, under agreement with the OFIU for the past ten years.

The OFIU charged that the Guild encouraged dissident employees to petition the National Labor Relations Board for a decertification proceeding. Thereafter, a petition was filed by the Guild with the Board and a number of employees was examined under the agreement as a result of the history of collective bargaining. The OFIU charged that the Guild not only sought to raid it, but also to disrupt the existing bargaining agreement.

The OFIU proved at the hearing aware of the union's plans. Div. 694 pays around $2,500 a month in premiums to Blue Cross.

Employees of Blue Cross in Dallas voted in January against having the Office Employes represent them after a vigorous anti-union campaign mounted by the Blue Cross management. A protest against the results of the election has been filed with the NRLB by the union.

Red Cross Aide

The New Haven (Conn.) Chapter of the American Red Cross has announced the appointment of Justin Manning, Northeastern Conference organizer, to serve as labor representative of the organization. John O'Keefe, of Office Employes Local 329 has been appointed to assist Manning.

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Howard Hicks

Howard Hicks is a member of the IAM, of which he was appointed to the International Executive Board at its meeting in early June in San Francisco.
Activities of Conferences and Local Unions

Agreement Reached With Insurance Co.

Business Representative John P. Tracy reports that the Local 153 recent meeting of the union insurance committee, an essential part of the local's program, includes the following improvements:

- A $2,000 death benefit for all members is included, with the first $5,000 paid at the local level.
- A $1,000 additional benefit is provided to members over the age of 60.
- A major health and welfare plan is now in effect, offering comprehensive coverage for all members.

The previous agreement provided a death benefit of $500 and a $500 hospitalization benefit. The new agreement includes these improvements.

Approval of Local 333 Charter

The Local 333 Charter was approved at the recent Southern Conference and the International Union.

Blue Cross Employee Gets First Pension

As a result of recent negotiations between OEU Local 332 and Blue Cross of Newark, N.J., a pension plan was put into effect. The first member of Local 332 to receive a pension under this recently negotiated plan is Sister Elizabeth Smith. The Local 332 Charter was renewed under the agreement.

Gaston, Tenn. Recently the American Labor Education Service conducted a white collar Workers' Workshop for the Tennessee Valley Authority. The session was held in the Tennessee Valley Authority Office and was attended by all employes of the Authority.

Above left to right: Mr. William Stimson, President of Local 332, Alex Smith, President of the local union organizing committee, and Vince Firth.

Vice President Installs Local 333 Charter

The first OEU charter to be issued to a former CIO-LIU was installed in Columbus, Ohio at a recent meeting of the union. Local President E. Thompson was installed in the following capacities: Branch Chairman, Personnel Chairman, and Finance Chairman.

Sheffield, Ala. President George F. Fein has announced that the membership of Local 332 employed by Blue Cross of Newark, N.J., has increased by 11 percent over the previous year.

Above left to right: Mr. William Stimson, Personnel Manager, Blue Cross, Newark, N.J., Mae Emmett Smith, Business Manager of Local 332, Sister Smith is the first member to receive a check under the pension plan.

Emling, N. Y. Local 137 recently elected an executive board of 11 members, with the president of the Local 137 elected under the collective bargaining agreement between the company and the union.

A great deal of credit is due to the local union leaders, President Lee T. Bowden, Vice President C. F. C. Flanigan, and Executive Secretary T. W. George Clausen for the outstanding job they are doing in the Ohio area. Through the efforts of this local union, 140 new members have been added to Local 137 by virtue of three victories in the recent past.

The organizing committee reports that they have several other campaign openings at the present time.

DeKulik, Ill. North Central Organizational Conference Organized the first local of white collar workers in the Kollman Southern Company. The local was organized under the guidelines of the OEUU.

The election was held in the recent past.

Osborn, N. Y. Local 281 has just received its agreement with the Associated Transport Company for a new contract. This new agreement provides for a 15 percent per hour increase the first year, and 10 percent over the next three years.

President John R. Wolfe and Secretary T. W. George Clausen were the principal negotiators in these negotiations.

Philadelphia, Pa. Vice President Simpson reported the negotiations with the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference in September, 1955 under the wage regrading clause of Local 144's agreement with the Lancaster Machine Co. It is reported that the membership of Local 332 employed by Blue Cross expressed their satisfaction with the new contract.
Political Contributions

It has recently been established that a large motor company pressured its dealers to raise money for President Eisenhower's 1952 campaign. In addition, numerous Congressmen and U.S. Senators have admitted that they have received contributions to their respective political campaigns from many corporations, including the gas and oil interests.

Senator Barry Goldwater, Republican from Arizona, feels that if anyone likes the way he votes, such individual has the right to give money to his campaign. Senator Goldwater, however, proposes to prohibit direct or indirect expenditures by union in any political campaign.

It would appear to us that the Senator is attempting to make second-class citizens of union members.

How to Avoid Office Unionization

An organization now offers a service to the companies of America on how to avoid unionization of their office staffs. This company prepares articles which directly refer to: "How to establish listening posts among your employer," "How and when you can question employees about a union and employees' feelings about signing up" and "How to express your opinion about a union in your company without getting into any legal tangled."

The company involved has prepared much additional material designed to avoid unionization of office staffs.

It seems to us that it is easier to bargain collectively with a designated representative of the office staff than it is to avoid it.

GAW Opponents Change Mind

Four top officials of the Michigan Information Committee, formed to block the guaranteed wage plans which were negotiated with the Automobile Workers of America, have quit in disgust with the group's objectives.

One of the officials who resigned stated: "I hate to admit it, but we were a bunch of damn fools. I think I was the biggest one." This man, after studying the GAW plans negotiated with Ford, General Motors and Chrysler, said that he couldn't see very much wrong with them and predicted failure for the legislative drive to stop them.

It is nice to know that democratic America has men who will stand up and admit mistakes, particularly when the welfare of such a large group of wage earners is concerned.

OEIU Affiliates With Metal Trades

Since its formation in 1945, the OEIU has sought admission to membership in the Metal Trades Department of the A. F. of L. While not a member of the national organization, we have worked closely with the Metal Trades at local levels. However, due to our lack of national membership, we did not take part in numerous organizational drives in the past which would have resulted in increased OEIU membership.

We exchanged correspondence with James Brownlow, president of the Metal Trades Department, just prior to the AFL-CIO merger relative to the possibility of affiliation. I am glad to report that as at the Florida meeting of the Executive Board of the Metal Trades Department the OEIU was unanimously accepted as a national affiliate.

We have many friends in the Metal Trades. We have worked closely with numerous unions of that Department. We are certain that this new affiliation will serve to expedite organization of clerical employees in the Metal Trades.

Canadian Corner

By LLOYD CHAPMAN

Canadian Conference Organizer Roméo Corbière reports that the employers of Canadian Can in Montreal have received certification of the OEIU as the collective bargaining agent. Negotiations for a contract covering working conditions are now taking place. Organizer Corbière reports that organizational attempts are being made in many areas of the Province of Quebec.

The response to these efforts is most gratifying and it is hoped that in the very near future we will be able to report several new organizations.

Local 165 in Hawkesbury, Ont., has finally consummated negotiations covering the employees of Industrial Cellulose Research. These negotiations have been in progress since May, 1955. As a result of the inability of the company and the union to resolve several differences, it was necessary to take the dispute before a conciliation panel.

After the conciliation hearing and negotiations renewed, agreement acceptable to both the company and the union was arrived at.

In this new agreement improved shift differentials have been worked out to the mutual satisfaction of both parties. Clarification of pay for overtime worked by our workers for work performed beyond their regular daily hours has been worked out. The company agrees to reimburse 31.25 per month for the premium cost for each employee of this membership in the group hospitalization plan. The clause pertaining to sick leave and vacation pay has been improved. The agreement also provides that any disciplinary report shall be canceled three years after the date of the offence recorded therein and shall not be included in any subsequent disciplinary reports.

The area of difference before conciliation was a request by the union for automatic increases within the rate range to the maximum. Although this was not established, the company has agreed that the lack of an increase at the end of the minimum required time, shall be subject to the grievance procedure of the contract. The union reports that it believes to obtain automatic increases within the rate ranges during forthcoming negotiations.

Canadian Organizational Conference Organizer A. F. MacArthur reports adjournments in hourly rates of from 4c to 15c, along with a general increase. All of these increases are retroactive to May 1, 1955.

Recently, the Ontario and Manitoba Council of Paper Mill Unions held a meeting in Thunder, Ont. About 150 delegates were present and worked out the proposals to be presented in the paper companies in the forthcoming negotiations. There was also a meeting of the Quebec Council of Paper Mill Unions, who likewise drafted their proposals for the forthcoming negotiations.

All local unions having contracts with the Abitibi Power & Paper Company and the International Paper Company are requested to send copies of their proposals to Representative MacArthur.

Washington—Pres. George Meany will represent the AFL-CIO as fraternal delegate to the merger convention of the Canadian Conference of Labor and the Canadian Trades & Labor Congress, which joins to form the Canadian Labour Congress at Toronto during the week of April 23.
Keeping in Touch: Both Parties Eye Women's Vote

Nearly every newspaper and magazine we pick up these days has an article in the last woman can play in the coming election campaign. This is no surprise, given the growing awareness of the role women can and should play in our political system. But it's also a reminder of how far we still have to go to ensure equal representation for all.

New York, N. Y. Local 153's business representative John P. Tracy reports on recent negotiations with the Bingham-Sanford Carpenters Co. As a result of these negotiations, employees in the executive offices have received a 3% per week wage increase, and the employees in the warehouse have received increases ranging from $2.00 to $5.20 per week. Under the new agreement, employees at each level will enjoy an automatic increase within the next 12 months, with the increase being higher for higher levels.

Assisting Business Representative Tracy in his negotiations for the executive offices was John J. Jurschina, Albert Cothron, Martin Weller, Robert Blythe, Andrew Monroe, and Robert McKenna. The warehouse employees were represented by Matthew Rechner, Frank Mandelbaum, John Towne, and John Peters.

New York, N. Y. Organizer John Kelley announced the communication of a first agreement with Mural Transport, Inc., located in Long Island City. The contract provides for the American pick-up after 48 hours or 40 hours of work per week, 11 holidays with a provision that if a holiday falls on Sunday it shall be observed on Monday, and if it falls on Saturday it shall be observed on the following Friday or Monday. There is also provision in the agreement for a 40-hour week, after two weeks and three years, an additional 40-hour week, and after five years, an additional 40-hour week. These employees are to be covered by the 1956 wage increase plan, and a temporary provision in case of technological change, along with a 3-year grace period and a general wage increase of 9% for November 1, 1955.

Philadelphia, Pa. Local 14 has reached agreement with the Philadelphia Yard & Towing Co. The agreement provides for a 4% raise for the second and third shifts, a 4-hour minimum call-in pay, and holidays falling on Saturday to be observed on the following Monday, or the employee shall receive an extra day's pay. This agreement has been ratified by the membership and is expected to be effective August 31, 1955.

Minimum Wage

As of March 1, 1956, the new minimum wage rate of $1 per hour has been put into effect for the workers of the country and the same applies for women. Over twenty million workers are not yet covered by the Federal Minimum Wage Law. These workers are employed in retail stores, hotels, service industries, laundries and canneries. Organized labor is preparing to fight for the inclusion of these twenty million workers. It believes all of us to make sure that every American worker gets his share of the prosperity enjoyed by this nation.

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