Florida Local Ends Strike

The signing of a new contract has ended the strike of Local 46 against Tampa Tram Tours, Inc., at Tampa, Fla. The new contract includes such improvements as an additional building, improved job bidding provisions, three week's vacation after 10 years service, plus a 15 cent across-the-board wage increase. Some of the most controversial features of the settlement was the company agreeing with Vice President Hothock, whose position is that the company had caused the strike and, therefore, the employees should be paid full wages for the time they were forced to stay out.

Needless to say, the employees are very happy with this settlement.

Florida Local Ends Strike

Federal Barge Lines Organized by OEIU

Following close upon the heels of the organization of the Waterways Terminal in New Orleans, La., Southeastern Conference Organizer Philo Otis organized the Federal Barge Lines, Inc.

On April 10, he requested recognition from the district manager and presented a proposed contract. Although at first the district manager refused recognition, after evidence by the OEIU that it represents a majority of the employees involved, the company agreed to recognize Local 60 in the bargaining agent. As a result, a contract has been signed retroactive to May 1, covering employment, union security, seniority, vacations and wages. The company agreed to retroactive pay regardless of whether or not they were still employed in the bargaining unit when the contract was signed on January 26. As a result of this decision the company will now have to send out clocks covering retroactive pay to about 25 ex-employees.

Representative Otis stated that the employees were very happy with their new union contract.

Local 19 Hires Business Agent

The appointment of "Chick" Bernard as assistant business representative for Local 19, was announced by President John Richards. "Chick" will join the staff of Local 19 on a part-time basis until June 19, when he will assume the job on a full-time basis. Brother Bernard went to work for the Toledo Edison Company in 1952 and, subsequently, became active in union affairs, including participation in the bargaining and grievance machinery at Toledo Edison.

The International Union extends its best wishes to Local 19 and its new organizer for a successful and continued organizational campaign.

Joe Mills, executive vice president of the American Guaranty Life, Health and Accident Company in Austin, and Frank Martin, International representative of the Office Employees International Union, signed a contract settlement after voluntary recognition of the union by the company. On hand for the signing were Mary Lebowitz, left, financial secretary of OEIU 298 in Austin, and Ethelwyn Moore, union steward in the company's home office in Austin. The contract also applies to branch offices in Dallas and San Antonio.
Employer Must Show Books

By a 6-to-3 vote, the U. S. Supreme Court ruled that the Truitt Mfg. Co. of Greensboro, N. C., must show its financial records to the National Labor Relations Board in order to substantiate its claim that anything more than a 2½-cent per-hour wage increase would ruin the company.

In 1953, when the union asked for evidence from the company to support its position, the company refused on the ground that the union had no legal right to this information. The National Labor Relations Board ruled that the company was guilty of an unfair labor practice. The lower court ruled in favor of the company. However, the Supreme Court of the U. S. stated in its decision, "If the argument is important enough to present, it is important enough to require some proof of its accuracy." The Supreme Court thereby affirmed its insistence on " bargaining in good faith."

Success in NLRB Elections

During the first three months of this year, the unions throughout the nation filed 2,111 petitions for elections, which is an increase of 15 per cent over the same quarter of 1955, and 28 per cent over the last three months of 1955. The NLRB conducted 1,152 elections in the first quarter of 1956 and a record of worker-participation of 92 per cent was recorded. The AFL-CIO won 8 per cent more victories than in the previous quarter. Conversely, there were fewer petitions filed by unaffiliated unions and the ratio of their defeats increased almost the same as the AFL-CIO victories. Consequently, it pays to be affiliated with the AFL-CIO.

Dublin, Georgia

Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act gives to the states the right to legislate in the labor field. Even the remotest anti-labor legislation is supported to which the states and communities would go in effecting labor legislation.

In Dublin, Ga., an organizer is required to be licensed before he can engage in organizational activity. In order to gain a license he must have been a resident of Dublin for five years and he must pay a license fee of $2,500. The mayor and the councilmen of that city are the sole judges of whether or not such licenses shall be issued.

Assuming an organizer meets the aforesaid requirements, before being licensed he is required to take a loyalty oath that he doesn't favor overthrowing segreational laws.

It is apparent that the city fathers are trying their best to prevent their workers from receiving the benefits of collective bargaining.

U. S. Court Curbs NRLB

The U. S. Court of Appeals handed down a decision in which it set aside an NRLB ruling that peaceful pickets can be enjoined if the company refuses to bargain.
Local 337 Wins Paper Co. Strike

Vice President Oscar Bloodworth announced that in signing the initial agreement between OEU Local 337 and the Houston Pulp and Paper Corp. of Palatka, Fla., the employees received a 15-cent per hour across-the-board wage increase effective April 16, 1956. Since these negotiations took place immediately preceding other negotiations in a large paper company, it was mutually agreed that these increases represented past due wages to the employees, and whatever other increase in wages or benefits was negotiated with the International Paper Co. would be automatically given to the employees of the Houston Pulp Company, effective June 1, 1956.

The contract further calls for a job classification study with a re-opening for wages and classifications on January 1, 1957.

Erie Conference Meeting in Toledo

At the recent meeting of the Erie Organizational Conference, held in Toledo, Ohio, Thelma O'Dell and George P. Firth were re-elected president and secretary-treasurer, respectively. At this conference, Director of Organizational Activities outlined the organizational activities throughout the country and held open forum discussions on organizational techniques. The host Local 19 of Toledo provided a very nice luncheon for all delegates in attendance. The delegates voted that the next meeting of the conference will be held in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Signing Boston Contract

Local 6 officers sign new agreement with Metropolitan Transit Authority, Boston. Seated, left to right: Albert Fitzpatrick, Danial B. Brown, Edward Dunn, general manager of the M. T. A.; Thomas Flynn, business manager, Local & Raymond O'Brien, standing, left to right: John McKenna, Thomas Hines, Richard Martin, John Burns.

Canadian Corner

By LLOYD CHAPMAN
President, Canadian Organization Conference

Burlington, N.J. — J. M. LeDrew, recording secretary of Local 264, reports the signing of a new agreement between OEU and the Dominion Waterbone Ore, Limited. The new contract provides for a 2 per cent increase effective January 1, 1956, and an additional 2 per cent as of July 1, 1956. The new contract also provides for an improved bulletin of new jobs. J. St. Jerome, Que.—An organizing campaign conducted by OEU proved successful when the employees of the Dominion Rubber Company and the employees of the Rolland Paper Company formed Local No. 338. These 160 employees requested certification from the Quebec Relations Board. Canadian Organizational Conference Organizer Corbett reports that C. L. C. representative Murcut Churchman's assistance was invaluable. Shuminaring Falls—Local 265 announces the signing of its first agreement with the Consolidated Paper Corporation. This two-year agreement provides for seniority and grievance procedures, paid vacation and paid holidays to maintain all previous privileges. Hour wages were established with automatic progression to the next point. The contract provides for a general increase of $21 per month and a further 5 per cent increase on May 1, 1957. The union negotiating committee was composed of J. Baribeault, M. St. Pierre, R. Brown, J. Levesque, with the assistance of Organizer R. Corbett.

Abilii Power and Paper Company—A recent negotiation between OEU local unions and the company resulted in the company offering improvements in the current agreement: a general increase of $21 per month as of May 1, 1955, plus an additional 5 per cent on May 1, 1957. Improvements were also made in articles covering overtime, seniority, automatic progression, salary and voluntary dues deduction. The company also agrees to increase in contributions by $1 per month. Many improvements were obtained that relate to various problems of the several locals covered by the agreement.

Local 300 Eleeects Officers

At a recent election of officers in Local 300 at Vancouver, B.C., the following officers were elected, taking office on the left: Miss Louise Pallister, temporary secretary; Miss W. R. Freebody, vice president; Mrs. A. A. Plantfair, president; Mrs. D. Stewart, treasurer; Miss Naida Woon, recording secretary.

Election of Officers, Local 378

The following officers were elected at a recent meeting of Local 378 at Vancouver, B.C., reading from left to right: Miss Betty Burbury, secretary; Mr. William Swanson, president; Mr. Ernest King, business manager; Mrs. Harry Winter, vice president, and Mr. Tom Ellis, treasurer.
Speaking of Balanced Budgets!

Local 301 Wins New Agreement

The White Collar

Organizational Activity

I want to take this opportunity to direct our organizational ideas and plans to our entire union. It is the intention of the International Union to conduct organizational activity to the full limit of its financial resources. We intend, too, to use every possible organizational aid, including the organizational staff of the AFL-CIO, at every opportunity, in conjunction with our own organizational work.

We have called upon the organizational staff of the AFL-CIO to help us institute a national campaign to organize the 97 branches of Blue Cross. This campaign is now in its initial stages.

At each organizational conference meeting we emphasize the fact that we expect our local unions to initiate organizational activity at the local level. When this organizational activity proves promising, we direct our representatives or organizers to the particular city, town or locality for the purpose of assisting in that campaign. On each occasion, after describing our organizational intentions, combined delegates ask us how it is possible for local unions to initiate organizational campaigns where such local unions do not have full-time paid representatives.

We tell these delegates that the labor union movement was founded by trade unionists who devoted their early mornings, lunch hours, evenings and week ends to trade union work. We state that each local union of our International Union, and of any International Union for that matter, must have had a beginning. The beginning was nothing more than the hard work of the active membership. This hard work culminated in successful organizational activity which then brought the local union to the point where it could hire full time representatives.

It is a mistake, however, to believe that only money and full-time representatives are the answers to successful organizational activity. Neither money nor full-time representatives can be substituted for hard-working, active members intent on building a union. It is, therefore, necessary that those of our local unions unable to afford full-time representatives should initiate organizational activity through their active membership. Active members can do much to excite interest in the local union. For example, an active member can participate in general community programs and will advertise the fact that he represents the Office Employees International Union. He can address other trade unions on behalf of the Office Employees International Union. He can address other trade unions on behalf of the Office Employees International Union.

Even at an International level this type of public relations is necessary. For example, in the last few months your President and Director of Organization have addressed the seniors of a group of High Schools in New York City, the School of Business at Columbia University, the National Industrial Conference Board, the National Office Management Association, the American University, and the New York Personnel Management Association, in addition to numerous other similar groups. This type of activity tends to publicize our organization in an affirmative manner.

Active members should be prepared to do everything possible to spread the word that a local union of the Office Employees International Union is ready, willing and able to represent office and clerical employees. There is no better way of doing this than by word of mouth. Willingness to speak to public-spirited groups will eventually make our organization an accepted part of the community. It is necessary also for active members to embark on organizational campaigns, either through house calls after a lead has been obtained, or through leaflet distributions in order to gain leads. Leaflets in all instances should have a simple enrollment card attached with the return address on the reverse side, and with a prepaid postcard permit printed on it. It should be made as easy as possible for an individual to sign a card and drop it in the mailbox for transmission to the union.

When a campaign has, through meetings, house calls and leaflet distributions, been successful to the point where a large number of the employees involved have evidenced substantial interest, the International Union should be conducted for the purpose of furnishing advice or possible assistance, if necessary. Experienced representatives, secured locally or through the International Union, will be required to make sure that the case is processed through the National Labor Relations Board to the point where an election is either agreed to or ordered by the Board. Subsequently, after a successful election, experienced representatives will be needed for the purpose of collective bargaining.

It is the intention of the International Union to send its representatives in only when a campaign shows sufficient promise to warrant such experienced assistance. Due to our financial limitations, it will not be possible to send in organizers where only wishful thinking has been indulged in by a local union. Only through hard work on the part of the active membership of our local unions can organizational work be initiated and eventually be brought to a successful conclusion.