More LIU's Join the OEIU

Coughlin Attends Labor-Management Conference

Above is a picture of the officers of all of the local unions representing employees of the Abellio Power & Paper Company at the meeting on February 17, held in Toronto, Canada.

OEU Victorious Again

Pacific Grove, Calif. — The Ingalls Shipbuilding Company formerly had a contract with OEU Local 204. After the war the work at the shipyard decreased to such an extent that all employees were laid off and the local disbanded. However, the contract with the company had an automatic renewal clause.

Last year the Ingalls Company received new orders and began hiring personnel both in the general office and in the shipyard. Southeastern Organizational Conference Organizer Phil Otsi attempted to revive our contractual relations with the company. The company refused to recognize the automatic renewal of the previous contract. Organizer Otsi then initiated an organizing campaign and petitioned the NLRB for an election to determine the collective bargaining agent for the office employees in this plant.

With the assistance of a committee composed of H. H. Robbins, T. O. Hepwood, Lowell Velticy, C. A. Petty and Paul Moore, the OEU won the election both in the yard unit and in the general office unit by a large majority. During the campaign the company gave a general increase of $7 per month and promised merit increases in an attempt to defeat our organizing campaign.

Organizer Otsi gave a great deal of credit to J. R. Boudreau, B. A. of the Plumbers Union, and W. J. Brogan, R. A. of the IBEW, who assisted us in our campaign. Local 204 is at the present time in the process of negotiating a new contract.

Columbus, Richmond Join Up; Others Working Out Details

Recently more former local industrial unions have voted to affiliate with the Office Employees International Union, AFL-CIO. LIU 1700 in Columbus, Ohio became OEU Local 333. President Ira C. Thompson was instrumental in bringing about the affiliation. Much credit also goes to AFL-CIO Assistant Regional Director De Nucci.

Still more recently, in Richmond, Va., former LIU 1779 voted unanimously to affiliate with our union. This new local will be known as OEU Local 334. Much credit should be given to the local President George McConnell, as well as AFL-CIO Organizer Ted Donovan, and Regional Director Joseph Heath of Region 4. At the present time the LIU in Akron, Ohio has taken action to request affiliation with our International Union. Throughout the country many of the former LIU's composed of employees in the white collar field are in the process of working out the details of affiliation with the only International Union dedicated solely to the problems of white collar workers.

President Coughlin has repeatedly invited former LIU's to affiliate with our International Union.

There is also at the present time a great deal of activity in Canada, where local unions formerly affiliated with the CIO are now taking steps to affiliate with our International Union. We have adopted a policy, in order not to create a financial burden on city and state organizations, where former AFL and CIO state or city bodies have not completed the details of merger, OEU local unions will continue to pay per capita tax to the state or city body of the CIO on the former membership. LIU's will then become affiliated with the OEU.

Florida Locals Sign Prudential Insurance Company

Local 73, Jacksonville, and Local 128, Miami, Fla., have a dual contract with the Presidential Insurance Company. The following committees took part in negotiations: Frank Crosby, Henry Norton, Local 128; Louise Owensby, Harry Woll, Marsha Crews, John Maxwell, James Browning, president, Local 73; O. Bloodworth, vice president, OEU.

They report improvements such as a period out to 30 days, on the job training program, added holidays one-half day for Good Friday, Washington's Birthday, Veterans Day, all day Christmas Eve, bringing the total to 9½ holidays per year, no loss in pay for jury duty, company paid health program and a general wage increase.

Sign Drug Firm

Seattle, Wash. — The employees of West Coast Drug recently voted to be represented by OEU Local 8. About a year ago an election was held in this company and the employees after a great deal of pressure from the company voted not to have Local 8 represent them. North West Conference Organizer James Corum, instead of giving up community visited the employees and explained the advantage of being represented by the OEU. At the appropriate time a new position was filled and a date set for election was set after an NLRB hearing. At this election the employees decisively voted to be represented by Local 8 OEU.

Coughlin Reluctant to Organize

President Coughlin recently announced the appointment of two additional organizers in the Canadian and Southwestern Organizational Conferences.

Rocco Corbeil, whose headquarters are at Montreal, will service the eastern portion of the Canadian Organizational Conference. Brother Corbeil was formerly International representative of the Chemical Workers International Union. He was a local union officer and shop steward prior to becoming a representative for the Chemical Workers. Brother Jack Priest has been assigned to the Southwestern Organizational Conference and will make his headquarters at Dallas, Tex.

Both of these organizers have been highly recommended by many officials in the labor movement. The OEU is very proud to announce their association with our organization.
Activities of Conferences and Local Unions

Oakland, Calif.—A new agreement was reached by office and clerical employees in the laundry and dry cleaning industry produced on a weekly basis of $1.75 per week and two additional days of sick leave with pay.

New Brunswick, N.J.—Local 328 of the BPOE, in affiliation with the NLRB has ordered Kent Hospital and Medical Center to immediately cease and desist from unilaterally cutting vacations for short-term employees. The order was based on the testimony of the Public Service Electric and Gas Co., Joseph P. McCarthy, president of the System Council, reports.

Workmen's Mutual-The office employees of the Ketcham Life Insurance Co. in Patchogue, received $72.50 a week and wage increases of 5 cents per hour, effective July 1, 1955.

From San Diego—In a renewal agreement between Local 139 and over 30 local unions and Health and Welfare Trust, the employees in the local have won a 35-hour workweek and wage increases of 5 cents per week in all classifications. The agreement also provides for two weeks vacation after the first five years of service and another two weeks after five years, compensation for holidays falling on Sunday, full salary in case of accidents, and welfare and other benefits.

Elmira, N.Y.—American La France Firestone Corporation clerical and service workers won a 4 per cent raise and seniority, and membership for representation by Local 137 in an NLRB-conducted election. The Board Workers in clerical and service work in separate units on office clericals and service clericals, covering an approximately a group of 200. Organizer Justin Manning assisted Local 137 investigators in their election campaign and gives much credit to the members and officers of the local for a splendid victory.

Sacramento, Calif.—A 2-year agreement has been reached in Sacramento and vicinity calling for wage increases of $2.50 per week, effective July 1, 1955 and $2.50 per week, effective July 1, 1956. The agreement will expire when the seniority placement clause has also been written into the new contract.

Madison, Wis.—A new agreement negotiated by Local 39 with the Union Labor News designates the birthdays of Presidents Roosevelt and Truman as paid holidays. At present this is an unusual provision, but it will probably become quite common in the future for Roosevelt and Truman were two close friends of working people.

Pittsburgh—A wage increase of five cents an hour and Blue Shield medical and surgical hospital and medical coverage were won by Local 15, in the agreement negotiated with M. Rem and Sons.

White Plains, N.Y.—As a result of a renewed effort, the NLRB has ordered Yale and Towne Manufacturing Co. of Bridgeport, Conn. to bargain with Local 90 as exclusive representative of all employees in the local's jurisdiction. This action was taken at the White Plains central office. Further, to cease and desist from interfering with the efforts of the union to bargain on behalf of such employees, or from any manner interfering with, restraining or coercing employees in the exercise of their right to self-organization.

Oakland, Calif.—Wage increases ranging from 50 cents to $1.50 per month were obtained by Local 29 in an agreement reached with the Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Co., Group Bay, effective October 1, 1955. It was necessary to take a strike vote before reaching the final settlement and to cite the firm before the Al-uminum & Chemical Company's Representative Dick Grodul handled the negotiations.

Local 29 won recognition as the bargaining representative of office employees at Benney-Novem short metal company after picketing the firm for a week.

Denver, Colo.—Lee Tuerk, as- sociate business representative of Local 5, reports that brief and conclusive negotiations with the Elton Truck Lines, Inc., resulted in a one-year contract and the fourth successful arbitration the company under contract in the local. The contract, effective August 23, 1955, gives the 6 employees of the company's Denver terminal increases of 10 and 15 cents per hour with employees with more than a year's employment receiving the extra 5 cents. Also included in the agreement is a 4-day-per-week job provision, a strong seniority clause, a 4 weeks' vacation for evening work and many other provisions and guarantees generally of part of the contract.

President Ritch also adds that the recent renewal of the agree- ment with Duro Test & En-glishing Company gives its members an increase of 61/2 cents per hour effective April 15, 1954, and further increases of 5 cents and 10 cents on April 15, 1955. Also effective April 15, 1955, employees will be paid for contract holidays falling on Saturday. Other provi-sions of the contract is a union shop for employees hired for the first 5 years and holidays, straight seniority in promotions and layoffs and group health insurance.

New York—A new contract negotiation between the Consolidated, New York Consolidated, Inc., and the Transport, Inc., a wage increase of 5 cents per hour after 4 years, and payment by the employer of the full insurance premium for family group policies. Vice President Kinnehan assisted in the contract negotiations.

New York—A general wage in- increase and pension plus highlights the new agreement reached be-tween Local 133 and Mengerhut Linotype Co. Business Representative John P. Tracy conducted the negotiations.

The pay increase amounted to $4.40 per week, effective No- vember 1, 1955, plus 3 cents per hour, effective November 1, 1956, and November 1, 1957, at a cost of living allowance.

The company pays $4 per week per employee into the pension fund. Once an employee becomes eligible for either a normal pension or a deferred pension, the minimum amount of the pension is the number of years of service multiplied by $0.25. Review and adjustment of $10.56 per month, or the balance, but no change has been made in the 15 or more years of service, the employees would be eligible for a disability retirement benefit. The monthly amount of this benefit is the number of years of service multiplied by $4.50 up to 65th birthday. Therefore, he shall be entitled to a normal pension.

Draven, Colo.—Local 5 reports its first contract signed with Climax Molybdenum Company, Climax, Colo. Representative Herr- ick S. Roth, Local 5, and Rob- ert L. Gray, Frank L. Thelbik, Leslie V. Mitchell, Joseph D. May-Connell, and Glynn R. Keating, chairman of the negotiating com- mittee, are proud of the achievement gained, among which are the maintenance of membership and check-off of dues, three-week and Saturdays and holidays, holi- days and vacations, one week and two additional days for vacation, and the ten-year and one-half for retirement, 2 weeks vacation after one year, 3 weeks after 5 years, job classifications, and wages ranging from $1.40 to $1.80 per hour.

Nearly one hundred members from four unions in the area of Beaver, Que., attended the an- nual dance sponsored by Local 191. Everyone enjoyed a delightful evening.

Figures, Wis.—Local 116 of the International Union, Local 264, held recently, President Steve Neary reported to the membership on recent negotiations with Domini- cation and Wisconsin Ore Limited for a new working agreement. The Local's President, on behalf of the Execu- tive, recommended that the report be accepted, and after some dis- cussion a resolution was passed approving the new agreement, which is of one year's duration.

The new contract provides for a 3% general increase to members plus other benefits. It is understand- ed that the new working agree- ment will be signed in the very near future.

At the same meeting Local 264 heard reports on negotiations with the present Executive being overwhelm- ingly returned to office. They are as follows: President, Stephen Neary; Vice President, William Caughey; Secretary, Leslie Caughey; Treasurer, Clyde Hunt; Trustees, Walter Selker, Charles Vokey, Sel- en Caughey; and Sergeant at Arms, Charles Cowherd.

The Executive was conducted by Walter Selker.

Upon accepting the Chair, Presi- dent Neary expressed his apprecia- tion to members for the confidence in them placed and said "I would do everything within my power to serve the interests of the organization."
Activities of Local Unions

(Continued from page 2)

Newark, N. J.—Local 32 reports agreement concluded with New Jersey Drug Co. Nicholas Juliano, business manager, announced a $4.00 increase for the first year, $2.00 on October 1, 1956, and $2.00 on April 1, 1957, during these negotiations there was also added a provision dealing with automation.

Denver—International Vice President Mark Mann of Local 5 was honored in an unusual manner following her re-election as vice president of the Colorado State Federation of Labor at its recent convention. The chair was turned over to Miss Mann by State President George Gevander and she presided over the closing business of the convention. Miss Mann, now serving her third term as vice president of the state organization, her second term as a vice president of the OBU and her eighth term as president of Local 5, thus became the first woman in the 60-year history of the state federation to preside over a convention.

Newark, N. J.—Local 20, through Business Representative Harry Fitzman, reports the renewal of their agreement with Wyeth Laboratories, Secaucus, N. J. The contract, for one year, provides for a $3.50-a-week across-the-board inCREASE and other benefits. It brings up to date and incorporates various revisions that were arrived at in earlier bargaining sessions.

Stamford, Conn.—Local 90's President, Nicholas Bulcata, reports agreement reached with Yale & Towne Manufacturing Company on a 3 per cent wage increase.

North Central Organizational Conference Meets

Above is a picture of the recent meeting of the North Central Organizational Conference meeting which was held in the Congress Hotel at Chicago. The meeting was well attended and proved very interesting during the discussion period relative to organizational technique and procedures. The host Local 28 furnished a very delightful luncheon, for cocktails, for all delegates. The Conference voted that the next meeting be held in Madison, Wis.

Spring Fever

The Commerce Department has reported that industry enjoyed its best year in 1955. U. S. corporations paid out a record breaking 10.4 billion dollars in dividends. This was the first time in the history of the country that dividend payments passed the 10-billion-dollar mark. This is 13 per cent more than the previous top of 9.2 billion in 1942.

It is the responsibility of industry receiving such profits to improve the standard of living of the working people who produced the goods which resulted in these profits.

75 YEARS ON THE JOB

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THE WHITE COLLAR
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WHITE COLLAR
Official Organ of
OFFICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION
Affiliated with the AFL-CIO

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Room 1101
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New York, N. Y.

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UAW—No Guilty

Federal Judge Frank A. Picard dismissed charges against the UAW which contended that it was guilty of violating the Federal Corrupt Practices Act. The dismissed indictment had charged that the UAW illegally spent $5,985 of its general funds to pay a television station for telecasts that were intended to influence the electorate.

In dismissing the indictment Judge Picard indicated that expenditures by International Union for programs of this type are not a violation of the Corrupt Practices Act.

Judge Picard's decision is a victory for the right of "freedom of speech." Legislation which represses this right is un-American. Labor unions must have the right to indicate their position on legislation affecting working men and women.

Executive Council

The first meeting of the new AFL-CIO Executive Council was held at Miami Beach, Fla. It is interesting to note that former members of the AFL and CIO, respectively, met together and in complete harmony chartered labor's future. There was complete agreement on the part of all concerned that an organizational drive to organize the white collar workers of the nation must be initiated at the earliest possible moment.

We now have unity of labor and unity of purpose.

COPE

Labor's League for Political Education and CIO's Political Action Committee have now been merged into the "Committee on Political Education." Former AFL and CIO leaders agreed that increased political activity on the part of labor is necessary if we are to protect the very existence of the trade union movement. "Right-to-Work" laws, which are really open shop statutes, could not have been passed in 18 states of the country if labor had been active politically. Labor doesn't intend to control votes. It does, however, desire to point out to the working men and women of this country the inherent danger of anti-labor legislation on the statute books, and such proposed legislation.COPE is a must! We in labor must support COPE to the utmost.

1955 Business—Tops

The Commerce Department has reported that industry enjoyed its best year in 1955. U. S. corporations paid out a record breaking 10.4 billion dollars in dividends. This was the first time in the history of the country that dividend payments passed the 10-billion-dollar mark. This is 13 per cent more than the previous top of 9.2 billion in 1942.

It is the responsibility of industry receiving such profits to improve the standard of living of the working people who produced the goods which resulted in these profits.
Interest in Welfare Plan Increases

Interest in the Office Employees International Union Welfare Plan is growing rapidly among members and employees of OEU local unions. Some local unions that have already adopted the plan, numerous locals are studying it at the present time and a number are taking action to incorporate the plan in demands they make on employers. The plan, which was only recently announced, provides liberal surgical benefits and Blue Cross hospitalization, together with $1,000 life insurance and accident and sickness salary benefits for the member and his family.

The plan is administered in a manner which permits it to be adopted by any employer having an agreement with an OEU local union or the International Union. Not only does the plan apply to employees covered by collective bargaining agreements but it can also be extended to cover all employees normally excluded from collective bargaining units. Employees agreeing to adopt the plan must also agree to cover all employees represented by the local union, to adopt the entire plan without change, and that the employer make the $112 monthly contribution per employee in their employment units covering their full-time employees in the same businesses. Individual employees or their representatives cannot subscribe to the plan.

TVA Assumes Half Premium Cost of Health Insurance

At the annual salary negotiations in June 1955 a plan by which the Tennessee Valley Authority would share with its salaried employees on a 50-50 basis the cost of hospital, medical, and surgical insurance coverage was negotiated. Details of the plan have been worked out, and it was made effective January 1, 1956. The annual cost to TVA is estimated at approximately $230,000.

The basic plan is the Blue Cross-Blue Shield Comprehensive Plan in effect in the states of Alabama, Kentucky, and Tennessee. Employees were earlier covered by these plans with normal premiums paid by employees through payroll deductions. Beginning January 1, TVA will pay the employer's portion of the basic comprehensive plan contracts. One feature of premium payment by the employer is that a dollar paid in a whole dollar in the worker's pocket since it is not subject to income tax. A completely new Major Medical Plan covering all illnesses and all medical costs other than surgical costs was provided. TVA's contribution provides protection from bankruptcy or the loss of lifetime savings for families stricken by extended illness.

TVA does not share the cost of the Major Medical Plan. It was worked out with Plan Cross for the benefit of employees on a voluntary basis. Employees quickly recognized the value of this important new coverage and oversubscribed the required 35 per cent participation. Actually, 87.8 per cent of eligibles were enrolled when the plan was put into effect.

A. R. Carson, council president, has characterized the negotiation and adoption of the new health plan as "the principle single achievement of our unions in TVA."

Million Awarded To Retail Clerks

If an arbitrator's recent decision holding A & P liable for salaries lost by its reduction of full-time employees to part-time status is put into effect, some 800 members of Retail Clerks District Council 11 (Pennsylvania), employed in 104 A & P stores, stand to collect about $1 million in back wages. The Clerks charge that A & P cut the workweek of some of its employees from a 40-hour week to 36 hours a week during January 31, 1955-December 31, 1955, thus putting them in a part-time status. As such, they were paid the lower part-time rate and an adjustment of health and welfare benefits. The Clerks said that during the two-year period it was also the policy of the company not to hire any one for a longer than a 36-hour week, thereby circumventing the full-time employee statute. It is estimated that A & P is responsible about $56 million in health and welfare benefits, or about $56 on the workweek of each of the employees affected.

The arbitrator ruled that any employee who worked a substantial number of hours, although less than 40, was a full-time employee.