7th Convention Opens at Minneapolis

Busy and Important Sessions Anticipated

The 7th convention of the Office Employees International Union, AFL-CIO, will open at the Hotel Lexington in the City of Minneapolis beginning June 10. It is expected that the convention will conclude its business by the evening of June 14.

The spotlight is on our union. Both labor and management throughout the United States and Canada look upon the OEIU as the representative of white collar workers in those countries. Already much progress has been made. The Office Employees International Union is the leading white collar union of its kind. It holds contracts with thousands of firms in diverse industries throughout the United States and Canada.

In membership it includes several hundred employees of Radio Free Germany in Munich, Germany. The OEIU has continued to widen its organizational efforts with an appeal to the unorganized white collar workers to be represented by a true white collar workers union.

The delegates assembled at this convention will deal with numerous problems involving around the subject of expansion of organizational activities. Delegates will be told that the AFL-CIO has agreed to assign a substantial part of its organizational forces to the task of organizing office and clerical workers.

The delegates will hear that the Canadian Labor Congress has pledged the support of its organization in the completion of the task of the unification of office and clerical workers in Canada. President Claude Jodoin of the Canadian Labor Congress in talks with President Couglin of the OEIU has emphasized the fact that the organizational climate in Canada is better than it ever has been.

It is expected that George Meany, President of the American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations, will address the delegates. President Meany's attitude with respect to the OEIU is well known. He has been actively assisting our organization with manpower and financial resources.

It is expected that this 7th convention will be the largest in the history of the Office Employees International Union. Messages have been received from President Dwight D. Eisenhower and U.S. Secretary of Labor James F. Mitchell. Milton F. Gregg has also forwarded a message on behalf of the Prime Minister of Canada and himself.

President Eisenhower in his message stated: "In his brief history, your union has worked diligently to improve the earnings and working conditions of American office employees."

Secretary of Labor Mitchell in his statement said: "Your union will figure significantly in the general effort—which includes all segments of the nation—to provide improved education and training, enhanced opportunities, and fair wages and working conditions for our white collar people. Your past record is assurance enough that you will rise to the challenges of a promising future."

Mr. Milton F. Gregg extended his greetings and best wishes for a successful convention.

Many leaders of the labor movement will attend our delegates. Orville Freeman, Governor of Minnesota, will address the delegates at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, June 12. Herbert Humphreys, U.S. Senator, is also expected to address the delegates sometime during the convention.

The International Union has provided for a program of information which will include organizational techniques, collective bargaining procedures and a legal discussion will be led by General Counsel Joseph E. Finley. Mr. Finley represents the OEIU in our recent victorious fight in the Portland, Oregon case. Karl Cortison, Chairman of the OEIU Local 12, will welcome the delegates prior to the convening of the meeting. Local 12 is the host organization and has prepared a schedule of entertainment for the delegates assembled. This entertainment includes several socials, a night baseball game and a gala banquet. Local 12 has gone to great lengths to make the visit of each and every delegate a pleasant one.

Low Wages

In the midst of the present "boom," 26 per cent of the nation's millions of retail trade employees still earn less than $1 an hour, a Department of Labor survey shows. Also, the study shows 19 per cent get less than 75 cents an hour, and 10 per cent less than 51.25. These figures, union officials, underline the need for extending penalties to breach coverage of the Federal Wage-Hour Act so as to include at least a large share of the retail workers.
Mitchell Opposes Anti-Union Laws

Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell, in a recent speech, warned that "legislation that harshes the abilities of unions to organize and bargain" would be in the lasting detriment of the whole nation. We quote "Amen" to Mr. Mitchell's statements.

Certain anti-labor groups would like to take the opportunity of recent exposures to deal organized labor a double blow. The chairman of the Special Senate Investigating Committee lent his name to a proposal to our union shop.

As we stated in a recent editorial, we are violently opposed to corruption in labor unions. However, it behooves the chairman of that committee to try to hush this organizational and collective bargaining power of unions by eliminating the union shop because of the recent exposure of corruption in one union.

Secretary Mitchell made certain recommendations which would tend to make unions more responsible in the conduct of their affairs. We are not opposed to such recommendations. However, it will be necessary for organized labor to be on guard against the possibility of legal inroads which would impair our collective bargaining strength, under the guise of corrective legislation. The union shop is absolutely necessary to the preservation and wellbeing of labor unions and wage earners.

Minimum Wage

Millions of workers, particularly in retail industry, are not covered by the Federal Wage and Hour Act, which provides for a minimum of $1 per hour. Representatives of organized labor have been testifying before congressional committees relative to the need for extension of the present Wages and Hours Act to cover these workers in retail industry, along with those employed in the hotel industry, transit systems, certain transportation, the laundry and dry cleaning industry and the maritime trades.

It is amazing to find in this, the most prosperous period of our history, the number of insured workers receiving wages of less than $1 per hour. It is more amazing to see the opposition which has sprung up against the inclusion of those excluded workers under the Federal Wage and Hour Act.

It will be necessary for organized labor to do everything possible to help these excluded workers gain the protection of Federal Wage and Hour coverage.

White Collar Employment On the Rise

The Bureau of National Affairs in a recent publication announced that the number of white collar workers between January, 1946 and January, 1957, increased from 19.8 million to 26.3 million. This represents a rise from 36 to 42 per cent of the civil labor force.

While the total number of 26.3 million includes certain workers which are not normally referred to as white collar workers, the figure covered all of those in the so-called non-production group. Every major industry showed a substantial increase in the numbers of white collar workers employed. For example, therefore, we are fast becoming a nation of white collar workers.

It is only natural that the AFL-CIO, noticing this growth, should turn its attention to the problem of unionizing this important segment of our society. The Office Employees Interna- tional Union—the only union of its kind in the AFL-CIO—representing tens of thousands of workers in all types of varied industries, should play an important part in the future of white collar workers.

The Seventh Convention of the OEIU which will be held in Minneapolis beginning June 10, will make important decisions relating to the unionization of white collar workers.

Weyerhaeuser Union Opposition Shattered

The previously solid front of Weyerhaeuser Timber Company against unionization of its office and clerical employees was broken in two units at the North Carolina Pulp Company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Weyerhaeuser. Employees in the two groups cast better than a 75 per cent affirmative vote for the OEIU.

The organizing program, which started in mid-January, brought many strong personal and written appeals from company officials urging rejection of the OEIU. Spokesmen within the two units said that the forthright and head-on manner with which the union answered the company's claims only served to unite business people in their efforts to align themselves with the UE.

At an OEIU Secretary-Treasurer J. Howard Hicks conducted the organizing program in its entirety. He expressed belief that the outcome of this election would favorably influence other Weyerhaeuser office workers in Camden, New Jersey, soon to vote in an NLRB election. Clerical employees in the home office of the Kitchenutter Con- tainer Company and in the company's plant, both situated in Camden, and employees of the Camden Container Company are to vote in an NLRB election, probably during July. Both companies are wholly-owned subsidiaries of Weyerhaeuser.

OEIU Vice President Edward P. Springman and Eastern Organizational Conference Organizer Robert C. Gregor are spearheading the Camden organizing program. These workers will be represented by Local 14, Philadelphia, while Local 534 is being chartered for the Pittsburgh group.

Activities of Conferences and Local Unions

Tampa, Fla.—Local 146 reports through Vice President J. O. Blood- worth, that contract negotiations have been completed with the Tam- iami Trail Tours, Inc. After meetings with the conciliation service and a threatened strike, the company agreed to raise the hourly wage of those who are employed in the hotel industry, transit systems, certain transportation, the laundry and dry cleaning industry and the maritime trades. The agreement was negotiated through the office of James Mitchell, who has a number of workers in these types of employment.

New York, N.Y.—After a difficult conference, the office employees in the AFL-CIO have reached an agreement on behalf of the employees of the law firm of Friedman, Feigenbaum, Feigenbaum & Feigenbaum, New York, N.Y.

Seattle, Wash.—Vice President A. H. O'Brien, who is also Business Representative of Local 8, announces that their contract with the Western News Company, Seattle, has been completed with the following improvements: a 12-cent increase for all employees which in dollars ranged from $30 to $50 per month wage increase, amended the vacation and holiday provisions to provide for 12 days after one year of employment to three weeks' vacation after five years. A pension plan has been secured for the employees with the employer paying for back service for all the employees who are also covered by social security.

Tampa, Fla.—Local 104, representing the Tamiami Trail Tours, Inc., has reached a new agreement with the company for the employment of its members.

New York, N.Y.—Local 108 reports that their contract with the law firm of Friedman, Feigenbaum, Feigenbaum & Feigenbaum, New York, N.Y., has been completed with the following improvements: a 12-cent increase for all employees which in dollars ranged from $30 to $50 per month wage increase, amended the vacation and holiday provisions to provide for 12 days after one year of employment to three weeks' vacation after five years. A pension plan has been secured for the employees with the employer paying for back service for all the employees who are also covered by social security.

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New York, N.Y.—Negotiations on behalf of the office and clerical employees of Dobert Brothers and Local No. 153 resulted in a $5 per week general increase effective January 15, 1957; a 50-cent per hour increase over a two-year period and classification adjustments for approximately one third of the company's employees.

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The organizing program, which started in mid-January, brought many strong personal and written appeals from company officials urging rejection of the OEIU. Spokesmen within the two units said that the forthright and head-on manner with which the union answered the company's claims only served to unite business people in their efforts to align themselves with the UE.

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MALCOLM PRAYER

Malcolm Prayer has recently been appointed as an Organizer of the Southeastern Organizational Conference. Brother Prayer was formerly the Secretary of the Building and Construction Trades Department of the AFL-CIO, and has had quite a few years of experience in the labor movement. He served as an organizer in New Orleans. His most recent work was in the Central States region. Brother Prayer will cover the southeastern section of the Southeastern Conference.

At the present time his address is 3816 Godall Street, Lake Charles, Louisiana. It is anticipated that Brother Prayer will move his residence in the near future and all local union offices will be notified of his address.

Halyoke, Mass.—Contract negotiations have been completed between Local No. 126 and the National Black Book Company, the following improvements have been gained: A general wage increase of $2.80 per week, for the ensuing year. With the exception of recent negotiations which are expected to be completed within the next few weeks, this is the highest increase in wages of late years the members have experienced. The agreement provided a general increase of 10 cents per hour for all wage classifications.

The agreement provides a general adjustment increase over the minimum and maximum of the rate schedule. These last negotiations re- sulted in many upward adjustments, in addition to a revision of the general adjustments.

Brother J. L. Walker is President of Local 66 which represents these workers.

Buffalo, N.Y.—Business Representative Emile Stock of Local No. 212 announces the settlement of their agreement with the Canadian National Railway. The following are the highlights of the settlement:

1. A general increase of 3 per cent wage and maximum of all salary ranges.
2. Annual conventions will be held at least once every two years.
3. New groups have been organized in Buffalo, Ironton, Ohio, and other cities.
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5. An agreement was reached which will increase the workman's compensation benefits.
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AFL-CIO Legislative Director Proposes TVA Be Self-Financed

In a statement for the House Flood Control Subcommittee, AFL-CIO Legislative Director Andrew J. Biemiller proposed that TVA be placed on a self-financing basis and allowed to make its own monetary policies.

Biemiller said that TVA should be allowed to borrow funds for expansion and that the rate structure should be left within the control of the Federal Government.

The proposal was based on the premise that the TVA has been a sound investment for private individuals.

In order to provide funds for expansion, the Federal Government should be able to determine the rate structure and the amount of money to be spent on various projects.

The proposal was endorsed by the House Flood Control Subcommittee.

Canadian Consumer Price Index Remains Unchanged

Canadian Consumer Price Index remained unchanged at 120.5 between February and March. However, in comparison with the same month of the previous year, the index showed a 1.5 per cent increase. This was due to the increase in the cost of living and the higher cost of transportation. The increase in the cost of living was the result of rising wage rates, higher rents, and higher prices for goods and services.

In order to maintain the stability of the index, the government has been taking steps to control the cost of living. The government has been working with industries to make sure that wages are increased in line with the cost of living. The government has also been working with businesses to ensure that prices are kept stable.

This year, the government has introduced a new program to help control the cost of living. The program includes measures such as price controls, wage controls, and rent controls. These measures have helped to keep the cost of living in check.

In conclusion, the Canadian Consumer Price Index remained unchanged in March. However, the government is still working to keep the cost of living in check in order to provide stability for the country.

By LLOYD CHAPMAN

President, Canadian Organization Conference

How to Buy: Some Bargains in Appliances

By Sidney Margolis

S HARP early summer price cuts on household appli-iances are making it possible to buy some of the latest models at prices considerably lower than those of last year. Many appliances, such as refrigerators, washers, and dryers, have been marked down at local stores. This is a good opportunity for those who are looking to purchase new appliances.

The best time to buy appliances is during the summer months, as many stores offer sales and discounts during this time. It is also a good idea to compare prices from different retailers to find the best deal.

When shopping for appliances, it is important to consider the size and capacity of the appliance. This will help ensure that it will meet your needs.

Overall, it is a good time to buy appliances as prices are lower and there are more options available.

St. Lawrence Corp. Signs with Local 350

After two months of negotiation, an agreement was signed with the 50 office employees of St. Lawrence Corporation at Delano, Ont., after the com-pany's proposal for a labor agree-ment. This agreement covered the mill employees and the woodlands.

The one-year agreement is retro- active to May 1, 1957, and provides for a general increase of 5 cents per hour with a further 3 cents in various classifications.

Seniority, vacation, holidays, grievance and arbitration clauses were included in the agreement.

The agreement also proposed to gain the right in the future in re- spect to sickness benefits. The lo- cal union was satisfied with the negoti-ations by Organizer Carmelo Cor- beil.

The local union is awaiting certification for some 25 camp clerks. The case is still pending before the Labor Relations Board.

Continental Can Signs with Local 57

After two months of negotiation, an agreement was concluded with Continental Can Co. of Canada Ltd. in Mon- treal. The agreement provides for increases ranging from $5.40 to $1.28 per week depending on job classifications. The average increase is 3.2. Additional increases are scheduled for the following Mondays.

1. A general increase of 3 per cent wage and maximum of all salary ranges.
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A successful summer season is ahead. It is a good time to buy appliances and save money. The prices are lower and there are more options available.

How to Buy: Some Bargains in Appliances
The impact of the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision which upheld the position of the OEIU in the Portland Teamster case, was a matter of increasing interest to the OEIU. The OEIU committed itself to fight this case all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, because of the fact that it represents thousands of officers and clerical workers employed by labor unions throughout the United States. From this point of view it becomes imperative to establish the fact that these workers had the same legal rights as have been granted to other workers.

The previous ruling by the National Labor Relations Board was the impact of the Portland Teamster case, which have far-reaching effects in that it is the first time that the OEIU is involved in a case which has been heard by the Court. The National Labor Relations Act of 1947, as amended, provides that the Board may issue a decision, in a case where the Board has found that certain practices constitute unfair labor practices, which may have an adverse effect on interstate commerce. The Board then has the power to issue an order directing the employer to cease and desist from such practices.

The Board has consistently shown a concern for the rights of the labor organization to engage in collective bargaining, and the right of the workers to engage in lawful and peaceful conduct in furtherance of their objectives. The Board has also stated that it will not interfere with the right of the labor organization to engage in lawful and peaceful conduct in furtherance of its objectives.

In the case of the Portland Teamster case, the Board has stated that the employer's activities, which were in furtherance of its objectives, were not in violation of the National Labor Relations Act. The Board has also stated that the employer's activities were not in violation of any other provisions of the law.

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