UNIQUE PLAN REACHED WITH TVA

Automation’s Advent Met

Sam Elijah, president of the Tennessee Valley Authority Policy Council, AFL-CIO of the TVA, which Council includes the OEU local unions of the TVA employees for the purpose of collective bargaining, announced that an agreement has been reached with TVA management on the method of the introduction of an electronic data-processing machine in TVA.

In recent meetings between the Council and TVA it was agreed that when the electronic machinery, which has been ordered from IBM, is installed, the problem of change-over will be made in accordance with the understanding reached by the Council and TVA. This IBM equipment will not be delivered before July 1958. Since electronic data-processing requires a terrific amount of revision of work schedules, job training and re-training, it is necessary for management and the union to make plans far in advance of such change-over.

The present time many TVA employees are receiving the necessary training to qualify them for the new classifications that will be necessary to operate and assist in this new system.

The machinery ordered by TVA is of the intermediate computer type. Computers form the heart of the operation of machinery which they are incorporated. However, the TVA will not be devices for feeding data into them, for controlling their operations and for extracting the information. The input units, or communication devices as they are called, must use a code that the machine can understand. While one may feed in material in a variety of ways, such as by typewriter key punching of holes on cards or...
THE WHITFORD COLLAR

Activities of Conferences and Local Unions

Schedule of Forthcoming Conference Meetings

(All local unions are urged to have representatives at these meetings)

XIPR 94—Northeastern Organizational Conference, Boston, Mass. (Bradtford Hotel).
XIPR 95—Far Western Organizational Conference, Newark, N. J. (Robert Tread Trest Hotel).
XIPR 96—Organizational Conference, Cleveland, Ohio.
XIPR 97—Organizational Conference, Jacksonville, Fla.
XIPR 98—Far Eastern Organizational Conference, Toronto (Royal York Hotel).
XIPR 100—Western Organizational Conference, Los Angeles, Calif. (Hollywood-Beverly Hotel).

New York Stock Exchange Signs Agreement

Local 153 Wins Mail Ballot

In a unique mail ballot election, Local 153, New York, N. Y., recently won an overwhelming victory. The balloting was conducted by the National Labor Relations Board on behalf of the employees of the Inter-City Transportation Co. of New York, the oBarr that the ticket agents and subdivisions of this bus company constitute an appropriate unit for collective bargaining.

The agents are located in a series of sections between the Port Authority Building, New York, and Paterson, N. J. Because of the wide spread area covered by these employees and the fact that some were currently located, the Board and the company agreed to Local 153's suggestion that the ballot be conducted through the United States mails rather than in the usual fashion.

The organizational campaign was conducted by Business Representative John P. Tracy with the help of Organizer Allen McCormack and Walter Weller, now Chief Steward for the group.

Local 23 announces the ratification of their contract with Medowieks, Inc., 305 South Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill., contract covers $1.50 per hour wage increase for the first six months of the $1.75 per hour contract.

Local 23 officials have signed the iron clad merger agreement between the local organization and the National Union to effect a merger of the two organizations.

Despite certain statements to the contrary by various international union presidents, the Office Employes International Union is the only union chartered by the AFL-CIO for the purpose of exclusive representation of office and clerical workers.

The terms of the merger agreement of the AFL and CIO called for the merged organization to respect jurisdiction granted by the former parent bodies. The CIO did not have an organization chartered for the exclusive representation of office and clerical employees. Therefore, at the time of the merger, the CIO did not have the only organization of its kind. Numerous officials of former industrial unions of the CIO and certain leaders of manual unions of the AFL have nevertheless called for the unionization of office and clerical employees into their respective organizations. These statements were made in the face of comments to the contrary at the time of the merger.

The Office Employes International Union is the largest union of its kind. It holds contracts with corporations representing almost every existing industry. It is the leader in the field of white collar organization. It has not conceded any part of its jurisdiction to manual or industrial type unions.

It is our experience that white collar workers want representation by a white collar workers union. The Office Employes International Union will serve that purpose.

Living Costs Soar

The cost of living has continued its rise through the tenth consecutive month. Despite the fact that almost a year ago the administration in Washington forecast a leveling off of prices, the consumers of the United States are continuing to be met with rising prices. National company such as those in the steel industry, continue to raise prices despite the highest net profits in history. The President's call for restraint has been ignored. It is, therefore, necessary for our union to insist on increases commensurate with the rise in the cost of living. Escalator clauses are a necessity.

Union Shop in Right-To-Work Texas

In accordance with an article published by "News and Views" of the CIO, various unions in the State Bar Association have been barred from practicing law in Texas.

The Texas Bar Association opposed to the union shop, but not for lawyers. It would appear to us that if the union shop is illegal for workers, it is also illegal for professionals, including lawyers. We would remind our unionizing members of the Bar Association, aware of the union shop provisions of those associations, will not utter a single word against these obligations, but on the other hand will make speeches against the union shop for workers. They can recognize the collective bargaining strength of the union shop for attorneys, but do not want to recognize this added protection for union members.

Oakland, Calif.—Business Manager John Klinkham reports that these three newly organized firms have recently signed contracts with Local 153.

Helpin and Helpin, a firm of attorneys, Redding and the California Union Service, Oakland, have signed the standard union shop contract for their respective areas. The Beneficial Savings and Loan Association signed an agreement similar to the federal and general insurance contract. Muntain, Local 154 members in two other firms will hold a contract negotiation next month. Mem. of the American Hospital Insurance Services, San Lorenzo, will receive an automatic increase of $6.00 per month on August 1. Employees at Oakland Shem Metal have a contract raise of $10.00 per month coming on August 1.

Local 205 signed a 23-month agreement with the New York Stock Exchange and the Board of Governors of the Exchange, Inc., for the first time in the exchange's history. The agreement was concluded at the local's organizing committee and the Exchange's negotiating, Vice President Charles Klem. The union's executive director rolled up with Walter C. Schuler, president; Frank Schmidt, vice president; Executive Board members John Waldron and Anthony Cloe, in addition to George French and Harry Nichols. Salary increases negotiated averaged 1.3 per cent. However, salaries in some classifications were improved by as much as 15 per cent in order to adjust existing incomes. Salaries of the senior floor employees, the largest union, were increased by 10 per cent. An improvement was negotiated in the holiday clause. Holiday pay was increased to one and one-half times the regular pay for work performed on a legal holiday on which the Exchange is closed and which falls within the regularly assigned work week. This is in addition to the regular weekly pay.

Local 205 acknowledges its indebtedness to International Presi- dient Howard Coughlin for assigning Mr. Douglass to assist in these prolonged negotiations.
OEIU 225 Elects New Officers

Members of the Ottawa, Ont. Local elected officers for the coming year at a recent meeting, held in the boardroom of the Canadian Labour Congress. Seated, from left: Jeanne Malo, vice president; June Papp, president, and Margaret Carleton, general secretary. Standing: Marion Chauvin, recording secretary; Adeline Paradis, business representative; Elmer Ford, vice president; and Eric J. Carter, past president.
Who's to Blame?

The cost of living, as measured by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, has been on the increase for eight consecutive months. As a consequence, public opinion has forced the present national administration to look into this matter. Therefore, President Eisenhower recently called on both labor and management to use responsible restraint in initiating wage and price increases. Subsequently, the United States Steel Corp. proposed to announce a price increase of approximately $6 a ton, despite the fact that in the year 1956 the Corp. had received the profits of a 50 percent increase in raw materials, which was equal to a total of 370.1 million dollars. It is estimated that the profits of this Corp. after taxes will approximate 461 million dollars in 1957.

President David J. McDonald of the United Steel Workers of America, very correctly stated that the U. S. Steel Corp. could have absorbed the cost of wage increases granted in the year 1957 without increasing prices and still record the greatest profit . The Steel Workers of America have indicated that the Corporation has paid its workmen virtually nothing in wages.

It is important that Americans realize that while wage increases have an effect on prices, they do not necessarily have the effect that one would be led to believe if we paid serious heed to the irresponsible statements of representatives of industry. For example, last year the steel industry increased its prices by almost three times the increase it granted to its workmen in terms of to the highest steel. At that time, despite the cost of responsibility citizens against the possibilities of inflation, the national administration was silent. This latest increase by the U. S. Steel Corp., which will certainly be followed by the rest of the industry, was made almost immediately after President Eisenhower called for restraint on the part of industry.

In 1952, Charles E. Wilson, president of General Motors, but now Secretary of Defense, stated: "I contend that we should not say the "wage-price spiral." We should buy the "wage-price spiral" for it is not primarily wages that push up prices. It is primarily prices that pull wages up."

- A revealing insight into this matter was established by Stanley H. Rumensberg, director of the Department of Research of the AFL-CIO. For some time now representatives of industry have admonished labor that wage increases cannot be granted without increases in man-hour productivity. Mr. Rumensberg delved into this matter of productivity, particularly with respect to the United States Steel Corp. The results would certainly bear out labor's contention that a Congressional investigation into the wage-price-profit relationship is most urgently needed.

In 1939 the U. S. Steel Corp. profits before taxes were equal to 13c for each hour worked by each employee. In 1940 this profit was doubled to 26c. In 1941 profits per man-hour climbed to 38.8c. By 1947, a post-war year, it had reached 42.6c. In the so-called recession year of 1949 it went to 60.3c. In 1950 it was recorded at 85.4c. In 1955 the profit per man-hour for this Corp. reached a new record of $1.38. This represents an increase of 30 per cent over its previous profits per man-hour in 1955 and a fabulous increase of 1284 per cent since 1939.

David J. McDonald, president of the United Steel Workers of America, recently stated that the upward movement of steel prices through the years has been caused by the steel industry's determination to widen its profit margin by a consistent policy of ever higher prices on customers, and eventually consumers of steel who are helpless to resist such increases.

Another indication of happenings in the field of wages and profits are some recent figures published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, which indicate that payrolls for production and maintenance workers in the steel industry declined 4.4 per cent between September 1956 and May 1957, while the physical output of manufacturing industries declined only somewhat more than one-half of 1 per cent. Unit labor costs of textile production and maintenance workers actually declined 3.3 per cent in those eight months, while wholesale prices of industrial goods continued to move up by almost 2 per cent.

Corporate profits in the past six to eight months have been at all time record peaks, despite a levelling off of economic activities. Many representatives of industry, including the President of the American Association of Manufacturers, have testified before labor that wage increases will cause increases in prices. The AFL-CIO, knowing these statements to be untrue, has called on the Congress of the United States to investigate and ascertain the truth regarding wages, prices and profits. The national Association of Manufacturers and the United States Chamber of Commerce have consistently opposed a congressional investigation into the wage-price-profit relationship. We are quite certain that such an investigation would give the public much information relative to the intentions of certain great industries to widen profits without regard to the effect of prices on an inflationary spiral.

Presidential's further explanation that the automotive program should be run by competent engineers who understand the business of WAS and not by highly skilled technicians whose function is to build and repair the equipment. He emphasized the importance of understanding reached with management that VW would train its own personnel rather than attempt to hire automation specialists from outside the organization.

The TVA Council is very proud of its efforts to increase productivity through the use of automation. Though much has been written about what the effect of automation might be in the office, they are one of the first to actually participate with management in developing plans to meet the problems involved in the introduction of electronic data-processing equipment. "By this means," Mr. Elkins adds, "we shall be able to respond to the demands of the CEU in a very considerable degree of the changes they might otherwise be confronted with, as well as the improvement of management of TVA in increasing the efficiency of the new processes."

Interest in the "Miss Union Secretary" Contest continues to mount as more and more stenographers and typewriters throughout the United States pour into contest headquarters. A check for one thousand dollars plus a weekend trip to Miami Beach and a Remington Portable Typewriter await the Editors who have entered the "Miss Union Secretary" Contest, (Continued from page 1)