3 Conferences Hold Productive Workshops

Sessions Held In Shreveport

The semi-annual meeting of the Southwestern Organizational Conference was held at Shreveport, La., June 22-25.

Conference delegates were welcomed by Carroll Shaw, president of the Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, of Shreveport. Victor Bagot, president of the Louisiana State Labor Council, AFL-CIO, addressed the delegates and called their attention to the numerous problems facing organized labor today. Many of these problems are directly related to conditions in the State of Louisiana.

B. A. Grite, secretary of the National Metal Trades Department of the AFL-CIO, also talked to the delegates and stressed the need for close cooperation with Metal Trades Councils throughout the Southwest and throughout the country in the important part that the Office Employee's International Union has played within the various Metal Trades Councils in the United States.

As part of an educational program, the officers of the Southwest Organizational Conference arranged for a dissertation on National Labor Law by Claude H. Wile, legislative counsel, Paul Barker, legal counsel for the Louisiana State Labor Council. Mr. Barker's presentation followed a short film on NLRB procedure, prepared by the National Labor Relations Board.

Mr. Barker outlined, in detail, the numerous problems that local unions at a whole face at the National Labor Relations Board today. He called attention to the many changes in policy which now give to the employer much latitude in combating unionism. His presentation was followed by a question and answer program.

OEIU President Howard Coughlin reported to the Southwestern Organizational Conference on the progress of the OEIU throughout the United States and Canada. He described our affiliation with the Maritime Trades Department and detailed our recent organizational meeting at Chicago.

Sister Doris Cates of Local 277, who is the president of the Southwestern Organizational Conference, conducted the entire session.

New Local Chartered

Another OEIU local has been chartered in Illinois. It will be known as Local Union 374, and will be located in Springfield.

According to Northcentral Conference Organizer Gene Dwyer, several active campaigns are already underway, in conjunction with the Teamsters Union, and the Machinists Union. Local 374 will shortly petition the NLRB for an election of approximately 90 office workers from one of Springfield's largest industrial plants.

Panel Sessions, Work Shop Are Features Of Pacific Northwest Conference Meeting

The Pacific Northwest Organizational Conference met recently at the Hotel Strathcona, Victoria, B. C.

This meeting proved to be one of the most interesting yet to have been conducted by this conference. Director of Organization Douglas made a report on the organizational activities of the International Union throughout the country and on the progress of our national organizing campaigns. Following this report, there was a question and answer period which brought out many interesting facts regarding techniques of organizing.

During the meeting the delegates in attendance were assigned to three separate panels and each given a problem to discuss and report back to the entire meeting on the conclusion arrived at by the panel. After this work shop session, each of the three groups reported and these reports were followed by an open discussion which was led by Director of Organization Douglas, Vice President Gene Corum, Conference Organizer Bill Lowe and Delegate Jim Buyer.

During the luncheon at the noon recess, it was brought to the attention of the delegates that the Hotel and Restaurant Workers had placed a picket line on the hotel. The delegates, following luncheon, all checked out of the hotel, moved to another hotel and continued the afternoon session in the Victoria Labour Temple.

During the afternoon session, Mr. Roy B. Kelly, UIU, made a lecture on "The Method For Problem Solving." During this discussion, he outlined ten points in a program to be followed in solving problems.

Following this discussion, a film was shown which dealt with communications within an organization. This film proved to be very educational and was well received by all of the delegates.

Bob Benne, President of OEIU Local 378 outlined the procedures to be followed in the preparation to be made before entering into negotiations with an employer. During his presentation, he outlined the many situations which should be covered in a collective bargaining agreement in order to adequately protect the rights of employees.

During the election of officers, Director of Organization Douglas chaired the meeting and, as a result of the elections, Bill Suppes of Vancouver, B. C. was re-elected President and Sister Dorothea Meyers of Portland was elected Secretary-Treasurer.

The Tacoma local union invited the Conference to hold their next meeting in Tacoma and the delegates accepted this invitation.

Before adjournment, a motion was carried to hold the meeting of the Conference for two days instead of one.

Southwest Conference Meeting in Shreveport

President Howard Coughlin of the OEIU (left) with delegates to the Southwestern Organizational Conference meeting held in Shreveport on June 5.

North Central Holds Session

The North Central Organizational Conference summer session was held in Ft. Wayne, Ind., at the Van Orman Hotel.

At this meeting the delegates were addressed by the president of the Central Labor Council, several members of the Executive Board of the State Federation of Labor and the Assistant Regional Director of the AFL-CIO.

After the organizational report by Director of Organization Douglas and an activities report of Conference Organizers Hilliker, Dwyer and Lewandowski, a work shop was set up in which the delegates were separated into two groups and given a subject to discuss. After the discussion period, each of the groups elected a spokesman who reported to the meeting as a whole on the results of the work shop. A question and answer period followed where information was exchanged regarding the making of contracts for a new organizational campaign and methods and means of creating and keeping the interest of local union members.

Local 325 provided a dinner for the delegates at the noon recess and presented all of the delegates with a notepad and ball point pen inscribed with Office Employees International Union, Local 325, Fort Wayne, Ind.

There was also a hospitality room operated by the host local on the night preceding the meeting.

New Haven, Conn.—Conference Organizers Meeting announces the signing of a renewal agreement for members of Local 123 who are employed by the Connecticut Building Trades Welfare and Insurance Fund. The agreement, which is of one year's duration, calls for a Union Shop, a 35-hour week, 9 paid holidays, identical hospital, surgical and disability benefits as are afforded to members of the building trades, and three weeks vacation after 5 years.
Canadian Vacation Laws

In last month’s edition of “White Collar” we referred to Saskatchewan as the first Canadian Province to adopt a mandatory vacation law.

We were promptly corrected by a member of OEIU Local 225 in Ottawa. We were reminded that seven Provinces and Canada, itself, have mandatory annual vacation laws. Some of these laws have been in force for 10 years or more. The provinces having mandatory vacation legislation are Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick.

The United States could well take a leaf from Canada’s book in respect to mandatory vacations.

Senate Labor Bill

THE Senate recently passed S. 3974, officially known as “Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosures Act of 1958.”

During the course of debate, numerous restricting clauses were defeated. However, on examining the bill as finally passed by the Senate, it is evident that the government intends to take greater control over labor unions. In some instances, management is also affected, particularly in view of the provisions which require that employers must file non-communist affidavits.

Much additional power is given to the Secretary of Labor over trade unions. This, itself, is not desirable because the Secretary is always a political appointee.

While some of the provisions of the Senate bill would tend to eliminate corruption, for the most part it is restrictive.

While the Officers Employes International Union would find no fault with provisions calling for secret ballot elections and protection against unjust trusteeships, it is evident that this bill, if enacted into law, would place unions to a greater extent under government domination. We are fearful of such domination.

As we stated in a previous editorial, if labor is legally restrained, it is only a matter of time before management will be treated in the same manner.

Congressional Influence

WHEN it was proposed two years ago that the United States Senate investigate the part played by oil interests, Senator Barry Goldwater made the statement that if such an investigation were made, at least one-half of the members of Congress would be exposed as having benefited from oil contributions to their campaigns. Such investigation was never made.

More recently, Presidential Assistant Sherman Adams has been placed in a bad light publicly in what he describes as “impartiality” his relationship with Bernard Goldfine, a financier.

Numerous representatives of the present Administration, including the late Air Force Secretary Harold Talbott, former Internal Revenue Commissioner Coleman Andrews, and Farmers’ Home Administrator Robert MacLeish were forced to resign because of their unethical conduct relating to business connections. All of these men were political appointees.

We believe the system of political appointment of officers in responsible positions should be seriously studied.

The National Labor Relations Board is composed of political appointees. Each and every one of the members of this Board was appointed by the present Administration. Their decisions are decidedly pro-business.

We feel that career men may do a much better job in positions of this kind without the possible ties of partisan politics.
OEIU Wind Transfer of Clericals from the ILA

After numerous conferences between Captain Bradley of the International Longshoremen's Association, independent, and Howard Coughlin, President of the Office Employees International Union, AFL-CIO, it was agreed that the I.L.A. would transfer its interests in organizing clerical employees in the steamship and stevedoring industry to the Office Employees International Union.

Captain Bradley, in making the public announcement, stated that he recognized the fact that the OEIU is the only union chartered for the exclusive representation of office and clerical workers by the American Federation of Labor—Congress of Industrial Organizations. He further stated that, while the I.L.A. is independent, it intends to work closely with all segments of the organized labor movement for purposes of promoting labor's common interests.

It is his feeling that office and clerical workers should be represented by an organization skilled in the problems of white-collar workers, particularly in view of the plight of white-collar workers today.

Membership already organized in the French Line, Italian Line, Ward Garcia, Grancelombians and Greek Line will be immediately transferred to Office Employees International Union, Local 157.

The Office Employees International Union will immediately initiate a campaign to organize all of the remaining unorganized companies.

Coughlin gave his assurance that the International Longshoremen's Association will cooperate fully in the efforts of the Office Employees International Union.

President Coughlin extended his congratulations to Captain Bradley and the International Longshoremen's Association on its display of cooperative trade unionism. He pledged that the OEIU would do everything possible to better the conditions of clerical workers in the steamship and stevedoring industries.

The OEIU will embark on campaigns to complete the unionization of clerical employees in this industry, all through the country.

While the initial campaigns will involve unionization of clerical employees in the Port of New York, it is expected that campaigns will also be initiated in Boston, Portland, Maine, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Savannah, Charleston, Tamp, Mobile, New Orleans and Galveston in the near future.

OEIU Makes Gains At Toledo Edison

OEIU Local 19 announced the signing of a renewal agreement with the Toledo Edison Company which provides for increases ranging from 8 to 15 cents per hour. The agreement is effective immediately.

The new agreement establishes salary increases of 3 cents for employees not scheduled to work on that day.

Thursday pay is now included in the new agreement for the first time in the history of the relationship between union and company.

Three (3) weeks' vacation after 10 years of service was also gained. Changes in the welfare program were also negotiated.

OEIU Local 19 was represented by Ron LaBrecque, Marie Smith, local president; Wanda Elliott, vice president; and Herbert Craig, Local 19 business representative.

The agreement was reached after 13 bargaining sessions between the union and the company.

20-Dec Inspection

Moderate Cost

Local 208 reports that as a result of renegotiations with the National Can Company of Moosonee, the new agreement provides for a 20-cent per hour increase for all employees retroactive to 1 April, 1958.

Local 225 Elects

The election of officers for 1958-59 was held recently in Ottawa by Local 225, Office Employees International Union. June Pappas, of the CLC unit, was re-elected president for a second term. First vice-president is Gillette Levine, of the National Union of Public Employees unit, and second vice-president is Ruth Cook, of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation unit.

Other officers are: Treasurers—Ellen Prou (CLC); recording secretary—Adeline Brashlaw (CLC); corresponding secretary—Joyce Jones (CLC); treasurers—James McMillan (Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employees), Margaret Bishop (CCP), and Milford Hayes (CLC), delegates to Labour Council—Gillette Levine and Ruth McGillis (Borden's Dairy); alternate delegates to Labour Council—Martha Choquette (National Defence Employees Association) and Dorothy York (CLC), chairman of negotiating committee—Rita Wilson (CCP), social committee—Georgette Couillard (CLC) and Martha Choquette, publicist committee—Dorothy York.

Visitors at North Central Summer Session

Writ of Prohibition Issued in Montreal

The Legere Stores in Montreal, subsidiary of Great Universal Stores in Canada and England have asked for a writ of prohibition against the Quebec Labour Relations Board to prevent the Board from continuing in its inquiry in regards to the position of certification asked for by the Office Employees International Union, Local 57.

This court action was taken because the Labour Board refused to give the company the list of employees who had signed in the union.

The OEIU, Local 57 had petitioned for certification for the 95 employees working in 12 stores in Montreal, on April 1st, 1958.

This case is in the same as the Tupper Coopers' Mines case at Murdochville, P. Q. where a writ of prohibition was also asked against the Labour Board and after a delay of over a year, during which the Steelworkers members were on strike it was rejected by the Superior Court.

Sign With Brotherhood

A one-year agreement effective from February 1, 1958, was recently signed by Office Employees International Union, Local 225, and the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway, Express and Other Transport Workers. The agreement covers office workers in CLC offices in Ottawa, Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Moncton.

The contract provides salary increases in the $1.25 to $1.75 range, an eleventh statutory holiday, a ten per cent increase in Christmas bonuses, and twenty days paid vacation after fifteen years service (previously twenty days after fifteen years). The agreement was negotiated in the offices of Banque Montreal.

Iris Martin, Myra Telford, and Laurette Emery signed on behalf of the Brotherhood.

This influx of new members is expected to bring the membership of the Brotherhood to over 2,000 members in Canada and is the result of the Brotherhood's open door policy and the demand for increased benefits by the men and women of the CLC.
New Organizer Appointed

Fred Dominguez, formerly of the Frameworks International Union, was recently appointed an organizer to represent the OEIU in the Southwestern Organizational Conference.

Sign With N. Y. Cotton Exchange

New York, N. Y.—On April 21, Local 205 signed a renewal of the agreement with the New York Cotton Exchange effective from April 1, 1958, to May 1, 1959. The renewal provides for a 3% salary increase and an improvement in the volume of trading bonus plan. It also includes the addition of major medical insurance to the Blue Cross, Blue Shield coverage already enjoyed by the employees and the reclassification of one job.

The committee composed of Edward R. Byrnes, Eugene Colgan, Vincent Blasinho, President Walter C. Schutte and Vice-President Frank Schmidt were only left in the negotiations by Director of Organization H. B. Douglas.

New Agreement Signed at Sandia

OEIU Local 251 reported that the negotiations at the Sandia Corporation in Albuquerque, New Mexico, have been brought to a satisfactory conclusion.

The new agreement provides that the company contribute $2.25 per month to the Group Health Care Plan and amends the wage schedule to increase the rates in Grades 21 through 34 by $2.25 per week and Grades 35 through 49 by $4.20 per week.

International Representative Frank Morton attended the local meetings in these negotiations.

Sign With Martin Segal Co.

New York, N. Y.—Negotiations were recently concluded between Local 153 and Martin E. Segal Co., Inc., for pension and welfare plan conditions. Major feature of the new two-year contract is the provision for the classification system with rates, ranges and automatic progressions from the minima to the maxima of the scale.

Wage increase negotiated prior to the $4.25 increase effective February 1, 1958, for each employee in labor grades V to VII was raised an additional 10 cents in labor grades I to IV. All clerical employees are to receive a $1 increase on the anniversary date of the agreement.

As a result of this contract, Local 153 members will receive four weeks' vacation with five years of service. Contributions to the Local 153 Welfare Plan were changed to $16 per employee per month. Doctor bill insurance was extended to include the member's family.

The contract was negotiated by Business Representative Mrs. M. e r 5 Drucker, Shop Steward Roselyn Distam and Committee Members Mildred Adolph, Bunny Carman and Dorothy Guld.

OEIU Wins Election in Richmond, California

Conference Organizer Chuck Hogan reported the results of recent OEIU election at the Mutual Grocery Company in Richmond, Calif.

After an organizing campaign that began in February and ran through June, the employees of the Mutual Grocery Company voted at the rate of four to one to be represented by OEIU Local 243.

New Contract With Convair Aircraft

OEIU, Local 277 ratified a new two-year agreement at Convair Aircraft at Pt. Worth, Texas, after numerous negotiations.

The new contract contains a $1 per hour increase or 8%, whichever is greater, which will apply to all employees, but will be subject to adjustment of the rate ranges. In addition, a 3% increase will be effective after one year.

Numerous adjustments in individual classifications were worked out up to a maximum of 14¢ per hour.

At the conclusion of the negotiations, which lasted 128 hours, Con vair and OEIU Local 277 agreed to a wage increase of 18¢ per week spread out over the next 26 months, with $2 immediately, another $2 on September 30 of this year, and additional $2 increases on September 30 of 1959 and 1960 respectively. There is also a provision for a wage reopener on January 15 of 1959 providing the cumulative living index reaches 122.5, unless as this figure has already been reached the reopener is inoperable.

The union has the right to strike during reopening provided no agreement can be reached. Also included in the settlement is hospital and surgical benefits paid for by the employee, sick leave, arbitration clause, union security agreement, reclassification, and a pension plan.

Conference Organizer Bud Manning and Local 137 President Leon Cowles negotiated for the local.

Local 367 Receives Charter

The officers of Local 367 are pictured above with Carl Holt, Office Employee International Union representative. Left to right are Mildred Gresznik, financial secretary; Elkeirina Britton, president; and Breitholt Holt.