Resounding Win Scored on Island

In an election conducted by the National Labor Relations Board on Wednesday, April 18th, the office and clerical employees of Sea Land Services, Inc., located in Force, Mayaguez and San Juan, voted overwhelmingly for the Office Employees International Union. Out of a total of 55 eligible voters, only one negative vote was cast.

This victory follows closely on the heels of successful organizational campaigns at Waterman Steamship Lines, Puerto Rican Industrial Development Company and Banco Olavero.

At the same time that the NLRB announced the results of the election conducted for Sea Land Services, the OEU filed a petition for representation against the employees of the Colgate-Palmolive Company and a second petition for 40 union members of the same company.

Success attained by the OEU Office Employees International Union in Puerto Rico is attributed to its continued innovative approach, which involves sustained contact with the affected employees in the Puerto Rican community.

SEIU Scores NLRB Election at Longview

After an unsuccessful election in 1961, the OEU1 Local 11, representing the workers at Longview, Washington, went to the polls again in April 1962.

The election in 1961 was the first in which workers in all departments voted, and was conducted as a test case. The OEU won the election, and the result was upheld by the NLRB.

Puerto Rico Election Certified

Pictured above, at NLRB certification proceeding, standing left to right, are Héctor Ortíz, OEU Representative; Agustín Román, AFL-CIO Regional Director; José E. Prado, Assistant District Manager of Sea Land Services; Mario Morales, president of OEU Local 11; and Carlos González, chief steward at Sea Land; Santiago Paz, Jr., NLRB Representative, and Waibo C. Vangvong, company observer.

1962 Vote Program Launched

Voice of the Electorate, the political arm of the OEU in the United States, recently launched its 1962 drive for voluntary contributions by local union members. National Union officers expressed confidence that in 1962, and predicted that an increasing number of local unions would join the program.

VOTE is dedicated to the legislative and political efforts of white collar workers at the national, state and local levels, and for the first time in history, provides a platform from which the views of this large segment of the voting public can be heard. VOTE supports candidates and measures in the interest of white collar workers while at the same time carrying on a political education program among such workers.

OEIU President Howard Coughlin and Secretary-Treasurer J. Howard Hicks in launching the 1962 VOTE contribution drive.

New Ideas Needed, Coughlin Tells Mgl.

An address by International President Howard Coughlin before the American Management Association was widely attended and comment on what it meant to improve labor-management relations.

"New ideas are needed to meet the problems of automation and the increasing role of government in industry," Coughlin told the AMA.

The OEU campaign in this instance was primarily concerned with visits to homes of eligible voters. In fact, the election was conducted under the first home visit. These visits were started after the OEU came to the conclusion that previous unfair labor practices had lost their anti-union appeal.

The campaign—leading up to the successful election, management reversed its tactics and did not conduct captive audience meetings or in any way attempt to influence the minds of the voters.

A comparison of the employer by the OEU has been introduced and is in the process of drafting a contract proposal which will be submitted to the International Paper Company at the earliest possible moment.

First clause of this type included in any contract with a paper mill in the three-state area.

The wage settlement called for an 8 cent across-the-board increase with an average 4.1% increase, well above the national pattern in the paper industry.

For the first time, vacation bene-

OEIU President Appointed to AFL-CIO Mediation Panel

OEIU President Howard Coughlin was appointed to the AFL-CIO Mediation Panel which was established as a result of the Fourth Constitutional Convention of the AFL-CIO last December.

As a member of the Mediation Panel, composed of persons from within the AFL-CIO, President Coughlin will meet with affiliates of the AFL-CIO involved in internal disputes for purposes of effecting settlements. Such mediation is proving effective in minimizing friction and discord among affiliates of the AFL-CIO.
Steel Dispute

Most of the newspapers took the position in the recent steel dispute that price increases were necessary. Others took the position that even if price increases were necessary, such announcements were to be, at the least, poorly timed.

We read nothing in the public press which condemned the representatives of U.S. Steel for their failure to differ with President Kennedy during the negotiations when he repeatedly stated that the settlement eventually agreed to was non-inflationary.

It could not have been a coincidence that the price increase was announced two days after the final contract was signed.

Some degree of difference that may exist as to whether or not a steel price increase was justified, we do not agree that the actions of the steel industry, led by U.S. Steel, were at least unethical.

Employers' Shortages

In the year 1960, the Internal Revenue Service reported that a total of 268,396 employers owed $226,483,000 in United States taxes withheld from their employees' pay.

The only salve we can figure this is the total represents a deduction from the year 1954, when 390,398 employers withheld $254,062,000.

It would appear that the government is making progress in convincing employers that workers' withholding taxes belong to the government.

Those employers convicted of using withholding taxes have received rather light penalties for these crimes. One employer of Lynn, Massachusetts was convicted on 47 counts covering $20,331.30 in taxes. He was fined $1,000.00 and jailed for four months. In Sandusky, Ohio, who was convicted of withholding $2,700.00 in taxes, was placed on five years' probation. In most other instances, individuals convicted were given similar fines and probation.

Most delinquent employers eventually settle up, but the United States loses some of the money because of deaths, bankruptcies and settlements.

We respectfully suggest that stiffer penalties would protect the worker against the loss of his taxes withheld from his wages.

"Free Speech" Curtailed

In a case involving the OEIU and the Retail Clerks International Association, the National Labor Relations Board effect reversed a previous decision which barred unions from equal opportunity to address workers after company officials had made use of captive audience opportunities.

The Board's decision was predicated on the fact that the Cleveland Department Store involved refused to allow union solicitation on company premises. The same company, however, made speeches to large groups of workers on company property during working hours.

The Board held that this created an imbalance in the opportunities for organizational communication.

We believe that this decision will bring back the old Bowvit Telco situation where the chance to give a union representative equal time and equal opportunity if the companies invoke the use of captive audience meetings.

Better still, we think the NLRB should revert back to the precedents of the Wagner Act itself, wherein an individual's right to join or not to join a union was his own business and could not be interfered with in any way by an employer.
Bargaining Rights Restored to Local 378

With the passage of Bill 84, the Hyman-Muger Legislation, the British Columbia Provincial Government has finally restored legal rights to Local 378, Vancouver, B.C.

This legislation is the culmination of a long uphill battle on the part of Local 378 following the takeover of the B.C. Electric Company by the Provincial Government.

In view of the uncertainty of their collective bargaining rights with the new Provincial Electric Authority, Local 378 concentrated all their efforts on re-gaining their former legal status.

Under the prevailing uncertain circumstances, Local 378 entered into a short term stop-gap agreement with the company in order to protect the interests of the membership until more extensive negotiations can be conducted to have their former collective bargaining rights be re-established.

The stop-gap agreement will run until December 31, 1962 and provides a three week vacation in the year in which an employee completes five years of service.

In addition, the agreement was compensation for loss of light and gas concessions to all OEU members who were employed on January 1, 1962.

Bumping rights were also extended in the event of lay-offs due to shortage of work.

White Collar Conference

An appraisal of the degree of organization and the prospects for developing collective bargaining relations for clerical, administrative and service workers was undertaken by 20 affiliated unions of the two-day conference organized by the CLC in Ottawa recently.

A steering committee was asked to work out a preliminary strategy for organizing in the white collar field was established by the conference. Members are: Mike Ragan, Canadian vice president, IAM; Burt Ormont, co-director of Steel's Office employees department; Robert Rintoul, NLUPE organization director; William Lowe, OEU representative; and David Dube, RCIA vice president.

One additional member is to be named by the CLC or the committee.

The conference proposed that a special department, or sub-department, be established by the CLC to be responsible for the development of white collar organization. It was agreed that rights that any organizing campaign in this field should not be a "fuzzy" affair but either an experimental process of developing new approaches and avenues of communication with white collar workers.

A study of the attitudes and am-

Survey on Union Attitudes

A recent poll released by the Canadian Institute of Public Opinion shows a majority of the public approves of trade unions both in Canada and the United States.

The question asked was: "In general do you approve or disapprove of Labour Unions?" The results were as follows:

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<td>Approve</td>
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<td>Disapprove</td>
<td>22%</td>
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One outstanding fact is that professional men and women, owners and managers as well as white collar workers, largely unorganized, seem to approve of unions by a substantial majority. But farmers in Canada are split down the middle.

Professional workers, owners, managers        Approve | 65% | 66% |
Sales and "white collar" workers               Disapprove | 26% | 13 |
Skilled and unskilled labour                   | 91 | 22 |
Farmers                                      | 42 | 20 |
All others                                    | 20 | 13 |
from the desk of the PRESIDENT

HOWARD COUGHLIN

The Anti-Labor Drive

An organization known as the "Committee For Equal Anti-Labor Protection," which has as its goal the restriction of so-called labor monopolies in the transportation industry, has launched a nation-wide drive for new anti-labor legislation.

Among the signs of a letter outlining the aims of this committee are two members of the John Birch Society and a former director of the New York Police Department.

The committee, which proposes to bring transportation unions under the provisions of the Sherman-Clayton anti-trust laws, using as their reason the fact that Harry Bridges, left-wing leader of the ILWU, was quoted in the April 10, 1961 issue of the Los Angeles Mirror: "We (Bridges and Hoffa) have the power. We can tie up the country from coast to coast. . . . The President, in a campaign speech, said he would get me. Me and Hoffa. Let 'em try it.

As a result, U. S. Senator John L. McClellan of Arkansas has introduced a bill to impose the provisions of the Sherman-Clayton Act on all unions in the transportation industry.

Clarence Manion, also of the John Birch Society national council, and well known for reactionary positions, has pledged to Senator McClellan a "cruel" program to gain support for this bill while in the critical stages of committee hearings and floor debates. A series of radio broadcasts over the regular Manion Forum network of 245 stations will be used to describe the alleged seriousness of the need for this legislation. Printed copies of this radio series and press releases will be circulated throughout the country. Radio tapes and informative brochures will be distributed by the Forum supporters and through thousands of clubs in order to get up the steam necessary for the passage of this legislation.

Big Firms Represented

At the present time, there is a drive on for funds in order to finance these activities. The individuals signing the letter requesting these funds are representative of some of the largest corporations in the United States.

The one exception, which story has been well covered, is Godfrey P. Schmidt, court appointed monitor of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. We are grateful to James L. McGevitt, National Director of COPE, for calling this proposed anti-labor legislation to our attention.

There are more Unions in the transportation industry than the Teamsters. The Office Employees International Union alone has more than 82 contracts in the transportation field. These are representing the working individual and preserving the efficiency they bring to their work. The National Labor Relations Board, which includes a small segment of its membership clerical workers, is acknowledging their status.

Today, I received a notice from the President of the International Woodworkers of America that the white collar workers have in the construction industry, is a situation that must be dealt with.

I am sure that the President of the International Woodworkers of America who that the matters in dispute be arbitrated. I am certain that there are many capable people in the leadership of organized labor who can act objectively to render an impartial decision.

I believe, too, that a decision to arbitrate will be recognized by both organized labor and industry in the Portland area as the proper way for responsible organizations to decide matters.

Sincerely,

HOWARD COUGHLIN

UNIONS ENDORSE KOWALSKI MEASURE

The Railway Brotherhoods ALPA, IAM and UAW have strongly endorsed Congressman R. F. Kowalski's (Dem., Conn.) proposal for comprehensive transportation legislation to halt government subvention of inter-union strikes.

In a statement in the House of Representatives, Congressman Kowalski said: "Since the Government's present policy "destroys" management's incentive to bargain, encourages prolonged negotiations, and prolongs strikes," he said that the railroads have a right to settle a lawful dispute with a company that has access to the courts. He further pointed out that he knew of no way to prevent failure to negotiate in good faith."

Introducing H. R. 3041 on February 21, 1961, Congressman Kowalski cited United Aircraft Corporation as one of the government contractors that used Federal money to break strikes. H. R. 10969 would amend the Walsh-Healey Act to pay for contracts for comparable work.

If the Kowalski bill becomes law, the administration of the President for inter-union strikes will be abolished.

NATIONAL Executive Committee, American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations