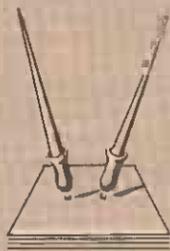




WHITE

Official Publication of the



COLLAR

Office Employees International Union



No. 210

APRIL, 1963

17

OEIU Leads All Unions in '62

OEIU Represented at TCU Conference



"Collective bargaining is still the best means of settling differences between labor and management." This was the conclusion reached by many of the 300 people who attended a recent Conference on Collective Bargaining and Arbitration held at Texas Christian University.

OEIU Int'l Vice President—Frank E. Morton (second from right) and J. B. Moss, President of OEIU Local 277 (right) participated in briefing sessions which discussed and analyzed the process of collective bargaining and arbitration.

Dr. Murray M. Rohman (standing), Conference Director, said: "As evidenced by the attendance and by comments of those participating, the conferences are well received and growing in importance and influence."

The other gentlemen seated at the conference table are five editors of the Bureau of National Affairs, Inc.

13c Hourly Increase for Local 137

Elmira, N. Y.—OEIU Int'l Representative Bud Manning reported the signing of a renewal agreement between OEIU Local 137 and the Remington Rand Division of the Sperry Rand Corporation.

The renewal agreement calls for a 13 cents an hour across-the-board general wage increase,

and improved hospital, surgical and medical benefits.

A duplicate contract was also negotiated on behalf of the Service School employees of Remington Rand.

Members of the Negotiating Committee of Local 137 who assisted Rep. Manning with

these negotiations included—Chairlady Mildred Milligan, Catherine Ackley, Kay Nagle, Marian Merrick, Theresa Burdick and Dorea Smith.

The Negotiating Committee reported that the membership enthusiastically ratified the agreement which is retroactive to December 1, 1962.

ORGANIZES MOST CLERICALS THROUGH NLRB ELECTIONS

Fewer Jobs and Lower Pay

Beginners' jobs are hard to find, while jobs for mature and experienced clerical and secretarial workers are even scarcer.

This decline is attributed to entry into the labor market of an increasing number of women white collar workers at a time when automation is starting to take over in an increased number of offices, where these potential employees would normally be employed.

The head of an employment agency catering chiefly to women employees said—"the increase in a number of available white collar employees had caused beginners' secretarial salaries to drop considerably in comparison to just a few short years ago."

The new trend discernible in white collar employment bears out the OEIU's contention concerning both the impact of automation and the need for a reduction in working hours.

Only a few years ago, the claim was made that expanding white collar job opportunities would replace declining opportunities in manufacturing and other blue collar jobs.

The Office Employees International Union once again demonstrated the fact that it is the leading union in the white collar field when it was announced by the Bureau of National Affairs that the OEIU had organized more clerical workers in 1962 through NLRB elections than any other union in the United States.

Out of a total of 51 elections conducted by the NLRB in new units, the OEIU was victorious in 26. The number of new members added to the ranks of the OEIU through the medium of those elections totalled 1,120. This represents a total of more new members gained through NLRB elections than the UAW, the Steelworkers and the IUE combined.

Only One Close

The only union relatively close to the OEIU in second position is the International Brotherhood of Teamsters which is not affiliate of the AFL-CIO. This organization was successful primarily in freight terminals. However, it should be noted that in each instance where clerical workers had the opportunity to choosing between the OEIU and the Teamsters, the OEIU was the solid choice of the clericals involved.

Successes scored thus far in 1963 would indicate that the OEIU will continue to lead all other Unions in the white collar field.

These studies of NLRB elections have been published by the Bureau of National Affairs for the past six years. In each of these years, the OEIU has been the outstanding leader in the field among AFL-CIO affiliates in successfully unionizing white collar workers.

It is noteworthy that this leadership continued despite the numerous announcements of the Industrial Union Department of the AFL-CIO in recent years that it intended to wage large scale campaigns for office and clerical employees on behalf of industrial unions. The results are apparent for all to see. Industrial and blue collar unions have little or no appeal for office and clerical workers who

(Continued on page 4)

Top Officers of 17 International Unions Attend Seminar



A six day seminar, conducted by the Brookings Institute, was attended by 17 top officers of leading International Unions. Howard Coughlin, OEIU President, was in attendance.

The seminar consisted of lectures by the nation's leading economists which included Walter Heller, Chairman of President Kennedy's Council of Economic Advisors. Willard Wirtz, Secretary of Labor, also addressed the seminar.

Other speakers included Kenneth Boulding, John Coleman, Martin Gainsbrugh of the National Industrial Conference Board, Eli Ginzberg and Adolph Berle, Jr.

Brookings Institute will hereafter invite one of the top officers of all International Unions who have not as yet participated.

Stimulating, interesting discussions are intended to bring labor leaders up to date on the leading issues of the day.

WHITE COLLAR

Official Organ of
OFFICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION
affiliated with the AFL-CIO

HOWARD COUGHLIN
President

J. HOWARD HICKS
Secretary-Treasurer

Room 610
265 West 14th St.
New York 11, N. Y.

POSTMASTERS, ATTENTION. Change of address Form 3579 should be addressed to Office Employees International Union, 1012 14th St., Washington 5, D. C. Published monthly at 810 Rhode Island Ave., N.E., Washington 18, D. C. Second class postage paid at Washington, D. C.



Reproduction by the Labor Press of any or all material herein contained is not only permitted, but wholly desirable in the interest of workers' education.

Subscription Price \$1 a Year

V.O.T.E.

V.O.T.E. is the political arm of the Office Employees International Union. It is affiliated with the AFL-CIO's C.O.P.E.—Committee On Political Education.

V.O.T.E. provides the vehicle through which the Office Employees International Union can insure the election of friends of labor and the defeat of those who oppose the aims and aspirations of working men and women. Now, more than ever, when our nation is beset by numerous economic issues—many of which result from lack of action by reactionary politicians, it is necessary that we support V.O.T.E.

The Office Employees International Union strongly supports the President's tax program, medicare for the aged, equal pay for equal work for women, expansion of our unemployment insurance program, and numerous other proposals designed to perpetuate a prosperous America.

Because of the limitations imposed on labor organizations through the Taft-Hartley Act and the Landrum-Griffin law, contributions to V.O.T.E. must be made on a voluntary basis by the membership of the OEIU.

Contributions can be made at this time through each of our Local Unions in the United States.

Profits vs. Unemployment

The Ford Motor Company recently reported earnings of \$480,700,000 in 1962. This is 17 per cent higher than its total earnings in 1961 and 6 per cent higher than the previous record of \$454,200,000 set in 1955. Dupont reported a record high income for 1962. This company reported an income of \$452,000,000 for that year—8 per cent higher than the previous record set in 1961.

Thereafter, the new Labor Department Manpower Report indicated that the American economy has been stagnant for nearly a year. High level joblessness is now in its sixth year and there has been no significant gain in employment since mid-1962. It would appear that more and more companies can report increased income with greater production due to automation.

The only voice in the nation calling attention to the plight of the unemployed is that of the AFL-CIO.

With the number of millionaires increasing at the fastest rate in our history and unemployment rising to new heights each month, all we hear from the McClellans and the Goldwaters are proposals to further shackle labor. It would seem that these Senators and other members of Congress should instead be looking for ways and means of revitalizing our American economy to absorb the joblessness.

Labor Department Is 50

The U. S. Department of Labor completed 50 years of progress on March 4, 1963. More than 2,000 representatives of labor, management and government heard numerous speakers, including President Kennedy, AFL-CIO President George Meany, Secretary of Labor Willard Wirtz, and others, at the Park Sheraton Hotel in Washington, D. C., on the anniversary date. The Department of Labor has continued to play an increasingly important role in our society since it was established on March 4, 1913. This Department is of special importance because its principal concern is with working men and women and their welfare.

We join with all other well-wishers in our congratulations on this 50th anniversary of the Department of Labor. We hope that the future will bring continuing progress in the promotion and development of the welfare of all wage earners in the United States.

OEIU Local 403 Signs First Agreement at NASA

A newly chartered local—OEIU Local 403—reached an agreement on a new contract covering more than 100 white collar plant employees at the National Aeronautics and Space Agency's Michoud, La., facilities—the OEIU's first collective bargaining agreement at a federal government space installation.

The members of Local 403 ratified their first collective bargaining agreement for a duration of two years and were the recipients of:—

- Wage increases that ranged from a minimum of 15 cents to a maximum of 67 cents an hour. The overall average wage increase was 22.6 percent over a two-year period.

- Automatic progressions of wage increases of 5 cents an hour every four months.

- 13 days a year sick leave, unlimited accumulation.

- Company cannot unilaterally subcontract work or introduce automated equipment that would eliminate OEIU members' jobs. If automated equipment is introduced, a 60-day training program for existing members of OEIU Local 403 for purposes of enabling them to learn how to operate the new



First contract signing ceremonies between OEIU Local 403 and Mason-Rust. Seated, l. to r.: Chester E. Spring, Ronnie S. Tardo, Tom M. Cobb, General Manager, and Al Bertacci. Standing, l. to r.: M. H. Kalskett, Fiscal Manager, Fred Dennington, J. B. Moss, and John C. Miraglia, NASA Representative.

equipment—thus protecting the members against job elimination.

Other important gains incorporated into the first agreement were: union shop; severance pay; improved vacations; guaranteed 40-hour workweek; pay for jury duty or court witness; unitwide seniority; job posting bidding and 30-day trial period for all promotions, and an employee promoted will be guaranteed a minimum of 5 cents

an hour increase effective the date of promotion.

Chairman of the negotiating committee—Ronnie S. Tardo, who is also President of Local 403; Chester E. Spring, Vice President and Alfred L. Bertacci, Sec.-Treas. of Local 403 negotiated the agreement with the assistance of J. B. Moss, special representative, and Fred Dennington, OEIU International Representative.

Local 5 and Consolidated Sign First Agreement

OEIU Local 5 and Consolidated Freightways Company located in Denver, Colo., concluded negotiations and reached an agreement which was subsequently ratified by the newest members of Local 5 at a ratification meeting by secret ballot.

Members of Local 5 who helped negotiate the "first" were: Alice James, Carl Parton, Bryan Parton, and Bill Conley with the assistance of OEIU Local 5 Business Representa-

tive Bill Speer and OEIU Intl. Vice President John Kinnick.

The highlights of the new three-year agreement for the office and clerical employees in this trucking company was a wage increase ranging from 10 cents to 42 cents an hour increase retroactive to Dec. 1, 1962. Under the terms of the agreement, the members will also receive an average increase of 7 cents an hour the first and second anniversary dates of the contract.

In addition to the wage increase, the negotiations committee won an additional holiday; 7 days a year sick leave, cumulative to 21 days; night-shift differentials of 10 cents an hour; Consolidated Freightways will pay 10 cents an hour for each employee into the Western States Office Employees International Union Pension Plan, and the company will also pay the monthly premium payments for health and welfare coverage.

Local 46 and Public Utility Reach Agreement

Tampa, Fla., Local 46 has completed negotiations of a renewal collective bargaining agreement with Tampa Electric Company covering approximately 200 employees.

The new agreement is for a two-year period and provides for a wage increase of 3.85 percent effective Feb. 1, 1963, and, an additional wage increase of 3.70 percent the first anniversary date of the agreement.

In addition to the above average wage increase, added improvements were made in the sick leave plan, and other im-

provements which will benefit the employees employed by this utility company were also included in the new agreement.

The company has also agreed to meet with a joint committee representing the OEIU and IBEW to analyze and further improve the insurance, welfare and pension plans.

Members who represented Local 46 in these negotiations were: Jack J. Fricks, Chairman and President of Local 46; Frances C. Causey, L. Roy Smith, Ronald H. White, Albert Martinez, Don Strickland, Ward

Tilley, Floyd S. Hagan, Clyde H. Hardee, and Charles F. DeWolff, assisted by OEIU Int'l Vice President J. O. Bloodworth.

9 Percent Wage Increase

OEIU Local 123 reported the ratification and acceptance of a renewal agreement with Wilson H. Lee Company in Orange, Conn.

The agreement, which is of a two-year duration, calls for a wage increase of 9 percent this year, and an additional 6 percent next year.

An improved vacation schedule was also negotiated whereby vacations can be taken when earned rather than on the old basis of anniversary dates. There was also considerable improvement in the sick leave provisions of the contract.

Elenor Pfeiffer, Florence Patchell and Maureen Hibson were members of the negotiating committee for Local 123 who negotiated the renewal agreement.

NLRB Election Won by Local 3

San Francisco, Calif.—Phyllis Mitchell, Business Manager of OEIU Local 3, reported a successful and victorious election conducted by the NLRB among the clerical and office employees employed at the H. D. Lee Company, Inc., a wholesale manufacturer of men's work clothes.

The tabulation of secret ballot votes by the Board Agent clearly indicated the willingness of the employees to be represented by Local 3 as their bargaining union.

Valuable assistance was rendered in this "organizing the unorganized" campaign by Natalie Welch, Executive Board member of Local 3, and Pat Perry, Local 3 Business Representative.

Stewards were elected and collective bargaining discussions are now underway.



CANADIAN FILE

Local 57 Signs Building Trades



The occasion—affixing signatures to the first agreement between OEIU Local 57 and The Building Trades Joint Committee. Seated, l. to r.: Armand Brisebois, Personnel Manager; W. E. Williams, Administrator; Marcel Dion, Local Union President; Huguette Gaudet, Local Union Secretary. Standing, l. to r.: G. H. Chamberland and Rene Dussault, members of Local Union negotiations committee and Romeo Corbeil, OEIU International Representative.

OEIU Local 57 has signed their first collective bargaining agreement with the Building Trades Joint Committee covering 105 employees for a one-year contract.

The agreement was unanimously accepted by the members at a contract ratification meeting.

Benefits and wage increases won through collective effort are retroactive to Jan. 1, 1963.

The agreement provides full automatic progressions ranging from \$2.50 to \$5.00 a week every six months. In addition,

based upon job classifications, the 45 office and clerical employees have received wage increases ranging from \$2.00 to \$15.00 a week, and 60 Inspectors have received wage increases ranging from \$5 to \$15 a week.

Local 57's agreement also includes modified union shop; new provisions for premium pay for overtime; up to 4 weeks of paid vacation time; 11 paid statutory holidays; full seniority rights with respect to promotions; lay-off and recall and a clause protecting full maintenance of privileges and salaries.

Brazilian Labor Leaders Visit Conn.

New Haven, Conn.—Six Brazilian Trade Union leaders who are guests of the State Department were in New Haven recently to make a tour of a unionized insurance company, the Labor Temple, the United Fund office, a call on New Haven's Mayor, Richard C. Lee, and a visit to Community Progress, Inc.

In conjunction with the tour, the State Department contacted OEIU Int'l Representative Bud Manning and Greater New Haven Central Labor Council

President Vincent Sirabella in order to effectuate a meeting between these Brazilian white collar unionized workers and their counterparts in New Haven who are members of OEIU Local 329 employed at the Knights of Columbus National Headquarters.

Local 329 Chief Steward Margaret Egan and Local 329 Vice President Ann Malone conducted the group on a guided tour of the K. of C. building prior to a luncheon which was hosted by the Local.



Brazilian Trade Union leaders meeting with Mr. Luke Hart, K. of C. Supreme Knight (seated), OEIU Local 329 Chief Steward Margaret Egan (right).

Local 343 Contributes \$600 to Labour College

OEIU, Local 343, Toronto, voted to contribute \$200 a year for a three-year period for the support of the Labour College of Canada. This contribution was made in response to a letter for-

warded by the OEIU to all Local Unions in Canada.

Recently, this Local Union also adopted a Union Label campaign which resulted in the vast majority of its members

agreeing to use the OEIU Union Label. Local 343 prepared a certificate to which all of its employers are entitled to display after signing a collective bargaining agreement.

Canada Joblessness Endangers Fund

Ottawa, Ont. — Canada's Unemployment Insurance Fund, which hit a peak of about \$900 million in 1956, dropped to a "danger level" of \$71.8 million at the end of January with heavy drains ahead.

Contributions during January—from employers, workers and the government—totaled \$31.3 million but payments to unemployed workers amounted to \$58.5 million, or \$27.1 million more.

Canada Studies Automation Bill

Legislation introduced in the Canadian House of Commons by Labor Minister Michael Starr, if enacted, will provide government assistance for workers thrown out of work by automation and forced to relocate to find employment.

Termed a "labor mobility" measure, the bill has been called "the first of its kind in the world," by Starr. Claude Jodoin, president of the Canadian Labour Congress, has described

the plan as a "step in the right direction."

The bill calls for the federal government to pay half the cost faced by any province or industry when workers are technologically displaced and must move with their families to any other part of Canadian to find a job.

The government also will finance research projects on the consequences of automation, with additional aid for labor and management making plans to work out problems created by increased technology. Separate research grants are available to unions and management.

OEIU Local 9 Stops Co. from Sub-Contracting

An unfair labor charge by OEIU Local 9 against National Food Stores, Inc., a Trial Examiner for the NLRB found that the company abolished jobs of the inventory clerks, terminated the employees and sub-contracted out the work because the company wished to rid itself of OEIU Local 9, thereby violating the Labor Act.

The parties met for bargaining and Local 9 offered a contract to the company. The company instead of offering counter-proposals stated it wished to contract out the work but was willing to discuss with Local 9 the possibility of reassigning the clerks to other jobs. The clerks refused. The work was then

contracted out after which their jobs were abolished and the clerks were fired.

The company took the view that because it was willing to give the clerks other jobs and discuss this issue with Local 9, it did not violate the Labor Act.

The Examiner disagreed with the company, concluding that the clerks had unanimously voted for Local 9 in a unit agreed to by the company as appropriate. Before they could engage in collective bargaining and before the union could discuss working conditions, the company abolished their jobs and prevented the very collective bargaining which was the

purpose of the representation election.

The Examiner also concluded that the real object of the sub-contracting of the work was not because of economic necessity, but to get rid of Local 9.

Based upon the fact presented, and after sifting fact from fiction presented by the company, the Trial Examiner recommended that the NLRB direct the company to reinstate the inventory clerks' jobs, to cancel the agreement with the independent contractor, and reinstate with full back pay Brothers Eugene Fazendin, Walter Williams, John Schnapp, John Kimney and Robert Urbach.

Higher Education for the Rich Only?

Last year 100,000 of this country's brightest high school graduates were not able to afford college. Another 150,000 previously in college did not return. Their grades were high but their funds were low.

These are just a few of the facts revealed in a series of articles on the high cost of getting into college by Dr. B. Fine, education editor of the *New York Times*, and S. A. Eisenberg.

Cost Doubles

The authors note the cost of a college education has more than doubled in the last 10 years, and more than half of the families with children at college have an annual income of \$6,000 or less.

"Few families in this bracket can pay college expenses from current income," they add. "Even fewer have any savings for education."

As an example of how we are wasting and losing our brainpower, they cite a recent statement of John B. Fullen, alumni secretary of Ohio State University: "Ohio State University denied scholarships last year to 3,000 applicants, including 33 high school

valedictorians, because funds ran out."

The authors stated a majority of American parents are eager to

send their children to college but only a few are able, however, to "put aside the \$8,000 which the average four-year program cost."

Secretary of Labor Praises Effort



Boise, Idaho—Maud Wright (left), Secretary for the Central Trades and Labor Council and Hope Joy Swift, Secretary to the President, Idaho State AFL-CIO, (2nd from right) who are members of OEIU Local 196, received praise and recognition from the Secretary of Labor for signing thousands upon thousands of letters for the various unions throughout the United States on behalf of the promotion of the apprenticeship postage stamp. Also pictured are: Roscoe H. Burt, (right) Acting Regional Director, Region XIII, Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training, U.S. Department of Labor, and Warren I. Cassidy, State Director, Idaho Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training.



from the desk
of the

PRESIDENT

The President's Tax Program

The President's proposal to the Congress to effectuate tax cuts for individuals and corporations during each of the next three years should be of special interest to all wage earners. Most of us forget that tax increases imposed to finance the Korean War were never eliminated from the tax structure.

The President's Council of Economic Advisors headed by Walter Heller are in complete agreement that a tax cut is necessary in order to stimulate the economy. Most authorities agree that our tax structure is too high and tends to inhibit consumer spending and capital investment.

Our leading economists also agree that unemployment, which continues to rise due primarily to the impact of automation and technological change, represents the number one problem facing our country today. President Kennedy also listed unemployment as the priority item in his recommendations to Congress.

AFL-CIO Positive

The AFL-CIO has consistently taken the position that the country requires more disposable income in order to increase the purchasing power of the consumer. It is also agreed that personal income and corporate taxes require some reduction in order to provide additional disposable income for purchasing power and investment incentive.

The President proposed a series of reforms primarily designed to eliminate certain tax loopholes by which it is contended the government loses revenue not intended to be lost in the original tax laws. While organized labor agrees that many of these tax reforms are highly desirable, including the elimination of the capital gains treatment of stock option plans, we do not feel that all of the reform proposals are sound. Many of these proposed reforms would hurt the small taxpayer and eliminate a substantial part of the tax cut which ordinarily would accrue to him if the President's recommendations are enacted into law.

It is unfortunate, however, that the Congressional discussions regarding tax reform may delay the enactment of a sorely needed income tax cut. Any delay will serve to accelerate rising unemployment. While the distressed Areas Law, the Manpower Retraining Act, and numerous other legislative acts will serve as palliatives, they will not alleviate the problem of unemployment.

Effective Date Important

The effective date of the tax cut is all-important. If—for example—it is retroactive to January 1, 1963 or effective July 1, 1963, we will see the effects of such legislation on the economy in the Fall of this year. If discussion in either or both Houses of the Congress serves to delay the effective date of this measure until 1964, we will needlessly be placed in the position of incurring the risk of an unemployment rate of 8 per cent by the year's end.

President Kennedy has estimated that one million jobs per year will be lost as a result of the effects of automation. In addition, by virtue of the increased birth rate in the post-war period, we are facing a 50 per cent increase in the numbers of workers added to the labor market. This year, it is anticipated that 1,200,000 new workers will be seeking employment. This is compared with a yearly average of 800,000 new workers who sought employment in the 1946-1962 period.

It is easily seen, therefore, that our economy requires the stimulus of a tax cut now and such legislation should not be postponed to the indefinite future.

While organized labor and other segments of our society may not agree with the President as to the size of the tax cut, and we feel that it should be at least 10 billion dollars this year, we should not, under any circumstances, allow these discussions to needlessly delay final approval of a tax measure.

When the only opponent of the tax cut is Senator Harry Byrd of Virginia—and even the U. S. Chamber of Commerce feels that tax relief is necessary this year—it behooves the Congress to expedite this much needed legislation.

Unemployment Compensation Standards Debased in States

Employer-dominated legislatures are meeting a squeeze on gravely-depleted state unemployment insurance funds by pushing bills to disqualify thousands of jobless workers.

One legislature—in Wyoming—has voted to slash benefits as well as cut the number of workers entitled to receive them.

Another legislature—in South Dakota—has passed a bill which imposes a waiting period of up to 13 weeks for all persons with past annual earnings over \$6,000. The more the worker earned before losing his job, the longer he is required to wait before he can draw unemployment benefits. A token \$1 increase in maximum benefits will permit legislators to say they voted for higher jobless payments.

South Dakota's action was termed "a complete departure from the wage insurance principle of unemployment compensation" by Raymond Muntz, assistant director of the AFL-CIO Dept. of Social Security.

Muntz, interviewed on Labor News Conference over the Mutual radio network, said the unemployment insurance situation has "worsened considerably in recent months." He gave this illustration:

"Pick any 10 unemployed persons and you will find that three or four are excluded from any benefits because of where they worked or the operation of eligibility requirements. One or two of that 10 have been out of work so long that they have exhausted their benefit rights, and the remaining five are drawing benefits which

average about one-third of their lost wages. And two of the lucky five will use up all their benefits before finding re-employment under current conditions."

On the plus side of the ledger:

- Arkansas raised its maximum payment from \$30 to 50 per cent of the state average wage—an immediate \$5 boost. An amendment to freeze the maximum at \$35 was defeated, assuring automatic increases as average wages rise in the future.

- West Virginia raised benefit maximums \$3 a week and, contrary to the trend, succeeded in relaxing disqualification rules affecting workers discharged for misconduct.

- Idaho strengthened its financing by raising the wage base on which employers must pay taxes. A bill to cut benefits by 10 to 90 per cent for those whose past earnings were above \$5,000 a year—a variation of the South Dakota measure—passed the Senate but was killed in the House.

- Utah raised the taxable wage base from \$3,000 to \$4,200, but at the same time raised the requirement for past year's earnings from \$400 to \$700.

- An Arizona bill to raise maximum benefits from \$35 to \$40 has passed the Senate and is pending in the House.

- A Senate-passed bill in New Mexico would raise the benefit ceiling from \$36 to 45 per cent of average weekly wages—currently \$41.

- Delaware has hopes of eliminating the one-week waiting period for jobless benefits. The report from Massachusetts is that a higher maximum, with no strings is "almost a certainty." Alaska anticipated favorable action on improvements in its compensation law; several other states are "hopeful."

Most improvements carry strings, however. Tennessee raised its benefit ceiling from \$32 to \$36. The previous standard 22 weeks of benefits was shifted to a range of 12 to 26 weeks—which will help those who worked steadily before losing their jobs, and cut the entitlement of others.

In addition, disqualifications would be made permanent for as long as the worker is unemployed.

In Minnesota, Ohio, Colorado and Michigan—where Republicans control both houses of the legislature and the governorship—bills to weaken existing laws pose serious threats.

One-third of the persons receiving unemployment compensation in Minnesota would have their benefits reduced or be disqualified entirely under an employer-backed bill which has passed the Senate and was up for debate in the House as the White Collar went to press.

It contains a "sweetener" in that a minority of workers would be entitled to higher benefits—\$45 instead of \$38—for 30 weeks instead of 26.

But thousands of seasonal workers who had been entitled to 26 weeks would have their benefit periods cut approximately in half and an estimated 15,000 would be disqualified entirely. Under present law, duration of benefits is tied to the amount of wages earned in a base period; the pending bill links duration to the number of weeks worked.

The Colorado Senate passed,

24-9, a State Chamber of Commerce bill which:

- Reduces maximum benefits from 32.5 weeks to 26 weeks.

- Requires a longer period of employment to qualify for benefits.

- Bars payments when an employee is out of work as a result of any "labor dispute," not just strikes as at present.

- Disqualifies payments during the period covered by separation pay or pro-rated vacation pay, and reduces the amount payable by the total of such pay.

- Repeals a provision for a 25 per cent "bonus" above the normal maximum for persons with work records of at least five years of steady employment before becoming jobless.

Legislation pending in Michigan would add new disqualifications to the unemployment compensation law and, the State AFL-CIO reports, "would practically repeal the Ford-Canton decision" of the State Supreme Court, which permitted payment of compensation to workers idled by a strike in an out-of-state supplier plant.

The report from Ohio is a "definite likelihood of unfavorable unemployment compensation legislation. Employers pushing for a bill that would wipe out most of the improvements made in law in Democratic-controlled 1959 session, with exception of benefit hike."

And in Texas, the word on unemployment compensation is: "If any legislation comes out, it will very likely be unfavorable."

James McDevitt Dead



James L. McDevitt, National Director of the AFL-CIO's Committee on Political Education, and a Vice President of the Plasterers' International Union, died March 19th in Oklahoma City, while attending a COPE Area Conference.

Jim McDevitt was well known throughout the entire labor movement. As AFL-CIO President George Meany put it "The sudden passing of James L. McDevitt is a shocking personal loss to me and to his legion of friends throughout the labor movement. It is also a great blow to the labor movement itself."

Jim McDevitt had previously served as President of the Pennsylvania Federation of Labor, one of the largest Federations in the country. His record is marked by service to the City of Philadelphia, the State of Pennsylvania, and the nation, in numerous capacities.

His loss will be sorely felt by the AFL-CIO.

OEU LEADS

(Continued from page 1)

seek identification and representation through white collar unions.

A glaring example of this fact is the record of the UAW which reveals six winning elections and nine losses. The Steelworkers were successful in only three such elections. On the other hand, the Technical Engineers of the AFL-CIO, which is a white collar union having jurisdiction over draftsmen and engineers, won 17 out of 24 elections.

The OEU was not decertified in a single office and clerical unit during the year 1962.

The record of the OEU in successfully organizing office and clerical employees is far better than the survey of the NLRB elections indicates. Several thousand additional clericals were added to our ranks through card checks, State Board elections and Canadian certifications.