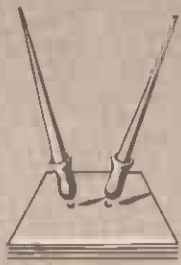




# WHITE

Official Publication of the



# COLLAR

Office Employees International Union



## OEIU ORGANIZES DINERS CLUB

### *Local 311, Gould Batteries Ink Two-Year Pact*

Kankakee, Illinois members of the Gould National Batteries Division of Local 311 voted unanimously to accept a new two-year bargaining agreement.

The following are significant changes that were made in the contract.

- A. Automatic increases continue while on maternity leave, personal leave, or sick leave.
- B. Three days off with pay if mother, father, child, brother or sister die.
- C. One additional holiday (birthday of employee).
- D. Major improvement in the insurance plan. Company to pay all the insurance premium.
- E. Twenty cents per hour increase to all employees for a two-year contract.

The committee consisted of Bill Adams, Lorraine Lane, Della Shanks and Rita Frederickson.

### ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ **700 Employees Join Local 153**

OEIU Local 153, New York City was recognized as the collective bargaining representative for 700 office and clerical workers of the Diners Club in that city as a result of a card check conducted by Arbitrator Eric Schmertz. The card check procedure was agreed to after a four-day strike in which 95 per cent of the 700 Diners Club employees participated.

### **California Credit Union Signed**

Local 29 has recently organized and signed a collective bargaining agreement with the Albers Milling Credit Union. This makes a total of seven credit union offices which are 100 per cent union.

The unionized organizations include the Berkeley Cooperative, Simon Hardware, Albers, Consolidated Freightways, Carpenters, Local 29, and the Central Labor Council of Fresno and Madera Counties.

It was also agreed that negotiations will commence immediately for a collective bargaining agreement and that such agreement will contain a Union Shop provision. Any disputes arising as a result of possible job loss because of the introduction of automation will be presented to Arbitrator Schmertz for final and binding decision. The Union, however, will be free to strike in the event of disagreement on any other matter relating to wages, hours and working conditions.

The successful unionization of Diners Club employees again points up the fact that National Labor Relations Board election procedures are not always necessary to obtain the goal of recognition and collective bargaining.

While Office Employees International Union, Local 153 was willing to agree to a consent election conducted by the NLRB, the Diners Club refused to consent and took the position that an election should not be conducted before August 1 of this year. The employer representatives explained that they intended to install computers and eliminate 250 to 300 employees. They stated that the present unit, therefore, was a contracting unit and was not suitable for an immediate NLRB election. Employer attorneys said that an election conducted immediately would express the wishes of disgruntled employees rather than the resultant permanent work force.

Because of the complex automation issues which might have delayed an NLRB election indefinitely. Local 153 Secretary-Treasurer Ben J. Cohan and Attorney Walter M. Coleran asked

(Continued on page 4)

### **Local 277 Renews Pact With Chicago Pneumatic**

Ft. Worth—Local 277 President, J. B. Moss, reported the signing of a three-year agreement with the Chicago Pneumatic Tool Company.

Benefits obtained in the new agreement include the following:

- Eight (8) paid holidays.
- Ten per cent of the jobs in the bargaining unit upgraded to a higher labor grade.
- Wage increase of two per cent effective 1965; two and two and one-half per cent in 1966 and 1967.
- Sick leave—Employees

with one to five years' service are granted five days per year sick leave, accumulative to 30. Employees with five or more years' service are granted 10 days sick leave per year, accumulative to 30.

- Insurance—100 per cent company paid insurance. Life insurance increased by \$2,000. Weekly disability insurance increased to \$45 per week and other improvements.
- Vacations—Two weeks' vacation after one year. Eleven days' vacation after 11 years.

Twelve days' after 12 years, etc., up to 15 days' vacation after 15 years.

- 100 per cent company-paid pension plan.
- Guaranteed automatic wage increases from the minimum to the maximum of employee's classification and labor grade.
- The contract contains a one-year reopener clause.

The Union's negotiation committee was: J. B. Moss, Pres., Dale Worthington, Doris Cates, and Allen Titts.

**See the 1965 Union Industries Show  
Pittsburgh, Pa.  
May 21-26th**

### **Kansas City Local Holds Second Annual Workshop**



Local 320, Kansas City, Mo., held its second annual workshop on March 27. The meeting was held in the Continental Hotel.

## WHITE COLLAR

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OFFICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION  
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## Act Extended

Congress recently voted to extend the Manpower Development and Training Act for three years to June 30, 1969.

Secretary of Labor Wirtz, in a message to Congress, stated that the MDTA programs have been outstanding in training two groups of the disadvantaged—non-white workers and the long term unemployed. Emphasis is also being given to training inexperienced young workers, older workers and the under-educated. Seventy-three percent of those who completed training under MDTA have found jobs. About 8 out of every 10 who found employment went to work in the field of their training.

Manpower development and training is a problem far too large for either industry or labor to tackle alone. In this age of automation and technological change, it is necessary for the government to work hand in hand with employers and labor to provide the necessary training and retraining so needed today.

Congress is to be congratulated on its foresight.

## Education Bill Signed

President Johnson returned to the one room school house he attended as a child to sign a \$1.34 billion aid to education bill which he predicted will be the most important legislation enacted during his Presidency.

The Congress took only 90 days to fulfill President Johnson's request for a large scale program to bring better education to those who need it most.

More than \$1 billion in federal funds will be spent during the first year of the program to improve the education of children from low income families. Additional money will be earmarked for educational centers in poor neighborhoods and for textbooks and library books to be used by children in both public and parochial schools.

We believe as President Johnson does that we are investing in the future of the United States when we expand funds to widen our educational program to provide educational opportunities for all Americans.

## Moonlighting

In a recent analysis of moonlighting published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, it was indicated that men and women holding two jobs generally are not depriving unemployed persons of employment opportunities.

Nearly one-third of the secondary jobs are filled by self-employed persons who created them for their own economic advancement. Relatively few unemployed persons have the required ability, experience and inclination to step into these jobs to say nothing of the financial resources necessary.

The unemployed required full time jobs whereas the moonlighter averages only 13 hours per week at his second job.

Interestingly enough, the survey indicates that persons working a shorter workweek are not more likely to be moonlighters than those working longer hours. In fact, the reverse is true.

It is our feeling that moonlighting points up the necessity for a better living wage for those who are forced to work at a second job.

### Aid to R-T-W Groups Not Deductible

Despite their claims to the contrary, neither the National Right to Work Committee nor Oklahomans for the Right to Work qualifies under the Internal Revenue Code as an organization whose supporters may claim tax deductions for contributions.

AFL-CIO Associate Gen. Counsel Thomas E. Harris, in a letter to affiliates, noted that the national "work" group had told businessmen they could claim any contributions as a "necessary business expense if it has a business related purpose."

"I have been advised by the Internal Revenue Service that contributions to these organizations are not deductible in any circumstances," Harris wrote.

# Successful Campaigns Reported in North Central Area

By Arthur Lewandowski

International Representative

Despite record-breaking snowfalls and prolonged cold spells throughout the eight-state North Central Conference area, officers and members of OEIU locals maintained a high level of activities on many fronts and in many fields.

On the organizing front, successful campaigns were conducted at the Tri-Clover division of Ladish Co., in Kenosha; the Big Joe Mfg. Co., in Wisconsin Dells; the Riverview Hospital in Wisconsin Rapids, and the Chicago Towel Co. of Chicago, Ill.

In addition, NLRB elections involving office units ranging from 200 to 550 people were held, but lost, at the Hiram Walker distillery in Peoria, and the Brown and Bigelow Co. in St. Paul. These are viewed as temporary setbacks—in both instances we have high hopes that second attempts will prove successful.

Plans are being formulated to conduct major organizing assaults at two giant paper companies in the Fox River valley of Wisconsin. At the Kimberly-Clark Corp. (famous for its twin products, Kleenex and Kotex) there are approximately 2500 office and clericals at the main offices in Neenah-Menasha. Also located in these cities is the Marathon Paper Co.—a division of American Can Co.—which employs an office force in excess of 1200. OEIU presently represents office and technical employees of both companies in Marathon and Kapuskasing, Canada, in Niagara, Wis. and in New York and Texas.

Another major and vital campaign is planned for late spring at the State Farm Insurance Co. offices in Bloomington, Ill., and in a number of other midwestern cities, where more than 5,000 office clericals appear anxious for representation. In Milwaukee, a drive is now in progress to organize the approximately 350 office employees of the Woolworth Co. Central Accounting Division.

There is a greater realization among most of the local unions in the Conference that organizing activities must be stepped up. A number of OEIU unions have voluntarily raised their dues and/or initiation fees to provide the funds needed to conduct forceful campaigns, or to be able to hire full-time business agents. At least three locals in the Conference are working toward that latter goal. Several other locals have re-activated their organizing committees, which are now busy seeking leads, developing interest and promoting the OEIU image in their areas.

A forward-looking spirit pervades the area—most local unions are confident they will be able to bring new groups into the OEIU fold during the spring and summer months. The signs are there. More leads are coming in. More tentative, probing feelers are being sent out by unorganized groups. More non-union office employees are becoming aware of the fact that automation and technological change can wipe out their jobs overnight—and they are turning to the OEIU for job protection and security.

In contract negotiations, OEIU units are not satisfied to



Art Lewandowski

"follow the leader," or to accept what plant unions have settled for. In virtually all contract negotiations, union representatives have insisted on above area-average gains, and in most cases have attained them.

Stewards are becoming more conscious of the importance of knowing their contracts fully, policing them properly, and aggressively fighting for the rights of the membership. This is evident from the rise in the number of grievances filed and in the greater ratio of grievances taken to the final steps and to arbitration. In March alone, some four cases were submitted to arbitration. Two have been won—through the brilliant efforts of Counsel Joseph Finley—a third is waiting a final decision, and the fourth was also won when the company backed down at the 11th hour.

The worst winter since '89 is over. The North Central Conference looks hopefully and confidently to the spring and summer of its content.

## Local 204, Ingalls Shipbuilding Sign



Local 204 of Pascagoula, Mississippi reports the settlement of a three-year contract with the Ingalls Shipbuilding Company, a division of Litton Industries.

Shown signing the contract are left to right, E. R. Hammett, Senior Vice President of Ingalls Co. and J. O. Bloodworth, OEIU Vice President. Others witnessing the signing are from left to right: Melvina Taylor and Carolyn Hirth representing Local 204 office clerical unit; Wm. B. Edmondson, Director Industrial Relations, Ingalls Co., Tracy Walker, French Caldwell and P. A. Woods, all of Ingalls Labor Relations Dept.; H. H. Robbins, Business Representative, Local 204 and E. L. Barnes, representing Local 204 plant clerical unit. Not present at the signing was E. V. McEacharn, President, Local 204, representing the plant clerical unit.

Local 204 received a wage increase of 3¼% effective 2-15-65; \$5.00 across the board and an additional holiday and an additional step in the wage schedule reflecting an additional \$20.00 to \$28.00 per month effective 2-15-66; 2½% wage increase and still another holiday, making a total of nine, effective 2-15-67.

Also settled was a two-year contract with the Olin Mathieson Co. (Metals Division) Gulfport, Mississippi plant.

Negotiations resulted in a wage increase of 6c per hour effective April 1, 1965 and an additional 5c per hour effective April 1, 1966; one week vacation after six months; 2 weeks vacation after one year and 3 weeks vacation after nine years of service; seven paid holidays and other benefits including sick leave, personal leave, severance pay, retirement plan and an insurance plan, part of which provides a hospitalization plan for employees and their dependents, with no cost to the employee.



# CANADIAN NEWS



## CLC Membership Shows Increase

Membership in the Canadian Labour Congress is expected to be increased by more than 27,000 as a result of affiliations approved or under discussion, Claude Jodoin, CLC president, announced today. This will bring the CLC's membership to 1,177,000.

Affiliations have been approved for the Federation of British Columbia Telephone workers, 4,500; the Lithographers and Photo Engravers International Unions, 4,000; and Loblaw's Workers' Council, 5,000.

The CLC's executive council has given approval in principle to the re-affiliation of the 13,500 members of the International Union of Operating Engineers and details are being worked out between the officers of the Congress and the union.

## Canada Gets New National Pension Plan

Ottawa, Ont.—The government of Liberal Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson is preparing to set up Canada's first National Pension Plan, enacted by Parliament just before it dissolved and taking effect Jan. 1, 1966.

The machinery of collection will first be put in motion, as workers and their employers both will begin next year to contribute 1.8 per cent of salaries of all employees earning \$600 or more a year. The contributions will be paid on the first \$5,000 of a worker's earnings.

### Payments Start in '67

Payment of benefits will begin Jan. 1, 1967. They will start at 2.5 per cent per month of the average wage, or \$12.50 monthly maximum, during the first year, and will increase by an additional 2.5 per cent during a 10-year "transitional" period to a maximum of \$104 per month.

Canadians will become eligible for benefits at age 65. At 70 they also will be entitled to the \$75 old-age benefit paid universally.

The Canadian Labor Congress strongly endorsed the general principles of the plan, but called the ratio of benefits to earnings too limited and the benefits too low, and criticized the flat rate of contributions as "regressive."

## Regional Council Formed in Quebec

Forty-five delegates representing 20 OEIU Local Unions, recently convened at Three Rivers, Quebec, for the purpose of establishing a regional council. The new council will serve all Locals in the Province of Quebec, Ottawa, Dalhousie, N. B., Hawkesbury, and other OEIU Unions organized in the region.

The program of the Quebec Regional Council will consist of:

- a) Assisting Local Unions to give better service in their negotiations and dealings with grievances at manager levels.
- b) Developing OEIU educational programs at Local Union levels.
- c) Attending membership meetings for election of officers and other important meetings.
- d) Promoting organization of white collar employees.

e) Publishing a newspaper "La Plume" for educational and informative purposes, every two months and distribute same to the Locals for their members.

The Council will be largely financed by a per capita tax of 50 cents per month per member paid by all participating Local Unions of the Council commencing June 1, 1965.

International Representative Romeo Corbeil will serve as co-ordinator of the Q.R.C.-OEIU and Leo Bourgeois was chosen as president.

Local 57 Business Representatives Gilles Beauregard and Serge Beaucage, will expand their activities to assist the Council in organizing and servicing. In addition, it has been proposed that a new Business Agent be hired.

## Local 397 Official Retires

One of Regina's leading labor union authorities, William H. Turner, retired recently after almost 19 years as a senior member of the accounting department of the Saskatchewan Government Insurance Office.

Mr. Turner became involved in union activities a few months after joining the SGIO staff in 1946 and has since served eight terms, six of these in succession, as president of the Saskatchewan Insurance Office and Professional Employees Union Local 397 of the Office Employees International Union. He also served two terms as president of the Regina Labor Council.

A member of the negotiating committee for the SGIO employees union since 1947, Mr. Turner has served for several years as chairman of the Regina Labor Council audit committee



OEIU Vice President William Lowe presents Local 397 official William H. Turner with a set of cuff links in recognition of his many years of service in the Union and labor movement. Harry Van Eyck, Local 397 President, looks on in approval. and is presently president of the Regina Labor Temple Company Limited.

## CLC Celebrates Ninth Anniversary

THIS MONTH the Canadian Labour Congress celebrates the ninth anniversary of its formation. In April 1956, the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada and the Canadian Congress of Labour merged to form the most comprehensive national central labour body in Canada's history.

In the nine years which have passed since the merger, the Congress has grown both numerically and in prestige. Despite the many factors which have led to a decline in the overall percentage of organized workers since the late 1950's, the Congress affiliated membership has grown substantially and now stands at 1,150,000. The CLC has local Labour Councils chartered in 113 communities across Canada, from Port Alberni, British Columbia to St. John's, Newfoundland, and Federations of Labour in each of the ten provinces.

Numerical strength or membership distribution alone do not create a national organization which is part of the social and economic fabric of Canada. The extent to which the Canadian Labour Congress, its affiliated organizations and members have played a role in the social, economic and political life of the country have brought in their train a prestige and stature in national affairs that is unique for a Canadian central labour body.

It would be ignoring fact to suggest that the Congress has undergone no internal or external strain during the nine years since the merger. The expulsion of affiliates for contravention of the constitution was not a painless procedure. But counterbalances have been provided by the affiliation of groups which had not previously been part of the mainstream of organized labour.

## MacMillan, Bloedel Report

By Bill Lowe, International Vice President

During the summer of 1964, the office employees of MacMillan, Bloedel and Powell River Limited, Port Alberni Pulp and Paper Division, British Columbia, conducted a seven-week strike for the purpose of establishing fair salaries and working conditions. It was the opinion of the employees involved, as well as the many other unions affected, that the final terms of settlement contained in this first agreement, were fair and reasonable. There can be no doubt that many substantial gains were made.

It is to be expected that during a strike, Union-Employer re-

lations will be under tremendous pressure. However, when the strike is over and the agreement signed, it is in the interest of all concerned to make every effort to establish good relations. This has been the policy of the Union. Apparently MacMillan, In their annual report just issued they state:

"Nothing of any real importance was actually gained for its members by the Office Employees Union through this work stoppage. It was in fact a pointless strike, but costly to all concerned."

This irresponsible statement cannot be left unchallenged—

### HERE ARE THE FACTS:

#### Company Offer Before Strike

1. UNION SECURITY — No employee required to belong to the Union-complete open shop.

2. WORK SCHEDULE—Engineering and Technical Section to work 40 hours per week.

3. SENIORITY—No provision for recognition of seniority.

4. POSITION POSTING — Would not agree to posting job vacancies.

5. TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGES—Would agree to Article referring to technological changes.

6. SALARIES—No provision for Union to discuss or negotiate new positions or changes to existing ones.

#### Terms of Contract After Strike

1. UNION SECURITY—All employees who are members or become members to remain in the Union. All employees whether union members or not to pay union dues.

2. WORK SCHEDULE—Engineering and Technical Section to work 37½ hour week.

3. SENIORITY—Comprehensive seniority clause applies to probationary period, promotion policy and reduction in staff.

4. POSITION POSTING—All new positions and vacancies to be posted.

5. TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGES—Provision for re-training and alternate employment for personnel affected.

6. SALARIES—Employer to notify Union of any new position or changes to existing positions and in the event of disagreement the Union has the right to process through grievance procedure and Arbitration procedure.

Substantial gains were made in the salary scales. Shown below are examples of the scale proposed by the Company before the strike and those now in effect.

	Before Strike	After Strike
a) Senior Draftsman . . . . .	\$460 to \$545	\$540 to \$625
b) Control Technician . . . . .	385 to 415	490 to 565
c) Steam Technician . . . . .	335 to 380	440 to 510
d) Laboratory Technician . . . . .	305 to 355	400 to 460
e) Stores Inventory Clerk . . . . .	215 to 250	360 to 415
f) Clerk Typist (Mechanical) . . . . .	215 to 250	295 to 340

Although we have listed only the major improvements made as a result of the strike it is obvious that, contrary to the Company's statement, many issues of real importance were gained. And possibly of more importance than any other single issue

is the fact that the office employees at Port Alberni have earned the right, through their union, to participate in matters concerning their employment and to have a real voice in decisions affecting their future.



from the desk  
of the  
**PRESIDENT**

## Job of Education

At a number of our Educational Conferences, I've been approached by some of the more eager delegates, who are all keyed up over the idea of "organizing the unorganized white collar workers" in the shortest period of time. In several instances, this eagerness has been tempered by a sense of bitter frustration and even a certain amount of consternation.

"What in the world does it take to convince some of these non-union office employees that they have just as much a right to form their own unions as do factory workers or truck drivers—or even airline pilots?" This question was asked of me by a newly elected president of a medium-sized local union.

Before I had a chance to formulate my answer, he went on in a torrent of words: "Just a couple of weeks ago, our local officers arranged a meeting with some unorganized office workers, who had been complaining about how low their wages were, how they hadn't had a raise in more than two years, how the boss was playing favorites on job assignments, and was even threatening to bring in computers, which would cut out half of the work force.

"So," he continued, "we proceeded to tell these people how the OEIU could help them. We told them that if a majority of their fellow-workers signed union authorization cards and the NLRB conducted a secret-ballot election—and the union was voted in—that the company would have to sit down and bargain with them on all matters affecting wages, hours and conditions of employment.

"What do you think those people said to us, Howard, after we told them of their rights to join our Union," he asked. I could just about tell what was coming, but I let him continue without interrupting. "These people actually told us: 'oh, that would be wonderful, but, our boss would never let us join the union, and he certainly wouldn't bargain with us.'

"And when we told them that their boss had nothing to say about whether or not they could form or join their own OEIU union, and that the U. S. government absolutely guaranteed their right to join a union—we even quoted from the Taft-Hartley law on this—these poor souls looked at us as if we were living in a dream world and said: 'oh, but you just don't know our boss—he'd never let us join your Union.'

"What's the matter with people like that, Howard," my friend wanted to know. "Don't they know what's going on around them? Why can't they understand?"

### Incredible But True

The above illustrates in part, one of the major problems that we face in attempting to bring the many benefits of collective bargaining to the unorganized office worker today. At a time when some 15 million workers in North America carry union membership cards; when we can boast of the highest literacy rate in the world; when 89 per cent of the homes are reached by daily newspapers; when 94 per cent of the people have TV sets (ostensibly tuned in to the world around them), it does seem incredible that hundreds of thousands of office workers are unaware of the fact that they have the right to join a union—or sincerely believe that unions are "only for factory workers."

Add to these the countless thousands of office workers who would like to be represented by a union, but don't know that the government does guarantee their rights to form or join a union, and you can see why it has been difficult to organize white collar workers in the past.

We in the labor movement and the OEIU are not entirely blameless in this matter. There has been extremely poor communication between the labor movement and the unorganized. We hear so much about "union families," but how many union fathers, husbands and brothers speak favorably about their unions at home, or instill the union spirit in their children. In how many of these self-same "union families" is the white collar son, daughter or wife a member of his or her appropriate union?

For the record, how many of our OEIU members are vocal in its behalf? How many of us who belong to the OEIU make this fact known to our friends, neighbors or relatives? If each of us talked up the merits and value of unionism in general and the OEIU in particular—and did it regularly and with zest, sincerity and enthusiasm—we might be surprised by the change in attitude and understanding of the unorganized in our areas. It's certainly worth a try from all of us.

## Local 19 Members Aid Tornado Victims

In the wake of the tornado that struck Toledo on April 11, killing 15 persons and leveling more than 50 homes, members of Local 19, employed at the Toledo Edison Company, responded to a special appeal for assistance to the disaster victims and the crews that searched the areas and helped in cleaning up the debris.

Mrs. Deanna Reiter, a member of the Edison committee, headed the special committee that gained contributions of \$165.21 and 9 big boxes of clothing and bedding which were turned over to the Salvation Army to help them care for the homeless and feed the many people who worked on an around-the-clock basis.

## First Pact Signed With Morticians

Thirty-eight funeral directors and embalmers will receive pay increases of 9 per cent over a two-year period, as a result of a successful contract negotiated by Local 11 with The Portland Associated Morticians.

Other gains in working conditions in this initial agreement include:

- 7 Paid Holidays
- 15 days vacation after 1 year
- 21 days vacation after 10 years
- Sick leave accumulative to 45 days
- An employer paid health and welfare plan.

## Local 3 Merger

Phyllis Mitchell, Sec.-Treas. Local 3, San Francisco, California reported the merger of the Keystone Employees Association with Local 3.

Keystone is a manufacturing firm of leather goods. The association numbers approximately 24 employees.

## OEIU Defeats Teamsters Raid

Despite the fact that Office Employees International Union, Local 6 in Boston had a history of collective bargaining relations with Hemingway Transport, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Local 25 instituted an organizational campaign among OEIU members. Subsequently, a petition was filed with the National Labor Relations Board.

Cyril O'Brien, Business Representative of Local 6, and International Vice President Leo Wallace jointly campaigned to defeat the Teamsters raid. In an election conducted by the NLRB, the Teamsters received only 4 votes of 22 eligible voters. The OEIU received 16 ballots with two workers not voting.

Despite this attempted raid, OEIU members retained their desire to remain united with the Office Employees International Union and improve their wages, hours and working conditions in a new collective bargaining agreement.

## Renew in Illinois

A new three-year contract with Gale Products, containing several improvements, was recently signed, reports John W. Miller, President of Local 221, Galesburg, Illinois.

The improvement included vacation pay for employees with less than one (1) year's seniority, improved hospitalization coverage at no added cost to the employee, triple time for holiday pay, and across the board monthly increases of \$10, \$12 and \$12 per year respectively.

Also established were monthly meetings with management, to discuss problems relative to the agreement.

## Diners Club

(Continued from page 1)

OEIU President Howard Coughlin to be present at the formal hearing conducted by the National Labor Relations Board. When it was certain that the Diners Club did not intend to consent to an immediate election, and would attempt to stall the proceedings, thus preventing an expedited election, President Coughlin demanded immediate recognition on behalf of Local 153 and told the employer and the NLRB Examiner that the Union was willing to prove its majority status through a card check in any unit of the employer's operation before any impartial arbitrator. When the company refused this legal demand, a strike was called the next day.

Hundreds of pickets manned the picket lines at two company locations in New York City. When Army personnel from Fort Jay were used as strike breakers, Local 153 picketed the Army Recruiting Building at 39 Whitehall Street. The *New York Times*, in writing about the strike on April 10, 1965, quoted Army officials in Washington as stating that "There is no objection to moonlighting by anyone in the service so long as it does not interfere with his regular duties or deprive anyone else of a job."

The Union forwarded protests to President Johnson, the Secretary of Army, and the Secretary of Defense. During the course

of the strike, the Union picketed numerous hotels and well-known restaurants in the New York area which recognized the Diners Club credit card. As these hotels and restaurants agreed to refuse to recognize the Diners Club credit card, the picket lines moved to other restaurants and hotels.

The New York Hotel Association finally obtained a temporary restraining order and the matter of a permanent injunction against using this type of informational picketing is now being litigated. Most hotels and restaurants, however, complied with the request of Local 153 Picket Captains and notified Diners Club that they would discontinue recognition of the Diners Club credit card.

The strike was led by Business Representative Warren Mulligan with assistance from all members of the Local 153 staff.

All employees of the Diners Club have returned to work and are in the process of having Departmental meetings for purposes of drawing up collective bargaining proposals.

## Sam Romer, Reporter, Dies

Sam Romer, a labor reporter for the Minneapolis Tribune, died recently of a heart attack.

Mr. Romer will be remembered by the delegates who participated in the Minneapolis Convention of the Office Employees International Union in 1957. Sam Romer was present at each and every session of the Convention and wrote one of the finest articles which aptly described our International Union.

He stated, in an article published in the Minneapolis Sunday Tribune, June 16, 1957:

"By all accepted standards, the Union should do well in the white-collar organization field. It certainly has not been tainted by corruption—a detailed, financial report listing union income and outgo to the odd cent testifies to that.

"Its convention in Minneapolis was the very model of democracy—secret ballots in the election of officers, unlimited floor debate from the rank-and-file delegates, even rejection of leadership recommendations on occasion.

"Its top officers reflect the kind of middle-class stability of the members they represent and the workers they seek to lead.

"The Union's organizers generally are young, clean-cut and personable men who would not look out of place at a Chamber of Commerce convention or a sales meeting."

Sam Romer will be missed in labor circles. The Office Employees International Union, in particular, feels that it has lost a friend.