OPEIU 13th CONVENTION OPENS IN MIAMI BEACH

Between 400 and 450 elected delegates, representing hundreds of OPEIU Locals across the U.S. and Canada, are attending the week-long 13th Triennial Convention being held June 10 through 14 at the Deauville Hotel in Miami Beach, Fla.

The Convention is the supreme governing body of the Office & Professional Employees International Union. Its deliberations, expressed through resolutions, formulate policies that will guide the Union over the next three years. International President Howard Coughlin is presiding.

While the Convention officially opens on Monday morning, June 10, many delegates began arriving during the previous week to attend special meetings to finalize reports for submission to the delegates, to sort out resolutions to be assigned to the various committees, and to iron out last-minute details.

These delegates include members of the Executive Board who are holding their semi-annual meeting starting on Tuesday, June 4, and who expect the unit to be certified to represent the group voted 75-to-5 for OPEIU representation by a two-to-one margin.

Despite a relatively hard-fighting anti-union campaign conducted by the University, the librarians withstood the pressure and voted overwhelmingly for collective bargaining as a vehicle to achieve their goals of salary parity with UCLA, an equitable and enforceable classification system, and as effective means to improve the quality of library service for students and faculty.

The new bargaining unit includes the Medical, Law, Gerontology and Hancock Librarians of USC.

Local 367 Stars at Union Label Show in Memphis

The Union Label Show in Memphis, Tenn., where Local 367 had an educational booth, was a tremendous success in making new contacts with unorganized office employees in that city. Members were on hand at all times to answer questions about the white-collar union movement. The show featured in addition to the OPEIU booth, another sponsored by American Income Life whose employees are all union members.

Some 450 new members were added to OPEIU ranks in the past month as a result of numerous successful campaigns in the U.S. and Canada, the largest group being 100 library assistants of the University of Southern California Central Library System.

Local 30 Business Manager Gwen Newton reports that Organizer Gloria Bauman led the successful Los Angeles drive culminating in a National Labor Relations Board election in which the librarian voted for OPEIU representation by a two-to-one margin.

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New Organizing Drives Add 450 to OPEIU Ranks

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Twins Cities Local 12 Business Manager H. R. Markussen reports that Business Representative Jerry Schmidt organized an 81-member unit of secretaries and clericals employed by School District No. 833 in South Washington County, Minn. In an election conducted by the State Mediation Service the group voted 75-to-5 for OPEIU representation.

Midwest Council Representative Leroy Brasted reports winning a 21-member unit at the Joint School Board District No. 3 at Middleton, Wis. In a representation election, the group chose Madison Local 39 as their bargaining agent by a 3-to-1 margin. He expects the unit to grow to 40 in the near future.

In Canada, Vice President Romeo Corbeil reports that Local 57 has been certified by the Quebec Labour Relations Board as the bargaining agent for 66 clericals employed by the Montreal City District Trustees, Ltd., and in Western Canada International Representative Brian Fahlman reports that Local 15 has been certified to represent a unit.
Welcome, OPEIU Delegates!

We extend a warm welcome to all the delegates attending the Thirteenth Convention of the Office & Professional Employees International Union in Miami Beach, Fla.

Some are attending for the first time. For others it's an occasion to renew old friendships and to make new ones. Although delegates work hard during busy session days for five days—and nights, too, they also have opportunities to relax, to swim, to sun themselves—and to enjoy social activities.

Since our 1971 Convention, many events unforeseen at the time have had a profound effect on the labor movement. Among them was the wage-price freeze seriously hampering collective bargaining. Happily, this injustice to organized labor was allowed to lapse on April 30 last but the serious problem of soaring inflation is still with us.

Despite many obstacles, the OPEIU has continued its healthy growth. It is now stronger in numbers and prestige than ever, and the climate for new organizing of white-collar employees is more encouraging than at any time in the past.

Responsibility in part is the continuing inflationary pressure which is forcing unionized white-collar employees to seek collective bargaining as the only means to solve their economic problems. We cannot afford to ignore this growing trend.

Moreover, enactment of the new minimum wage law, is having side effects. Many wives, working in offices to supplement family incomes, are now quitting because they discover they can no longer afford to hire household help. This indicates a need to upgrade all office salaries and wages.

Undoubtedly, these new developments will bring about a greater sense of solidarity among all white-collar employees—underlining the fact that collective bargaining for them is a more urgent need than ever before. As union members, these developments should also stimulate us to take a more active and energetic part in organizing the unorganized.

Altogether, our Thirteenth Convention should prove to be one of the most fruitful and constructive in the history of the white-collar union movement.

9% Raise Won in Baton Rouge Reopener

In a wage reopener only, members of Local 428 at Baton Rouge Waterworks, in Louisiana, gained a 9% across-the-board raise. Office classifications won $30 per month. Shown at the negotiations (from left) are OPEIU Vice President Frank E. Morton, Ed Harris, Wilson Smith and Nathaniel Davis, Local 428 Secretary, back to camera. Local 428 President Lionel Lee sits at left end of table, not within camera range. Unit has 160 members.
When the 119-year old Rheingold Brewery in Brooklyn, N.Y., was due to be shut down recently by PepsiCo, efforts by city officials and the unions involved worked out a takeover deal to save some 2,500 jobs, including those of more than 100 salesmen who are Local 153 members.

In negotiations that ended in an agreement between the unions and Chock Full O'Nuts, which wholesales coffee and runs restaurants, to acquire the brewery and keep it in operation, concessions were made by the unions and the new management. However, a hitch arose when the New York Times revealed that Chock Full O'Nuts planned to hand over the Rheingold sales force to its own sales force, quoting the company as having this perspective: "Beer is sold in the supermarkets just as often as coffee. We will have the same sales force for selling beer that we use for selling coffee."

Local 153 Sec.-Treas. John Kelly met with company officials, explained some basic facts of brewery salesmanship, persuasively pointing out that beer selling is not a quickly acquired skill but requires a background of knowledge and experience. He also stressed that close ties of loyalty and confidence develop between beer salesmen and their customers.

In the end, Chock Full O'Nuts officials saw the light and agreed to retain the Rheingold sales force. With this issue resolved, another argument about the banked vacation benefit the salesmen enjoyed under their Rheingold contract involving an OPEIU grievance. The new owner was adamant on ending this, and the parties appeared deadlocked.

Finally, after further drawn-out talks, the company reconsidered and the banked vacation problem was solved. Local 153 was the last union to settle with Chock Full O'Nuts. The terms it obtained were approved by unit membership acclamation.

In addition to the Brooklyn salesmen, Local 153 also represents those in Bridgeport, Conn., and Orange, N.J. These units kept working but it was obvious that they had no future until the settlement was reached that kept the brewery functioning.

New Organizing

(Continued from page 1)

of 50 clericals at Utah Mines, Vancouver, B.C.

Local 15 Sec.-Treas. Opal Skilling reports that an additional 50 members have been organized in smaller units, including 20 at Kimberly Credit Union, and the remainder at Western Library Services, Hampton Lumber Mill, O.N.C. Freight Systems, Advance Cabs Ltd., Sunshine Transport and Squamish Firemen.

Vice President Frank E. Morton reports winning a 37-member unit office on the Texarkana Mill of the International Paper Company, in Texas, where the vote was 2-to-1 for OPEIU representation. The new bargaining unit will be given a separate OPEIU charter.

International Representative Gary T. Kirkland reports that Portland Local 11 has been recognized as bargaining agent for a 35-member unit of municipal employees in Ontario, Washington, comprising police, librarians and employees at City Hall.

International Representative Gene Dwyer reports that, following a card check, Jersey City Local 142 has been recognized as bargaining agent for a unit of 18 clericals at the Board of Health in Englewood, N.J.

OPEIU Copper Locals list goals for joint negotiators

The OPEIU and 25 other unions that make up the National Nonferrous Industry Conference have laid down their program of proposals to be presented in coordinated bargaining

with companies in the copper and related industries whose contracts expire June 30.

They call for establishment of service bonus plans and work transfer for their office and technical bargaining units. The proposals for the white-collar employees are part of a larger statement of goals adopted at a Conference meeting in Tucson, Arizona, recently.

If approved, the service bonus plan would provide office and technical employees in the industry benefits similar to those negotiated in 1971 for their counterparts in basic steel. The steel agreement stipulated an hourly rate per employee to be distributed in the form of annual bonuses to those with five or more years of service, based on hours worked, total number of employees in each seniority grouping, and length of service.

Other proposals would provide

training for office and technical employees affected by automation; salary continuance in event of sickness for at least one year; educational training, and tuition programs.

The Conference notes that most proposals adopted for production workers "are equally applicable to office and technical employees, and include:

First Grant Pact Wins $3.15 Hourly

Wage boosts averaging $20.50 per week were gained by Local 153 in an initial 17-month agreement for its new bargaining unit at the W. T. Grant Company's warehouse complex in Jersey City, N.J.

Business Representative Mike Goodwin, who led the negotiations, said the initial pact sets a minimum hiring rate of $3.15 an hour on July 1. When the company claimed it could give no raises before next September, the union broke off negotiations and called for the assistance of the Federal Mediation & Conciliation Service which quickly broke the deadlock.

The contract contains standard provisions for seniority and job security provisions. It bars subcontracting of union work in the future and guarantees employees to respect legitimate picket lines of other unions.

Other gains are eight sick leave days for employees with more than five years' service and 12 days for those with more than 15 years. Disability provision also was made for two five-minute wash-up times, one before the lunch hour and one at break time.

The unit team including Goodwin included Dorothy Durso and Carolyn Kitliniuk, both of whom were active in the organizing campaign last October.

The new pact runs to September 7, 1975.
Seminar Finds Flaws in News Coverage of Union Bargaining

Failure of the daily press to cover collective bargaining and the labor movement through trained labor specialist reporters was blamed for poor reporting in these fields by participants at the second seminar on collective bargaining and the news media held in Bal Harbour, Florida.

Speaker after speaker, including many of the newsmen themselves, expressed regret that too often reporters with inadequate background in the labor movement were assigned stories frequently of national importance.

A number of reporters at the seminar, sponsored by the Institute of Collective Bargaining, said they feel that the press is not covering collective bargaining in a way that the public would understand. They declared that newspapers in general were interested only in dramatic labor news such as strikes, while ignoring many other labor activities especially in the area of community services.

They particularly stressed the failure of newspapers, except for a relative few, to cover labor news including collective bargaining through reporters expert in the labor-management field.

In summation, Zack said: "The people we are not reaching are the editors and publishers to convince them to give labor news the play it deserves, not in terms of what is happening, but in terms of the over-all picture."

Damon Stetson, labor specialist of the New York Times, suggested that newspapers cooperate with labor organizations to help improve coverage of collective bargaining. He called on mediators to help in the process of informing the public on what goes on during the collective bargaining process.

Hypnotists local promote medical role for members

OPEIU-affiliated Locals 472, in Panorama City, Calif., has launched its own newsletter and begun publicity, advertising and educational programs to interest more medical doctors and psychiatrists in using qualified hypnotists to aid patients and improve their therapy treatment of patients.

Convention Meets (Continued from page 1)

to publicize OPEIU activities and so bring about a greater awareness among the unorganized that there is a union for white-collar employees, and the benefits that can be derived from unionism and collective bargaining.

The following committees and chairmen are announced:

Constitution & Laws
J. Oscar Bloodworth and Walter A. Engelbert, co-chairs

Legislative
John Kelly

Resolutions
Gwen Newton

Organization
John P. Cahill

Retirements
John B. Kinnick

Official Publications
H. R. Markussen

Office Reports
Carolyn Combs

Edward P. Springman

U.S. Price Index

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Canadian Price Index

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If you move, send your old and new addresses, including zip code to:

William A. Lacey, Sec-Treas.
815 16th Street, N.W.,
Suite 604
Washington, D.C. 20006

from the desk of the
PRESIDENT

Why Price Controls Failed

The first experiment in the United States with price-wage regulation of prices and wages expired April 30, 1974. Some unions, leaders, business leaders and the majority of the community opposed renewal of the Economic Stabilization Act which allowed the Nixon Administration to set up controls over wages, prices, rents and dividends.

While we can well understand the feelings of leaders of labor and the business community on the need to end controls, we feel that controls may have been successful if they were imposed equitably. Like many economists, Mr. Heller is afraid that soaring prices for farm products, industrial commodities and oil could touch off a 1974-75 round of leapfrog wages and another wage-price spiral.

On August 15, 1971, President Nixon took Phase II price-wage controls. Later in 1971, the President extended the controls to include manufactured goods. He called the controls "a final, complete system of controls to make it work." President Nixon announced that rents were decontrolled in January 1973, with the arrival of Phase III. Dividends and interest rates were also exempted from controls, and Phase III costs, more and more concealed items were decontrolled. In the meantime, however, workers' wages were rigidly controlled by a Pay Board standard which allowed only 5.5 percent in wage increases each year.

If the President had controlled all segments of the economy equitably without exemptions, run-away inflation may well have been avoided. It is difficult, if not impossible, to control anything by exhortation and voluntary guidelines.

Despite the widespread feeling that controls do not work and are inequitable, some Senate Democrats, notably J. Bennett John- son of Louisiana, Adlai E. Stevenson of Illinois and Edmund Muskie of Maine, and a few Republicans including Jacob Javits of New York and Clifford Case of New Jersey, continued to support some extension of narrower, conditional standby authority for controls, but the Senate rejected a move to continue price-wage controls by a vote of 57 to 33.

Some union leaders privately are concerned with the elimination of controls in the construction industry. John Danlop, Chief of the Living Council Director, is not only concerned with run-away prices in the construction field, but also fears that health care fees will get out of hand. Even with controls, health care and hospital fees have soared primarily because Medicare and Medicaid have intensified the demand for health services. A broad federal program, which may be expected this year, would be expected to add to the demand and cost pressures.

It is unfortunate that President Nixon saw fit to grant exemptions under the control program. A good program, firmly administered with adequate policing, may have prevented the inflationary pressures which have hurt wage earners and numerous businesses alike.