Coughlin Raps 5% Income Surtax Plan

Canada Mine Pact Proves Unionism Pays

The economists' session included some of the best known economists in the country. Walter Heller, Milton Friedman and John Kenneth Galbraith were among those presenting their respective points of view. There was very little agreement among these economists. Some called for the balancing of federal budgets. Others stated that this would have little or no effect on inflation. Some decried the lack of worker productivity. Others contested this point of view.

Some asked for easing of interest rates and a loosening of the money supply. Others opposed this possible action as inflationary. Some expressed selective controls over certain industries, such as energy. All were in agreement that the problems which came about as a result of astronomical increases in the price of oil by the OPEC countries contributed 4% to our inflationary spiral.

It should be pointed out here that AFL-CIO President George Meany had previously stated that high interest rates imposed by the Federal Reserve Board cost the government $5.3-billion through increases in its borrowing costs. President Metcalfe also pointed to the 1972 grain deal which accelerated the rise in the domestic prices of grain due to short supplies.

A number of the economists pointed to two devaluations of the dollar as lending impetus to our inflationary spiral.

John Winthrop Wright, president of Wright's Investor Service, called for control of Eurodollars. He stated that the uncontrolled issuance of Eurodollars had placed our country in a position where the amount of Eurodollars issued in Europe equaled the amount of dollars in existence in the United States.

Those who would take advantage of the summit conference to downgrade the organized labor movement called for the elimination of featherbedding, the repeal of the Davis-Bacon Act and
Income Surplus Unjustified

A recent Gallup Poll showed that inflation is the No. 1 worry of more than 48% of the population—three times their next most common concern: trust in government. Most disturbed were middle-income families earning between $10,000 and $15,000 who comprise the backbone of the nation.

President Gerald Ford invited OPEIU President Coughlin to attend summit economic meetings to give advice on how to combat inflation. Coughlin attended those meetings but voiced strong opposition to Ford's later proposal to levy a $5 income surtax on single persons earning $7,500 and married couples earning $15,000 (see story on Page 1).

Says ILO Aims to Upgrade Status of Office Employees

The increasing awareness of the worsening of their pay and working conditions was recently shown by a strike of bank clerks in France who described themselves as "semi-skilled paper shifters," it was brought out at the ILO conference.

"It is REMAINS to be done," a conference member said. "There is a need to set up and enforce satisfactory standards, especially for hours of work, restrictions on overtime and for weekly rest. Low wages are prevalent here—and are among the lowest outside of agriculture."

"The Advisory Committee will consider all these problems and make suggestions on how the ILO can help improve conditions worldwide for office and professional employees."

New Scott Paper Pact Ups Wages, Pensions, Vacations

The conclusions drawn from the French survey, Lewandowski said, are that young people's basic problems seem to depend on the guidance and training they have had. But high turnover, frequent disappointment with their first job and a desire for change indicate that they were ill-advised in their choice of employment and were accordingly unsuited for it, he said.

UNION DELEGATES TO ILO: Three union delegates from the U.S. were among those from 24 nations atteding the ILO meeting in Geneva, Switzerland. From left they are: Bert Scrimm, AFL-CIO Social Security Director; Gerald O’Kreife, of the Retail Clerks, and OPEIU Director of Organization Arthur P. Lewandowski.

OPEIU Director of Organization Art Lewandowski who served as an official U.S. delegate to the International Labor Organization meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, disclosed at his return that the ILO has launched a new drive to insure that white-collar employees worldwide get their fair share of the fruits of social and economic progress.

The ILO is the oldest specialized United Nations agency which includes government, employer and union delegates working for peace through improved labor conditions and living standards.

Lewandowski said that a principal concern of the meeting was the long span of unemployment suffered by older workers in both the public and private sectors because of automation and technological change.

It was also emphasized that white-collar employees are more liable to unemployment than men because their mobility is limited. Their skills are usually less than those of men due to the fact that their double job, outside and at home, prevents them from taking the initial and advanced, or retraining, courses which would enable them more easily to find or resume work.

Automation Hits Women Most

He found that various ILO studies of automation confirm that it seriously threatens the employment of women in the United Kingdom, for instance, the increased use of computers in offices has led to few dismissals but these have affected mostly women, including married women and part-time workers, more than men, he said.

Up to January 1969 it was estimated that computers had displaced 158,000 jobs in the U.K. jobs which probably would have been filled by women, and by 1979 it is predicted that some 670,000 office jobs would thus be made obsolete, he disclosed.

Young people are another category threatened by unemployment in the years ahead, he added. Although they are mobile, better trained and less handicapped by family and other responsibilities than older employees, they are less protected from dismissal by collective agreements.

A French survey on unemployment among those under 24 years of age showed that men were not attracted to office work, but it was the type most sought after by women, followed in decreased order of popularity by social work of different kinds.

The conclusions drawn from the French survey, Lewandowski said, are that young people's basic problems seem to depend on the guidance and training they have had. But high turnover, frequent disappointment with their first job and a desire for change indicate that they were ill-advised in their choice of employment and were accordingly unsuited for it, he said.

"The Advisory Committee will consider all these problems and make suggestions on how the ILO can help improve conditions worldwide for office and professional employees."

ILO Sees Sub-Standard Conditions in Banks, Finance and Insurance

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"It is REMAINS to be done," a conference member said. "There is a need to set up and enforce satisfactory standards, especially for hours of work, restrictions on overtime and for weekly rest. Low wages are prevalent here—and are among the lowest outside of agriculture."

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Texas Unit Gains 20% Pay Boost

A 20% wage boost with a cost-of-living escalator and improved vacations among other fringe benefits were gained in a new three-year contract renegotiated by Fort Worth Local 277 for its bargaining unit at ARA Manufacturing and TransTemp Corporation in Grand Prairie, Texas.

Local 277 President-Business Manager J. B. Moss says the new pact calls for a 10% increase effective October 1 last year, and to $100 in the third. Pension benefits were increased $1.50 per hour one month for each year of employment. The figure will be raised to $7.25 next January 1; to $7.75 on the same 1976 date, and to $8.00 on January 1, 1977. The age limit on survivor option for active employees was removed.

Retirees over 65 will be provided with the Blue Cross/Blue Shield "65 special plan," coordinated with Medicare. Early retirees get the Blue Cross "Co-Pay Comprehensive" and Blue Shield Plan "B." The OPEIU negotiating team assisting McCucker included Elaine Coblents and Larry Lowrey.

Portland Embalmers Gain 25% Pay Hike

Wage gains totaling 25% over three years, improved vacations and higher pension plan contributions by the employer were won by Local 14 for its bargaining unit of embalmers at the Little Chapel of the Chimes, Inc., a funeral home in Portland, Ore. Local 14 President A. Engelbert says that the new pact calls for a 9% increase in the first year retroactive to July 1, with 8% across-the-board hikes in each of the following two years.

It sets an apprentice embalmer's rate of $616 per month to start and after one year the journeyman rate goes to $796 in the first year, $860 in the second, and $929 in the third. After another year, the journeyman rate goes to $1,021 for the first year, $1,146 in the second, and $1,283 in the third.

The new agreement was won after two weeks to one, three after four and four weeks after 10 years. The employer also agreed to pay $34.60 per month per employee into the Western States OPEIU Pension Fund effective July 1, last, and increased to $43.27 per month on July 1, 1975. The new agreement runs to July 1, 1977.

D.C. Baking Pact Wins $3,000 Increase in Wages

A pact of wage gains and fringe benefits totaling $3,000 per unit member over two years was won by Local 2 for its 4,300-member Continental Baking Company in Washington, D.C., in a renegotiated contract, Business Manager John P. Cahill reports.

It calls for a 30¢ an hour general wage boost retroactive to May 5, another 10¢ on November 3, and 35¢ additional next May 1, plus 3¢ an hour in unit classification adjustments. Other gains are a floating holiday bringing the annual total to nine, daily overtime of 1.5 will be voluntary, and service requirement for a fourth vacation week reduced to 14 years (was 15).

The OPEIU negotiating team included Shop Steward Diana Kieltya and committee member Sarah Green. They were assisted by Local 2 Sec-Treas.-Emc. C. Eberhede.

OPEIU University Units Win Hefty Wage Hikes in N.Y.

Large wage increases at two institutions of higher education in New York City are reported by Local 153 which gained a 9% across-the-board raise in a one-year agreement for its office and clerical workers and in the contract totaling $27 per week in a three-year contract at Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute and in the contract totaling $27 per week in a three-year contract at Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute.

Large wage increases at two institutions of higher education in New York City are reported by Local 153 which gained a 9% across-the-board raise in a one-year agreement for its office and clerical workers and in the contract totaling $27 per week in a three-year contract at Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute.

The Brooklyn contract provides a general $9 week in a three-year contract retroactive to September 19, another $4 on March 1, 1975, and another $4 on March 1, 1976. Moreover, employees in the lowest classification receive an automatic "in-

Coughlin Raps 5% Surtax

(Continued from page 1)

accused the working people of the United States of not producing enough goods and services, thus adding fuel to the inflationary fire.

Income Surtax Never Mentioned

Two weeks later, as you know, the President announced a program designed to arrest the inflationary spiral over the next two years. Part of his program included a 5% surtax on single workers earning $5,000 and married couples earning $10,000 or more. While the summit meetings were called to assist the President in obtaining the views and recommendations of all segments of American society, I can recall no proposal which asked for a cut in "worker's earnings. I don't recall the President or the numerous speakers ask for an excess profits tax which the President disregarded. Instead, President Ford proposed a program designed to give inducements to the wealthy to move the middle-income and middle-workers. If a surtax is needed, it, along with an excess profits tax on corporations, should be applied only to those receiving $25,000 or more per year.

$5,700 Per Member Won at Eaton

PhiLa. Unit Scores in New 3-Year Agreement

Local 14's office unit at Eaton Corporation (Industrial Truck Div.), in Philadelphia, won wage gains alone amounting to some $5,700 per unit member plus greatly improved fringe benefits in a new three-year contract, Business Representative Jack McCucker reports.

He says the pact calls for a 74¢ an hour general increase in the first year, 22¢ in the second, and 20¢ in the third. This will be supplemented with a guaranteed 25¢ hourly cost-of-living allowance in the second and third years.

At a working holiday, bringing the annual total to 12, was also gained with substantial improvements in vacations. Employees are now entitled to four weeks after 15 years (was 20), with 8¢ of gross earnings, and five weeks after 20 years (was 25), with 10¢ of gross earnings.

New major medical and dental plans were negotiated into the contract, with other improvements made in health-welfare, insurance and pension benefits. Life insurance coverage was increased to $9,000 per individual effective Sept. 1, 1974, and will be raised to $10,000 on the same 1975 date. Coverage for retirees was raised to $52,000 from $7,500.

Accident and sickness benefits were raised to $90 per week in the first contract year (was $80), will go to $95 in the second year, and to $100 in the third. Pension benefits were increased $1.50 per hour one month for each year of employment. The figure will be raised to $7.25 next January 1; to $7.75 on the same 1976 date, and to $8.00 on January 1, 1977. The age limit on survivor option for active employees was removed.

Retirees over 65 will be provided with the Blue Cross/Blue Shield "65 special plan," coordinated with Medicare. Early retirees get the Blue Cross "Co-Pay Comprehensive" and Blue Shield Plan "B." The OPEIU negotiating team assisting McCucker included Elaine Coblents and Larry Lowrey.

Twin Cities Unit Hits Jackpot

Wage Hikes Ranging to $60 per week won in Truck Pact

Wage hikes ranging from $1.17 to $1.53 an hour across-the-board plus a guaranteed 5¢ an hour cost-of-living escalator with an 8¢ maximum, together with improved pensions and a comprehensive restructured health-welfare plan, are included in a new 30-month agreement renegotiated by Twin Cities Local 12 for its office unit at Consolidated Freightways in Minneapolis, Minn.

OPEIU Vice President H. R. Markuens says that in the final contract year the starting rate for file clerk, the lowest office grade, will be $4.94 an hour rising to a $6.44 maximum. In the top classification of chief clerk, the starting rate will be $5.95 an hour rising to a $6.45 maximum.

Effective next July 1, employees will receive an extra personal holiday bringing the annual total to nine. A new vacation schedule calls for five weeks after 20 years of service.

Markuens says the new health-welfare plan includes hospitalization, dental, vision care and service credit vesting. After 20 years' service, the premiums to be fully paid by the employer at a cost of 16¢ an hour per employee. A much more liberal pension plan was also negotiated, the employer agreeing to increase contributions per employee to $10 per week effective April 1 last (was $8); to raise this figure to $12 next year, and to $14 on April 1, 1976.

Markuens was assisted in the negotiations by Region VI Vice President Walter A. Etheredge of Portland, Ore., where Local 11 bargaining collectively for office employees at the head office of Consolidated Freightways.
Tennessee Unit Wins $3,500 Per Member

Local 179 Also Gains Higher Fringe Benefits at Mueller Co.

Wage gains totaling nearly $3,500 per member over three years, plus improved vacations and pension benefits, were won by Local 179 for its office unit in a new contract renegotiated with Mueller Company in Chattanooga, Tenn., Business Representative W. Charles Harris reports.

He says the new pact calls for across-the-board raises of 30¢ an hour in the first year, retroactive to July 1, and 25¢ an hour in each of the following two years. In the final contract year, a minimum hiring rate of $4.05 is established for the lowest 20 years, rising to a $4.17 maximum. The top office grade's starting rate will be $4.69 an hour, rising to a $4.81 maximum.

The vacation schedule was improved to provide an additional half-day for each year where employees have more than 11 years of seniority. After 20 years' service they are entitled to four weeks vacation and five after 25 years.

Effective October 1 last, an improved insurance and hospitalization plan provides employees with $6,000 life insurance, including double indemnity, and $75 per week AD&D benefits in addition to $10,000 major medical and other hospital expenses.

Pension benefits are increased to $9 per month times years of service for those retiring at 65 effective December 1, 1974, on the same date in 1975 the benefit level will be increased to $10 per month.

The unit negotiating team as Harris included Lorena L. Counts, Betsey H. Motes and Barbara I. Clark. The agreement runs to July 31, 1977.

Gas Industry Committee Meets in Capital

Cowlitz Hospital Yields $1,700
Coast Wages Win 10% Vacation Bonus; Upgrades Jobs

Wage gains approximating $1,700 per individual over two years, with an additional $6,000 per year to be spread among unit employees around December 1 when new job classifications are jointly developed, highlight a new contract renegotiated by Portland Local 11 for its office unit at Cowlitz General Hospital in Longview, Washington.

The new pact provides a 27¢ an hour general increase retroactive to July 1, with a similar boost effective on the same 1975 date. In the second contract year, the minimum starting rate will be $545.90 per month rising progressively to a $610.02 maximum, and a starting monthly minimum of $613.48 in the top classification rising to $696.67.

Starting January 1, 1975, employees will have a 10% bonus added to their regular vacation pay, and will be entitled to an additional vacation day for each year of service to their 15th year. The sick leave bank was also improved to 90 days.

Management agreed to increase health-welfare and pension benefits, and meets with the union next month to determine in what manner these improvements will be effected.

Business Representative Lance A. Meier and Shop Steward Sandi Elliott comprised the OPEIU negotiating team. The new contract runs to June 30, 1976.

Paul R. Hutchings, 65, First OPEIU President

Paul R. Hutchings, 65, Research Director of the AFL-CIO Metal Trades Department since 1954 and first OPEIU President from 1945 until 1953, died suddenly at Arlington Hospital, Va., following a heart attack. He had been active in the trade union movement since the mid-1930's.

Born in Milwaukee, he was a graduate of Wisconsin Teachers College. He came to Washington during the 1940's as a staff member of the Labor Advisory Board of the National Recovery Administration.

In 1937, he was named assistant research director of the Machinists and then became Research Director in 1941. Later he helped organize the International Council of Office Employees, serving as Secretary-Treasurer for three years. When the Office & Professional Employees International Union was formed in 1954, he was elected its first President.

He had been on the AFL-CIO staff committee on atomic energy and was assistant secretary of the joint apprenticeship committee of the Metal Trades Department.

FRASER PAPER UNIT SCORES

A packet of wage gains and improved fringe benefits valued at some $3,000 per member over two years was renegotiated into a new agreement by Local 232 for its 100-member bargaining unit of office and technical employees at Fraser Paper Company in Madawaska, Maine, International Representative Gene Dwyer reports.

He says the new pact provides a 45¢ an hour general wage increase in the first year, retroactive to August 1, and a 30¢ an hour across-the-board raise on the same 1975 date. In addition, a 3¢ an hour adjustment was added to the maximum of all office employees in their grade five years or more. Adjustments ranging up to 20¢ an hour were gained for technical employees in the unit. A more liberal vacation schedule was also negotiated.

Assisting Dwyer in the negotiations was a unit team comprising Local 232 President Leonard P. Dalv ATKINSON, and unit members Joseph Martin, Clarence Cey, Roger Marin and Robert Dunbahn.

U.S. Price Index

Canadian Price Index

Canadian Price Index

Canadian Price Index