New Health Bill Seeks To Cut Medical Costs

A new national health security bill, embodying one of organized labor's major legislative objectives, will be introduced in Congress with the strong endorsement of the Committee for National Health Insurance. It will be sponsored by Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Rep. James C. Corman (D-Calif.). The new measure would cover every resident of the United States for all hospital and physicians' services, as well as other specified health care needs such as eyeglasses, hearing aids and dental services for children and eventually for everyone. There would be no means tests, no work earnings tests, no deductibles, no co-insurance, no cuts-off and no fine print.

The new proposed legislation envisions the following improvements:

- Grants would be given to local non-profit agencies to develop and provide social service benefits to benefit the aged and chronically ill.
- The Health Security Bill which has been before Congress since mid-1970 would remain essentially unchanged.

If health security is enacted, no American would ever again have to pay a doctor's bill or hospital bill. Payment in full would be made through a health security trust fund, with federal general revenues providing half of the necessary financing and the other half acquired as follows:

- One percent tax on individual earned or unearned income up to $20,000 per year, or a maximum on the individual of $200 per year.
- Three and one-half percent tax on employer's payrolls, which would be largely offset by the elimination of premium payments for private health insurance.
- Two and one-half percent tax on the self-employed, up to $20,000 income.

Whether working, laid-off, not working or retired, all residents of the U.S. would be entitled to the benefits as a matter of right.

(See editorial on page 2)

Coast Union Women Hold First Institute

President Cynthia McLaughan of Local 30 represented the OPEIU at a recent institute in Los Angeles on "Women in the Labor Force," the first on this subject to be held on the West Coast. It was attended by 35 delegates from various unions.

The program presented factual information on the economic situation of women workers and on the laws of discrimination in employment (Title VII and the Equal Pay Act). Sessions then went on to discuss the problems faced by women unionists in the jobs and professions represented at the conference, and the steps which unions can take to deal with these problems.

The institute was co-sponsored by the AFL-CIO Labor Studies Center, with the Council of Unions for Professional Employees, and the Center for Labor Research and Education, Institute of Industrial Relations of the University of California, Los Angeles.

Wide OPEIU Margins Mark 6 NLRB Elections

A group of medical technologists in California was counted among the half-dozen bargaining units won in National Labor Relations Board elections during new organizing victories.

The technologists voted by an almost two-to-one margin to be represented by Oakland Local 29 in an election held at Doctors Hospital of San Leandro, Calif.

Regional Director J. Oscar Bloodworth reports that in an NLRB election held for office clericals at the Kroehler Manufacturing Company in Charlette, N.C., the vote for collective bargaining was won by a margin of about seven to one. The new unit has been granted a charter as Local 482.

In Washington, D.C., Local 2 Business Manager John P. Coughlin reports that in an election held for office clericals at the National Rehabilitation Association, the vote for OPEIU representation was by an overwhelming 9-to-1 margin.

Among clericals at McKesson Chemical Company in Carnegie, Pa., Pittsburgh Local 33 was (Continued on page 4)

OPEIU DELEGATE TO INSTITUTE: Los Angeles Local 30 President Cynthia McLaughan (left) chats with Diana Rodriguez, Research Trainee of the Los Angeles Orange Counties Organizing Committee (center), and Eleanor Moore of the Bakery and Confectionery Workers (right), during coffee break.
Second class
from other
Senate immigration subcommittee, which has
passed the House
resident of the United States." We
million
security
surance (GHI), Health Insurance Protection (HIP), Blue Cross
OPEIU
passed
Congress
aliens.
For
recent business-finance
section.
It discloses that the City Bank &
other private health insurance carriers.
A battery of high-technology
machines, including
insured.
They receive deposits, honor withdrawals, transfer funds from
a savings account or credit card to a checking account, or
from a checking account to a savings account.
Across-the-board wage gains
totaling some $3,000 per
employee plus cost-of-living
allowances, and $4,500 in
degree retroactive to August
1976. This is a new three-year
contract renegotiated for its
gaining unit at Greyhound
Lines, Inc.
Regional Director J. Oscar
Bloodworth reports that it
calls for a 250 an hour
general increase to August
last, another 25¢ on the same
1975 date, with a further 21¢ on
the 1976 anniversary.
Local 73 will be
paid quarterly, starting
November
1, and is based on
the formula of 1¢ per
hour for
hours in the
Consumer Price Index. It will
be taken into account in computing
overhead and fringe benefits under
the Wage and Hour Act.
The company agreed to
increase its contribution to
the health fund to 80 percent of
minimum wages for each employee,
effective
November
1, 1975, with a
similar increase in
1976
3,000
$3,000 + COLA Win in Bus Pact
Jacksonville, Fla. Unit Scores Widely at Greyhound

The mechanized teller may be
the banker of the future, says the Philadelphia
Inquirer, which
notes that this type of bank
automation is rapidly spreading across the
nation. The story by
staff writer J. A. Livingston got
under way in early
in Columbus, Ohio, has established
an almost teller-less branch in
the heart of that city's business
district within walking distance
of the bank's main offices.

The OPEIU's Stand on Health Bill
A new national health security bill, a major legislative
objective of organized labor, is being
collated for enactment by the
94th Congress under the sponsorship of Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-
The new bill is a big improvement over that submitted
at the previous Congress by the Nixon administration, provided it
does not create a giant government bureaucracy to handle records and
claims, work now being done by private health insurance carriers.
What is needed, the new bill provides, is full care for
all Americans, the last OPEIU convention in Miami Beach,
Fla., nevertheless expressed concern. It adopted a resolution
stressing that
this bill, at the same time, should guarantee that
responsibility for health care would become part of the
health care delivery system that the new measure proposes to
establish.
The resolution pointed out that a proper health bill should be
passed by the Congress but "not at the expense of thousands of
OPEIU members employed at Kaiser Entitles, Group Health
Insurance (GHI), Health Insurance Protection (HIP), Blue Cross
and Blue Shield and other private health insurance carriers."

The resolution called upon all OPEIU members to contact their
Senators and Representatives urging them to vote for a final
health security bill that "will be fair and equitable to all concerned."
Now is the time to act before this legislation is put into final
form.
We note that the new bill covers "every resident of the United
State," which may be an oversight. Since there are now several
million illegal aliens in this country, why not make it "every legal
resident of the United States." We see no reason why U.S.
taxpayers should provide free medical and hospital services for those
who have come here illegally.

In letters to Senators and Representatives our union members
should stress these points.

Problem of Illegal Aliens
The problem of illegal aliens in this country has now become
such a burning issue among American citizens that some are
angrily complaining that they were fired because these illegal
aliens are willing to work for much less pay.

Recently, the New York Times in a survey estimated that there are
114-million illegal aliens in the metropolitan area alone.
The U.S. Immigration & Naturalization Service chases some down
and sends them back to their homelands only to find, in many
cases, that they return in a few months and often are even working
at the same jobs.

For years, Congress has refused to plug the legal loopholes that
allow this odd situation to continue. But public interest in the
problem is now being bolstered by mounting pressure from union
leaders, and exposure in the mass media.

Federal law prohibits non-citizens from getting job in this
country, but there's nothing to forbid anyone from hiring these
same people. A holding company which has already
deposed the House twice has had its
denied in the Senate. The
Senate immigration subcommittee, which has jurisdiction
in such matters, hasn't met since 1967.

Local 15 now sets up a committee to
recommend solutions. One problem is that Americans are not required
to carry proof-of-citizenship papers, although aliens are supposed
to carry government-approved working credentials. Apparently,
most employers don't bother to ask for these.

The West German government is faced with a similar problem.

Until recently, jobs there were plentiful and unemployed workers
from other countries made a beeline for their counterparts' jobs.
Great Britain's law requires that only aliens legally admitted. How-
ever, the penalty for violation was merely a fine for the employer.
Now the West German government is cracking down hard.
A new law passed this spring requires employers to
to hire an illegal alien but also to subject such employers to prison
terms ranging up to five years.

Similar drastic action is required in this country. It's now up to
the new Congress and the Ford administration to enact a law
that will make employers criminally responsible for hiring illegal
aliens.

FIET Urges Women to Unorganize
Says Concerted Action Needed to Gain Equality
February, 1975

HEALTH CARE

President
William A. Lowe

OPEIU's Stand on Health Bill

One of the objectives of the International Federation of
Commercial, Clerical & Technical
Employees (FIET) during 1975 is to
produce a comprehensive health
insurance plan for workers
representing 1.5 million
employees in the U.S. The
resolution adopted is
intended as a response to
problems of women workers
and of the national
trade union movement
in general. It will be added.
It adds that the "is convinced that the
problems of women workers
can only be solved by the
common efforts of all trade union

subscriptions to their quarterly publication "The Line."
Says Congress Must Curb U.S. Global Corporations

Ronald Muller, an economist from American University in Washington, in a recent three-day Convention of the Allied Social Science Association, shed some light on the activities of multinational corporations. He indicated that the growth, power and independence of multinational corporations has transformed the structure of the United States economy and undermined government efforts to control inflation and stabilize the business environment.

Professor Muller said until new regulatory and planning institutions are developed to cope with the rise of global corporations, these trends will continue to be buffered by forces beyond government control. It is his feeling that policy makers of the United States government have yet to comprehend the problems created by globalization and the international effects of global corporations.

According to Professor Muller, most American economists still act as if the dominant corporate entity in the United States is the national corporation. He indicated that the denial of this has led to the rise of multinational corporations. He also pointed out that overworked wives are a "serious problem" worldwide.

The International Labor Organization has called on banks to help build a bigger share of the household chores as one way to ease the burden carried by women, who work outside the home.

The organization, a specialized agency of the United Nations, has its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, says that overworked wives are a "serious problem" worldwide. The agency's reports, that working mothers have less than two hours of leisure time enjoyed by their husbands.

"A more equitable sharing of the burden of housework and the care of children between men and women" is one approach to the problem of the overworked wife, the agency says. Such a sharing, it adds, is one of the "prerequisites of sexual equality."

The agency also advocates a greater rationalization and mechanization of housework to give both men and women more leisure.

The study, "Equality of Opportunity and Treatment for Women Workers," was prepared by the agency for consideration by the assembly in Geneva of the organization's 125 member nations in June.

The denial of equal pay for equal work remains of the most "blatant form of discrimination against women," the agency says.

The explanation it offers for such discrimination is that in "male-dominated societies women's work is 'up, without reason, to be regarded as of less value than that of men."

The study found that progress had been made in the last few years in eliminating legal discrimination against women in employment.

But there is evidence from all sides, the report says, of the "stubborn persistence of the subtler types of discrimination which are hard to grasp, hard to fight and hard to eliminate."

From the desk of the President

Sees Wives Who Work Needing Help

ILO Says Husbands Should Share House Chores

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How They Affect Economies

Professor Muller described the multinational corporation as a conglomerate "border-hopper" with an enormous appetite for growing up small from a global point of view and a global tax minimizer well protected from any single country's domestic policy moves and very secretive about its operations.

In the United States, multinationals now account for the majority of the economy's transactions. Some 30 percent of total U.S. corporate profits are derived from overseas operations, compared with 7 percent in 1960. In the banking sector, foreign dollar deposits of this country's largest global banks are now estimated at more than 65 percent of their domestic holdings.

Professor Muller stated that multinational banks have locked the United States into a new world of synchronized business cycles and volatile financial flows. He called attention to the Eurodollars market and said that the $110-billion pool of Eurodollars was an incalculable and predictable source of inflation that has eroded the autonomy and sovereignty of the nation's money supply.

Called Major Inflation Cause

In the September summit meetings which dealt with the nation's economy, John Winthrop Wright, President of Wright Investors' Service, stated that uncontrolled Eurodollars were a major source of inflation in the United States today.

Andrew Brimmer, a former Governor of the Federal Reserve System, called expansion of commercial banking activities overseas "one of the most important developments in international finance during the last decade." He urged the Federal Reserve to consider a "fundamental revamping of its regulatory framework."

Both Brimmer and Muller questioned the adequacy of existing public regulatory laws covering multinational institutions. Both stated that the country must overhaul anti-trust and corporate disclosure laws, accounting practices, and banking regulations in order to regulate properly multinational corporations and banks.

The organized labor movement has been, in effect, saying these same things for years. It is time for Congress to act!

Twin Cities Unit Gains 19% in Lumber Company Pact

Across-the-board wage gains totaling 19% were won by Twin Cities Local 12 for its 62-member unit at Mills Lumber Company in Minneapolis, in a monetary reopening only, for a new two-year agreement.

Local 12 Business Manager H. R. Markussen reports that the agreement calls for a 10% increase, effective December 15 last, with another 9% to take effect on the 1975 anniversary date. It was reached with the help of a federal mediator.

The company, a division of the Insico Corp. (Conn.), manufactures prefabricated homes and garages.

The unit negotiating team consisting of Stewards Cleo Balaban, Mike Tift and Laurie Oensterman. The new pact runs to December 15, 1976.

Unit Gains $1,700 at Kaiser Hospital

Benefits Also Boosted for 1,000 in Oakland Pact

Across-the-board wage boosts totaling $1,700 were won by Local 29 in a renegotiated two-year contract that included raises for workers at the nation's largest global banks are now estimated at more than 65 percent of their domestic holdings.

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New Pact Wins $4,600 Pay Hike
Local 12 Chalks up 35% Gain for Twin Cities Unit

Wage boosts totaling almost $4,600 per individual, in addition to fringe benefit improvements, were gained in a new three-year contract negotiated by Twin Cities Local 12 for its 69-member unit at Physicians & Hospitals Supply Company, in Minneapolis, Minn.

Wage hikes total 35% over the three years, according to Local 12 Business Manager H. R. Markaus. He says that in the final contract year, it sets a minimum weekly starting rate of $137.20 in the lowest office grade, rising to a $161.60 maximum.

In the top classification, the third-year starting weekly minimum will be $177.60, with a $228.60 maximum. Two employees who regularly substitute for PBX operators won a $4 weekly premium.

Christmas and New Year's days, previously half-days, now become full-day holidays, bringing the annual total to nine. The vacation schedule was liberalized to provide four weeks during any year (15 was 20).

The employer agreed to bear full cost of health-welfare insurance coverage (was $1.95) and provide coverage for dependents for $3.00 per month. Previously they were entitled only to six days at five hours per day.

Other improvements were made in clauses dealing with seniority, promotions and job posting. The new agreement runs to November 15, 1977. The unit negotiation team assuring Markaus included Stewards Evon Bachman, Karen Whalen, Lynnette Brouwer and Herbert Nelson.

Mrs. Zelda Brumsted, a member of Denver Local 5's Executive Board and elected Secretary-Treasurer of the Colorado State AFL-CIO Labor Council left vacant by the death of A. Toffoli. She is the only woman ever to serve as a top officer of the council. She has been an OPEIU member for 16 years and is a past officer of Local 5. Above she is shown taking over her new duties, with her is Bill Smith, President of the state AFL-CIO council.

Unionized Office Women
Earn 25% More, BLS Finds

Unionized women in clerical, operative and service jobs earned from 20% to 25% more than non-union workers in similar categories, a survey by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics finds from data available in May, 1973.

For white and black men in the transportation, equipment and operative occupations the differentials were around 40%.

The study also shows that the "usual hourly earnings" of craft workers were about 25% to 25% more than earnings of women with similar characteristics who were not members of unions.

FORT WAYNE UNIT SCORES AT UTILITY

Wage gains ranging from 21¢ for clerical to 40¢ an hour for meter readers, with a wage reopener in the second year, improved the health-welfare coverage plus an additional paid holiday, were gained in a new two-year contract with Fort Wayne's by Local 325 for its 68-member unit at City Utilities in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Washington's birthday becomes a paid holiday under the new pact which also upgraded Cashier 1 from $241.20 to a $269.60 wage level.

U.S. Corrects CPI

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics has recalculated the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the April through October 1974 period to correct an error in the used car component.

The error was due to incorrect use by BLS of used car prices in the April 1974 CPI. Beginning in April, prices used in the index included air conditioning.

From April through October, the revised CPI figures differ from previously published levels by 0.1 to 0.3 index points as a result of the revisions for these months.

Educational Materials Available For Members

Delegates to the 1974 Convention expressed the need for materials pertinent to the OPEIU and membership in the union. They also indicated an interest in information on the labor movement in general and in social, economic and political data relevant to them at both workplace and community levels.

In response, WHITE COLLAR will publish a continual listing of available resource material—booklets, pamphlets, books, brochures, subscriptions, films—many free and some offered at a very modest cost. This will prove useful to all union members and officers alike—and provide a well-rounded "library" for every local.

For handy reference, we suggest you clip the lists as they appear in future issues.

OPEIU Publications

Write: Wm. A. Lowe, OPEIU Sec.-Treas.
815 - 16th St., N.W. (Suite 606)
Washington, D.C. 20006

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This official organ of the OPEIU. Published monthly. Everything an OPEIU member should know without asking. Free to union members. Subscription $2 per year for nonmembers.

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IT'S YOUR RIGHT TO JOIN THE UNION
In white collar fields, the job is made easier if you belong to the protection of employers who want to join the union. For reasons and answers about what is in and not in the anti-union papers read inside the booklets from the Labor Management Relations Act as adopted by Congress. (Applies to U.S. law only. Constitution laws are different.) 25¢ per 10.

WHAT ARE THEY SAYING?
Professional unionists—union members all—are one union affiliation. It is based on the premise of OPEIU. It is simple and clear where it's going in the use of automation, $4.00 per 10.

BETTER DAYS AHEAD FOR YOU
A union is an insurance broker that includes OPEIU testimonials from national news people as well as endorsements of union affiliation by famous entertainers. The book tells how in this time of anti-union bias, and left out the black and white for the OPEIU, 50 cents.

YES ... I'LL BE HAPPY TO TELL YOU WHY...
An OPEIU testimonial describes avantage of her union affiliation and the specific benefit she's received through belonging to OPEIU. The booklet includes a 10-cash mailing list for more detailed information about the white collar union. 10¢ per 10.

LOOKOUT BELOW
A booklet about the many anti-union elements attempt to "bolster" their employees' individual concern over union membership—the kind of information employees don't want, need, the facts, a simple way to standardize, and answers to what is happening in the job. 10¢ per 10.

STEWARDS' TRAINING MANUAL
As an aid and supplement to the OPEIU's continuous training program, a basic study of the duties and responsibilities of the steward. A guide for the steward and his steward with a study plan in which the subject matter is divided and arranged to easily and quickly absorb the information. This book includes "excerpts" in the area of contract administration and grievance handling.

Book 1—Identification of Grievances

Book 2—Accurate Fact-Finding
What—When—Where—When—Proof—

Book 3—Grievance Writing
Pacts and Roles—Completing Grievance Forms

Book 4—Presenting a Grievance
Who Approaches—Support With Facts—What Do You Say?—How Do You Say It—The Evidence

Book 5—The Next Move
Relations with Workmen—Relations With Management—Relations With Unions—Service Requirements—$6.00 for set of 2 books.

OFFICE STEWARD MANUAL
A guide for the steward or his representative to provide them with a written state, most of the steward's responsibilities and some helpful hints on how to discharge them. Includes useful standards of labor terminology and much more.

STOP AND THINK
For Blue Cross/Blue Shield employees not worked for a supplemented Blue Cross or Blue Shield (called "capitated") at what, may not be working through unlimited use of hospitalization benefits. Or how to keep your OPEIU card up-to-date, and all OPEIU benefits, and the ways to use the various OPEIU benefits. 50 cents.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

D. SHUBERT

51st charter member of Local 277, Fort Worth, Tex., and one of its original organizers.

Employed at General Dynamics, he served the union as a trustee, member of the negoti- ation of a new contract, and as depart- ment committeeman. He was also a member of the Grievance Committee.

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