AFL-CIO Offers Plan to Revitalize Economy

A six-point action program drawn up by the leaders of organized labor for submission to Congress and President Ford "to put Americans back to work" by immediate, massive emergency measures, was adopted at a special meeting in Washington, D.C., of the AFL-CIO General Board all International Unions. A statement issued by the Board declared:

The following six point program:
1. An immediate tax cut of at least $20 billion, primarily for low and middle-income families, to stimulate the economy through added purchasing power.
2. Immediate government measures to reduce America's dependence on foreign oil and establish a "fair and equitable system of allocation and rationing." It rejected President Ford's energy proposals.
3. The government to bar the improper use of embargoes and oil embargoes.
4. Immediate reduction of interest and tax rates on credit for high-priority social and economic activities such as housing, local government facilities and basic industrial expansion. The Board noted that if the U.S. can tax its taxpayers' money to the Soviet Union, 6% and 7% interest it should immediately reduce interest rates by 6% on FHA and VA mortgages.
5. Immediate action to create jobs for the unemployed by release of a substantial portion of the $19 billion in appropriated funds, impounded by the President, for construction of schools, hospitals and waste treatment plants, aid to highways, and construction and modernization of hospital facilities.
6. Immediate action to protect existing jobs from unfair foreign competition by establishing quotas on imports of industrial goods in areas where U.S. production has declined in recent months; by export controls on raw materials and other products in domestic short supply; and revocation of tax deferral payments for foreign-currency profits, with regulation of the export of American capital and technology that results in the export of American jobs.

Seidman discloses that the honorary president of this two organizations is a former New Yorker named Leonard Davis who, while in family, owns controlling interest in Colonial Penn Group, a company which specializes in the writing of health, automobile and life insurance for persons over 55, and which derives most of its business from AARP-NRTA members.

The exploitation arises from the carefully nurtured "non-profit image" of AARP-NRTA," he declares. "The forces believe they are getting objective advice about the best insurance they can buy from the publications of these organizations. They do not know about the exclusive access the insurance.

Seidman promises that this is "unfair and inequitable," adding: "On the one hand the President proposes higher prices for just about everything people must buy and, on the other, at..."
Support AFL-CIO Action Plan
In his message to Congress in January, President Ford's proposals to deal with the current recession, rapidly sliding into a depression, failed to measure up to the developing national economy.

Subsequently, President George Meany summoned the AFL-CIO General Board to meet in Washington to draw up a comprehensive program for submission to Congress and President Ford with a call for immediate, massive emergency action.

Unlike President Ford's proposals providing the biggest benefits for Big Business and the wealthy, organized labor's six-point plan gives top priority to the needs of low and middle-income people, the unemployed, and the underprivileged. Highlights of the labor program appear on Page 1.

Since then, the AFL-CIO has prepared for national distribution a brief pamphlet entitled: "Action Program to Put America Back to Work." This should be in the hands of International Representatives as well as all key people in Local Unions. Free copies may be obtained by writing to: AFL-CIO Publications Department, 815 15th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

Although the existing economic situation calls for emergency action, Congress regrettably shows no sense of urgency. It called a ten-day recess during February and went home. This is not a time to play politics while 7½ million unemployed and the streets seeking jobs that don't exist.

An aroused public can build a fire under the politicians that will compel them to take action. Organized labor has pledged its relentless support of its program to put America back to work.

It has also taken up the cause of those now retired on pensions, on which President Ford asked for a 5% ceiling on mandatory benefit increases to which they are legally entitled.

Now's the time for all union members to rally to the cause by bombarding the President, and members of the House and Senate with letters and resolutions demanding immediate action on the six-point program submitted by organized labor.

Advice For Union Retirees
At the last OPEIU Convention in Miami Beach, Fla., a resolution was adopted and the Convention amended to encourage all our Locals to form associations for retired members. Yet, when the Executive Board met recently in San Francisco it was deeply disappointed when informed by President Howard Couglin that few Locals had done anything to implement the resolution with respect to retirees.

This was all the more surprising, he pointed out, because New York Local 153 had a very successful program in operation for its retirees. The Board emphasized that "retiree programs are good for the retired members, the active members and the union, and that every effort should be made by Local unions to implement these programs.

With this in mind, we call the attention of all members to the statement by AFL-CIO Social Security Director Bert Seidman in this issue. Although the AFL-CIO actively sponsors and endorses the National Council of Senior Citizens (NCSC), he reveals that many union members—unaware of this—are entering into joint organizing efforts with other senior citizen groups which exploit them commercially.

He cites particularly the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), and the National Retired Teachers Association (NRTA), which hook many older union members with the bait that they provide "non-profit" low-cost auto, hospital and other kinds of insurance.

But the AARP-NRTA organizations, in their own financial statements for last year, listed receipts from the Colonial Penn Group of $5.8 million for "administrative expenses" plus additional sums for advertising space in their publications. Thus, it's easy to see why these organizations favor the commercial insurance approach to national health care.

We sincerely hope that all our Locals, especially large ones, will now recognize how important it is to implement retiree programs, and to work with the National Council for Senior Citizens in all matters relating to older and retired union members.

OPEIU Joins City of Hope Drive Supports Fund Appeal for Medical Research Center
The City of Hope in Duarte, Calif., a labor-sponsored medical treatment and research center, for 61 years has demonstrated its ability and dedication to medical care for working people can be made available.

Hundreds of original discoveries have emerged from its hospitals and clinics to date, the latest being a blood preservative which actually doubles the storage time of blood—a factor vital to Blood Banks in every community because of a shortage of blood for transfusions due to the shutdown of plants in the current recession.

Another recent result from its medical research holds promise for potential victims of emphysema, the fastest growing lung disease in America today. A new test developed by the City of Hope makes it possible to screen out potential victims. Thousands of lives may be saved through this preventive measure.

The City of Hope, pressed by an urgent need to enable its medical complex and expand its program has embarked on a "New Horizons" project. A new hospital wing now nearing completion will provide a partial answer to these problems. These new facilities will allow for expansion of present research programs so desperately needed to step up the assault on killer diseases.

OPEIU members, affiliated with centers treated at the City of Hope, are eligible for free patient care. Admission procedures are simple and may be obtained from the City of Hope Labor Council Office, 927 Felt St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19107. Its phone number is: (215) 923-3213.

This year the OPEIU is joining hands with other trade unionists in supporting the City of Hope fund-raising drive against catastrophic ailments that threaten working people. Please send your contribution to the above address.

Japanese Union Heads Visit OPEIU Bank Employees Over There Are 70% Unionized
Of the 500,000 bank employees in Japan, 350,000 or 70% are unionized, three top leaders of Japanese banks revealed during a visit to OPEIU headquarters. They also disclosed that banks are Japan's most sophisticated industry, commercial banks having increased their business volume by 67% in the past five years while adding only 8% more employees.

The delegation was in this country to raise the suspicion of the U.S. Department of Labor. It included Toshibo Gonda, Secretary-General of the National Union of Bank Employees' Union; Hiroshi Kono, President of the Fukushima Mutual Bank Workers' Union; and Seto Tsuchida, President of the Taiko Mutual Bank Labor Union.

They were greeted by Director of Organization Art Lewandowski, who discussed the OPEIU's activities on behalf of professionals, and the problems encountered in organizing American bank employees.

The Japanese bank union leaders expressed amazement at the low pay of bank employees in this country. They said they had an impression, prior to their arrival here, that American bank employees were "so highly paid and enjoyed such superior working conditions that they felt unionism was unnecessary.''

They declared that Japanese bank employees regard their unions' activities as "extremely important" and that they are "enabled to have a voice in negotiating wages and improving working conditions."

They said they found it "difficult to understand the apathy of American bank employees toward unionism."

Other members of the delegation were Masanori Haegawa, President of the Shizuoka Railway Workers' Union; Takeomi Shibata, Research Director, Fukuyama Steel Workers' Union; Yosamu Suda, Wage Director, Yakuzaki Baking Workers' Union; Shigeo Murakoshi, Finance Director, Osaka Commercial Workers' Union, and Akira Tomita, official interpreter.

Lewandowski presented each member of the delegation with OPEIU lapel buttons and tic clips after the two-hour exchange of views ended.

Wall Street Ice Breaker Union Shop Won in Cotton Exchange Pact
An 18% wage boost with a cost-of-living allowance if the New York CPI tops 10%, the first wage pact negotiated for the first time in Wall Street, highlighted a new two-year agreement renegotiated with the N.Y. Cotton Exchange by Local 205, President John Brady reports.

He says the new pact calls for a 10% wage increase in the first year and 8% in the second. Other gains are improved vacations, 15-minute extra breaks, and terminology changes in language covering automation. The employer agreed to contribute towards the local's drug prescription plan, and to liberalize major medical coverage without limit on hospitalization. The new pact provides a maternity benefit of $325 for doctors.
Coast Co-op Unit Wins Hefty Gains
50c an Hour Hike, Plus COLA, Feature Local 29 Pact

Across-the-board wage boosts of 50c an hour, plus cost-of-living allowances in addition to longevity increases, were gained by Oakland, Calif., Local 29 of the United Bakers and Confectioners, in its latest one-year agreement renegotiated for its 84-member unit at the Co-op of Berkeley, Vice President John H. Price reports.

He says the wage increase became effective November 1, 1974, with a 1½-point COLA COLA payable on January 1, 1975. For each of the remaining three quarters, the COLA allowance will be paid on the basis of 1½ an hour for each 0.3 point rise in the Consumer Price Index.

The Co-op agreed to pay on May 1, 1975, a longevity premium of $15 an hour to employees at the top of their classification for two years, with an additional 5¢ to those at classification tops for 10 years. Classifications covered by this provision are education assistants, Kiddie Korral attendants and home economists, and maintenance personnel. Education assistants assigned to more than one center are also entitled to a $10 per week premium.

Sick leave was increased by the addition of two days for a 50 day total, with accumulated sick leave being paid to employees who are laid-off. The new pact also includes severance pay for any employees with five years seniority who are permanently laid-off, based on one week’s pay for each year of service.

Bargaining Inspires New U.S. Stamp
Will Commemorate Union Work as Social Force

The U.S. Postal Service is currently printing a postage stamp to commemorate collective bargaining as a social force that has helped stabilize the labor-management relations throughout the nation.

In disclosing that the stamp is in production, the date and place of its issuance will shortly be announced, and U.S. States known as Marshall Steel and Coshell Laundries.

The pact calls for a 30c an hour wage boost in each of the two years. In addition, employees will be entitled to a cost-of-living allowance of 1½ an hour for each 1½-point rise in the Consumer Price Index in excess of eight points as of March 1, 1975, payable on a second anniversary thereafter to March 31, 1976.

The agreement sets a minimum base pay of $158 per week in the lowest office occupational groups in the second year, rising to a $162 maximum, and a $168.40 maximum rising to $172.40 in the top grade.

Effective April 1, 1974, the employer association agreed to contribute $33 an hour for each employee into the Western

Coast Laundry Pact Gains $1,900

C.O.L, New Pension Plan Also Won in Local 29 Contract

Wage gains totaling nearly $1,900 per individual over two years, supplemented by a cost-of-living escalator clause and a new pension plan, were achieved in a master agreement renegotiated by Oakland Local 29 for office employees in eight California laundries operating under the Joint Ownership Association of Alameda County, and two independent laundries known as Marshall Steel and Coshell Laundries.

The pact calls for a 30c an hour wage boost in each of the two years. In addition, employees will be entitled to a cost-of-living allowance of 1½ an hour for each 1½-point rise in the Consumer Price Index in excess of eight points as of March 1, 1975, payable on a second anniversary thereafter to March 31, 1976.

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HEALTH CARE ELSEWHERE AND HERE: WHAT NATIONAL PROGRAMS PAY FOR

The United States is the only industrialized nation in the world that does not have a national system of health insurance. The Health Security Bill is the only national health program that will add a row of "yeses" for the U.S. in the chart below:

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Some Retiree Groups

(Continued from page 1)
Non-Union Auto Clericals
Learn Unionism Does Pay

Non-union white collar employees at American Motors and Chrysler are now learning, regrettably, that the "free ride" is over and that a union card is really worthwhile.

American Motors has told its 7,500 non-union salaried employees that until further notice it is freezing their quarterly cost-of-living allowances, delaying implementation of a new dental plan, and discontinuing merit increases.

Meanwhile, Chrysler also announced that it has discontinued indefinitely the c-o-i allowances for some 18,000 non-union salaried employees. In addition, the company is planning to suspend its employee stock purchase plan, subject to approval of the Internal Revenue Service.

Union employees' COLA payments are guaranteed by the company's contract with the plant union, a Chrysler spokesman explained, while non-union employees receive these allowances "at the company's discretion." In other words, what a company gives employees it also can take away if they don't have a contract.

Milwaukee Bank Contract
Boosts Clerical Pay by 18%

Across-the-board wage gains totaling 18% were achieved by Local 9 in a renegotiated two-year contract for its office unit at the Midland National Bank (Welfare & Pension Fund Div.) in Milwaukee, Wisc.

Business Manager Ed Kubicki reports that it calls for a 10% wage boost in the first year, effective on January 1 last, with another 8% each to take effect on January 1, 1976.

In the second contract year, it sets a minimum starting weekly rate of $116 in the lowest office grade (file clerk), rising to $154 after six months. In the top grade of secretary-bookkeeper the starting rate will be $201.50, rising to $209.75 weekly after six months.

N.J. Public Employees Gain
Greater Bargaining Rights

Several bargaining rights previously denied by the courts and expanded areas of negotiability are included in a major revision of the New Jersey Public Employees Relations Act which has been signed by Gov. Brendan Byrne.

The legislation restores the concept that "everything" is negotiable that affects the terms and conditions of employment, subject to review by the Public Employees Relations Commission (PERC) and appeal to the courts. Existing laws governing pensions may limit the scope of bargaining on such matters, though.

Major effect of the revised act is the setting aside of some court decisions which gave priority to other laws affecting employment conditions over negotiated agreements. A second major gain provides for PERC hearings on unfair labor practice charges under regulations to be developed by the commission.

PERC is empowered to set time-tables for negotiations so contracts can be arrived at before budgets are adopted. Fact-finding costs, previously borne by the parties involved will now be absorbed by the State.

Also, PERC-sponsored educational courses at Rutgers, the State University, in future will cover public employees and their representatives. Previously, only the employer was covered.

Please give to the City of Hope Fund Drive!

HONOR RETIRING EXECUTIVE: Local 123, Bridgport, Conn., and the Steel Workers Plant Union table for a dinner to honor William Mutilbath on his retirement as Director of Labor & Industrial Relations for Jenkins Bros. after 40 years.

Both unions have had a long history of amicable relations with the company which runs Local 123 Sec.-Treas., Interna-
tional Representative Justin F. and Mrs. Manning, Local 123 President John and Mrs. Jacome, Mr. Cicero and wife, Dorothy, Local 420 Secretary-Treas., and Mrs. Demovich, Local 123 Board Member at Large, Manning and the company President were the speakers.

International Paper Pact
Boosts Pay 10% Per Year

Across-the-board wage boosts of 10% annually were gained in a renegotiated 30-month master agreement between eight OPEIU Locals representing office and clerical employees at the International Paper Company (Southern Kraft Div.), Vice President J. Oscar Bloodworth reports.

The new agreement replaces one due to expire on May 31, 1976, which is now extended for one year to May 31, 1977. Retroactive to November 1 last, it also provided a 10% general increase on the 1973 wage rates for the remainder of the 1974 contract year, with similar increases on the 1975 and 1976 anniversary dates.

Effective June 1, 1976, the new agreement sets a monthly minimum scale of $873 in the lowest office grade, rising to $953 maximum. In the top classification it calls for a $1,442 starting monthly minimum rising to $1,581 maximum.

The new agreement covers office employees at eight company mills in Camden and Pine Bluff, Ark.; Bastrop and Springhill, La.; Panama City, Fla.; Kreole, Miss.; Mobile, Ala., and Georgetown, S.C.

The OPEIU negotiating team included Ruth B. Sawyer, Local 71; A. W. Halley, Local 80; Carolyn Stogall, Local 209; Wofford G. Boyd, Local 233; Carroll Formby, Local 411; Nartin Swanson, Local 19; Robert Trantiell, Local 420, and Walter W. Hull, Local 430.

Office Unit Wins 19% Raise
At Brown Paper Company

Wage gains totaling 19% over two years with the right to seek a cost-of-living adjustment if the Consumer Price Index exceeds that level during the life of the agreement, plus improved fringe benefits, highlight a new agreement reached by Local 247 for its office unit at Brown Paper Company in Holyoke, Mass.

International Representative Justin F. Manning reports that the pact calls for a 5% across-the-board wage boost retroactive to February 11, a 7% increase effective September 2, and another 7% raise effective September 1, 1977.

On the latter date, the starting minimum rate for those with three months of continuous service will be $118.28, and $134.88 for those with 18 months service.

Other gains are an additional paid holiday making the annual total 10; improved vacations and more liberalized sick leave provisions. Health-Welfare benefits were also improved. Next year pension benefits will be increased to 55 per month times years of service at the normal retirement (non-mandatory) age of 65.

The OPEIU negotiating team assisting Manning included Local 247 Vice President Rita Sarad, Sec.-Treas., Helen McDonnell and Euclid Tangany. The new agreement runs to Sep-
tember 1, 1976.

Initial Pact at Taxi Firm
Wins Hefty Wage Raises

Wage gains ranging from 60¢ to $1 per hour per pre-union scales were gained by Local 15 in an initial contract for its new unit of office and clerical employees at Advance Cabs Ltd., in Vancouver, B.C.

Business Representative Barry Hudson says that the initial agreement, which runs for 17 months, provides a 60¢ hourly increase for clerks, 80¢ for dispatchers, and $1 for telephone operators.

It also calls for two additional paid holidays, vacation improvements, double time on leave per month, severance pay, and jury service differential pay. Steward Archie Trotter assisted Hudson in the negotiations.

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