**OPEIU Calls for National Health Insurance Law**

**Coughlin Urges Carter to Redeem His Pre-Election Pledge**

By President Howard Coughlin

During his election campaign and again since his inauguration, President Jimmy Carter promised that he would announce a national health insurance program in January.

Unions across America—including OPEIU—are getting behind a single objective: the enactment in 1978 of a National Health Security Bill which will continue to utilize the services of plans such as Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Group Health Insurance, Health Insurance Plan, Kaiser Hospital Plan, and Health Maintenance Organizations which have very creditable records in the health field.

Enactment of such a comprehensive bill into law would totally reform the present health care system so that, in future, no American will have to spend one cent for any doctor's care or for any hospital service. The right to good health would thus become part of everyone's "bill of rights."

**Bill 30 Years Overslue**

Exactly 30 years ago, President Harry S. Truman said one of the nation's "greatest unmet needs" was a national health service program. The same forces that killed that hope are at work again today. They put their own selfish greed for profit above that of genuine health care for the working people.

But opposition to a genuine National Health Security Bill by the profit-makers is naturally strong. It includes the American Medical Association, numerous insurance companies, the hospitals and many doctors, whose average annual income now exceeds $60,000.

The opposition is heavily-financed and well-organized. Working people in the organized labor movement cannot defeat this opposition alone. And neither can those greedy forces be restrained unless the working people (organized and unorganized) join together to defeat them.

Every working American (except Congressmen and their families), can, I say, "the present system." And for each and all (except Congressmen), there's a rising price tag for health care. Marking up the price tags daily are the nation's doctors and hospitals, to such a degree that it's a major effort for many unions to retain even present health coverage at the bargaining table.

Since World War II ended, organized labor has given health insurance coverage high priority. Our victories not only have benefited our union members and their families but the nation as a whole, for we forced "the system" to improve slowly, if grudgingly.

Yet, total health care protection still eludes us for the simple reason that under "the present system" complete protection is not available—at any price.

Thus why I, along with other presidents of International Unions, have joined the nationwide campaign to get a comprehensive national health insurance bill passed in the coming year. Like these other unions, the OPEIU must join this great national coalition—the Health Security Action Committee, which is the action arm of the Committee for National Health Insurance.

**Urges Letters to White House**

I believe President Carter when he says he wants to make good on his national health insurance promise. Our duty is to call the President's attention now to proposals for a plan based on sound principles that also will include continuation of the experienced services of the private health insurance organizations previously mentioned.

We should ask the President to embody these proposals in his message on the subject to the Congress. Because of its importance, I personally urge all OPEIU members to become active in this great struggle by writing now to President Carter to remind him of his promise, and to get relatives and personal friends interested enough to do likewise.

They should also write to the Committee for National Health Insurance, 821 15th St., N.W., Washington, D.C., particularly our members in bargaining units representing employees in the private health insurance and service fields.

The CNHI people want to know who we are, and what our ideas are to help achieve this great national health protection goal about which we have all dreamed so long.

---

**OPEIU Card Beats "Blue Chip"**

*New Haven Local Wins $15,000 Award for Five Members*

Five happy women in New Haven, Conn., learned selling their friends and acquaintances that an OPEIU membership card is a better investment than a Wall Street "blue chip," and pays far higher dividends when the chips are down.

The women are employed at the Knights of Columbus, headquarters of the world's largest fraternal insurance organization, and are members of OPEIU Local 329, which filed grievances in their behalf that they were incorrectly classified in their jobs and merited higher grades.

Arbiter William Fallon, following a hearing on all five grievances, ruled that the women were entitled to be upgraded by two levels to higher classifications and awarded them $15,000 in back pay for the time spent at the lower pay levels.

The largest award of $8,000 went to Josephine Duggan, a utility clerk, whose duties and responsibilities qualified her for the two-level upward grading, the arbiter ruled.

He found that the four other office clerks, Judy O'Sullivan, Anne McKeon, Marcie Muller and Chris Cloherty, were improperly classified and also should be upgraded two levels. The four were awarded $7,000 each.

---

**Arizona Chemical Company Yields 20 1/2% Wage Boosts**

Wage boosts totaling 20 1/2% over two years, two additional holidays and improved vacations among other fringe benefits, highlight a new contract renegotiated by Local 9034 for its office unit at Arizona Chemical Company's plant in Panama City, Fla.

OPEIU Vice President J. Oscar Bloodworth reports that effective June 1 last, the first-year increase was 10 1/2%, with a 10 1/2% further increase on June 1, 1978.

In that year, the starting monthly minimum rate will be $1,062 for those in the lowest office grade, rising to a $1,158 maximum. In the top grade, the starting rate will be $1,752 rising to $1,922.

Other gains are increases in shift differentials of 24 an hour in the first year. In the second year this will be increased by another 24, and by 36 for the adjusted prime rate," now 7%, may be raised or lowered at two-year intervals.

The 6% rate had been in effect for 15 years. The board said the new interest formula was "expected to encourage timely compliance with board decisions," discourage the commission of unfair labor practices and more fully compensate workers for their economic losses.

---

**NLRB Boosts Penalties For Employer Scofflaws**

The National Labor Relations Board is making it costlier for employers to discharge workers illegally or otherwise discriminate against them.

In a unanimous decision, the board changed the way of computing interest, added to back pay, and other monetary awards assessed as penalties against companies found to have violated workers' rights under the National Labor Relations Act. Instead of the 6% interest rate previously used, the board said it was going to adopt the variable interest formula used by the Internal Revenue Service on underpayment or overpayment of Federal taxes. The "adjusted prime rate," now 7%, may be raised or lowered at two-year intervals.

---

**Senator Hubert Humphrey, shown at OPEIU Convention some years ago, now heads coalition of unions and friends seeking passage of labor law reform in Congress. (See Page 2 editorial).**
Labor Secretary Marshall Chides
Media Ignorance of Labor Matters

The following is excerpted from remarks by U.S. Sec. of Labor Ray Marshall to a conference sponsored by the International Labor Press Association in Washington, D.C. We have been absolutely baffled at the understanding of the general press of labor matters. Regardless of the issue that we talk about, there is a monumental lack of understanding and ignorance about collective bargaining and labor law—and the labor movement itself.

I've been astounded by because as I am an experienced lawyer in this general press it almost always is necessary for me to start with "show-and-tell" in terms of explaining things. I spend a fair amount of my time over the years explained in the press what things they ask me, in their understanding of all kinds of labor issues.

Part of the reason is that anti-union forces have done a fairly well organized communications program, and that communications program has made it possible for them to have better access to the public than the labor movement. It decreases the general press which is most knowledgeable about labor matters. That means, in terms of shaping the thinking of people, we have a monumental job ahead.

Economists Confuse Issue

We need to get the simple message across of the importance of full employment. First, we need to force the issue. It gets forced up by a lot of economists. You know I'm an economist, and I know that a good bit of the labor issues on economic issues is created by economists, because they tend to do it. It's fairly abstract and to confuse issues. But it seems to me that the definition of full employment is that those who want to work and are able to work get to work as many days as they like and as much as they like. And it's simple, once you get inflation.

Inflation Wears Down Gains

There are lots of things that we need to work together to overcome. One myth is that there are a lot of people in the country who don't want to work. And I think that's less important than the concept that we have a society where anybody who is willing and able to work can find a job without having to look too long.

There are a lot of myths that we need to work together to overcome. One myth is that there are a lot of people in the country who don't want to work. That has not been our experience, but it's amazing how pervasive that myth is.

Other Propaganda Myths

We don't have unemployment because people are not willing to work and don't want to work; we have unemployment because we don't have enough jobs, and if we make the jobs available we'll get the people to fill them. There is a myth that you can create meaningful jobs for people. Well, that's the sincerest kind of nonsense. With all the things that we need to do in this country, to assume that we can create meaningful jobs, and have them do meaningful work, is just silly. We didn't have to think very long at all to come up with a list of jobs that we'll never get done, if we don't put the unemployed to work doing them.

Another myth that we have is that we have to have unemployment in order to check inflation. Well, that's the biggest myth of all. If you look at the historical record, you will find the problem with that argument is that it fails to realize that unemployment is inflationary.

We might have, in a relationship between money and goods, and it's very simple—you can make it complicated, but it's a simple proposition: If you get more money in the system than goods, the result is inflation.

And if you have people not working, then you're sure not producing any goods but they are probably living, so they are getting money. And that's inflationary.

School Team Wears Down Lawyer

New Unit Wins Demands After Talks Lasting 15 Months

A lawyer designated by a Minnesota school board to negotiate an initial two-year contract for its employees dragged out negotiations for 15 months before signing an agreement, despite efforts of a state mediator and a strike vote, according to testimony of Local 12 Business Representative Vern Paul.

But, he adds, the OPEIU negotiating team patiently endured the ordeal and won out. The branch, representing more than 2,000 Iowa County Area Vocational Technical Institute, which employs 37 school secretaries and clericals, finally gained a 8 1/2% wage increase in the first year, retroactively, and 7 1/2% in the second, with new minimums but no maximum scales. The unit won improvement in employer contributions to employee health care coverage, as well as more liberal sick leave and other leaves of absence.

The initial pact calls for 9 1/4 paid holidays with vacations of two weeks after one year, and three after eight. The probationary period was lowered from 60 to from the previous 90 days. It also establishes vacancy and job-posting procedures, as well as several covering seniority.

The lawyer-negotiator fought "tooth and nail" to prevent any seniority provisions at all, but the unyielding negotiating team finally wore him down, according to Vern Paul.

Paul gives great credit to the unit team comprising Chief Lawyer Stewart Jewell Steedman, and Stewards Monica Hobson and Audrey Rademacher for "enduring and ultimately winning this battle.

New Joy Mfg. Agreement

Yields Gains in All Areas

Across-the-board wage boosts of first $18, then $15 to $30, and 5% general increase in the following two years, together with cost-of-living adjustments and other fringe benefits were gained in a renegotiated contract for its 200-member office unit at Joy Manufacturing Co., in Franklin, Pa.

International Representative Jay V. Porcaro reports that the COLA calls for a one cent per hour for each 0.4 rise in the Consumer Price Index.

Other gains in an additional holiday—the employee's birthday—bringing the annual total to 12. All employees will receive two additional vacation days in the future.

The major medical plan coverage was raised to $50,000 in the first year (was $25,000). Life insurance was increased to $21,000, which ($15,000) in the first year, and $75,000 in the second. In the second year, these benefits already included in the group health plan.

Pension benefits were increased to $70,000 per month per year of service in the first year, $11,500 in the second, and $12 in the third year.

The company started a memorandum of understanding that flextime will be introduced in the near future.

Old Labor Friend Leads Again

Senator Hubert Humphrey, whose indomitable courage has inspired a generation of American workers, is back in the business of leading the way again.

He has agreed to serve as chairman of Americans for Justice on the Job, the new coalition of U.S. workers and their allies supporting passage in the Congress of Labor Law Reform.

As chairman of this committee, he is once again calling for a move forward, and progress is a topic with which he is right at home.

Thirty years ago, Hubert Humphrey was the voice heard around the world when his call for civil rights for all Americans, regardless of color, held the 1948 Democratic Convention delegates spellbound.

Twenty years ago, he flashed across the national scene as the young U.S. Senator who was spewing forth ideas like a fountain—full employment, food for peace, voting rights for blacks, national health insurance. Some of the causes he led bore fruit a decade later; he is still working on others.

And ten years ago next year Hubert Humphrey missed, by seven-tenths of one percent, becoming the 57th President of the United States.

Today, one is hard pressed to find an American who doesn't wish that with that wish has been fulfilled the other way.

The full week has been turned into national Labor Law Reform Week by a series of events designed to draw attention to the need for enactment of H.R. 8410.

A dinner chaired by Senator Humphrey at the Sheraton-Park Hotel in Washington, D.C., was held on October 4, with the House vote on H.R. 8410 in the near future. State and local AFL-CIO bodies held similar events the same week.

All OPEIU Locals, where possible, should support these events to demonstrate that our Union is 100% behind Labor Law Reform. The big push to achieve this goal is now going forward.

Aside from that, each one of us should drop Senator Humphrey a personal note to let him know that the rank-and-file of American workers are as committed to
Deaf OPEIU Members Participate in Union Activities

Five deaf office employees were among 16 new members recently inducted by Knoxville, Tenn., Local 268. The communication problem for deaf members was solved by hiring an interpreter to attend union meetings. She uses "sign" language and also forms words with her lips so that those who use lip-reading can understand the proceedings. Interpreter Joel Hill, University of Tennessee, is shown assisting Local 268 Vice President David Newton during the induction ceremony. President Mary Thomas named an interpreter when deaf members notify her that they will attend a meeting.

OPEIU Units Score in Paper Pact

Large Wage Gains, Fringe Benefits Won in IP&Ps Contracts

General wage increases totaling 2014%, with substantial improvements in pension and other fringe benefits, were gained in new two-year master agreement renegotiated for eight OPEIU Locals in the South with the International Paper Company.

OPEIU Vice President J. Oscar Bloodworth reports that the new pact calls for a 10% wage increase in the first year, and 10% in the second. All contract provisions are retroactive to June 1, 1977.

Pension benefits, which he says were a major concern of the OPEIU negotiating team, were significantly increased. Minimum benefits were increased to $9 a month per year of service from the previous $7.50.

Moreover, the company also agreed after hard bargaining to reimburse the employees for pension contributions made prior to 1970 when the plan became non-contributory. It is estimated that the average employee will receive $3,000 in refunds in the coming years. The Joint OPEIU negotiating team included 20 delegates from the eight Locals who were chaired by Wolford Boyd, Local 233, Georgetown, S.C., and Ruth Sawyer, Local 71, Mobile, Ala. Bloodworth and International Representative Bill Kirby acted as spokesmen for the group.

Maine Unit Signs Three-Year Pact

International Representative John Connolly reports that a three-year pact with International Paper had been renegotiated by Local 442 for its office unit in Maine. Holidays, vacations and other fringe benefits were also improved.

It calls for a 20 1/2% wage boost in the first two years, and a 2.5% increase in the final year with a $50 bonus. Premium differentials are increased by 2¢ an hour for the first shift and 3¢ for the second. Other gains are an additional floating holiday and five weeks' vacation after 20 years.

The pension plan was also improved. Life insurance was raised to a new $15,000 maximum per individual. Hospitalization was increased by $5 for single employees, and by $19 per month for family coverage, with the health-plan changed to Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

Assisting Connolly in the negotiations were a unit team comprising Local 442 President Royal Waitt, Vice President Donald LeClerc, Secretary Nancy Botka, and Treasurer Verne Bickford.

OPEIU Wins 22% Pay Boost For Glass Company Unit

Wage gains totaling 22% over three years, with improved vacations and other fringe benefits, were won in a new contract renegotiated by Fort Worth Local 277 for its office unit at Owens-Illinois Container Division in Waco, Texas.

Local 277 President-Business Manager J. B. Moss reports that the new agreement calls for a general wage boost of 8% in the first year, and 7% in each of the following two years. There are also additional raises for some employees to correct previous inequities.

Shift differentials were increased to 20¢ an hour for the second shift, and 30¢ for the third.

A new vacation schedule provides three weeks after eight years; four after 18, five after 25, and six weeks after 30 years of service. One additional paid holiday was gained for an annual total of 11.

Substantial improvements were made in group health insurance, particularly in orthodontic, eye-care and dental plans.

The pension plan was also revised to enable employees, whose age and years of service equal 85, to retire on 50% of their salaries. Improvements, too, were made in contract language covering seniority.

AILC Agrees on 32% Pay Hike

Waco, Tex. Insurance Firm Also Yields First Pension Plan

General wage increases approximating 32% over three years were agreed upon in a new contract negotiated by Fort Worth Local 277 for its unit of 300 home office clerical and technical employees at American Income Life Insurance Company in Waco, Tex.

The first increase of 12% became effective September 1 last, with 10% to follow in each of the two succeeding years. A cost-of-living adjustment is continued to provide one cent an hour for each 0.4 rise to a maximum of eight cents a year.

Previous COLA adjustments of 28¢ an hour were rolled into basic pay rates. The interval for 5¢ an hour automatic progression increases was reduced from four to three months.

Local 277 President J. B. Moss says that after the first-year boost, pay rates now range from $3.50 to $6 per hour in seven salary grades. The average is approximately $4.50 an hour.

A tenth holiday is added, to be used as a floator during the Christmas season. Eligibility for four weeks' vacation is reduced from 10 to 12 years.

A personal day of leave for each quarter in which an employee has a perfect attendance record was also agreed on, according to Moss, who says that a similar provision has been negotiated in three or four OPEIU contracts in the South.

A pension plan was negotiated. It will provide monthly benefits of $10 for each year of past and future service. Insurance improvements include revisions in life and medical insurance.

A supplemental child care allowance for mothers with dependent children up to age 12 was raised to $350 an hour (was $1) for time worked beyond an employee's regular hours.

Since the previous contract was negotiated, Moss disclosed that the number of employees in the unit had increased by 50% because of the company's rapid growth. The OPEIU also represents a unit of 1,200 sales force employees at the company. The new agreement runs to September 1, 1980.

Denver Iron Pact Adds Many Gains

Wages Up 7.7% in First Year; Other Benefits Improved

The employer agreed to pay full cost, including dependent coverage, up to $110 per month until July 1, 1978, and to increase the premiums by $5 per month until July 1, 1980, when it will pay $2 per month for medical benefits. Employees have a choice of two hospital-medical plans.

The Pension Plan was upgraded to provide increased benefits in each year of the contract. Disability pension benefits were raised to $125 a month from the previous $100 figure.

The OPEIU negotiating team was chaired by McGee, assisted by Local 55 Business Representative Thomas A. Dougherty and a unit committee comprising Virginia Southworth, Lois Wadhamns and Duke Gandy.

Big Business Gangs Up

An employer coalition that claims credit for defeating the situs picketing bill is staying in business, its next target being the AFL-CIO's key legislative goal of labor law reform, now called itself the National Action Committee.

At a recent Washington meeting, attended by more than 200 corporation and trade association officials, pledges totaling more than $2 million were made.

Planners discussed ranges from mass mailing to members of Congress to flying in influential constituents to talk to their congressmen and senators. A newspaper advertising blitz attacking unions is being planned, and the group already has its sights on a major political effort in the 1978 congressional campaign.
from the desk of the PRESIDENT

Proposed Labor Law Reforms

Delegates who attended our recent Convention, or the last series of Educational Conferences, know of our strong feelings on the need for labor law reform. We outlined numerous methods by which employers evade collective bargaining, despite the strong demands of employees to have something to say about their wages, hours and working conditions. We gave the AFL-CIO a long list of cases where numerous questionable tactics were used by employers to prevent the employees from voting. In the NLRB election conducted very recently involving the OPEIU, the employer passed out the word that the union threatened employees who indicated they would vote against the union. While no such threat was made, the employer for no good reason hired six armed guards with clubs to patrol the premises the day before and the day of the election. The tactic was successful. We lost the election by two votes. Needless to say, we appealed this election to the NLRB. Incidentally, the armed guards disappeared the day after the election.

While in this and numerous other cases, we have appealed such employer tactics, the length of time the Board has taken to act, in effect, nullifies the appeal. Generally a year or more passes before NLRB action.

The AFL-CIO has compiled a long list of cases which include lengthy delays granted employers' appeals designed to postpone indefinitely NLRB elections; employer violations of the Act which resulted in pecuniary penalties; consistent law violations by the J. P. Stevens Company without adequate penalty; interminable NLRB delays, and innumerable cases where companies used employer consultants for the sole purpose of evading collective bargaining.

In effect, the AFL-CIO is saying to the Congress that the National Labor Relations Act was designed to foster and encourage collective bargaining. However the Act, as amended, now gives the employer enough power to deny collective bargaining to workers sincerely and legitimately seeking same.

President Carter recently agreed to push actively for a major revision of the nation's labor laws. The AFL-CIO gained the President's support after numerous discussions and some concessions. A major feature of the proposed legislation would make it costlier for employers to use illegal tactics to stop workers from organizing.

While the AFL-CIO has dropped its proposal to repeal Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act at this time, changes sought in the law aim to smooth the process by which unions gain representation at the work place. The proposals agreed to by President Carter would put shorter delays in the NLRB to hold elections quickly after petitions have been filed. The White House favors a plan designed to require elections in uncontested cases within 15 days, with a 75-day limit in contested cases after a petition has been filed. The White House is also supporting a doubling of back wages where the NLRB finds employees were fired for engaging in union activities.

For the first time in the history of the National Labor Relations Act, employers who willfully violate labor laws would be denied access to U.S. Government contracts.

Although the AFL-CIO has called for an increase in the size of the NLRB to nine members, it is acquiescing in the President's proposal for seven members to help speed up case-processing. Many routine appeals of NLRB hearing officers' rulings under this proposal will be decided by two of the proposed seven members to eliminate time delays. Among other proposals is one which would provide automatic court enforcement of NLRB decisions unless an appeal is filed within 30 days of the order.

Even though the AFL-CIO and the White House have not reached final agreement on all proposals for labor-management reform, easier access to work places by union officials is being discussed. At the present time, employers have a decided advantage in that they have daily contact with employees and can prevent new employees from joining employer premises. Numerous other proposals are under consideration.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers and other management groups have already formed an organization to fight these proposals for labor-management reforms. In fact, these anti-union groups have even drafted their own labor law amendments that would restrict the rights of unions and workers seeking collective bargaining at the National Labor Relations Board.

In your President's view, the AFL-CIO's proposals for labor-management reforms is the most important piece of labor legislation since the adoption of the National Labor Relations Act in 1935. It requires full support of the membership of the AFL-CIO and the OPEIU. It is essential that our membership and our local union leaders contact Representatives and Senators to insurge passage of this vitally needed reform to give greater balance to unions and management in the labor-management relations field.

Bulky Packet Won at Worthington

Pump Firm Yields $2.40 an Hour in Wage Hikes, Benefits

A package of wage and fringe benefits, valued at $2.40 an hour over a three-year period, was voted by Local 212 in a new contract renegotiated for its 300-member office bargaining unit at Worthington Corp., in Buffalo, N.Y.

Business Representative Gerald Skrzeczkowski reports that the new agreement provides a 40¢ an hour wage boost in the first year, with additional 20¢ raises in each of the following two years. The average rate under the old contract was $6.19 an hour.

In addition, COLA benefits of one cent an hour with caps of 30¢ and 25¢ in the first and second years, respectively, will be paid for each 0.4 rise in the consumer price index. In the third year, the adjustment will be one cent an hour for each 0.3 rise in the CPI with a 25¢ cap.

The contract also provides a floating holiday, raising the annual total to 12. Moreover, vacation leave is increased to 3½ weeks (was three) after 10 years, and to four years after 15. Vacation leave of two weeks after one year and five after 2½ is retained.

Life insurance coverage is increased to $15,500 (was $12,000) effective immediately, and maximum benefits under the major medical insurance plan are raised to $25,000 from $10,000.

Under a new provision, employees on payroll with more than five years of service will receive life insurance, ADD&D and hospitalization coverage for the month in which they are laid off and for four months thereafter. Early retirement at age 62 will be available in the third year for employees with at least 20 years of service. The new contract expires on August 15, 1980.

Medicare Recipients to Pay $20 More in Hospital Cost

The portion of the hospital charges that Medicare recipients must pay will be increased by 16½% to $144 effective Jan. 1, 1978, according to the Health, Education and Welfare Department.

The $20 boost is due to increased hospital costs that under the law must be reflected in the Medicare recipient's initial daily payment. Medicare covers the first 60 days of a hospital visit, except for the cost of the day of admission, in theory, $144 under the new action.

Hospital costs have risen at about 15%, more than twice the overall inflation rate. When the Medicare program first took effect in 1966, the initial day's payment was $40.

If you move, send your old and new address, including zip code and social security or social insurance number to: William A. Lowy, See-Tens, 815 16th Street, N.W., Suite 606 Washington, D.C. 20006.

Bulky Packet Won at Worthington

Pump Firm Yields $2.40 an Hour in Wage Hikes, Benefits

Employer Honors Member

FOR LONG SERVICE: Leo Larsen, Carpenters Local 226 Financial Secretary, presents silver tray to Maxine Gabby, Portland Local 11 member, who has served the Carpenters for 35 years.

Hired as a temporary office clerk in May, 1942, Maxine Gabby still remains on the job as a key person making the Carpenters' office run smoothly. Previously, she had been a stenographer for an honorary service pin in the United Brotherhood of Carpenters.

She has been an OPEIU member since June, 1942, and has contributed many hours of voluntary service to Portland Local 17's Credit Union, serving on various committees. She has always taken a keen interest in OPEIU's activities and progress.

Six Overseas Textile Unions Join J. P. Stevens Boycott

Leaders of textile workers' unions from Canada, Mexico, France, Australia, New Zealand and Japan, meeting in Washington, D.C., pledged their fullest assistance to the organized labor movement in the U.S. to make the J. P. Stevens boycott effective on a worldwide basis.

The union leaders from abroad described Stevens' treatment of its employees in the United States as "disgraceful oppression." The group issued a statement declaring that multinationa corporations should be "dealt with on a multina tional, coordinated basis" because, they added:

"Injury to workers is our concern wherever, whenever and however it takes place. We will stand by our fellow-work ers as long as their employers agree to conduct its affairs within the law."

U.S. Price Index

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Index</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>173.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>175.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>176.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>176.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>176.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>176.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>176.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>177.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Canadian Price Index

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Index</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>100.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>100.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>100.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>100.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>100.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>100.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>100.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>