

THE OFFICE WORKER

Official Organ of the Office Employees International Union of the A. F. of L.

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State Survey Upholds Union Demands On Brown & Sharpe

Providence, R. I.—The survey to determine wage rates for office workers employed by the Brown & Sharpe Mfg. Co., which was made by the Rhode Island State Department of Labor, was released on March 1st to the union representatives and to the company by State Director Wm. L. Connolly. The survey which gave consideration to rates in the area both in private industry and in civil service classifications, as well as to costs of living increases and budgets for white collar workers, upholds in every respect the reasonableness of the union's wage proposals which the company's refusal to consider last fall precipitated the seven-week strike which closed this large machine tool works.

Local 76, which represents the more than 1,100 office and clerical workers in this plant, was forced to strike this establishment last October because of the company's rejection of any peaceful method of disposing of the wage controversy. The strike settlement agreement as proposed by the State and agreed to by the company and the union on December 15th provided, among other things, that the Rhode Island Department of Labor would conduct a survey to determine wage rates for office employees and that upon the completion of the survey the union and the company and Mr. Connolly, the Director of Labor, would meet and agree upon rates to be established, with a

further proviso that all wages and compensation adjustments would be retroactive to June 17, 1945.

The survey which has now been released to the parties considers each classification of work involved and indicates the approvable rates suggested for such classification in the Brown & Sharpe plant. In the introductory statement which ac-

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Shipbuilding Pay Increase Approved

Washington, D. C.—The National Wage Stabilization Board has granted approval for wage increases up to 18¢ per hour, retroactive to December 4, 1945, for all classifications of workers in the shipbuilding industry, following action by the national conference of the Shipbuilding Stabilization Committee.

NSWB action is expected to result in the opening of further negotiations of the wage structure of agreements between OEIU locals and concerns engaged in the shipbuilding and ship repair industries. In a letter to local unions with members employed in these industries Secretary-Treasurer J. Howard Hicks of the OEIU pointed out that NWSB action "does not constitute an automatic increase in hourly rate of pay for workers in the shipbuilding and ship repair industries, nor is this action a mandate upon the shipbuilding and ship repair industries to pay such 18¢ per hour increase retroactive to December 4, 1945." Hicks further pointed out in the same communication that the membership of all local unions employed in the two industries "should view the approval . . . by NWSB as constituting a maximum which can be achieved at this time through collective bargaining processes".

Representatives of the two industries have voiced loud disapproval of the actions of both the Shipbuilding Stabilization Committee and NWSB in acting to permit an 18¢ per hour increase retroactive to last December 4. Industry spokesmen have based their protests on the fact that the Shipbuilding Stabilization Committee departed from earlier established rules requiring unanimous approval of any agreement reached by the tri-partite committee to that of permitting the joining of any two of three parties in the Committee to determine the Committee's action. The Committee is composed of an equal number of representatives from labor, industry and government.

Although industry made an issue of the Committee's earlier action when such action was before NWSB for its consideration, the latter agency ruled that it was expressing "no opinion whatsoever on the issue which has been raised as to whether the resolution of the National Shipbuilding Conference

Electric Utility Agreement Near

Vancouver, Wash.—The Clark County Public Utility District No. 1 will negotiate closed shop contracts with OEIU Local No. 68 and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local B-125, according to an announcement made by Ruby F. Williams, secretary-treasurer, and C. C. Newell, business representative of Local No. 68.

Negotiation of the agreements between the PUD and the local unions is expected to be under way shortly with George Hibbert, manager of the local PUD representing the utility. Negotiations with Local No. 68 have been withheld pending the PUD's contemplated takeover of the properties of the Portland General Electric Company as the result of condemnation action. A majority of local PGE office workers have indicated a desire to continue their employment with the PUD.

The agreement between Local No. 68 and the PUD, which is expected to be made effective retroactive to about February 1, will assure the extension of paid vacations and sick leaves to all permanent office workers. It is expected that the agreement will provide annual leave for 26 days per year and sick leave of 15 days per year, both with pay.

SHOE FIRM ORGANIZES

Merrill, Wis.—The office and clerical workers in the Weinbrenner Shoe Co. are rapidly signing membership applications with our organization, according to reports received from Vice President Alice Holz, who, together with A. F. of L. Organizer Leon DeBroux, has recently met with this group.

OEIU REPRESENTS SAFEWAY WORKERS

Denver, Colo.—OEIU Local 5 has become the collective bargaining representative of employees in the executive offices of the Safeway Store grocery chain as the result of a cross-check conducted by the National Labor Relations Board.

Machinery for the negotiation of an agreement has been put in motion.

Much credit for the success of the organizing effort among the workers goes to Eileen Major, vice president of the local. The work of OEIU Vice President Frank F. Randall was also of great assistance.

Employees of the chain here are now 100 per cent organized, the clerks, meat cutters, truck drivers, warehousemen and stationary engineers being represented by AFL unions.

NEW LOCAL EXPECTED

Clewiston, Fla.—As the result of organizing activities among office workers employed in the local operation of the U. S. Sugar Corporation application for the establishment of a local union charter for this area is expected to be made to OEIU, according to J. O. Bloodworth, Jr., OEIU Vice President, who has been working on the undertaking.

The local sugar plant is one of the largest in the United States and the successful unionization of the office workers employed by the concern is expected to open an additional field of organization to the OEIU.

Office Equipment Company Workers Vote For OEIU

Rochester, N. Y.—Registering an impressive vote in favor of representation by Local No. 34, office workers employed by the Yawman and Erbe Manufacturing Company, manufacturers of office filing equipment, adds another name to the long list of companies in which the OEIU has been chosen as collective bargaining representative by office workers.

Announcement of the favorable vote cast at a NLRB election by these workers was made by OEIU Vice President George P. Firth and President Arthur P. Farren of the local union.

The election was ordered by NLRB following a hearing regarding the propriety of the local's claim to represent the employees of the company. The hearing was held last September with Secretary-Treasurer J. Howard Hicks of the OEIU assisting local union officers in the presentation of the union's case.

It is anticipated that Local No. 34 will move immediately into the presentation and negotiation of an agreement with the company. The hope has been expressed that company officers will assist in expediting the negotiations.

Strong Argument Against Case Bill Made by OEIU

Washington, D. C.—Strong arguments against the Case bill were represented by President Paul R. Hutchings of the Office Employees International Union to the Senate Education and Labor Committee to which the anti-union measure was referred after it was rushed through the House.

Hutchings struck particularly hard at the vicious provision aimed at the office and clerical workers.

"We ask the Committee to consider carefully the effect which such provision would have if enacted into law," he stated. "In the first place, it constitutes nothing

on February 18, 1946, was or was not adopted pursuant to the rules of the Conference".

Although the conference which resulted in the decision to grant the 18¢ per hour minimum increase began in Colorado Springs, Colo., early in December and was reconvened in Washington on New Year's Day, the OEIU was represented by one or more of its officers at virtually every session.

more or less than a left-handed method of amending the National Labor Relations Act by removing from the protections of that Act this vast army of clerical workers.

"Secondly, this vicious proposal constitutes nothing more or less than outright class legislation pointed specifically at the office and clerical worker and would, in effect, by virtue of his duties, classify him as a supervisory employe regardless of whether or not, in fact, he was supervising the work of other employees.

Attack on OEIU

"Thirdly, this proposal is an outright attack on our organization as one of the 109 National and International Unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. The Office Employees International Union has thousands of members spread through almost every state in the union, and a large percentage of such members are required, in connection with their work to handle matters dealing with the computa-

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OFFICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION



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J. HOWARD HICKS, *Sec.-Treas.*

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Wage-Price Policy

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor challenged the administration's new wage-price policy as offering inducements to workers to strike rather than seek justified wage increases through peaceful collective bargaining.

The main target of the AFL attack is the requirement contained in the President's executive order for obtaining prior government approval of wage rate increases—even those voluntarily agreed upon by labor and management—before they can go into effect.

No such requirement was imposed on striking steelworkers of the CIO in the settlement made in that case.

The government agency designated by the President to pass upon proposed wage boosts is the National Wage Stabilization Board which has a tiny staff unequipped to handle a vast flow of cases expeditiously. The expected delays may cause serious industrial unrest and lead workers to believe that the only way to get action promptly is by striking.

Seeks Amendment

Robert J. Watt, AFL member of the National Wage Stabilization Board, has pressed vigorously for amendment or clarification of the wage-price policy to permit automatic approval of wage increases not exceeding 18 or 20 cents an hour.

However, Chester Bowles, the new economic stabilization director, has taken the position that the government will not recognize any set pattern for wage increases and will consider each case on its merits.

Apparently, the administration fears that any blanket approval of wage adjustments in cases where employers intend to ask for higher price ceilings to cover added labor costs would blow the lid off price control.

Because of this situation, Senator Bridges of New Hampshire charged in an open letter to Bowles that the government has shown "favoritism" to the CIO. However,

50,000 Contracts Can't Be Wrong

Chicago.—While collective bargaining has broken down in a few big industries, nonetheless 50,000 union agreements are functioning today and helping to keep the peace on the industrial front.

That significant point was made by Edgar L. Warren, director of the U. S. Conciliation Service, in an address to the Chicago Association of Commerce.

"Every day approximately 100 of these contracts are being reopened and rewritten, and every day literally thousands of grievances are being settled under the terms of these existing agreements," Warren explained.

It was to be expected, he said, that after the strain of the war, long hours of work and wage freezing, the coming of peace should lead to an outburst of disputes. Actually, however, in the vast majority of cases, labor-employer differences are being settled without stoppages, he stressed.

"The wonder is not there is so much industrial strife, but that there is not more!" Warren insisted. "The wonder is not that there are interruptions to production, but that the reconversion program is proceeding."

other CIO unions than the Steelworkers will find themselves in the same boat with the AFL and will be forced to get NWSB approval of wage changes under the new program.

Crack Price Line

Another explosive development in the wage situation came with the disclosure by the AFL Monthly Survey of Business that Communist-dominated CIO unions have cracked the price line and deprived all American workers of real gains in living standards. The survey said:

"The President has retreated from his policy of August 18. Right after V-J Day, when he freed collective bargaining, his sole restriction was that wage increases should not break price ceilings.

"The federation heartily endorsed this policy and our unions won outstanding wage gains through collective bargaining. None of our gains caused any increases in prices. Even during the strike period we kept right on peacefully negotiating agreements for substantial wage increases. To date we have won wage increases averaging from 10 to 20 cents an hour and up for about 3 million workers. Early in February when a total of 1,400,000 workers were on strike, only 60,000 of these strikers were AFL members.

"Unions outside the AFL, however, had other methods. Simultaneous strikes in basic industries, with uncompromising demands, were designed to force government intervention with fact-finding boards and wage formulas. To meet their demands, the President broke the steel price ceiling, then issued his drastic wage-price order of February 14 to deal with the consequences of this break.

Robbed of Gains

"So the government again intervenes between workers and management, collective bargaining is again frozen and all workers are put under rigid wage controls. All workers will be robbed of part of their wage gains, for the broken price line will 'bulge' upward and living costs will rise. This is the end result of forcing government to intervene.

"It is estimated that the rise in living costs this year will be from 8 to 10 cents on the dollar. So workers pay back part of their wage increase. The real gain from the government wage formulas thus far announced will be from 8 to 13 cents—or less than this if living costs rise more than 8 percent.

MINIMUM WAGE BOOST APPROVED

Washington, D. C.—The Senate Education and Labor Committee approved a bill to establish a national minimum wage of 65 cents an hour and to grant pay boosts to nearly six million oppressed workers.

The bill follows recommendations made by President Truman and the AFL.

Chairman Murray said he would consult Democratic Leader Barkley, with a view to bringing the measure up in the Senate soon.

The legislation was broadened by the committee to include about 2,000,000 employees of chain stores and chain service establishments.

The bill as approved by the Senate committee would boost the minimum wage under the wage-hour act from 40 to 65 cents an hour within 4 months after it becomes law.

At the end of 2 years the minimum would rise automatically to 70 cents an hour and at the end of 4 years to 75 cents.

The committee agreed to extend the higher minimum wage to all workers in industries that the Supreme Court finds "affect commerce."

This would mean chain establishments. However, an exemption would be granted to enterprises with 4 stores or less so long as their gross sales did not exceed \$500,000 a year. The object is to relieve small shops of the minimum wage requirements.

Existing law would not be changed with regard to messengers. As at present the wage-hour administrator could authorize wages less than the minimum for messengers to prevent curtailment of employment opportunities.

Prohibitions against child-labor would be extended to all enterprises "affecting commerce." This would broaden the child-labor ban.

The committee turned down renewed efforts to obtain minimum wage exemptions for first processors of agricultural products.

The first process, such as food packers, would be granted exemptions for overtime payments, however, for 14 weeks per year, provided the work week did not exceed 56 hours.

"The workers of America know that the August 18 wage-price policy did not break down in AFL unions. It was an outstanding suc-

SEEK SECURITY FOR 21 MILLION MORE

Washington, D. C.—Insurance coverage for 21 million additional persons, including household domestics and farmers, and larger benefit payments under the Social Security Act, were proposed by A. J. Altmeyer, chairman of the Social Security Board.

Altmeyer presented 5 points in his recommendations for changes in old-age and survivors insurance in his testimony before the House Ways and Means Committee. They were:

(1) Extension to all persons gainfully employed.

(2) Coverage for the self-employed.

(3) Increased benefits under both old-age and survivors insurance.

(4) Permanent disability benefits.

(5) Methods for financing. Altogether, Altmeyer told the committee, 84 million social security cards have been issued, although only 41 million persons still have an insured status. In extending the coverage, he estimates, about 21 million more would be insured.

Suggests Stamp-Book System

These would include farm workers, domestics, employes of non-profit institutions, veterans, employes of federal, state and local governments, railroad workers and self-employed, including small shopkeepers, plumbers, barbers, tailors, etc.

In providing for collections of insurance premiums from much of this group, he suggested a stamp-book system, operating through the postal department. For farm owners and self-employed he suggested use of income tax returns as a method of determining the extent of their participation.

The formula for increasing the benefits would be to increase the amount of wages counted for benefit payments from \$3,000 to \$3,600 a year. The benefits would be 40 percent of the first \$75 a month, plus 10 percent of the remainder. This would increase maximum payments from \$40 to \$52.50 a month. Minimum payments would be increased from \$10 to \$20 a month.

Under Altmeyer's recommendations, monthly cash benefits would be payable for disability lasting 5 months or more, not now covered.

In financing the program, Altmeyer said:

"The present rate of 1 percent payable each by employes and employer is probably sufficient to cover the total costs of the expanded program for the next 5 years. Increase to 2 percent each probably would provide enough revenue to cover disbursements for the next 10 years."

cess because AFL unions took responsibility, bargained in good faith under price ceilings, won big wage increases and held the price line. This is proof that the policy was sound and workable.

"However, other unions did not want to take the responsibility that goes with freedom. They wanted government intervention. The AFL has for years kept Communists out of policy-making positions."

AFL GIVEN OFFICIAL STATUS BY THE UNO

London—The United Nations Organization, after a fierce opposition battle by Soviet Russia, granted the American Federation of Labor official recognition as a consultant to the United Nations Economic and Social Council by an overwhelming vote of 24 to 9.

Russian delegates exerted all kinds of political pressure and resorted to devious parliamentary tricks to exclude the AFL and to make the so-called World Federation of Trade Unions, which is dominated by the Communists, the exclusive labor consultant to the UNO.

The debate on labor recognition reached torrid heights when Prime Minister Peter Fraser, of New Zealand, accused Soviet Delegate Dmitri Manuilsky, who was acting as chairman, of trying to "trick" the delegates on how to vote on the issue.

"Those tricks won't work here," said Mr. Fraser. "They may work in some places but not here. Those methods are not right in the United Nations."

France was the only major country to vote with the Soviet Union against the AFL. China sided with the United States and Britain. Senator Connally, of Texas, led the fight for the U. S. delegation and Philip Noel-Baker for the British delegates.

AFL International Representative Robert J. Watt, who was here in London for a meeting of the executive board of the International Labor Organization, kept in close touch with the proceedings.

New Pact With Dairy Company

Pittsburgh, Pa.—Business Representative John F. Magnotti of OEIU Local 33 reports the negotiation of a new agreement with the Lewis Dairies, Inc.

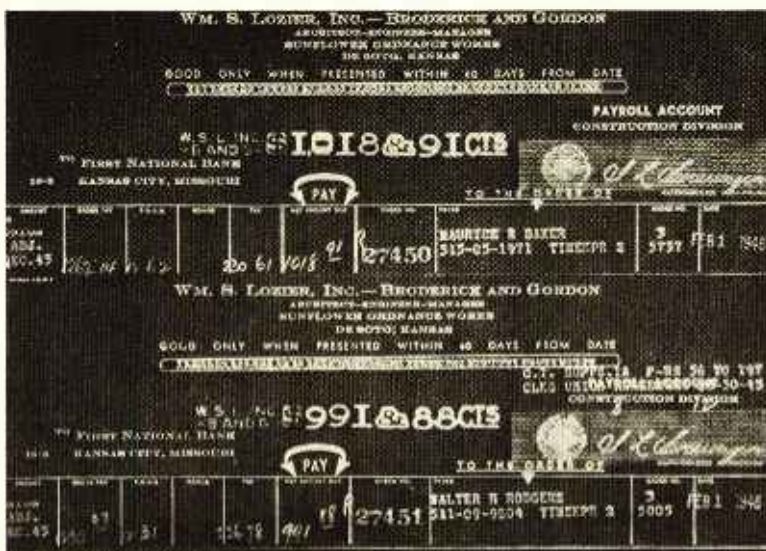
A five-day week, a reduction of hours of work and a wage increase of \$2 per week are some of the benefits of the new contract.

Local 6 Observes 30th Anniversary

Boston—OEIU Local No. 6 recently observed its 30th anniversary. A feature of the occasion was the installation by Harry P. Grages, secretary-business agent of the Boston Central Labor Union, of the following officers: Esther Cahill, president; Eileen Montague, vice president; Oscar Frisk, secretary-treasurer; Ida S. Velleman, recording and corresponding secretary; Helen M. Karse, treasurer; Irene Shea, sergeant-at-arms; Mary Taylor, Helen Foley, Alice Martell, Katherine Lannon and Aaron Velleman, executive committee.

Representative Velleman of the local reported that wage increases had been secured for employees at the Liquid Carbonic Co., Star Brush Manufacturing Co. and the Cotton Garment Workers Union.

Unionization Pays Dividends



Photostat copy of some of the back pay checks paid to members of Office Employees International Union Local No. 40, Kansas City, Missouri, February 1, 1946, who were employed on construction project Sunflower Ordnance Works, Johnson County, Kansas, as result of union agreement negotiated by Union Bargaining Committee assisted by R. E. James, A. F. of L. Organizer, covering wages, hours, overtime rules and other working conditions. Agreement effective December 30, 1945. Overtime conditions were retroactive to April 17, 1943. Total amount of back pay was about \$77,000.00.

Charter Requested For Honolulu

Honolulu, T. H.—Following the successful unionization of office workers employed by the Von Hamm-Young Company, Ltd., by Solomon K. Aki, business manager, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local B-1357, and AFL Organizer John A. Owens, an application for an OEIU local union charter for this city was dispatched to OEIU headquarters.

Further Gains By The Paper Makers

Chattanooga, Tenn.—Mark W. Fisher, Regional Director of the International Brotherhood of Paper Makers, has announced that mid-term contractual negotiations covering in excess of 10,000 employees of the International Paper Company, Southern Kraft Division, were granted a gain of 13 percent increase in wages and the return to a 42-hour week.

In addition, an old-age pension plan amounting to an additional approximately 5 percent was agreed upon between the union and the company. The International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers and other AFL unions interested in the pulp and paper industry, received the same increases and adjustments.

Back Pay Secured From U. S. Rubber

Providence, R. I.—Retroactive pay estimated as amounting to \$30,000 has been secured by Local 63 for all office and clerical workers employed in the local operation of the United States Rubber Co., according to George A. Ronan, president of the local union. Payment of \$67.16 to each office worker

BROWNLOW, ROWAN IN METAL TRADES POSTS

Washington, D. C.—Two changes in the official family of the AFL Metal Trades Department were announced by President John P. Frey, after the department's executive council had given the necessary authority.

James A. Brownlow, veteran Colorado labor leader, who had been serving as assistant president since last August, was shifted to the post of secretary-treasurer. He succeeds James J. McEntee, who resigned to return to the staff of the Machinists Union.

Meanwhile the post of assistant president of the department went to Edward B. Rowan, international representative of the Boilermakers, who had previously served for a year and a half as a labor member of the WLB's Shipbuilding Commission.

Both Brownlow and Rowan are proven friends of OEIU, and their elevation to newer and more responsible posts is looked upon with approval by International Union officers.

FEPC Bill Is Shelved When Cloture Fails

Washington, D. C.—The Senate refused to limit debate and thereby

Double Pay For Overtime Sought

Washington, D. C.—Joint efforts of Irving Enna, Secretary-Treasurer of Local No. 11, Portland, Ore., C. C. Newell, Business Representative, Local No. 68, Vancouver, Wash., and Secretary-Treasurer J. Howard Hicks of the OEIU may result in the payment of double time for all time worked on Saturdays, Sundays, holidays, and in excess of eight hours in any one shift to OEIU members employed in Portland and Vancouver shipyards.

Following refusal by the management of Kaiser Company, Inc., Oregon Shipbuilding Co., and Commercial Iron Works to join with the local unions in requesting approval by the National War Stabilization Board for payment of double time in conformity with agreements between the local unions and the companies, an endeavor is being made to bring the matter before NWSB for early action.

The position of the two local unions is bolstered by the fact that Local No. 23, Tacoma, Wash., was successful last November in obtaining authorization from stabilization agencies for the payment of similar double time to members of the local union employed by Todd Shipyards, Inc., in that city.

Also involved in this move is the International Federation of Technical Engineers, Architects and Draftsmen's Unions, Local No. 79 of Portland, which is being represented in meetings with NWSB officials by Foster J. Pratt, International President of the IFTEADU, while Hicks is similarly representing OEIU interests.

Motor Express Election Won

San Francisco, Calif.—Announcement of a sweeping victory for Local 36 as the result of a National Labor Relations Board election conducted among office workers employed by the Oregon-Nevada-California Fast Freight Company has been made by Eleanor D. Murphy, secretary-treasurer of the local union. More than 90 percent of the office workers employed by the company voted for representation by Local 36, it is reported. Immediately upon the heels of this smashing victory, the union presented its proposed agreement to the company.

The result of this recent election is being evidenced among office workers of similar concerns who are turning to Local 36 as the result. The local union is moving rapidly to meet the demands for organization which have been forthcoming from similar employes of such companies.

break the filibuster against the Fair Employment Practice Bill causing the measure to be withdrawn from consideration.

AFL President Green had joined proponents of the bill in urging adoption of a cloture rule by the Senate but the vote fell just 8 short of obtaining the necessary two-thirds majority. The FEPC Bill, which seeks to protect the employment rights of all workers, regardless of race, religion or color, has now been indefinitely shelved.

ARGUMENT AGAINST CASE BILL BY OEIU

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tion of pay of other workers, or the computation of time worked by other employes, or the administration of the basis of computing such pay and time. To all of these thousands of workers who have already turned to collective bargaining through our organization as the only method of improving their economic welfare and well-being, this proposed legislation says in effect that they cannot continue to use collective bargaining as the basis for obtaining job improvements.

"In addition, the Committee should give consideration to the fact that today thousands and thousands of timekeepers, pay roll clerks, bookkeeping clerks, computing machine operators, accounting clerks, to mention only a few, are turning with hopeful eyes to collective bargaining as the only workable method of obtaining adequate employment conditions and decent living standards at their chosen work. These workers have been the subject of consideration by your very Committee, for during the long wartime years they have faithfully remained at their jobs and played an important part in the achievement of our glorious wartime production records. They have done this while at the same time they were being subjected to a terrific squeeze due to wartime increases in the cost of living and their inability to obtain compensatory adjustments in their wholly inadequate wage levels. These workers are turning in ever increasing numbers to collective bargaining through our organization in accordance with the protection and guarantees established by the National Labor Relations Act.

Stripped of Rights

"The House of Representatives, by its action on this bill, has wantonly ignored any consideration of the rights of these workers to the same protections and collective bargaining privileges enjoyed by other workers and through which continued improvements in their economic well-being have been obtained.

"Office and clerical workers are today beginning to realize the benefits and improvements which can be obtained through collective bargaining and the statutory protections which are theirs today under the provisions of the National Labor Relations Act. A devious attempt to now cut off their rights and privileges as workers under that statute—which is what this section of the bill you are considering would do—could mean only that the Congress was in effect amending the National Labor Relations Act so as to remove all protections presently enjoyed by this group and to again place them purely at the mercy of their employers, despite the fact that all other workers in this same establishment continue to maintain their basic protections under the National Labor Relations Act.

"On behalf of the Office Employees International Union and its 175 local unions, we desire to go on record as being vigorously opposed to this entire vicious anti-labor bill.

"In our opposition to this bill we

Why Companies Provoke Strikes

Washington, D. C.—One of the frankest admissions so far made that employers are using tax "savings" to finance a war against labor has come from a big textile plant in Union Point, Ga.

It is owned by the Union Manufacturing Company and union workers have gone on strike because the management refuses to put into effect National War Labor Board orders.

In response, the company, in a circular distributed to employes, brazenly boasted that it will lose nothing from the walkout.

"Any losses we sustain in 1946 will be made up to us by the government out of our profits in 1944 and 1945," the circular declared.

What the company referred to was that, under the "carry-back" provisions of the tax laws, passed by Congress to facilitate reconversion, it will be entitled to rebates from Uncle Sam, which will be sufficient to take care of any losses it may sustain in the next two years.

stand squarely with the opposition voiced on behalf of the American Federation of Labor by President William Green. In addition to our general opposition and as pointed out in this statement, we take vigorous exception to the attempt here being made through this bill to remove the protections of the National Labor Relations Act from office and clerical workers engaged in pay roll and timekeeping functions.

"This proposal would seriously cripple the effective functioning of our organization as the American Federation of Labor bargaining agency for these hundreds of thousands of workers and it would expose such workers to discrimination, discharge and interference by their employers with their present rights to organize and bargain collectively through the organization of their choice.

Crippling Effect

"It is unfair, inequitable and unreasonable to single out this large group of workers of our trade, most of whom are woefully underpaid for the work they perform, and to legalize the employers' discriminatory tactics against them and thus to still further retard them in obtaining and maintaining adequate wages and conditions of employment."

Leading Senators from both major political parties vied with each other in lambasting the obnoxious Case Bill.

Senator Wayne Morse called it "an ill-advised hodge-podge of legal prohibitions which will cause more economic disruption than economic stability."

Senator Warren G. Magnuson, expressing strong opposition to the bill, said the Senate Labor Committee would have to study it "a long time."

Sentiment among the members of the Senate appeared to be in agreement with labor that strikes cannot be prevented by anti-labor legislation.

Senator Robert A. Taft said:

"The Case Bill says you can enjoy a strike or union. That would amount to putting everybody in jail and allowing every individual judge to make the law."

"In the field of human relations," Senator Lister Hill said, "we must have mutual confidence, understanding and good-will."

Teachers' Union Progress Noted

Chicago, Ill.—At a meeting of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Teachers (AFL) in Gary, Ind. Secretary-Treasurer Irwin R. Kuenzli reported that more

new local unions had been established during the first four months of the 1945-46 school year than during any comparable period in the history of the AFT.

In his report to the Executive Council Kuenzli attributed the continued growth of the AFT to the significant success of the AFT and the AFL in the field of education during World War II, the ability of the AFT to solve problems of classroom teachers after all other organizations had failed, and the winning of four important tenure cases in a single year.

It was pointed out by Kuenzli that the membership of the AFT had multiplied five times in recent years "because of deeds rather than words, because of actual accomplishments rather than nebulous resolutions."

STATE SURVEY UPHOLDS UNION

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companied the survey, Rhode Island State Department of Labor says, "We feel that the approvable rates are necessary to maintain decent living standards during the current year."

Consideration was also given by the Labor Department to the minimum budget for a single working woman as estimated by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics at \$1,564 per year. Reference is also made to the estimated budget for a family of a white collar worker averaging four and one-tenths persons in Rhode Island, which budget is estimated at \$3,668 for the current year.

Present at the State House meeting for the union were Paul R. Hutchings, President of OEIU, Raymond J. Jamieson, President and Business Representative of the local, and the entire negotiating committee from the Brown & Sharpe office. The company was represented by its Comptroller, F. P. Austin, Jr., Personnel Administrator Jack Hall, and Attorney Phillips.

Butter Association Organized

Oakland, Calif.—The office workers employed by the Challenge Cream and Butter Association have been organized into Local 29 according to an announcement made by Mildred Kerchen, business representative of the local. The local already holds bargaining rights with six major dairy companies in the Oakland area.

Further progress is also being noted by this local in the organiza-

CONTRACTS BEING NEGOTIATED

Portland, Ore.—Local No. 11 is currently in the midst of negotiations with the retail grocery industry, Weisfield & Goldberg Jewelry Co. and the Montag Furnace Company, which will result in the renewal of expiring agreements with these firms and which will bring increased benefits to the members of the local union employed in the three industries, according to Irving Enna, Secretary-Treasurer of the local.

Enna has also reported that he is hopeful of an early and amicable settlement in the negotiation of initial agreements between the local union and Oregon Motor Stages, and the Farmers' Insurance Company, which will result in substantial increases in "take home" pay and improvement in working conditions for office workers employed by these newly organized concerns.

It is reported that negotiations will soon be under way between the local union and the Portland Gas and Coke Company as the result of the recent smashing victory of the local union in a National Labor Relations Board election which resulted in the local union being certified as the bargaining agency for workers employed by the company.

The local union has virtually completed unionization of office workers employed by Consolidated Freightways, according to Enna, and is also moving toward an early decision in the disestablishment of a company dominated, independent union among similar employees of the Marshall-Wells Co., a wholesale hardware concern. The latter matter is receiving the attention of NLRB following the filing of protests by Local 11.

FULL EMPLOYMENT BILL BECOMES LAW

Washington, D. C.—President Truman signed the watered-down "full employment" bill, which he hailed as preparing the way for a governmental attack upon "the ever-recurring problems of mass unemployment and ruinous depression."

The bill creates a council of 3 economic advisers to the President to assist him in preparing periodic reports to Congress on the economic state of the nation. These reports will provide the chief executive with an opportunity to recommend specific remedies for any future economic troubles that may arise.

The reports and recommendations will be turned over to a special joint committee composed of 7 members each of the Senate and House of Representatives.

tion of our trade employed in the laundry industry. Seven major laundry companies are presently under union agreement and substantial further improvements in wage rates were obtained for all classifications in a new 1946 contract. The increases in minimum rates range from 13 to 20 cents per hour on each of the various job classifications.