

# THE OFFICE WORKER

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

No. 14

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## CARTER HARDWARE AGREEMENT SIGNED

Los Angeles, Cal.—A working agreement between Local 30 and the Carter Hardware Co., of this city, has been negotiated, bringing to the members of our trade in this office substantial improvements over their previous working conditions, according to B. A. Mitchell, administrator of the local.

The agreement provides for a full union shop and also gives the union preferential rights in the hiring of new workers. Substantial improvements over previous existing wage rates were obtained. The new schedule of weekly rates based on a 44-hour, 5½-day work week established minimums of \$40 entrance for stenographers, with automatic upward adjustments of \$4 per week at three periodic intervals, and a minimum of \$52 after one year's service. The rates established for other classifications reflect a similar pattern, the lowest entrance of new employes being \$33 a week with automatic increases bringing that classification to a minimum of \$40 after one year's service.

### Sick Leave Provided

Part-time workers are guaranteed four consecutive hours of work at not less than \$1 per hour and all workers are guaranteed a reporting time minimum of two hours work or pay. Time and one-half is provided for all overtime, with double time prevailing for work performed on Sundays and holidays. All regular employes receive seven holidays with full pay. All workers receive not less than twelve working days sick leave with pay each year. Paid vacations of two weeks each year are established with the proviso that employes with less than one year's service receive one week's paid vacation.

Two weeks' notice or two weeks' pay is guaranteed to any employe whose services are discontinued. The agreement recognizes the seniority in the lay-off and rehiring of employes. Arbitration is also provided for the settlement of disputes which cannot be settled under the grievance procedure.

## OEIU Wins Bargaining Rights At Submarine Yard

New London, Conn.—A payroll cross-check conducted by the National Labor Relations Board established Local 106 as the exclusive bargaining agent for office and clerical employes at one of the world's largest submarine yards operated by the Electric Boat Company.

President Ray J. Jamieson of Providence Local 76 and the Metal Trades Council, with which Local 106 is affiliated, rendered valuable assistance to President Joe Fitz-

## Program Announced For International Convention

Milwaukee, Wis.—The acceptance by Senator Wayne Morse (R., Ore.) of the invitation extended him to serve as keynote speaker of the approaching OEIU convention has been announced here by Vice President Alice Holz, chairman of the committee on arrangements for the 1946 convention of the International Union on the basis of word received from OEIU executive officers in Washington.

With his background, experience and knowledge of the labor movement and its problems, Senator Morse is particularly well qualified to address the convention delegates.

Prior to his election to the Senate, Morse served as a public member of the National War Labor Board and had previously served as Dean of the Law School of the University of Oregon. While serving in the latter capacity, Senator Morse was frequently called upon to serve as an arbitrator and conciliator in labor matters on the Pacific Coast where his fairness and broad view in the handling of industrial problems met with the acceptance of both labor and management.

### Biemiller Banquet Speaker

Also included among the liberal and forward-looking speakers who will address the convention will be Congressman Andrew J. Biemiller (D., Wis.) who will be principal guest speaker at a banquet being given for convention delegates on Thursday evening, March 21.

The 39-year old Biemiller has won a prominent spot in Congress as the result of his frank and liberal views and stands head and shoulders above many of his older and more experienced colleagues.

Also attending and addressing the delegates assembled at the banquet will be Arnold Zanders, president, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employes who is recognized as one of the outstanding and progressive leaders within the AFL movement.

### Panel Discussions Planned

Panel discussions on the follow-

ing subjects, "How to Effectively Organize Office Employes," "Problems in Collective Bargaining," and "How to Activate Unions," have been planned by the Committee consisting in addition to Chairman Holz of Vice Presidents R. M. Daugherty and George P. Firth of the OEIU.

Panel chairman for the discussion on problems in collective bargaining will be Eva Schwartzman, instructor, Summer School for Office Workers in Industry of the University of Wisconsin, while Ernest Schwartztrauber, director Summer School for Workers, is expected to participate actively in the panel discussions on the activation of unions following his address on "Workers' Education," during the Friday afternoon session of the convention. AFL Regional Director J. F. Friedrich will address the delegates in "Collective Bargaining" during the Thursday afternoon session of the convention and immediately prior to the panel discussion on problems in collective bargaining.

Other dignitaries invited to address the convention include: Governor Walter Goodland of Wisconsin; Mayor John J. Bohn, of Milwaukee; President William Green and Secretary-Treasurer George Meany of the American Federation of Labor; I. M. Ornburn, secretary-treasurer, Union Label Trades Department of the Federation, and

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## INGALLS SHIPYARD ELECTION PENDING

Pascagoula, Miss. — Successful unionization of the 450 office and clerical employes of the Ingalls Shipbuilding Corporation has resulted in petitioning the National Labor Relations Board for an election and certification. A formal NLRB hearing will be held at company insistence.

Stating the position of the office workers employed by the company at the NLRB hearing will be OEIU Vice Presidents J. O. Bloodworth, Jr., and A. R. Carson. Office workers employed by the company have expressed satisfaction at the assignment of Bloodworth and Carson to this matter in view of the reputation enjoyed by Ingalls with organized labor.

## Montgomery Ward Election Won

Houston, Texas—Announcement has been made by Vice President C. A. Stafford, of OEIU, of the successful outcome of a National Labor Relations Board election among workers in the local operation of Montgomery Ward and Company. The victory scored by this group represents a definite forward step

## NEW FIRMS UNDER BANNER OF OEIU

Tacoma, Wash.—The addition of two more local firms and the winning of double time for overtime in the shipbuilding and ship repair industries spotlight the activities of Local No. 23, according to C. H. Atteberry, secretary-treasurer.

One of the new firms coming under the banner of the local union is the Selden Company, a retail store.

The second firm whose employes have aligned themselves with the local union is the Interstate Freight Lines, Inc., a motor trucking concern. The new agreement between this company and the union opens a field which can be expanded by the local union and which contains a potential membership in excess of 100 workers.

### Benefits Secured

The agreement negotiated with the company reduces the work week from 44 and 48 hours to a flat 40 hours, with time and one-half for all overtime and for Sundays and holidays. The agreement also assures union membership for all office and clerical workers employed by the company, together with one week's vacation with pay after one year's service and which continues to increase at the rate of one day per year until a full two weeks has been reached.

Atteberry has announced the winning of an award from wage stabilization agencies which will provide double time for overtime and for Saturdays, Sundays and holidays for members of the union employed in the shipbuilding and ship repair industries.

It has also been announced that the local union has organized a majority of the employes of the American District Telegraph and has filed an N.L.R.B. petition for certification of representation.

## ELECTRIC COMPANY AGREEMENT RENEWED

Kent, Ohio—The gaining of a flat \$18 per month increase for all members is the highlight of the renewal of the agreement between Local 75 and the Lamb Electric Company, according to Lucille Sturgill, president of the local union.

The increase which was negotiated

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in the unionization of retail store workers in this city.

Stafford was assisted in the local campaign by Jeff Davis, representative of the Retail Clerks International Protective Association. Office workers employed by the company will become members of Local 129.

**THE OFFICE WORKER**

Official organ of the  
OFFICE EMPLOYEES  
INTERNATIONAL UNION



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**The Case Bill**

On behalf of the entire membership of the International Union we have wired each Congressman to oppose and vote against the anti-labor bill proposed by Congressman Case of S. Dakota, and known as H. R. 5262.

All A. F. of L. National and International unions have mobilized in opposition to this bill which, among other things, would provide for the establishment of a National Labor-Management Mediation Board, civil liabilities for unions or employes violating contracts, and would also prohibit unions of supervisory employes from having union status. The bill would also deny collective bargaining and NLRB reemployment rights to those using violence in picketing or resorting to boycott. It would also repeal a portion of the anti-injunction law.

**Definition of Employes**

Of particular significance to our organization is the definition of supervisory employes as contained in the bill. "Supervisory employes" is spelled out as including any employe whose duties include (1) the direction or supervision of the activities or other employes; or (2) the computation of the pay of other employes; or (3) the determination of the time worked by other employes, or the supervision or administration of the factors on the basis of which the pay of other employes is computed.

All employes who would fall within any of these categories are spelled out in the bill as not having the status of an "employe" for the purpose of sections 7, 8 and 9 of the National Labor Relations Act. In effect, this cleverly worded section of this vicious bill would go far toward destroying our International Union, for the vast majority of office workers particularly in manufacturing and industrial establishments perform duties which include computation of pay or the determination of time worked

**Board Proposes Wider Social Insurance Plan**

Washington, D. C.—In its tenth annual report to Congress, the Social Security Board outlined an over-all social insurance program of vital interest to workers and their families.

The board's major recommendations may be summarized as follows:

**Old-Age and Survivors Insurance**

The board has recommended an increase in benefit amounts under this program, particularly for low-paid workers. It has suggested that women workers become eligible for retirement benefits at 60, instead of 65 as the law now reads. Elderly workers would be permitted to earn up to \$30 a month without forfeiting their old-age benefits. The present limit is \$14.99. The program would be extended to cover farm, domestic, and public workers, employes of non-profit organizations and self-employed persons, including farmers. The board has also asked Congress to see that service men receive credit toward old-age and survivors insurance for their period of service in the armed forces.

**Unemployment Insurance**

The Social Security Board believes that unemployment insurance can best be administered as part of an over-all national insurance system and not, as at present,

by other workers.

**Denial of Rights**

In addition to all the other objectionable features contained in this anti-labor bill, the section referred to above would make it impossible for a vast majority of office and clerical workers to organize into bona fide unions of their trade under the protections established by the National Labor Relations Act. It would deny them the right which that Act extends to all workers, to organize and bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing. It would also relieve employers of their present responsibilities under the National Labor Relations Act to not discriminate, intimidate, coerce or otherwise interfere with office workers because of their organizational activities.

Along with this, of course, all such office workers would be denied their present prerogative under the NLRB to obtain reinstatement with back pay in the event of discharges because of their union affiliation or activity. The employer would also be relieved of his present requirement to bargain collectively with our organization on behalf of all such workers who are members of the OEIU.

Despite concerted opposition to this bill by all organized labor groups, there is a good likelihood that it will be passed by the House of Representatives, and that an all-out effort will therefore be required by all organized labor groups and particularly by our International union and its local unions in opposing this bill when it reaches the Senate.

under 48 different state laws.

However, given the present federal-state system, the board would impose stricter requirements on state unemployment insurance laws. These requirements would include extending unemployment insurance to cover as many outside groups as possible. On the basis of past earnings, workers would receive a maximum of at least \$25 a week for 26 weeks, if they should be out of work that long. No state would be able to cancel or reduce a worker's benefits if he left his job without good cause, or were discharged for misconduct, or if he refused to accept a suitable job while unemployed. The maximum penalty recommended by the board would be a postponement of his benefits for four weeks. A worker would not be disqualified from receiving unemployment insurance benefits if he quit or refused to work for good personal reasons.

Such standards as these would help correct many of the inequalities that now exist under the 48 widely varying state unemployment insurance systems.

**Disability and Health Insurance**

Two major threats to a worker's economic security still receive no protection under the present Social Security system. The Social Security Board has asked Congress to cover these two risks: sickness and disability.

What would this new kind of insurance mean to a worker if he became sick? He and his family would receive cash benefits to make up a portion of his lost wages. If he should become permanently disabled and no longer able to work, then he would receive benefits similar to those paid under old-age retirement. In addition he would be insured against the costs of medical care. That would include doctor and hospital bills.

**A National Insurance System**

From its ten years of experience in the field of social insurance, the Social Security Board has in this year's annual report outlined a comprehensive national system of social insurance. This insurance would cover all the major risks to economic security. Likewise, it would cover all workers and their dependents to whom such risks apply.

It would be hoped that such insurance would greatly reduce, if not eliminate, the need for public assistance. But insofar as this need exists, the board would strengthen and revise its present public assistance program to enable needy people to receive financial aid, irrespective of the reason for the need or the place of residence.

Such an over-all social insurance program, as outlined by this board, would prove a vital contribution to the public's economic independence and to the nation's prosperity.

**INCOME TAX DEDUCTION!!**

Just a reminder to all union members:

Payments made to your local union during 1945 are deductible from your income tax and all

**OEU BACKS GENERAL HOUSING BILL**

Washington, D. C.—In a statement before the Senate Banking and Currency Committee in support of the Wagner-Ellender-Taft General Housing Bill, OEIU Secretary-Treasurer J. Howard Hicks stated that the International Union viewed the passage of the bill "as essential to a sound solution of our past and present housing crisis." Pointing out that the present housing emergency facing the country is the result of a long-time failure to build an adequate supply of satisfactory homes, Hicks advised the committee that "This failure can only be remedied by planning now a comprehensive long-range program aimed at building an adequate supply of respectable homes for all our families at prices they can afford to pay."

Stressing to the committee that the membership of OEIU feels that among the most important provisions of the bill are those amending the present Federal Housing Authority system and reminding the committee that the OEIU membership are workers of the middle income group, Hicks stated "If the improvements and changes in the FHA system embodied in S. 1592 are enacted, we can at last look forward to buying these privately-built FHA insured homes. The combination of the extension of the amortization period to 32 years, the reduction of the interest rate to 4 per cent and the reduction of the required down-payment are all essential to bring home-ownership within the financial reach of our members. The knowledge that an FHA insured mortgage carries with it a warranty against structural defects and a provision for lapsed payments will cause millions of families to give preference to the FHA system over all others."

Pointing out that OEIU members are salaried workers with modest but relatively stable incomes, but who, as a result, are deeply con-

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**AUDITING COMMITTEE AT WORK**

Washington, D. C.—The selection of Local 6, Boston; Local 10, Detroit; and Local 14, Philadelphia, by OEIU President Paul R. Hutchings has been announced as those local unions whose delegates to the approaching convention of the International Union will serve as members of the Auditing Committee to audit the records of the OEIU and report to the convention.

Members of the Committee as indicated by the local unions are Aaron Velleman, Boston; C. A. Jackson, Detroit; and Edward P. Springman, Philadelphia. The Committee has been requested to meet at OEIU headquarters early this month for the fulfillment of its duties.

union members are entitled to exempt such payments from their total income in filing their income tax statements.

## RENEW AGREEMENT WITH OVERALL FIRM

Trenton, N. J.—Announcement of the renewal of the agreement between Local 70 and the H. D. Lee Company has been announced by Vice President George P. Firth of the OEIU.

The renewal agreement covers all office workers employed in the local operation of the company and assures union membership to all office workers and preferential hiring of union members. The work week consists of five consecutive eight-hour days with all overtime to be paid at the rate of time and one-half. Double time is provided for any work performed on any of six recognized holidays stipulated in the agreement.

The agreement provides ten days per year sick leave without deduction of pay for all members of the union and likewise provides for two weeks' advance notice in the event of force reduction by the company.

### 19 Per Cent Boost

Highlight of the renewed agreement is the 19 per cent average wage increase won and the added factor that such agreement is retroactive to September 1, 1945.

Assisting Firth in the negotiation of this renewed agreement were Christine Tomasulo, Celia Walukiewicz, Blanche Parent and Mamie Folk. Office workers employed in the Minneapolis operation of the company are members of Local 12 in that city. OEIU is eyeing the possibility of organizing the remaining branches of the company in San Francisco, South Bend and Kansas City.

## Retail Stores Drive Launched

Dallas, Texas—A campaign to unionize all workers in the local operation of Sears Roebuck and Company has been launched under the direction of Vice President C. A. Stafford of OEIU and representatives of the Retail Clerks International Protective Association and other international unions interested in the undertaking.

Careful planning and a considerable amount of preliminary effort have gone into the launching of this campaign and it is reported that enthusiasm among the employees of the company is running at a high level in favor of unionization.

### SISTER LUND DIES

Oakland, Calif.—Mrs. Mary Lund, charter member of the OEIU Local No. 29, died January 19, according to word received from Muriel Kerchner, business representative. Sister Lund is mourned by the entire membership of the Local. She joined the Union in June, 1938. She had been employed in the office of the Piedmont Grocery for 18 years and was in the original group from that firm to join the Union when Piedmont Grocery was organized.

Sister Lund is survived by a son in the armed forces.

An official delegation from Local 29 attended funeral services January 28.

## Signing Iron Works Agreement



Representatives of Local 5 in Denver and officials of General Iron Works Co. are shown above as they signed the collective bargaining agreement providing wage increases and other benefits for the office and clerical employees of the company. Seated, left to right: Irene Kelly, member of the negotiating committee; C. O. Voight, president of the company; Joyce Esgar, secretary-treasurer of Local 5. Standing, left to right: Glen Mellencamp, member of the negotiating committee; Fred Laursen, chairman of the contract committee; Harry Pratt, assistant treasurer of the company; Rudolph Cook, secretary of the Denver Trades and Labor Assembly; Vice President Frank Randall of the International Union. Elinor Pitts, third member of the negotiating committee, was unable to be present.

## Wages Increased By New Contract

Denver, Colo.—Wage increases ranging from 21 to 52.3 per cent were secured for office and clerical workers of the General Iron Works Company in a working agreement negotiated by Local 5, according to Frank Randall, vice president of the International Union, who assisted the local. The contract was signed January 28 and is retroactive to January 1.

A number of other benefits are contained in the agreement. Automatic progression is established on several of the lower wage classifications. Pay for work in excess of eight hours a day or 40 hours a week and for work on Sundays and holidays shall be at the rate of time and one-half, which also applies to work in off-shift hours.

In addition, the pact specifies six holidays with pay, the unworked time to be used in computing the work week; two-week vacations after one year of service and two-week notices or equivalent pay in the event of lay-offs.

Seniority is recognized and there are provisions for maintenance of membership as well as for the adjustment of grievances.

### SEEK ORGANIZATION

North Adams, Mass.—Office and clerical employees of the Sprague Electric Company are seeking organization in the OEIU, according to John F. Smith, president of the Central Labor Union.

OEIU officers are cooperating with President Smith and AFL Regional Director John J. Murphy in the unionization of this group.

## BREWERY WORKERS SEEK RETURN TO FEDERATION

Miami—Move for reaffiliation of the United Brewery Workers and Soft Drink Workers Union with the AFL are under way.

AFL President William Green announced receipt of a telegram from William J. Kromelbein, general secretary-treasurer of the union, requesting an opportunity for its three top officials to come here to discuss with the executive council the jurisdiction dispute with the Teamsters Union which led to the suspension of the Brewery Workers. Mr. Green promptly replied that the council would be glad to give the union officials a hearing.

The Brewery Workers Union was suspended in 1939 after it failed to comply with a convention decision on the jurisdiction dispute which involved beer truck drivers. It is one of the oldest and most respected unions in the nation and its return to the AFL would be a welcome development.

## Paper Industry Representation Sought

Toronto, Ont.—Further inroads in the unionization of office and clerical workers in the pulp and paper industry in Eastern Canada by the OEIU is assured, according to AFL Organizer Russell Harvey following the filing of petitions for certification of representation with the Ontario Labor Relations Board for office and clerical workers employed by the Canadian International Paper Company by Local 165 at Hawkesbury and Local 166 at Kapuskasing.

Each local union completed unionization of office workers em-

## COLORADO HOSPITAL AGREEMENT SIGNED

Denver, Colo.—A working agreement between Local 5 and the Colorado Hospital Service (Blue Cross) has been entered into, according to International Vice President Frank F. Randall, who is assisting the local in the organization of this establishment and in the negotiation of its first contract with this Blue Cross Hospital Service organization.

Substantial wage adjustments for all classifications of work were obtained, with increases ranging from \$3.56 to \$6.20 on the basic work week.

Other significant gains achieved included the establishment of double time pay for six recognized holidays with a further proviso that all employees not working such holidays shall nevertheless receive eight hours straight time pay for each such day. Double time is also provided for all work performed on Sundays. All employees with six months' service receive one week's vacation with pay and all employees with one year's service receive two weeks' vacation with pay each year. Provision is made for the payment of pro rata vacation to employees who leave the service of the company.

### Two Weeks' Sick Leave

Two weeks' paid sick leave is also guaranteed to all employees of one year of service with the company. Provision is made for crediting all employees who have not used sick leave during the year with an additional week's sick leave allowance during the following year.

Two weeks' notice, or pay in lieu thereof, is provided in the event of lay-offs. Provision is also made for the recognition of four union stewards who may handle grievances during working hours without loss of pay.

The agreement is signed on behalf of Local 5 by Secretary-Treasurer Joyce Esgar and by Mary Louise Cramton for the negotiating committee, as well as by Vice President Randall for the International Union. Rudolph B. Cook, secretary-treasurer of the Denver Trades and Labor Assembly, also signed on behalf of that body.

### AGREEMENT SIGNED

Baltimore, Md.—Signing of the initial agreement between Local No. 22 and Stationers, Inc., has been announced by Edith Doyle, president of the local union.

employed by the company in their respective communities in record time following their being chartered by OEIU, according to Harvey.

With certification for representation virtually assured in these two instances, OEIU's representation of office workers in the pulp and paper industry throughout Eastern Canada will be further increased. With the assistance of Organizer Harvey, the International Union has made substantial inroads in the organization of workers in this industry during the past year.

## SPECIFIC TERMS OF REAFFILIATION

Miami—AFL President William Green made public three letters from John L. Lewis which constituted the United Mine Workers Union's application for reaffiliation with the AFL. These communications were only the most recent ones of a long series. The first letter, dated February 10, 1945, follows:

"Acknowledgment is hereby made of the receipt of your letter of February 9, which expresses the suggestions of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor with respect to the possible reaffiliation of the United Mine Workers of America.

"The United Mine Workers of America are conscious that the American Federation of Labor has rules and laws covering affiliates which are binding up such affiliates as long as they are chartered by the American Federation of Labor. In consequence, I am authorized to say that the United Mine Workers of America will at once reenter the American Federation of Labor with its entire membership.

"When the charter of reaffiliation is issued to the United Mine Workers of America, representatives of this organization will be willing to meet with representatives of the American Federation of Labor, or any of its affiliates, to discuss the question of any jurisdictional claim that may be filed, in harmony with the customary procedure and the existing laws and rules of the American Federation of Labor. Acceptance of a charter of reaffiliation with the American Federation of Labor by the United Mine Workers of America is contingent upon being given its usual representation on the Executive Council."

The second letter dated January 12, 1946, said:

"On February 10, 1945, this office, in behalf of the United Mine Workers of America, addressed you a letter for presentation to the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor stating the conditions affecting possible affiliation. Copy of the letter in question is hereby attached.

"I reaffirm statements made in the aforesaid letter and advise that reaffiliation at this time upon the described terms would be satisfactory to the United Mine Workers of America."

The final letter was dated January 7, 1946 and said:

"Supplementing letter sent you on Saturday, January 12, affecting reaffiliation of the United Mine Workers of America with the American Federation of Labor, I am herewith enclosing check in the amount of \$9,000, signed by International Secretary-Treasurer Thomas Kennedy, in payment of tax on 600,000 members of the United Mine Workers of America for the month of January, 1946.

"This payment, of course, is contingent upon consummation of affiliation.

"We assume that this is the correct amount, but if not, any necessary adjustment can be made by Secretary Kennedy and Secretary Meany."

## Apex Electric Election Won; Negotiations Start Soon

Cleveland, Ohio—Office and clerical workers employed by the Apex Electrical Manufacturing Company have selected Local 17 as their bargaining agent by a decisive majority as the result of a National Labor Relations Board election, according to Pearl A. Hanna, secretary-treasurer of the local union.

An agreement has been formulated by a committee from the workers of the company, assisted by officers of the local union, and

it is anticipated that negotiations between the union and the company will soon be under way and will bring the benefits of collective bargaining to the 110 office workers employed by the concern.

The desire of the office workers of the company for unionization and the success in the NLRB election constituted a direct repudiation of the company's stated policy toward its office employes, as well as its views on unionization.

## PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

(Continued from Page 1)

Frank P. Fenton, AFL Director of Organization; President George Haberman, Wisconsin State Federation of Labor; General Secretary Frank Raney, Federated Trades Council of Milwaukee.

### Social Activities

Advocating at least nominal social activities during the convention, the arrangements committee has announced that on the Monday evening of the convention all delegates will be guests of Local 9 at a dancing party, while the banquet on Thursday evening will include skits on labor matters and renditions by a glee club. On Tuesday morning the delegates are scheduled for a tour of the Miller Brewery Company operations, one of several 100 per cent unionized breweries in Milwaukee.

The committee in charge of arrangements is encouraging delegates from local unions being represented at the convention to bring samples or organizing leaflets used by their local union, together with copies of agreements and any other material which has been utilized by local unions and which the delegates feel will be informative and interesting to other delegates during the panel discussions which have been arranged.

## NEW HOME FOR AFL SOUGHT BY COUNCIL

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor, often referred to as the house of labor, is looking for a new and roomier home.

The Executive Council appointed a committee of 5 members to seek a new site in the nation's capital where an appropriate building can be constructed as a postwar job-providing project.

## Progress

Pittsburgh, Pa.—The credit and bookkeeping departments of the Kaufmann department store are nearly 100 per cent organized, according to John F. Magnotti, business representative of Local 33, who expressed his appreciation for the efforts of Stewards Dorothy Kelly and Jo Lanz and for the suggestions and assistance of the organizational committee.

He also reported that the Pittsburgh Athletic Association and the Motor Express Lines are now under the OEIU banner.

## CONSTRUCTION OFFICE ORGANIZED

Philadelphia, Pa. — Successful unionization of the office and clerical employes of the M. W. Kellogg Company, Inc., construction contractor, by Local 14 has been announced by Margit E. Springman, secretary-treasurer of the local union.

The company has agreed to a consent certification of representation check by the National Labor Relations Board which will clearly establish the union's right to represent all such employes of the company and will open the way to immediate negotiations on an agreement between the union and the company.

The local Building Trades Council supported Local 14 in the unionization of this group of workers and is rendering continued assistance in establishing bargaining rights in the subsequent negotiation of an agreement.

## ELECTRIC AGREEMENT

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tiated by a committee from the local union, assisted by Vice President George P. Firth of the International Union is one of the largest increases ever negotiated by a labor union with the company and exceeds an increase recently won by the production workers of the company through their local union.

Another gain in the negotiation of the contract was an additional week's vacation with pay which raises the total paid vacation allowance for workers with two or more years of service to two weeks each year.

proposed FHA insured construction. "Tearing down of wage standards for any group of workers has a detrimental effect on the wage standards of all groups. For this reason we urge that an amendment, requiring that not less than prevailing wages be paid on FHA insured construction, be included in Titles III and IV of S 1592. The inclusion of this amendment will not only protect the already prevailing minimum wage standards in each locality, but will also make the policy of S. 1592 consistent, since this requirement now applies to all large-scale FHA insured projects," Hicks said.

## HOUSING BILL

(Continued from Page 2)

cerned with all measures for stabilizing our Nation's economy at a high level of production, the committee was advised as follows: "... an annual production of over a million new homes, can help achieve this high level of production. It will stimulate an annual investment of over \$6 billion and provide more than 4 million jobs a year. But this goal can only be achieved if we start now. If the industry takes speculative advantage of the present emergency to build only for the high-priced luxury field, it will bring on a repetition of the boom and crash catastrophe cycle in building. Such a speculative outburst can end only in unemployment for all in the building and construction industry, bankruptcy for builders, foreclosures and homelessness for all our people and a grave impediment to the achieving of a stabilized national economy."

Although strongly supporting the bill, Hicks sharply criticized its failure to provide that not less than the prevailing rate of wages be paid on all work done under the

## Alaskan Office Workers Apply For Charter

Anchorage, Alaska—Under the guidance of Pearl Gibson, vice president, Alaska Territorial Federation of Labor, successful unionization of office workers locally has reached the stage where an application for a local union charter has been made to OEIU, according to reports.

Vice President Gibson, who is likewise secretary-treasurer of Retail Clerks Union, Local No. 1496, has devoted time and effort to this undertaking at the request of office and clerical workers employed by the Union Bank of Anchorage, the Pioneer Laundry and office work-

ers employed in other assorted industries.

The membership of the Retail Clerks Union has pledged its support to the unionization of office workers in local retail stores so as to bring the benefits of collective bargaining now enjoyed by the clerks to the office workers in the industry.

Assisting Vice President Gibson in her activities has been AFL Organizer Frank Marshall who is working toward the unionization of other groups of office workers throughout Alaska.