

THE OFFICE WORKER

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

No. 13

WASHINGTON, D. C., JANUARY, 1946



New Agreement Signed With S. Morgan Smith Co.

York, Pa.—As the result of efforts of Vice-President George P. Firth of the International Union, Local 157 of this city has just concluded and signed its first agreement with the S. Morgan Smith Company.

Among many improvements won for office workers employed by the company is a 40-hour, 5-day week with time and one-half being paid for all work beyond 8 hours per day and on Saturdays. Double time is paid for work performed on Sundays and holidays.

The agreement, which assures continuation of union membership for those workers who are presently members of the union, also provides two weeks' paid vacation after one year of employment and also provides for 7 days' sick leave per year which is cumulative for three years.

Seniority set up on the basis of job classifications is provided for all workers commencing from the date of employment. The agreement as negotiated also provides unlimited leave of absence for any member of the union elected as an officer or delegate in behalf of the local union. Maternity leave of one year is also stipulated in the agreement.

Wage increases in excess of 14 percent were won for all office workers employed by the company, which wage increases are retroactive to December 3, 1945.

Assisting Firth in the negotiation of this agreement were William Wagonhafer, president of the

local union, Earl Meisenhelter, Ed Rohrbach and Donald Thompson, all of whom have expressed satisfaction with this first agreement negotiated with the company.

SIGN AGREEMENT WITH RETAILERS

Vancouver, Wash.—The signing of an agreement between Local 68 and retail stores in this city and the acceleration of organizing activities has been announced by Ruby Williams, secretary-treasurer of the local union.

The retail stores' agreement, which assures union membership to all office workers employed by retail establishments, likewise provides for substantial increases in the rate of pay received by such workers, together with the establishment of specific and uniform job classifications which for the first time will permit the proper relationship to exist among the various office positions affected.

The new agreement provides
(Continued on page 4)

Press Pay Case

Washington, D. C.—Leaders of organized labor in the shipbuilding industry met with top administration officials and demanded that the government carry out its solemn pledge to preserve the "real" wages of 750,000 shipyard workers.

Representing the Office Employees International Union were Secretary-Treasurer J. Howard Hicks and Vice-President J. O. Bloodworth, Jr.

The parley is an aftermath of the national shipbuilding wage conference which ended in a deadlock at Colorado Springs, Colo., after 2 weeks of negotiations. West Coast shipyard owners at the Colorado Springs confab declared their willingness to "talk business" on a wage increase, but most managements from other areas refused to go along.

President John P. Frey of the AFL Metal Trades Department stressed the fact that the government, by virtue of past promises, has a binding obligation to see that the shipyard employes get a square deal now.

He pointed out that since April 1, 1941, these employes received an increase in their rates of only 7.1 percent, though even official figures concede that prices during the war have scooted up 33 percent.

PORTLAND ACTIVITY ON THE INCREASE

Portland, Ore.—Following closely on the heels of the success of Local 11 in winning by a substantial margin the NLRB election among the office employes of the Portland Gas & Coke Co., the Portland local has been deluged with requests for organizing activity among unorganized groups, according to Irving Enna, secretary-treasurer of the local union.

Office workers employed by three insurance companies have awakened to the benefits to be derived from unionization and are cooperating closely with officers of the local in organizing activities, according to Enna. These workers are employed by the Oregon Casualty Co., Mutual Benefit Life Insurance, and Farmers Auto Interstate Exchange Insurance Co., it is reported. Also interested in organization are office workers employed by the Northern Advertising Agency, who are likewise receiving the attention of local union organizers and representatives.

Radio Workers Solid

Office employes of radio station KGW and KEX are solidly behind Local 11, and the local union is filing a petition for certification of bargaining rights with the National Labor Relations Board. It is anticipated that the management of both radio stations will demand an election which should be won easily by the union.

Employees of the Colyear Motor Sales Co. have evidenced keen interest in unionization, according to officers of the local. A majority of employes of this company have indicated their desire to be represented by Local 11 and action is under way at the present time which should result in complete recognition of the local union. This company operates a chain of service station and automotive supply houses throughout the local area.

Negotiations Begin

Secretary-Treasurer Enna reported that negotiations with the Portland Gas & Coke Co. where the local won collective bargaining rights a month ago by a large majority as a result of an NLRB election, are about to begin. A commitment
(Continued on page 4)

OEIU Chosen By Workers Of International Harvester Co.

Milwaukee, Wis.—Representation for almost 700 office and clerical workers employed in the local operation of the International Harvester Company has been won by Local 9 of this city as a result of a recent NLRB election, according to Harold E. Beck, business representative of the local union.

This successful election culminates several months of effort on the part of Beck and Vice President Alice Holz of the International Union and will bring benefits of collective bargaining to the office workers in the local operation of the company.

Beck reports that immediate steps are being taken in the formulation and presentation of an agreement to the management of the company's local operation and that it is anticipated that little time will be lost in the culmination of a satisfactory agreement. In the meantime, the local union is putting forth efforts to increase its degree of representation beyond the results shown by the recent election.

ORGANIZING DRIVE ON IN MILWAUKEE

Milwaukee, Wis.—According to information released by Alice Holz, secretary-treasurer of Local 9 of this city, the local union is launching upon a full scale organizing campaign among office workers in Milwaukee.

Recent successes scored by Local 9 in the organization of previously unorganized workers is the impelling force behind the drive which is now under way. Every indication points to a successful culmination of the current undertaking.

Secretary-Treasurer Holz, who is also a Vice-President of the International Union, has announced that the campaign will be under the direction of Harold E. Beck, business representative of the local.

Beck, who has just returned from military service, was business representative for the local union until several years ago when he donned a uniform, and his record was outstanding. The International Union has pledged its full support and cooperation in connection with the carefully planned campaign.

FLOUR COMPANY WORKERS ORGANIZED

Vallejo, Cal.—Successful organization of the office workers employed locally by the Sperry Flour Company by Local 86 has been announced by Frank F. Randall, a vice president of the International Union.

Agnes Granger, a member of the local union, is credited with the success of this campaign.

With almost a 100 per cent sign-up of the office workers employed by this company, the local operation is now recognized as 100 per cent organized.

Steps are proceeding toward the formulation and negotiation of an

agreement and the local union will be assisted in negotiations by Frank Cheesboro, representative of the local Teamsters Union.

Election Ordered At Apex Electric

Cleveland, Ohio.—The National Labor Relations Board has ordered an election among office and clerical workers employed by the Apex Electrical Manufacturing Co. to determine the extent of their desire for representation by Local No. 17, according to Pearl Hanna, secretary-treasurer and business representative of the union.

The election was ordered by NLRB following refusal by the company to recognize the union as

the representative of its office workers. Following an examination of the union's evidence of representation and a formal hearing by the Board, it has been determined in advance of the election that Local 17 represents a substantial number of the workers involved.

The pending election is the result of a demand for unionization expressed by the group which was answered by the local union.

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OFFICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION



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1945 Highlights

Washington, D. C.—Boris Shishkin, AFL economist, summed up the highlights of the past year as follows:

"Hail to 1945, the year of victory! Farewell to 1945, the year of frustration!"

"In reviewing the old year, the military achievement of the first half contrasts sharply with our groping and fumbling through the aftermath of war.

"1945 is a date our grandchildren will be required to memorize in school. It will be known as the year of the smashing triumph of the forces of democracy over the dictatorships of Germany and Japan. It will be remembered because of the formation of the United Nations' Organization at San Francisco and the decision of the United States to engage for the first time in international cooperation to safeguard world peace. Above all, it will stand out in history as the year in which man first succeeded in harnessing atomic power, power for great good and, perhaps, greater evil.

"It was in 1945 that Franklin Roosevelt, who had charted the nation's course toward the defeat of Fascism, died with startling suddenness, his task unfinished. In 1945, Harry Truman took over the wheel and kept our ship on its victorious course.

"Yes, the future historian will designate 1945 as a pivotal year, perhaps the turning point in civilization. But we, who live in the present, have more to do than men ever had before with the direction in which the future course of history will turn. Which way are we turning? Let's take our bearings.

"The course we traveled in the second half of 1945 would show that the people of America and the peoples of the world failed to take advantage of the opportunities presented by the winning of the war. No sooner had victory been proclaimed than new fighting and threats of more wars cropped up. Strife keeps flaring up—in China, in Java, in Iran. Throughout Europe and Asia, strewn with rubble, stricken with hunger and stiff with

New Wage Board Named As NWLB Is Dissolved

Washington, D. C.—A new development, which will be of particular interest and importance to all local unions, is the dissolution of the National War Labor Board and its regional boards and commissions and the establishment in its stead of the National Wage Stabilization Board and its regional boards. The NWSB was established by Executive Order 9672 effective January 1, 1946.

Chief function of the new agency will be to rule upon application for approval of voluntary wage increases which may affect prices or rent ceilings, or result in higher costs to the government. The Board determines whether such wage increases may be used as a basis for seeking price relief, no approval being needed, however, to put the increase into effect if the employer desires. The Board will exercise jurisdiction over wage decreases, which require prior approval before they may be put into effect and, further, will administer enforcement of the Wage Stabilization Act of Oct. 2, 1942. One branch of the Board, the Wage Adjustment Board, will continue to administer controls over all wage adjustments in the building and construction industry, which also continue to require advance approval.

The new agency has no authority to settle labor-management disputes over wages or any other issues.

With the issuance of his Executive Order establishing NWSB, President Truman has announced that the personnel of the six-member tripartite National Board is as follows: W. Willard Wirtz, chairman, and Sylvester Garrett, vice-chairman, public members; Robert J. Watt (International Representative of the American Federation of Labor) and Carl J. Shipley, labor members; R. Randall Irwin and Earl Cannon, industry members. Chairman of the twelve regional boards, also of six-member tripartite composition, are as follows: Region

I, Boston, Peace Davis; Region II, New York City, Sidney Sugarman; Region III, Philadelphia, Joseph Bell; Region IV, Atlanta, Henry Meyers; Region V, Cleveland, George Maxwell; Region VI, Chicago, John C. McCurry; Region VII, Kansas City, Jack G. Day; Region VIII, Dallas, A. Langley Coffee; Region IX, Denver, J. Glen Donaldson; Region X, San Francisco, Thomas Fair Neblett; Region XI, Detroit, John P. Boyce; Region XII, Seattle, John B. McCourt.

The National Board will establish offices in the U. S. Department of Labor Building, Washington 25, D. C. Specific information regarding the locations of the twelve regional boards in the cities indicated above is not yet available.

Executive officer of NWSB will be Abram H. Stockman; director of the case analysis and program appraisal division will be Paul Guthrie; general counsel is Phillip C. Brownell; director of administrative management is Boris M. Joffe; and director of public information is Joseph M. Gambatese.

cold, death stalks again, gathering its postwar harvest. Peacetime reconstruction is not yet underway. And peace itself is far from secure.

"At home, we have failed to tackle the problems of reconversion in a united and realistic way. Five months after final victory we are still plagued by acute shortages and inflated prices. The threat of more inflation is greater than before. The wage income of the nation's workers has been dwindling. Unemployment continues on the rise. Congress failed to provide for human needs; it did nothing to prevent unnecessary suffering during reconversion. Returning veterans and released war workers face an acute shortage of homes and severely limited opportunities for steady jobs.

"These discouraging conditions burden the American people at the close of 1945 and have dimmed the earlier glow of victory. The men and women of America who have won the war are still determined to win the peace. They have sensed a new responsibility as citizens. As they enter 1946, they no longer look for promises, they insist on answers."

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Cure For Unrest Cited By Watt

Washington, D. C.—Congress can do much to allay unrest among workers in this country—not by passing legislation, but by putting through long bottled-up measures to improve the lot of those who toil.

That point was stressed by Robert J. Watt, AFL international representative and a member of the National Wage Stabilization Board, in a radio address.

Watt listed the bills which would do the trick—those for a 65-cent-an-hour minimum wage, liberalized unemployment insurance, a national public employment service, a national housing program, a national health program, and higher old-age pensions. All, he said, are supported by both President Truman and organized labor.

By passing these measures, Watt declared, Congress will "cure the real ailments with real remedies."

Banner Year For Profits

Washington, D. C.—This is going to be a banner year for profits, the Office of Price Administration predicted. With excess profits taxes repealed, industry should earn its greatest profits in history, the federal agency said.

This statement is especially significant because American business made profit history in the last two years and earnings are still going up. The figures for 1945 are not yet available, but they were greater than in 1944, a "fantastic" profit year.

American workers and trade unions should be interested in examining the profit figures for 1944, as revealed in a statement filed by the OPA with the Senate Small Business Committee. Profit increases in 1944 over the 1936-39 period, which was quite prosperous, include:

Hardware retailers, 464 percent; small furniture stores, 185 percent; variety chain stores, 339 percent; men's apparel stores, 398 percent; department and specialty stores, 1,324 percent; chain grocery stores, 152 percent; music stores, 210 percent; automobile dealers, 200 percent.

So much for retailers. These increases in profits show how well the wholesalers also fared:

Hardware wholesalers, 179 percent; dry goods, 639 percent; grocery, 25 percent.

Of course, the distribution end of business, on the whole, took a back seat to the manufacturing end, as these profit increases emphasize:

All manufacturing, 450 percent; textile and leather, 730 percent; transportation equipment, 650 percent; metals and products, 590 percent; building materials, 270 percent; chemicals, 230 percent; food, beverages and tobacco, 200 percent.

President Hails The Union Label

Washington, D. C.—President Truman has approved of the principle of the Union Label.

Invited to address the 1946 A. F. of L. Union Label and Industrial Exhibition in St. Louis, Mo., October 29 to November 3, he sent the following letter in reply:

"I trust that the 1946 Union Label and Industrial Exhibition will be an outstanding success in full keeping with its laudable aims. The purpose of such an exhibition, and of the other work of your department, is important. Through other types of labeling the consumer has a guide to the content and quality of the goods he purchases. Through the union label he has knowledge that the men and women who make the product work at fair wages and under decent conditions. By educating consumers in general to the full meaning of the union label, you will enable them to give added impetus to the establishment and maintenance of fair labor standards."

I. M. Ornburn, secretary-treasurer of the Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, and Director of the A. F. of L. Union Label and Industrial Exhibition, stated that plans and preparations are now under way for the greatest union labor exhibition ever held.

Professor Declares Union Salaries Low

Boston, Mass.—Writing in the Harvard Business Review, Philip Taft, Associate Professor of Business Economics at Brown University, said that an examination of 350 local union constitutions had failed to show salaries paid union officials were excessive.

Out of 84 cases in which salaries were stated, Mr. Taft found that officers of 29 received the prevailing rate of the trade or the foreman's rate, most rates being below \$75 weekly. Of the other salaries furnished, the median was \$75 a week, the article stated, and only 21 were above that figure and only 10 above \$100.

OSHKOSH OVERALL PACT RENEWED

Oshkosh, Wis.—Announcement of the recent renewal of the agreement between Local 59 and Oshkosh B'Gosh, Inc., overall and work clothes manufacturers, has been made by Harriet Bork, secretary of the local union. The renewal of the agreement between the union and the company is a continuation of the contractual relationship which has existed between them during past years.

The agreement provides for a 40-hour work week, with five work days Monday through Friday inclusive of 8 hours each. Time and one-half is provided for all work in excess of 8 hours per day or 40 hours per week.

A unique provision of the agreement insures sick leave to the office workers of the company following their becoming members of the local union. A total of 40 hours per year is allowed for sick leave without deduction of pay.

The agreement also provides for not less than two weeks' notice or equivalent wages in the reduction of the force by the company. Also included in the agreement is a comprehensive arbitration and grievance handling procedure which provides for the appointment of the third member of the arbitration panel by the U. S. Conciliation Service in the event the union and the company representatives fail to agree upon such third party within two days.

The agreement as renewed provides for additional job classifications and revisions of weekly salary schedules. A further provision is that in the event an increase in price ceilings is granted the company the agreement may be opened upon thirty days' notice for consideration of further revision of the wage structure.

Film Corporation Workers Organizing

Endicott, N. Y.—The office and clerical workers employed in the Ozalid Division of the General Aniline and Film Corporation are evidencing interest in organization, according to Vice-President George P. Firth of the International Union.

Firth reports interest among the group running at a very high level and with the assistance of production workers who are members of A. F. of L. unions, a militant campaign is being planned among the office workers of the company.

Press Workers Show Interest

Marion, Ohio—Office and clerical workers employed by Hydraulic Press Mfg. Co. at Mount Gilead, Ohio, are considering the advantages of membership in the International Union, according to Chairman R. W. Beverly of the organizing committee of the Marion Central Labor Union.

Chairman Beverly and his associates have pledged every support and cooperation to the office workers employed by the company in such an undertaking.

Convention Committee On Arrangements Appointed

Washington, D. C.—President Paul R. Hutchings of the International Union has announced the appointment of Vice-Presidents Alice Holz, George P. Firth and R. M. Daugherty as a committee of International Union officers to formulate plans for the approaching convention of the International Union which will be held in Milwaukee, Wis., commencing March 18.

The committee, under the chairmanship of Vice-President Holz who hails from Milwaukee, is meeting later this month to formulate and arrange the program for the convention.

Green Supports Truman On Call For Liberal Laws

Washington, D. C.—President William Green of the American Federation of Labor issued the following statement on President Truman's radio appeal to break the jam on the human side of reconversion: "The American Federation of Labor heartily endorses the President's demands for legislation to protect human needs during reconversion. We believe that the failure of Congress to enact adequate full employment, unemployment compensation, minimum wage, housing and health insurance legislation, has contributed in large measure to industrial unrest. We join President Truman in appealing to the American people to urge their representatives in Congress to vote for these measures.

"But we do not agree with the President's recommendation for compulsory cooling-off and fact-finding machinery to deal with labor-management disputes. We consider this cure worse than the disease.

"This legislation would be unworkable and dangerous. It would make wage-fixing a permanent government policy, it would subject labor and management to control by government boards, it would nullify the safeguards of the Norris-LaGuardia Act by reviving court injunctions against labor and it would subject labor unions once more to the vicious doctrine of conspiracy.

"It is not accurate to say that collective bargaining and voluntary arbitration have broken down in major industries such as automobiles and steel. The plain facts are that real collective bargaining and voluntary arbitration have never been put into practice in these industries."

Bendix Workers Organizing

Sidney, N. Y.—Under the direction of Vice-President George P. Firth of the International Union, office and clerical employees of the Scintilla Division of the Bendix Aviation Corporation are taking steps calculated toward completing organization of this group in the

near future. It is anticipated that the actions of the approaching convention will permit time for subjects of general and widespread interest to be brought before the delegates present and discussed by them and also by authorities on such subjects.

Secretary-Treasurer J. Howard Hicks of the International Union reports that delegates' credentials have been received from a number of local unions and he has expressed the belief that on the basis of reports thus far received the number of delegates attending the forthcoming convention will exceed those in attendance at any previous convention.

Work Week Reduced By OEIU

Washington, D. C.—Office workers employed by the OEIU will enjoy a 30-hour work week with no reduction in take home pay beginning early in February, according to an announcement made by J. Howard Hicks, secretary-treasurer. Five 7 hour days, Monday through Friday, has been the previous work week schedule at OEIU headquarters. The new schedule of hours will call for a reduction of one hour per day.

In announcing the new weekly schedule Hicks said "It is, in part, a restatement of the purposes and aims of the International Union. With office workers throughout the United States and Canada looking eagerly toward the universal acceptance of the 30-hour week principle the International Union should take the lead in showing the way."

The new schedule does not apply to International Union officers.

Express Company Organized

Pittsburgh, Pa.—Successful unionization of the office and clerical employees of the Motors Express Company has been announced by Local 33. The successful culmination of this organizational undertaking is the result of efforts put forth by Business Representative John F. Magnotti of the local union.

Because of unwarranted action taken by the company, it has been necessary for the local union to file unfair labor practice charges with the National Labor Relations Board.

Due to the strong position of the union with respect to these charges Magnotti is reported as stating that an early settlement of the difficulties leading to the charges is anticipated.

AFL SETTLES FILM JOB CONTROVERSY

Washington, D. C.—A special committee of the American Federation of Labor set up detailed jurisdiction boundaries for its various unions in Hollywood movie studios, in a decision ending a long controversy.

The committee, consisting of Felix H. Knight of the Brotherhood of Railroad Carmen, W. C. Birthright of the Barbers Union, and W. C. Doherty of the Letter Carriers, was delegated by the AFL Executive Council to make a final settlement of the 7-month dispute.

Unions involved are the Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers; Electricians; Plumbers and Steam Fitters; Building Service Employees; Machinists; the Carpenters, and the Theatrical Stage Employees, and Moving Picture Machine Operators.

The special committee said that it unanimously agreed that the best solution to the controversy would be "a division of work designations within the industry patterned after previous agreements negotiated mutually by the various crafts."

The committee said this of the office workers: "... the committee is of the opinion that all office workers in the motion picture studios rightfully come within the jurisdiction of the Office Employees International Union."

Each jurisdictional question was decided by the committee according to this policy after extended hearings and after personal inspection at a Hollywood studio of the various types of work involved. The decisions are final and binding on all parties.

TELEGRAPH WORKERS ACCEPT PAY BOOST

Washington, D. C.—More than 50,000 Western Union employees organized into AFL unions voted overwhelmingly to cancel a scheduled strike after the National War Labor Board voted them a 12 cents hourly increase in pay plus many other important gains.

Not the least of these was a retroactive provision in the award which means more than two years of back pay for the workers. The total amount of back pay to be divided among AFL Western Union workers was estimated at about 25 million dollars. This will amount to individual sums ranging from \$400 up.

Several months ago the National War Labor Board had given Western Union workers only 4 cents an hour increase. The new award resulted from the AFL union's appeal for reconsideration. It was regarded by the AFL as "sufficiently responsive to the merits of the case."

PAPER MAKERS

Tacoma, Wash.—John Sherman, vice president of the International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphate and Paper Mill Workers, said that AFL unions in the industry had approved an agreement with 32 mills on the Pacific Coast employing about 17,000 workers. Mr. Sherman said that contracts calling for a 15 percent wage boost would be signed immediately.

HOTEL WORKERS RECEIVE INCREASE

New York City—A \$5.00 per week increase for office workers employed by the Hotel Broadmoor as the result of the signing of an agreement between Local 153 and the hotel has been announced by Lavina Michl, business representative of the local union.

It is anticipated that this agreement will be but the first of many similar agreements to be negotiated between the union and local hotels as the result of organizing activities which the local union has under way in this industry.

Armored Car Agreement Signed

Local 153 has also concluded an agreement covering office workers employed by the Wells Fargo Company which results in \$1,700 back pay being received by such workers, according to Howard J. Coughlin, business manager, and Harry Avrutin, business representative of the local union.

Other advancements won for office workers of the company include paid vacations, double time for holiday work, plus a general over-all correction of employment conditions. Office workers employed by the company are enthusiastic over the results obtained in this first agreement and have expressed appreciation to officers of the local for their efforts in bringing such improvements about.

Sign Agreement

(Continued from page 1)

usual holiday and vacation provisions and likewise allows for two 15-minute rest periods each day for the workers covered by the agreement.

A basic 5-day, 40-hour week has been agreed upon, although some of the workers covered will work a 45-hour week with proper overtime payments being applicable in all instances.

Welding Works Pact

Secretary-Treasurer Williams also announces the signing of an agreement between Local 68 and the A. B. Welding Works which brings benefits of collective bargaining and substantial increases in wages to members of the union employed by the company.

Negotiations are currently under way between the union and all transfer companies and garages in Vancouver and vicinity.

Answering the need for unionization among workers of our trade, Local 68 has augmented its organizing staff and is busily engaged in additional organizing ventures in this area, including paper mills at nearby Camas and lumber and allied products industries in the Longview-Kelso area, according to the announcement made by Secretary-Treasurer Williams.

Assisting in all activities of the local union has been its business representative, C. C. Newell, who is likewise a vice president of the International Union.

Inaugurate Drive At Yale & Towne

Philadelphia, Pa.—Officers of Local 14 have announced the inauguration of an organizing campaign by their local union among office and clerical employes in the local operation of the Yale and Towne Manufacturing Company.

With Local 90 representing office workers employed in the Stamford, Conn., operation of the company, spokesmen for Local 14 have expressed the belief that similar workers in the local operation of the company will express more than usual interest in organization.

UTILITY AGREEMENT CONCLUDED

Newark, N. J.—After several months of protracted negotiations, a renewal of the agreement between Local 104 and the Public Service Electric and Gas Company has been effectuated, according to Jack Seidler, recording secretary of the local union.

Although on several occasions negotiations were virtually deadlocked, an amicable settlement was arrived at, according to the report. Chief of the improvements in the new agreement is an increase of 12½ per cent in wages which will be retroactive to September, 1945. A three weeks' vacation with pay for all members of the union in the employ of the company for 15 years or more is likewise a new feature in the agreement.

Honolulu Local Shapes Up

Honolulu, T. H.—Establishment of the first OEIU local local union in this city is virtually completed, according to AFL Organizer John A. Owens and Solomon K. Aki, business manager of Electrical Workers Union, Local B-1357, who are working together on the undertaking.

It is reported that office and clerical employes of the von Hamm-Young Co. are expected to form the base of the new organization which, it is anticipated, will meet with the ready approval of similar workers in other industries locally.

URGES BOND BUYING

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green issued an appeal to all AFL workers to continue purchasing Victory Bonds under the payroll savings plan.

Mr. Green said in a letter to all affiliated unions that he had discussed the matter with Secretary of the Treasury Vinson who expressed the hope that AFL members will not abandon payroll savings plans in peacetime.

Secretary Vinson praised the leading part which AFL officers and members played in the successful outcome of the Treasury's War Finance program.

Agreement Renewed

Durham, N. C.—Renewal of the agreement between Local 84 and Wright's Automatic Machinery Company has been announced by R. B. Cheek, president of the local union.

The agreement provides for stipulated hours of work on a shift basis and that each shift shall not exceed eight hours nor a week exceed 40 hours through five consecutive days, Monday through Friday. Work performed beyond eight hours in any one shift or 40 hours in any one week, as well as work performed on the sixth consecutive shift, shall be compensated for at time and one-half. Work performed on the seventh consecutive shift will be paid for at double time.

The agreement also provides for nominal holiday allowances with pay, four hours' pay for reporting for any regular shift when such shift is not fully worked, a comprehensive sick leave provision and an extensive seniority provision applicable to all members of the union.

Hourly rates of pay, running considerably in excess of wage rates prevailing locally, and a comprehensive job classification provision and vacation provisions are likewise contained in the renewed agreement.

Gas and Coke

(Continued from page 1)

tee composed of employes of the company and assisted by Organizer Ruth Flood and Business Representative Clyde Clement of the local, as well as Enna, has been busily engaged in formulating a proposed agreement for submission to the company.

The anticipated favorable reaction among office and clerical employes of the Northwestern Electric Light & Power Co. has resulted from the successful election among the gas and coke workers. The electric company is closely associated with the gas and coke company in their respective activities throughout northwestern Oregon.

It is anticipated that the office workers employed by the Portland General Electric and the Portland Electric Power Companies and possibly those employed by the Bonneville Administration, will soon follow the lead established by their fellow utility company workers. The Bonneville Administration is a federally operated electric enterprise patterned closely after the Tennessee Valley Authority, where local unions of the Office Employees International Union have represented office workers since the early stages of the TVA program.

Local 11 has filed an unfair labor practices charge against the Marshall-Wells Co. with the National Labor Relations Board requesting disestablishment of the company-dominated independent union which has been endeavoring to undercut the activities of Local 11 in its organizational efforts among the workers employed by the company. The company is engaged in the wholesale hardware business.

DISCHARGES TAKEN TO NLRB

Tampa, Fla.—Refusal of the Spencer Auto Electric Company to recognize Local 46 and the discharging of a considerable number of workers who are members of the local union has necessitated the filing of unfair labor practice charges with the National Labor Relations Board, according to J. C. Bloodworth, Jr., business representative of the local union.

According to Bloodworth, who is also a vice president of the International Union, company management steadfastly refused to recognize Local 46 and embarked upon a program calculated to destroy the continuation of the union which represented a majority of the company's office workers. The firm has an unfavorable record insofar as labor relations are concerned and although workers of other trades are also in its employ, the office workers are the first to have indicated a desire for unionization and a subsequent correction of unfavorable wages and working conditions.

Notice of the difficulty between the union and the company was filed with the U. S. Employment Service with the result that no applicants for positions are being referred to the firm. The Tampa Metal Trades Council has voted unanimously to support Local 46 in its efforts to establish bargaining rights with the company.

New Local Planned

Springfield, Mo.—The local Central Labor Union is giving serious consideration to the establishment of a local union of OEIU in this city, according to J. R. Anderson, secretary-treasurer of the CLU, and T. J. Musgrave, a member of the CLU organizing committee.

An increasing interest in unionization among office and clerical workers employed in local industries has been noted by the CLU, thus leading to consideration of concerted efforts in behalf of such workers.

LOCAL EXPANDS

Meridian, Miss.—Local 54 of this city is embarking upon an organizing campaign which will result in the complete organization of all office and clerical workers employed by the Mississippi Power Co., according to L. F. Fisher, president of the local union.

The local union during recent years has held contractual relations with the company which will materially expand as a result of this undertaking.

International Union officers are closely following the success of this campaign as an indication of further action to be taken among office and clerical workers employed by utility companies in the Southland.

VETOES USES BILL

Washington, D. C.—Carrying out the urgent recommendations of the AFL, President Truman vetoed a Congressional "rider" which would have forced return of control of the U. S. Employment Service to the states within 100 days.