

THE OFFICE WORKER

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

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Convention Adopts Action Program

AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH CHEMICAL CO.

Nichols, Fla.—The first agreement between newly chartered OEIU Local 237 and one of the companies operating phosphate mines in this area has just been reached. The contract is with the Virginia-Carolina Chemical Company and was negotiated with the assistance of International Vice President J. O. Bloodworth, Jr.

The agreement covers all office and clerical employes of the company working in and out of its Nichols operation, including the Homeland and No. 91 mines, for whom OEIU Local 130 is recognized as the exclusive bargaining agent.

A general wage increase of 12 cents per hour, plus adjustment of individual inequities running in some cases from 5 to 10 cents per hour additional, was won for the employes. The contract provides for maintenance of union membership and a check-off of union dues upon written authorization of the employe.

Union Show to Top All Others

Washington—The Union Industries Show to be held May 18 through 22 in Cleveland, Ohio, will eclipse all former exhibitions sponsored by the Union Label Trades Department of the AFL.

I. M. Ornburn, director, said, "I believe it will go down in the chronicles of American organized labor as the crowning event of 1949."

"Modernized designs for display booths are now being planned and they will give the show the newest look," he added. "Thousands of American consumers will visually witness ample proof that union-made goods and union services are tops in quality, value, and craftsmanship. The show will prove to the world that when management teams up with union labor, thereby emphasizing the human element, they can put on the most educational, interesting, and entertaining event of its kind ever staged in America."

WAGES BOOSTED

Lincoln, Ill.—Wage increases ranging from \$15 to \$23.75 per month were obtained for all clerical employes in a recent renewal agreement between OEIU Local 167 and the Central Illinois Power Company. OEIU-AFL Organizer Frank E. Morton assisted the local negotiating committee.

New U. S. Pipe Agreement Signed



Representatives of OEIU Local 179 in Chattanooga, Tenn., and officials of U. S. Pipe & Foundry Co. sign the agreement covering wages and working conditions of office and clerical employes. Seated, left to right: C. R. Appel, personnel director; Mattie Henry Hale, president of Local 179; Paul L. Arnold, resident manager, and Jack E. Holder, member of the negotiating committee. Standing, left to right: S. E. Smith, Central Labor Union secretary; James Wallace and Lewis Moody, members of the negotiating committee, and W. V. Slatery, director of accounting and production control.

Well-Planned Program Enjoyed By OEIU Convention Delegates

St. Louis, Mo.—Under the capable leadership of its Vice President Margaret Ritch, who served as chairman of its committee on convention arrangements, St. Louis Local No. 13 provided numerous events for the entertainment and enjoyment of the delegates to the recent International Union Convention. All delegates received a letter of greeting from the local committee, advising them briefly of the outstanding events planned for their enjoyment.

An informal reception was held at the Statler Hotel on Saturday afternoon, March 19, at which time the delegates as they arrived had an opportunity to get acquainted informally with the convention committee, the International Union officers and the delegates from other local unions. Refreshments were served.

Buffet Supper

On Sunday evening, March 20, St. Louis Local 13 sponsored a pre-convention buffet supper party at the Hotel De Soto, which was well attended and greatly enjoyed. Supper, refreshments and entertainment in an air of informality served as a welcome to all delegates.

An exceedingly well planned convention banquet was arranged by the St. Louis local and held in the ball-room of the Statler Hotel on Thursday evening. In addition

to an excellent meal, an outstanding program of entertainment, including music and floor show, was presented.

Other Unions Cooperate

Each delegate was supplied by the host local with an attractive folder containing a souvenir and materials of interest to them during their stay in St. Louis.

The St. Louis local received exceedingly good support from the entire A. F. of L. movement in the city, which cooperated most effectively with the local in its entertainment of the convention. Arrangements were made by the host local to provide for sightseeing trips for delegates desiring the same, and to see that delegates were assisted in visiting the various points of interest in the city.

There is no question but that all delegates were truly appreciative of the splendid reception accorded them by St. Louis Local 13 during their stay in the city.

Grocery Company Workers Sign Up

Detroit, Mich.—The office force of the Lee & Cady Grocery Company have signed up for membership in OEIU Local No. 42 and the local union has been certified by

DELEGATES ACCLAIM PRESIDENT'S REPORT

St. Louis, Mo.—The regular 1949 convention of OEIU was held at the Statler Hotel and opened on the morning of March 21 with more delegates and local unions represented than at any previous convention.

The invocation was given by Reverend James P. Johnston, and Leonard Amrhein, president of the host Local No. 13, delivered the welcoming address which was followed by short speeches of welcome by Frank A. Neun, for the mayor of St. Louis, A. F. of L. Organizing Director Harry O'Reilly, OEIU Canadian Representative Russell Harvey and by General Organizer Elmer Theiss of the A. F. of L. St. Louis office and John I. Rollings, executive secretary of the Central Trades and Labor Union of St. Louis and vicinity.

Opening Ceremony

After the opening ceremonies Temporary Chairman Amrhein turned the gavel over to President Hutchings and the convention got down to the business before it. The Executive Board reported as the Credentials Committee of the convention and the delegates were duly seated.

The following committees were appointed to consider the various resolutions, officers' reports and recommendations: Rules, Constitution, Organizing and Servicing, Legislation, Auditing, Official Publication and Publicity, Officers' Reports, Election, Press, and Appeals.

Reports Well Received

President Hutchings presented a detailed report on the activities of the International Union since its last convention held at Chicago in March, 1947, and dealing also with necessary plans for the future growth of the organization. The report was enthusiastically received by the convention. (Printed copies of the same were mailed to all local unions for their ready reference.)

The convention heard reports of its Auditing Committee and reports from Secretary-Treasurer Hicks on the financial operations of the International Union, and a detailed report of the actions of the International Union Executive Board since the previous convention. The Executive Board report included numerous specific recommendations (Continued on page 2)

the NLRB as the exclusive bargaining agency for this group of approximately 25 office employes. The local union expects to commence contract negotiations shortly, according to its business representative, Robert Corrigan.

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OFFICE EMPLOYES
INTERNATIONAL UNION



PAUL R. HUTCHINGS, *President*
J. HOWARD HICKS, *Sec.-Treas.*
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Answer to Coercion

Pittsburgh, Pa.—An NLRB election conducted after a four-day strike of office and clerical workers at the Long Transportation Co. resulted in a majority vote for OEIU Local 33 as collective bargaining representatives for the group according to Frank W. Riott, local Business Representative.

The strike was called by Local 33 when the company attempted to coerce the workers into withdrawing from the union and a picket line was set up.

The drivers, who are members of the Teamsters, and the mechanics, refused to cross the picket line.

Two Members Die

Millinocket, Me.—The charter of OEIU Local 192 is draped in black in memory of two valued members, Brother Leo Griffin and Sister Albena Michaud. Resolutions expressing deepest sympathy to their families were adopted.

Ten Basic Groups of Changes In Constitution Are Adopted

(Continued from page 1)
for changes in the International Union laws.

Wright Speaks

On Tuesday, March 22, Assistant Secretary of Labor Ralph Wright addressed the convention and his remarks were exceedingly well received and appreciated by the entire delegation. I. M. Ornburn, Secretary-Treasurer of the Union Label Trades Department, A. F. of L., also addressed the convention.

During the course of the convention the delegates had the opportunity to see the just completed motion picture entitled "Battle of Wall Street" prepared and released by the Seafarers International Union and dealing with the Wall Street strike of OEIU Local 205 last year. Through the courtesy of the SIU several prints of this film will be made available to the International Union for the use of local unions desiring to show the same. A second movie dealing with the DiGorgio strike of the National Farm Labor Union was also shown.

Numerous officials of other National and International Unions brought the greetings of their respective organizations to the convention—some in person and others by letters and telegrams.

Laws Amended

All of the constitutional amendments recommended by the International Union Executive Board received favorable consideration by the Constitution Committee and by the convention after slight modification in several instances of the specific clauses recommended. The convention adopted 10 basic groups of amendments to the Constitution covering the following items: To provide for waiving of reinstatement fees; to exempt local union benefit assessments from assessment limitations of International Constitution; to amend financial reporting requirements of local union secretary-treasurers; to permit local unions to use applications for membership approved by International secretary-treasurer; to base cancellations of conventions on voting strength of local unions; to

publish THE OFFICE WORKER at discretion of International Union Executive Board; to provide for increased revenue; to amend requirements applicable to election of local union officers and board members; to provide for regular International Union conventions in the month of June every two years; to clarify strike procedure.

The presidents and secretary-treasurers of all local unions have been supplied with mimeographed copies of all constitutional amendments adopted by the convention and printed copies of the OEIU Constitution as amended by convention action will shortly be available to all local unions.

Resolutions

A total of more than 50 resolutions were accepted for consideration by the convention, referred to the respective committees and acted upon by the convention. These resolutions, in addition to constitutional matters, embraced a wide range of subjects including matters of legislation, publicity and public relations, organizing and servicing, official publication, research and education, and others. The full convention proceedings are being prepared in printed form and a copy will be supplied to each local union shortly in accordance with established procedure. The May issue of THE OFFICE WORKER will contain more detailed information on the actions taken on the various resolutions.

Nomination of officers was a special order of business on Thursday morning at which time the convention nominated without opposition, and subsequently unanimously reelected, President Paul R. Hutchings, Secretary-Treasurer J. Howard Hicks, and Vice Presidents as follows: Region II—J. O. Bloodworth, Jr., A. R. Carson; Region III—L. G. Nygren, C. A. Stafford; Region IV—L. P. Amell, C. C. Newell, Frank F. Randall.

New Vice Presidents

Contests were had in Regions I and V. In Region I, Vice President R. M. Daugherty was returned to office and two new Vice Presidents

Hits AMA Fight On Health Plan

Washington, D. C.—The Committee for the Nation's Health declared that the American Medical Association was trying to hide its opposition to national health insurance behind "a fancy press-relations job."

In a broadside attack on the association's widely publicized 12-point health program, the committee asserted that it was "designed to obscure the AMA's stubborn opposition to any program which would bring medical care within the means of the average man."

"The AMA's only proposal for meeting that national problem is the same as before—voluntary health insurance," the committee statement said. "It has not moved an inch on this basic issue, despite all the window dressing."

The statement on behalf of the committee, which is supporting the drive for enactment of the Truman administration's national health insurance program, was issued by its chairman, Dr. Channing Frothingham of Boston. The committee is made up of prominent business, professional and labor figures including David Sarnoff, Gerard Swope, Eleanor Roosevelt, William Green and Mrs. Albert D. Lasker.

"Voluntary health insurance has proved it cannot meet the nation's needs," said Dr. Frothingham, who has twice been president of the Massachusetts Medical Society.

"Despite the AMA's frantic effort to promote such programs in order to head off compulsory insurance, the voluntary medical insurance plans favored by the AMA cover less than a sixth of the population and offer only limited protection."

were selected: Harold E. Beck of Local 9, Milwaukee, and Edward P. Springman of Local 14, Philadelphia. In Region V, which is the newly established Region embracing the entire Dominion of Canada, Lucien A. Bruneau of Local 191, Beaupre, Quebec, was the successful candidate.

The convention adjourned Friday afternoon, March 25, after installing the International Officers for the ensuing term.

OEIU CONVENTION DELEGATES ASSEMBLED



NEEDS OF WORKING WOMAN SURVEYED

Washington—A working woman living with her family in New York State in 1948 had to earn at least \$40.13 a week—\$2,087 a year—in order to support herself adequately, pay her income tax and put a little money aside for emergencies and old age, according to the findings of the twelfth annual survey of living costs conducted by the New York State Department of Labor.

Of the required \$2,087 annual minimum, \$1,595 covered the costs of goods and services and \$492 went for income taxes, insurance and savings. Broken down to weekly expenditures, the needed \$40.13 was apportioned as follows:

Housing, food at home and other household expenses	\$12.01
Lunches (5 days)	3.05
Clothing	6.84
Clothing upkeep	.50
Personal care	1.04
Medical care	1.62
Insurance	1.01
Leisure activities	2.83
Transportation and other essentials	2.77
Savings	4.01
Taxes	4.45

Almost 38 cents of every dollar in a working woman's budget was spent for housing, food and other household expenses, 18 cents for clothing and its upkeep, 7 cents for leisure activities, 9 cents for personal and medical care, plus insurance; 11 cents for state and federal income taxes, and 10 cents for unforeseen contingencies.

The New York State survey covered 11 representative cities, towns and villages and entailed field visits to retail stores, service establishments, doctors, dentists, real estate brokers, banks, landlords and tenants. Due consideration was given to the size, location, marketing status and the number of working women in each community surveyed. Comparability of costs was assured by pricing the same items throughout the state.

Living costs ranged from a high of \$2,109 in New York City to a low of \$1,907 in Cuba (population 1,699). This was the first year the cost of living was found to be

Gradual Price Declines Needed, AFL Survey Says

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor Monthly Survey declared that "a gradual and orderly decline in high prices is greatly needed now to increase buying power of workers and other consumers and bring them back into the market."

The danger of inflation is gradually disappearing, the survey said.

"The need at present," it said, "is rather to make up the serious lag in workers' buying power so that business can reach a normal peacetime balance without sliding off into a recession."

The present business situation was characterized as "precarious." Unemployment could increase or inflationary policies "might check the normal downward adjustment of prices," the survey said.

"Much depends on the wisdom of union leaders, business execu-

tives, government officials," it added.

highest in the metropolis, due mainly to a sharp increase in New York City fares. Generally, the cost of living was slightly lower in the smaller communities of the state, the survey demonstrated. In Norwich and Cortland, for example, costs were 3 per cent below the state average and in Cuba 9 per cent less. Previous surveys showed similar variations.

In every city included in the study costs were higher than in 1947. Increases ranged from 2.9 per cent in Cortland to 5.6 per cent in New York City. The average increase in cost of goods and services was 7.3 per cent.

The medical care allowance, which represents average annual need for a period of years, increased 5 per cent. Expenditures for leisure activities—amusements, sports and educational pursuits—increased 6.5 per cent.

The cost of transportation and other essentials rose 35.6 per cent. New York City showed the greatest climb—49.4 per cent—due mainly to higher transit fares which became effective July after a successful campaign for boosting the fares which was waged by the CIO's Transport Workers Union.

Suggesting that buying power of workers must increase each year in order to absorb the country's output of goods, the AFL said it could be accomplished "by continued downward adjustment of prices" or "by raising wages without increasing prices as productivity rises."

AFL research workers made public a study of an eastern metal-working plant. They found that three-fourths of the workers were exhausting savings to keep abreast of living costs. The items these workers had hoped to buy with their war bonds and savings, such as refrigerators, radios, furniture, houses and automobiles, now were beyond their reach.

Under this law, the State Labor Relations Board had issued a ruling against Local 232 of the AFL United Automobile Workers Union, which had called a number of "special meetings" of members in the plant of the Briggs & Stratton Corp. during working hours in the winter of 1945-1946.

States Can Bar Certain Strikes

Washington, D. C.—The U. S. Supreme Court upheld by a 5-to-4 vote a Wisconsin state law which prohibits any concerted effort by workers "to interfere with production" except by leaving the plant and going out on strike.

In a sharp dissent, Supreme Court Justice Douglas said: "If the states can outlaw this strike, I see no reason why they cannot adopt regulations which determine the manner in which strikes can be called in these interstate industries."

"The right to strike, which Congress has sanctioned, can in that way be undermined by state action. The federal policy thus becomes a formula of empty words."

On the other hand, the court's majority opinion declared that "this conduct is governable by the state or it is legally ungoverned."

PROPAGANDA HIT BY INCOME CENSUS

Washington—Despite the flurry of sensational propaganda about the great prosperity enjoyed by the wage earners of this country, the average income of the United States family in 1947 was \$3,000, the Census Bureau reports, adding that it was the highest figure up to that time.

Distributing the nation's income among 37 million families, the Bureau specified that 4 million had under \$1,000. Six million had \$1,000 to \$2,000. Eight million had \$3,000-\$4,000. Four million had \$4,000-\$5,000. Three million had \$5,000-\$6,000. Three million had \$6,000-\$10,000, and one million had \$10,000 or more.

Only 4 million families, therefore, or slightly fewer than one out of every 9 families in the entire country, had the \$6,000 in 1947 which President Truman has suggested as the starting point for the income tax increase he has requested of Congress. This proposed tax increase would actually fall on still fewer persons, of course, since, according to the Bureau, in about one out of each 3 cases the family income in 1947 was derived from two or more paid workers.

In one-quarter of the families, women made 25 per cent or more of the family income.

These figures are very revealing. Also, they annihilate the spurious contention that the workers of this nation have enjoyed and are enjoying prosperous conditions.

In view of the noticeable developments in our economy, it stands to reason that accumulated savings cannot remain as a factor in staving off the dips which have been anticipated and are even now being experienced. These facts also disclose that there is ample justification for a new wage increase for the workers of this country.

In another decision the Supreme Court held that in a company-owned town the employer must make available its meeting hall to a union for a union meeting.

... AT STATLER HOTEL IN ST. LOUIS



EXPOSED AS FRONT FOR BIG BUSINESS

Washington—Full page ads addressed "Attention: Mr. Green and Mr. Murray" have been appearing all over the country in the daily press. These ads which oppose any repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act are signed by DeWitt Emery, president of the National Small Businessmen's Association, Inc. *The United Mine Workers Journal* exposed DeWitt Emery as a false labor-baiting front for Big Business. *The Mine Workers Journal* quoted from the "National Independent," a bonafide small business magazine, as follows:

"One of Mr. Emery's mailing efforts contains a listing of prominent contributors to his foundation. It includes, among others, the following firms: Firestone Tire & Rubber Co., B. F. Goodrich Co., Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., Pure Oil Co., Socony Vacuum Co., Standard Oil Co. of Indiana, Standard Oil Co. of N. J.; Texas Company, Chrysler Corp., De Soto Motor Corp., Plymouth Motor Corp., Libby-Owens-Ford Glass Co., Sears, Roebuck & Co., Inland Steel Co., Republic Steel Co., American Rolling Mill Co., Electric Boat Co., First National Stores, Inc."

This looks more like the roll call of the American Blue-Book of Industry. It is another example of the present NAM monopolist strategy. Because the November elections repudiated monopolistic Big Business and the NAM, the technique now is to subsidize false fronts with high sounding titles to do their talking. Actually the pro-Taft-Hartley propagandists are just the same old small but wealthy special interest groups.

In cahoots with Big Business, certain reactionary Congressmen are pulling every technique in the book to filibuster and stall hearings on repeal. One good example is Ralph W. Gwinn, representative from Westchester County, New York, who is not only a member of the House Labor Committee but also one of the most active members of the anti-labor Committee for Constitutional Government. On United States Congress stationery, Mr. Gwinn wrote to the various state manufacturers associations at the end of January saying, "It is up to you. Every employer . . . must see that saving the Taft-Hartley Act now is his major responsibility during the next few weeks." Gwinn urged them to rally as many employers as possible to request an opportunity to appear as a witness on Taft-Hartley. After flagrantly inciting the manufacturers' associations to jam the committee with hundreds of witnesses, Gwinn then urges "In the event that the majority party refuses to hear the testimony of our citizens on this vital issue, call in representatives of the local press and tell your story to them."

Anyone who still thinks that the Taft-Hartley Act was a fair-minded effort by honest men should take note of the fact that Gerald Reilly, principal back-stage author of the Act, has now gone on the

If You Work for a Living

ACT NOW!

The hearings on the administration's proposal to repeal the Taft-Hartley law and to reenact the Wagner Act with certain amendments are over.

The bills to accomplish this purpose have been reported out by congressional committees for final action on the floor of the Senate and House.

Labor leaders, government experts, industrial relations specialists and anti-labor foes have had their say.

But the real battle is about to begin!

Now is the time for all individual workers in the U. S. to express themselves on how they feel about the Thomas bill, which the Senate will consider, and the Lesinski bill, up for debate in the House. Both bills have the complete backing of the American Federation of Labor.

To have your say, write your Senators and Congressmen NOW and tell them what you think. Your opinions meant a lot last November. They still do. So take a minute and write a post card or a letter.

LET CONGRESS KNOW HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT LABOR LEGISLATION!

Increase Won at Central Foundry

Holt, Ala.—A general wage increase of 10 cents per hour for all classifications of office and clerical employes highlights the gains made by OEIU Local 199 in its recent renewal agreement with the Central Foundry Company. Further improvement was also won in the paid vacation clause and a group sick and death benefit plan was obtained, according to the International Union Vice President A. R. Carson, who assisted the local union in its negotiations.

NEW RADIO SERIES

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor, began on March 27, four weekly radio forums on the "America United" series over the NBC network on important topics of interest to every American worker.

The subjects to be discussed each Sunday include: "Should Congress Adopt an Effective Housing Program?"; "Is Another Depression Imminent?"; "How Can Our Social Security System Be Improved?"; and "What Should the New Labor Law Provide?"

Make a date to listen to these interesting programs each week. They originate from Washington each Sunday at 1 p. m. on the NBC network. Please be certain to consult your local newspaper for the exact time of broadcast of "America United" in your community.

pay roll as chief lobbyist for General Electric, and Fred Hartley, co-author of the act, has become president of the National Tool Owners Union, which Governor Dewey's State Board of Standards and Appeals branded a year ago as being fascist and a "danger to our way of life."

ELECTION WON

Cincinnati, Ohio—OEIU Local 227 won a victory in its initial unionization effort in Greater Cincinnati. An election under direction of the National Labor Relations Board for employes of Co-operative Mills, Inc., Reading, resulted in a majority in favor of the union as their representative for collective bargaining.

Local 227 was organized a year ago and is headed by Wilbur T. Owen. Organization work here is being supervised by R. M. Daugherty, international vice president.

Hospital Service Workers Organize

Newark, N. J.—The office and clerical employes of the Hospital Service Plan of New Jersey are rapidly signing up in OEIU Local 32 and it is anticipated that the local union will soon have a substantial majority representation among this group of approximately 400 office workers. The organizing drive is being handled by local Business Representative Nicholas Juliano and OEIU Representative George P. Firth.

Agreement Signed At Modern Coach

Albany, Ga.—An agreement has been reached by recently chartered OEIU Local 234 and the Modern Coach Corp., covering the office employes of that firm. The agreement established wage rates giving credit for length of service with the company which reflect a wage increase of slightly over 20 per cent, according to J. O. Bloodworth, Jr., OEIU vice president who assisted the local union in its negotiations.

Phony Union Now Headed by Hartley

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green exposed the National Tool Owners Union, of which former Representative Fred A. Hartley, Jr., co-author of the Taft-Hartley Act, has become president, as a phony organization which was denied the right to use the word "union" in its title by a New York court and denounced as "Fascistic" by an official agency of New York state's government.

The text of Mr. Green's public statement follows:

"Announcement that former Representative Fred A. Hartley, Jr., of New Jersey, co-author of the Taft-Hartley Act, has accepted the presidency of the National Tool Owners Union, should come as no surprise to the American people.

"On February 27, 1947, the Board of Standards and Appeals of the New York State Department of Labor rejected an application from the National Tool Owners Union for a certificate of incorporation and in so doing stated:

"No more Fascistic organization with all the potentialities for undemocratic action and danger to our way of life has yet come before the official attention of this board."

"The action of the State Board of Standards and Appeals was upheld on December 18, 1947, by the New York State Supreme Court which ruled that it would be 'contrary to public policy' to permit this organization to use the word 'union' in its title because 'it was not a labor union.'

"Mr. Hartley has announced that he intends to open offices in Washington and to register as a lobbyist for the National Tool Owners Union. We believe his experience and his record have well qualified him for this job."

Canadian Workers Call Hike in Pay Essential

Toronto, Can.—Canadian wage-earners are campaigning vigorously for pay increases this year in order to combat the severe reduction in the value of the worker's wage dollar which has taken place in recent years.

Soaring living costs are creating dissatisfaction and unrest, the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress declares. It is "urgently necessary," the Congress adds, to secure substantial wage increases during 1949 "in all industries and trades."

Canadian workers are not sharing equitably in the vast production improvements made during the past decade, the CTLC charges.

While labor in Canada, in seeking higher wages, has to appear before government boards and plead for just treatment, a brief prepared by the CTLC points out that industry is "practically uncontrolled" and increases prices "arbitrarily."

SUPPORT RED CROSS

Washington — Once again the American Federation of Labor and its millions of members are giving their support to the annual campaign for funds conducted by the American Red Cross.