



WHITE COLLAR

Office and Professional Employees International Union, AFL-CIO and CLC

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Mondale-Ferraro



“We’re fighting for America’s future. And that’s why we’re going to win...”

—Walter Mondale

After rousing the delegates with speeches on family, compassion and fairness (see page 4), Walter Mondale and Geraldine Ferraro left the Democratic Convention eager to campaign and fight to return the Presidency, Vice Presidency and the Government back to the American people.

Vowing to see that all of America’s people are represented, and not just the wealthy, both candidates hit the campaign trail. Despite attempts by the opposition to divert attention from the major issues—unemployment, union-busting attempts by the right, the gutting of major social programs, the attempted taxation of fringe benefits by the current administration, the non-existent foreign policy that threatens peace and stability—Mondale and Ferraro have gained additional support through their firm stand on the issues.

Labor, too, has taken a firm stand—to fight for the rights of union members and all American working people. We will be voting for our future on November 6.

(See additional election news throughout this issue.)

“we’re going to make the rules of American life work fairly for all Americans again...”

—Geraldine Ferraro

NW Mutual members win new settlement

Members at Northwest Mutual Life Insurance will receive up to 12 percent in wage increases, reports Local 35 Representative Judy Burnick. The Milwaukee, Wisconsin local union recently ratified its new contract, which in addition to the 12 percent could include additional monies due to cost-of-living provisions, Burnick added.

She said that many other gains were made, including a new savings plan, to take effect January 1, 1985. “This plan will be offered to all permanent full-time and permanent part-time employees, who may save up to 10 percent of gross income before taxes. This

(Continued on page 7)

Presidential Candidate Walter Mondale introduces his running mate Congresswoman Geraldine Ferraro.



Vice Presidential Candidate Ferraro and Presidential Candidate Walter Mondale (from the left) lead New York City’s Labor Day Parade. With them are New York’s Governor Mario Cuomo and AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland.

OPEIU wishes all of our Canadian members a Happy Thanksgiving!

NOV. 6... THE ISSUE IS THE FUTURE

On November 6, Americans will choose between two candidates for President . . . and between two programs and two policies. Above all . . . we will choose between two visions of the future. At stake within this encompassing issue of the future of this nation and its people are many issues of particular concern to working people and their families. The record of Ronald Reagan and the program of Walter Mondale on these issues follow.

Jobs

MONDALE—Urges full employment policies with teeth in them to encourage job-creation so all may work. To avert another recession like Reagan's would trigger special job-providing programs that sustain economic growth. Believes full employment is foundation of a strong economy.

REAGAN—More than 30 million wage-earners suffered one or more episodes of unemployment in Reagan-Republican recession 1981-83, losing \$336.1 billion in earnings. President proposed no jobs programs for those laid off and tried to stymie plans advanced by others.

Aiding the Jobless

MONDALE—Demands jobless benefits adequate in amount and duration to protect those laid off and their families. Would retain special help for workers displaced by imports. Supports providing continued health coverage for idled workers.

REAGAN—Proposed reductions in jobless comp (blocked by Congress) despite deep, long recession. Tried to cut off special aid to workers displaced by imports. Opposed effort to continue health insurance for laid-off workers (10.7 million lost health coverage in families of idled workers).

Trade

MONDALE—Supports "content" law. Vows strict import limit unless U.S. trading partners lower barriers to products made here. Will not tolerate "dumping" of foreign-made goods on U.S. markets. Insists on fair trade that benefits our workers and industries as well as countries we trade with.

REAGAN—Talks "free trade" in a world where it doesn't exist. Opposes "content" plan to require certain portion of U.S.-made parts in products sold here, save American jobs. Permits almost unrestricted flood of foreign goods that continue to wipe out millions of U.S. jobs.

Reviving Basic Industry

MONDALE—Proposes business/labor/government consultation to aid basic industries through hard times largely caused by unfair foreign competition. Would okay loans if absolutely needed to safeguard industries essential to employment and national defense.

REAGAN—Opposes any special effort—offers no plan—to help basic U.S. industries, regardless of consequences to millions of U.S. workers and the economy itself. (Opposed Chrysler loan which saved hundreds of thousands of jobs and was repaid within a few years.)

Job Safety/Health

MONDALE—Sponsor of original job safety/health law when in Senate. Urges increased coverage, more effective enforcement. Demands clear identification of, protection against, hazardous substances in the workplace, swift clean-up of toxic waste dumps.

REAGAN—Has undercut OSHA: Fewer inspections; fewer protections for workers; delays in setting standards for worker exposure to hazardous substances; inadequate standards when finally set. Has made no real headway in toxic waste clean-up.

Unions

MONDALE—Opposed extreme action by Reagan against PATCO. Vows to appoint fair-minded, even-handed persons to NLRB, who'll judge cases on merit, provide decisions more speedily to clear away case backlog.

REAGAN—Broke air traffic controllers union, threw 11,000 out of work. (Present controllers lodge same complaints PATCO struck over, move toward unionizing.) Stacks NLRB with management representatives who leave union complaints in mothballs or consistently find against unions.

Taxes/Deficit

MONDALE—Proposes cap on tax benefits Reagan heaped on wealthy, plus repeal of Reagan giveaways to Big Oil, other corporations that let nearly 100 profitable firms *escape taxation entirely*. (These steps would greatly reduce deficit.) Would close loopholes and tax shelters to oblige rich persons, corporations to bear fair share of tax load, take big bite out of huge deficits.

REAGAN—Engineered history's biggest tax bonanza for rich persons, big corporations—major reason for Reagan's \$200 billion deficits which starve programs for workers, the needy. Under Reagan tax cuts, rich reap huge gains, average citizens at best hold their own. Would tax worker health insurance. If re-elected, expected to propose national sales tax, which hits average American hardest.

Education/Youth

MONDALE—Urges \$10 billion infusion of new funds to upgrade public schools, increase teacher pay. Promises to protect, expand college loan program for children of workers and the needy, so every qualified student will have chance at higher education. Opposes youth subminimum wage.

REAGAN—Slashed aid to public schools; cut college loan programs, depriving more than 700,000 low/moderate income students of needed funding to help complete education. Repeatedly proposed subminimum wage for youth.

Equal Rights

MONDALE—Would throw out Reagan appointees to Civil Rights Commission, provide strong enforcement of Voting Rights Act, other minorities protections. Supports ERA, full rights for women, minorities.

REAGAN—Weakened U.S. Civil Rights Commission. Fought extension of Voting Rights Act, fostered lax enforcement. Opposes ERA, gutted programs that aid minorities.

Social Security

MONDALE—Would uphold basic concept of Social Security, its protections and benefits. If necessary, would draw from general Treasury funds to sustain benefit levels for retirees.

REAGAN—A loose cannon on the deck. Erupts regularly on Social Security with comments that suggest he'd revamp program to cut protections, retiree benefits. (Example: "Social Security ought to be voluntary.")

Health

MONDALE—Would put lid on hospital and doctor charges (fastest rising costs of all), strengthen Medicare, Medicaid to provide more protection at less cost and safeguard funding for both programs.

REAGAN—Has no effective program to control runaway medical costs. Cut Medicare, Medicaid, seeks further cuts in these basic health programs, yet jeopardizes funding through failure to promote adequate controls.

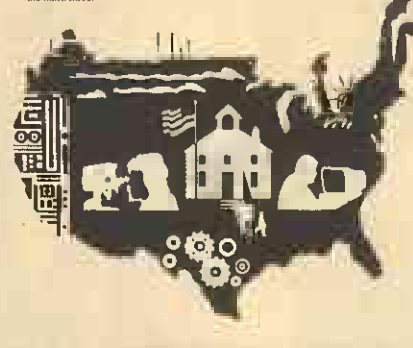
Fairness

MONDALE—Will restore Reagan cuts in programs for the needy, resume fight to eradicate poverty that's been abandoned under Reagan. (Number of persons living in poverty increased by 6 million during Reagan era, reached highest levels in 20 years.)

REAGAN—Deprives a million persons of all food stamps, 4 million of some. Cuts 1.1 million school children out of school lunches, 900,000 off school breakfasts. Slashes \$110.2 billion from wide range of people-serving programs.

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WHITE COLLAR

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INTERNATIONAL UNION
affiliated with the AFL-CIO, CLC

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Allergies and How They Work

by Phillip L. Polakoff, M.D.

From birth, we inhale, swallow and touch things that are completely foreign to our bodies. In defense, our bodies normally respond by producing specific antibodies that destroy or neutralize the invaders.

In some people, however, the mechanism backfires. Instead of subduing the invaders, the antibodies turn and fight the body they are supposed to protect. In protest, the body reacts with a variety of signals that may include sneezing, itching, headaches, abdominal pain, rashes and so on.

Such reactions have been observed since ancient times, but only in this century have we had a name for them. In 1906, an Austrian pediatrician, Dr. Clemens von Pirquet, combined two Greek words that could be roughly translated as "altered response." The word was "allergy."

So, if you have an allergy, or are allergic to something, it means that your body's defense mechanism is responding in an altered way to some disagreeable substance.

These substances that cause allergic reactions are known as allergens or antigens. Here are a few of them, out of a supply that seems limitless, grouped according to how they enter the body:

—Inhalants. Pollens from plants, grasses, trees; dusts in the workplace or at home; mold spores, fungi, feathers, dog and cat dander and hair, tobacco.

—Ingestants. Eggs, chicken, chocolate, nuts, shellfish, pork, milk, strawberries, aspirin, antibiotics.

—Contactants. Cosmetics, dyes, poison ivy, nylon, wool, certain metals, such as nickel.

—Injectants. Penicillin, stings by bees and wasps.

Each of these allergens, and all the others, give rise to specific allergic antibodies that are roused by that substance alone. In this, they are similar to disease-causing germs for which specific antibodies are produced. But the similarity ends there. The "good" antibodies often go on to provide immunity from future attacks by the same invaders. The allergic antibodies provide no such protection.

What happens when allergic antibodies tangle with allergens? Pollen is a good example because it triggers the most common allergic reaction in this country—hay fever.

The reaction of the allergic antibody to the invading allergen (pollen) leads to the release of certain chemicals from the body's cells—in this case histamine. Histamine is found in the cells of the connective tissues, especially beneath the mucous membranes and skin. When released, it can cause swelling of the mucous membranes in the nose and itching of the eyes—symptoms of hay fever.

Bradykinin is another body chemical compound that can be released by the interaction of pollen and allergic antibodies. But bradykinin zeroes in on another area of tissue; consequently the symptoms it can produce are different. It can cause smooth muscles, like those in the walls of the small tubes in the lungs, to tighten up, contract. And that's what happens in asthma.

Allergic reactions do not spring full blown from the first encounter with an offending allergen. Antibodies are formed, but clear symptoms of a developing allergy are not likely at first. However, once the individual has become "sensitized" to a particular allergen and symptoms have appeared, he or she will nearly always experience the same response.

Sensitization to a particular allergen, once it has taken place, can last for many years. Someone who has once reacted to a certain pollen, such as ragweed, may move to a ragweed-free community and live there for years and still get hay fever if they are exposed again.

An allergy is not the same thing as an "intolerance" to certain things. The first is a hypersensitive response to a substance; the second, generally, to too much of something.

Betty's allergic rash from eating chocolate is different from Patty's nausea because she couldn't tolerate eating a pound at one sitting.

If you have any questions, or suggestions for future article, write to the OPEIU Research Dept., 265 West 14th St., New York, NY 10011.



Washington Window

News Item: 70% of Jobless Get No Benefits

The Labor Dept's encouraging news that the nation's unemployment rate dropped to 7.1 percent in June was accompanied by discouraging news for the millions of Americans who remain out of work.

Of the 8.6 million jobless people who are supposed to be covered by the unemployment insurance (UI) program, only 2.5 million are receiving UI benefits—fewer than 30 percent. More than 6 million unemployed workers aren't getting UI benefits.

This is the lowest percentage of unemployed receiving benefits in the nearly 50-year history of the federal-state UI system, noted the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities in a recent analysis based on Labor Dept. statistics. The unemployment compensation system was established during the Roosevelt New Deal under the Social Security Act of 1935 as a first line of defense for workers who lose their jobs through no fault of their own. The idea was to provide minimum family living standards and also help the economy by maintaining consumer buying power.

While the nation's unemployment rate has declined sharply from the postwar records set by the Reagan Recession, today there are more unemployed workers without UI benefits than during the worst of the recession. In November 1982, 5.9 million jobless workers received no UI compensation. In June 1984, 6.1 million of the unemployed received no benefits.

By contrast, during the 1974-75 recession, two out of three jobless workers got UI benefits. Those who did not were mainly those newly entering the labor force or those reentering it after a long period.

Why have so many victims of economic forces beyond their control become victimized once again by the loss of unemployment compensation, with the hardship and suffering which results?

The answer lies mostly with the budget cuts pressed by the newly elected Reagan Administration and passed by Congress in 1981.

Just before the economy began sinking into its deepest and longest recession since World War II, UI benefits were cut in duration and new eligibility restrictions were imposed. Specifically, the unemployment rate "trigger" for nationwide UI extended benefits was eliminated and the formula for triggering these benefits within a state was radically altered.

An example of the unfairness and irrationality of the new formula is West Virginia, whose extended benefit program triggered "off" in April despite a state jobless rate approaching 16 per-

cent. Currently only two states, Idaho and Alaska, provide extended benefits.

Thus for most workers who have exhausted their basic 26 weeks of benefits, there is only the Federal Supplemental Compensation (PSC) program, enacted in September 1982. But that nationwide federal program today provides a few extra weeks of benefits for only about 400,000 jobless workers.

To make matters worse, many states imposed new UI eligibility rules and cut back benefits as their recession-battered UI trust funds sank into the red and had to borrow from the federal Treasury at high interest rates.

Because of cutbacks and inflation, there has been a 35 percent erosion in buying power of UI payments to long-term jobless workers over the past 10 years. The average weekly UI payment in 1983 was \$120 a week—only 40 percent of average wages in industries covered by the UI system.

While the overall June unemployment rate is the lowest since April 1980, the picture is considerably gloomier for the long-term jobless than it was four years ago.

In June, the number of long-term unemployed—those out of work for six months or more—held steady at 1.6 million. This is an increase of nearly 1 million over April 1980.

Today, the average length of time for which a worker is unemployed is 18.6 weeks, nearly two months longer than in April 1980.

Also, the number of workers too discouraged about the job market to look for work, and not counted in the official jobless rate, has held at about 1.3 million since the beginning of the year. The number of discouraged workers has increased by 340,000 since April 1980.

Organized labor long has urged Congress to enact a permanent program of federal supplemental benefits with a maximum duration of 65 weeks. It has said that state triggers either should be eliminated or that total unemployment rather than insured unemployment should be used as the trigger.

Labor also has suggested a system of federal UI reinsurance to help state UI trust funds meet extraordinary costs of high unemployment.

Finally labor has called for federal minimum benefit standards. Meanwhile, it has urged states to remove harsh eligibility provisions and to restore, if not increase, weekly benefit amounts and benefit duration periods.

Many of those without benefits have been twice victimized—first by the Reagan Recession and then by the Reagan cutbacks. They need help.

Speeches highlight convention

Walter Mondale

Fighting for America's future



We come to you with a new realism: ready for the future, and recapturing the best in our tradition.

We know that America must have a strong defense and a sober view of the Soviets.

We know that government must be as well-managed as it is well-meaning.

We know that a healthy, growing private economy is the key to the future.

We know that Harry Truman spoke the truth when he said: A President . . . has to be able to say "yes" and "no," but mostly "no."

Look at our platform. There are no defense cuts that weaken our security, no business taxes that weaken our economy, no laundry lists that raid our Treasury.

We are wiser, stronger, and we are focused on the future. If Mr. Reagan wants to rerun the 1980 campaign line: fine. Let them fight over the past. We're fighting for the American future—and that's why we're going to win this campaign.

One last word—one last word to those of you who voted for Mr. Reagan.

I know what you were saying. But I also know what you were NOT saying.

You did not vote for \$200 million deficits.

You did not vote for an arms race.

You did not vote to turn the heavens into a battleground.

You did not vote to savage Social Security and Medicare.

You did not vote to destroy family farming.

You did not vote to trash the civil rights laws.

You did not vote to poison the environment.

You did not vote to assault the poor, the sick and the disabled.

And you did not vote to pay 50 bucks for a 50-cent lightbulb.

Four years ago, many of you voted for Mr. Reagan because he promised that you'd be better off. And today, the rich are better off. But working Americans are worse off, and the middle class is standing on a trap door.

Lincoln once said that ours is to be a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. But what we have today is a government of the rich, by the rich, and for the rich, and we're going to make a change in November.

Geraldine Ferraro

Reclaiming the dream



It isn't right that if trends continue, by the year 2000 nearly all the poor people in America will be women and children. The rules—the rules of a decent society say: when you distribute sacrifice in times of austerity, you don't put women and children first.

It isn't right that young people today fear they won't get the Social Security they paid for, and that older Americans fear they will lose what they have already earned. Social Security is a contract between the last generation and the next, and the rules say: you don't break contracts. We are going to keep faith with older Americans . . .

It isn't right that young couples question whether to bring children into a world of 50,000 nuclear warheads.

Mario Cuomo

Democrats as family

We Democrats must unite so that the entire nation can. Surely the Republicans won't bring the convention together. Their policies divide the nation—into the lucky and the leftout, the royalty and the rabble.

The Republicans are willing to treat that division as victory. They would cut this nation in half, into those temporarily better off and those worse off than before, and call it recovery.

We should not be embarrassed or dismayed if the process of unifying is difficult, even at times wrenching.

Unlike any other party, we embrace men and women of every color, every creed, every orientation, every economic class. In our family are gathered everyone from the abject poor of Essex County in New York, to the enlightened affluent of the gold coast of both ends of our nation. And in between is the heart of our constituency. The middle class, the people not rich enough to be worry-free but not poor enough to be on welfare, those who work for a living because they have to. White collar, and blue collar. Young professionals. Men and women in small business desperate for the capital and contracts they need to prove their worth.

That isn't the vision for which Americans have struggled for more than two centuries. And our future doesn't have to be that way. Change is in the air, just as surely as when John Kennedy beckoned America to a New Frontier; when Sally Ride rocketed into space; and when Reverend Jesse Jackson ran for the office of President of the United States.

By choosing a woman to run for our nation's second highest office, you send a powerful signal to all Americans. There are no doors we cannot unlock. We will place no limit on achievement.

If we can do this, we can do anything.

Tonight, we reclaim our dream. We're going to make rules of American life work fairly for all Americans again.

We speak for the minorities who have not yet entered the mainstream.

For ethnics who want to add their culture to the mosaic that is America.

For women indignant that we refuse to etch into our government commandments the simple rule "thou shalt not sin against equality," a commandment so obvious it can be spelled in three letters: e.r.a.!

For young people demanding an education and a future.

For senior citizens terrorized by the idea that their only security, their Social Security, is being threatened.

For millions of reasoning people fighting to preserve our environment from greed and stupidity. And fighting to preserve our very existence from a macho intransigence that refuses to make intelligent attempts to discuss the possibility of nuclear holocaust with our enemy. Refusing because they believe we can pile missiles so high they will pierce the clouds and the sight of them will frighten our enemies into submission.

Americans want to live by the same set of rules. But under this Administration, the rules are rigged against too many of our people.

It isn't right that every year, the share of taxes paid by individual citizens is going up, while the share paid by large corporations is getting smaller and smaller. The rules say: everyone in our society should contribute their fair share.

It isn't right that this year Ronald Reagan will hand the American people a bill for interest on the national debt larger than the entire cost of the Federal Government under John F. Kennedy.

Our parents left us a growing economy. The rules say: we must not leave our kids a mountain of debt.

It isn't right that a woman should get paid 59 cents on the dollar for the same work as a man. If you play by the rules, you deserve a fair day's pay for a fair day's work.

OPEIU delegates laud Mondale/Ferraro

A record number of OPEIU members have gotten actively involved in politics. And, a record number attended the Democratic National Convention as Mondale delegates.

Rank-and-file members and officers across the country have participated actively in local, state and national politics. This year more than ever we have recognized the necessity of political action and the need to elect compassionate candidates, like Walter Mondale and Geraldine Ferraro, to public office.

A few of the many OPEIU delegates and alternates responded to a request for their impressions of the convention, the candidates and the need for political involvement. Their voices tell it best.

Terri Brigman **Local 277** **Fort Worth, Texas**



The Democratic National Convention was the most exciting experience of my life . . .

Words cannot express my true feelings of how much I enjoyed the convention. My feeling of being a part of history in the making is exhilarating. This convention will have a paragraph in history for nomination of the first woman for the second highest office in the nation, perhaps in the world—and I participated in its making.

First-hand experience of attending the convention presented an opportunity to become involved in the democratic process. As a member of the younger generation I appreciate the learning experience of being involved with the union and politics.

Watching the convention on television does not do justice to the people and the process. For me it was a dream come true. From a very young age I fantasized about growing up and attending a national convention.

If the convention had a drawback it was the need for more hours in the day to participate in everything and meet everyone. My schedule was filled completely, and I had to make choices as to the events and activities that I would attend.

Thanks to the union and others for giving me the opportunity of participating and having a vote in the democratic process. I stand ready for the November election.

Georgia Phillips **Local 1** **Indianapolis, Ind.**

The Democratic National Convention would take many words to describe—spectacular, exciting, emotional, excellent speakers, hospitality, security, reporters, Warren Beatty—we had it all.

I heard and saw many dignitaries you only dream of meeting in person. The Mondale, Ferraro, Cuomo and Jackson speeches were so stirring; emotion ran high among the delegates. As I listened to the different speakers, it was apparent the Democrats addressed the problems of the real world. I believe the platform adopted by the convention is important to all people and will put America back on the right track. I am filled with enthusiasm and intend to work to my best ability to see that "Fritz & Gerry" are elected in the fall. Vice President Mondale's selection of Geraldine Ferraro, a qualified woman, for his running mate made history of which I was so proud to be a part . . .

I feel my participation is important because the grassroots workers are the ones who get out the vote and make the system work. It was doubly rewarding for me being a delegate from Indiana as we have an important Governor's race, and Lt. Governor-elect Ann Delaney—another first—was with the Indiana delegation . . . I feel I know her better and this will make campaigning for the Mondale-Ferraro and Townsend-Delaney teams much more interesting.

I am very involved in the political process on my job, in my local, and in my own county, and feel attending the convention as a labor delegate was the icing on the cake.

I left the convention hall Thursday night with a great feeling of unity and believe the Hart, Jackson and Mondale supporters left San Francisco pledged to work together and win in November.

Connie J. Meske **Local 11** **Portland, Oregon**



This was my first National Convention, and it was the most memorable, exciting, grueling, totally exhausting experience to-date in my life.

I am very appreciative of the opportunity I had in attending this convention. This year the issues were ours, more than ever before—labor needed to be heard. The labor delegates felt and displayed a strong commitment toward our mutual goals . . .

In OPEIU we have always realized the importance of political participation, and it felt good to have my International support me to help achieve the nomination of Walter Mondale.

Early last fall I researched the voting records and positions of both Vice President Mondale and Senator Gary Hart, as well as the position of the Reverend Jesse Jackson campaign. Through that process I developed a strong commitment to Walter Mondale. The decision to pick Geraldine Ferraro as the Vice Presidential candidate, not because of pressure from outside groups, but because she was the most qualified and would add balance to the ticket, will be written about in history.

Politics changed at this convention. A major political party broke the racial barrier and the sexual barrier, and I was a participant. No longer will the only contenders for the major political offices in the land be middle-aged white males.

This country has changed and will now grow in new areas. And, organized labor was a major force in this change. I hope we will continue to be front-row participants. We have every right in the world, as working people, to help shape a political party which will represent our views and protect our lives.

Chris Zazzaro **Local 494** **Rocky Hill, Conn.**



Being able to participate in the Democratic National Convention is an experience everyone should have once. To be directly involved in the decision making that sets the platform the party will work on for the next four years is exciting.

You can always be assured the speeches and speakers will represent the best the Democrats have to offer. To hear our candidates first hand and to feel the excitement in the room is a feeling beyond words. I have to admit I was proud to be there, proud to be a delegate from labor, proud to be a Democrat and proudest of all to be an American . . .

For all those cynics who thought the flag waving was a put on: it was not. If you spoke to anyone in the hall, they all felt as I did: proud of our party and proud of our country. It truly was a time of Solidarity and all the delegates showed it.

I feel that by having been a participant in this convention I will be one of the Democrats in my area in the forefront willing to work to bring the White House back to where it should be—with the Democrats. I already have the spirit and enthusiasm necessary to excite others to work for a Mondale-Ferraro victory.

There is a lot of work to be done, but it can be accomplished. Democrats proved their desire for change by the unprecedented move of nominating Geraldine Ferraro. Democrats can win. We must win to preserve the rights we feel are so important. We must not let the Republicans appoint five Supreme Court justices to rule our country. The Democrats must work together now. We must get out the vote now.

To quote the Rev. Jesse Jackson: "Our time has come."

Duley Russell **Local 1** **Indianapolis, Ind.**

Being a delegate to the Democratic National Convention was an experience unlike any other. I felt honored to be part of the delegation that nominated Walter Mondale and Geraldine Ferraro. I was proud

(Continued on page 8)

International & local union

Canadian members attend Labour Congress convention



Pictured here are OPEIU delegates from across Canada to the Canadian Labour Congress Convention. That Convention took place the week of May 28, 1984, in Montreal, Quebec.

Approximately 2,000 members of 85 trade unions from all over Canada attended the 15th Canadian Labour Congress convention in Montreal, May 28 to June 1, 1984.

"The most far-reaching issue debated was a proposal for a coordinated bargaining and political program centered on shorter working time with no loss of pay as a means of combatting unemployment," said OTEU Local 378 President Anne Harvey, a delegate to that convention.

The convention approved two major constitutional changes concerning representation on the Executive Council. The first was to increase the number of public sector union representatives, and the second created six new positions reserved exclusively for women.

A motion proposed by the CLC Health and Safety

Committee pledged the CLC to push governments to eliminate exposure to carcinogens (cancer-causing substances) from the workplace. Another resolution called for farmworkers to be covered by safety legislation.

A CLC Economic Policy Committee report suggested a ban on overtime as one method of preserving jobs in companies facing layoffs. The report also called for a major educational program to convince Canadians of the importance of reduced work time with no loss in pay to their social and economic future.

Finally, there was a major policy paper presented on peace, security, and disarmament.

(Reprinted from OTEU Local 378's publication *Article 378*)

Local 19 contributes to political candidate



Local 19 in Toledo, Ohio, knows the importance of being politically active, knows the importance to their members and to the local union. As a result they have frequently been contributors to the union's political action fund—VOTE.

Pictured here are President Don Mohamed (left) and Secretary-Treasurer Jim LaPlante as they present a VOTE check to Marcy Kaptur, a candidate to political office.

Mohamed said: "Our new VOTE committee is laboring hard to make our entire membership aware of the great need to financially support candidates who are sympathetic toward the needs of labor. We have found it to be a tedious process. Yet, it is worth every effort, for we truly believe in it. And, our labors are being rewarded as we slowly, but continuously, find members willing to support this undertaking."

He reported that the VOTE committee was composed of Chairperson Jim LaPlante, Jim Quilter and Paul Meader.

On another front, Mohamed reported a new two-year contract with Toledo Edison had been ratified by the Local 19 members.

Local 277 beats Reaganomics

Reaganomics was not in effect in Waco, Texas negotiations with the American Income Life Insurance Company. A new three-year contract reminiscent of better times has just been negotiated there by Local 277.

Local 277's President J. B. Moss hailed this new agreement as "the best settlement obtained by the local with any employer since Ronald Reagan took office."

This bargaining unit was first organized in 1965 and covers approximately 200 clerical employees in the Waco home office. An additional one thousand salesforce is also under contract to Local 277.

Terms of the new contract are as follows:

1. Effective dates: 3 years—September 1, 1984 to September 1, 1987;
2. Wage increases of 12 percent the first year; 8 percent the second and approximately 6 percent the third;
3. Improved cost-of-living adjustment and benefits payable to part-time employees;
4. Christmas bonus for all employees of \$100;
5. Improved bereavement leave with step-mother, step-father and great grandparents added;
6. Sick leave accumulation to 100 days;
7. Vacation and sick leave may be taken in one-minute increments;
8. Life insurance increased to twice employees' annual salary;
9. Pension benefits increased to \$15 per month per year for both past and future service;
10. Overtime pay improvements; double time for all hours over 7½ on Saturday;
11. Shift bonus increased to \$.25 for second shift and \$.40 for third shift;
12. Bonus days off with pay for perfect attendance, 3 times a year;
13. Additional jobs added to the bargaining unit;
14. Improved job posting procedures and extended trial period to allow members to qualify on new jobs;

15. Protection against automation and technological changes (there has never been a lay-off of an OPEIU member in the history of this bargaining unit);

16. 37½-hour work week;

17. Three weeks vacation after five years; and

18. VOTE—voluntary political check off.

This contract was negotiated by President J. B. Moss, Business Representative Don Wright and the AILIC Stewards: Rex Anderson, Yvonne Faust, Phyllis Jackson, Edd Mayes, Donna Owens, Deborah Pearson and Judy Welch.



Signing the new agreement between OPEIU Local 277 and American Income Life Insurance Company are (seated) Local 277 President J. B. Moss and Company Chairman Bernard Rappaport. Standing (left-to-right) are 277 Members Yvonne Faust, Rex Ann Anderson, Debbie Pearson, Donna Owens, Judy Welch, Edd Mayes, Mary Schronk, Joyce Lillard, Beverly Ramsey, Business Representative Don Wright, and Phyllis Jackson.

activities - Canada & U.S.

Canadian member chairs NBFL's Women's Committee



OPEIU member Kathryn-Ann Leger serves as chairperson of the New Brunswick Federation of Labour's Women's Committee. She is pictured here at the New Brunswick Federation's Convention with CLC Executive Vice President Richard Mercier (left) and Greg Lund of the Fredericton Anti-Poverty Association. The theme of the convention this year was "Jobs, the Economy and the Unemployed."

Local 139 elects new officers



Pictured above are newly elected officers of Local 139 in Las Mesa, California. In the back row, from left to right, they are E. Maxine Dowell, trustee; Pen-nie Padgett, trustee; Marie Daley, trustee; Mary Lou Steiner, executive board member; Diane Daley, executive board member; and Adele Poynar, installing officer (retired). In the front row, left-to-right, are Sgt.-at-arms Maritza Gonzales; Recording Secretary Betty Svare; Secretary-Treasurer/Business Representative Helen Wallace; Vice President Suzanne Raby and President Juanita Whetstone.

NW Mutual

(Continued from page 1)

allows participants to reduce taxable income and save money at the same time. For the first five percent an employee saves, the company will contribute 25¢ on the dollar. And, employees can choose to invest their money in any of four investment accounts, Burnick said.

Overtime pay on holidays will increase from time and one-half to double time. The union made additional gains on job posting and grievance language as well.

"Local 35 is proud of its members, its hardworking negotiations committee and this new contract," she concluded.

OPEIU Local 367 on display

White-collar union members were represented and white-collar skills were demonstrated by OPEIU Local 367 members at the 39th AFL-CIO Union Industries Show. The annual show was held in Memphis, Tennessee, May 11 to 16, 1984.

Thousands of visitors attend the show each year to see union members exhibit their products and skills. OPEIU is represented each year by local unions who are able to publicize their gains and frequently to contact prospective members.



Pictured from left-to-right are Local 367 Vice President Linda Waldrup, Executive Board Member Fay Carter, Past President Hazel Jones, President Sue Morris, and Recording Secretary/Chairperson of Union Industries Show Connie Jackson.

OPEIU seeks bargaining rights in Michigan

International Representative Jack Finn on August 1, attended the Michigan Governor's Day luncheon at Ionia High School, representing OPEIU Local 512. Local 512—the only AFL-CIO affiliated union representing supervisory state employees—numbers among its members nearly 100 corrections employees at the three Ionia prison facilities (Riverside, Michigan Reformatory and Michigan Training Unit).

As Finn noted: "As the only AFL-CIO union for state supervisors, OPEIU sees the need (as do our members) for collective bargaining rights. As a result, we will be seeking the support of the Blanchard Administration as well as the Michigan Civil Service Commission. OPEIU felt it was important to represent our Ionia members at the functions today."

Local 512 represents hundreds of state employees, while its sister Local (522) represents some 250 state police command officers.

OPEIU mourns 'Sis' Hare

Ruth Hare "Sis" England, a charter member of OPEIU Local 18 of Birmingham, Alabama, died this summer at the age of 71. Hare worked for the Alabama State Federation of Labor for 25 years. She was a member of the federal labor union which was to become Local 18, even before the International Union was formed, nearly 40 years ago.

Survivors include her husband Henry E. England; a daughter, Mrs. Nancy Ruth E. Rutrell; and two brothers, W. O. Hare, Jr., and Jack Hood Hare. The family suggests that memorials be made to the organ fund at St. Paul's Cathedral in Birmingham.

Local 204 makes wage gains

Wages will rise \$103 to \$166 per month for workers at the Ingalls Shipbuilding plant in Pascagoula, Mississippi, thanks to a newly won Local 204 contract, reports Local Business Agent Jerry Layton. Job classification, he says, will determine the amount of the increase, which will be implemented over the contract life.

Lawler also said that cost-of-living improvements, as well as gains in life and hospital insurance, were made in these negotiations.

The OPEIU Local 204 negotiating committee at the Ingalls plant were Evelyn Aricer, Myrtle Bounds, E. C. Durdin, B. A. England, D. T. Hill, G. R. Jacobs, J. D. Layton, D. J. Lowe, E. V. McEacharn, O. P. Murray and R. Shannon. They were assisted by International Representative Jack Langford.



Pictured here is the OPEIU Local 204 negotiations committee in Pascagoula Mississippi. They were responsible for the successful new agreement at Litton's Ingalls Shipbuilding Division.

Delegates laud candidates

(Continued from page 5)

to be involved in what will surely be a historic event.

It was historic for having nominated the first woman for the office of Vice President of the United States and, of course, for nominating Walter Mondale—a candidate representing the concerns of working men and women of this country, a friend to organized labor who is sensitive to its needs.

I feel now as if we are truly represented in this election campaign, and that I as a member of OPEIU played a small but important role in bringing this about.

Colette M. Travis Local 494 Dayton, Ohio

My trip to the Democratic Convention in San Francisco as an alternate delegate is one I'll never forget. Especially, since I got on the floor to vote for Geraldine Ferraro—the next Vice President of the United States—and for the party platform.

Each day I attended the Ohio Delegation Meeting and the Mondale Caucus. I served as a Mondale and labor delegate with the Ohio delegation.

It truly was a great feeling to be a part of the democratic process. I left the convention with the feeling of unity within the Democratic Party.

Grace Hampton Local 494 Inkster, Michigan



There is nothing that compares with a national convention, especially a Democratic National Convention. The excitement of the various caucuses—Women's, Labor, Hispanic, Black, Mondale, Jackson, Hart, etc. The fact you meet Democrats from all over the U.S. and you find their hopes, fears and aims are the same as yours. Meeting and seeing the top Democrats close up is also exciting.

I thought all the speeches were fantastic, starting with Governor Cuomo's electrifying keynote address. For example, when he talked about President Reagan asking to be judged on whether or not he has fulfilled promises he made in 1980, such as inflation being down. Yes, it is down, however, at the expense of the worst recession since 1932. We've had massive unemployment, more hungry, more poor, more homeless since the Great Depression.

I was extremely moved and impressed by the Reverend Jesse Jackson with his words on the key to a Democratic victory in 1984 being the enfranchisement

of the progressive wing of the Democratic Party. People who have been devastated by Reaganomics owe it to their own self-interest to get out and vote in record numbers to oust President Reagan.

Vice President Mondale impressed me that we Americans are wiser and stronger from our being able to survive the present administration to this point. He said, "If Mr. Reagan wants to rerun the 1980 campaign, let them fight over the past. We Democrats are fighting for the American future, and we're going to win!"

... the selection of Congresswoman Geraldine Ferraro proved further what a great individual Mondale is. She in my opinion adds to the ticket and with her we can win. Her concerns are for ordinary Americans, education programs, Social Security and the issue of extreme importance to women—pensions.

I have been fortunate to be an elected labor delegate to the past four conventions . . . I believe this was the first time Democrats really came away from a convention unified. I believe as a result that we will be the winners.

Pam Gay Local 306 Amarillo, Texas

This being my first national convention, I felt very privileged and honored to be representing the Office and Professional Employees International Union as a labor delegate.

Since the National AFL-CIO's endorsement of Walter Mondale last October, I felt compelled to work as hard as I could to support our candidate. One of my goals was to represent labor in San Francisco. Without the help of many labor leaders and an excellent and very well organized Mondale campaign in Texas, I would never have accomplished that goal.

Jim Bloodworth appointed Southeast Vice President



OPEIU International Representative James Bloodworth was elected International Vice President by the OPEIU Executive Board, following the resignation of former Vice President Charles Harris.

Bloodworth has worked for the union for over five years, serving the Southeast area primarily. In his position as Vice President, as well as International Representative he will continue to serve that region. He, in fact, recently negotiated to a successful conclusion the Tennessee Valley Authority contract.



One of the things that impressed me at the Democratic Convention were the Democrats themselves. The feeling during the convention was one of unification. It was very apparent that whether you were a Mondale, Jackson, or Hart delegate, that all delegates were Democrats for one reason: because they care about people and the future of this country.

As we all know, history was made at the 1984 Democratic Convention when Walter Mondale selected Geraldine Ferraro as the first woman vice presidential nominee. Being a part of selecting the Mondale-Ferraro ticket was definitely the highlight of the convention for me.

The day that Geraldine Ferraro was nominated for Vice President many, many of the men delegates gave up their seats to alternate women delegates, so as many women as possible could be a part of that special and historical moment. Those men should be commended for what they did.

U.S. Price Index		Canadian Index*	
U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics New Base 1967 = 100		Statistics Canada New Base 1981 = 100	
1983		1983	
January	292.1	January	114.1
February	292.3	February	114.6
March	293.0	March	115.8
April	294.9	April	115.8
May	296.3	May	116.1
June	297.2	June	117.4
July	298.2	July	117.9
August	299.5	August	118.5
September	300.8	September	118.5
October	301.3	October	119.2
November	301.4	November	119.2
December	301.5	December	119.6
1984		1984	
January	302.7	January	120.2
February	303.3	February	120.9
March	303.3	March	121.2
April	304.1	April	121.5
May	305.4	May	121.7
June	306.2	June	122.2
July	307.5	July	122.9
August	310.3	August	122.9

*Effective with the release of the January 1983 index, the official time base for the Canadian CPI has been converted from 1971 = 100 to 1981 = 100. All figures — 1981 through 1983 — have been converted to this new base, for your information.

If you move, send your old and new address, including zip code and social security or social insurance number and Local Union number to: Romeo Corheil, Sec.-Treas., 815 16th Street, N.W., Suite 606, Washington, D.C. 20006.