

# The Office Employees Letter

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## A. F. of L. Executive Council Hears Plea For Office Workers' International Charter

### Our Delegates Make Strong Argument For Autonomy

On January 14, the Executive Council of the A. F. of L., in session in Washington, D. C., heard the pleas of delegates from Office Employee locals for action in establishing an international union for office workers.

The group which appeared before the executive council shortly after 1 p. m. on January 14 included President Paul R. Hutchings and Vice President and Business Representative W. R. Proby of our local union, Business Representative Anne Stone of Seattle local 16304, Business Representative Edward Springman of Philadelphia local 18049, and President and Business Representative Lawrence Green of Pittsburgh local 20959.

President Hutchings of our local acted as principal spokesman for the group. He pointed out to the council the needs for uniting the A. F. of L. federal unions of office workers into an international union so that the banner of the A. F. of L. could be carried effectively into the offices of manufacturing plants throughout the country.

It was pointed out to the council that while as federal locals we were doing everything possible to organize workers under the A. F. of L. banner from coast to coast, we lacked any unified program and did not have any staff of regular organizers devoting full time to assisting us in our efforts.

Each of the delegates was given an opportunity to be heard by the council and each pointed out additional reasons why the establishment of an international charter for office workers would assist us in carrying on our efforts to build a strong trade union group of office workers under the A. F. of L. banner.



President Paul R. Hutchings

After all the delegates had been heard, President William Green advised the delegation that the executive council would consider the matter and that he would advise us of the action taken by the council.

### Delegates Entertained at Dinner

On the evening of January 14 our local entertained all the delegates at an informal dinner in a private dining room of the Hay-Adams House. Present in addition to the delegates from Seattle, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, were the members of the executive committee of our local union.

The arrangements for the dinner were handled by Sister Esther Smith, our treasurer. In addition to enjoying a delightful dinner, everyone enjoyed the opportunity which it provided to discuss our meeting with the executive council and to discuss questions of general interest to our respective locals.

### U. S. WOMEN'S BUREAU HOLDS CONFERENCES

On January 21 and 22 the Women's Bureau of the U. S. Labor Department held conferences to discuss the problems presented by the anticipated increase of women workers to replace men who are called into the service of the country. These conferences were held under the supervision of the Women's Bureau's Director, Miss Mary Anderson.

A. F. of L. office workers were fortunate in being represented by two highly qualified members of our local union, both of whom are employed in research capacities by the A. F. of L., Sister Margaret Scattergood and Sister Elizabeth Paschal, who were appointed by President Green to serve on these conferences.

Of particular interest to our membership was the discussion of conditions of work and training for office employees which was considered by the conference. Discussions were held on the three basic problems, namely, the need for attention to conditions of work in offices; the wages, hours and other conditions of office employment; and the problem of training for office work.

A full report of our delegates will be made at the February meeting and will be carried in the next issue of THE LETTER.

**NEXT  
REGULAR MEETING  
Tuesday, Feb. 3, 1942  
8:00 P. M.  
Chantilly Room  
HAMILTON HOTEL**

**INSIST ON THE UNION LABEL ON YOUR PURCHASES**

## THE OFFICE EMPLOYEES LETTER

Published Monthly by

OFFICE EMPLOYEES UNION No. 11773

Chartered Oct. 3, 1904, by the A. F. of L.

208 National Union Building

Washington, D. C.

W. R. Probey.....Business Representative

PAUL R. HUTCHINGS.....	President
W. R. PROBEY.....	1st Vice President
AUGUST TERNEAK.....	2nd Vice President
ERNEST H. HINKINS.....	3rd Vice President
HELEN H. ELLIS.....	Financial Secretary
IRENE BRUNGART.....	Recording Secretary
ESTHER G. SMITH.....	Treasurer

### THE OFFICE EMPLOYEES LETTER STARTS ITS SECOND YEAR

Our monthly publication is now entering its second year. Each month for the past twelve months THE LETTER has gone to each and every member of our local union and, in addition, to the secretaries of all A. F. of L. office employes local unions.

Your officers have been doing everything possible to make our publication interesting and valuable to you. You can help in this job by supplying items of interest for publication in THE LETTER. Your constructive criticisms, comments and suggestions are appreciated by the officers. THE OFFICE EMPLOYEES LETTER is your publication. We want to build it and improve it so that it may better serve you.

During the past year we have received numerous letters from other locals in connection with our publication and a number of locals who have monthly publications have been kind enough to place us on their exchange list in order that we may pick up items of interest of the accomplishments of their locals and thus keep our membership advised of the progress being made by our sister organizations throughout the country. We hope that during the coming year an increasing number of locals will supply us with items of interest for publication in THE LETTER.

Our membership should make certain that the local is supplied promptly with any change of address which may occur in order that each member may be assured of receiving THE LETTER promptly each month.

During the forthcoming year your officers pledge themselves to spend every effort in making your LETTER as interesting and valuable as possible. Your assistance in supplying items of interest is always appreciated.

### JACKPOT WILL PAY \$10 IN DEFENSE STAMPS

At the regular January meeting the membership adopted a recommendation of the executive committee placing a \$10 ceiling on the jackpot. In other words, when the jackpot reaches \$10 it will not increase beyond that amount, but will stand at \$10 until it is won, when it will start over again at \$2 and work upward towards the \$10 maximum.

The membership voted to pay the jackpot winner in the appropriate value of defense stamps rather than in cash in order to cooperate with the defense stamp sale of the Government.

The name of Brother Harold Wood was drawn for the \$8 jackpot available at the January meeting, but as Brother Wood was not present at the meeting, the jackpot now stands at \$10 worth of defense stamps. Come to the February meeting and you may be the lucky member and swell your defense stamp holdings by another \$10 worth.

### WAGE-HOUR LAW BRINGS \$200,- 000 BACK PAY TO WASH- INGTON WORKERS

In 1941 the Wage-Hour Division of the Labor Department collected more than \$200,000 in back wages for employes. These payments cover back wages legally earned, but not paid, under the minimum wage and overtime provisions of the Wage-Hour Law.

### U. S. EMPLOYMENT IN D. C. LEAPS UP

During December the Civil Service Commission recruited 1500 stenographers alone. During the next 12 months it is estimated that Civil Service will bring some 33,000 typists and 17,000 stenographers to Washington for Government employment. At present, in round numbers, there are about 67,000 typists and 33,000 stenographers employed in Washington by the Government.

### ZIONIST AGREEMENT SIGNED Zionist Agreement Signed

Business Representative Probey reports that the agreement negotiated with the Zionist Organization of America covering the more than 25 members of our local employed in its Washington office has now been signed. This agreement was negotiated last fall and will be presented to the February meeting for ratification.

### NEWS FROM OTHER LOCALS

#### Milwaukee Local Wins Brewery Strike and 15 Per Cent Increase

Milwaukee Local 16456 reports a victorious 2-day strike of office employes of the Blatz Brewery. These office workers struck on December 26 and maintained picket lines until a satisfactory settlement was reached on December 29. A general 15 per cent increase based on salaries existing as of June 30, 1941, was granted. Negotiations on classified wage scales will commence on March 1. The 8-hour day, 5-day week is established (a 5½-day week formerly had prevailed). Overtime is to be paid for at time and one-half with double time for holidays and Sundays. Also included in the settlement is a preferential shop, seniority, and paid vacations.

#### Toledo Local Wins Labor Board Election

Local 22554 at Toledo, Ohio, was recently certified by the National Labor Relations Board as the bargaining agency for the office employes in the printing department of the Electric Auto-Light Co. of that city. Certification was based on the results of an election held on December 5 in which Local 22554 received an overwhelming majority of all votes cast.

#### Middletown Local Wins Consent Election

A. F. of L. office workers continue their forward march, winning a consent election at the Russell Manufacturing Co. of Middletown, Conn. Out of a total of 125 office workers eligible to vote, 113 votes were cast and of these 91 were in favor of the union, thus establishing its exclusive bargaining rights in the office of this plant.

#### Bessemer Local in U. S. Pipe and Foundry Vote

On December 31 the Labor Board acted upon the petition filed by Local 19403 of Bessemer, Ala., and ordered that an election be held within 30 days among all office employes of the U. S. Pipe & Foundry Co. plant in that city. These workers will vote as to whether or not they desire to be represented by Local 19403.

#### D. C. FOOD PRICES UP 17%

The Labor Department's statistics disclosed during the past month that prices of all foods in Washington were 17.4 per cent higher on December 16, 1941, than they were on December 17, 1940. During the last month of this period, that is, from November 18 to December 16, food prices in Washington increased 1.8 per cent.

## HELP THE RED CROSS WAR RELIEF FUND