

THE OFFICE WORKER

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

No. 8

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7

SECURE AGREEMENT WITH DAIRY CONCERN

Norfolk, Va.—Following protracted negotiations between Local 150 of this city and the Rosedale Dairy Co., Inc., a successful and satisfactory agreement was concluded through the efforts of Secretary-Treasurer J. Howard Hicks of the International Union in the face of a contemplated work stoppage by the members of the local employed by the company.

Officers of the local union, as well as the members affected, have expressed satisfaction and pleasure as the result of the outcome of the agreement which brings hourly wage increases ranging up to 28 cents for a considerable percentage of the workers affected, as well as insuring a 4-hour reduction in the work week and the establishment of 6 holidays each year. Seniority as well as the assurance of continued union membership for all office workers employed by the company, together with other advancements, will be realized as a result of the agreement.

The success attained in the negotiation of this agreement has spurred members and officers of the local union in their desire to insure complete unionization of other office and clerical workers in this industry, as well as those employed in other industries in this city.

ANOTHER VICTORY RUNG UP BY OEIU

Orange, Texas—Another important victory was won by the Office Employees International Union this month when the office and clerical employes of Consolidated Shipbuilding Corporation voted by a big majority for Local 133 as their collective bargaining agent.

The consent election held by NLRB on August 14 was worked out by C. A. Stafford, International vice president and organizer, and officers of Local 133 which he has set up to represent the workers.

It is expected that early steps will be taken toward the negotiation of a working agreement.

DISCRIMINATION CASE WON BY UNION

Oakland, Calif.—Local 29 has won a victory in a discrimination case against McKesson & Robbins Company.

On June 23, 1944, the company promoted Mrs. Anna Jones to the job of head drug pricer, a job previously held by men. However, she was paid a lower rate than the men had received.

Business Representative Muriel

Relax War Controls On Wages

Washington—Executive Order No. 9599 by the President, followed by General Order No. 40 of the War Labor Board, went a long way toward freeing wages from war controls and restoring free collective bargaining.

The presidential order took the lid off wage increases negotiated by unions or voluntarily granted by employers so long as they do not require price increases and do not prevent justifiable reductions in price ceilings, and empowered the board to correct "maladjustments and inequities which interfere with the effective transition to peacetime economy."

In cases where disputes arise the board is also given wide discretion in ordering adjustments, which means that the "little steel formula" is "out the window."

The board's order stated that increases can be made retroactive to dates earlier than August 18, the effective date of the order and that previous deals of wage increases do not bar them now. It made clear that approval of wage adjustments within limitations of the order is no longer necessary.

Because of the importance of these orders to the entire membership, they are reproduced on page 4 of this issue in their entirety, together with President Truman's August 16th statement on page 3.

New Schedule of Wages, Other Gains For TVA Force

Knoxville, Tenn.—Negotiations with the Tennessee Valley Authority have resulted in the establishment of a new schedule of wages, overtime pay and shift differentials for office and clerical workers employed by the Authority.

A. R. Carson, vice president of the International Union and president of the Tennessee Valley Council of Office Technical and Service Employees Unions, which includes five OEIU Locals, announced the negotiations had resulted in more benefits to the employes than a direct application of the recently enacted government wage bill.

The formula of 20 percent increase on the first \$1,200 of a salary and 10 percent on amounts above that figure and up to \$4,600

was applied, with a rounding out of the rates within-grade to more nearly coincide with existing rates in the TVA salary schedule.

A shift pay differential of 5 cents an hour for the second shift and 10 cents for the third shift was secured. This is approximately 16.3 percent above that provided by the law.

Overtime payment to employes whose basic annual rates are more than \$3,000, computed at time and one-half on that part of their basic rate which does not exceed \$3,000 represents a substantial improvement over the graduated rates contained in the law.

The schedule is effective July 16, subject to WLB and Treasury Department approval.

Old and New Basic TVA Salaries

BASIC ANNUAL SALARY RATES WITHIN GRADES

Grade		Entrance	Intermediate	Middle	Advanced	Maximum
1	Present	\$1200	\$1280	\$1360	\$1400	\$1440
	New	1440	1530	1620	1660	1700
2	Present	1440	1530	1620	1670	1720
	New	1700	1800	1900	1960	2020
3	Present	1720	1815	1910	2005	2100
	New	2020	2120	2220	2320	2430
4	Present	2100	2225	2350	2475	2600
	New	2430	2570	2710	2855	3000
5	Present	2600	2800	3000	3100	3200
	New	3000	3200	3420	3530	3640
6	Present	3200	3400	3600	3700	3800
	New	3640	3860	4080	4190	4300
7	Present	3800	4000	4200	4400	4600
	New	4300	4520	4740	4960	5180

Kerchen presented the matter to the War Labor Board which sustained the charges that Mrs. Jones had been discriminated against and ordered the company to restore the rate previously paid, retroactive to the date of Mrs. Jones' promotion. The company has complied.

WANT TO KEEP JOBS

Washington—Reports of the Department of Labor on two more areas in the nation-wide survey of women workers indicate that 80 percent of the women now working in the Buffalo, N. Y., and Springfield-

MAKING PROGRESS IN BANK CAMPAIGN

Cleveland—The organizing drive of Local 17 is making good headway not only among employes of the Cleveland Trust Co. and its 46 branches, but among nearly 3,000 employes of other banking establishments of the Cleveland area.

George P. Firth, international vice president and organizer, has been in Cleveland assisting in the campaign, working closely with Business Agent Pearl Hanna and President Frank Wagner of the local.

To facilitate the drive, the local has set up a bank employes division with Henry Enkler, a veteran employe of Cleveland Trust, as chairman.

OEIU Members In Atom Bomb Plants

Washington—Many members of the Office Employees International Union share the vital role played by American labor in producing and keeping secret the revolutionary atomic bomb hurled against Japan with such devastating effect.

At the plant near Knoxville, Tenn., Stone & Webster Engineering Corp. office and clerical workers are members of Local 144, which holds bargaining rights with the company.

Incidentally, negotiations for job classifications are getting under way as recently ordered by the War Labor Board in upholding the union's claims. International Vice President A. R. Carson is assisting officers of the local on this matter.

A number of members of the office and clerical staff at the atomic bomb plant at Pasco, Wash., are members of Pasco Local 100, which is engaged in an organizing drive to bring the benefits of collective bargaining to the office and clerical workers employed on the project.

Electric Employes

See Union Benefits

Cleveland—Employes of the Apex Electric Co. are organizing into Local 17, according to Pearl Hanna, business representative. A substantial number has already indicated a desire to be represented by the local and it is anticipated that exclusive rights will shortly be established for the group.

Dayton, Ohio, territory want to stay on the job after the war is ended, this being a matter of necessity rather than choice with the majority.

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OFFICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION



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LAUNCH CAMPAIGN AGAINST BBH BILL

Chicago.—The AFL Executive Council launched an intensive campaign here for the defeat of the anti-labor Ball-Burton-Hatch bill in its entirety. The council declared there was nothing worth salvaging in the bill by the amendment process.

All local AFL groups were directed by the council to make personal calls upon their congressmen and senators during the congressional recess to acquaint them with labor's opposition to the measure. The council also directed that the AFL's national representatives appear at public hearings of congressional committees in the fall to express their opposition in detail.

Text of the council's declaration on the subject follows:

"The executive council has determined to mobilize all the forces of the American Federation of Labor for the defeat of the Ball-Burton-Hatch bill.

"After considering a careful analysis of the provisions of this bill, presented by Joseph A. Padway, counsel for the Federation, the executive council is of the unanimous opinion that the measure is thoroughly obnoxious from its first section down to the last paragraph.

"Therefore, the executive council has decided that the policy of the American Federation of Labor will be to defeat the bill as a whole. No amendments will be offered. The objectionable features of this proposed legislation are so numerous and so closely interrelated that it would be impossible to remove them by amendments.

"In effect, the Ball-Burton-Hatch bill would destroy the fundamental freedoms of the nation's workers in the postwar period and prevent the progress of labor toward its goals of the future.

Official Emblems of OEIU

Actual size
5/8-inch diameter



Actual size.
Quill—7/8-inch
Inkwell—1/4-inch

Shown above are the official lapel button and dress pin approved by the executive board of the Office Employees International Union. They are now in production and will be available within a few weeks for order through local union secretary-treasurers who will in turn order them from International Secretary-Treasurer J. Howard Hicks.

The quill and inkwell dress pin, which is unique in trade union pins, is expected to be particularly at-

tractive to women members of the OEIU. It is 10 karat gold filled and has a safety catch. The price is \$1.00.

The lapel button is also 10 karat gold filled. It is five-eighths of an inch in diameter and is made with either a screw back or pin back with safety catch. The letters are in gold, the inkwell blue enamel and the ledger white enamel. The price of either style lapel button is also \$1.00.

British Labor Party Victory To Affect American Scene

Washington, D. C.—The landslide victory of the Labor Party in the British elections will have a profound effect upon the American scene, political observers in the nation's capital are convinced.

Enemies of labor, who hoped for a reactionary field day in this country after the war, were stopped in their tracks by the overwhelming repudiation by the British people of the Conservative Party's do-nothing policies. The demands of the British people for postwar progress, as evidenced by their votes, have strong echoes in this country, AFL President William Green declared. He said:

"The Labor Party's victory in Great Britain must be interpreted as the outcome of the insistent desire of British workers to gain higher living standards and a greater degree of economic and social security.

"The same aspirations for a bet-

"The American Federation of Labor will organize its opposition to the bill on two fronts.

"In the first place, the American Federation of Labor's local representatives in every city and state of the nation will make personal calls upon their congressmen and senators during the congressional recess to let them know how strongly labor resents this measure.

"In the second place, national representatives of the American Federation of Labor will appear at public hearings before congressional committees in the fall to present in detail labor's objections to the bill as a whole and to all of its provisions."

ter life after the grim experiences of war are moving workers in our own country.

"The results of the British elections should not be viewed as a repudiation of the brilliant war leadership of Winston Churchill, but rather as a popular rejection of the stand-pat domestic policies of the Conservative Party."

The British Labor Party is a completely separate and distinct organization from the British trade union movement, although it derives most of its votes from Britain's working masses. The Labor Party includes among its leaders a heavy sprinkling of intellectuals, college professors, Socialists and liberals. The highest ranking trade union leader in the new British government is Ernest Bevin, who was named Foreign Secretary. Bevin, a forceful and courageous trade unionist, is not regarded as a left-winger.

Among the changes expected to be advanced by the Labor government are higher wages, better working conditions and a far broader social security program for the common people of Britain.

Asks OEIU Aid In Surplus Disposal

Washington—Robert T. Amis, director of the compliance division of the Surplus Property Board has asked the members of the Office Employees International Union to assist the board in carrying out the objectives set forth by Congress.

PREMIUM SOUGHT ON SHIP REPAIR

Seattle, Wash.—Although refused the 11.6 per cent Pacific Coast ship repair premium by the Shipbuilding Commission of the National War Labor Board for time checkers employed by the Todd Shipyards Corp., Local 8 of this city is moving forward to enter a vigorous appeal with the NWLB as the result of such refusal, according to Mildred Erickson, business representative of the local union.

Despite the outstanding nature of its presentation of this case to the Shipbuilding Commission and a favorable report of its hearing officer, this agency refused the ship repair premium as requested by the local union in its dispute case with the company on the ground that such premium has not been granted to office and clerical workers, and specifically to timecheckers employed in the ship repair industry in past years.

The importance of this case is evidenced in the fact that Business Representative Erickson journeyed to Washington for personal contact with the members of the Shipbuilding Commission and, with the assistance of President Paul R. Hutchings and Secretary-Treasurer J. Howard Hicks of the International Union, participated in an informal discussion of the case with labor, industry and public members of the Commission, prior to the Commission's consideration of the same. The International Union and the various local unions on the Pacific Coast are interested and concerned with this precedent case.

Undaunted by the refusal of the Shipbuilding Commission to grant the 11.6 differential to the members of the union employes in the local dry dock operations of the company, Business Representative Erickson has stated that every effort possible will be made to obtain a reversal of the Commission's decision when the matter comes up on appeal to the NWLB. She praised the wholehearted support rendered by Hutchings and Hicks, as well as A. F. of L. member Edward B. Rowan of the Shipbuilding Commission, and it is with the assurance of their continued aggressive cooperation on the matter that the case is being appealed to the National War Labor Board.

In a letter to President Paul R. Hutchings, Amis said the union members could contribute to the proper disposition of surplus property by bringing to his attention "any information which may come to their attention concerning improper disposition of surplus property."

"This," he said, "may be occasioned by irregularities, favoritism, sales policies and the like, all of which have an immediate and personal effect upon your membership and the national economy."

Text of President's Statement on Wages

Washington—The text of President Truman's statement of August 16 on wages and other matters vital to workers follows:

"Our national welfare requires that during the reconversion period production of civilian goods and services go forward without interruption, and that labor and industry cooperate to keep strikes and lockouts at a minimum. We must work out means for the peaceful settlement of disputes that might adversely affect the transition to a peacetime economy.

"We have had an exceptionally good record of industrial peace during the war. We must take the necessary steps now to insure a continuation of this record in the reconversion period before us. We must also, in this period, continue the stabilization program, modifying it to meet the changes in our economy which are now taking place. To these ends:

"1. In the near future I shall call a conference of representatives of organized labor and industry, for the purpose of working out by agreement means to minimize the interruption of production by labor disputes in the reconversion period.

"The foundation of our wartime industrial relations was an agreement between representatives of industry and labor, who met at the call of the President immediately after Pearl Harbor. This agreement provided that 'for the duration of the war there shall be no strikes or lockouts', upon condition that a National War Labor Board be established for the peaceful adjustment of unsettled disputes. Pursuant to that agreement the President, by Executive Order 9017, created the War Labor Board, and Congress, in the War Labor Disputes Act, confirmed and strengthened its authority.

Emergency Agency

"The board is an emergency agency. Its effectiveness has been rooted in the wartime agreement which led to its establishment. As a result of that agreement industry and labor, with but very few exceptions, have voluntarily accepted the board's decisions in the disputes which have been certified to it as affecting the war effort. A new industry-labor agreement to minimize interruption of production by labor disputes during the reconversion period ahead of us is imperatively needed.

"2. Pending the completion of the conference and until some new plan is worked out and made effective, disputes which cannot be settled by collective bargaining and conciliation, including disputes which threaten a substantial interference with the transition to a peacetime economy, should be handled by the War Labor Board under existing procedures. For that interim period I call upon representatives of organized labor and industry to renew their no-strike and no-lockout pledges, and I shall expect both

industry and labor in that period to continue to comply voluntarily, as they have in the past, with the directive orders of the War Labor Board.

Stabilization Act

"3. The Stabilization Act is effective until June 30, 1946. During its continuance wage adjustments which might affect prices must continue to be subject to stabilization controls. With the ending of war production, however, there is no longer any threat of an inflationary bidding up of wage rates by competition in a short labor market. I am therefore authorizing the War Labor Board to release proposed voluntary wage increases from the necessity of approval upon condition that they will not be used in whole or in part as the basis for seeking an increase in price ceilings. Proposed wage increases re-

quiring price relief must continue to be passed upon by the board.

"4. The reconversion from wartime to peacetime economy will undoubtedly give rise to maladjustments and inequities in wage rates which will tend to interfere with the effective transition to a peacetime economy. For the remaining period of its existence, the board should be given authority to deal with these maladjustments and inequities, whose scope and nature cannot be clearly foreseen. I am therefore issuing a new Executive Order which will carry forward the criteria for passing upon wage increases as originally laid down in Executive Order 9250, and which will also vest in the board authority to approve or direct increases which are necessary to aid in the effective transition to a peacetime economy. The new Executive Order will con-

tinue the previous requirement that any proposed wage increase affecting prices, if approved or directed by the board, will become effective only if also approved by the Director of Economic Stabilization.

Stress Conciliation

"5. The War Labor Board should be terminated as soon after the conclusion of the forthcoming industry-labor conference as the orderly disposition of the work of the board, and the provisions of the War Labor Board Act permit; and after facilities have been provided to take care of the wage stabilization functions under the Act of October 2, 1942.

"6. Meanwhile, the strengthening of the Department of Labor, and the unification under it of functions properly belonging to it, are going forward under plans being formulated by the Secretary of Labor. In these plans particular stress is being laid on the upbuilding of the U. S. Conciliation Service. With the return to a peacetime economy and the elimination of the present temporary wartime agencies and procedures, we must look to collective bargaining, aided and supplemented by a truly effective system of conciliation and voluntary arbitration, as the best and most democratic method of maintaining sound industrial relations.

First Phase of Negotiations Ended With Brown & Sharpe

Providence, R. I.—The first phase of negotiations with Brown & Sharpe Co. were brought to a conclusion August 2 with the signing of a basic working agreement covering union recognition, seniority, hours of work and overtime rates, holidays, shop steward system, grievance procedure, effective date, and other working conditions to apply to the more than 1,200 office and clerical workers involved.

It was agreed that wage adjustments, which are to be the subject of further conferences between union representatives and the company, starting August 29, will be retroactive to the week ending June 23, which was the week of the NLRB election in which the office and clerical force selected Local 76 as its collective bargaining agent by an overwhelming majority.

Five issues upon which no agreement could be reached are being prepared for submission to the War Labor Board. These are union security, check-off of dues, arbitration as the final step in the grievance procedure, and increased vacation and sick leave allowances.

On the proposals for union security, check-off and arbitration, the company would not yield as a matter of policy. In view of the past practices and policies of WLB it is not anticipated that there will be any difficulty in obtaining a favorable board order on these issues.

On vacations the union insists that all workers with one year of service get two paid weeks. The company refused to consider any improvements to its present plan which is the same as for the production force—1 week after 1 year of service and 2 weeks after 5 years.

The union requested paid sick leave allowances ranging from a day a month after 1 year of service to four days a month after 30 years

of service.

Representing the union in the negotiations are Raymond J. Jamieson, president and business representative of Local 76; Walter H. Sanford, Jr., secretary-treasurer; and a committee of workers—J. C. Dangelowicz, J. Irwin S. Newkirk, Walter D. Parenteau and Harry L. MacWilliams. President Paul R. Hutchings is participating on behalf of the International Union. Representatives of the company are F. P. Austin, Jr., comptroller; J. J. Hall, personnel administrator, and Attorney Phillips.

CONNECTICUT DRIVE BRINGING RESULTS

Stamford, Conn.—The joint organizing campaign undertaken by Local 90 of Stamford and Local 123 of New Haven is moving forward under "steam" supplied by James B. Rice, who is serving as joint organizer for the two locals.

Interest in collective bargaining and the other benefits of unionization is being demonstrated by employes of Electric Specialties Co., Stamford, and Periodical Publishing Company.

It is anticipated that the current efforts in these firms will shortly result in the local requesting exclusive bargaining rights.

Certification of Local 123 as exclusive bargaining agent at Bryant & Chapman Co. and R. G. Miller Co., both divisions of General Ice Cream Co., have been requested of the Connecticut Labor Board.

Interest in organization is also being shown by the office force of Schick, Inc., manufacturer of the dry shaver. The production and maintenance workers of the company are members of Lodge 1887 of the International Association of Machinists, which is cooperating in this drive.

START HEARING IN GREYHOUND DISPUTE

Jacksonville, Fla.—War Labor Board hearings got under way here August 14 on the dispute with Southeastern Greyhound Lines, according to Mrs. Lorraine S. Rhodes, president of Local 73.

The issues include the wording of the preamble of the working agreement and the effective date, all phases of wages, and the union's proposals of such other benefits as improved vacation allowance and paid sick leave.

The Jacksonville workers of the bus line organized last spring into Local 73 which began negotiations with the company soon after it was certified by the NLRB as exclusive bargaining agent in conformity with desires expressed by the workers in the election.

MAKE UP ALL LOSSES

Washington, D. C.—Organized labor has more than made up losses in war production due to strikes by persuading American workers to remain on the job on national holidays, the Labor Department disclosed.

"Workers in munitions industries alone," the official report said, "by remaining on the job New Year's Day, Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day and the Fourth of July, put in more than five times as many mandays of work as were lost through strikes and lockouts during the first six months of this year."

Text of President's Executive Order 9599

Washington—The text of President Truman's Executive Order on wages and other matters vital to workers follows:

EXECUTIVE ORDER 9599

Providing for Assistance to Expanded Production and Continued Stabilization of the National Economy During the Transition from War to Peace, and for the Orderly Modification of Wartime Controls over Prices, Wages, Materials and Facilities

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the statutes of the United States, and particularly the War Mobilization and Reconversion Act of 1944, the First War Powers Act of 1941, the Second War Powers Act of 1942, as amended, and the Stabilization Act of 1942, as amended, and for the purpose of fully mobilizing the resources of the Government in this final stage of the war emergency, in order to promote a swift and orderly transition to a peacetime economy of free independent private enterprise with full employment and maximum production in industry and agriculture, and to assure the general stability of prices and costs and the maintenance of purchasing power which are indispensable to the shift of business enterprises from wartime to peacetime production and of individuals from wartime to peacetime employment, it is hereby ordered as follows:

I.

1. The guiding policies of all departments and agencies of the Government concerned with the problems arising out of the transition from war to peace shall be:

- To assist in the maximum production of goods and services required to meet domestic and foreign needs, (1) by assuring assistance in making available materials and supplies required for the production of such goods and services; (2) by providing assistance to the conversion and utilization of war plants and facilities, both privately and publicly owned; and (3) by providing effective job placement assistance to war workers and returning service men and women.
 - To continue the stabilization of the economy as authorized and directed by the Emergency Price Control Act of 1942, as amended, and the Stabilization Act of 1942, as amended, (1) by using all powers conferred therein and all other lawful means to prevent either inflation or deflation; and (2) while so doing, by making whatever modifications in controls over prices, wages, materials and facilities are necessary for an orderly transition from war to peace; and
 - To move as rapidly as possible without endangering the stability of the economy toward the removal of price, wage, production and other controls and toward the restoration of collective bargaining and the free market.
2. The departments and agencies of the Government shall take vigorous, concerted and uniform action toward these ends and pursuant to this Order, under the guidance and direction of the Director of War Mobilization and Reconversion.

II.

During the transition to a free economy, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Federal Loan Administrator, and the Director of Economic Stabilization shall not only take all measures required by law to support prices but shall take such further measures authorized by law as may be necessary to prevent any collapse of values or discouragement of the full and effective use of productive resources.

III.

The Price Administrator, and in the exercise of his price responsibilities under the law the Secretary of Agriculture, shall, subject to such directives provided for by law as may be issued by the Economic Stabilization Director, take all necessary steps to assure that the cost of living and the general level of prices shall not rise. Subject to such authority the Price Administrator and in the exercise of his price responsibilities under the law the Secretary of Agriculture are authorized to make such adjustments in existing price controls as are necessary to remove gross inequities or to correct maladjustments or inequities which would interfere with the effective transition to a peacetime economy. In order that any price increases found necessary for these purposes will not result in an increase in the cost of living or in the general level of prices, the Price Administrator and the Secretary of Agriculture, respectively, shall (1) so far as is reasonable, practicable and necessary for this purpose, see that such price increases do not cause price increases at later levels of production or distribution, and (2) improve or tighten price controls in those fields which are important in relation to production costs or the cost of living in which in their judgment the controls have heretofore been insufficiently effective.

IV.

1. The National War Labor Board, and such other agencies as may be designated by the Director of Economic Stabilization with the approval of the Director of War Mobilization and Reconversion, are authorized to provide that employers may, through collective bargaining with duly certified or recognized representatives of the employees involved or, if there is no such representative, by voluntary action, make wage or

salary increases without the necessity of obtaining approval therefor upon the condition that such increases will not be used in whole or in part as the basis for seeking an increase in price ceilings, or for resisting otherwise justifiable reductions in price ceilings, or, in the case of products or services being furnished under contract with a federal procurement agency, will not increase the costs to the United States.

2. In addition to the authority to approve increases to correct gross inequities and for other specified purposes, conferred by Section 2 of Title II of Executive Order 9250, the National War Labor Board or other designated agency is hereby authorized to approve, without regard to the limitations contained in any other orders or directives, such increases as may be necessary to correct maladjustments or inequities which would interfere with the effective transition of peacetime economy; provided, however, that in dispute cases this additional authority shall not be used to direct increases to be effective as of a date prior to the date of this order.

Where the National War Labor Board or other designated agency, or the Price Administrator, shall have reason to believe that a proposed wage or salary increase will require a change in the price ceiling of the commodity or service involved, such proposed increase, if approved by the National War Labor Board or such other designated agency under the authority of this section shall become effective only if also approved by the Director of Economic Stabilization.

3. Officials charged with the settlement of labor disputes in accordance with the terms of Executive Order 9017 and Section 7 of the War Labor Disputes Act shall consider that labor disputes which would interrupt work contributing to the production of military supplies or interfere with effective transition to a peacetime economy are disputes which interrupt work contributing to the effective prosecution of the war.

V.

The War Production Board shall move as rapidly as feasible without endangering orderly reconversion and the stabilization of the economy to free business from its controls. During the transition it shall use all of its authorized powers to expand the production of materials which are in short supply; limit the manufacture of products for which materials or facilities are insufficient; control the accumulation of inventories so as to avoid speculative hoarding and unbalanced distribution which would curtail total production; grant priority assistance to break bottlenecks which would impede the reconversion process; facilitate the fulfillment of relief and other essential export programs; and allocate scarce materials or facilities necessary for the production of low-priced items essential to the continued success of the stabilization program.

The White House, August 18, 1945.

NWLB ISSUES GENERAL WAGE ORDER

The National War Labor Board on August 20 unanimously adopted General Order No. 40. Text of the Order follows:

Pursuant to the authority granted to the National War Labor Board by Section I of Title IV of Executive Order 9599, dated August 18, 1945, the Board hereby enacts General Order No. 40 as follows:

Section 803.40 (a) Employers may, through collective bargaining with duly certified or recognized representatives of the employees involved, or, if there is no such representatives, by voluntary action, make wage or salary increases without the necessity of obtaining approval therefor, upon the condition that such increases will not be used in whole or in part on the basis for seeking an increase in price ceilings or for resisting otherwise justifiable reductions in price ceilings, or, in the case of products or services being furnished under contract with a Federal procurement agency, will not increase the cost to the United States.

(b) The provisions of paragraph (a) above shall be effective as of August 18, 1945, but this shall not preclude the selection by the party or parties of any earlier date as the effective date of the wage or sal-

ary increase. The provisions of this General Order shall not, however, operate as an approval of any wage or salary increase put into effect before August 18, 1945, and prior to receipt of any approval required by the Stabilization Act of October 2, 1942, or the Orders or Regulations issued thereunder.

(c) Wage or salary increases referred to in paragraph (a) above may be made notwithstanding any previous denial or modification of an application for approval thereof by the National War Labor Board or its agencies.

WANT UNIONIZATION

Beaumont, Texas—Workers in the office of Magnolia Refining Co. are evidencing keen interest in organizing, according to C. A. Stafford, international vice president and organizer. There are approximately 200 employes in this office and, judging from their present interest, before too long a local union charter can be set up for them.

WORKERS ORGANIZE

Racine, Wis.—Organization of office workers at the Rain-Fair Co. is in progress, according to Alice ~~1012~~ vice president of the International Union.