

# THE OFFICE WORKER

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

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## Further Gains Secured In Pact With Abitibi Paper

Toronto, Ont. — Negotiations with the general management of the Abitibi Power & Paper Company, Ltd., covering the office employees in the various Canadian mills of the company has resulted in further substantial gains in wages and employment conditions, according to International President Paul R. Hutchings and A. F. of L. Organizer Russell Harvey who attended the joint Toronto negotiations with delegates designated by the local unions involved.

### Salaries Hiked

Of prime importance was the general salary increase negotiated which assures the office workers covered by OEIU contracts in these mills a minimum monthly increase of \$25 or 15 percent, whichever is greater, retroactive to May 1, 1947. The rate ranges for all job classifications were also increased by similar amounts.

Another significant gain was the agreement reached for local unions to participate in job evaluation and merit rating. The company has agreed that over and above the general increases provided for by the agreement, all office employees shall be immediately given a merit review and that merit increases resulting therefrom will be effective as of May 1, 1947. Under the terms of the agreement on this matter a representative of the local union at each mill shall sit with the management committee on merit rating as well as on re-study and re-evaluation of any job which the local union believes to be out of line.

It was also agreed that the local union representatives would be supplied with all data and material necessary to a proper understanding of the job evaluation and merit rating plan and that when new jobs are created or existing ones changed management will make a temporary evaluation of such job subject to review during the joint annual merit rating session, with any changes developed to be made retroactive to the date of the original change.

It was further agreed that a similar general review for merit increases would be held annually following the signing of the agreement each year and that the increases resulting be made effective as of May 1, of the year concerned. All matters covered in connection with job evaluation and merit rating which are not settled satisfactorily are subject to processing under the grievance procedure of the agreement.

### Five-Day Week Studied

Of further substantial importance to the membership at these mills is the provision that the company and the International Union will study the five-day week during the current contract year, and company representatives and the International Union representative

with his local delegates will confer on this matter.

Present at the negotiations were delegates representing Locals 151 at Iroquois Falls, Ontario, 161 at Smooth Rock Falls, Ontario, 191 at Beauport, Quebec and 214 at Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

Local 214 at Sault Ste. Marie is presently in the process of obtaining Canadian Labor Board certification of its exclusive bargaining rights at the Abitibi mill in that city, the local presently holding a substantial majority of all eligible office workers, participated in the joint Toronto negotiations.

In addition, the office force of the company's mill at Pine Bluff Falls, Manitoba, is presently organizing and has already been chartered as Local 216. When this new local achieves its majority representation and certification it is anticipated that it can gain inclusion in the general agreement worked out with the company.

## NEW TRANSIT LINE CONTRACT SIGNED

Knoxville, Tenn.—An improved agreement has been negotiated with the Knoxville Transit Lines by OEIU Local 144, according to Vice President A. R. Carson, who assisted the local in its negotiations.

The principal improvements included in the current negotiations cover a 5-cent per hour increase and further gains in the paid vacation schedules.

The contract also preserves the full union shop, the checkoff of union dues, severance pay, seniority recognition, as well as grievance procedures, and provision for final and binding arbitration. Leaves of absence are provided for all employees with guaranteed free transportation on the transit lines' operations.

U. S. Conciliation Commissioner E. F. Hitchcock assisted in working out the settlement.

## LOCAL UNIONS CAN HEAR GREEN SPEECH

Washington, D. C.—All members of the Office Employees International Union will have an opportunity to hear the address delivered by AFL President William Green at the International Convention in Chicago.

The inspiring talk was recorded and arrangements have been made to loan the recordings to local unions which desire to hear them, President Paul R. Hutchings announced. The three double-faced, 12-inch aluminum records can be played on any standard record-player.

Requests for the records will be filled in the order in which they are received.

## Agreement Secured With Cities Service Refining

Lake Charles, La.—The first contract between OEIU Local 87 and the Cities Service Refining Corp. covering the office and clerical employees at this refinery here, has brought substantial gains to the employees involved, according to James P. Wills, President of the local union. The agreement covers all office employees at both the Tutwiler Refinery and the Butadiene plant of the company.

## General Increase At U. S. Rubber Co.

Providence, R. I.—In a supplemental agreement negotiated with the U. S. Rubber Co., covering the office and clerical workers employed in its Providence plant, OEIU Local 63 has obtained a general increase of \$20 per month retroactive to February 1, 1947.

In addition to this across-the-board increase, all contract rate ranges have been increased by a minimum of \$5 and a maximum of \$20 per month. A supplemental wage increase was negotiated by the union committee consisting of George A. Ronan, President and Christine Woulfe, Sec-Treas, with the assistance of Raymond J. Jamieson on behalf of the International Union.

## BIG GAINS WON IN FAST FREIGHT PACT

Oakland, Calif.—A general wage increase of 15 cents per hour highlights the gains won for the office and clerical workers of the Oregon-Nevada-California Fast Freight Co. in a joint agreement negotiated with that concern by OEIU Local 29 of Oakland and 36 of San Francisco, according to Business Representative John Kinnick of the former local.

The agreement provides for the full union shop and establishes the 8-hour, 5-day week, with time and one-half for overtime and Sunday work. It also provides for paid holidays and two weeks paid vacation.

Business Representative Kinnick reports that the office employees of several other large similar companies are rapidly recognizing the gains which they also can obtain through collective bargaining.

## Aides to Locals

Washington, D. C.—International President Paul R. Hutchings has sent to local unions two bulletins of benefit to them issued by the Department of Labor.

One is entitled "Federal Labor Laws and Agencies—A Guide for Shop Stewards and Supervisors." The other is "Arbitration of Grievances."

The agreement provides for maintenance of union membership as a condition of employment. It establishes a regular 8-hour work day and a 40-hour week, with shift differentials for second and third shift work. Overtime is paid for at the rate of time and one-half, with double time prevailing for work performed on the seventh day and after the fourth overtime hour.

### Recognize Seniority

The agreement also provides for the recognition of seniority, the granting of leaves of absence, and makes provision for two weeks' vacation with full pay each year. Provision is made for the establishment of an office grievance committee, which holds regular monthly meetings with management for the handling of all grievances, with provision for final and binding arbitration on all grievances not otherwise satisfactorily adjusted.

Eight salary groups are established, with automatic annual advances for three years in each grade. In addition to the benefits gained through establishment of such wage schedules, the union obtained a cost of living adjustment averaging \$30 per month, to apply for the first eight months of the contract, at the end of which time the wage question will again be reviewed.

### Sick Benefits

The union also obtained a sick benefit plan which entitles permanent employees to three weeks' sick leave with full pay each year, which may be accumulated over a three-year period up to a total of nine weeks.

International Vice President C. A. Stafford assisted the local union officers and negotiating committee in the negotiation of this agreement and by virtue of his long experience in this industry and the many contracts which he has participated in negotiating, his assistance was of great value to Local 87 in the obtaining of this first agreement between the local and a major refining corporation.

## Wages Boosted By Utility Agreement

Lincoln, Ill.—General wage increases ranging from \$15 to \$25 a month and averaging more than \$18 per month were obtained in a renewal agreement negotiated with the Central Illinois Electric & Gas Co., according to International Vice President L. G. Nygren who assisted Local 167 in its negotiations.

Other improvements over the former agreement include an increase in the Sunday and holiday rate from time and one-half to double time. A three-hour reporting and call back guarantee was also established.

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OFFICE EMPLOYEES  
INTERNATIONAL UNION



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## OEIU RESPONDS TO EMERGENCY APPEAL

Washington, D. C.—The Execu-  
tive Board of the OEIU by unani-  
mous vote authorized President  
Paul R. Hutchings and Secretary-  
Treasurer J. Howard Hicks to ap-  
peal to each local union to volun-  
tarily submit its share of the AFL  
emergency fund for the purpose of  
combating by every means of pub-  
lic expression vicious anti-labor  
legislation which would jeopardize  
the very existence of all labor or-  
ganizations.

In a letter to all local unions,  
the International officers stressed,  
"The need is urgent. We appeal  
to our entire membership to do  
their full part in responding im-  
mediately to the unanimous action  
of the A. F. of L. Executive Coun-  
cil."

One of the first local unions to  
respond was No. 62 in Santa Rita,  
N. M., which made a record con-  
tribution toward the \$1,500,000  
fund.

### Local 62 Ups Ante

The membership of Local 62 not  
only complied with the voluntary  
15-cent per capita assessment but  
came through with an additional  
amount of 31 1/4 cents per member.

In sending the contribution to  
Secretary-Treasurer Hicks, Cloyce  
M. Womack, secretary-treasurer of  
the local stated, "The membership  
of Local 62 wishes its International  
office to know that it will cooperate  
in every way possible or re-  
quested."

This is the spirit which places  
OEIU local unions on a high level  
in the appraisal of the balance of  
the organized labor movement.

"The American Federation of  
Labor is determined that the fruits  
of 75 years of trade union effort  
shall not be wiped out by the  
enactment of ill-conceived, ma-  
licious anti-labor laws," the Execu-  
tive Council declared. "The repres-  
sive legislation is inspired by  
profit-greedy manufacturers who  
are now daily engaged in gouging  
the American people through  
higher and ever higher prices for  
the necessities of life. The Amer-  
ican Federation of Labor is deter-

## "AS YE SOW—SO SHALL YE REAP"



## President Warns Prices Must Be Cut If Country Is To Avert Recession

New York City.—Stern warning  
that "excessive wholesale prices"  
are a grave threat to the Nation's  
prosperity and must be cut if a re-  
cession is to be averted was sounded  
here by President Truman in an  
address before more than 1,000  
newspaper executives at the annual  
luncheon of the Associated Press.

Calling on the American press  
to bring home to the entire people  
of the United States the imperative  
need of prompt, preventive steps to  
avert economic disaster, the Presi-  
dent laid down a pattern which em-  
phasized:

1. Moderation on the part of  
business, regarding prices, and on  
the part of labor, concerning wages.
2. Increased production in all  
lines.
3. An all-out effort on the part  
of the farmer to provide increased  
supplies.

### Green Concurrs

(In Washington, AFL President  
William Green, commenting on the  
President's address, concurred  
wholeheartedly in Mr. Truman's  
plea for price reductions and mod-  
eration in wage requests. In fact, he  
pointed out, it had always been the  
policy of the AFL to observe mod-  
eration in applying for increased  
pay scales.)

Injecting a new note into his re-  
iteration of the need for action to  
check the price spiral, Mr. Truman  
asserted that only a prosperous  
America can pursue its announced  
policy of aiding the "free peoples of  
the world in their efforts to main-  
tain their freedoms."

mined to fight this evil threat  
which today hangs over the head  
of every American worker."

The President prefaced his at-  
tack on prices by drawing a picture  
of record industrial production and  
a growth in the national income to  
\$176,000,000,000 which has raised  
individual purchasing power from  
\$825 in 1929 to \$1,090 today—an in-  
crease of 32 percent.

### Cites Increases

Against this, however, he cited  
such increases in retail prices as  
23 percent for house furnishings,  
24 percent for clothing and 31 per-  
cent for food.

"Only rent, because it is under  
rent control, has remained prac-  
tically stable," he said.

"Even more dangerous than the  
rise in retail prices is the sharp  
rise in wholesale prices since 1945,"  
he continued. Here are examples:

"Textiles—up 39 percent; farm  
products—up 40 percent; building  
materials—up 51 percent; food—  
up 53 percent."

### Dangerous Situation

"Excessive wholesale prices are  
translated inevitably into higher  
retail prices. With higher and  
higher retail prices, families can  
buy less and less. Thus, excessive  
wholesale prices are hitting at the  
foundation of our prosperity, for  
we can be prosperous only when  
business activity is at its maxi-  
mum."

The President also repeated ear-  
lier warnings that failure of busi-  
ness to bring down prices would  
be reflected in increasing wage de-  
mands, with the consequent danger  
of provoking a new inflationary  
spiral.

Recalling his admonition in Jan-  
uary against "excessive" wage de-  
mands, and his views expressed at

## CONSUMER PRICES HIT RECORD HIGH

Washington, D. C.—The final fig-  
ures released by the Bureau of  
Labor Statistics, U. S. Department  
of Labor indicate that consumers'  
goods and services for moderate-  
income families were 2.0 percent  
higher in mid-March than in mid-  
February. This brought the Con-  
sumers' Price Index to a record  
high of 156.3 on March 15, 1947.

There was also an advance in  
retail prices for all major groups  
of living essentials. In large cities  
food prices jumped almost 5 per-  
cent, clothing prices rose 1.5 per-  
cent and housefurnishings and mis-  
cellaneous goods and services ad-  
vanced 0.6 percent. In mid-March,  
consumers' prices were 20 percent  
higher than a year ago, and 58.5  
percent above August 1939.

All major groups of foods rose  
in price and the family food bill  
advanced 3.9 percent between Feb-  
ruary 15 and March 15. A 5.5 per-  
cent increase in prices of meats  
was recorded, with pork increasing  
13 percent.

### Food Up 103%

The food price index on March  
15, was 189.5. Since the month be-  
fore the outbreak of war in Europe,  
food prices in large cities have  
advanced almost 103 percent. Fats  
and oil prices are 159 percent  
higher than in August 1939; dairy  
products are 101 percent above  
August 1939.

Between February and March,  
clothing prices rose 1.5 percent and  
prices for nearly all garments and  
shoes increased from February 15  
to March 15. Higher prices were  
reported for men's wool clothing,  
business shirts, work clothing, and  
underclothing in most cities. Prices  
also advanced for women's rayon  
dresses, slips and hosiery.

Housefurnishings prices in-  
creased 0.8 percent between mid-  
February and mid-March and costs  
of medical care—especially hospital  
rates—increased. Slightly lower  
prices were reported for some auto-  
mobiles.

### Organizing Bulletin

Washington, D. C.—To aid in  
organizing office and clerical work-  
ers, a bulletin entitled "Office  
Workers Look at Their Trade" is  
being distributed to all local uni-  
ons of the OEIU. This is a re-  
print of the article featured in the  
March issue of the "American  
Federationist."

the time that some moderate in-  
creases were justified, Mr. Truman  
said that "since then, this counsel  
of moderation has generally been  
followed by wage earners and their  
leaders," with some moderate pay  
increases negotiated and others in  
prospect.

"To wage earners and their lead-  
ers I repeat my counsel of modera-  
tion," he said. "But it does not re-  
quire much foresight to see that, if  
the cost of living does not come  
down, the size of wage demands  
might be magnified. Peaceful man-  
agement-labor relations would be  
jeopardized. Bitterness and strife  
would become harder to avert."

"This is another reason—and a  
most compelling one—for bringing  
prices and the cost of living down.  
This will help wage negotiations to  
proceed toward peaceful adjust-  
ments beneficial to all."

## OEU CERTIFIED AT GRISCOM-RUSSELL

Massillon, Ohio.—OEU Local 72 has been certified by the NLRB as the exclusive collective bargaining agent for all office and clerical employees of the Griscom-Russell Co. The establishment of the local union's bargaining rights resulted from a majority vote which it received in an election conducted by the NLRB some months ago.

The company is engaged in the manufacture of heat exchangers, water heaters, vaporators and air coolers.

International Vice President R. M. Daugherty assisted the local union in its proceedings before the NLRB in this matter. Approximately 100 office and clerical workers will be covered under the terms of the collective bargaining agreement shortly to be negotiated.

## BANKS HELD WORST WAGE LAW VIOLATOR

Chicago—Banks and trust companies are among the nation's worst violators of minimum wage legislation!

That shocking fact was disclosed by Thomas D. O'Malley, regional director of the Department of Labor's Wage-Hour and Public Contracts Divisions, in a blunt address to a conference of 16 bankers' associations held in this city. O'Malley is a former Wisconsin congressman.

Many of the financial institutions are virtual sweatshops, his speech revealed. He pointed out that 20 percent of such institutions inspected by the two divisions during 1946 were found to be paying some employees less than the legal "floor" of 40 cents an hour.

That rate of violations of the minimum wage provisions is "twice as high as the national average for all industries covered by the law," O'Malley said.

Equally bad, he declared, is the fact that another 29 percent of the banks and trust firms inspected were found to have violated at least one other major provision of the law—that is, the overtime pay requirements or the restrictions on child labor or both.

## SECRETARY-TREASURER BONDS ARE RENEWED

Washington, D. C.—Certificates showing the renewal of bonds on local union secretary-treasurers, other officers and employees of local unions have been mailed to each OEU local union, according to J. Howard Hicks, secretary-treasurer of the International Union.

The bonding of local union secretary-treasurers is mandatory under the OEU constitution. Other officers and in many cases employees of local unions are bonded at the option of each local union. The bonds provide honesty and faithful performance of duty coverage in amounts above \$500 as requested by each local union.

These bonds which are of the position schedule type are renewed annually on April 1. All such bonds cover stated positions within each local union and continue in force



## Trentonian Agreement Signed

Shown above are the negotiators who negotiated the agreement between the Trentonian Publishing Co. and OEU Local 70. From left to right they are as follows: Carl Berreitter, Publisher of the Trentonian; George P. Firth, OEU Representative; Mary Renzi, Steward, Trentonian office; Christine Tomasulo, President, Local 70; Marian Petrino and E. R. Peters, members Trentonian unit.

Trenton, N. J.—Substantial improvements in employment conditions were obtained for the office force of the Trentonian newspaper under the terms of an agreement entered into between the company and Local 70 according to George P. Firth, representative of the International Union who assisted in the negotiations.

Wage increases gained average 11½ cents per hour, or 13½ percent more than previous rates. The agreement also provides that at the expiration of six months an additional increase of 10 percent shall be granted.

Other highlights of the agreement include the union shop, check-off of dues, the 40-hour work week, with time and one-half for daily and weekly overtime and double time for work performed on Sundays and holidays. A minimum call-in time of four hours is established, and paid vacations of one week after six months, two weeks

after one year and three weeks after five years' employment are provided. Six standard holidays are granted with full pay, and employees are assured dismissal pay amounting to three weeks' pay for each year of service.

A comprehensive sick leave clause provides full pay during the duration of any disability or illness acquired on the job. For illness or accidents not related to work the employees are assured 10 working days of paid sick leave each year, which may accumulate up to a total of thirty working days. The agreement provides for a comprehensive grievance procedure with arbitration on matters not satisfactorily settled.

Assisting Representative Firth in the agreement negotiations was President Christine Tomasulo of Local 70, with the steward and negotiating committee from the Trentonian office.

## Sick Leave Averages Low

Washington, D. C.—Information compiled by the Women's Bureau, U. S. Department of Labor, at the request of the OEU indicates that working time lost because of illness averages less than usually believed.

A survey in the public utility field indicates that men lose fewer working days through illness than women but are out for longer periods of time. Men lose on an average 8 days per year and women 12 days; however, the average absence of men lasts 9 and that of women 6 days. The report further indicated that 85 percent of the men's absence and 89 percent of the women's are less than 1 week in duration and that 56 percent of the men's absence and 67 percent of the women's are of 3 days or less.

### Chief Causes

Quoting from the book, "Women in Industry" by Dr. Anna M. Baetjer, which is based upon a general survey, it was stated that "The chief causes of sick-absenteeism were respiratory diseases, which accounted for about 50 percent of both the number of cases and the annual number of days lost, and di-

despite changes which may occur in the holders of the bonded positions. Hicks pointed out that bonds are renewed automatically so as to provide constant coverage.

gestive diseases, which were responsible for almost 20 percent of the cases."

With respect to time lost in short-term illnesses, 1 to 3 days in duration, the report stated that such absences "appear to decrease with age, although the average number of days per illness increase. Since these two factors counter-balance each other, the annual number of days lost did not show any marked trend with age, except in the older age groups."

### Long Hours Factor

The report of Dr. Baetjer stated that while sufficient information was not available to draw conclusions in regard to the effect of the type of occupations or sick-absenteeism among women "manual workers appeared to have somewhat higher rates than office workers."

The same report further stated that "the relation of weekly hours of work to sick-absenteeism indicated that increasing the hours of work increased the lost time . . . due to sickness." That sick-absenteeism has seasonal characteristics, the report stated that sickness is "greater in the winter due to the excess of respiratory diseases" and that there is "a slight rise in the late summer due to digestive and nervous diseases."

## REPORTS PROGRESS IN UTILITIES CAMPAIGN

Portland, Ore.—Secretary-Treasurer Irving Enna has announced progress in the campaign being conducted by Local 11 in the unionization of office workers employed by the Northwestern Electric Company and the Pacific Power and Light Company locally. These two firms share the distribution of electric power to consumers in Portland and vicinity, much of which is purchased directly from the Bonneville administration and generated at nearby Bonneville Dam.

Following closely on the heels of the successful unionization of office workers employed by the Portland Gas and Coke Company, similar successful action by the local with respect to the two electric utility companies would be viewed as a major accomplishment by local laborites. Much interest has been shown in the current undertaking and offers of assistance have been forthcoming from other AFL unions.

## Fire Insurance Workers Organize

Pittsburgh, Pa.—An aggressive campaign to unionize office workers employed by the National Union Fire Insurance Company is being conducted by Local 33. Margaret D. Kissinger, an executive board member of the local union, who is spearheading the drive, reports interest running high among employees of the company and she has expressed strong conviction that the campaign will be culminated in success.

Other officers and members of the local union are volunteering their services in connection with this campaign and at a recent meeting, Secretary-Treasurer J. Howard Hicks and Vice President R. M. Daugherty of the International Union addressed employees of the company pointing out the many improvements which they could win through collective bargaining.

## DISABILITY TOLL

Washington, D. C.—The Federal Security Agency estimates that in 1943, temporary and chronic disability and premature death took man-days equal to the working time of 13,000,000 men—more than the total number engaged at any time in the armed forces. In the same year, the cost to workers and business of sickness and disability totaled not less than \$15,000,000,000.

## Educational Service

Washington, D. C.—Arrangements have been made by International officers of OEU to place officers of local unions on the mailing list for "Labor's Monthly Survey" published each month by the American Federation of Labor.

This worth-while educational material deals with such matters as living costs, wage rates and other subjects of interest and value to the organized labor movement.

## PACT SIGNED WITH PRINTING CONCERN

Atlanta, Ga.—A union shop agreement with the Williams Printing Company has been signed by OEIU Local 21, according to Mrs. Ruby R. Johnson, president of the local.

The agreement brings many gains to the office force covered thereby and establishes a 40-hour week, with time and one-half for all overtime work and for all work performed on Sundays and legal holidays.

The office force is assured of legal holidays off with no loss in pay, as well as paid vacations and paid sick leave. Severance pay running up to a total of 20 weeks is also established.

The wage schedules won include provision for automatic six months step increases during the first year of employment.

## 27-Hour Week For Employees of Union

Toronto, Ont.—An agreement just negotiated by OEIU Local 131 with the Toronto Motion Picture Projectionists Union covering its office staff, establishes a work week of 27 hours. Another outstanding feature of this contract is its cumulative sick leave clause which allows for one day per month sick leave credit, with such unused sick leave to accumulate up to 200 days total, with provision for such sick leave credit being paid in cash upon retirement.

In addition to the standard two weeks vacation with full pay, a third week is provided after five years' employment.

The wage schedule provides for automatic annual increases during the first five years of employment. The agreement was negotiated by Local 131 with the assistance of A. F. of L. Representative Russell Harvey.

## Further Gains In Dairy Agreement

Pittsburgh, Pa.—Weekly wage increases of \$8 have been obtained for all office employees of the Lewis Dairies, Inc., in a new contract negotiated by Local 33, according to John F. Magnotti, its business representative.

The renewal agreement preserves all the gains previously obtained, including the full union shop, a 5-day week, 8-hour day, paid holidays, two-week paid vacation, and other worthwhile employment conditions.

## NLRB ELECTION ORDERED

East Stroudsburg, Pa.—At the request of the OEIU, the NLRB has ordered that an election be held within 30 days among the office and clerical workers employed at the Line Materials Company's plant in this city.

These workers will vote as to whether or not they desire to be represented by OEIU Local 201. OEIU representative George P. Firth has assisted this group in organizing and in obtaining an NLRB election to establish their exclusive bargaining rights.

## Movie Unions Agree to Draft Plan to Avoid Jurisdictional Strife

Washington, D. C.—Decision to draft a plan under which jurisdictional conflicts can be barred permanently in the Hollywood studios was reached unanimously here at a conference in AFL headquarters by representatives of affiliated unions with members employed by the motion picture industry.

OEIU President Paul R. Hutchings, together with Max Krug, business agent of Local 174 in Hollywood, attended the conferences.

Presidents of five national and international unions were appointed by the conference as a committee to work out this four-fold assignment:

1. To study all phases of the jurisdictional questions involved in the motion picture industry.
2. To analyze the causes of disputes among unions representing workers employed at the studios.
3. To draft a plan providing for the peaceful settlement of all future

disputes which would eliminate any possibility of strikes for jurisdictional reasons in the studios.

4. To submit this plan, when drafted, for the approval of all national and international unions which have members employed in the studios.

The unions whose presidents make up the special committee are the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, International Alliance of Stage Employes and Moving Picture Machine Operators, Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers, and the Associated Actors and Artistes of America.

The committee held its first meeting immediately after the adjournment of the two-day conference.

AFL President William Green, who presided over the conference, said:

"The special committee will proceed immediately to carry out the decision of the conference. We had a thorough discussion at the conference of all the jurisdictional problems involved in the motion picture industry.

"It was unanimously decided that the time has come for action which will effectively prevent any further jurisdictional strikes in the Hollywood studios. The union representatives in attendance showed a keen appreciation of the need for such action. In view of their unanimous desire to find a solution for these jurisdictional difficulties. I feel that a great deal of progress already has been accomplished."

## GENERAL INCREASE AT REVERE COPPER

Baltimore, Md.—The office and clerical staff of the Revere Copper & Brass Co. received an 11½-cent-per-hour general increase as a result of the agreement recently signed with this company, according to George P. Firth who worked with the officers of Local 22 and the negotiating committee in the completion of this contract.

In addition to the general increase gained, other items of interest included in the contract were provision for maintenance of union dues, two weeks' paid vacation, a five-day, 40-hour week, time and one-half for overtime and double time for holiday work. It was also agreed that current job rates would be studied and reviewed within thirty days and submitted to the union for discussion and negotiation, and that adjustments made as a result of such study and negotiation will become effective during the first week of the month in which such adjustments are agreed to.

## Major Industrial Firms Show Big Profit Rise

New York City.—A survey by the Wall Street Journal reveals that profits of 149 major industrial firms in the first three months of this year averaged 282.7 percent over their profits for the same period in 1946.

The study, covering 15 industrial groups, included the largest and most representative companies of industry, showed some profit increases as high as 370 percent.

Seven railway equipment companies, for example, jumped their profit 357.3 percent over last year to stand second highest on the increase list, while 21 building material and equipment firms increased their take by 255.9 percent. Nine pulp and paper products companies managed to boost their prof-

## ELECTION SLATED AT PUROLATOR FIRM

Newark, N. J.—Plant clerical workers employed by the Purolator Products, Inc., will have an opportunity to vote as to whether or not they desire to be represented by OEIU Local 143, under a recent decision and direction of election issued by the NLRB. The company manufactures gas, oil and industrial filters.

The Board action was based on the request of Local 143, which is seeking exclusive bargaining rights for this group and has substantial membership in this unit.

Although the company contended that plant timekeepers should be excluded from the voting unit because of the role they play in the computation of pay, the NLRB sustained the contention of the OEIU for the inclusion of timekeepers with the other plant clerical workers.

its more than 182 percent, thanks in part to a newsprint shortage.

The iron and steel industry's profits totaled \$105,671,881 for the first three months of this year as compared to \$22,462,162 last year. The railway equipment take jumped from \$1,617,804 to \$7,398,731, while the building material and equipment firms made \$29,546,809. compared to last year's \$8,301,672.

## NEW PACT WITH PAPER UPS WAGES

Oakland, Calif.—An increase of \$22 per month for the employes in the business office, advertising department and inside circulation department of the Richmond Independent newspaper highlights the new agreement between the Independent Publishing Co. and Local 29, according to Business Representative John Kinnick of the local who handled the negotiations.

The contract provides for the union shop with hiring through the union office. Hours are limited to 8 per day and 40 per week, with time and one-half for all overtime. The agreement also assures paid vacations, sick leave and dismissal pay. It is retroactive to January 6, 1947.

## McKesson-Robbins Wages Increased

Oakland, Calif.—Wage increases of \$22 per month are reflected in a new agreement concluded between Local 29 and McKesson-Robbins, Inc., Langley Michaels Division, according to Business Representative John Kinnick of the local who handled the negotiations. The new agreement is retroactive to March 1.

## AGREEMENTS COVER 15,000,000 WORKERS

Washington, D. C.—Approximately 15 million workers were covered by collective bargaining agreements in 1946, an increase of one million over the previous year, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor. Workers employed under the terms of written agreements represented 48 percent of the 31 million employed in organizable fields in which unions have been endeavoring to secure agreements.

## A CALL FOR PROMPT ACTION

Attention all members in U.S.A. Write to your Congressman. Write to your Senators. Write to President Truman.

Tell them what you think of the vicious anti-labor Taft-Hartley Bills which were recently passed by the U. S. Senate and House of Representatives.

Tell them in your own words of your views on such legislation.

Time is short—act now—tomorrow may be too late! The bills are now in joint committee to iron out differences between them. During this period, prior to adoption of the revised bill by both houses, and then prior to action by the President, let them know your feelings on this vital matter affecting the interest and welfare of all workers.

Write tonight—airmail or wire if you can—urge your relatives, friends and associates to do likewise, voicing their opposition to these unfair measures!