

succeed Terry Parker who forwarded her resignation just prior to the Board Meeting. Brother O'Brien ference.

to the next convention of the OEIU that participation in organizational conferences be mandatory in areas where such conferences are formed. A formal resolution will be drawn up and submitted to the next convention.

The Executive Board extended a heartfelt vote of thanks for the way it was received by officers and members of New Orleans Local 60. Vera Mabry and Maru Klein, president and secretary - treasurer of Local 60, respectively, were both charming and cordial. These local union officers capped a week of cordiality with a dinner at the Hotel Roosevelt. Officers and members of Local 60 joined with the Executive Board on this occasion. **Intend** to Widen Activities President Coughlin explained that it is the intention of the International Union to widen its activities wherever possible. The A. F. of L. industrial establishments.

Mary Kosloski, the 1955 March of Dimes Poster Girl is pictured here with OEIU President Howard Coughlin and Secretary-Treasurer Howard Hicks. Mary, now five years of age, is also president of the Pacific was stricken with polio when she was five months old and has never taken a step without braces Northwestern Organizational Con- and crutches. Mary learned to walk wearing a corset with steel staves, leg braces and using crutches. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Paul Kosloski, of Collierville, Tenn. The The Board agreed to recommend March of Dimes fund has contributed more than \$2,000 for Mary's care. She has been treated at the John Gaston Hospital in Memphis, Tenn., and at the Warm Springs Foundation. The OEIU is happy to endorse this most worthy campaign.

Executive Board Deliberates

A plan of organization and method of financing will be presented for action. President Coughlin and Director of Organization Douglas will preside over the conference. Vice Presidents Bloodworth and Howard will also be in attendance.

All Local Unions in this area are urged to send delegates to this most important meeting.

### **Heart Association Seeking Support**

The American Heart Association has again called for support in its crusade against diseases of the heart



Shown above are members of the OEIU Executive Board in session at New Orleans: Left to right: Vice is also engaged in organizational Presidents Max Krug, Bernard Cosgrove, J. O. Bloodworth, John B. Kinnick, Marie Mann, Ila Howard, Association reports that great addrives of its own to organize large Secretary-Treasurer Hicks, President Coughlin, Vice Presidents Geo. P. Firth, Edward P. Springman, Nick vances are taking place in heart re-Juliano, John T. Finnerty and Emily Burns.

and blood vessels.

These diseases continue to be our nation's major health menace. They cause one out of every two deaths and affect about one out of every 16 Americans. What is more, medical science has yet to determine the causes of the three types of cardiovascular disease that account for about 90 per cent of all cases. However, the American Heart (Continued on page 4)

Page Two

THE WHITE COLLAR

# Activities of Local Unions



Canadian Corner

Non-Unionized White Collar Workers

By Harold Ogden President, Canadian Organizational Conference.

A perceptible change in the eco- street, but the transition has been a nomic status of segments of the steady one. Canada, like a business Canadian working force has been firm which received a gigantic rush taking place in the past decade— order, turned its back some 15 years with the white collar worker on the ago on the niceties of finance, trade, losing end.

White collar workers, once on top of the economic pyramid in paying the premium for actual pro-Canada, have found that the transition from an agricultural economy to a booming industrial economy has also brought a shift in their status.

ployes, but the workers walked an secondary role in the economy. economic treadmill. losing prestige and its relative earning power has decreased proporeconomy was placed on manual their fellow employes in the industrial plant.

QUIET subtle and often im- readily apparent to the man in the education, service and many other so-called non-essentials and began duction.

#### "Stability is Myth"

The myth of the vaunted superiority of the social position of white collar workers over industrial Union organization of tradesmen, employes was nurtured by employskilled workers and laborers led to ers to discourage trade unionism at higher wages and improved work- the very time that white collar ing conditions for this group of em- workers were being relegated to a Technological advances made ob-The white collar class has been solete the skills of many white collar workers and not only reduced the need for many other skills, but tionately as the emphasis in the in many cases undermined morale. The attitude toward efforts by white collar workers to improve Today, trade union organization their position is illustrated by the offers the one major hope for this approach taken by a supposedly engroup to regain a position of eco- lightened group-school trusteesnomic equality with industrial to those charged with the responsiworkers. Only where strong union bility of educating the children of organization has taken root have the community. The trustees comwhite collar workers kept pace with plained with not unusual selfishness that by threatening to strike to win a wage demand the teachers had The change may not have been bargained unfairly with the lives of the children. The trustees did not see, or chose not to see, the fact that the average teacher salary in Canada during 1953 was \$2,510. At the same time, the average industrial wage - nothing to boast about in itself — was \$2,980, or \$470 higher.

Shown above is the group that participated in the White Collar Workshop conducted at Muscle Shoals by OEIU Local 52 through the American Labor Education Service. A. R. Carson, president of the Tennessee Valley Council of Office, Technical and Service Employes Unions, reported the workshop was enthusiastically received and plans are being made for another next summer in which all locals of the council may participate. The group includes R. A. Beaver, George Armstrong, H. G. Allen, Robert T. Terry, S. S. Lentz, skills and muscle. Gilbert Washburn, C. R. Inman, William Willingham, Lola Stutts, H. H. Fayette, R. E. Gammill, James O. Murphy, J. A. Boston, Lurene Johnson, James A. Weaver, C. C. Crittenden, Clifford Haddock, Mary Calvery, Ralph Mitchell, Leona Foutch, William Pounders, V. W. Long, C. G. Gallant, Robbie Wells, Dr. Seidman,

Dr. Wolfson, A. R. Carson, Chris Jorgensen, Brownie Lee Jones, H. V. Posey, Virginia Driver.

surance Company and Local 153 ble time after 12 hours plus meal beyond the bargaining unit; order have concluded negotiations of the allowance; up to three weeks va- of promotion specified; life insurfirst contracts with the sales force cation after 15 years; 12 days sick ance and welfare coverage and a and the clerical staff of this com- leave per year; two 15-minute rest pension program paid by the empany. The salesmen obtained a periods; bumping rights and senior- ployer. Wages are not included in \$10 per week across-the-board in- ity beyond bargaining unit. Life the regular agreement but are barcrease retroactive to December 1 insurance and a welfare plan are gainable on 60 days notice. and the clerical force received a \$4 provided without cost to the emper week across the board increase ployes. Employes neither absent with automatic increases every six nor tardy are given one-half day ness Representative of Local 6 remonths to the maximum of the rate every three months, or two days per ports negotiations completed with range. Both groups also won four year as a bonus. weeks vacation after five years service; 13 paid holidays (11 legal holidays, plus two free days to be chosen by the employe); and complete welfare coverage including a dental plan covering all expenses incurred for dental care. John Fleming, business representative of Local 153 negotiated both contracts.

New York—Group Health In- dues deduction overtime with dou- ing rights; seniority retention Boston-Thomas J. Flynn, Busi-

An increase of 4 cents per hour was Bellingham, Wash. — Alice G. obtained in addition to time and Little, Business Representative of one-half for all Saturday work; a Local 134 reports renewal of the minimum guarantee of four hours agreement with the Retail Stores on Saturday, Sunday or holidays; Association of Bellingham covering improved seniority, and automatic six retail stores. Provisions of the increases through the rate range of agreement include modified union  $2\frac{1}{2}$  cents each six months to the shop, overtime after eight hours per maximum. Other provisions inday; seven holidays; one week's va- clude union shop, ten holidays; cation after six months and auto- maternity leave and sick leave. American News Company and matic increases through the rate San Francisco-Phyllis Mitchell,

#### **OEIU Member Elected** To Central Body Post

#### Joseph Imber

The officers and Executive Board of OEIU Local 153 in New York City have informed the International Union of the loss of Joseph Imber.

#### \* \*

Local 153 after difficult negotia- range. tions in which the U.S. Mediation and Conciliation Service was called on to bring about an acceptable set- Company (Eagle Point Works) and members working in labor offices tlement, have agreed to the follow- Local 14 have renewed their agree- in Humboldt County. An overall gression and took the position that four weeks after 25 years; bump- perience in a trade union office. Trades Council. no wage increase was warranted. After six fruitless meetings the mediators were brought in and the above improvements resulted.

Newark, N. J.-Business Representative Nick Juliano, Local 32, reports a 5 cents per hour increase won at R. L. Polk Company. Other provisions of the contract include union shop with check-off, up to 3 weeks vacation after 12 years,

Philadelphia, Pa.—The Texas ports negotiations concluded for

Secretary-Treasurer of Local 3 re-

#### THELMA DAWSON

A member of OEIU Local 2, ing improvements over their pre- ment, according to Edward P. weekly increase of \$4.45 on all Mrs. Thelma N. Dawson, is the new vious agreement: \$3 per week Springman, Business Representa- classifications with the exception of treasurer of the Central Labor Unacross-the-board increase, improve- tive. The agreement provides for beginner rates which was \$2.45, ion of Washington, D. C. Winning ments in job bidding, job classifica- maintenance of membership, dues brings these rates in line with the over two men candidates, she's the tions and job security and better check-off, two shift differentials of San Francisco contract rates. Un- first woman elected to the office. promotional opportunities. Walter 6 and 12 cents; seven holidays with der this contract salaries now range For 23 years Mrs. Dawson has been Gorray, business representative, ne- the preceding Friday off when a from \$55.95 for a beginner with no a member of Local 2 and is admingotiating both contracts, reports the holiday falls on Saturday; vacations previous experience to \$76.45 for istrative secretary of the Washingcompany pleaded financial retro- of two weeks after one year up to a stenographer with six months ex- ton Building and Construction

Mr. Imber served in the capacity of an organizer for the past four years. He was responsible for the unionization of the checkers and cashiers of a majority of the cafeteria and service restaurants of the City of New York.

The gains attained in contract negotiations under the leadership of Mr. Imber are a monument to him.

### **10 Commandments For Bosses**

1. Thou shalt take a short course in penmanship.

2. Thou shalt not invade the sanctity of thy secretary's file cabinet.

3. Thou shalt not mumble.

4. Thou shalt not chew thy pencils and expect thy secretary to sharpen them.

5. Thou shalt remember that thy secretary is human and therefore thou shalt not expect the impossible.

6. Thou shalt not commence to



Associated Transport Company.

seniority retention beyond bargaining unit and automatic increases through the rate range with rates jointly negotiated.

Local 32 and Philip Carey Mfg. Company have concluded negotiations which resulted in a 5 per cent increase across the board, an additional holiday and severance pay of two weeks after five years; four weeks after 10 years and one week



dictate after 4:30 p.m. 7. Thou shalt keep sacred the coffee hour.

8. Thou shalt not/bear false witness against thy secretary for thine own errors.

9. Thou shalt not covet thy secretary's stapler nor her cigarettes. 10. Honor thy wonderful, intelligent, indefatigable, indispensable and beautiful secretary with a fine

additional for each year thereafter. GRAND FALLS, Nfld.-Pictured above are part of the members and guests attending the recent fourth raise. Among other provisions of the anniversary observance of Local 255. Members of the local union are employed by Anglo-Newfoundland -Submitted by Virginia P. Mcagreement are the union shop with Development Company, Ltd., manufacturers of wood pulp and paper at Grand Falls and Botwood, Nfld. Kown, of Fort Worth, Tex.

#### THE WHITE COLLAR



Official Organ of OFFICE EMPLOYES INTERNATIONAL UNION Affiliated with the American Federation of Labor



HOWARD COUGHLIN, President J. HOWARD HICKS, Secretary-Treasurer 707 Continental Building 1012 14th St., N. W. Washington 5, D. C.

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### They're Happy Over Award Neely, Johnston To Introduce 10% Pay Boost Bill

Senator Olin Johnston of South Carolina and Matthew Neely of West Virginia announced that they will introduce a 10 per cent federal pay raise bill retroactive to August 23, 1953.

This announcement by these two prominent Senators is doubly important because Johnston is scheduled to become chairman of the Post Office and Civil Service Committee and Neely is slated to head its Federal Pay Sub-committee.

In a joint statement they said that they were assured of Senate action on the bill after it is reported out, which they hope will be in late January. The Senators said that classified and postal workers who would

Left to right: Joseph E. Finley, counsel for OEIU Local 308; Jack W. Bulloch, business representative; Mrs. Mildred Teegarden and Mrs. Betty C. Nance, members of local for whom back pay and reinstatement was won, as reported in story on Page 1.

### Mitchell Attacks Right-to-Work Laws

Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell denounced the so-called "right-to-work" laws at the recent CIO convention in Los Angeles. Mitchell said: "They do not create jobs; they result in undesirable and unnecessary limitation on the freedom of working men and women and their employer to bargain collectively. They restrict union security and undermine the basic strength of organized labor."

We agree with the Secretary of Labor wholeheartedly. We do hope that his opinions will be shared by the President and the Congress.

### **AFL-CIO Unity**

The recent CIO convention at Los Angeles unanimously adopted a resolution directing its officers to work for a merger of the A. F. of L. and the CIO.

President George Meany sent a telegram to the convention declaring that the time is now ripe for action. The merger now appears imminent. One major labor organization in the United States representing in excess of 16,000,000 workers is a much needed and much desired goal.

We are positive that the pro-business politicians now in control of our country will think twice before continuing with their anti-labor activities of the past two years in the face of such a united labor movement.



For the price of \$1 any member of the American Federation of Labor may now send two CARE food packages of a net weight of 28 pounds to unemployed and other needy people in any of 32 overseas countries. Madeline Dillon, the American Federation of Labor representative at CARE, announced that the U.S. government and CARE are cooperating in this food crusade to bring good-will and Christmas cheer to our needy friends in Europe, Latin America, and some of the Near and Far East countries. More than 1,200,000 of these

special food packages will be distributed by CARE throughout the free world. Each of these packages contains approximately 14 pounds of basic foods, including rice, butter, powdered milk, cheese, flour, beans and beef and gravy. These food stuffs were made available to CARE by the Foreign Operations Administration of the U. S. government.

#### New Vice President

receive pay hikes under the bill urgently need the raise. They noted that government employes have been lagging behind most other workers for several years in trying to keep up with the rising cost of living.

Representative John Dingle of Michigan will introduce a similar measure in the House of Representatives. The wage boost will apply equally in all grades from top to bottom.

W. Robert Probey, OEIU representative to the Government Employes Council of the American Federation of Labor, has placed the OEIU squarely behind this drive to gain a substantial pay raise.

#### George W. Neilson

Our International Union regrets the passing of OEIU Local Union 205 Secretary - Treasurer George W. Neilson, who died on December 1, 1954, after a short illness. Brother Neilson was one of the original organizers of the Cotton Exchange unit of Local 205.

The United Financial Employes Local 205 suffered a great loss in the passing of Mr. Neilson.

### **Employment and Unemployment**

In the month of November the Commerce and Labor Departments reported an increase of 152,000 unemployed, bringing the total number of jobless to 2,893,000. The number of employed dropped by 410,000, thus bringing the number of employed persons to 61,731,00. Despite the many spokesmen who claim that we are in a very prosperous economic state, we feel that the unemployment picture should be watched very carefully.

### Companies Must Give Wage Data

In a case involving the A. F. of L. Iron Workers and the Truitt Mfg. Co. at Greensboro, N. C., the National Labor Relations Board reaffirmed its policy that a company must furnish sufficient financial information to the union in order to support its position that it cannot give a wage increase.

In the Truitt case the company stated that it could not give a wage increase and at the same time argued that confidential financial information concerning the affairs of the company are not matters of bargaining or discussion with the union.

As the result of an unfair labor practice charge filed by the union, the Board took the position that the company must furnish financial information if the collective bargaining representative is going to intelligently represent the employes in the barfeels that Brother O'Brien's background and experience will bring to the Board a person well qualified for the office of vice president.

AL O'BRIEN

western Organizational Conference,

Al O'Brien was selected from

among the local unions in that re-

gion to fill the vacancy which ex-

isted on the Executive Board of our

International Union as a result of

the resignation of Vice President

**Terry Parker. The Executive Board** 

President of the Pacific North-



#### gaining unit.

#### Gains Won In San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO—Internanational Representative Carl Shugaar announces negotiations completed on a number of contracts held by Local 36, with gains as follows: Simon Brothers Market, \$28.50 per month; National Audit Bureau, \$25 per month, plus an additional week's vacation after five Page Four

X

#### THE WHITE COLLAR

## from the desk

### of the

# PRESIDENT

#### **HOWARD COUGHLIN**

### **Eisenhower's Dilemma**

President Eisenhower recently stated that he has not decided when minimum wages should be raised or what stand he will eventually take regarding state "right-to-work" laws.

He told newsmen that Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell has a right to advocate a raise in the minimum wage law and abolition of state "right-to-work" laws.

While acknowledging that Mitchell is his chief advisor on labor matters, Eisenhower thumped his desk with his fist while he said strongly, that none of his advisors can take from him the responsibility for making final decisions.

### U.S. Would Be in \* Heck of a Fix If Gals Quit Working

\*

AD THE PARTY

To emphasize the importance of ahead offers unparalleled opportuwomen workers in national life and nities to America and the free progress, the U. S. Department of world. Labor poses this problem:

dividual office, store, factory, res- can be accomplished by strengthentaurant, schoolroom, hospital, tele- ing our national defense, by reinphone exchange, bank, if every forcing our alliance with the free woman employed remained away nations of the world, by participateven for a single day.

swer the problem can to some ex- and economic growth and by joint tent envision the basic importance resistance against any further apof women's contribution in modern peasement of the Soviet conspiracy. industrial life, the department said in a new bulletin, "Changes in President Eisenhower and the Dem-Women's Occupations, 1940-1950." ocratic leaders of the new Congress

# New Year Statement

By George Meany President, American Federation of Labor WASHINGTON—The year

Our first concern must be for the Picture the situation in an in- preservation of peace. That goal ing with them in effective programs Exercising the imagination to an- for broadening international trade It is highly encouraging that The number of women workers have agreed to cooperate on a bi-On the home front, progress will The great majority of them are depend upon the nation's determarried and their median age is mination to achieve it. The Amer-36.5 years compared to 32 years in ican economy can forge ahead in ward labor unity in 1955 are 1955 if the Government leads the brighter than ever before. Both the way. It can be retarded if the Government sits back and does nothing to encourage the return of prosper-

ernment should lose no time in increasing the Federal minimum wage to a realistic level, in establishing modern standards for unemployment compensation and in according tax relief to families in the lower income brackets. These measures would help to stimulate mass purchasing power.

There are many other desirable opportunities for social and economic progress which can be attained by legislative action in the new Congress which convenes January 5.

The American Federation of Labor favors a broader housing program through which the Government can assist states and cities to get rid of slums and build decent low-cost homes and apartments.

We urge congressional action to increased by 4½ million between partisan basis for these objectives. correct the manifest injustices of the Taft-Hartley Act to the workers of this country.

He said that what decision he would make on right-to-work legislation will await recommendations he will make on the Taft-Hartley Act in general. He said he was on the horns of a dilemma because it had been agreed on one side that states have all workers. the right to legislate in the field, and on the other side the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that the federal government has a right and responsibility there also.

It would appear to us that President Eisenhower does not have much of a decision to make in either the field of minimum wages or state so-called "right-to-work" laws.

It must be apparent to the President, as it is to the United and farmers. States Secretary of Labor, that 75c per hour is outmoded; except perhaps in the so-called "right-to-work" states. Perhaps we should really refer to the 17 states with this peculiar legislation as the "right-to-work-for-75c-per-hour" states.

A typical example of what is occurring since the passage of the "compulsory open shop" in these states is the action of the Kraft Company at Chicago during a recent strike. Production of Miracle Whip salad dressing, Velveeta and other Kraft foods ators, proprietors in retail trade, were shifted from the struck firm at Chicago to two non-union plants in "right-to-work" states-Decatur, Ga., and Garland, Tex.

If President Eisenhower and the Congress of the United States are going to encourage certain states of our country to set up proportion of all workers in the fol-"havens" for companies wishing to avoid unionism, and to establish sub-standard pay rates, they might just as well dissolve the Taft-Hartley Act and revert back to the days of labor-management strife, paid goons and strike breakers and other types of unwanted activity. Even the Taft-Hartley Act is designed, according to its preamble, "to foster and encourage collective bargaining." If we are to continue to allow states to outlaw unionism, the reverse effect will be achieved.

1940 and 1950.

1940.

Following are other highlights from the survey:

Women are about 30 per cent of

About half the employed women are clerical workers or operatives, a fifth are in various services, and over a tenth in professions.

The employment of women has turn this spring is indicated. increased in all occupation groups except among household workers

Women are now in all the 446 occupations that the Census reports. Largest individual occupations of women are stenographers, typists, and secretaries, saleswomen in retail trade, teachers, operatives in apparel factories, bookkeepers, waitresses, nurses, telephone operunpaid family farmworkers, cooks; operatives in laundries, textile mills, food factories, or electrical supply plants; beauticians, cashiers.

Women are an especially large

At the moment, the economic skies are brightening. The reces- sible by the successful operation of sion of 1954 appears to have run the no-raiding agreement between its course. A sharp business up- the two major labor groups, it

One dangerous factor in the ecolooked. Unemployment remains tegrity of all affiliated unions. unnecessarily high and will probpower caused by abnormally high unemployment may sap the strength of economic recovery unless the Government acts promptly to create new jobs.

The American Federation of Labor believes that the Government can and should undertake a huge program of school, hospital and highway construction. Our country is badly in need of these permanent improvements. They would

The prospects for progress to-American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations are on record officially as endorsing this constructive goal. In the atmosphere of peace made posshould be possible to negotiate a merger on a completely fair basis nomic picture must not be over- that will protect the rights and in-

All signs indicate bright hope for ably continue to climb until March the future. In that spirit, I extend or April. The deficit in purchasing to the ten million members of the American Federation of Labor and to men and women of good will everywhere best wishes for a happy, peaceful, and prosperous New Year.

## **OEIU Endorses Cancer Society Program**

The OEIU has gone on record to | mediate treatment; ACS volunteers endorse the American Cancer So- go into the homes to render service ciety's three-point attack on cancer. to the victims of cancer. Scientists aided by ACS funds are The American Cancer Society laboring to discover the cause and provides leadership in the fight cure of cancer; doctors and experts | against a disease that eventually will, are campaigning vigorously to ed- strike one out of four Americans

of cancer control.

1955 campaign.

ucate the public about cancer, to the if present rates continue. As long urgency for early diagnosis and im- as this terrible threat exists we must all lend our firm support to the American Cancer Society's program

participate in the American Cancer

Society crusade in their communi-

ties and to give generously to the

### **News Program** Shifted to ABC

The American Federation of Labor's radio news program, featuring a new commentator, Edlowing occupations:

Nine-tenths or more of nurses, dietitians, librarians, telephone operators, private household workers. Over four-fifths of operatives in resses, cashiers, demonstrators. ers, textile spinners, operatives in welfare workers; saleswomen in reknitting mills.

provide many new jobs and give industry a welcome lift.

In the legislative field, the Gov-

Half to two-thirds of hospital atapparel factories, waiters and wait- tendants, operatives in laundries, and plants making electrical sup-Three-fourths or more of teach- plies, shoes, textile fabrics; social, tail stores, cooks, beauticians.

## OEIU Member Leader in Philadelphia LLPE



ward P. Morgan, shifted to the American Broadcasting network on January 3. The programs are carried by ABC stations Monday through Friday at 10 p. m., Eastern Time.

Morgan, "a thorough liberal," has appeared on many CBS radio and TV programs in the past, served as news editor for the Columbia Broadcasting System, and contributed articles to outstanding national magazines.

Heart Association (Continued from page 1) search and in community services, including the rehabilitation of-cardiac workers.

Our International Union and many of its Local Unions have helped this cause in the past. We

must continue our aid if the hopeful Marie Hutchinson, in center of the group, secretary-treasurer of OEIU Local 14, is co-chairlady of the progress in this field is to be ad- women's division of Labor's League for Political Education in Philadelphia. Shown with her are: Left to vanced and if working men and right: Josephine Mullen, co-chairlady; James L. McDevitt, national director of LLPE; Congressman Wilwomen are to be assured greater liam J. Green, Jr., and Mary A. Varallo, member of the Pennsylvania legislature and president of Womhealth protection. en's Democratic Club of Philadelphia.