

THE OFFICE WORKER

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

No. 36

WASHINGTON, D. C., DECEMBER, 1947



PRINTING FIRM SIGNS WITH OEIU

Toronto, Ont.—The approximately 125 office and clerical workers employed by W. J. Gage & Co., Ltd., a large printing and stationery establishment, have obtained substantial improvements in their employment conditions under the terms of an agreement recently signed with OEIU Local 131, according to Canadian Representative Russell Harvey who handled the negotiations.

The weekly wage schedule and the individual wage adjustments negotiated have resulted in weekly increases averaging about \$2.75, retroactive to October 1st. OEIU Local 131 is recognized as the exclusive bargaining agency for the entire office and clerical force of the company.

The agreement also contains provisions governing the schedule of work, hours, seniority, paid vacations, the use of company bulletin boards for union notices and a comprehensive grievance handling procedure with provision for arbitration of grievances not otherwise satisfactorily adjusted.

The organization of this large sized printing company office marks another step forward in the progress of our organization in the Dominion of Canada, and constitutes our first large scale entrance into the printing industry in the Dominion. The satisfaction of the office and clerical workers with the gains achieved for them through these negotiations has been evidenced by an increasing number of such workers applying for membership in Local 131, according to Representative Harvey.

FAVOR UNION SHOP

La Crosse, Wisconsin—With 100 per cent of all eligible workers voting, OEIU Local No. 44 won a union shop election among the plant clerical workers of the Trane Company, by the thumping big vote of 59 to 2. The election was conducted by the Wisconsin Labor Board and as a result of the vote a union shop clause has been inserted in the agreement presently being negotiated with the company.

FAMILY'S OUTLAY FOR CHILDREN RISES 50%

The cost of bringing up a child in an American family of moderate income rose more than 50 percent in the last decade, statisticians of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company reported.

Ten years ago, they said, the cost of rearing a child to the age of 18 was almost \$10,000 in a family with an income of about \$2,500 a year. At present prices, the comparable cost would be more than \$15,000.

Largest increases in costs have been for food and clothing.

Big Gains Secured In Ingalls Ship Contract

Pascagoula, Miss.—After lengthy negotiations, an agreement has been reached between the Ingalls Shipbuilding Corporation of Pascagoula, and Local 204 of the Office Employees International Union.

More than a year ago President W. L. Hines of the Mississippi State Federation of Labor filed a representation petition with the NLRB in behalf of the International Union, seeking the right to represent all office and clerical employees at the Pascagoula plant.

The Ingalls Company fought the petition step by step to the national board at several hearings. However, on May 23, 1947, the national board ordered an election to determine the representative for collective bargaining purposes. This election was held on June 20, and despite the active campaign conducted by the company, the employees voted more than 2 to 1 for the Office Employees International Union.

Conferences for the purposes of negotiating the agreement were opened in July, with the union represented by a committee composed of Mrs. Mary N. Smith, Miss Doris Hamilton, and Miss Cecil Thomson, assisted by Hines and

Vice President J. O. Bloodworth, Jr., representing the International Union.

The highlights of the agreement are that it is retroactive to July 15; provides for the establishment of seniority status in accordance with length of service; 5 paid holidays not worked, with double time when worked; 48 workhours' sick leave with pay; vacations with pay of 1 week for 6 months' continuous service and 2 weeks for 1 or more years of service; full pay for court attendance or jury duty; and a wage increase of \$20 per month, effective November 15.

The officers and members of Local 204 have ratified the agreement and have expressed deep appreciation for the assistance which has been given to them by the International Union, as well as the Mississippi State Federation of Labor.

This is the first agreement for office employees that the Ingalls Company has ever entered into. Representing the company in negotiations were J. Paul Keefe, director of public and labor relations; Tom Suddath, assistant director, and W. R. Guest, plant manager.

OEIU Urges Congress To Increase Minimum Wage

Washington, D. C.—In testimony before the House Education and Labor Committee, OEIU International President Paul R. Hutchings urged Congress not to weaken the Wage-Hour Law and to increase the minimum wage level to 75 cents.

"Any move to amend the present statute so as to deny to office and clerical workers the protections enjoyed by other workers in the same establishments would be highly discriminatory to close to 6,000,000 workers and would result only in adding to the present plight of this large group of workers and citizens," Hutchings declared.

"We are not asking for any special legislative treatment. All we do ask is that we not be denied the

legislative rights and benefits enjoyed by all other trades.

"The 40-hour basic work week is recognized by statute as the maximum basic work week for our fellow workers, and the overtime pattern of time and one-half is the statutory minimum for excess hours of labor for other workers. We don't want to be singled out for an unwanted return to 'employers' choice' on our weekly hours and overtime rates. I am referring particularly to that vast group of unorganized office and clerical workers, as our members practically without exception have achieved through collective bargaining agreements daily and weekly wages, hours and overtime

(Continued on Page 3)

FURTHER GAINS AT KEASBEY-MATTISON

St. Louis.—Wage gains ranging from \$19.50 to \$40 per month highlighted the improvements achieved in the recently re-negotiated contract between Keasbey and Mattison Company and OEIU Local 13 according to Local President Leonard Amrhein.

Other gains made include a reduction of the probationary period from 45 to 30 working days and the establishment of the straight-time workweek has been limited from Monday through Friday exclusively with time and one-half provided for Saturday work and double-time for work performed on Sundays and six paid holidays. All employees called to work are guaranteed four hours' work or four hours' pay.

The agreement maintains the union security provisions of the previous contract as a result of the union security election conducted by the NLRB and in which practically all of the eligible voters favored the continuance of the union security in the agreement.

A check-off of union dues was incorporated in the contract for the first time, providing for the check-off of dues upon voluntary signed request of the union member.

AFL-OEIU Representative Frank E. Morton assisted the local union officers and committeemen in the contract negotiations.

ELECTION SOUGHT

Galesburg, Illinois.—A substantial majority of the office and clerical workers employed by the Gale Products Company, manufacturers of outboard motors have joined the OEIU and a local union is being established for this group according to Vice-President L. G. Nygren who has been working on this matter together with A. F. of L. Organizer L. J. Wadsworth.

Exclusive Bargaining Rights for the new OEIU local have been requested of the company and a petition for an NLRB election has been filed with the regional office at Chicago.

WANT UNION

Dallas, Texas—Almost all of the eligible office and clerical workers employed by Holland's Magazine have signed up for membership in OEIU Local 45, according to International Vice President C. A. Stafford who is assisting local union officers in the organization of this group.

Formal recognition as the exclusive collective bargaining agency for all office and clerical workers employed by this magazine has been requested and the conditions of a proposed working agreement are being drafted by a committee of members from this establishment.



Greetings of the Season



and

Sincere best wishes to
All members and friends
of the

Office Employees International Union

PAUL R. HUTCHINGS
President

J. HOWARD HICKS
Secretary-Treasurer

THE OFFICE WORKER

Official organ of the
OFFICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION



PAUL R. HUTCHINGS, *President*
J. HOWARD HICKS, *Sec.-Treas.*

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AFL ENDORSES SPIRIT OF PRICE CURB PLAN

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green gave unqualified support to President Truman's program for foreign aid and declared the AFL is "in harmony with the general spirit of the President's call for prompt action to halt inflation."

Speaking on the AFL's weekly radio program, "Labor, USA," Mr. Green discussed the AFL's position with respect to the issues facing the special session of Congress now convened.

Commenting upon Mr. Truman's request for authority to impose price ceilings and wage controls in limited areas of the nation's economy, Mr. Green's expressed doubt that the proposal was workable and just. He said:

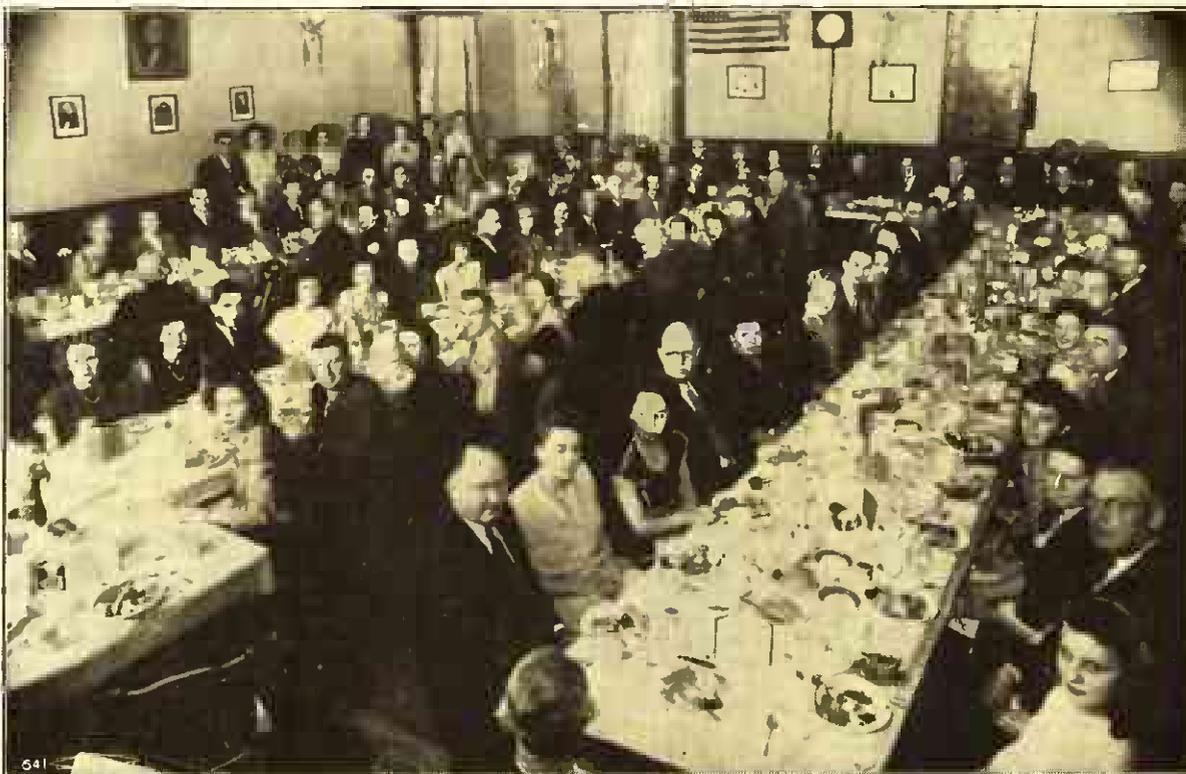
"The AFL does not unalterably object to giving the President power to control and regulate prices, provided all other means to keep the cost of living in check fail, and provided that proper safeguards and time limitations accompany the grant of power.

"Even greater objections apply to wage controls. The AFL voluntarily agreed to accept wage controls during the war, but our experience with the bureaucratic administration of the "Little Steel Formula" and other ceilings sadly disillusioned us. Inevitably such controls lead to widespread denials of justice and fair play and cause more harm than good.

"We feel that the pressure for wage increases will relax if the cost of living is kept in check. The demand for higher wages does not cause high prices. It always follows higher prices. Furthermore, wage increases in our normal system of labor-management relations, can be obtained only through collective bargaining. Is it likely that employers whose products are subject to price control would grant wage increases to labor? Obviously, price controls alone would result in a sharp check on wage increases.

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Mark Anniversary of Paper Mill Pact



Members of OEIU Local 192 and the management of Great Northern Paper Company are shown above at banquet in Millinocket, Me., celebrating first anniversary of their working agreement.

Millinocket, Maine. — Continued good relations between labor and management was the theme of speakers representing organized labor and management of the Great Northern Paper Company as they celebrated together the anniversary of the signing of the first labor agreement between OEIU Local No. 192 and the largest paper company in Maine. The happy occasion was a banquet in Millinocket on November 17, 1947.

To head a galaxy of speakers for the evening Mr. Paul R. Hutchings, International President of the OEIU, flew from Washington and was greeted with a song of welcome by the one hundred and twenty-five members and guests gathered about the well laden tables.

Union Leaders Attend

Benjamin J. Dorsky, President of the Maine State Federation of Labor, with State Federation Vice President John Wheeler of the Pulp and Sulphite Workers, represented organized labor in the State, and Thomas Simpson, a past President of the Paper Makers spoke for the production workers of the company. Arnold Guptill, past President of the OEIU local was also a speaker.

The management of the Great Northern Paper Company was represented by Leslie G. Kewer, Assistant Auditor; Robert Hume, Supt. of the Millinocket Mill and Asst. Supt. Ivan G. Ames; Albert J. Bertrand, Spruce Wood Accountant; Donald York, Mill Auditing Accountant; L. B. Bartlett, Asst. Supt. of the East Millinocket Mill, R. L. Farnham of the Social Security Dept., and Bailey Brown, Paymaster.

The Chairman on Arrangements was Mrs. Elizabeth R. Walls, Vice President of Local 192, and Toastmaster William M. Praught, President of the Local. These two were

the original negotiating committee who worked on the agreement signed in Boston, October 26, 1946, and acted on the renegotiations in 1947.

All speakers brought congratulatory messages to the office workers for their success in exemplifying in such a practical manner how the so-called white collar worker can organize for self-betterment in industry, while at the same time establishing excellent mutual relations and trust between management and employe.

The company representatives expressed their satisfaction with the amicable relations under which the original agreement and its renewal has functioned, and each speaker extended the good wishes of management.

Hutchings Speaks

President Hutchings delivered a very forceful message on the importance of teamwork between labor and management, and warned of the dual dangers of subversive influences from without America and reactionary intolerance within. He stressed the danger to America if either member of the free enterprise team is shackled by ill-advised legislation and the danger to the world if the beacon light of freedom is dimmed in America. But he painted a picture of the great future which is the destiny of all Americans if industry and labor may be permitted to continue on a foundation of mutual respect and cooperation.

Mr. Dorsky spoke of the dangers of impending legislation to both labor and management, and brought congratulations to the office workers from the State Federation.

Good Relations

Mr. Simpson and Mr. Wheeler testified to the forty years of good relations between the Great Northern Paper Company and its workers, relations which have been founded on collective bargaining for all that long period. They brought back to their listeners some of the difficulties which confronted Local No. 192 as it went through the critical period of organization.

The musical numbers on the program were rendered by Miss Jean Stratton, Miss Patricia Thibodeau, Miss Dorothy Hubbard, and Paymaster John Bailey Brown. Mill Supt. Robert Hume also rendered some impromptu numbers on the harmonica, and led the group in singing. Miss Joan Farquhar delivered a delightful reading.

Congratulatory messages were read from various representatives of labor and management who

(Continued on Page 4)

Are You An Active Member?

Are you an active member?

*The kind that's liked so well,
Or are you just contented
With the emblem on your lapel.*

Do you attend the meetings?

*And mingle with the flock,
Or do you stay at home,
And criticize and knock.*

Do you take an active part?

*To help the work along,
Or are you satisfied to be—
Like those that just belong.*

Do you ever make suggestions?

*To the officers you pick,
Or leave the work to just a few,
And talk about that clique.*

Come to the meetings often

*And help with hand and heart;
Don't be just a member,
But take an active part.*

Journal—Bro. of Maintenance
of Way Employes.

OEU URGES HIKE IN MINIMUM WAGE

(Continued from Page 1)

standards which exceed the minimum standards of the act.

"The psychology of the propaganda of some employers in regard to office workers is most interesting. They protest the organization of office employes on the grounds that they think of us as part of management and that we may some day become partners in the firm. While many of them may be most sincere, they are unconsciously rationalizing, for office workers are human beings and can't live on future possibilities but must rely on what they get in their pay envelopes, just as all other workers.

"It is quite possible that this same feeling may lie behind present desires to exclude us from the protections of the basic standards of the Fair Labor Standards Act. We are particularly in need of these protections—any move to amend the act to push us out from its protections could only be interpreted as a complete failure by the proponents of such action to recognize our plight which has become rather widely recognized during recent years."

President Hutchings also urged the committee to insert additional language in the act to wipe out the practice of "coolie" overtime computations which some employers are applying to workers on so-called irregular hours schedules.

In conclusion he stressed the need for increasing the 40-cent minimum to 75 cents an hour.

"The 40-cent rate has become meaningless today because of living costs and the substantial upward shift in wage rates which has occurred during the past few years, with the result that a drastic upward revision is required if the law is to continue to serve its purpose," he said.

An employer, Patrick W. McDonough of Oakland, California, startled the committee by speaking up for a \$1 hourly minimum wage. He declared that a decent wage will not be paid by some employers unless it is made obligatory and urged the \$1 hourly rate as one which will provide a better standard of living.

H. D. Lee Workers Vote Union Shop

Trenton, N. J.—Office and clerical workers of H. D. Lee & Co. voted almost unanimously for the union shop in an election required by the Taft-Hartley act and conducted by the National Labor Relations Board.

Only two votes were cast against this clause in the renewal agreement negotiated by OEU Local 70, which boosted wages \$18 a month for all workers and brought the gains secured in the last two years up to \$45.50 per worker.

AFL PREFERRED

Oakland, Calif.—Office and clerical workers of the Laher Spring and Tire Company at a meeting with Organizer Sander of OEU Local 29 expressed a desire to affiliate with the local. Production workers of this company are members of the CIO.

'Real' Wages Down \$5.00 Weekly Says BLS Report

Washington, D. C.—At a time when profits in industry are booming along at record levels, American workers employed by that industry are seeing the purchasing power of their weekly wages diminishing month by month in the face of soaring prices.

A recent report released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics shows the extent of this gradual drop in purchasing power over a period of years. It is all the more striking for this reason, since the slow whittling process has been pulled together and emphasized in one cumulative report.

BLS figures reveal that for the period from VJ-Day to the end of August 1947, workers' gross weekly wages increased by about 18 percent but the cost of living zoomed a total of 24 percent over the same time interval. The impact upon workers of this discrepancy resulted in a 5 percent drop in their real wages during a two-year period.

Stated another way, the burden upon workers is shown to be even heavier. If spendable earnings are calculated, the loss in buying power expressed in 1939 dollars out of every week's wages amounts to more than \$5 since the wartime peak in 1944.

The BLS reports that in current dollars, wages have been slowly rising, but have not for a long time kept up with soaring prices.

Its "spendable" yardstick, the bureau explained, is arrived at by taking into account the advance in living costs, as well as social security and income taxes deducted from pay envelopes.

On that basis, the bureau said, a worker with three dependents had "spendable" earnings in August of only \$29.58, expressed in 1939 dollars, compared with an average of \$34.89 during 1944.

Still worse, the report showed, the purchasing power of workers' wages declined for four successive months—from May to August—and continues to go down hill.

Prices, meanwhile, keep reaching for the moon. During August, for example, retail food prices mounted by 1.8 percent, and during September the rise was much greater—from 3 to 4 percent, or at a rate of about 40 percent a year, the Labor Department pointed out.

That brings the food price index for September to the staggering all-time peak of nearly 114 percent above August 1939, the department revealed. For such mainstays as meat and fish, the increase has been even greater—from 140 to 165 percent.

Fenton Is Appointed To AFL International Post

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green announced the appointment of Francis P. Fenton, National Director of Organization, to the post of International Representative of the American Federation of Labor.

Mr. Green's announcement followed a meeting of the AFL's International Relations Committee here at which time Mr. Fenton was selected to fill the post left vacant by the untimely death of Robert J. Watt. It is expected that Mr. Fenton also will take Mr. Watt's place as the American Workers' Delegate to the International Labor Organization.

Mr. Fenton was born in Boston in 1895, and for many years has been active in the labor movement. A member of Coal and Fuel Chauffeurs & Helpers, Local Union No. 68, of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, he was active in union affairs in the city of Boston. Mr. Fenton served as vice-president and president of the Boston Central Labor Union and was an executive member of that organization for a period of 13 years.

Mr. Fenton became associated with the American Federation of Labor as an organizer, and in 1939 was the AFL's New England Regional Director of Organization when he was called to Washington to take the post of National Director for the AFL, which position he held at the time of his recent appointment.

In addition to his labor activities, Mr. Fenton served as a consultant on vocational education to the U. S. Office of Education, and was a member of the Labor-Management Advisory Committee, U. S. Department of Labor. He is also a mem-

ber of the labor committee of the National Planning Association.

In his new capacity as International Representative for the AFL, Mr. Fenton is scheduled to leave for Europe the end of November to attend a meeting of the Governing Body of the International Labor Organization.

Mr. Fenton's successor as director of Organization for the AFL has not been chosen.

WAGE INCREASES WON

Boston.—Weekly increases of from \$2 to \$4 were obtained in the renewal agreement between the Associated Transport Company and OEU Local 6, according to the report of Recording Secretary Ida S. Velleman. This renewal agreement continues all previous gains and was negotiated by AFL Organizer Aaron Velleman on behalf of the local union and with the assistance of the Local committee.

INCREASES DUES

Pittsburgh, Pa.—By unanimous action at its regular November membership meeting, OEU Local 33 voted to increase its regular monthly membership dues to \$2.00 per month, according to Sally R. Douty, President of the local.

The local also expressed its appreciation for the services rendered to it by OEU Vice President R. M. Daugherty, who was present at the November 13th meeting and delivered a fine address to the membership.

FILE AFFIDAVITS WITH LABOR BOARD

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green and George Meany, AFL secretary-treasurer, filed non-Communist affidavits with the National Labor Relations Board as required by the Taft-Hartley law.

This action by the two officers of the AFL paved the way for the Federal Labor Unions, which are affiliated directly with the AFL, to use the services of the NLRB provided their own officers have filed similar affidavits.

The NLRB announced that as of the end of October, the deadline for union officers to submit sworn statements that they are not Communists, a total of 19,306 affidavits was on file.

Failure to file by October 31, the board previously declared, would result in the dismissal of all old cases pending before the board which had been filed prior to the effective date of the Taft-Hartley law. Carrying out its warning, the board commenced to throw out some of the cases involving unions which failed to comply by the deadline date.

One of the cases dismissed involved the United Construction Workers, an affiliate of the AFL's United Mine Workers. Mr. John L. Lewis, UMW president, refused to sign the Communist disclaimer and became the only AFL union president to publicly state he would not submit the affidavit.

The requirement, as laid down by the NLRB, that union officers were to file the affidavits before the deadline date, applied only to those unions which had cases pending before the Taft-Hartley law went into effect. For cases instituted since that time, the only requirement is that the affidavits must be presented to the NLRB before the cases can be processed.

The NLRB gave the following breakdown of the affidavits it had received as of the end of last month:

From AFL officers, 13,320; representing 1,635 local unions and 66 internationals.

From CIO officers, 608; representing 77 local unions and 14 internationals.

From independent unions, 5,378; representing 683 local unions and 30 internationals.

Negotiate With Housing Board

Oakland, Calif.—Contract negotiations with the Richmond Housing Authority were resumed in November by OEU Local 29 after 300 office and clerical employes returned to work under a temporary agreement.

The workers walked out in October when the Federal Public Housing Administration refused to confirm an agreement with the local Authority which provided a wage increase of 25 cents an hour.

The maintenance workers also walked out under similar circumstances.

WAGE INCREASES IN JEWELRY CONCERNS

Oakland, Calif. — A retroactive wage increase of 7 per cent was secured by OEIU Local 29 in a contract negotiated with six Alameda county retail jewelry stores, according to Business Agent John Kinnick.

The contract, effective October 1 and retroactive to May 15, establishes an improved scale of wages for the classifications of general, intermediate, junior and beginner clerk.

Stores covered by the agreement are: Milen's, Gensler-Lee, Davidson & Licht, Kay's, Brent's and Lloyds.

AFL Endorses Spirit of Plan

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"We suggest that a trial period be established for testing the main portions of the program before resorting to the final extreme measures of Government regimentation over the economic life of the nation which a free people will accept and adhere to only in a national crisis."

Mr. Green gave general endorsement to the major portions of the President's anti-inflation program, including the control of consumer credit, the regulation of speculation on commodity exchanges, the restoration of export controls, the allocation of transportation equipment, the more effective utilization of grain, the expansion of agricultural production, and the tightening of the rent control law.

On two other recommended steps, Mr. Green said labor would accept them as emergency measures although distasteful. He referred to Mr. Truman's request for the allocation of scarce commodities and supplies and to the proposal to ration such commodities.

On the latter proposal Mr. Green said, "Naturally no one likes rationing, but it still remains the only fair and democratic method of distributing a fair share of the available supply of scarce commodities on an equal basis to all citizens."

Turning to the President's request for foreign aid, Mr. Green emphasized that the recent AFL convention unanimously endorsed the Marshall Plan for the economic recovery of Europe. He said:

"The convention said in a formal declaration that it is to the self-interest of every American worker that the rehabilitation of western Europe be successfully accomplished. It decided that the cost to the American people of assisting the 16 nations of western Europe to regain a self-supporting status would be small as compared to the alternative of an unaided Europe falling under totalitarian domination with the ultimate threat of war."

Mr. Green pledged the AFL to support the Government in its efforts to promote the Marshall Plan and said that a conference would be called of labor representatives in Europe for that purpose. In addition the AFL is urging its members to send CARE packages to Europe as a means of alleviating the suffering of the people from cold and hunger.

Small Tax Payer Not Helped By Good Intentions, Woll Says

Washington, D. C. — Matthew Woll, chairman of the AFL's Committee on Taxation and a member of the Special Tax Study Committee appointed by Congressman Knutson, expressed gratification at the concern shown by the majority of the committee for the welfare of the small taxpayer.

Mr. Woll, who filed a minority report dissenting from the conclusions reached by the committee, declared, however, that the majority report should be judged by its specific recommendations, rather than by pious statements of good intentions.

Insult to Intelligence

"If the major concern of the majority of the committee is to relieve the small taxpayer, then the majority recommendations can only be termed an insult to our intelligence," Mr. Woll said.

"Their report is based on the assumption that the across-the-board tax cuts of four billion dollars, as proposed by Representative Knutson, will be made. The majority is aware that these reductions will only partially ease the tax load of millions of taxpayers at below subsistence income levels.

"On the other hand, upper bracket taxpayers would be relieved of a substantial portion of their tax bill. Knowing this, the majority make specific recommendations in their report for further tax changes that will involve the loss of additional billions of dollars which will accrue mainly as savings to these same upper bracket income taxpayers."

Mr. Woll charged that the Knutson proposal, plus the specific tax

BROKERS WON'T BE SHORT

New York City.—Any worker fortunate enough to have money to invest in stocks will find that it now costs him about twice as much to make his investment.

Brokers on the New York Stock Exchange voted themselves an increased "take" on all transactions in the buying and selling of shares of stock.

Food Conservation Program

The following suggestions are made by the Citizens Food Committee for conservation of food, particularly grains and meat, in order that hunger may be alleviated in Western Europe where floods and then drought took a heavy toll of food crops this year:

SAVE MEAT—EGGS

A. On Meatless Tuesday do not eat major meats such as beef, veal, lamb, pork. (Exceptions: Meat by-products such as liver, kidneys, brains, sweetbreads, hearts, pigs' feet and pigs knuckles, tripe, ox-tail and tongue.)

B. On Eggless Thursday do not eat eggs.

C. All other days:

1. Use eggs and egg dishes in moderation.

2. Use the less expensive kinds of meat and poultry such as chuck, short ribs, spare ribs, rump, shoulder, breast, flank, brisket, bottom round, shank, sausage, frankfurters, shank end of ham, canned meats, and stewing chickens.

3. If using the tender cuts, such

revisions favored by a majority of the committee, would involve a total revenue loss to the Federal government of six to seven billion dollars.

Dangerous Program

"I submit that such a proposal is fantastic because it so completely disregards our Federal revenue and our probable commitments under the Marshall Plan," Mr. Woll declared.

"Furthermore, this proposal would result in shifting a greater share of the tax burden from those more able to those less able to bear the tax load. Such a program is not only inequitable, but dangerous to the economy."

"Finally," declared Mr. Woll, "the proof of the utter insincerity of the majority's professed interest in the low income groups is found in their recommendation that excise taxes be increased and extended. Obviously, they hope to collect additional revenue either through taxes on luxuries or through taxes on necessities in common use.

Would Cut Buying

"Taxes on luxuries rarely yield any considerable revenue and frequently defeat their purpose by discouraging consumption. Taxes on necessities, on the other hand might yield additional revenue but would cut into the purchasing power and living standards of the low income groups.

"Anyone interested in tax equity or our social and economic welfare," concluded Mr. Woll, "can be either amused or outraged at Mr. Magill's attempts to promote bigger and better taxes on consumers, while expressing concern for the small taxpayer."

MARK ANNIVERSARY

(Continued from Page 2)

could not be present.

The banquet closed on a note of good will and a unanimous note of regret that another year must pass before another such festive occasion may be enjoyed.

SENSATIONAL JUMP IN RETAIL PRICES

Washington, D. C.—A sensational jump in retail prices of food products between mid-August and mid-September was the major factor boosting the consumers' price index to a record high, 164 percent above the 1935-39 level, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported on the basis of preliminary estimates.

The index as of September 15th stood at a level 12 percent above a year ago, 23 percent over the prevailing prices recorded for June 1946, and 66 percent greater than the level of August 1939.

The price report came on the heels of another BLS release, reported in an earlier issue of the news service, showing that real weekly wages of American workers had dropped \$5 per week over the two-year period since V-J Day. Thus, a further drop was recorded in September as the cost-of-living spurred up once more.

Prices advanced in September for all major groups of items, BLS said. Final figures for foods indicate that they increased 3.6 percent from mid-August. Preliminary estimates show that rents advanced over two percent; house furnishings were up over one percent, and apparel, fuel and miscellaneous goods and services increased somewhat less than one percent.

The rise of 3.6 percent in food prices between mid-August and mid-September brought the food index for September 1947 to 203.5 percent of the 1935-39 average; 40 percent higher than June 1946 and 10 percent above the June 1920 peak. Meats, dairy products, and eggs were again the chief contributors to the advance in the total food bill.

Cereal products rose 1.3 percent and beverages 2.9 percent. Fruits and vegetables dropped 0.8 percent on the average, with declines of 5.1 percent for canned goods and 0.8 percent for dried products. There was a slight increase for fresh fruits and vegetables.

Prices of fats and oils dropped 1.1 percent, although these prices usually increase seasonably at this time of year.

Rents in large cities advanced over 2 percent from August to September as rent increases allowed under the 1947 Housing and Rent Act continued to be reported.

AFL'S RAILROAD CLERKS WIN RAISES FOR 1,500

Cincinnati, Ohio. — Wage increases of \$20 to \$35 a month were awarded employees of the AFL's Brotherhood of Railway Clerks by Capital Airlines. Nearly 1,500 clerical and allied workers will benefit from the new pay scale.

The raises, retroactive to October 1, brought pay scales on this line to just about the highest in the air transport industry, it was explained by Frank Reynolds, Clerks' general representative. In addition, the pact retains \$10 to \$20 a month automatic annual pay increases.

"Our relations with the management have been exceptionally friendly," Reynolds said.