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JUSTICE

Official Organ of The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union

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Printz-Biederman Signs with I.L.G.W.U.

On February 6, the Printz-Biederman Co., one of the oldest and largest women's coat and suit manufacturers in the country, signed a memorandum of an agreement with the I. L. G. W. U. after conferences in Washington and New York City. After the settlement, President Dubinsky issued the following public statement:

"This is the first time since 1906 that the Printz-Biederman firm has reentered into contractual relations with the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. During this long interval, the Printz-Biederman firm has maintained a shop-employe organization. We have always desired that this firm should be a party to the collective agreements prevailing in the industry. Notwithstanding many efforts on the part of the Union, the firm has, nevertheless, successfully resisted signing an agreement with it.

"Under the present arrangement, the Union, in granting the workers employed by the Printz-Biederman firm a separate local, under the direct supervision of the General Executive Board, is departing from its usual method of chartering new organizations. We consider this new method of employer-employee relations, as expressed in this instance, as best adapted to the special needs of the workers in this factory, and for the solution of their specific shop problems.

"I regard this settlement as a contribution to the general spirit of the times and as an expression of a genuine desire on the part of both parties to do their utmost towards national economic recovery."

Details of the agreement, such as work conditions, employment of union members only and impartial machinery for settlement of disputes, were left to Dr. Arthur Rubin, of the University of Chicago, both sides undertaking to sign such an agreement and to carry it out. Dr. Rubin, who is Deputy Director of the Coat and Suit Authority in Chicago, was also named permanent impartial chairman.

Strike Wave Grips Mid-West Cotton Dress Factories

1,000 Workers Employed by Forest City Firm, in St. Louis, Mo., and Collinsville, Ill., On Strike—One-Day Strike Brings Success in Fort Wayne, Ind.—Strike Impending in Decatur, Ill.—Pre-Strike Meetings Stir Chicago—Minneapolis Employers Sign.

The following telegram from Meyer Perlstein, Middle West I.L.G.W.U. general organizer:

"Minneapolis silk dress almost completely settled. Signed four individual agreements with the leading silk dress firms in this city. All workers joined the Union. Next task is the organization of the Boulevard Frock Co., large cotton dress firm. Expect to have firm signed up shortly."

Another message from Perlstein, from St. Louis:

"Strike in Forest City Co.'s two plants, in St. Louis, Mo., and Collinsville, Ill., declared on February 6. Firm employs 1,000 people. Response of workers marvelous. St. Louis shop being picketed by hundreds of union workers."

Chicago, Decatur, Fort Wayne in Line

From Chicago, Vice-President Morris Bialis wires:

"Strike in Pollak Brothers, Fort Wayne, Ind., ordered on the 7th of February. 350 workers responded loyally. Firm renewed agreement after one-day strike, conceding every demand of the workers. Strike impending in Decatur, Ill., cotton dress shops. Fight being waged for enforcement of union work terms and for renewal of agreements.

"Great pre-strike meeting of cotton garment workers held in Chicago on Friday, February 8, with John Fitzpatrick, president, and Barret O'Hara, representative, of the Chicago Federation of Labor, and Morris Bialis, I.L.G.W.U. Vice-President as speakers.

The Bosses' Ideal of A "Desirable" Code

Suggested by the Speeches of Messrs. Flanders, Edgerton, West, et al., Masterminds and Spokesmen of Industry, at Public Hearings on Employment Policy Before National Industrial Recovery Board at Washington, D. C., January 30-February 1.

Cloak Code Authority Sustains "Limitation" Rule

Rejects American Association Request for Elimination of Contractor Limit Clause

At a full meeting of the Coat and Suit Code Authority, on February 7, at 131 West 30th Street, New York City, George W. Alger presiding, the official request presented by the American Cloak and Suit Manufacturers' Association, the contractors' group, through its manager, Harry Uviller, for the elimination of the clause of contractor limitation from the Code, was denied.

The contractors based their demand on the allegation that contractor limitation was creating undue advantages for inside workers and disadvantages for the outside shops. After a debate which lasted several hours, with Vice-President Isidore Nagler championing the cause of contractor limitation, the Authority voted to sustain it.

Raincoat Union Sets Conditions For Change

Will Accept Piece-Work Only With Wage Guarantee, no Contracting, Inside Shops

If New York rainwear manufacturers are prepared to offer a minimum guarantee of $1 an hour, open inside shops, confine all work to New York and abolish contracting, Raincoat Makers' Union, Local 20, of the I.L.G.W.U., would be ready to change the present system of week-work to piece-work.

Though the present collective agreement does not expire until July 31, the Union would agree to a change before expiration, on the basis of the above conditions, Sec'y Kessler said. He intimated, however, that manufacturers, seeking piece-work, do so without guarantees of any sort in mind.

Coat and Dressmakers in Cincinnati

By Peretz Kottler
I. L. G. W. U. Organizer

About fifteen years ago Cincinnati was an important cloakmaking center and had a substantial cloakmakers' union, with 500 members.

After the largest local firm, Bischoff, Stern & Stein, went out of business Cincinnati began to decline as a cloak market and in later years dwindled to nothing. The cloak workers left the town in search of work in other places, and the local practically went out of existence. Today, there are no more than forty cloakmakers in this city, scattered among a few shops. Each one of these men, however, is a union member and works under union scales and conditions.

A Dress Industry Develops

In the last ten years, however, Cincinnati has developed a substantial dress industry which, before the NRA, employed in seasons about 900 workers, nearly all of them women. The Cincinnati dress trade is half silk and half cotton. Of the important shops, there are the Le-Vine Dress Co., manufacturing better dresses, from $10.50 up, and employing about 170 workers; and the Princess Garment Company, mail order house, which manufactures from the cheapest house dresses up to $14.98 retail, and employing during seasons between 400 and 450 workers. The few other shops in the trade employ 100 workers and less.

It is needless to say that the wages and work conditions in these shops, prior to the advent of the Dress Code, were the worst imaginable. The best mechanics could not earn more than $15 a week, while the majority made from $3 to $7.

Immediately after the NRA was proclaimed, the cloakmakers, all of them old union men, reorganized their local and soon after the dress cutters, the majority of whom were at one time cloak cutters, joined them. Now, the coat and the dressmakers have one mixed local, Number 63. As soon as they reformed their local, they presented demands to the employers and got them without a struggle. The cloak cutters got their Code scales and the dress cutters, who were working on piece rates, got a flat price of $35 a week.

At that time, the Amalgamated Clothing Workers called a meeting of all the needle trades workers in the city, with the Mayor of Cincinnati as the principal speaker, where the then famous "7A," the workers' "Bill of Rights," was proclaimed, guaranteeing them that they could organize into unions without interference by employers. At that meeting, about sixty dressmakers signed applications which were turned over to the reorganized Local 63.

Paying Price for Union Affiliation

When they came next day to their shops, these new applicants proudly announced their affiliation with the union and began to urge the other workers to join. It did not take, however, very long before they were fired, one by one, and within a short time every union dressmaker was weeded out from the Cincinnati shops. The small local organization was in no position to take care of them and when they appealed to the local NRA board, which consisted of employers and sworn enemies of labor, their complaints were ignored.

The discontent of these discharged workers, who were left in a distressed condition, soon grew into a bitter feeling against the Union. The local then appealed to President Dubinsky to send someone to Cincinnati to take care of the situation, and the president referred this task to Vice-President Katovsky of Cleveland. In the meantime, however, the employers took advantage of the antagonism spread by the discharged dressmakers against the Union and at the same time did everything in their power to intimidate the workers from joining the local. The workers were so frightened at the prospect of losing their jobs that they would not be even seen speaking to a union member in the garment district.

Showdown Brings Results

Brother Katovsky's visit to Cincinnati brought new life to the members of Local 63. His first step was to bring some order into the organized cloak shops and to make them live up to union rules. Later he began negotiations with the dress employers and when the latter refused to have anything to do with the Union, he succeeded, with the aid of an organization committee, in organizing the majority of the Princess cutters.

On his second visit to Cincinnati, he found the Le-Vine shop 75 per cent organized. He renewed his attempts to negotiate with the firm, and this time, after the threat of a strike, he succeeded in obtaining an agreement from the Le-Vine firm for a preferential union shop. The contract was for one year, with provision for an impartial chairman in case of disputes between the Union and the firm.

Equal Work in Slack Time

Before the shop was organized, it was a common custom in this shop, during the slack season, for non-union girls to earn $40 a week while the union girls would earn $2 or less. After the contract was signed, the foreladies tried to discriminate in the same manner against the union girls, but as soon as I found this out, I forced the firm to divide the work equally among all the girls, regardless of whether they belong to the union or not. By this, I wanted to prove to the non-union girls that in spite of the fact that they still neglected to stay away from the Union, the Union is ready to protect their interests. Nevertheless, even this attitude is being exploited by the foreladies to incite the union girls not to pay dues, pointing out to them that the non-union girls are getting the same benefits without any payments at all. We, therefore, determined to demand, when the time comes to renew the agreement, a closed shop or at least a preference of work for union members in the slack season.

On January 21, we had installation of officers of our new executive body, which is a joint board in miniature. We have all crafts of the cloak and dress trades represented on this executive group, each one of them loyal and eager to put his shoulder to the wheel and to build up a strong union in Cincinnati and to have the entire dress trade organized.

About our activities in the other shops, the non-union factories, I shall write in my next letter.

Enforcing Averages in Cloak Shops

By Charles H. Green
Director Codes Observance Bureau

The Coat and Suit Authority is making a determined drive to enforce the payment of "averages" by coat and suit manufacturers.

Ever since the adoption of the Code, at least 90 per cent of the manufacturers—that is, the manufacturers who operate under collective agreements with the I. L. G. W. U., have been paying the averages called for in the Code, but the ten per cent of non union houses have proved, as might have been expected, to be the recalcitrant ten per cent President Roosevelt has singled out for scorn. These non-union manufacturers have proved to be the chiselers. At best they have paid Code minimums. Nor is it strange that firms which claim to be paying Code minimums are generally found to be chiseling even there, and to be paying below Code minimums as a matter of fact. However, those employers who think that they will be able to get away with the payment of minimums are due for a rude shock.

The Code Authority has made over one hundred thousand studies which have resulted in a formula by which piece rates can be so fixed as to assure the payment of averages in those shops which have heretofore undermined the legitimate unionized shops by paying minimums only. This formula is now being applied to these chiseling shops. The NRA is determined that the sweat shoppers and the chiselers shall no longer undermine conditions in the shops which operate in the spirit of the New Deal under collective agreements with the Union.

Error-Proof Formula

The new formula has already been installed in one of the larger cloak and suit manufacturer establishments. It appears to be working out properly, and the Code Authority will force its installation on other manufacturers who are paying the minimums, as rapidly as it can get to them.

This represents a victory, not only for the workers whose wage basis was being undermined, but for the legitimate employers as well.

Michel Chekhov and His Moscow Art Players

The Moscow Art Players will appear at the Majestic Theatre, 44th Street, West of Broadway, beginning February 18. Through a special arrangement with the Educational Department, four performances have been set aside to which I.L.G.W.U. members may secure tickets at the following rates: $3.00 tickets at 50c plus 10c tax; $1.50 tickets at 75c plus 10c tax; $2.00 tickets at $1.00 plus 20c tax.

The four special performances for the I.L.G.W.U. members are as follows:

Feb. 19—"Revisor," by Gogol; Feb. 21—"Poverty Is No Crime" by Ostrovsky; Feb. 26 — "Strange Child" by Shkvarkin (Soviet comedy), and Feb. 28—"Marriage" by Gogol.

Head of Atlanta Dress Firm Held for "Chiseling" by U. S. District Attorney

Samuel Lincoln, president of the Princess Mfg. Company of Atlanta, Ga., and owner of the largest dress factory in Cincinnati, Ohio, was arrested in Atlanta on January 31, on orders of the Federal District Attorney of the Atlanta District and slated for committment for the following day.

The charge against the Princess firm was that it had attempted to evade by substerfuge back-pay restitutions owed to workers employed in its shop, by coercing these workers to return the restitution checks under penalty of discharge.

The first agreement reached with the seven Atlanta dress firms in December, 1933, included the Princess concern. That contract contained a stipulation of a 25 per cent increase of the piece-rates prevailing at that time, the increase to remain in effect until such time as the representative of the Union and the employers could mutually agree on rates that would yield the average worker at least the minimum wage scale guaranteed by the Dress Code classifications.

Regional Board Grants Favorable Decision

The effort to bring all of the members of the local association together at any time, however, proved impossible, with the result that during April 1934, the Atlanta I.L.G.W.U. local was compelled to call upon the Atlanta NRA Compliance Board to begin a check-up in the plants of these dress firms on violations. Owing to lack of personnel, this check-up, nevertheless, was delayed until late Spring, when the complaints reached the Regional Labor Board for a hearing. On April 6 the Board rendered a decision which was very favorable to the workers, granting restitution pay in all the seven dress shops involved. The back-pay ranged from $188 in one shop to $1,653 in another.

The arrest of Mr. Lincoln grew out of his firm's alleged attempts to evade payment of this restitution money.

RAY OWENS NOW KANSAS CITY UNION AGENT; UNION SEEKS DONNELLY NEGOTIATIONS

Ray Owens, a cutter by trade, has been designated local representative of the I.L.G.W.U., taking the place of Sol Goldberg, also a cutter, who resigned on account of ill-health.

An invitation to cooperate in effecing satisfactory adjustment of work regulations in their factory was forwarded earlier in the month to the Donnelly Garment Co. in a letter signed jointly by Meyer Perlstein, on behalf of the I.L.G.W.U., and Virginia Stroup, president of the Donnelly Garment Workers' Union, No. 124.

In that letter a request is made for an opportunity to "present and submit labor's views and to work out peaceably and equitably the problem of uniform and adequate wage scales, protection for the experienced workers, the determination of piece work rates and all other problems jointly affecting your organization and our members."

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Despite Injunction and Hired Guards the Picket Line Around the L. N. Gross Co., Cotton Dress Factory in Cleveland and Kent, Ohio, Grows Stronger Each Day—Every Union in Cleveland and Kent Is Furnishing Its Quota of Pickets—With Song on Their Lips and Courage in Their Hearts 'Round and 'Round the Factories They March.

From Coast To Coast with Modigliani

By Serafino Romualdi

Seattle, Wash.,
January 28, 1935.

Climaxed by a big mass meeting, held here in Seattle last night, the first lap of Giuseppe E. Modigliani's lecture tour, under the auspices of our International Union, has come to a close. Now, we are getting ready to start down the Pacific Coast, and then back again to the Atlantic seaboard.

A little too strenuous, I admit, has been the task of Brother Modigliani; yet, he is still saying that the trip has made him feel ten years younger. To a certain extent, this is true. The anti Fascist movement among the Italians in the United States is an old movement, though lately confined, almost exclusively, to the adherents of the various radical movements, with a sprinkling, here and there, of liberals, Masons and intellectuals. The influence of Italian organizations, directly controlled by agents of the Italian government, helped considerably to weaken the voice of the anti-Fascist groups. And the result was that even in some labor unions the Italian-speaking members — more as a result of ignorance than of conviction — had openly begun to advocate the "coming of a Mussolini in America to fix everything." Thus, we have had here, and in some degree, we still have, organized forces of an alien government trying in every way to undermine the basic principles of democratic government.

It is a privilege, therefore, for the I. L. G. W. U. to have been among the first to realize this danger. Now, with its open stand against Fascism and Nazism, with its decision to sponsor the lecture tour of Modigliani, the pioneering group of old and somewhat tired anti-Fascists has been augmented in many localities by new elements in the common fight against the menace of Fascism.

Gone, then, is the time when an anti-Fascist speaker had to satisfy himself with an audience of a few score men and women. We used to say then, "We cannot go anywhere unless we enlist organized labor on our side!" Well, here is organized labor coming! The I. L. G. W. U. has blazed the trail!

* * *

And what a change, now! Localities where never before an Italian anti-Fascist had been able to appear are now definitely on our side. Meetings are packed. Enthusiasm is rising to a high pitch. I have heard veterans of the Italian anti-Fascist movement express their gratitude to the International for having given to the anti-Fascist movement what it lacked before, the support of organized workers.

Before Mr. and Mrs. Modigliani and myself left New York, on Sunday, January 6, Modigliani had delivered, during the month of December, aside from his activities sponsored and arranged by Local 89, four radio speeches, had appeared before countless meetings of members and officers of our local unions, and had visited many localities along the Atlantic seaboard. The readers of "Justice" know of the successful meetings held in Passaic, N. J., and New Haven, Conn. We must also not forget the meetings in Boston, so successfully arranged by the New England Council of the Needle Trades Union; in Providence, R. I., where barbers and textile workers joined with a committee of the Socialist Party and anti Fascist organizations; in Philadelphia, Pa., for the inauguration of the headquarters of the Amalgamated

Vice-President Rose Pesotta (right) and Serafino Romualdi posting announcement of Modigliani's Lecture-Meeting on Bulletin Board, Labor Lyceum, Seattle, Wash.

Clothing Workers; in Paterson, N. J., where Norris Sacharoff, in cooperation with Brother Frank Liberti, had organized a committee in which were represented five labor unions; in Union City, N. J., where the Italian Cooperative put its beautiful auditorium at our disposal, while Brother William Altman, manager of Dressmakers' Union, Local 148, together with the representatives of other labor unions and of the Socialist Party, as well as the Italian members of the executive board of Local 148, had an easy task in arranging an overflow meeting! In all these localities, considerable donations and very substantial collections were taken up to help our Italian brothers in their struggle against Fascism.

* * *

On January 7 and 8, Modigliani addressed very successful meetings in Vineland and Hammonton, N. J., arranged by the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, and on January 9, in Baltimore, Md., at which Vice-President Luigi Antonini was also present. The hall was filled to capacity as a result of the marvelous preparations made by the officers of our Joint Board and those of the Italian local of the Amalgamated. Then there was a brief appearance before the Baltimore Federation of Labor; interviews with local newspapers, including the Baltimore Sun, which was very generous in its write-up, and a banquet after the lecture he delivered. Vice-President Charles Kreindler, Sister Angela Bambace and Ulisse De Dominicis of the Amalgamated are to be complimented for the success of the arrangements in that city.

The following day, January 10, we arrived in Washington, D. C. A reception at the Arlington Hotel was held in the evening, with our dear friend, Charles Erlich, acting as toastmaster, and a long list of prominent speakers, including Col. Rogers, of the Scottish Rite Masonic organization; Ben Meiman, of the Jewish Daily Forward, and others. An interview, arranged by President Dubinsky, who was then in Washington, took place the next day with President William Green of the American Federation of Labor, who pledged unlimited support to Brother Modigliani and spoke warmly on his mission in the United States. In the evening, there was a lecture before a packed house at the Typographical Temple. We observed in the audience Frank Morrison, of the American Federation of Labor; Santiago Iglesias, resident Commissioner in Washington from Puerto Rico, and many other distinguished personalities. There were also some Fascists in the hall who obviously had come to cause trouble, but they left the place upon sober thinking, leaving behind a couple of their followers to utter some insipid remarks that made the audience rock with laughter.

Escorted by Congressman Vito Marcantonio of New York, Comrade Modigliani was shown the buildings of the House of Representatives and the Senate, where he remained for a while to watch the proceedings — he, the parliamentary leader of the Italian Socialist Party for fifteen years, observing the workings of America's parliament!

* * *

On January 13 and 15, we visited Pittsburgh and St. Louis, respectively. Pittsburgh gave us a genuine surprise. Miners, some of them in old, battered flivvers, had traveled, on a rainy day, as much as ninety miles to attend the lecture, which took place in the afternoon at Moose Hall. Without I. L. G. W. U. or Amalgamated locals, we were not expecting much in Pittsburgh, but the crowd actually amazed us! And how enthusiastic were those miners, veterans of many battles, eager to learn more, to be able to fight better in the future! I had the joy of again meeting, for the first time in more than ten years, many old-timers of the Italian Socialist Federation, which I had helped to organize shortly after my arrival from Italy. But how conditions have changed!

Pittsburgh is really the first city that can give a New Yorker traveling West the first impressions of what is still America in 1935. Tales of suffering, of unemployment, of struggle for a decent relief grant from men who have given up all hope that the days of 1923 and 1926 can ever come back. In those years, too, the miner's shack looked as ugly as it looks today, but, inside, the pantry was well stocked, and never would the housewife remove from the table the bottle of wine, the bread, cheese and salami. Now, according to what I heard, in the mining districts, the children frequently go hungry.

From the labor union standpoint, the United Mine Workers have come back exceedingly strong, and their members do get good wages when there is work. But here is the core of the situation: with most miners working on an average of two days a week, what can "good wages" do to keep the wolf away from the door?

Still, the union is the only agency that can give these miners protection. Gone, at last, is also the bitterness of the internecine struggle of the last few years. The fratricidal strife among the miners in Western Pennsylvania had much to do — very much indeed — with lowering their wages. Now, at least, the miners have unity, and woe to him who dares preach again the demagogy of dual unionism in the coal fields!

* * *

Chicago! We shall never forget the five days spent there. We were met at the station by a large delegation — and a noisy one, too — of anti-Fascists and trade unionists, conspicuous among whom were our Joint Board officers, led by Vice-President Morris Bialis. We were simply carried from one affair to another, from one visit to another meeting, from luncheons to receptions. In five days, Modigliani addressed three official meetings, spoke at a banquet, found time to visit Milwaukee, where Mayor Hoan was waiting for us at City Hall, and a huge crowd of several hundred had packed the Eagle Auditorium. And on the night of January 22, before we boarded the "Olympian" for Seattle, we were guests of several hundred comrades who had met for a farewell party in honor of Modigliani at the West Side Pleasure Club. Carloads of them came with us to the station where they sang

our hymns as the train slowly pulled out of the station.

President Dubinsky, who had to be in Chicago on Saturday, January 19, on union business, found time to appear briefly at the banquet given in honor of Modigliani that night at the Amalgamated Centre, and was highly complimented by all those who could speak to him, for having made possible the lecture tour of Modigliani. President Dubinsky was visibly elated over the moral success of Modigliani's tour.

* * *

The Joint Boards of the International and of the Amalgamated, and their managers, Brothers Bialis and Levine, respectively, as well as the Italian Socialist Federation, the Italian League for Men's Rights, and the officers of the Italian local of the Amalgamated, in particular, do really deserve the highest of praise for their activity in connection with Modigliani's visit to Chicago.

SPOKANE: Not scheduled to stop there, and we did not stay. Simply got off the train to greet a group of friends who had wired us they were waiting for the train. But what a surprise faced us when we found the waiting room of the station completely given over to more than 250 comrades who had assembled at a few hours' notice. Cheers and greetings and a brief address, while Mrs. Modigliani was so touched by this spontaneous demonstration that tears filled her eyes. The comrades of Spokane had just by chance found out from someone in Seattle that Modigliani was due to arrive there on Friday morning, the 25th. So they figured that he would pass through Spokane late Thursday evening, and in a few hours, going from house to house, they were able to organize such a glorious and unexpected greeting.

Of our stay on the Pacific Coast, there is so much to write that I had better reserve all the news for a separate correspondence in the next issue.

I.L.G.W.U. CONTRIBUTES $7,500 TO CHARITY

A contribution of $7,500 was sent to the Federation for the Support of Jewish Philanthropic Societies of New York City by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

President Dubinsky, in a letter to Judge Joseph M. Proskauer, Federation president, said that, of the sum, $3,500 is contributed by the I.L.G.W.U. direct, $2,000 by the New York Dress Joint Board, $1,000 by the Cloak Joint Board and $1,000 by miscellaneous locals. President Dubinsky concludes the letter by stating:

"Our International Union and all its component parts traditionally and invariably have regarded themselves as integral parts of this great community. . . . As long as Federation, through its various channels and agencies, will serve the masses, we are certain that our members will respond warmly to the needs of your institutions and will lend them their support."

The Men and Women Who Led the Racine Rubber Co. Strike

30-Hour Week, Classified Wages, Bi-Party Codes

Address by David Dubinsky, President, I.L.G.W.U., Delivered at the Public Hearing on Employment Policy Before National Industrial Recovery Board, Feb. 1, 1935, Washington, D. C.

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I speak on behalf of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, which has had the foresight and the good fortune to start the New Deal period on the basis of a 35-hr. work-week for 175,000 of its members representing 75 per cent of the workers employed in the women's wear industry. I speak on behalf of an organized industry which has wage classifications in the most important trades, and in my remarks I shall endeavor to bring to you the experience resulting from participating with equal rights in the most important code authorities functioning in this industry.

The Only Cure

Let me say from the outset that I fully and without reservation subscribe to the principle of the American Federation of Labor that only the shorter work-week can solve the distressing problem of unemployment and supply jobs to the idle millions. In our own industry, we had adopted this policy long before the present depression set in, namely, that the only cure for unemployment is the shorter work-week. In 1923, ours was one of the first important industries in America to adopt the 40-hour week in order to absorb the growing number of unemployed which resulted at that time from the introduction of simpler styles in women's garments and various technical improvements in production. Still, until the middle of 1933, we had in the cloak and dress trades tens of thousands of unemployed, in New York, in Chicago, in Philadelphia, in Boston and in other markets of women's wear. We had at that time a work-week which ranged from 40 hours in the organized centers to 55 or 60 hours in the non-union localities. The reduction of these work hours to 35 per week resulted at once in a wider spread of employment, giving jobs to thousands of workers who until then could not obtain any work in the shops.

But even today, despite the 35-hour week, there is still unemployment in the women's garment trades. There are still thousands of workers without permanent jobs in our industry and we are fully convinced that nothing else but a shorter work-week could give our industry an opportunity to absorb this reserve army of men and women who depend upon this industry for a living, who know no other trade, and who must support their families and themselves by cloak-making, dressmaking, or similar garment making. And it is quite evident to me that what holds good for the garment trade can be applied with equal force to every other trade and industry.

Overtime, Classified Wages

On the question of overtime our position is just as clear. Overtime, we claim, should be entirely prohibited as long as there is unemployment in an industry. As a matter of fact, permission to work overtime even during peak seasons tends to defeat that regularity of employment which the codes seek to bring about. Absolute prohibition of overtime—and I am speaking now of the apparel industries—would tend to spread the employment season, and the effect of the spread would mean more employment for the many instead of plenty for the few, and a much lower overhead for the manufacturers.

In our industry we have accumulated considerable experience. We maintain that codes should contain minimum wage classifications for all crafts. In the women's garment codes, which our organization had a direct part in framing and formulating, such wage rates are provided for all crafts. The basic minimum wage which we have in these codes is intended for the unskilled. For the overwhelming majority of the workers in each trade, however, we have classified wage scales based on craft. The result has been that in these trades the wage level for the skilled workers has been protected. Those who defend the single minimum scale and are opposed to wage classifications would leave the majority of the workers in any trade unprotected and subject to the convenience and one-sided interests of the employers only.

It was stated here yesterday that even in industries where there are no classifications but one minimum, that minimum does not tend to become the maximum, and that this minimum is only for the unskilled workers. Actual practice proves, however, the contrary. The reports submitted by the statistical department of the Cotton Garment Code Authority prove that in that industry the less speedy workers were weeded out from the factories and the basic minimum was being paid only to the more skilled workers, so that the minimum actually became the maximum. We foresaw this danger when our codes were being written, and owing to the fact that we had an organized industry, we made wage classifications not only a part of our collective agreements, but also a part of the codes.

The Black Spot of Industry

The failure to provide wage classifications creates unfair competition. Let me cite you a striking illustration. We had for years a production market of cloaks, dresses and underwear in the strip of territory lying close to New York, running approximately from Hartford, Connecticut, down to Camden, New Jersey. There were about 30,000 people, mostly young women, employed in these garment factories which were considered, until 1933, as the black spot, the sweatshop nest of the garment industry. They used to work there 60 and 70 hours a week; the girls would be getting disgracefully low wages, and working conditions in general were unbearable. In 1933 we organized these women and established decent working conditions in their shops; they got a code and that code contains wage classifications which are being enforced today. If we did not have classified wage scales, but one minimum basic scale, what would have happened to the earnings of these 30,000 women employed in these towns, and what would have happened to the workers in the bigger markets, such as New York, Philadelphia, and other markets? Do you know what the result would have been? Not only would the minimum in their cases have become the maximum, but their wage situation would demoralize and play the very devil with the wage standards which were established for the workers in the major centers all over the country.

And while I am on this point, I recall the gentleman who spoke here yesterday for the Connecticut Manufacturers' Association and who so bitterly denounced wage classifications as part of codes. That gentleman stated that wage classifications were tried in England, in France and even in China, but failed everywhere. Let me refer him to the cities of New Haven, Hartford, Bridgeport and Norwalk. These cities are not in China, they are in his own State of Connecticut, and in these cities thousands of cloakmakers and dressmakers are earning fairer wages because their codes provide wage classifications.

DAVID DUBINSKY

Bi-Party Codes

Let me now go over to another point. We insist that labor must have the right to participate in the making or the amending of codes, servers or protestors. It is an acknowledged fact that labor has no confidence in such codes as were framed and put through by the employers, alone, but labor does have confidence in those few codes that were written with the participation of their own representatives. Only those codes where collective bargaining was a real factor provide shorter hours, classified wages and an opportunity for better enforcement.

And now that we are on the point of enforcement, I want to say the following: We have had a very wide and interesting experience with this problem of enforcement of code regulations or what is generally known as code compliance. We have found it to be invariably true that in such codes where we had participation in code authorities, even though they provide comparatively higher classified wage scales and the 35-hour work-week, the labor provisions are substantially enforced. On the other hand, in such ladies' apparel codes where we were deprived of active code participation and where only one basic minimum of $13 a week and longer work hours exist, there is hardly any enforcement at all. I am, therefore, firmly convinced that the first essential to compliance with code regulations is that labor be represented on every code authority and that a labor representative be given power equal to that of the industry representative. This is, in my judgment, the key to the entire question of compliance and observance.

What Became of Partnership?

When the New Deal was first promulgated, it was proclaimed as a partnership between industry and labor under the supervision of the government. Where is that partnership today? Who is more competent to enforce labor provisions in an industry than labor itself? Who has a greater stake in the labor provisions governing an industry than labor itself? By what standard of fair play does the Administration help in side-tracking labor from participating in the code authorities?

Code authorities should be made definitely responsible for code enforcement; they should be required to raise funds sufficient to maintain a staff of investigators and adequate enforcement machinery. They should be held responsible by the government for effective enforcement of their codes. But, even if code authorities are held responsible, effective code compliance can be brought about only through the greater speed in final disposition of cases. Code violators should be prosecuted by the legal arm of the government. The workers have lost confidence in the codes because of the dilatory tactics employed by the Administration in bringing violators to account. As it stands now, the employers may violate codes with impunity.

And, finally, if labor's confidence in the NRA is to be restored, the government must prosecute cases of violation of Section 7A. Labor feels that the promise of NRA has not been performed. Employers violate the provisions of Clause 7A secure in the knowledge that nothing will happen to them. We maintain that an employer is just as much a lawbreaker when he violates Section 7A as when he violates any other provision of the code, and yet it is common knowledge that Section 7A has been the least enforced and the most neglected part of the National Recovery Act.

"Voluntary" and Mandatory Cooperation

Let me conclude. As I listened here to the suggestions made by representatives of industry that the codes should be made "voluntary" and that we should rely on employers' cooperation, I wondered whether these gentlemen thought that we have poor memories.

Let us see what has happened to this employers' cooperation. Last March, the President, alarmed by the continued growth of unemployment, issued a call to industry and management to reduce hours and to hire additional help. Did industry respond to that call in a spirit of cooperation? "Do it now!" the President implored the managers of industry in an effort to stimulate reemployment of idle workers—but did industry come forward with a voluntary cut in work-hours in response to that appeal? Not a single industry responded to the appeal of the President, and although more than a year has passed, not one industry has made an attempt to reduce work-hours. On the contrary, where such an attempt was made, industry obstructed and sabotaged every such effort. Let me cite a more concrete example: Last August, President Roosevelt issued an executive order to reduce the work-hours in the cotton garment industry from 40 to 36 to help absorb the unemployed workers of the industry into the factories. Did the cotton garment manufacturers respond in a spirit of voluntary cooperation to that order? Not at all! They fought it for months, and finally went to the District of Columbia Supreme Court for an injunction to stop the executive order. They did not succeed because the court told them in plain language that it was not only within the authority of the President under NRA to shorten hours, but his duty to do so. This is a case which comes to my mind when I hear this talk about voluntary codes and cooperation. The way things appear to me, it is mandatory and clear-cut legislation which could help the situation and nothing else.

I speak in the name of an organization which has been the first in American industry to introduce the shorter work-week as a means of providing jobs for its unemployed. We are emphatically and wholeheartedly for the 30-hour week as the only positive and dependable measure that could give employment to millions of working people. Should industry fail in this prime duty that is facing it, labor in cooperation with all constructive elements should demand from Congress enactment of a 30-hour week and make it part of the living law of our economic fabric.

Cross-Examination of Dubinsky by Whiteside

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MR. WHITESIDE: You spoke of code authority representation and emphasized the requirement of having labor represented on codes. You mean the laboring man represented through selected representatives?

PRES. DUBINSKY: Right.

MR. WHITESIDE: Would you take exception to having representatives on code authorities other than representatives of the American Federation of Labor?

PRES. DUBINSKY: I would, because you cannot devise a workable scheme of having representatives of unorganized workers, except those affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

MR. WHITESIDE: Is it possible that there could be such representation by vote of the employees in any industry? Take a small industry. Could it possibly have sufficient intelligence among its members to select a proper representative to sit on such a code authority?

PRES. DUBINSKY: No. They might be intelligent, but they are not free from coercion and I would not consider it labor. I would consider it an additional employer-member sitting in the guise of labor.

MR. WHITESIDE: You spoke of the necessity for labor representation because of the lack of enforcement compliance. If we had no have enforcement or if we did have enforcement, would that eliminate the necessity for labor representation?

PRES. DUBINSKY: No.

MR. WHITESIDE: Why should labor be represented for other purposes than that particular purpose which you have just brought out?

PRES. DUBINSKY: The point of view of industry, in this regard, coincides with that of the Communists, who hold that labor should not participate in these various codes. They say this is a venture of the employers, and that labor should not recognize or have anything to do with it. And so does industry.

MR. WHITESIDE: Is there any fundamental reason why they should be represented on these code authorities?

PRES. DUBINSKY: While labor has been considerably helped, industry has also been helped by having labor sit in on the councils of the code authorities.

MR. WHITESIDE: I want to say that, unquestionably, you have had more to do, perhaps, with Sidney Hillman, in eliminating the sweatshop situation in this industry than anybody else, and you deserve unlimited credit.

« « New York Dressmakers' Section » »

Dressmaker-Poet

Martha Stevenson

From a farm in Maine to a New York dress shop!

From a spirit of New England "individualism" to a feeling for the brotherly solidarity that is the soul of unionism!

From pretty little poems about grass and flowers and other inconsequentialities to vital poetry about the struggles of the workers — their sufferings and their joys — to poetry that finds vast stimulation in the working class as a theme!

That, in brief, is the history of Martha Stevenson, an active member of our Union, Local 22, who earns her living as a finisher and "lives" as a poet. Just as the lives of her fellow workers give her the key to her songs, so her own experiences reflect some of the drama and human interest that throb in our great membership.

Martha didn't have much of anything on that worn-out farm near Augusta, Maine, where her father slaved away without ever discovering that a farmer was a worker and subject to the same economic laws. Martha would have been chained to the farm had not her excellent work in school garnered enough scholarships to give her a start in college. But the lack of money, that bugaboo of all workers in their efforts to get what is called "a higher education," thrust an economic hurdle in the way of her diploma.

"Somehow, I'm glad that it happened," Martha is fond of saying, "there are many kinds of education. . . ."

And there were for Martha.

The year, 1931, found her in Boston, where she battled for a living in a dozen different ways. She "cashiered," was a short order cook, did typing, tasted the hopes and the failures of the hack writer. But all the time she was conscious of the fact that all this was a prelude. Her poetry was amorphous and it lacked a theme. It came from the typewriter rather than from the heart.

After three years of kicking around Boston, Martha one day packed all her belongings into two suitcases (one was half empty) and thumbed a ride to New York. That was early last year. She found work in the dress industry.

"As soon as I joined the Union, I felt that I had found something for which I had been unconsciously seeking all my life," she said. "Of course, I had enough economic training to realize the importance of the Union in maintaining wages and conditions. But to me it was more than that. The Union enabled me to hold my head up as a worker instead of holding my head down as a slave. Brought up in New England, I had no sense of international feeling. Here I was meeting a dozen races and types — working together — feeling together — my brothers and sisters — I was floating in a stream of life instead of bobbing around alone like a cork on an ocean."

Those experiences have naturally given a direction to her poetry. Though young, she has traveled a long way. It has enriched her themes. Herself a worker, she writes with depth and realism. We are happy to announce that beginning with the next issue of "Justice" her poetry will appear regularly.

What Every Dressmaker Should Know

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE AGREEMENT

By Julius Hochman
General Manager Dress Joint Board

In the last installment we carried the "cross-examination of the Agreement" through part of the questions relating to the settlement of prices. In this issue we contine that and go into other important sections. While I am trying to cover the ground in such a way that everything will be complete as well as simple, there may be other questions in the minds of Union members. Please address any question at all about the Agreement to the Dressmakers' Section "Justice" at the Joint Board, 218 West 40th Street, and I will group the answers in a "question box" to run with this series in other issues of JUSTICE. Now continue where you left off in the February 1 issue.

Question: How are prices settled?

Answer: Our present system of price settlement is not the best possible system. The Union has prepared a scientific system of price settlement which we hope to introduce soon.

Question: How is the present system used?

Answer: When the Employer and the Price Committee fail to agree, the garment in dispute shall be submitted to a test.

Question: Who makes the test?

Answer: One of the workers in the shop who is chosen as the "test hand."

Question: Who chooses the test hand?

Answer: The test hand is chosen by the Employer and the Price Committee.

Question: How is the price of the garment to be determined?

Answer: The price of the garment shall be determined by such test hand and shall be equal to the established hourly rate of the test hand multiplied by the number of hours it takes such test hand to make a garment.

Question: How is the hourly rate established?

Answer: Two garments of different styles on which prices have been previously settled, one to be chosen by each party, shall be given to the test hand, who is to do the work without interruption or interference. The time consumed on the work of such garment shall be recorded by both parties.

The garment so tested shall be made under the same conditions as stock work. No garment on which the average earnings of the worker have been less than the minimum schedule of its work rates shall be selected for such test. The amount earned by the test hand in making such settled garment, divided by the number of hours consumed, shall determine the established hourly rate of the test hand, the price in no event to be less than such as would yield to the minimum operator 90c per hour for a continuous hour of work.

Question: When are garments resettled?

Answer: Garments are resettled when it is established that the piece price was settled below the base rate; for example, when a representative number of the workers do not earn such base rate, such price must be resettled.

Question: Do the workers get back pay for those garments worked below the base rate?

Answer: Yes. All workers paid at the original rate are entitled to the increase fixed by the resettlement for all work formerly done upon each garment.

Question: Are you supposed to work on garments that have not been settled?

Answer: If you work for a contractor, no. All work must be settled before you begin to work on a certain garment.

If you work for a manufacturer, yes. All piece rates are to be settled within 48 hours.

Question: Is the firm permitted to reduce any prices or wages?

Answer: No. Once prices are settled there is to be no reduction whatsoever.

JOBBERS' RESPONSIBILITY IN CONTRACTING SHOPS

Question: Who is responsible for your wages?

Answer: The contractor.

Question: Who else?

Answer: The jobber. The claim has to be filed with the jobber within 3 days after the contractor failed to pay the workers and for wages for one full week and two days.

Question: Who is responsible for the minimum?

Answer: The jobber must pay the contractor enough to cover union wages.

Question: If this is not done?

Answer: A complaint is to be filed against the jobber immediately upon receipt of wages.

LEGAL HOLIDAYS

Question: What are the legal holidays observed in the dress industry?

Answer: Washington's Birthday, Decoration Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and one-half of Election Day.

Question: Are all workers to be paid for these holidays?

Answer: Only week workers are to receive full pay for the holidays.

Question: Are all workers supposed to stop work on May 1st?

Answer: No. But if a worker does not work on May 1st, the firm could not consider this as a violation of the agreement on the part of the worker.

Question: Are workers permitted not to work on Columbus Day?

Answer: Workers may refrain from working on Columbus Day if they so desire.

Question: Do they get paid for this day if they do not work?

Answer: No.

Question: Is a change of system of work permitted in any shop?

Answer: Yes. When the change of system is agreed upon between the workers and the firm with the approval of the Union and the Association.

Question: Are wages to be paid by cash or check?

Answer: Wages are to be paid by cash only.

Question: How soon after work shall wages be paid?

Answer: Wages shall include all work completed forty-eight hours before pay day.

(Brother Hochman will continue this interesting analysis of the Agreement in the next issue of Justice. Look for it.—Ed.)

Zimmerman Addressing Puerto Rico Workers

By Charles S. Zimmerman
Secretary-Manager Local 22

With the sugar cane workers inland and the longshoremen of San Juan and other harbors of Puerto Rico swinging into the fourth week of a determined strike, it is clear that the needle industry, the third largest on the Island, will soon be forced to fight for better conditions.

There are more than 50,000 homeworkers, many of whom are highly skilled in the hand sewing and embroidery field. Yet the code as adopted by the NRA administration provides for a minimum of $2 a week—a disgraceful scale under the American flag. Yet the workers are being cheated under even this low scale. Many workers earn as little as 60 and 70 cents a week. As recently as February 3, Dr. Caroline Manning, verifying some observations I made on my last visit, reported that she saw "little schoolgirls working away at putting in thousands of stitches for a few cents. Of 323 women workers in 252 homes visited, one third earned less than a cent an hour while two-thirds reported hourly earnings of one cent to four cents."

Yet the code administration even now is trying to further reduce these piece-work rates.

The needle workers of the Island are now organized as a local of the International. Organizers are doing a good job under difficult conditions. They are ready to strike. And I want to say that when the time comes they will have the full support of their sister organizations among the dressmakers of New York.

An Appeal

The following appeal addressed to all workers in the dress trade is issued by Charles S. Zimmerman, Secretary-Manager of Local 22:

"Remember your brother and sister unionists. The season has been slow in getting under way, but there is more work now. As work comes in, I urge you to have the empty machines filled by unionists. Make it a point to seek them out and bring them to the shop. Or write or telephone the Union if you feel that places are going to open up in your shop. Let us aim at a job for every member and a member in every job. Spread and share work—let everybody earn."

Local 60, Pressers, Stages Great Installation

Hall Jammed As Important Speakers Address Pressers

Amid bursts of applause and scenes of enthusiasm that demonstrated the solidarity of the members and showed that the Thirty-one's General Strike spirit was still alive, Local 60, Dress and Waist Pressers' Union, installed their officers for the coming two years at Webster Hall, Wednesday, February 6.

Cheers punctuated the address of Max Cohen, Local 60 manager, as he stepped to the edge of the flower-banked platform and dedicated the administration to the maintenance of a fighting local to accelerate the march of better conditions.

Among the important speakers were David Dubinsky, President of the I.L.G.W.U.; Julius Hochman, General Manager of the Dress Joint Board; Nathan Margolis, President of the Dress Joint Board; Charles S. Zimmerman, Secretary-Manager of Local 22; Maurice W. Jacobs, Secretary Local 10 Cutters; Philip Kapp, Secretary-Treasurer of the Dress Joint Board; Isidore Nagler, Manager of the Cloak Joint Board; Morris Feinstone, Secretary United Hebrew Trades; Isidore Cohen, Manager Joint Council Fur Workers' Union; Emil Schlesinger, counsel to the Dressmakers; I. Hamlin, Secretary Palestine Workers' Campaign; Sol Rifkin, Secretary Jewish Socialist Federation; Joseph Breslaw, Manager Local 35 Cloak Pressers; Harry Lang of the "Forward." Isidore Wasilevsky, Chairman of the local, presided.

The administration installed follows: Manager, Max Cohen; Chairman, I. Wasilevsky; Business Agents, Charles Cherkes, J. Landsman, M. Guzman, J. Goldstein, Eli Kudrinetsky; Executive Board, S. Cipes, Ph. Kolinsky, J. Duckoff, B. Herman, I. Rothstein, M. Hochman, M. Loev, V. Bilenko, B. Cohen, M. Gutbeter, Frank Spector, S. Punn, Sam Landsman, J. Fishbein, S. Greenberg, M. Rosenbaum, Frank Kaplan, M. Silverman, Ph. Ehrlich, D. Goldberg, J. Spitalnick, L. Laufer, M. Sirota, N. Donawa; Relief Committee, S. Bakal, I. Meyerowitz, S. Marcus, I. Liptzin, Louis Horn.

One of the surprises of the evening was the first real public appearance of the Local 60 orchestra and vocal ensemble, a pet project of J. Wasilevsky, Chairman of the Educational Committee, and H. Rosenfeld, Director of the committee. The musicians and singers had been trained and rehearsed for the event by F. Kurtzgi, leader. All were pressers with the exception of Miss E. Berkovitz at the piano and young men who were sons of Pressers. Those in the orchestra and vocal ensemble follow: Hugh Waters, Robert Kaufman, Isidore Kobres, Fred Riker, Hyman Powers, Dave Powers, George Smart, Jacob Sirota, Joseph Dulkoff, Sam Dratch, Henry Robbins, Abe Steplnoff, Isidore Rasumny, Sol Isaacs, Louis Meher, I. Krimsky, Norman Donava, Jacob Lipshits, A. Wishnevsky, A. Madoff, D. Landes, F. Sadagorsky, M. Krawitz, Max Stoban, U. Richter, Moe Sadagursky, Julius Kaufman, and Jack Steiner.

Left: Julius Hochman, General Manager Dress Joint Board, congratulates the local on its accomplishments. Center: Max Cohen, manager of the local, dedicates the administration to "ceaseless effort." Right: David Dubinsky, President of the I.L.G.W.U., makes the first announcement of the historic agreement with the Printz-Biederman shop in Cleveland

Jennee Dress Settles; Union Wins $8,000 and Jobs for Workers

A prolonged and bitterly contested battle with the Jennee Dress Company, 253 West 35th Street, carried through on both the legal and strike fronts by Julius Hochman, general manager of the Dress Joint Board, ended in a significant union victory on February 4, when the manufacturer paid $8,000 and agreed to reopen a forty-machine shop in the midtown area.

Of the money damages, $6,000 will go proportionately to the workers in the contractor shop involved in the dispute. The other $2,000 was an additional fine levied for the Joint Board to pay the expenses of the investigation that revealed Jennee Dress as a violator of the agreement.

Shop Closes

The case began when employees of the "Leo Nussbaum Shop" found themselves without jobs when the shop closed. It was the contention of Brother Hochman that the Nussbaum Shop had originally been opened as an annex of the Jennee Dress and that the latter firm had accepted responsibility for the workers. Nussbaum later opened another shop. But he had been watched by the Union and his workers were called out.

The issue was joined when the United Association, in behalf of Nussbaum, filed a complaint against the Union with the Impartial Chairman of the Dress Industry. Brother Hochman countered with a complaint against the Jennee, charging a lockout. Apart from the immediate interest in the welfare of the Nussbaum workers, the whole question of jobber responsibility, one of the most important gains from the great strike of 1933, was on trial.

Strike Brings Victory

Several hearings before Impartial Chairman Feldblum failed to shake Brother Hochman's position. A decision was finally handed down upholding the Union's contentions.

But that was only the first step in the victory. The manufacturer refused to abide by the decision and faced a strike for several additional weeks. The strike proved successful and Jennee capitulated, asking for a settlement. Alex Cantor, manager of the National Department, conducted the detailed negotiations that led to the settlement.

Antonini Rips "Institute" As Fascist Screen

Luigi Antonini, first Vice-President of the I. L. G. W. U., and General Secretary of Local 89, is branding the Italian Labor Institute, 229 Lafayette Street, as a cover for a group of Fascist agents attempting to disrupt the legitimate Italian labor movement.

After discovering that a stream of statements in the Italian press tended to establish the impression that the so-called "Institute" was recognized by the American Federation of Labor, Brother Antonini obtained the following statement from William Collins, New York representative of the Federation:

"We wish to state the Italian Labor Institute is in no way affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. William Green, our president, has expressed very clearly the attitude of our organization as against all forms of dictatorship, particularly where legitimate trade unions have been destroyed through Fascism or Nazism."

Campaign On

This statement was broadcast to the daily press and the membership as a start in a persistent campaign to reveal the "Institute" as a Fascist propaganda screen that bodes no good for the organized Italian worker.

"There can be no question about the activities of this group which professes to talk for workers," Brother Antonini said. "We have definite information which we will forward to the proper authorities at Washington that the few individuals operating under the name of the 'Italian Labor Institute' and talking glibly of their connection with the American Federation of Labor are Fascist agents attempting to disrupt the legitimate Italian Labor Movement for foreign political purposes.

"During the past year and a half the needle trades have witnessed the unprecedented success of our Italian speaking local. It has grown to 40,000 members and expanded its cultural and educational facilities to a point where it has obtained world-wide recognition. We have established and enforced the 35-hour week, decent wages and livable standards for the Italian workers. This has been done by American methods, with a democratic union responsive to the wishes of the membership. We will light any group hiding their identity as foreign agents under the mantle of labor to interfere with our work by raising un-American political questions."

Reveals Records

Vice-President Antonini pointed to records of the people in back of the "Institute."

"Three names are constantly cropping up in the publicity of this so-called 'Italian Labor Institute,'" he said. "Enrico Guarrata, former captain in the Italian army, is an out-and-out Fascist. Ettore Frisina has had, to say the least, a queer history in the labor movement. Until two years ago he was a Red Communist and now he crops up as a blackshirt. In between, he became a building contractor and visited Italy. His cousin, Leonardo Frisina, was manager of the Italian Chamber of Labor. That organization until two years ago was recognized by the American Federation of Labor, but was officially repudiated when it was discovered that Frisina was in secret communication with Edmondo Rossoni, a high official in the Fascist Government."

ANTONINI CHARGES CRIMINAL LIBEL

Domenico Trombetta and Ettore Frisina, said to be publisher of and writer for "Il Grido della Stripe," must face a hearing on a criminal libel complaint filed by Luigi Antonini, Secretary Treasurer of Local 89. The complaint is the outgrowth of numerous articles in the Italian press attacking Antonini, personally, and the Union, in general. Trombetta and Frisina were detained February 7 and bond of $500 each fixed pending the hearing.

Joint Board "Ball Tossers" Work-Out

With a heavy schedule all set to chop them down, the Joint Board Basketball Team is getting in some heavy licks of practice under the drive of Mike Spiro, captain and manager. Brother Spiro insists that his bunch will collect the International championship and if his basket grabbers can hip the opposition on the courts as well as he can toss the manufacturers around in the accounting department, they should be way up in the running.

The squad consists of Manny Reichman, Bernie Seeman, Bob Iandoli, Dave Schukin, Harry Every, Lou Cherwin, Larry Ferlazzo, Joe Toni, Lester Spielman and Jack Turovsky. The schedule as it stands at present follows: Feb. 16, Sons of Local 17; Mar. 2 and 9, Local 22; Mar. 23 and Apr. 20, Local 102. By that time the bright new uniforms of the Joint Board Squad will be plenty mussed

Enthusiastic "89" Sections Cram Meetings

Scenes of enthusiasm unrivalled in the history of the Union are being recorded in a series of district meetings called to review the executive policies and administration of Local 89. The meetings thus far have jammed every seat and the aisles of the large Christ Church Auditorium. Breathing space has been at a premium and the meetings have more than once overflowed into the street. All the meetings thus far have exhibited a striking unanimity in the approval of the policies of the present administration of the local.

The meetings thus far held include those of the Presser Branch, January 17; the workers in "Affiliated" shops, January 24; "National" workers, January 31; Section "B" of the United, February 7; Section "A" of the United, February 14.

Details of the last two meetings are unavailable since this edition of "Justice" preceded them to press. At all meetings Luigi Antonini, Manager and General Secretary of Local 89, explained the gains of the last year and the policies of the future.

Stand in Aisles

Several hundred were standing in the aisles at the Presser Branch meeting. Measures to tighten up the control of the shops were discussed and approved. An appropriation of $10,000 from the sick and benefit fund was made for the relief of needy Union members. Joseph Provvidenti is special organizer of the Presser Branch. John Troiani, chairman of the branch, presided. John Gelo, assistant manager, spoke.

With the formal business of the meeting of the "Affiliated" workers out of the way, Brother Antonini thanked the workers for their approval of the policies of the administration and gave a stirring talk on how to maintain prices for the new season. He reported that despite the fact that the sick and benefit fund had started from scratch with an empty treasury, it had distributed tens of thousands of dollars to unfortunate unionists and accumulated a sizable reserve. Tina Catania presided. Carmelo Iandoli, who spoke, and Joseph Costanzo are the Italian business agents.

Cheer Antonini

At the National meeting there had been enthusiastic, the meeting of the National Department workers established a new high for emotional outbursts of cheering. The auditorium, despite the bad weather, was crammed from wall to wall and hundreds simply could not squeeze their way into the meeting. When Anna Percaldo moved the acceptance of Brother Antonini's report the crowd hardly waited for Anna Moscatel's second before leaping to feet in shouts of approval. By actual count some 1,500 votes were recorded in favor without a single dissenter. Joseph Salerno, Salvatore Noto, Guiseppe Stevenna and Corrado Pukzzolo are Italian business agents for the section.

District membership meetings of Local 89 scheduled for the future follow:

Tuesday, February 19, Harlem Terrace, 210 E. 104th Street—HARLEM DISTRICT: Manager, Joseph Piscitello; Business Agent, Vincent D'Agostino.

Wednesday, February 20, 218 Sackman Street, Brownsville—EAST NEW YORK DISTRICT: Manager, Joseph Mirenda; Business Agent, Anthony Barone.

Thursday, February 21, Christ Church—SECTION "C" OF THE UNITED: Manager, Shapiro; Italian Business Agents, John Cabiati, Grace De Luise and Santo Aversano.

Tuesday, February 26, Amalgamated Temple, Arion Place, Brooklyn—WILLIAMSBURG DISTRICT: Manager, Giacomo Di Nola; Italian Business Agents, Peter Bonanno and Domenico Tagliarini.

Wednesday, February 27, Amalgamated Hall, 3673—3rd Ave., Bronx—BRONX DISTRICT: Manager, Peter Li Causi; Business Agent, Anthony Agli.

Thursday, February 28, Menora Masonic Temple, 5000 14th Ave., Brooklyn—BORO PARK DISTRICT: Manager, John Editto; Italian Business Agents, Salvatore Milazzoe, Anthony Garofalo.

Helps You Get Citizen Papers

Henry Fruchter

Here's a new Dress Joint Board Service that makes it so easy for you to get your citizenship papers that delay is inexcusable.

You don't have to go downtown or wander around looking for help. The Naturalization Aid League of New York has established a branch for citizenship aid at the Dress Joint Board offices, 216 West 40th Street, Room 412. The office is open until 6 P. M.

All shop chairmen are requested to impress the workers with the importance of naturalization and to urge them to come directly to the office of the Joint Board for assistance.

Establishment of this special office is the direct result of the extraordinary response to a circularization campaign among the dressmakers. So pronounced was the response that Henry Fruchter, executive director of the Naturalization Aid League, has assumed personal charge of the office at the Joint Board.

"I consider this work of prime importance," Brother Fruchter said. "We can analyze the political, social and economic aspects of the question from a hundred different angles. It is not a matter of argument so much as a matter of laziness—putting off the necessary step. There isn't a dressmaker who doesn't know that if he fails to get naturalized he is committing a wrong against himself, his children and his union. American citizenship is more than the privilege of voting; it is a vital social and economic instrument which aids the worker at every turn in his desire to improve his conditions. The intensification of nationalism throughout the world is making citizenship ever more important. Non-citizens should take immediate advantage of this office at the Joint Board."

Plan Courses In Psychology

A feature of exceptional interest in the program now being launched by the educational department of Dressmakers' Local 22, I.L.G.W.U., is the course of ten lectures on "Psychology and Social Life," scheduled for Wednesday evening at 6:15, at Union headquarters, 232 West 40th Street.

Dr. Goodwin Watson, professor at Teachers' College, Columbia University, is in charge of the class and will deliver the lectures. The course deals with the problems of modern psychology from the point of view of social reconstruction and the labor movement. Professor Watson has studied these questions thoroughly in his work at Columbia University; at the same time he completely shares the progressive social viewpoint of labor.

On the same evening, immediately following Dr. Watson's class, there are classes in economics, the structure and functioning of the union and the fundamentals of Marxism. A variety of other courses is given at the central school and at section schools in various parts of the city. All classes are free to Union members.

Dressmakers are urged to register for Dr. Watson's and other courses immediately, at the educational department office, Room 508, 232 West 40th Street.

WORKERS THANK UNION OFFICERS

GIUNA DRESS WORKERS THANK J. B. FOR BACK PAY

We, the workers of the Giuna Dress Shop, wish to take this opportunity of expressing our gratitude to the I.L.G.W.U. for the great help it has been in aiding us in the fight for the betterment of conditions in our shop.

We also wish to express our appreciation and thanks to the Joint Board and its officers for collecting $11,022.88 from Jobber P. J. Barash, in back pay, and to thank Mr. Seigel for his persistent efforts in our behalf.

We shall cooperate with you and shall do all in our power to live up to the standards of the Union.

Sincerely yours,
Dolores Alvarez, Rina Lucas, Lucy Guarneri, Iona Jacques, Frank Pontano.

We, the workers of the Kay Dress Co. and Fatima Dress Co., working for Jobber BARNETT DRESS CO., 462 Seventh Avenue, New York City, hereby express our appreciation and thanks to the Joint Board of the Dress and Waistmakers' Union, and particularly to Sasha Zimmerman, Manager of Local 22, and Alex Cantor and J. Ushelevsky, business agents, for their efforts in our behalf and for collecting for us Eleven Hundred Dollars in back pay, all of us receiving from ten dollars to twenty-two dollars each, which we can use very well. We pledge our loyalty to the Union and will cooperate with the Dressmakers' Joint Board in all our future struggles. Chairladies Rose Katchusky and Millie Aless, Alice Madden, Kate Fischer, Laura Sherman, Dora Ernst.

We, the workers of Sol Goldstein dress shop, 1375 Broadway, express our thanks and appreciation to our shop chairman, Irving Tetrof. During the time that he was chairman, he worked incessantly for the welfare of the workers. The shop is now a 100 per cent union shop in every respect. Brother Irving, continue your work, the shop is with you 100 per cent! Committee: Jacob Bresman, Local 22; Dave Beckerman, Local 22; Nathan Goldstein, Local 22.

We, the workers of the Cherry Dress Company, of 240 West 35th Street, assembled at a special shop meeting, in the office of the Union, on Thursday, November 1, 1934, express our sincere thanks and gratitude to the officers of our Union, particularly to Brothers Chas. S. Zimmerman, our General Manager, Alex Cantor, the manager of the National Department, and Business Agent Meyer Terrs, for the efficient and thorough manner in which they handled the investigation of our firm's books, as a result of which the sum of $2,000.00 in back pay has been collected and paid by the Union to the workers of the inside shop and the contracting shops.

The present administration of our Union has by this and similar actions demonstrated its energy and militancy in defending the interests of the workers at every opportunity. We hope they will continue to serve and defend our interests in the shop to the end that we may jointly succeed in maintaining the conditions for which we fought in the last general strike.

It is further decided that we publish copies of this resolution in the press.

(Signed) THE COMMITTEE
Ab. Goldstein, Mildred Doonato, Sam Scopinsky, Jenny Milaner, Gloria Garcia, Israel Atlas.

Expert To Talk

David J. Saposs

A comprehensive analysis of "Dual Unionism in the United States," including the history of that much discussed subject and its present implications, will be made by David J. Saposs before the Dress Joint Board Staff on March 1.

The program of Friday afternoon lectures in Room 408, 218 West 40th Street, is proving very popular and is attracting a wide audience.

Saposs is a nationally known authority on his subject. Author of numerous standard works, he is at present engaged in a study of the role of government in labor relations as a research associate with the 20th Century Fund. For many years he taught the labor movement subjects at Brookwood College. His talk will divide itself, roughly, into three parts: a historic sketch; the situation between the War and NRA; and the dual union movement since that time. The lecture will emphasize current history.

Will Herberg, Educational Director of Local 22, who took on the duties of preparing this program and arranging for the nationally known speakers, in addition to his regular duties, is to be congratulated on his excellent choice of speakers and the interest they have aroused. Bertram D. Wolf, Director of the New Workers' School, addressed the group February first on "What Is Happening in Spain." Ellen Wilkinson, Labor Party member of Parliament, followed on February 8. "The Labor Movement and the Radicals" is the subject today of J. B. S. Hardman, editor of the Advance, Amalgamated Clothing Workers' paper.

Brother Herberg urges the staff and others interested in the lectures to be in their seats promptly at 2 P. M. so that Brother Murray Gross, permanent chairman, may introduce the speakers on time. Two English classes for members of the staff follow the lectures.

Our "Pen-Pushers" Make Merry

Some 125 typewriter pounders, ink slingers and "stamp" jugglers from the Dress Joint Board and the locals joined a thousand other members of the B. S. & A. U. in the First Annual Dance and Entertainment of the organization at the Hotel Delano, Saturday, January 26. Brother Murray Nathan, Organization Department of the Dress Joint Board, was chairman of the Committee on Arrangements. Ebba Breathe-Nock, pianist, and Pieter Dominick, dancer, were features of the program.

.. Baltimore Union Topics ..

By Charles Kreindler, V.-P., Manager Baltimore Joint Board

The cloak Spring season has already started in Baltimore and, naturally, it keeps the Union very much on the alert. First, we are busy with the settlement of prices in the union shops, which, as usual, is not an easy matter. The employers would like to have their garments made up as cheaply as possible, and it is the Union's business to see to it that prices are settled in a way that would permit the workers to make a fair living. By now, we are in a position to announce that piece rates for garments in the union shops have been set. If there will be enough work, we have good reason to believe that the workers will have a satisfactory season.

Such is the situation in the union shops, but, as you know, we have always been blessed in Baltimore with non-union employers, and, naturally, there are some chiselers among them. The piece rates that these employers have fixed for their garments are entirely too low. In such cases, the thing for us to do is to invoke the code and its enforcement machinery. In each case, complaints are filed with the office of the Code Authority and, through it, we are forcing the employers to set such rates that would insure even the non-union workers the earnings provided for in the code. This is a very hard task and requires a lot of persistence. Let me cite an example:

Union Forces Higher Rates

As "Justice" readers know, Baltimore was placed in the Western Area of the Coat and Suit Industry until December fifteenth, 1933. Thanks to the efforts of our International Union, Baltimore was transferred after that date to the Eastern Area, which provides higher rates than does the Western. Some of the non-union employers, especially the chiselers, nevertheless, try to forget about this change and not only do they not set the rates higher, but, in some cases, they have fixed them even lower, making it impossible for their workers to earn even the minimum. But the Union has gradually been forcing these employers to change their rates substantially. As a result, the non-union workers are beginning to realize that their only protection lies within the Union, and thus the pressers of S. Cohen & Sons Company, one of Baltimore's hard-boiled non-union firms, have joined the Union. Naturally, in this case, the prices will be now set collectively between the union workers and the firm. Baltimore has started to move in the right direction and the prospects for the near future are quite bright.

In the Cotton Garment Shops

There is an energetic drive being carried on right now in this field in Baltimore. President Dubinsky has transferred the entire Pennsylvania organizing staff headed by Brother Samuel Otto, to Baltimore, and the work is progressing very favorably.

We have already succeeded in signing the first agreement in the local cotton garment industry with a prominent firm, the Straus, Royer & Straus Company. Prior to the signing of the agreement, all the workers in the factory, with but one dissenting vote, had cast ballots in favor of the I. L. G. W. U. as their representative. All indications point in the direction of other shops following soon the Straus, Royer & Straus example.

Elections and Installations

In accordance with the decision of the G. E. B., the three Baltimore locals held elections and have elected their officers for two years. Brother Samuel Caplan was re-elected as the business agent of the Joint Board. Installations of local officers were held recently and the Joint Board officers were inducted on January 31.

Having learned that President Dubinsky would be in Washington on that day, at the meeting of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, we invited him to come to Baltimore and to address our workers on that evening. The meeting, which consisted of cloakmakers, dressmakers and cotton garment workers, took place at the Cadoa Hall. Brother Dubinsky's address was enthusiastically received by the workers, and after the meeting he conferred with several employers and later attended a dinner given in honor of the outgoing and incoming Executive Board members and of the Joint Board delegates.

At the dinner, President Dubinsky spoke again on trade union policies, and was warmly applauded. Others who spoke at the dinner were J. Edleman, lawyer for the Baltimore Joint Board, and M. L. Polin, manager of the Baltimore office of the Jewish Daily Forward, who is also a member of our Union. The mass meeting earlier in the day was addressed also by Angela Bambace, Florence Lauter, John Martin, Samuel Caplan, and the writer. The Baltimore workers are very thankful to President Dubinsky for the visit and for the very constructive addresses delivered by him.

Dallas Dress Firms Asked to Grant Union Work Terms

Higher Wages, Collective Bargaining Machinery, Equal Work Distribution, Asked by Meyer Perlstein, I.L.G.W.U. Representative

Meyer Perlstein, general organizer of the I.L.G.W.U., early this month served notice upon fifteen Dallas, Tex., dress manufacturing firms that "the time has come when increase of wages must be made and working conditions improved." The letter was addressed to the dress employers in the name of the two Dallas I.L.G.W.U. locals, Nos. 121 and 204, and spoke on behalf of the 1,500 to 2,000 workers employed in the Dallas dress factories.

Demands Considered Vital

After setting out the demands, Bro. Perlstein states that he believes them "essential to the life and well-being of the workers.

"We have at the same time taken into consideration the prosperity and further development of the industry in Dallas.

"We feel that these requests are very reasonable and can be easily granted by the employers. We know that the product the manufacturers here are producing is sold on the markets in this country for the same price that the same product is sold by other manufacturers where the wages are much higher.

"The workers have waited patiently for improvements in wages and after a year and a half, they have reached the point where they feel that the time has come when those improvements should be brought about immediately. The union stands ready to join in any conference that you may want to arrange, and the union also stands ready to submit all these proposals to any unbiased group or individual that may be selected jointly by the union and the employers to adjudicate or arbitrate any or all of these proposals."

Dress Joint Board Issues "Nine-To-Five" Ruling

The following notice announcing the abolition of the irregular hour system under which some shops began at 8:30 A. M. and others at 9 A. M. has been issued by the Joint Board of the Dress and Waistmakers' Union.

NOTICE AND WARNING

The working day for all dressmakers shall begin at 9 A. M. and end promptly at 5 P. M.

The former practice of the irregular hour system under which some shops started at 8:30 A. M. and others at 9 A. M. will no longer be tolerated. The practice caused confusion and unnecessary complications.

The 35-hour week shall be observed in the following manner: (1) The working week starts on Monday at 9 A.M. and ends on Friday at 5 P. M., thus including five days and no Saturdays. (2) The working day starts at 9 A. M. and ends promptly at 5 P. M. Lunch hour is one hour from noon to 1 P. M.

Failure to observe any part of the prescribed 35-hour week ruling and the new "Uniform Working Hour" ruling will be regarded as a very serious violation, and workers doing so will be brought before the Joint Board Grievance Committee.

Labor at the Play

By Irwin Swerdlow

J. B. PRIESTLEY OR IBSEN REVERSED

"Laburnum Grove" By J. B. Priestley Booth Theatre

Two years ago New York saw a production of "Dangerous Corner" by J. B. Priestley. It was a mystery play with an Ibsen twist, and it was an engagement I remember spending a lifeless evening at the theatre. "Laburnum Grove," by the same author is an even less distinguished piece.

The fact is Mr. Priestley is a professional playwright. He knows what a play is, and delivers the goods. He has discovered the formula. That is to say, Mr. Priestley can be reasonably depended upon to produce a pretty good imitation of a play.

But why rake up the bones of poor Ibsen? The latter loved to open his plays with a scene in which everything was hunky-dory, then send his hero or heroine off on a wild duck chase after the truth, until the doll's house came crashing down round his or her ears. In "Dangerous Corner," what starts out as an innocent cocktail party soon develops into a murder mystery with suicide for the truth-detective. Again disaster. But Ibsen represented an affirmation of life. I can't tell what a murder mystery is intended to represent.

In the same way, George Radfern of Laburnum Grove, a suburb of London, is a good father and a good husband. Indeed, his more impetous daughter is inclined to think him dull and stupid. Rubbed the wrong way once too often, George reveals the astounding information that he is head of an international ring of counterfeiters. He is surrounded by innumerable dangers every minute of the day. George Radfern is a master mind in a middle class body. With undiminished humor he has consented to lead a life of crime for the sake of his wife and child. Middle class integrity must be upheld at all costs. The inevitable gauché inspector from Scotland Yard steps in and makes George Radfern's vocation impracticable. We are grateful to the inspector for forcing Mr. Radfern back on the straight and honest path. All ends happily.

This, then, is the hokum from England. The play, as such, is entirely lacking in values. The social sense is completely absent. A good family man is what counts, and that justifies the means. "Laburnum Grove" never rises above the intellectual level of a high school comedy, and so can lay no real claim to be taken seriously.

The acting is vaudeville slapstick, obligingly laid on by an English company, which was specially imported for the occasion.

"Waiting for Lefty" By Clifford Odets

This season has already witnessed six performances of "Waiting for Lefty" in New York. The Group Theatre is responsible for its production.

Specifically, this one-act play in six short scenes is based on the New York City Taxi Strike of February, 1934. It has, however, universal social implications. The pivot scene is, of course, the union meeting of the taxi-drivers. The burning question of the strike holds the huge audience tense. They are impatiently waiting for Lefty, their leader.

The scene shifts and we are vouchsafed a view of the distaff side in the life of the harassed cab driver. This and the scene that follows, the young hack and his girl, are unfortunately weakest in an otherwise theatricaly effective play. The fault of these two scenes is that they are not created enough. Clifford Odets has a tendency to fall short on the human side, and a drama is after all a record of human conduct and values.

The labor spy episode is handled with mordant humor. Odets next broadens his canvas to include the starving young actor and the struggling Jewish interne who is discriminated against. Worker and intellectual are in the same boat. The only possible answer to a form of society that is a menace to human life and progress is revolt.

Lefty, the people's leader, is dispatched by gunmen and lies "behind the carbarns with a bullet in his head." The workers rise to a man.

"Waiting for Lefty" is a powerful play. It is one of the stormbirds of the new working-class drama. By all means get to see it or read it in the February issue of the "New Theatre" magazine.

"Awake and Sing"

The new Group Theatre production, "Awake and Sing!" by Clifford Odets, is scheduled to open on February 18 at the Belasco Theatre. It is a play about a Jewish family in the Bronx, and Uncle Morty, we are informed, is a dress manufacturer, which should take the play right up our alley.

"The Pit"

The Theatre Union will present "The Pit," by Albert Maltz, at the Civic Repertory Theatre about the middle of March. It deals with coal miners in West Virginia.

Speakers and Chairman at Forest City Pre-Strike Mass Meeting. The Meeting Was Held at the Municipal Auditorium in St. Louis on January 28. Over 1,000 People Attended. Standing, from left to right: Morris Weiss, Business Agent, Joint Board; Wesley Sanderson, President Cotton Cutters Local 181; Sam Goldberg, President Joint Board; Joe Shuver, President Local 16. Sitting, From left to right: Wm. Brandt, Secretary, St. Louis Central Labor Union; Percival Chubb of the St. Louis Ethical Society; Fr. F. S. Skaer of St. Gabriel Church; Ben Gilbert, Manager, St. Louis Joint Board; Edith Phillips, St. Louis Organizer, I. L. G. W. U.; Meyer Perlstein, General Organizer, I. L. G. W. U.; Ruth Miller, President, Dress Makers' Local 104; Charles Londe, Secretary, Cloak Makers' Local 78; Artie Wilson, President, Cotton Dress Makers' Local 182.

Labor Education — — — I. L. G. W. U.

By MARK STARR, *Director Educational Department*

Vivisection of Section 7-A

The Educational Department program sanctioned by the I. L. G. W. U. Education Committee proposes a conference of trade union activists in the New York area to discuss burning questions of the day. The whittling away of the rights to organize, supposedly given by Section 7A, is such a question. Therefore, the Education Department has arranged a conference on this subject for Saturday, February 16, 1935, from 2 p. m. to 6 p. m., in the Russell Sage Foundation Auditorium, 22nd St. and Lexington Ave.

Among the speakers invited, and their allocated topics, are:

Heywood Broun, The Newspapers Crack Down on the President.

Clinton S. Golden (Mediator, Penn. State Department of Labor), Struggles in Steel.

Charlton Ogburn, Run-Round in Autos.

Francis Gorman (Vice-President of U. T. W.), Trouble in Textiles.

Julius Hochman (Dressmakers' Joint Board, I. L. G. W. U.), Dressmakers under NRA.

Jacob Potofsky (Amalgamated Clothing Workers), Chasing Chiselers in Shirts.

Sidney Hillman (Amalgamated Clothing Workers and National Recovery Administration), The Future of the NRA.

President Dubinsky, fresh from the first meeting of the enlarged council of the A. F. of L., will be in the chair.

Mark Schweid, Noted Actor, in Charge of Dramatic Activities

Mark Schweid, noted actor and director, who has made his latest appearance in Elmer Rice's "Judgment Day," has been placed in charge of the dramatic groups which have been organized by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. These dramatic groups are composed of the members of the Union whose histrionic abilities are turned to a dramatization of their life experiences.

In this work, Mr. Schweid will be assisted by Mario Badolati, Italian actor and singer, and Florence Lasser, author of radio playlets dealing with labor themes, and David Rossi, for many years active in directing labor dramatic groups.

Company Union Song

(Air: "K-K-K-Katy, Beautiful Katy")

C-C-C-Company, company union,
We have met you and your Yellow Dog before.
All the B-Boss wants is to control us;
We'll k-k-kick his company union out the door.

P-P-P-Payday, fateful payday—
When you find the Boss has jipped you on your pay.
If you t-tell him he is a robber
All he says is "G-G-Get out, be on your way!"

C-C-C-Company, company union,
Cannot do a single thing for me and you;
With a trade union we can fight wage cuts—
Join our union, that's the only thing to do.

Helen G. Norton.

Class and Group Schedule

SPRING SESSION—1935

EDUCATIONAL MEETINGS OF MEMBERS WITH VARIOUS LECTURERS OCCUR TWICE MONTHLY, AT HARTFORD, NEW HAVEN, STAMFORD, BRIDGEPORT, WATERBURY, CONN.; MT. VERNON, YONKERS, PORTCHESTER, NEW ROCHELLE, SPRING VALLEY, N.Y.; NEWARK, UNION CITY, SOUTH RIVER, PASSAIC, HAMMONTON AND CAMDEN, N. J. DETAILS OF CLASSES IN CHICAGO, MILWAUKEE, ST. LOUIS AND OTHER CENTERS WILL BE GIVEN LATER.

JOIN ONE OF THESE GROUPS. (Cut Out and Keep the Schedule Printed Below; It Will Not Appear in "Justice" Again). LET THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HELP "YOU" TO START IN YOUR LOCAL AND AREA.

Subject	Teacher	Time	Place	Local
MONDAYS				
Trade Unionism	J. Barbash	6-7	125 W. 33rd St., N.Y.C.	23
Current Events	J. Atkins	6-7	873 B'way, N.Y.C.	62
Gymnastics	Miss D. Palmrose	7-9:30	190 Belmont Ave., Newark	144, 21
Current Events	J. Barbash	8:20-10	600 Main Ave., Passaic	145, 154
Choral	L. Weiner	7:30-8:30	96 Fifth Ave., N.Y.C.	91
Choral	J. Furgiele	7:30-8:30	19 Elm St., New Haven	151
Dramatics	Florence Lasser	4:30-5:30	1 Maple St., So. River, N. J.	150
Dramatics	M. Badolatti	7:30-8:30	19 Elm St., New Haven	151
Mandolin (advd.)	L. Paparello	6-7	96 Fifth Ave., N.Y.C.	91
Gym & Basketball (women)	L. Cohen	7:30-9	P.S. 11, 320 W. 21st, N.Y.C.	25, 32, 38, 142
Swimming (women)	Miss M. Bishop	7:30-9	P.S. 11, 320 W. 21st, N.Y.C.	25, 32, 38, 142
Heroes of the Labor Movement	Frank Crosswaith	5:30	131 W. 33rd St., N.Y.C.	142
English (elem.)	Miss Rappaport	6-8	P.S. 45, 225 W. 24th, N.Y.C.	60
English (inter.)	I. Stahl	6-8	P.S. 45, 225 W. 24th, N.Y.C. (Rm. 208)	60
Labor Journalism	David S. Schick	5:30	Rm. 301, 1008 Cherry St., Phila. Waist & Dr.	
English (elem.)	G. Rosenthal	7	Rm. 354, 1008 Cherry St, Phila. Waist & Dr.	
Labor Singing	. . .	6	Rm. 301, 1008 Cherry St., Phila. Waist & Dr.	
Problems & History of Labor Movement	. . .	6:15	232 W. 40th St., N.Y.C.	22
Literature	. . .	6:15	232 W. 40th St., N.Y.C.	22
Principles of Unionism	. . .	6:15	232 W. 40th St., N.Y.C.	22
English (elem.)	. . .	7:15	232 W. 40th St., N.Y.C.	22
English (inter.)	. . .	7:15	232 W. 40th St., N.Y.C.	22
English (advd.)	. . .	7:15	232 W. 40th St., N.Y.C.	22
Public Speaking (2)	. . .	7:15	232 W. 40th St., N.Y.C.	22
Principles of Unionism	. . .	7:45	P.S. 98, Boston Rd. & E. 173rd St.	22
Social Science	. . .	7:45	P.S. 98, Boston Rd. & E. 173rd St.	22
English (elem. & advd.)	. . .	8:45	P.S. 98, Boston Rd. & E. 173rd St.	22
Principles of Unionism	. . .	7:45	Bronze Studio, 227 Lenox Ave.	22
Social Science	. . .	7:45	Bronze Studio, 227 Lenox Ave.	22
American History	. . .	8:45	Bronze Studio, 227 Lenox Ave.	22
Principles of Unionism (Spanish)	. . .	7:45	P.S. 170, 37 W. 111th St.	22
Social Science	. . .	7:45	P.S. 170, 37 W. 111th St.	22
English (elem. & advd.)	. . .	8:45	P.S. 170, 37 W. 111th St.	22
Principles of Unionism	. . .	7:45	P.S. 141, Leonard & McKibben, Bklyn.	22
English	. . .	8:45	P.S. 141, Leonard & McKibben, Bklyn.	22
Principles of Unionism	. . .	7:45	P.S. 156, Sutter Ave. & Barrett, Bklyn.	22
Social Science	. . .	7:45	P.S. 156, Sutter Ave. & Barrett, Bklyn.	22
English (elem. & advd.)	. . .	8:45	P.S. 156, Sutter Ave. & Barrett, Bklyn.	22
Principles of Unionism	. . .	7:45	P.S. 174, Dumont & Alabama Av., Bklyn.	22
English	. . .	8:45	P.S. 174, Dumont & Alabama Av., Bklyn.	22
Principles of Unionism	. . .	7:45	P.S. 164, 14th Ave. & 42d St., Bklyn.	22
Social Science	. . .	7:45	P.S. 164, 14th Ave. & 42d St., Bklyn.	22
English (elem. & advd.)	. . .	8:45	P.S. 164, 14th Ave. & 42d St., Bklyn.	22
Principles of Unionism	. . .	7:45	P.S. 80, 2830 W. 17th St., Bklyn.	22
Social Science	. . .	7:45	P.S. 80, 2830 W. 17th St., Bklyn.	22
English (elem. & advd.)	. . .	8:45	P.S. 80, 2830 W. 17th St., Bklyn.	22
Brass Band	I. Polakoff	8		22
TUESDAYS				
Choral	L. Weiner	5:30-6:30	60 W. 35th St., N.Y.C.	10
Choral	J. Furgiele	7:30-8:30	218 W. 40th St., N.Y.C.	89
Dramatics	Mark Schweid	5:30-6:30	Hotel Delano—43rd St.—6th Ave.	10
Mandolin Groups	Wm. Gilbert	6-7	96 Fifth Ave., N.Y.C.	91
Mandolin	C. DeFillippo	5-6	746 Bergenline Ave., Union City, N.J.	148
Mandolin	L. Paparello	5:30-6:30	873 Bway., N.Y.C.	62
Dancing (modern)	Lillian Shapiro	6-7	Steinway Hall, W. 57th St.	22
Dancing (modern)	Lillian Shapiro	7-8	Steinway Hall, W. 57th St.	22
Dancing (ballroom)	Mollie Herman	6-7	Steinway Hall, W. 57th St.	22
Gym (men)	Leo Weinstein	6-7:30	P. S. No. 17	22
Gym (women)	Leo Cohen	5:30-7:30	Washington Irving H.S.	22
Basketball (women)	Leo Cohen	7:45-9:15	Washington Irving H.S.	22
Gym (women)	Leo Weinstein	7:15-9:00	P. S. No. 17	22
B. B. & Gym (men)	H. Margolies	7-9	P.S. No. 12, Passaic	145
B. B. & Gym (women)	Miss Bassett	7-9	Y.W.C.A., Passaic	145
B. B. (men)	Sam Berger	6-7:30	P. S. No. 11, 320 W. 21 St., N.Y.C.	102
B. B. & Gym (men & women)	F. Silver	6:15-8:45	Campbell School, So. River, N.J.	150
B. B. & Gym (men)	David Shukin	6-7:30	P. S. 11, 320 W. 21st St., N.Y.C.	Dress J.B.
"Prosperity" in U.S.A.	Tom Tippett	6-7	96 Fifth Ave., N.Y.C.	91
English	Miss F. Karp	5:30-6:30	873 Bway., N.Y.C.	62
Shop Chairmen's Problems	Various Teachers	5:30	Rm. 316, 232 W. 40th St.	22
Trade Unionism	J. Atkins	6-7	873 Bway., N.Y.C.	62
Discussion Group	Gus Tyler	8:45-9:15	Textile H.S., 6th fl., 350 W. 18th St. N.Y.C.	mixed
Dramatics	. . .	8-10	412 W. Front St., Plainfield, N.J.	149
Discussion Group	A. Glaessens & others	5:30-7	3 W. 16th St., N. Y. C.	32
Discussion Group	A. Glaessens & others	7:30-8:30	Rm. 103, Bassick H.S., Bridgeport, Conn.	152, 111
Choral (Negro)	Una Satchell, Margaret Childs	7:30	Reynolds P. S., 24th and Jefferson Sts., Phila.	Waist & Dress U.
Public Speaking	John Meister	5:30	Rm. 301, 1008 Cherry St., Phila.	W.&D.U.
Shop Chairmen's Problems	S. Frinstone, Elias Reisberg	5:30	Rm. 354, 1008 Cherry St., Phila.	W.&D.U.
Labor Problems	Gus Tyler	7:30	412 W. Front St., Plainfield, N.J.	149
WEDNESDAYS				
Choral	E. Kurtaugh	5:30-6:30	1369 Bway, N.Y.C.	60
Dramatics	Mark Schweid	5:30-6:30	3 West 16th St., N.Y.C.	22
Dramatics	Florence Lasser	7:30-9	96 Fifth Ave., N.Y.C.	91
Mandolin	L. Paparello	7-8	28 Graham Ave., Bklyn	Knitgoods
Gym (men)	Bill Beattie	9-11	Hotel Lismore, W. 73rd St., Nr. Bway. N.Y.C.	10
Gym (men)	Leo Cohen	6-7	Church of all Nations, 9 2d Ave., N.Y.C.	22
Basketball (men)	Leo Weinstein	6-7	Church of all Nations, 9 2d Ave., N.Y.C.	60
Gym & B. B. (men)	Ben Slott	8:30-9:30	Columbus Schools, New Haven, Conn.	151
Gym & B. B. (women)	Ben Slott	7:30-9	Columbus Schools, New Haven, Conn.	151
Trade Unionism & Current Events	J. Atkins	7-9	190 Belmont Ave., Newark, N.J.	144, 21
Social Literature	I. Swerdlow	6:15-7:15	96 Fifth Ave., N.Y.C.	91
English (elementary)	Miss Rappaport	6-8	P. S. 45, Rm. 208, 225 W. 24th St.	60
English (intermediate)	I. Stahl	6-8	P. S. 45, Rm. 208, 225 W. 24th St.	60
Social Psychology	Dr. Goodwin Watson	6:15	232 W. 40th St., N.Y.C.	22
Basic Ideas of Modern Science	. . .	6:15	232 W. 40th St., N.Y.C.	22
Structure & Work of Union	. . .	7:15	232 W. 40th St., N.Y.C.	22
Economics	. . .	7:15	232 W. 40th St., N.Y.C.	22

(Continued on Page 10)

Forthcoming Events

Feb. 23 at 7:30 P. M.
Basketball Game and Dance
Double Header
Local 10 vs. Local 60
and
Local 22 vs. Local 102
Aboard the U.S.S. Illinois
98th Street and Riverside Drive
Take 7th Ave. I.R.T. to 96th Street
Walk 2 Blocks West.
Tickets: in Advance—50c
At Door 75c

March 1st.
Local 66 Educational Anniversary Celebration, Rand School, 7:30 P. M. Presentation of "In Union There Is Strength," mandolin orchestra and labor singing.

March 2.
Joint Board of South Jersey Celebration, Moose Hall, 808 Market Street, Camden, N. J. Hammonton I.L.G.W.U. Players will present "All for One" and Camden I.L.G.W.U. Players in "In Union There is Strength." President Dubinsky to speak.

March 2
10 A. M. In Council Room. Meeting of Education Depart. Staff and education directors of locals in Greater N. Y. to arrange summer plans, etc.
11:30 A.M. Council Room. Regularg meeting of G.E.B. Educational Committee, I.L.G.W.U.

Books About Workers

(We hope to introduce novels of particular interest to workers under this heading. Name your favorites, old and new, if you want to interest your fellow members.)

"You Can't Sleep Here." (Edward Newhouse—Macaulay—$2.00).

Story of unemployed newspaper man who lands in a Hooverville and discovers that he is class-conscious. Full of smartcracks. There is a girl in it, too.

"Disinherited." (Jack Conroy—Covici-Friede—$2.00).

Pictures the plight of down-and-outers in Middle West. The central figure, born in a lead-mining area, seeks the elusive job in auto-plant, beet sugar factory and road construction.

"The Foundry." (Albert Halper—Viking—$2.50).

Most successful effort so far to convey the feel of a workshop as such. Good story of he-man workers with vivid contrast between union and non-union workers' conditions under the same roof. When a union man is discharged, all sorts of things mysteriously go wrong. Not for grandmas.

"Little Man, What Now?" (Hans Fallada—Grosset—75c).

An unconsciously tragic young German couple under the shadow of unemployment.

"I Went to Pit College." (Laura Gilpatrick—Viking—$2.50).

Miner's life in Pennsylvania coal town as seen by a "gal reporter" fresh from college.

* * *

Try to borrow these from your local library. If you are lucky enough to be able to buy, the Educational Department can supply them.

Live Lines from Garment Sidelines

By Frances Keane

A Washington dispatch last week announced that a congressional investigation of all NRA code authorities for evidence of monopolistic practices and illegal acts will shortly be asked in the U. S. Senate.

Rumors [illegible] received by a group of Senators, that many code authorities would bear investigating. Prior to the introduction of a resolution to that effect, it is anticipated that several congressmen will direct attack upon increasing costs to the consumer under NRA codes by way of a prelude.

NRA officials have denied the rumor that they are planning to remove some more code authorities for alleged monopolistic practices. The NIRB is constantly investigating complaints of alleged illegal acts by code authorities, and tracing them to their source, according to NRA Administrative Officer Harriman, but since the cotton garment case, where a code authority was thrown out, no other case has developed.

An NRA investigation of code authority operations in the needle trades would be welcomed, several code officials announced. Code directors in the coat and suit, millinery and infants' and children's wear field, in discussing any possible Adminstrative action, mentioned previous investigations and studies made by Government officials in recent months, and said that in all cases a clean bill of health was rendered. They took the attitude that they have nothing to hide from the Government officials or members of the industry.

• • •

The Apparel Codes Label Council has requested official sanction from the NRA on a set of by-laws that would enable the group to police retail stores for evidence of Blue Eagle infractions by apparel manufacturers.

The council, which consists of representatives of the various apparel codes, is understood to be seeking 2 per cent of label money for the purpose of checking up on label use in the interests of all the apparel code authorities. It is believed that the work of such a group would be far more effective and economical than if the same work is done by individual agents from the various code authorities practically duplicating each other's work.

Another function of this group would be to make the consumer label-conscious — to advertise and promote the use and recognition of the Blue Eagle labels. Under the council plan, the two per cent levy would cover all activities of the group, including both policing and advertising.

The question now being debated by NRA officials is to determine the legality of this plan under the terms of the administrative order which sets forth use of label money.

• • •

It has been stated by well-informed sources that industries having collective agreements with unions may recommend that the trade agreements become a fixed part of the recovery code for the industry subject to enforcement by the Code Authority. The collective agreements now covering the New York markets expire on June 1, and it is understood that a member of the Code Authority may leave for Washington shortly to file a copy of the agreements with the Administration.

The move would be directed primarily against the NRA shops which abide by the existing code minimums and average wage scales and would arouse a storm of opposition from the unorganized forces and backtown [illegible] These minimum scales have tended to undermine the standards for firms operating under cloak agreements. Since the Recovery Act, the shops not covered by the collective agreements have increased in number from 25 to 250.

• • •

A thorough investigation of the cost of production of underwear in Puerto Rico is planned by the Undergarment and Negligee Code Authority. Jonas Reiner, chairman of the Puerto Rican Committee of the Authority, has applied for permission in Washington for the Code Authority to expend the amount of money this investigation would entail.

The necessity for this investigation has arisen because of the trend during the past few months toward machine labor rather than hand labor in Puerto Rico. Hand labor was considered non-competitive, but since the Government established a minimum of $2 for home-workers or hand embroiderers in factories, the recent trend has been toward machine labor. This trend, coupled with the low minimum, has developed a level of competition impossible for American labor to meet. Mr. Reiner has stated that machine-made garments produced on the island can be turned out at from 67 to 85 per cent less than domestic made garments.

A report made by Dr. Caroline Manning, who investigated Puerto Rican conditions, shows that of 323 women workers in 252 homes, 31 per cent earned less than one cent an hour, and 63 per cent of other cases earned from one to four cents an hour.

• • •

An NRA order banning work shops in private apartments or living quarters was issued recently to apply to all industry codes having provisions for the abolition of home-work. It is estimated that several hundred thousand workers are affected by the code provisions against home-work.

In this order, the NIRB has defined the phrase "home or living quarters" as it appears in the codes prohibiting home-work as "the private house, private apartment, or private room, whichever is the most extensive, occupied as a home by the employe and his family." The order states that the practice of processing articles, the material for which has been furnished by the employer, in the home constitutes a violation of the codes which provide for the abolition of home-work, except as provided in the executive order 6711-A of May 15, 1934.

This order permits persons to engage in home-work at the same rate of wage as is paid for the same type of work performed in the factory, if an employment certificate is obtained from the U. S. Department of Labor, and provided the person is physically incapacitated or is needed at home for attendance upon an invalid.

• • •

The Dress Code Authority has passed a new regulation concerning the distribution of labels, but they haven't sufficient funds to enforce it. Until now the manufacturers and wholesalers approached the Code Authority, gave an estimate of the labels needed for a two- or three-weeks' period, received them and paid for them.

Now the Code Authority has decided that the labels shall go to the contractors working for the manufacturers, although the latter shall continue paying for them. This procedure would entail more work, a larger clerical staff, and increased office space. The wholesalers suggest that as the contractors want labels so distributed they should be willing to pay the additional cost of distribution—but the contractors have ignored that suggestion.

As the budget of the Code Authority is made out for the current six months, and the Code Authority uses all its funds to maintain its present efficiency, another means will have to be found to get out of this dilemma. Speeding up of the workers has been one method suggested.

The contractors believe that they will have more control over the jobbers if they are in possession of the labels, and that they will be able to avoid many disputes.

Among the Underwear Workers, Local 62

By Samuel Shore
Manager Local 62

Usually, the months of January and February belong to the slack periods of the year in our industry. Particularly in recent years Christmas shopping seemingly did not absorb all the merchandise. Stores found themselves with left-overs on their shelves. Therefore, orders were placed very sparingly. This year is the surprising exception. Because of the shorter work-week, the industry did not suffer from over-production. The supply did not exceed the demand.

A great number of our firms resumed operations immediately following New Year's and thousands of workers were called in. However, a substantial number of workers are still out and the problem confronting the Union at present is the enforcement of work. We are in equal division of work. We are insistent that work shall, as far as practicable, be evenly divided to insure part-time employment to all our members.

We also have to contend with the customary after-season discharges. Forty-six workers were discharged in various shops. Of these, forty-four were reinstated. Two cases were dropped because the complaints were without ground.

Several manufacturers had attempted to reduce prices. It soon became evident that it was a concerted effort on the part of the employers to depress wage standards. In the course of the month of January, fifty-one cases of serious price disputes were satisfactorily adjusted. In one instance, we found ourselves compelled to resort to a stoppage. The fact that the Union took a firm and uncompromising position convinced the employers that tampering with prices would not be tolerated.

Judging by the promising start of 1935, we were hopeful that our

PIONEERS OF UNDERWEAR GENERAL STRIKE OF 1913
Left to right: Upper row—Samuel Grakin, Morris Zietz; Seated—Mary Goff, Samuel Shore, Fanny Bramer.

CLASS AND GROUP SCHEDULE — SPRING SESSION — 1935

(Continued from Page 9)

Subject	Teacher	Time	Place	Local
Marxian Fundamentals	...	7:15	232 W. 40th St., N.Y.C.	22
History Jewish Labor Movement (in Yiddish)	...	6:15	232 W. 40th St., N.Y.C.	22
THURSDAYS				
Choral	J. Furgiele	9-11	608 Main Ave., Passaic, N.J.	145
Choral	Miss Berkowitz	7:30-8:30	1 Maple St., So. River, N.J.	150
Current Events	Jos. Schwartz	5:30	Rm. 501, 1003 Cherry St., Phila., Waist & Dress U.	
Dramatics	M. Badolatti	7:30-8:30	608 Main Ave., Passaic, N.J.	145
Current Events (twice monthly)	J. Atkins	5-7	Republican Club, 40-22 Natl. Ave., Corona, L.I.	mixed
Current Events (twice monthly)	Various Lecturers	7:30	Jewish Community Center, Yonkers	mixed
Mandolin (1)	L. Paparello	6:30-8:30	149 Second Ave, N.Y.C.	22
Mandolin (2)	D. Altman	5:30-7	218 W. 40th St., N.Y.C.	22
B. B. (men)	Bill Beattie	7:30-10	Textile H.S., 350 W. 18th St.	10
Gym (men)	Leo Cohen	7:45-8:45	P. S. No. 17	22
Swimming (men)	Leo Weinstein	5:45-6:45	Church of All Nations, 9 2d Ave., N.Y.C.	22
Gym (women)	Leo Cohen	6-7:30	P. S. No. 17	22
Swimming (women)	Mollie Herman	7:00-8	Church of All Nations	22
Gym (women)	F. Silver	6-7:30	P. S. 11, 320 W. 21st St., N.Y.C.	62
Swimming (women)	Marie Bishop	7:30-9	P. S. 11, 320 W. 21st St., N.Y.C.	62
Trade Unionism	J. Barbash	7:30-9	72 W. 25th St., Bayonne, N.J.	160, 148
Social Literature	Miss A. Martocci	6-7	873 Bway., N.Y.C.	62
English (advanced)	Miss F. Karp	5:30-6:30	873 Bway., N.Y.C.	62
Trade Unionism	Wm. Gomberg	7:30-9	222 Paterson St., Paterson, N.J.	161
FRIDAYS				
Choral (Harlem)	Miss E. Patterson	8-9:30	P. S. 136, 136th St., Edgecombe Ave.	22
Dramatics	Miss E. Eugland	8:30-9:30	28 Graham Ave., Bklyn.	Knitgoods
Mandolin (Spanish)	L. Paparello	7-8	143 E. 103rd St., N.Y.C.	22
Dancing (modern)	Lillian Shapiro	6-7	53 Orange St., New Haven, Conn.	151
Swimming (women)	L. Weinstein	5:45-6:45	Church of All Nations, 9 2d Ave., N.Y.C.	22
Labor Problems (twice monthly)	Varied Lecturers	8-9:30	W.C. Hall, 630 W. 7th, Plainfield	149
Swimming (women)	...	6	P.S. 141, Leonard & Meklibben, Bklyn.	22
Swimming (women)	...	7	P.S. 141, Leonard & McKibben, Bklyn.	22
SATURDAYS				
Swimming	...	11 a.m.-1 p.m.	Washington Irving H. S.	91
Economics	Gus Tyler	1:30	Rm. 554, 1008 Cherry St., Phila., Pa. Waist & Dress U.	
Chorus	L. Weiner	2:30-4:30	3 W. 16th St., N.Y.C.	22
Choral (men)	E. Kurtaugh	11:30 a.m.	1369 Bway, N.Y.C.	60
Orchestra	E. Kurtaugh	1	1369 Bway, N.Y.C.	60
Mandolin	C. De Filippo	10:30 a.m.	806 Main Ave., Passaic, N.J.	145
Gym (men)	Bill Beattie	9:30 a.m. 12:30	Hotel Lismore, W. 75d St., nr. Bway.	10
Swimming (men)	Bill Beattie	12:30-2:30	Hotel Lismore, W. 75d St., nr. Bway.	10
Swimming (women)	I. Weinstein	10:30-11:30 a.m.	Church of All Nations	22
Soccer	E. Schwarcz	1:30-3:30	Macombs Dam Park	10
Swimming (men)	Leo Cohen	2:30-4	Church of All Nations	60
B. B. (men)	Leo Cohen	1-2	Church of All Nations	60
Visits to Points of Interest	I. Swerdlow & J. Barbash	11 a.m.	3 West 16th St., N.Y.C.	mixed
Choral	J. Furgiele	12 m.	218 W. 40th St., N.Y.C.	89

Unfolding the Chicago Scene

By Morris Bialis, V.-P.
Manager, Chicago Joint Board

I am writing this from Ft. Wayne, Ind., where I have been staying several days in connection with the dispute in the Pollak Brothers factory.

Millenium Not Yet Reached

As far as the Chicago cloak situation. I need not tell you we have not reached the millenium yet in the cloak shops as far as earnings are concerned. There is, as usual, a bit more work in one shop and less in the other, and it goes without saying that each cloakmaker strives to find room for himself in a shop where he might earn a few more dollars, which is natural and human enough.

Otherwise, we have in our city a solid cloak organization, with enough politics to keep busy every active soul; with a couple of "clubs" that have each a normal quota of fiery adherents, and all the other familiar paraphernalia of "group" business. Except, that I observe that the former animosity between these two clubs has materially subsided lately, and there is hope that they may soon unite into one, and the one club might then disappear for lack of competition.

Need More Cloaks

What we do, nevertheless, miss here in Chicago is a more active cloak market. Geographically, Chicago would seem to be an ideal place for extensive coat and suit production. It is a great railway center of the country, through which all buyers from all parts of the land must pass. When you ask the employers about it, their answer is: "The East sells garments cheaper." They will attempt to prove to you by bills that they can buy in New York coats for $10 and even $6 a piece and resell them at a profit. Of course, we counter by telling them that New York cloakmakers seem to be earning a nice living; that they have a union and are protected by agreements and code regulations.

After an exchange of arguments, the situation remains unchanged. We, in Chicago, still have a little work and our New York brethren don't seem to be much happier either. Nevertheless, we are somewhat curious about these $6 garments which our Chicago manufacturers seem to be able to buy in the New York market.

New York Cooperates

Early this season, we had quite a bit of trouble with a local firm, Kirschbaum & Heilbraun, after we discovered that this firm had developed an undue appetite for the above referred to $6 and $10 coats. We learned, for instance, that they even made an attempt to slip out from Chicago and get a taste of manufacturing in the East. We at once got in touch with the New York Joint Board, and, thanks to the excellent cooperation of my colleague, Vice-President Isidore Nagler, we succeeded in adjusting our dispute with this firm. We are, indeed, I wish to say again, grateful to him.

We had a better-than average season in the dress trade last Fall, but current Spring work appears to be lacking vigor. While there is work in the shops, still we find that the demand for labor is not as urgent as it should be. We even have a good number of unemployed all crafts in the trade, which is rather disconcerting.

"Reorganization" Comes to a Head

In August, 1933, as you may recall, prior to the signing of an agreement, Mr. Max Meyer, acting as arbitrator, conceded the employers the right to reorganize their shops to the amount of ten per cent each year. It was then decided that this reorganization may be made during the first weeks in January, 1934 and 1935, with the proviso that each dismissed worker would get a full week's wages. It was also stipulated that in case the Union could prove that a worker was being dismissed for union activity, such a discharge was subject to review and arbitration. In January, 1934, we succeeded, nevertheless, in postponing reorganization for six months and later, in June, delayed it again until January, 1935.

We made another effort, lately, to leave it until the expiration of the agreement in September, but the employers insist on going through with their "right." The result was that some employers took advantage of this privilege and dismissed part of the quota to which they were entitled. All told, about 75 persons were discharged, 22 of whom have already been put back to work through our office. Quite a number of the others obtained jobs without any special effort on part of the Joint Board.

Cotton Garment Scene Darkens

There is a pre-strike atmosphere in the cotton garment industry. Union headquarters are alive with committee groups, distributors of literature, shop meetings, etc.—a general strike is in the air.

Attempts to confer with some employers have so far brought little result. The cotton dress manufacturers seem to be getting ready for a fight and, judging from personal observation, the dressmakers in the cotton garment shops are ready for the big scrap.

On February 1, Local 76, the cotton garment local, installed its officers. Brothers Abr. Piotkin and Samuel Glassman and myself spoke, and the meeting was followed by a dance. It was, indeed, one of the finest meetings I have attended in a long time.

About Ft. Wayne, Ind., and Decatur, Ill., in my next correspondence.

Farewell Banquet
in honor of the
Educational Director
Mrs. Esther Terry,
at the I.L.G.W.U. Joint Board School

Underwear Workers, Local 62

(Continued from Page 10)

workers will be provided with continuous employment this year. However, the uncertainty and nervousness created by the awaited Gold Clause decision of the Supreme Court have caused a sudden setback in our industry, as it apparently has done in all other industries and commerce throughout the country.

Union Has No Power to Designate Sub-Standard Workers

The Undergarment and Negligee Code, like all other codes, contains a provision for the exemption of sub standard workers, that is, workers who are either old or physically or mentally deficient. The power to grant such exemption is vested in the United States Department of Labor. Neither the Union nor even the Code Authority has any such power. An application for exemption must be filed with the United States Department of Labor. After careful investigation such application is either granted or denied by the department. An irresponsible clique of so-called "rank-and-filers" of our Union, inspired by outside influences, are seeking to convey the impression that the Union is vested with the right to grant such exemption, and that, exercising this right, the Union is helping to reduce the code minimums by granting such exemptions to employers for the mere asking. Of course, this is a deliberate misrepresentation of fact. All sub-standard workers must be registered with the Code Authority, otherwise such exemptions are not given recognition under the code.

Our Union has on its rolls in excess of ten thousand members. These workers are employed in approximately 200 shops. Having all the facts in mind, one is easily convinced of to what falsehood these elements can stoop in their attempts to besmirch the Union upon which they depend for their very livelihood.

Report All Violations To Union

Frequently, workers bear a grievance against the Union because of a complaint they have against their employer. In many cases, the alleged complaint is never communicated to the Union. Often, even the shop-chairlady is not informed about it.

How can it reasonably be expected that the Union would act on a matter of which it is not advised?

An interesting case, characteristic of what we mentioned above, occurred in the Friedman Negligee Company. Only a week ago we learned, quite by chance, that a few of the week-workers in that shop had not been paid for New Year's Day of 1934. New Year's Day is a legal holiday for which week workers are to be paid under the terms of our agreement. More than a year had elapsed and no mention was made of that fact by the workers. A check of $31.37 for back pay was collected from the firm and paid out by the Union to the workers involved.

Let this serve as an incentive to our members to report all violations to the Union without delay in order that the Union may promptly act in their behalf.

Among the Cutters of New York

(Owing to the illness of Vice-President Perlmutter, regular newsmatter appearing in these columns is omitted from this issue.)

ATHLETIC NEWS

Local Ten Beats Passaic Team

A small group of loyal rooters accompanied our Local 10 team to Passaic for its first official basketball league game.

The contest was played on Saturday, Feb. 2, at the Knights of Columbus Auditorium in Passaic and was witnessed by a crowd of 700 people. The same group, that never has failed to support the team in all its games so far, was there, and as usual Max Chansky, Eddie Berkowitz, Sol Moss and Irving Kaplan led the cheering section. They managed to produce nearly as large a volume of cheering as did the six hundred rooters from Passaic.

The trip was not in vain, as our team succeeded in "taking over" Passaic by a 28—14 score. Frank Liberti, manager of Local No. 145, threw up the first ball. The game started off with both teams playing a cautious but aggressive ball. Local 10 lost many chances to roll up a big lead by missing many difficult shots. During the first period scoring was low because both teams were tossing wild inaccurate shots, coupled with frequent personal fouls handed out by the referee. With Passaic leading by 5 to 4, Local 10 broke through their opponents' defense from behind to take the lead by 11 to 7 at the end of the first half.

Passaic Puts Up Gallant Fight

At the start of the third quarter, Coach Poenack withdrew his first team to rest them up for the close. Passaic put up a gallant and hard uphill fight and wrested the lead away from Local 10, to lead at the end of the 3rd quarter by 14—13.

In the fourth and last quarter Local 10 rose to its greatest heights. It was an exhibition that the team has never displayed before an audience. They swept Passaic completely off their feet so that they were unable to regain their stride. The first team was sent back on the floor by Coach Poenack with added advice and careful instructions in carrying out their assignments. Their shots went looping through the basket—the passing of the ball and the floor work was a treat to the eyes—and the defense was so perfect that Passaic did not score for the entire fourth quarter, while we scored fifteen points running the final score up to 28—14.

Much credit should be given to Coach Mac Poenack for his handling of the team, and the improvement they have shown since he started coaching them 3 weeks ago.

BOX SCORE

Local 10	G.	F.	P.
Engel, R.F.	2	0	4
Bernstein	0	0	0
Fishman, L.F.	2	1	5
Segal	0	1	1
Solomon	0	0	0
Berg, C	2	1	5
Shaines, R.G.	1	1	3
Atkins	1	0	2
Lederer, L.G.	2	0	4
Flaim	1	0	2
Auerbach	1	0	2
	12	4	28

Passaic	G.	F.	P.
Almando, R.F.	2	2	6
Lanteri, L.F.	0	0	0
Bicaro	0	0	0
Colletti, C.	1	0	2
De Franko	2	0	4
Trippodi, R.G.	1	0	2
Tempello, L.G.	0	0	0
Marotto	0	0	0
	6	2	14

RENEW YOUR WORKING CARDS

All cutters, who have failed to renew their working cards upon returning to work or secure a working card when obtaining a new job, are instructed to appear at the office of Local 10 to do so.

Failure to change your working card for the year 1935 will be considered a violation and you will be subject to heavy punishment.

ATTENTION
MEMBERS OF LOCAL 10
MEMBERSHIP MEETING
will be held on
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1935,
at
ARLINGTON HALL, 23 ST. MARK'S PLACE
at 7:30 P. M.
SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS:—
Nomination of Officers for the 1935 Term.
Cutters are urged to attend without fail.

ATTENTION
CUTTERS OF MISCELLANEOUS BRANCH
A Special meeting of the Miscellaneous Branch will take place on Monday, March 4, 1935, in
ARLINGTON HALL, 23 ST. MARK'S PLACE,
at 7:30 P. M.,
for the purpose of nominating officers for the Miscellaneous Branch for the 1935 term.
All Underwear, Negligee, Corset and Brassiere, Children's Dress and Blouse cutters are urged to attend this meeting.

...EDITORIAL NOTES...

President Dubinsky At the NIRB Hearing President Dubinsky's address at the public hearing on Employment Policy before the National Industrial Recovery Board in Washington on February 1, was all the more effective because it was confined to a few essential points. In addition, President Dubinsky chose to argue these points from the premises of the industry which he knows best—the women's garment industry—and refused to be guided by anything but ripe experience in that field.

His demand for a shorter work-week, predicated on the experience in our own industry, where the gradual shortening of work hours across a span of twenty-five years has proved to be the only effective measure for absorbing the unemployed, carried, therefore, added strength and conviction. His insistence upon classified wage scales was fortified by striking examples of how the adoption of such wage scales succeeded in wiping out the sweatshop in its blackest spots, in the "out-of-town" territory, in nearby Connecticut, New Jersey and Pennsylvania towns. No less convincing was his plea for labor participation on code authorities, in support of which he cited the wholesome influence exercised by representatives of the I. L. G. W. U. on bi-party code authorities in our industries.

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It is quite impossible, of course, to foretell what influence the mass of evidence presented by the labor spokesmen at the Washington hearings will have on the labor and social welfare legislation now before Congress. The hearings were called for the purpose of clarifying the attitude of both labor and industry on these burning issues.

The one inescapable impression on those who attend these hearings was, nevertheless, that of challenge, resentment and the assertion of a fighting spirit by the men and women who spoke for the wage-earners of America. Green, Lewis, Dubinsky, Fry, Schneiderman, Tracy, Wharton—all spoke straight from the shoulder, mincing no words and courting no favors. It is not the least bit exaggerated to say that not in years has labor's voice been so clearly and so militantly heard from a national platform.

40-Hour Week Won in Toronto The short, decisive strike of the cloak workers of Toronto has brought them a number of gains in work conditions in addition to a collective agreement with a revived manufacturers' association.

The workers have won their fight for the 40-hour work-week, a four-hour reduction from the time schedules prevailing heretofore; an increase of about 10 cents per hour for pressers, operators and trimmers; abolition of section work, and, also, the contract prohibits shop owners and managers from doing any work at the tables or machines. These are important concessions, which the Toronto cloakmakers' organization may deservedly point to with pride.

The Toronto cloakmakers, however, will do well to place less reliance upon the agreement than upon their own vigilant observance of union work conditions in the shops. In Toronto, associations of employers in the cloak industry may come and go, but it is only union strength that can always be depended upon to guard conditions in the factories.

Along The Mexican Border One of the revealing surprises of I. L. G. W. U. activity in the past year has been the response to the message of unionism among the Spanish-speaking dressmakers along the Mexican borderline.

The presence of thousands of Spanish-speaking women workers in the needle trades of New York City and of Los Angeles, of course, has been no secret to the leadership of the International. In Los Angeles, the Mexican girls have constituted a majority of the dressmakers for a number of years past, though until recently their attitude towards union affiliation had been cool, timid and unbelieving, and union missionaries among the Spanish-speaking in that district were no less doubtful of success in interesting the Mexican girls in joining the I. L. G. W. U.

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The first breach in the wall which seemed for a long time to segregate the Spanish-speaking workers in the dress industry from their fellow-workers of other races and languages occurred in the general dress strike of 1933. Among the notable achievements of that elemental uprising was the formation of a strong Spanish-speaking branch of the New York Dressmakers' Union, which has since been functioning as loyally and as efficiently as any other division of the great army of organized dressmakers.

Shortly thereafter, the International began lively activity in the Los Angeles dress market and met with an astonishingly warm response from the Mexican workers in that city. Today, there is in Los Angeles a thriving branch of Spanish-speaking dressmakers, second to none in keen allegiance to the I. L. G. W. U. Recently, the success in Los Angeles was followed up by educational campaigning in Dallas, San Antonio, Laredo and several other Southwestern towns close to the Mexican border, where considerable women's and infants' wear industries have been found to be located.

Uniformly, reports from all these points indicate that, after brief recesses of doubt and timidity, the Mexican women dressmakers are embracing the trade union idea with a feeling akin to ecstacy. In most instances it means to them not merely a miraculous improvement of work conditions—hours, wages, factory treatment—but a spiritual awakening. The rapid enrollment of the Spanish-speaking workers of our industry, in all events, is something of which the I. L. G. W. U. is decidedly proud, affirming, as little else could, the truly international character of our movement and of our organization.

The I. L. G. W. U. Sports If anyone were to have suggested but a mere few years ago that the Ladies' Garment Workers' organization form basketball, soccer, baseball and swimming teams within its locals as part of its educational activity, the suggestion, quite likely, would have been received as Utopian if not a shade worse.

Not because we had at that time any objection, as a matter of principle, to sports as a legitimate element of workers' recreational activity. To the contrary: As pioneers in the field of labor education, the I. L. G. W. U., time and again in the past, emphasized the value of indoor and outdoor recreation, especially for workers employed in such sedentary occupations as are the needle trades. Yet, the realization of such a program of "fun, sports and gayety" appeared altogether too remote in view of the far more urgent and pressing organizational needs which were confronting us. It seemed as if everybody had agreed that "you have got to build a union, first, before you can think of playing ball or swimming."

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Contrast that state of mind with the current attitude in the I. L. G. W. U. toward recreation and sports, realistically reflected in the lively tempo with which sports teams of every variety are sprouting out in every locality where our educational activity is gaining a foothold!

This change of mood actually implies not merely that, as a labor organization, we find ourselves today sufficiently on solid ground in industry to permit a diversion toward the "lighter things of life," but, that as a group, the I. L. G. W. U. has become a much younger organization. 1933 and 1934 have brought to our Union a huge constituency of young men and women, native-born and raised, to whom free, competitive sports are a natural and a wholesome form for self-expression.

To give this normal craving for athletic activity shape and form within union channels and to balance it properly with a workers' educational diet, is a task which our educational management is now beginning to handle on a large, nearly national scale. Like former pioneering efforts undertaken by the I. L. G. W. U. in labor education and in other fields, this undertaking will be keenly watched by the rest of the Labor movement. Our ideal is, to use a classic phrase, a "healthy soul within a healthy body." It is the ideal of a free, unshackled mankind.

An Important Historic Question