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JUSTICE
INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

Vol. XXX. No. 13 Jersey City, N. J., July 1, 1948 Price 10 Cents

ILG Old-Age Benefit Funds Spread

'48 Campaign Committee Alerts Locals for Action

News reports by the score, pouring daily into the office of the ILGWU 1948 Campaign Committee and building a picture of awakened national interest in campaign issues and organizational political techniques, were reported this week by Gus Tyler, the union's director of political affairs.

Most stimulating about these reports is their versatility and wide geographic distribution, Tyler said. States as far apart as New Jersey and Texas were showing as live a response as Missouri, Ohio and up-State New York localities. Poll-tax Southern territory, where one has to pay his way to a voting booth, was registering interest equal to ILGWU locals' in Indiana or Ohio in the call for free-will help in the campaign the labor movement has launched in behalf of American political democracy in this presidential year.

Ohio in Front Line

Nathan Solomon's office in Cleveland, Ohio, describes a wave of labor political activity in Bob Taft's home state, tied up with the AFL's Labor's League for Political Education and sparked by Phil Hanna and Michael Lieden, heads of the State Federation of Labor. As in former years, the Ohio AFL is working closely with the CIO in political matters.

In Cleveland, the money-raising campaign, though only one month old, is going great guns, Solomon writes. The close interest of ILGWU members may be sampled from the fact that in one all-Negro shop,

(Continued on Page 2)

Southeastern Locals Open Political Drive

Southeastern locals have begun a campaign to get their members registered, poll taxes paid and voting ensured on Election Day.

Local 377 in Knoxville, Tenn., is working on an eight-point plan to help qualify its 1,700 members for August primaries, and expects to raise funds for political activities.

Local 346 in Chattanooga, Local 408 in Fayetteville, Local 493 in Jackson, and Local 431 in Memphis are organizing similarly.

Non-partisan committees have been formed to work with central labor unions and other groups to systematically get out the vote.

ILG 1947 Fiscal Report Tells $13 Million Story

In accordance with the policy established by the ILGWU in 1935, the union's auditing department, under the special supervision of Pres. David Dubinsky in his capacity as the union's chief financial officer, last week issued a complete financial statement for all union affiliates as well as the General Office.

The 14th annual fiscal report for 1947 covers 474 locals, 23 joint boards and 17 district councils and regional offices. Represented are 26 states, four Canadian provinces and 277 cities.

In addition to being a financial accounting, the statement presents a comprehensive picture of the union's financial structure. It shows

(Continued on Page 2)

Retirement benefits for over-age workers, spurred by ILGWU initiative and guaranteed by contracts through weekly pay-roll percentage contributions, are making rapid headway in numerous women's garment markets. This issue of "Justice" records four new ILGWU collective agreements which include industry-secured retirement funds. See stories on pages 3, 9, 11.

L.A. Union Whips Gerry $1,000,000 Legal Suit

A smashing blow was dealt anti-union forces in Los Angeles recently when the ILGWU won two telling rounds in the legal battle arising out of the organization strike.

In a precedent-setting decision that will have national repercussions, the California State Supreme Court knocked out a $1,000,000 damage suit against the ILGWU.

The fantastic suit against the ILGWU had been filed by Gerry of California, anti-union underwear manufacturer, for alleged secondary boycott and unfair labor practices. In its decision the court upheld the findings of the Los Angeles Superior Court which had previously ruled against the Gerry firm.

The high court stated that "the union's objective and the means employed to obtain it are not unlawful in so far as the law of this state is concerned."

The decision pointed out that the "Hot Cargo" and "Secondary Boycott Law," formerly on the California statute books, had been declared unconstitutional in an earlier decision, and stated that the Taft-Hartley law vests only the National Labor Relations Board with authority to rule on charges of unfair labor practices. The court stated that under the Taft-Hartley law injunctions can be obtained only on petition of the NLRB, and then in federal courts, not in local or state courts.

Washington Ruling

The second blow was struck when the National Labor Relations Board in Washington blocked the Gerry firm's final recourse by upholding a decision by the regional director absolving the ILGWU from charges of unfair labor practices filed by

(Continued on Page 2)

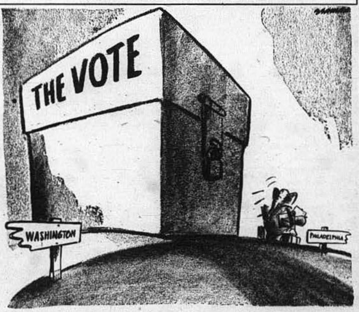
ILG Finance Report Sent Upon Request

The ILGWU financial report for 1948 has been officially issued and is ready for distribution. Due to the shortage of newsprint, the report was printed on special paper and in booklet form. It is therefore impossible to enclose a copy of the financial report with each copy of "Justice," as in former years. However, a large number of printed copies have been prepared for all members who desire to obtain the financial report.

If you want a copy, simply send a postcard to the ILGWU General Office, with your name, address and ledger number. It will be shipped by return mail.

STACK

"Now, There's Just This Little Matter . . ."



Linsk to Take Over At San Bernardino; 125 to Regain Jobs

More than 125 ILGWU members in San Bernardino and Riverside, Calif., who were thrown out of work when the Henry Rosenfeld shops in their cities halted operation, will be reemployed when Linsk of California takes over the San Bernardino plant. Linsk, already under union contract in Los Angeles, will sign a contract for their new operation in the twin inland California cities.

The factories were originally operated by Kirk & Weideman, owners at the time the ILGWU organized the workers. The plants were then taken over by Henry Rosenfeld, who operated them for more than one year.

The building and equipment are the most modern available, and the Linsk company expects to double their production facilities through operation of the new plant. The Los Angeles factory will not be affected by the new operation.

ILG 1947 Fiscal Report Tells $13 Million Story

(Continued from Page 1)

approximately 10,000 items representing receipts and disbursements of general funds, special benefit funds and employer contributions to union welfare funds.

The 1947 income of the ILGWU derived from all affiliates and other sources of income totalled $13,141,584.32, not counting death or sick benefits or the employer-contributed welfare fund. The General Office received $3,046,738.32 from the locals in the form of per capita dues, assessments and initiation fees. The affiliated locals and joint boards retained $9,908,507.70.

The total actual disbursements of the ILGWU and all its affiliates for 1947 amounted to $10,393,197.31 and the surplus for the year was $2,748,387.01. Of this surplus $775,950.23 showed up on the General Office's books, and $1,972,436.78 was the surplus for the joint boards and affiliates.

Per capita dues to the General Office from the locals amounted to $2,715,433.12.

Pres. Dubinsky drew special attention to the special Institutions and Labor Causes assessment some funds of which have been carried over into the 1948 period.

He also pointed out the significant sum of $1,100,066.55 which went to members' relief, charitable and labor causes.

Another highlight of the financial statement was the expenditure of $267,328.10 for education and recreation during 1947. During the same period, union locals and joint boards spent $1,359,529.82 for organizing expenses.

Reflecting the continued spread and improvement of benefits, the report shows that employer contributions to health and vacation fund maintained by union affiliates reached a total of $23,358,325.77 or well over $3 millions above the corresponding figure for 1946. $16,710,394.31 was expended from this welfare fund during 1947.

Dubinsky pointed out that the 1947 figure for the fund, as in previous years, does not include the reserves accumulated by the New York cloak industry retirement fund whose total assets on December 31, 1947 amounted to $14,308,257.55.

The assets of the General Office are not included in this annual statement of ILGWU receipts and disbursements. In accordance with the union's constitution, the assets of the General Office and of all the ILGWU locals and affiliates are published as part of the triennial report issued during convention years.

The last page of the report contains a special chart entitled "Weekly Payroll — Officers and Staff" which shows that the 1,394 salaried employees working for the General Office and all the ILGWU affiliates received a total annual payroll during 1947 amounting to $4,646,070. Of these officers and employees, 612 were administrative workers and organizers, and 782 were accountants, bookkeepers and members of clerical staffs.

Simeon L. Hamburger, general auditor of the ILGWU, as in former years, was in technical charge of the preparation of the 1947 financial report.

James Lipsig Named Assistant Secretary In General Office

James Lipsig, who joined the ILGWU in July, 1946, to do legal work in connection with the General Office, was appointed as Assistant Executive Secretary by Pres. Dubinsky last month. The appointment was confirmed by the GEB at its quarterly meeting on June 11, at Unity House. Frederick F. Umhey is the ILGWU Executive Secretary

A New York City College graduate, Lipsig was admitted to the New York Bar in 1934 after completing his legal training at Columbia Law School. He served as general counsel (1941-1946) to the New York Joint Board of the Textile Workers Union (CIO) and, following two-and-a-half years' service in the U. S. Army, he specialized in labor law and civil liberties defense practice. Lipsig has written several pamphlets on these subjects and has acted as special counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union since 1934.

◆

Use the Ballot or lose the Ballot.

Local 91 Song and Dance Group Entertains Parley

Members of Local 91's Song and Dance Group entertained participants in a conference of the American Institute of Labor at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N. J., on June 14.

The group from the Children's Dressmakers led folk dancing, sang union songs, put on a skit and did dramatic readings. Jack Riley directed the group.

L.A. Union Whips Gerry $1,000,000 Legal Suit

(Continued from Page 1)

Gerry. In its appeal, the company had charged the regional office with showing partiality to the union.

One of the firm's futile contentions in its appeal to Washington was that the ILGWU had employed the secondary boycott in an attempt to bring about unionization. Actually, the company has been guilty of unfair labor practices. It had signed a contract with the ILGWU, and then repudiated it on the following day, forming a company union and employing anti-labor "industrial relations consultants" to battle the bona fide union.

Gerry Stalls Vote

The ILGWU now has the firm on the run, and attorneys and consultants for Gerry are able to fight only a delaying action. In the face of a certain ILGWU victory in an NLRB election in its two "runaway" Arizona plants, the company forced postponement of the vote by the legal maneuver of challenging jurisdiction of the labor board.

The company claimed it was not subject to the National Labor Relations Act since it was not engaged in interstate commerce. The case has gone to Washington for a ruling, after a hearing in Arizona.

The union also charged Gerry with unfair labor practices in violation of the Wagner Act because of the alleged discharging of active union members in the shops and the intimidation of workers to prevent unionization. Petitions for reinstatement were filed for Bessie Honyeava in Flagstaff and Anita Chavez in Winslow. During the hearings, the company admitted paying only 40 cents per hour. There is no minimum wage law in the state of Arizona.

3,500 Win Wage Award In Chicago Minor Trades

An eight-cent-an-hour wage increase, retroactive to April 1, to offset the rise in the cost of living, was awarded June 25 to about 3,500 workers in the Chicago area who make wash dresses, sportswear and allied minor articles of apparel. The award was made by Judge John Gutknecht, panel chairman.

The negotiations, as noted, were in reference to the wage reopening clause in the contract signed in June, 1947, by the ILGWU and the Garment Industries of Illinois.

The award included all qualified time workers, and piece workers who have earned the minimum rates. Effective July 1, the award closes all negotiations until May 1, 1949 when reopening can be requested. The impartial arbiter, in making the award, took into consideration the increase in living costs through the summer of 1948.

The case for the 78 members of the association was presented to the panel by David Silbert, counsel for the association. Dr. Lazare Teper of the union headquarters in New York presented the union's arguments.

Panel members were Judge Gutknecht, Jerry Smoler, Smoler Bros. Inc., and president of the Garment Industries of Illinois and Abraham Plotkin, general organizer of the ILGWU.

ILG Campaign Committee Alerts Locals for Activity

(Continued from Page 1)

only recently organized, all but one contributed $2 each to the campaign fund. Only one gave $1. In Piqua, Conneaut and Toledo political rallies of ILGWU members have taken place.

Vote Drive in Texas

From far-off Houston, Tex., Elizabeth Kimmel writes: "It promises to be an exciting election year in Texas. . . . People who never saw a ballot before are going to be voting this year. . . . We started by seeing to it that every member of Local 214 paid his or her poll tax."

Miss Kimmel, ILGWU organizer, was appointed special deputy tax collector of Harris County, with book and seal, and is covering shops and meetings, making sure that every possible voter in the local is qualified. The local has also played its part in helping to organize the precinct conventions. Now Local 214 is pointing toward the first primary election on July 24, when county, state and national offices will be at stake. In Texas the primary — the Democratic primary, that is — is really the election.

Indiana, New Jersey

From Logansport, Ind., Bob Jewell, secretary of Local 392, writes that his local has arranged to work with the Central Union and have completed preliminary activity for a get-out-the-vote drive for Election Day, embracing every union man and woman in the county. Fund-raising for the campaign is also in progress, Jewell reports.

Martin Rose, from Local 396, Oswego, N. Y., briskly reports that the trade union campaign committee is all set and "ready to roll." Money is coming in from the members and there's real enthusiasm for the job ahead.

From Newark, seat of New Jersey's great Essex County, Herman Sirota reports a string of meetings held by Local 85, 166 and 222, all electing campaign committees and proceeding with collections of campaign funds. Sirota, manager of these three locals, is also chairman of the AFL Political Educational Committee of the county and is an active member of the New Jersey ADA.

From Vandalia, Mo., where Local 338 had organized a campaign committee as far back as March, Jessie Rose informs that, in addition to setting a substantial sum as the goal for a campaign fund, the local is planning, among other things, a parade sometime in the fall before the election.

ADA's N.Y. Gathering

In New York, the political highlight for June was the first city convention of the Americans for Democratic Action, attended by more than 100 local trade union leaders and some 200 delegates from ADA branches throughout the city, which met June 11-12 at the Park Central Hotel.

Leon Henderson pledged a continuing fight for an "open, uncontrolled Democratic convention so that men like Eisenhower and Douglas can be considered." Harold Hanover, secretary-treasurer of the New York State Federation of Labor, read a message on "Trade Unions and Political Action" from Joseph D. Keenan, director of the AFL's Labor's League for Political Education. James B. Carey, secretary-treasurer of the CIO, linked ADA with "Democratic Action in Western Europe."

Paul Hays, chairman of ADA in New York City, presided over the convention. Among the trade union leaders present were men from the ILGWU, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the Hat, Cap and Millinery Workers Union—all AFL; the United Auto Workers, the United Retail Wholesale and Department Store Union, the United Steel Workers—all CIO; and the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen and the International Association of Machinists (Independent).

Corraling Campaign Contributions

Lena La Barbe Cappello puts on spurs and sombrero to collect voluntary contributions for the ILGWU's Campaign Committee in Dallas.

FRISCO COAT SHOPS GET 10¢ WAGE RISE; SEEK SCALE CHANGE

Workers in the San Francisco coat and suit industry received a wage increase of 10 cents per hour "across the board" through a recent award of the industry's impartial chairman, Sam Kagel, announced Henry Zacharin, manager of the Joint Board.

The increase awarded by the arbiter is retroactive to May 15. Both time and piece workers will receive the 10-cent boost, regardless of previous earnings. In this manner the greatest percentage of increase goes to the lower paid workers.

Negotiations on other points of difference over the proposed new agreement will be resumed this week. The union is seeking higher minimum wages, additional holidays with pay, an increase in the employers' contribution to the health and welfare fund, and other new benefits.

Zacharin also reported that the closing of books for the health fund showed that during the period from June, 1947 to May 31, the amount of benefits paid out by the fund totalled more than $37,000.

JUSTICE
A Labor Newspaper
Published twice monthly by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union

Office of Publication:
591 Summit Ave., Jersey City 6, N. J.
Editorial Office:
1710 Broadway, New York 19, N. Y.
Tel. COlumbus 5-7000

DAVID DUBINSKY, President and General Secretary-Treasurer
MAX D. DANISH, Editor
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Subscription price, paid in advance $2.00 a year.

Entered as Second Class matter Feb. 3, 1948, at the Post Office at Jersey City, N. J., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Vol. XXX. July 1, 1948. No. 13

June at Unity House

Unity House manager Alfred Taxin (left) accepts presentation of television set by Local 25 from Vice Pres. Charles Kreindler.

Before the Unity House season hits its full summer stride during July and August the ILGWU summer resort in Pennsylvania serves as the destination for outings by many union affiliates from New York and elsewhere.

June weekends find groups of chairladies, chairmen and active workers enjoying local outings some of which combine a bit of union business with pleasure.

It is also a time when Unity House, always a restful haven of beauty and vacation accommodations, reveals the additions and improvements made to its facilities since the previous season.

During the course of a season, Unity House plays host to approximately 20,000 persons. It has a seasonal staff of 350. The task of providing basic health and other services for this sizable population is performed "behind the scenes."

In spite of its sizable proportions, this job is done without affecting the plan, which under the skilled management of Alfred Taxin, enables as many as a thousand guests to "make themselves scarce" on Unity's thousand acres.

The ILGWU summer resort now boasts a "little" union health center which occupies a new two-story structure near the post office. The center includes a doctors' office, a clinic and a bacteriological laboratory. Dr. Ilia N. Kovarsky, assisted by Nurses Sonia Samuels and Sylvianne Strauss, is again in charge. Dr. P. Shuhaevsky, formerly at the University of Prague, is the bacteriologist.

The laboratory will serve Unity as a "bureau of standards." Dr. Shuhaevsky makes daily tests of the water supply and analysis of milk and other food stuffs coming into the resort.

Manager Taxin reports that the ice house has been converted to an electrically operated freezer for storing foods. The new structure makes winter ice-cutting unnecessary.

A new incinerator this year completely solves the problem of disposing of kitchen waste. Erected at the cost of $8,000, the new unit can dispose of 675 pounds of waste an hour and completely eliminates the need for near-by dumping grounds.

In this manner each season finds new aspects for pleasant living at Unity House. Thousands have come to know its beauties and conveniences through industry-financed vacations won by the ILGWU.

UNITY HOUSE GIVEN TELEVISION SET BY N.Y. BLOUSEMAKERS

A television set with a screen that may be watched by several hundred persons has been presented by Local 25, Blousemakers, to Unity House. At special ceremonies during the local's June 25 week-end visit to the union's summer resort, Vice Pres. Charles Kreindler made the presentation.

June visitors to Unity House enjoyed the pre-dedication use of the set. Gathering in the administration building lobby in the evening they provided a nightly television "little theatre." The video broadcast of the Republican convention was closely, often critically, followed. Several hundred watched the Louis-Wolcott bout on June 25.

In presenting the television set Vice Pres. Kreindler reviewed the record of Unity House development and emphasized that this phase of union activity reflected traditional ILGWU stress on cultural as well as economic ideals.

"Television is the latest expansion in the field of mass communication which increases the possibilities of direct participation of citizens in the affairs of their city, state and country," Kreindler declared.

"The chain of ILGWU FM radio stations and the expansion of television contribute to this end, which is in addition to the entertainment values of both mediums. We hope that this set will add to the enjoyment of members and other guests at Unity House."

Knitgoods Parleys Break Down; Dubinsky Pledges Strike Aid

At the Knitgoods workers Unity House conference (left to right): Vice Presidents Zimmerman, Antonini; Elias Lieberman, Manager Nelson, local President Sam Cohen and Joseph Schwartz, manager of Local 190, Philadelphia.

Before a special meeting of 250 knitgoods shop leaders at Unity House June 19, Pres. David Dubinsky reiterated the pledge made earlier in the month that the ILGWU will give strong financial and moral support to Local 155 in any difficulties it may encounter in the renewal of its industry agreements.

The pledge was made in the presence of local Manager Louis Nelson as well as Vice Presidents Antonini and Zimmerman and representatives of knitgoods workers in Philadelphia and Cleveland.

At the meeting Manager Nelson announced that one of the three sections of the knitgoods industry had reached a settlement with Local 155. He reported that in the knitted textile trimming section, in which approximately 600 workers are employed, the agreement had been renewed for a two-year period. It features a 10 per cent wage increase and the establishment of a retirement fund to which employers will contribute 1 per cent of payroll.

Later in the month Nelson announced that the textile fabric section of the industry had also settled with the union with agreement reached on an increase of 10 cents an hour and the establishment of a retirement fund. About 1,000 workers are employed in this section.

The bulk of the knitgoods workers, however, are employed in the knitted outerwear section in which a stalemate in negotiations has developed.

Late last month negotiations with the United Knitwear Manufacturers League were broken off and the possibility of strike action loomed after two months of fruitless negotiations. At its third quarterly meeting last month the General Executive Board endorsed a strike of the knitgoods workers should conferences fail.

At the Unity House meeting an analysis of the Taft-Hartley law was given by Elias Lieberman and the importance of political action in preserving the framework for free trade union action was stressed by all speakers.

Philadelphia knitgoods workers were represented by Joseph Schwartz, manager of Local 190, and Bernadine Magruder and Rose Roernick were delegates from the Cleveland knitgoods workers.

Cloak Out-of-Town Marks 'Adoption' of 100 War Orphans

Dramatic ceremonies conducted by the Cloak Out-of-Town Department at Unity House on June 12 marked the formal "adoption" of 100 European war orphans, climaxing a campaign in which the out-of-town cloakmakers contributed more than $30,000 to aid stricken children. The ceremonies formed the main feature of the Cloak Out-of-Town Department's annual week-end outing at the ILGWU summer resort.

Assembled in the Unity House social hall, about 350 delegates and invited guests of the Cloak Out-of-Town Department, together with hundreds of visitors from other ILGWU affiliates, heard a series of stirring addresses by Pres. Dubinsky, First Vice Pres. Luigi Antonini, Vice Pres. Israel Feinberg and Adolph Held, chairman of the Jewish Labor Committee, through which the cloakmakers' funds are being channeled to the war orphans overseas.

With Vice Pres. George Rubin, Cloak Out-of-Town manager, chairing the ceremonies, the stage was filled with ILGWU leaders and General Executive Board members, attending to pay tribute to the generosity of the out-of-town cloakmakers, whose contributions in this campaign had far exceeded all original estimates.

Serving as a backdrop to the speakers was an enlargement containing photographs of each of the 100 children. Supported by $300 a year, each child is now housed in one of several labor relief institutions in Europe.

Recordings Heard

Recordings, especially prepared and shipped from these institutions for the "adoption" ceremonies, brought the children's own voices, in Italian and Yiddish, expressing their gratitude for the out-of-town cloakmakers' assistance. The recordings also contained statements from priests, public officials and labor spokesmen emphasizing the human significance of the ILGWU workers' action.

Presenting a check for over $30,000 to Pres. Dubinsky in his capacity as treasurer of the Jewish Labor Committee, Vice Pres. Rubin described the spontaneous manner in which the union's appeal to the Cloak Out-of-Town membership had taken hold. He stated that at the outset of the drive, funds had been expected for about 35 orphans but that the workers responded with such warmth in all districts that the number soon doubled and, eventually, tripled.

Indicating that the children's aid campaign would be repeated in future years if existing emergency conditions continued, Rubin praised the out-of-town cloakmakers for "the maturity of their understanding and the sympathy of their spirit." He also explained that their donations must be measured in the light of their reduced earnings during an unusually poor season. He expressed his appreciation of the services of Morris Bagno, assistant manager, and the members of the Cloak Out-of-Town staff in promoting the campaign with wholehearted cooperation.

In his address, Pres. Dubinsky interpreted the donations as an example of collective action through unionism as well as an expression of social idealism. "I want to thank you in the name of the ILGWU," he told the assembled cloakmakers' representatives. "But surely you realize that this was not done on any individual basis. It was done only through and by your union—together instead of alone. That is how we improved our conditions as workers. That is how we will preserve our progress. That is how we make our contribution to citizenship not only in our own country but in all the world."

Pres. David Dubinsky examines check handed him by Vice Pres. George Rubin for the adoption of 100 war orphans.

Urges Broad Vision

As chairman of the Jewish Labor Committee, Held pointed out that, in effect, the name of the organization was too narrow, since the JLC was equally devoted to children of all faiths and nationalities. Recounting the wartime activities of the Jewish Labor Committee, he revealed that it had carried on rescue operations underground in behalf of trade unions everywhere in war-torn Europe.

"We were not sectarian then; neither are we now concerned with anything but the alleviation of human need and the reconstruction of democratic ways through free trade unionism and its associated activities," he declared.

In the name of the JLC, Held presented Rubin with an album containing pictures and brief biographies of the 100 children, with a foreword declaring: "The help sent to the suffering children of Europe, regardless of their religion or nationality, expresses itself in the symbol of solidarity of the American labor movement, an achievement of which we may all be proud."

True Brotherhood

Antonini, as head of the Italian-American Labor Council, praised the JLC for its "complete comradeship" with the Italian orphans. "The Jewish Labor Committee has given all its facilities to us in this as well as other undertakings. It is a group which acts in the genuine spirit of the brotherhood of man."

As manager of the New York Cloak Joint Board which determines the contractual standards governing the out-of-town cloak shops, Feinberg declared that the impressive results of the war orphan campaign are proof that the traditions of the old-time cloakmakers are becoming rooted in new territory.

Maisie Vladeck Bromberger, daughter of B. Charney Vladeck, renowned labor leader of a generation ago, for whom one of the war orphanages in France is named, urged the workers to establish personal relations with the children they have "adopted" through frequent correspondence.

"And a Contribution from YOU . . ."

Voluntary contributions for Histadrut, the trade union movement of Israel, are made to Business Agent Jacob Ushelevsky of Local 22 at the Max Weisen shop in New York. Watching is Vice Pres. Charles S. Zimmerman.

PHILADELPHIA WEEK BY WEEK

By SAMUEL OTTO, V.P.
MANAGER, PHILA. DRESS JOINT BOARD

Responding to the needs of Israel as a citadel of liberty and progress, the entire women's garment industry in Philadelphia has pledged to raise $100,000 for the defense and building of the new nation.

The opening of the campaign was announced by Samuel Otto, manager of the Philadelphia Dress Joint Board. Recipient of the industry's aid will be the Haganah, Israel's defense organization.

Early reports indicate early achievement of the campaign's goal as worker and manufacturer, Jew and Christian alike, eagerly strive to participate in the effort to strengthen the latest newcomer to the family of free nations.

Otto cited the magnificent action of the Stein and Silverstein dress shop as an inspiration to the industry. The 40 employees of the shop are credited with a contribution of $2,056.52. Their gift was brought to union headquarters by a committee of Herman Stoglin, shop chairman, Harry Finkel and Charles Schwartz.

At official membership meetings Local 45, Pressers, has pledged a minimum contribution of $25 a member, and Local 11 and 50 have pledged a minimum contribution of $10 a member. Other locals will put similar action before the members at meetings to be held in the near future.

To facilitate collection of contributions shop committees have been established with shop chairmen and employer representatives cooperating in drive activity.

Vacation Pay

The 12,000 members of the Philadelphia Dress Joint Board received their vacation pay checks during the week of June 21.

Shop by shop, the unionists came to joint board headquarters where the checks were quickly and efficiently distributed under the direction of Manager Samuel Otto and Ben Feldman, chairman of the vacation fund committee.

Individual checks of the members were computed on the basis of 2 per cent of the member's earnings during the calendar year of 1947, with the maximum set at $65.

Penn. Novelty Weekend

Employees of the Penn Novelty Co. enjoyed a weekend at Unity House June 11-13 as guests of their employers, H. Sernaker and Sons. The fine weather and splendid facilities of the ILGWU's famed vacation spot in the Poconos were enjoyed by the 36 in the party which included Business Agent Herman Belcovitz and families of the guests. Vice Pres. Otto welcomed the group.

Three workers with a record of 30 years' service with the company received $500 U. S. Savings Bonds from the firm. They were Anna Smith, Reba Cohen and William Metinger.

Edelstein Pact

Agreement on a new contract raising wages 8 per cent has been reached between Samuel Edelstein and Sons, manufacturers of leather belts, and the Philadelphia Dress Joint Board.

Terms of the agreement were announced by Manager Samuel Otto and Albert Atcovitz, business agent of Local 88, Bonnaz Embroiderers, who negotiated the contract.

The wage increase was accompanied by a proviso that no employee would receive less than a $3 raise, retroactive to March 1.

Other gains by the union included two additional paid holidays and inclusion of the Edelstein employees in the union's fair income fund which, maintained by employer contributions, provides unemployed members with payments supplementing state compensation.

Choral Concert

A large audience enjoyed the annual recital of Philadelphia's famed Dress Joint Board Chorus on June 4 at the New Century Auditorium.

The work of the five soloists drew particular acclaim. They were Lenora Matthew and Eloise Miller of Local 15, Lillie Sills and Emma Parker of Local 219 and Marie Bessel of Local 88.

The choral productions ranged from George Gershwin and Lehar to Mendelssohn, and Brahms. Thelma Davis conducted the recital. Rose White was accompanist.

"Skin Beauty Care" Subject at Club 22

Twenty members of Club 22 of the New York Dressmakers were treated to a discussion-demonstration of skin beauty techniques on June 9. Beulah Niebuhr, national director of training of Dermetics, Inc., spoke to the group on the "Ageless Women," in which she discussed the relationship between diet and skin beauty.

Mrs. Niebuhr, a former stage star, demonstrated the proper use of cosmetics in skin care. Using members of the group as models, she showed how proper skin care paid off in enhanced facial beauty. She emphasized the importance of diet for skin beauty.

N. Y. DRESSMAKERS

DRESS JOINT BOARD

EXPECT $2,500,000 VACATION PAYMENT FROM DRESS BOARD

More than $2,160,000 has already been distributed in 1948 vacation checks to Dress Joint Board members, Nathaniel M. Minkoff, secretary-treasurer, reported on June 23. With claims for vacation checks still being received at the joint board office, it is expected that the outlay in 1948 will go over the $2,500,000 mark, which had been estimated as likely for this year.

Minkoff said that the joint board office would continue to receive claims for vacation checks for the next few weeks. He urged registrants, who submit claims for such checks to come equipped with the following necessary information:

Their union membership books.

The names of the union shops in which they were employed in 1947.

A record of their earnings in 1947 (withholding tax receipts).

If currently receiving unemployment compensation, the booklet issued by the unemployment insurance office.

Workers may register for vacation checks at the joint board office, 218 W. 40 St., fourth floor. Workers who have already registered need not appear again. Checks will be mailed to them.

Workers who registered for vacation benefits with shop chairmen, but were absent from their shops on the day of distribution, may also obtain their checks on the fourth floor of the joint board offices.

Up to June 23 the joint board had received 2,600 applications for vacation checks, over and above those which had been distributed at the shops by business agents beginning May 26.

Unemployed members of Locals 10 and 60 received their vacation checks last week.

* * *

Leonore Workers Express Sympathy to J. Goodman

The workers of Leonore Frocks expressed their sympathy to J. Goodman, his wife and family upon the return from overseas of the remains of their son, Bernard Goodman, 2nd Lieut., U.S.A., who was killed in action.

The statement of sympathy was signed by Mary Napoli, Local 89; and Charles Siegel, Ben Brownstein, Celia Greenberg, Louis Bush and George Brothman of Local 22.

Dress Joint Board Clarifies Health and Welfare Rules

The Dress Joint Board last month adopted a series of changes in the rules governing its health and welfare fund. The changes, which were accepted on the recommendation of the administrative committee of the Dress Joint Board Health and Welfare Fund, were designed to clarify the regulations under which workers qualify for the fund's medical benefits.

The most important change was that affecting the benefit year. After July 1, 1948, sick benefits, hospitalization and surgical benefits will be based on a "benefit year" instead of a calendar year.

The "benefit year" will end for workers when they have drawn 13 checks for sick benefits. Thus, a worker who receives the last of the 13 checks on April 1, 1948, for example, will not be eligible again for sick benefits until April 1, 1949. Under the earlier system, workers were entitled to 13 weeks of sick benefit in every period between January and December — the calendar year. The calendar year will be continued, however, for medical and eye conservation credits.

Need Center's OK

A second change approved by the joint board dealt with members who return to work, following treatment for TB. These members will receive vacation and medical benefits when they have worked in the trade for six months, following their return. Before returning to work, such workers must have the approval of the Union Health Center, in order to be eligible for vacation and medical benefits.

A third change, dealing with maternity benefits, called for six months of employment as a minimum of eligibility before a second claim for maternity benefits can be made. Thus, a union member who returns to work following the birth of a child must be employed for at least six months before being eligible for another maternity claim.

Other changes were concerned with tightening up various proceedings of the welfare-fund, to make its operation more effective. The committee again stressed the importance of early reporting of all illnesses. It was pointed out that failure to report in time made for delay in the issuance of medical benefits, and occasionally resulted in making workers ineligible for such benefits.

Hochman to Attend Paris ORT Meet

Julius Hochman, general manager of the Dress Joint Board, will fly to Paris on July 6 to attend the meeting of the central board of the World ORT Union, scheduled to begin July 11. Chairman of the administrative committee of the labor committee of the American Organization for Rehabilitation through Training, and a member of the executive committee of the World ORT Union, Hochman will serve as spokesman of the American delegation at the Paris meeting.

Following attendance at a similar meeting in 1946 in Paris, Hochman toured seven European countries on behalf of the ORT, which, for 76 years, has trained Jews for productive work in a wide variety of trades. Since its formation 26 years ago, American ORT has had the continued support of the ILGWU, the Workmen's Circle and other labor organizations.

* * *

N. Y. DRESSMAKERS PAY FDR RESPECTS ON HYDE PARK VISIT

Over 300 New York dressmakers of Local 22, visited Hyde Park on June 12 to pay their respects to the late Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The highlight of the day was an informal talk to the group by Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt who stressed the need for world peace and the job done by the UN in meeting that need. She was introduced to the dressmakers by Sam Tolmach, educational director of Local 22, who conducted the tour. The delegation laid a wreath on the grave of the late President in the name of the local's 28,000 members, and presented Mrs. Roosevelt with a bouquet of American Beauty roses.

* * *

Support your LLPE

Get the Congress that you rate
Don't fail to vote in '48.

First Come, First Served . . .

. . . with a vacation check from Max Cohen, manager of Local 60, Dress Pressers. Isadore Muchnick (right) is on the receiving end as Jack Spitzer, local chairman, observes.

"THE VOICE OF LOCAL 89"
The Most Popular
ITALIAN RADIO HOUR
Symphony Orchestra and
Opera Singers of International Fame

Luigi Antonini
First Vice President, ILGWU, and General Secretary of Local 89 in his weekly comments on labor and political events.

EVERY SATURDAY MORNING
From 10 to 11
on EASTERN HOOK-UP
WEVD (1330 Kc.) New York
WHOM (1480 Kc.) New York
WHAT (1340 Kc.) Philadelphia
WNHC (1340 Kc.) New Haven

LITTLE INTERNATIONAL

HARRY WANDER, MANAGER, EASTERN OUT-OF-TOWN DEPT.

4 Firms in Long Island and New Jersey Sign First Pacts

The signing of first agreements between the Eastern Out-of-Town Department and four firms operating in the area under its jurisdiction was announced last week by Vice Pres. Harry Wander, the department's director. Two of the shops are in Long Island and two in New Jersey.

Fay-Gem Sportswear. The agreement with this firm manufacturing sportswear in a shop in Corona, L. I., will run for two years. It provides a 10 per cent wage increase, a 4½ per cent health and vacation fund, 6½ holidays with pay and a 35-hour work week.

Espe Manufacturing Co. This firm manufactures children's dresses and playsuits in Bayside, L. I. Its two-year contract with the ILGWU brings a number of gains including a shorter work week, higher wage minimums, a 4½ per cent health and vacation fund and 6½ holidays with pay. Both the Fay-Gem and the Espe agreements are with Local 67. Manager Jack Grossman negotiated.

United Apparel. This Newark firm manufacturing children's wear has signed a two-year agreement that features a 5 per cent boost in earnings. The contract also calls for payment for 4 holidays and the establishment of a 4½ per cent of payroll health and vacation fund, reports Morris Extract.

Crescenzi. This firm, manufacturing cotton dresses in Newark, has become a member of the New Jersey Washable Dress Assn, making terms of the master agreement with that group effective in its shop. In addition the agreement provides, according to Sadie Reisch, that all workers earning more than the minimum rate be given a 10 per cent wage increase as of July 1. The earnings of a small group making less than the minimum are boosted by 20 cents an hour. The Crescenzi and United Apparel agreements are with Local 220.

Support your LLPE

EOT Shop Leaders at Unity House Outing

The above group at the June 18 weekend outing was comprised of at least one shop chairlady from each of the areas under the jurisdiction of the Eastern Out-of-Town Department.

RENEWALS REPORTED WITH TWO EOT FIRMS

Contracts have been renewed with two firms under the jurisdiction of the Eastern Out-of-Town Department.

Hudson Valley District Manager Mort Goodman reported that the agreement with the Curtis Lane Co of Red Hook, N. Y., was renewed with a provision for a $3-a-week increase retroactive to April.

The agreement with the Alan Baby Togs Co. of Jackson Heights, L. I., has been renewed as of the end of March, it is reported by Manager Jack Grossman.

Pay Underpayment At Mayfair Exposed By ILG Accountants

As the result of an investigation conducted by union accountants it has been established that workers employed by the Mayfair Garment Co. of South River, N. J., were paid less than settled rates on garments.

According to Simon Baumrind, manager of Local 150, the amount of the underpayments in the period from July 1 to Dec. 31, 1947 totalled $1,293. About 80 per cent of this amount is for operators and the remainder for pressers.

The firm contracts for Royal Frocks of New York.

N.J. WORKERS URGED TO GET OUT VOTES BY ILG, ADA LEADERS

Leon Henderson, Herman Sirota, manager of Local 166, and officers of CIO and AFL unions joined in urging organized New Jersey workers to register and vote for a liberal Congress. The ILGWU officer and Henderson, national chairman of Americans for Democratic Action, were speakers at the June meeting of the Essex County ADA.

Henderson called for an "open" Democratic Party convention and explained that by open he meant a convention comprised of uninstructed delegates.

Sirota, who is also chairman of the State Federation of Labor's League for Political Education for Essex County, urged trade unionists to work through ADA to elect a liberal Congress. He warned that failure of workers to register and vote would give reactionaries the upper hand in the elections.

Irving Abramson, former state CIO president and now Eastern area CIO representative, said "the fight against Communism must be affirmative, not a negative witch-hunt." He told the group that Communists can be beaten "by giving to the American people the benefit of legislation that will raise their living standards and strengthen civil liberties."

Chairman of the rally was Thomas L. Parsonnet, Newark corporation counsel and State Federation of Labor legislative counsel.

TODAY and TOMORROW

By LUIGI ANTONINI
First Vice President, ILGWU

They're Still Harping on the New Deal

Very significant was one characteristic of the Republican convention. Almost all the speakers attacked the New Deal vehemently and yet no one mentioned the name of Franklin D. Roosevelt or indicated exactly the desire to destroy this or that specific New Deal reform.

When you get down to it, what has the New Deal given us? What has been its essence? What have been its principal reforms?

An important realization of the New Deal was the Magna Charta of labor that bore the name of the Wagner Act.

The 80th Congress has instead given us the Taft-Hartley Act. But now, after a year of trial, this law finds its supporters and its opponents dissatisfied. The law has been useless, and hence, as such, harmful to society. It has only been useful, very useful, a veritable picnic, for lawyers.

Like all useless and therefore harmful things, the Taft-Hartley Act will end in short order, we hope, on the scrap heap. And to this work of recovery we of the labor movement intend, above all, to dedicate ourselves in the Congressional elections of this year. We have as our chief aim the election of congressmen and senators who are friends of labor, without differentiating between political colors.

Among the first ranking achievements of the New Deal stands social security. Regarding this, many of the anti-New Deal Republican speakers have remained as mute as fish. Their more intelligent speakers have instead given us to understand that this reform not only would not be abolished but would be improved outright.

Simple election promises? Partly yes and partly no.

The historical truth is that we cannot turn back. The New Deal left its indelible footprints in the life of the American people; whoever would dare to propose the abolition of social security would be thrown out by the people themselves.

* * *

Here and there an apppreciable unemployment is evident even in our industry, and if it weren't for unemployment compensation, an integral part of social security, the situation would certainly be worse.

If the people had not been of short memory in 1946 and swayed by political oratory to elect a reactionary Congress, we could today dedicate our energies to turning the wheel of progress forward toward new horizons.

With this I do not want to be guilty of not making any distinctions and saying that in the Republican Party there is nothing but reaction, as tomorrow at the time of the Democratic Convention it will certainly not be said by me that all is progressive in their ranks.

It is necessary for the labor movement to carefully watch the turn of events, to accumulate its own ammunition and to strengthen its own legions in order to influence progressively the historical presidential and congressional battle of 1948.

Yes, we have our ideas and we also have in the state of New York a party of our own.

Retired Dress Members Hear Hochman, Antonini on Leisure

Retired dressmakers should be provided with the means for making their leisure as attractive and pleasant as possible, Julius Hochman, general manager of the Dress Joint Board, told a group of former members of Local 89, Italian Dressmakers, last week.

Hochman urged the group, which met in the Local 89 Council Room, to form an 89 Club, which would meet regularly, and engage in some cooperative activity. He described recent studies made with an eye toward development of leisure-time programs for older persons. Under the guidance of experts in the field, he asserted, the 89 Club could find productive and useful activity.

According to figures released by the Department of Census, the average age of the American population is becoming increasingly older. As a result, experts have begun to study the problem of leisure for older people, and how leisure can be most profitably used. Hochman reported that, as a result of such studies, various programs for retired persons have been developed, and successfully applied.

He said that the union could make available the result of these studies, and the services of experts who would advise the 89 Club as to the most effective means of employing their leisure.

The adjustments that follow retirement are sometimes difficult to make for active workers, Hochman said. He reported that the union would benefit by engaging in such a program, since the future would see an increase in the number of retired workers who would be helped by advice on how to make the transition into old age.

Luigi Antonini, manager of Local 89, addressed the retired workers of the union, and described the aid that the local was already extending to its retired workers. Since 1935 the local's retired members over the age of 65, have been receiving aid from the union. In addition, for the past two years, retired members have also received vacation checks equivalent to those given active workers.

Local 89 Oldtimers Get Vacation Checks

Attillio Massaro, 78, a Local 89 member since 1910, and Marie Pammello, 78, an ex-finisher, receive old-age vacation pay checks. First Vice Pres. Luigi Antonini and health and welfare clerk Rose Di Nola give the checks as Assistant Manager John Gelo looks on. (See story.)

'60' DISTRIBUTES 223 VACATION CHECKS TO UNEMPLOYED ILG'ERS

Vacation checks were given to 223 unemployed members of Local 60 at a ceremony on June 21 at the office of the Dress Pressers.

Manager Max Cohen addressed the group saying, "It has been a long and difficult struggle for the ILGWU to achieve vacation funds for their members. This is but one of the many achievements of our great union."

Chairman Jack Spitzer distributed the checks to the members and wished them a pleasant vacation.

Among those present were Ely Kudrenetzky, assistant manager; B. Silverman, vice chairman; Lou Pertofsky, business agent; and Mike Colichio, representing the Dress Joint Board.

Members of Local 60 and the executive board witnessed the ceremony.

Register and Vote
Remember November 2

Inside WASHINGTON

By WILL ALLEN
Special to "Justice"

WASHINGTON, D. C.—In the nation's Capital anxiety chiefly marks discussions of next November's presidential election. The quadrennial political conventions habitually are taken with more concentrated seriousness in Washington than elsewhere, for in this "company town" the possible election of a new President means the advent of a new "boss" for a major part of the population . . . and a new boss usually means "there'll be some changes made."

The anxiety is not solely over the probable loss of jobs. The worry is also concerned with the fate of the on-the-whole progressive direction of Administration policies over the past 15 years. Many of the progressive-minded men in the various agencies of the government are just as sincerely concerned for what will happen to the progressive administration policies for which they have labored for 15 years as they are for the personal loss of their jobs.

While Washington, in common with the rest of the country, was aware of the downward plunge of Truman's popularity in the past six months, the Capital cannily waited to see whether Republican overconfidence might carry them too far and give Truman an unexpected break.

Truman did not get that break when the Republicans nominated Dewey and Warren. In his own party, Dewey stands to the right of such liberal Republicans as Sen. Wayne Morse and Sen. George D. Aiken. Correspondingly, however, he is the left of such reactionary Republicans as Sen. John W. Bricker, or such conservatives as Sen. Robert A. Taft. Within the confines of their own party, therefore, the Republicans picked a middle-of-the-road in Gov. Dewey.

His running mate, Gov. Earl Warren is regarded in Washington as slightly left of the Republican center, chiefly because of his progressive position on expanded social security and for a system of health insurance.

If Truman insists on the nomination (and none here doubts he can have it if he insists on it), it is the general opinion in Washington that the President, already sufficiently burdened with the pessimism and defeatism within his own party, faces an exceedingly uphill fight against a Republican ticket which is a combination of middle-of-the-road and left-of-center candidates. Had the Republicans picked spokesmen of such extreme positions as Senator Taft or Speaker Joe Martin, Pres. Truman would have faced an easier task.

Some Washington observers profess to see little fundamental difference in position between Truman and Dewey and are stressing that argument in Dewey's favor by saying that apparently Dewey is a better executive and administrator. Some of Truman's recent mistakes in judgment are cited in support of this argument.

• • •

It is perhaps unfortunate that the two stars of the November political show will be the individuals Truman and Dewey. It might be much better for the welfare of the working people of America if the spotlight could ignore the two star performers and play all its light on the candidates for the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The power of the legislative branch of the government has never received the popular recognition which the security of the people requires. Already forgotten, no doubt, is the fact that even with such a strong and progressive president as Roosevelt in the White House, a conservative Congress began seriously chipping away at the New Deal program as early as 1938.

Granted that the difference of position between Truman and Dewey is neither fundamental nor earth-shaking, the kind of Congress that is elected this November certainly will be fundamental and possibly earth-shaking.

Dewey's acceptance speech was full of the kind of platitudes one expects of politicians. He practically sounded like a liberal. And he may turn out to be one. Certainly, Dewey's record as governor of New York is far more progressive than the record of the Republican Congress which has just adjourned. Then Dewey went on to promise the country such smooth teamwork between the White House and Capitol Hill next January as it has not seen in several years.

At that point Washington circles paused with uplifted eyebrows. Just what did Dewey mean by promising to get along smoothly with Congress? Did Dewey mean that Congress will change its attitude and go along with his more progressive views? Or will it mean that Dewey will change his more progressive views in order to go along with a reactionary Congress?

• • •

The record of unfinished legislation left by the 80th Congress presents some brass-tack questions.

For instance, the 80th Congress refused to approve Pres. Truman's program for controlling inflation Truman asked for powers to reinstate price control, allocation of materials and rationing. The wisest minds in the country know no other way to control inflation. If Dewey becomes president and attempts to control inflation, he will have to ask for the same powers. If the current Congress refused to give them to Truman, is it likely to give them to Dewey?

Congress refused to grant Truman's request for a long-range housing program, even though it was backed by the conservative Sen. Taft. The current Congress is far to the right of even Sen. Taft. Gov. Dewey has instituted a long-range housing program in New York State. If he becomes president, will such a Congress as this one give Dewey the powers it refused Truman. To do so Congress would have to change its reactionary views on assistance to public housing. Who will have to change their views, Congress or Dewey?

Rent control will expire next year. What will a reactionary Congress let Dewey do, even if Dewey should want to do it? The present Congress refused to pass an increased minimum-wage bill. Will it do under Dewey what it would not do under Truman? The current Congress cut down the coverage of social security, eliminating from its provisions more than a million workers. Will such a Congress as this one reverse itself under Dewey?

Even if Dewey is a middle-of-the-roader . . . even if he is liberal and progressive . . . has he got the qualities of leadership and the strength to whip a reactionary Congress into a progressive line? That, in Washington today, is the $64 question.

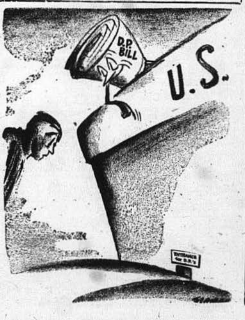
Politically-wise Washington, it may be reported, doubts it mightily.

Reverberations

By HAVA KRASCOFF

Private as the breath you draw,
This hidden land that is memory
Yet harbors ghosts of ancestral
multitudes:
The sounds of their archetypal
deeds echo and
Re-echo in the subchambers of each
descendant
And descendant . . . and
descendant. . . .

"Come in, Please!"



MOVIES

MARCUS MORTON

"FORT APACHE" is an exceptional frontier film. Besides its standard Wild West features, it contains genuine elements of human conflict and social history, demonstrating that the Indians, in the nation's westward expansion, were frequent victims of the white man's greed and bloodlust.

The story concerns a hard-bitten U. S. Army colonel who had been a general in the Civil War. Demoted to command a dangerous outpost in the Arizona desert, he vents his bitterness by lashing out at all within reach. Although inexperienced in Indian fighting, he rejects advice from his seasoned subordinates. The showdown comes when he sends his troops in a virtual massacre, himself included.

The undemocratic distinctions of military life are highlighted in the colonel's refusal to permit his daughter to marry a soldier whose father was not an officer.

Henry Fonda makes a gallant diehard of the colonel, and John Wayne lends powerful support as a grimly obedient aide. Shirley Temple supplies so-so love interest.

• • •

"THE EMPEROR WALTZ" is exactly the kind of magnificent—and mischievous — musical farce that a Bing Crosby picture should be. Its technicolored production splendors are of breath-taking quality, both indoors and out, and its song numbers are elaborated with full elegance.

The story tells of an American phonograph salesman in Vienna 40 years ago who falls in love with a countess but decides to break it off on the theory that she could never be happy in his home town of Newark. Despite her democratic demand to the contrary, matters are not adjusted until Emperor Franz Joseph in person comes to the rescue of romance.

Bing is charmingly unceremonious amid all the regal richness and Joan Fontaine shows how nice the nobility used to be.

• • •

"THE LADY FROM SHANGHAI" starts out to be a masterly melodrama but winds up as a disappointing dud. It could have been a dazzling display of high-pitched physical action expressing the darker emotions. Instead, it forms a skillful setting for a meaningless movie.

The story deals with a roving merchant seaman, handsome and hearty, who falls in with a group of rich and rapacious adventures whose mutual hatreds almost destroy him. The woman of the set, married to a brilliantly clever cripple, becomes so enamored of the sailor that her husband, with vengeful intent, hires him as boatswain of his yacht.

The voyage from New York to San Francisco is full of hints at horror but nothing really happens to explain why—and how—practically everybody is bumped off. In the finale, the seaman is acquitted of murder in a tedious and talkative courtroom scene.

Orson Welles is both stalwart and stodgy, but Rita Hayworth is alluring and Everett Sloane is terrifying as the cripple.

In the MAR

LEON

Almost at the same time the
finger on Tom Dewey for preside
Association of Buying Offices, Inc.
take stock of what lies ahead, econ
of the organization is evident from
its name. It is comprised of persons who do the merchandise buying for stores.

As reported by the New York "Times," members of the organization expressed the belief that "high profits being made by textile manufacturers, as revealed in their earnings statements, offer them a cushion against a price drop if and when the market reaches the saturation point."

Now that's OK with me. I'm all in favor of cushions. For everybody. They make for a softer life for the cushion owner.

What I can't understand is why now, with Dewey nominated and a Republican "victory" assured, as his supporters proclaim, there is any further need for cushions. Of course cushions were absolutely necessary so long as that man Roosevelt and his damnable New Deal policies colored the American economy. But with Dewey "in"—with the Republicans "unchallenged masters" of the situation—what have we to fear; against what fearful fate must the textile manufacturers cushion themselves?

Every Republican knows that the call for cushions made some sense under the New Deal. There was no telling what new direction the rising level of the economy would suddenly take. But the GOP, already ensconced in Congress, has indicated how it proposes to remedy that situation.

It has thrown upon history's scrap heap all of the vestiges of New Deal economics — the price controls and the credit controls and the profit limitations and the sane labor-management relations — and has restored the nation's economy to its unfettered, primitive form. We may now proceed. We have been assured; there is nothing to fear. There is absolutely nothing to worry about.

So why do they want cushions? Can it be possible that a saturation point doesn't know the difference between a Republican administration and a Democratic administration?

• • •

Reports from the buyers' meeting added the information that stores this year would rather "gamble without goods than with goods."

Now here, I suggest, is the proper slogan for the "coming Republican era." Let's gamble without goods. In other words, let's march forward strong in our faith that more likely than not the backbone is going to come out of our economic system.

Just what does the switch in the kind of gambling mean? Until now we have been gambling with goods. That is, we have geared production schedules to a confidence that whatever was produced could be sold at increasingly higher rates of profit.

This meant that we could produce for as far into the future as we could make production yields exceed present needs. But if we are to heed such cautions as circulated among the buyers, purchasing schedules will have to be geared as close to immediate needs as possible.

It is bad enough that there is implicit in such a policy a lack of faith in the ability of the nation to absorb what it is equipped to produce. Still worse is the danger

RKET

LEON STEIN

ne the Republicans were putting the president an organization called the s, Inc. was meeting in New York to , economically speaking. The nature

that a reversal in buying policies may feed upon itself, gather momentum and compound its own evil effects.

• • •

That such a reversal has set in is not yet clear. Buyers shopping the New York show-rooms last month re-instilled confidence in the hearts of manufacturers. They placed orders — carefully, doing much shopping around and keeping a careful watch on price and quality.

This policy, increasingly characteristic of the post-war period, is aimed at keeping just one jump ahead of changing consumer expenditure patterns. No store wants to get caught with its inventories loaded. No manufacturer is anxious to buy far ahead in piece goods as he was anxious to do only a few months ago.

More important, the time lag required for this change to work its way back along the line to the mills and the prime sources of fiber and fabric seems to be running out. Not that there have been any dramatic breaks in the price structures at the pre-garment manufacturing levels. But there does seem to be more than the usual amount of irregularity in the price movements of cotton.

There seems little doubt that this is in considerable part a reflection of changes in the garment industry. One manifestation is the curtailment of production by a number of mills. In turn, this is due to the increasing dependence of the volume of mill production on garment manufacturers' needs which, as we have already noted, are being expressed on a non-speculative basis.

The firmness of cotton prices during the war was built up by the tremendous volume of soft goods needs and the great variety of those needs. Most needs were for heavy fabrics that consume more fiber. And when the need for one kind of fabric grew less it generally rose for another type.

This flexibility no longer exists in the market. The call for heavy fabrics has diminished. The thinner, sheerer types mean more yardage from the same amount of fiber. Herein is the great danger against which cushions must be provided.

For if we are working our way around to having enough of whatever it is we need fabric-wise, then the dreaded saturation point may also heave into sight. That point will indicate that the maximum saleable at a given price has been reached, and the next step will be to lower prices. Then we shall have to decide whether or not plenty is to be the greatest danger to or the condition of prosperity.

BOOK FRONT

MIRIAM SPICEHANDLER

THE LOVED ONE. By Evelyn Waugh. Little, Brown & Co. $2.50.

The wierdly humorous results of combining American burial practices with standard commercial promotions is contemplated by a visiting Britisher in this slim vinegar-and-ashes portrait of what may happen to some Americans when they die.

In all places and times death has generated some of mankind's most fearful, as well as most foolish, thoughts. On the other hand the excesses of American salesmanship often border on the fantastic. The combination of the two is fraught with enticing satirical possibilities.

Evelyn Waugh exploits those possibilities to the full in a prose that is as impeccable as his refined sense of good taste. His exploration of the morticians' craft, nay, Art, is

confined to a place called Whispering Glades. This is to undertaking what Radio City is to the entertainment world.

This American Valhalla lies within the Hollywood orbit and continues after death the facade fetishism of the movies. Dead people are not just interred in Whispering Glades. They are given a send-off that includes dim lights, soft music, efficient sentimentality and all the other techniques by which the sense of loss is converted into cash in the bank.

In his American "Book of the Dead" Mr. Waugh has a rollicking good time demonstrating how callous commercialism has invaded even the ultimate refuge. The macabre tale he tells of love among the ruins pits Dennis Barlow, a poet who failed as a script writer but who finds success in his new calling, against Aimee Thanatogenos, a cosmetician who can do wonders with a corpse.

The book is good, horrible fun and the morbidity of its subject matter is easily by-passed. Most Americans live modestly — and die modestly. But many of them hanker for success (as defined in emotionally-loaded advertising copy) and would like to get the kind of super-production send-off that is a specialty of the house of Whispering Glades when the time comes.

It is only those who remain to wait their own turn who are concerned with the manner of going. Those who have already shut their eyes don't care. They are beyond condemnation. Mr. Waugh is, of course, castigating the living who by cheapening the end of life mock all that came before.

WALDEN TWO. By B. F. Skinner. The Macmillan Co. $3.

In the Utopia cooked up by Mr. Skinner all the emotional and psychological disturbances which characterize life in America have been removed. Rid of its ills the nation reeks with moral cleanliness and psychological rectitude. In Walden Two, a community of some thousand souls who have put their economic house in order, the best efforts of the community are expended to enrich a life already geared to human rather than corporate needs.

Mr. Skinner has put every enticing recommendation of the psychological laboratory, of our educators and social scientists, into actual practice in the physical setting of Midwest America. He has snared the future—and it seems to work.

In a world rid of its present ills, as pictured in "Walden Two," efficiency has replaced the wasteful pluralism of our own time and all men desire the same things. With all illusions lost, life, individually and collectively, can be directed toward most desirable ends.

Therein lies the danger of Mr. Skinner's new world. All that has happened is that men have learned how to influence other men more profoundly and more effectively than they have been able to do hitherto. The net result is to increase the power of those who, by planning, control the fate of Walden Two.

In the antiseptic utopia men's finest efforts have achieved their immediate aims. The one question that remains unresolved is whether mankind can find any provocation other than its own shortcomings, for the kind of effort needed to achieve and then maintain perfection.

In the Ruins

Spring — 1948

By MAX PRESS

Here by the piled rubble, the shattered wall,
The little children romp and laugh and call.
How can words tell the wonder of it all?

That these, the starved, the outcast, the undone,
Can still find strength to shout and leap and run,
Can still turn tiny faces toward the sun.

That these, whose eyes have watched men bleed and die,
Have seen the iron legions trampling by,
Can still make games in hell without a sigh.

Much too small for grief and remembering,
They ramble and they stumble and they cling,
Stirred by the living, the eternal spring.

Our WOMEN

SUSAN WHITE

As this is written, the 24th convention of the Republican Party is not yet over. It might just as well be, so far as the women of this country are concerned. The convention of the party which puts the Women's Rights Amendment among the most important planks in its platform has displayed its usual and not unexpected contempt for women in politics.

There were moments during this convention when the delegates raised a not-too-feeble cheer at the thought of some woman politician. Such was certainly the case when the Republican Senatorial nominee from Maine, a woman, was introduced to the convention.

WELCOME DELEGATES

That nomination, the delegates were told, was tantamount to election—upon which they cheered lustily. But the lady in question trampled the platform a trifle. She told the gathering that her nomination represented a real "grass-roots" movement, that it was the women of her state who had gathered the votes and overthrown the party's male candidates in the primaries. She still got cheeered, but rather feebly. Obviously, the lady had stepped out of line.

What really matters is the spirit this gathering displayed towards women in general. The women who received the most vociferous ovations were those who made it unmistakably clear that they were there for the express purpose of fostering the political ambitions of some man.

The convention rang with the word "man." "The finest man," "the best man," "the greatest man," "our favorite son," "this man, the most vigorous defender. . . ." It was a man's convention for men's purposes.

The Republican Party never forgot that women do vote. When it announced its platform, it did so in terms of the men and women of this nation . . . with not a little emphasis on that latter word. But the platform was presented by men, with no reference to the problems women meet in this benighted age.

There was a strong undercurrent of suggestion that these problems are no concern of women. This was never stated expresaly. It showed itself rather in a mood than in any positive facts.

Yet enough did happen to make the mood a very real one. Foremost, was the difference in the way that Dewey's nomination was presented to the nation as a whole and to the women in particular.

Upon receiving the nomination, Dewey appeared before the convention and said all the unctuous and platitudinous sayings for which he is renowned and to which Republican men react so vigorously. Then came the question of Mrs. Dewey. The entire nation had listened to the nominee when he told how he was going to handle things for the "national good." The women were told what Mrs. Dewey was wearing . . . "a dark suit (she looked very lovely) . . ." by Mary Mary Margaret McBride . . . the cleverest radio commentator of them all.

She told us how Mrs. Dewey reacted to the nomination. No talk here of political matters; no more of those dreadful days when Eleanor — a mere female — would dare to intrude herself into the political life of the nation. On the contrary, Mary Margaret McBride who gushed with saccharine sweetness assured the nation that Mrs. Dewey felt that the prospect of moving to Washington would not involve any change at all in the family life, because the governor was so very devoted to his family.

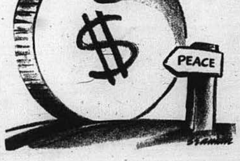
This is exactly the same approach that was used in the Wendell Willkie campaign eight years ago. The faithful among our readers will recall that at the time we drew a somewhat invidious comparison between the roles played by the wives of the two candidates. The differences between them were also the differences between the New Deal attitude towards women and the Republican Party's.

It is the professional women of this nation, enrolled almost entirely in the ranks of the Republican Party, who are mainly to blame for this pernicious attitude. It is they who have urged upon the Republican Party the "sound public relations approach" to the woman's vote.

They must employ this approach because they dare not permit the women of this country to examine their own political situation with any real clarity. If they were to, it would then become apparent that the purpose of the Republican Party, and of Republican women, is to sacrifice the interests of working women to those of professional women.

The vaunted amendment will gain Republican male support in direct proportion to how it serves business interests by destroying protective legislation for working women.

"The Big Wheel"



THE SOUTHWEST

MEYER PERLSTEIN, Southwest Regional Director

K. C. Sportwear Leads SW Wage Rise Parade

Through renewed agreements and use of the escalator clause in existing contracts, the ILGWU has won substantial wage adjustments for workers at a number of key Southwest firms in recent weeks, according to Regional Director Meyer Perlstein.

Kansas City sportswear manufacturers, accepting the pattern set in the cloak and suit industry, have agreed to a 10 per cent increase for time workers, 5 per cent for piece workers and five paid holidays each year. Approximately 250 workers are covered by this agreement.

The wage demand was made under the escalator cláuse in the existing pact. An additional ¼ per cent payroll contribution to the health fund was also stipulated in the new agreement. Sam White, manager of the Kansas City Joint Board, was in charge of negotiations.

Renewal Increases

Stott & Son, Winona, Minn. An over-all 10 per cent increase retroactive to April 9 has been negotiated by Golvin Street and Michael Finkelstein, aided by a committee of workers.

H. A. Satin Co., Evansville, Ind. Following a lengthy period of negotiations the union has secured wage increases for both time and piece workers with higher minimum scales for all, effective June 1. Frank Rother and Jenny Przygoda negotiated.

In compliance with the Taft-Hartley law the union was forced to petition the NLRB for a union shop election in order to retain this clause in the renewed agreement. A similar election has been requested at the Streamline Manufacturing Co. plant in West Frankfort, Ill.

Escalator Increases

Rice-Stix Dry Goods Co. Workers at the St. James, Mo., plant will receive increases as follows: 10 per cent for cutters; $2.50 for all other time workers; 7½ per cent for piece workers linked with prompt shop attendance and added to total weekly earnings of each worker. All increases become effective June 1. Conferences continue with the firm for increases at a number of other plants operated by this company.

Louis Nitishin Co., Laredo, Tex. An over-all boost of 10 per cent effective June 15 has been gained for workers at this plant by Rebecca Taylor and Sara Ligarde.

◆

Push Lang-Kohn Demand: New Employeees Gain 5%

The 5 per cent wage increase recently negotiated for piece workers at the Lang-Kohn plant in St. Louis has also been secured for new workers due to the tenacity of the union. They will receive the increase plus back pay.

The firm originally refused to make the increase applicable to new workers, but the union refused to withdraw the demand. After a number of discussions it suggested arbitration proceedings. The suggestion was enough to bring an about face by the company.

◆

Vandalia Credit Union Reports Assets, Loans

The Vandalia, Mo., Credit Union reports its total assets were $6,873.72 on May 31, with 150 members participating as shareholders. The financial report also showed that since the credit union's inception 502 members have received loans totaling $25,264.75.

Southwest Shorts

The vacation season is in progress in the Southwest. All members in the district enjoy one or two weeks of paid vacation sometime between early June and the end of July.

A stipulation that all members must attend one local meeting out of two was voted by Local 437, Coulterville, Ill.

Sam White, manager of the Kansas City Joint Board, was re-elected a member of the legislative committee of the Missouri Federation of Labor at its convention in Jefferson City last month.

A conference to inaugurate a health benefit plan for workers employed by the Horton Garment Co., Horton, Kans., was held on May 18. Maudrea Montgomery and a committee of workers represented Local 198, and Miss Holmes, production manager, represented the firm.

Local 288, Kansas City, staged a highly successful social gathering last month with Mrs. A. B. Gernes, head of the Gernes Garment Co., and other firm executives as special guests. Forrest Sellon, president of the local, acted as master of ceremonies and Irwin Norman presided over the "chow line."

The ILGWU has launched an organizational drive in several non-union shops in Minneapolis, Minn., including the firm of Martin Bros. Golvin Street and Michael Finkelstein are in charge.

The Southwest office has reminded the Ar-Cel Garment Co., of Columbia, Mo., that its contract expires on Aug. 4 and conferences to negotiate a new agreement should begin immediately.

The first anniversary of Local 491, Murphysboro, Ill., was celebrated by members and their families with a picnic and dance on June 1 at Murphysboro Park.

Over 600 people in and around Belleville, Ill., attended the dance given by Local 398 recently. ILG groups from Salem, Marine, Collinsville and Millstadt, Ill., and St. Louis, Mo., took part in the fun.

Large SW Delegations Take Off for Madison

One of the largest delegations ever sent by the Southwest District left for the ILGWU summer school at Madison, Wis., on June 26. Eighty-five students, gathered from all parts of the district, will attend the two-week institute. A group of 50 left St. Louis in a chartered bus, while delegations from Kansas City, Minneapolis and a number of individual locals went directly to Madison.

SW Regional Office Warns on Delayed Vacation Payments

Manufacturers who attempt to withhold vacation checks until after the workers have returned from their holiday have been warned by the union that this practice will no longer be tolerated. During the war a number of firms started the practice so that workers would be sure to return after the vacation period instead of looking for better jobs elsewhere.

In a letter dated June 18, the Southwest Regional Office informed these firms that the policy was wrong during the war and surely will not be permitted now.

◆

L. A. Mode O'Day Parley On Increases Finally Held

The long-delayed conference with the Mode O'Day firm to conclude negotiation of a wage increase for three Southwest plants was held on June 22 at the firm's home office in Los Angeles, Calif. An improved method of checking piece-work earnings was discussed at the negotiations.

Drive to Organize Vicksburg As Ely & Walker Fights Rise

While the Ely & Walker Dry Goods Co. continued to argue that wage increases for workers in two of its Missouri plants cannot be considered under present circumstances, a drive to organize employees of a new Ely & Walker plant in Vicksburg, Miss., was begun on June 7 by Hazel Sanders of the Southwest staff.

In a second wage discussion held in St. Louis on June 14, union representatives refuted the firm's argument and contended that workers at Vandalia and Warrenton, Mo., should not be denied the wage adjustments and other improvements which have been received by workers in other shops in the same branch of the garment industry.

Company representatives promised to reconsider the question and give a final reply shortly.

Items, Inc.

Similar conflicts developed in the first conference to negotiate wage increases and a renewed agreement with Items, Inc., Belleville, Ill. At a meeting in St. Louis on June 17 company spokesmen maintained that because the firm is producing a cheaper garment, wage increases could not be considered at this time. They further claimed that individual increases have been granted recently.

The union declared that in order for the workers to maintain their living standards in the face of constantly rising costs, a wage increase is necessary. A reply is promised by the firm within a few days. Esther Smith and a group of workers attended the conference.

"384" INSTALLED IN M'ALESTER, OKLA. AS LEGAL FIGHT SLOWS

Dramatic proof that the ILGWU has come to McAlester, Okla., to stay was given on June 16 with the formal installation of Local 384, set up to service the employees of the Seamprufe Underwear Co.

While the legal battle with the Seamprufe firm enjoyed a temporary lull, the workers turned their attention to formalizing their relationship to the union.

At the installation ceremonies, representatives of the city and state federation of labor joined with ministers of several denominations and a number of civic leaders in greeting the establishment of the new local. A committee from Local 210, Ponca City, Okla., was also on hand to welcome the group into the ILGWU fold.

One of the high spots on the program was the presentation of a skit, "Meet the ILGWU," by a group of new union members. Effectively dramatizing the benefits which can come through collective action, the skit was awarded a heavy round of applause. Dancing followed the formal ceremonies which were arranged under the guidance of Elizabeth Kimmel and Mavis Lane of the regional staff.

Jackson Firm Charged with Delayed Wage Payments

Two major complaints against the Dorsa Dress Co. of Jackson, Mo., charging delay in paying wages and violation of the terms of the agreement, were filed last month by the Southwest office.

Hitting out at the firm's practice of delaying weekly pay checks, the union stated that arbitration proceedings are contemplated unless payments are made on pay day. Earlier efforts to clear up the matter through a complaint to the Associated Garment Industries of St. Louis, of which the firm is a member, brought agreement from the association but no cooperation by the firm. In some instances, pay checks have been delayed as much as a week.

A second complaint, forwarded to both the firm and the association, advises that the firm now owes the sum of $2,698.01 in back pay as a result of its violation of the minimum wage scales prescribed in the contract. The union's request is supported by an investigation of the firm's books made by certified accountants who report that from July 1, 1947 to April 9, 1948, 85 workers failed to receive the minimum scale.

The union suggested that as soon as this sum is paid, the accountants check on underpayments since the beginning of the contract in January, 1946.

Kansas City University Conference

Representatives of Kansas City and nearby locals shown at recent weekend Labor Institute. Maudrea Montgomery, manager of the newly formed local at Pittsburg, Kans., is at extreme left.

High Court Refuses To Hear Company's Appeal Against ILG

The National Garment Co. of Wellsville, Mo., lost its appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court to set aside an NLRB directive ordering the firm to stop unfair labor practices and bargain with the ILGWU The court refused to review the case.

The company made its final appeal after the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the NLRB order. The firm contended in its plea to the Supreme Court that the procedures of the Taft-Hartley law were not observed by the labor board

The NLRB replied that the law was not in effect at the time of the original dispute. In refusing to hear the case the high court in effect agreed with the board.

◆

Minneapolis Charts ILG Health Center; SW Centers Report

Minneapolis, Minn., has been added to the list of ILGWU affiliates contemplating the opening of a union health center. A conference was held on June 14 to draw up plans for this project. Ross Garrett hospital designer who supervised construction of the St. Louis health center and is presently engaged in setting up a similar unit in Kansas City, attended the meeting and will submit blurprints for the Minneapolis center.

Already, the recently opened medical centers in three other Southwest cities have proved a boon to ILGWU members as revealed in reports of their first few months of operation. Although not operating at capacity, these institutions serve a greater number of patients each week.

The spacious center in St. Louis registered 1,975 patients for all types of treatment during a recent month. This is an increase of 1,046 over the previous 30-day period.

The Dallas center recorded 378 visits during the month of April. And the San Antonio unit, which opened on April 2, had 575 visitors during its second month.

Shop Leaders in Hoosick Falls Local 285

The executive board of Local 285 installed at recent ceremonies is shown with Business Agent Anthony Blasting (left) and Supervisor Max Wexler.

Welfare Fund Enforcement Backed by Penn. Decisions

Strict enforcement of contract provisions covering welfare funds was sustained in two decisions rendered last month by James P. Costello, Jr., impartial chairman of the agreement with the Pennsylvania Dress Manufacturers Assn.

In the case of the Penna Dress Co. of Northampton, the impartial chairman ruled that the firm must make its books available for examination by the auditor of the Northeast Department, Alfred T. Gustin. Earlier, the company had provoked a four-day work stoppage by refusing to show its book.

Following the decision of the impartial chairman, the books were investigated by the union auditor. It was shown that the company owed to Local 111 health and welfare payments for work done for firms not belonging to the Pennsylvania dress association.

The second case involved Lynn Garment Co. of New Philadelphia which succeeded the Silver Creek Garment Co. The new firm had failed to make payments to the health and welfare fund of Local 225.

The impartial chairman ruled that in succeeding the Silver Creek Co. the Lynn Co. had also assumed the contractual obligations of the first company. In so doing, he declared, it had obligated itself to make payments to the fund as provided by the union's agreement with the Pennsylvania Dress Manufacturers Assn.

FROM CANADA
MONTREAL

Retirement Fund Won

On June 21 the Cloak Manufacturers' Council of Montreal signed a contract with the ILGWU, providing for a retirement fund for all over-age cloakmakers in that city. Employers are to pay 3 per cent of the payroll beginning July 1, 1948, to a fund from which benefits will be paid to retired workers.

The tentative plan is to retire men at 65 and women at 60. About 1,800 workers employed by nearly 90 manufacturers will benefit.

The contract also provides for a number of increases in the body basis and differentials for finishing. It is also understood that the escalator clause is in full operation, according to which the union may demand an increase in wages to offset any rise in the cost of living.

The ILGWU in Montreal is the only union in Canada to obtain a retirement fund of this kind through negotiations and contract, the signing of which received wide publicity in both the English and French press.

The agreement was signed for the year beginning July 1, 1948, with a proviso that same may be renewed automatically, unless either side gives 60 days notice prior to the expiration of the contract.

Dress Drive

The organizational campaign in the dress industry recorded additional successes with the signing of two shops employing a total of over 100 workers. These were the Sweetheart Sportswear and Joyce Children's Wear, which manufacture a cheaper line of dresses and blouses. The workers gained a 10 per cent increase and health and welfare benefits, together with a rest period and other provisions of the standard dress agreement.

Negotiations were conducted by Maurice Manel, Si Bresner and William Ross. The contract goes into effect Aug. 15.

Dressmakers Send Letters

On May 21 the Dressmakers sent a letter to the Montreal Dress Manufacturers Guild notifying it that the opening of negotiations for a renewed contract was overdue.

The union declared it did not intend to renew the contract without improvements. It asked the manufacturers' group to begin negotiations immediately to avoid a period of confusion resulting from a lapse in the contract.

To date no conferences have been held. Bernard Shane, ILGWU General Organizer, has therefore sent a second letter in the name of the Montreal Joint Board Dressmakers Union calling for an immediate conference to avoid unnecessary ill feeling and possible chaos in the trade.

Presented to the manufacturers' guild were demands for employer contributions to the sick, health, and welfare fund and to the health center and vacation fund; wage increases; holidays with pay; and overtime rates.

REHIRE POLICE CHIEF, AMES STRIKERS ASK PEOPLE IN PA. TOWN

Employees of the Ames Manufacturing Co., Forest City, Pa., who are seeking collective bargaining representation by the ILGWU, last week circulated petitions in that community asking that Chief of Police Francis "Dick" Mayers be reinstated in the post from which he was suspended by Burgess A. B. Cimochowski for refusing to arrest workers who were peacefully picketing the Ames plant.

The strike at Ames began on June 17. It followed an organization drive directed by a staff headed by Sol Greene. A preliminary survey had revealed that the level of earnings at the Ames plant is substandard. To remedy this situation workers are seeking representation by the ILGWU.

Union officers have sought a conference with the firm without success. They attempted to reach company representatives in Forest City as well as in New York to warn that the union was preparing to file charges of unfair labor practices against the firm. The Northeast Department asked the National Labor Relations Board to conduct a representation election at the plant.

On the second day of the strike, workers were incensed at finding that as they appeared at the plant to collect their earnings for the previous week's work each was given a personal lecture and individual advice by the firm for turning against the union. The effort to break the strike at the beginning included an offer of a $1 increase made to each worker in turn. The picketing continued Saturday morning.

First Encounter

It was during the picketing on Thursday that the Chief of Police had his first encounter with the Burgess. While pickets were peacefully parading with signs stating that "We can't live on $4.20 a day" and "We want a union agreement," Burgess Cimochowski arrived on the scene apparently ready to use the weight of his authority as well as police force to frighten the strikers back to work.

When he succeeded in exploiting the fear of a few workers the pickets exercised their free speech to tell him what they thought of his action. The Burgess turned to Chief of Police Mayers and demanded that he arrest the pickets. This the Police Chief refused to do, replying that the pickets were orderly. At this moment the Burgess stepped up to the Chief of Police and removed his badge of authority on the spot.

On Monday morning when the strikers reported for picket duty they found a notice posted by John Clark, general superintendent of the local Ames plant, to the effect that due to lack of work the plant was closed indefinitely and that the workers were advised to seek work elsewhere.

Full Support

The Ames strikers are receiving the full support of the ILGWU staff. Charges of lockout are being filed with the State Labor Relations Board. Financial support through strike benefits and legal assistance to secure unemployment compensation have been pledged by Greene.

Meanwhile, the union is continuing its efforts to establish contact by conference with the firm. Early last week Vice Pres. David Gingold reported that first word had been received from the firm indicating a willingness to meet with union representatives and that arrangements for such a meeting were being made.

The Northeast Department staff engaged in the Ames and related organization drives includes, under Greene's direction and the supervision of Jack Halpern, Bob Mickus, Stanley Stepelevich, Al Nash and Joe Drinko.

NORTHEAST DEPARTMENT

DAVID GINGOLD, Director

Northeast Members Receive $1,800,000 in Vacation Pay

Over $1,800,000 was paid out last month by the Northeast Department locals as vacation benefits to their 40,000 members, announces Vice Pres. David Gingold. The sum represents an average payment of $32 a vacation week for each member.

The total figure exceeds by $170,000 the benefit distributed last year by the department. The increase, it is explained, is due largely to further extension of unionization which is now regularly marked by the establishment of welfare funds and the gradual improvement of the benefit so that nearly half the membership now receives two weeks of paid vacation.

For the first time since the end of the war there is notable fluctuation in the individual and shop-by-shop amounts of the benefit. The reappearance of slack in the garment industry and production halts due to bottlenecks in fabric supply were only two of the factors which led to smaller payrolls and, in turn, to smaller payments by employers into the welfare funds from which vacation and other benefits are drawn.

Eastern Penn. ILG Aids Town, Workers In Wake of Tornado

During a tornado which swept through parts of Eastern Pennsylvania on the night of June 27, lightning struck the plant of M. Janowitch & Sons in Mahanoy City. Workers reporting to the shop the next morning found that the building had burned to the ground.

Hazleton Manager Harry Schindler immediately enlisted the ILG in community endeavors to alleviate distress caused by the storm and also informed the unemployment insurance office of the eligibility of Janowitch employees to receive unemployment benefits.

San-Dri Strikers Continue Total Stoppage of Output

In the 12th week of their strike, employees of the San-Dri Dress Co., Little Falls, N. Y., are determined to continue their walkout until the firm agrees to negotiate with the union of their choice, the ILGWU, it is reported by Max Wexler, Upstate New York supervisor.

Especially gratifying are the high spirits of the strikers who have completely stopped production at the plant. The firm has been operating the shop for about nine years and apparently counted on sentimental attachments of workers to the company to ward off unionization.

Force Shipment

There have been many cases in which firms wishing to resist unionization have offered their employees token wage increases and even attempted to force through deliveries and shipment of goods to frustrate a move toward unionization.

The Northeast Department has encountered a number of situations in which unionization, rather than elaborate and expensive devices for fighting off the union, would have proved a benefit to the community and a stimulus to profits and production for the company.

In Little Falls, San-Dri's resistance has only served to strengthen pro-union sentiment to the degree that the firm has decided to pull out. Ordinarily this would appear unfortunate but in this case with the plant offered for sale, the union has made an effort to induce a legitimate, reputable, unionized garment firm to come to Little Falls, purchase the plant and begin production. Late last week negotiations toward this end neared success.

Patricia Employees Gain Wage Boosts, Five Paid Holidays

The first contract renegotiated in several weeks in the Springfield, Mass., area was at Patricia Undergarment Co., which employs 150 workers. Under the renewed agreement all piece workers gained five paid legal holidays, time workers received wage increases ranging from 5 to 10 cents an hour, and 50 per cent of the piece workers got a 5 per cent increase to eliminate inequities. An additional 1 per cent contribution to the health fund will increase firm contributions to 6 per cent of payroll, according to Manager Chick Chaiken.

Marcor Unionization Provides 6 Holidays

The Marcor Manufacturing Co. of Somerset, Mass., has been organized with its first agreement made effective as of Fe. 20, announces Manager Fred Siems. The firm manufactures children's dresses.

The pact provides for six paid holidays, a health and welfare fund and other improvements.

I.L.G.W.U. EDUCATION

Varied Educational Work Reported by Many Locals

Biennial reports pouring into the office of the ILGWU Educational Department show a steady increase in all types of cultural and educational activities especially among small ILGWU locals which were forced to curtail this work during the war period.

Following are the highlights of a few reports:

Local 217, Trenton, N. J. Two classes in home nursing, given in cooperation with the Red Cross, had a steady attendance during the 10-week course.

Local 122, Atlanta, Ga. A new members' orientation class featuring films loaned by the Georgia Workers Education Service was added to regular classes in parliamentary law and sewing. Monthly educational meetings heard talks on leading labor topics.

Local 141 and 147, Bridgeport, Conn. Members who never participated in shop meetings are beginning to ask for the floor after attending the local's public speaking class, Murray Edelstein reports. Six sessions in the economics of the garment industry were also helpful.

Local 406, Dubuque, Iowa. A study of the Taft-Hartley law and suggestions for combatting Iowa's state anti-labor laws have held the attention of the membership.

Local 201, Norfolk, Va. Concentrating on preparations for the coming elections, this local has secured 100 per cent registration. A weekly collection in the shop enabled each member to pay his poll tax.

Baltimore Joint Board. Publication of a printed newspaper entitled "The ILG'er" has given wider publicity to the board's educational and other activities. Parliamentary law and public speaking classes have been well received.

Local 497, Los Angeles, Calif. In addition to an intensive course in leadership training and union fundamentals, the monthly executive board sessions have become the occasion for a social and informal discussion period.

Local 208, Cleveland, Ohio. Calisthenics and swimming classes at the YWCA and bowling each week form a major part of the local's activities.

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"Thread & Thimble" Offered by Toronto Sportswear Workers

The Toronto sportswear workers scored a notable triumph with their "Thread and Thimble Revue" put on in the Toronto Labor Lyceum on June 4, 5, 6. Enthusiastically received the first night, the show gained momentum with each performance until even the standing room was completely sold out on the final night.

Written and directed by Lou Jacobi, assisted by Sam Sales and Organizer Lou Rosen, the revue contained many catchy tunes and sparkling dances which will long be remembered by the audience. A cast of 30 had rehearsed for three months to make the production a success.

Already many requests for a repeat performance have come in from other unions, and Manager Kraisman is hopeful the production can be revamped after the vacation period and put on in a larger theatre for several nights.

Student Fellowship Enjoys Unity House Weekend, Lecture

Fifty persons participated in the ILGWU Student Fellowship reunion held at Unity House, Forest Park, Pa., on June 11-13 and pronounced the weekend a distinct success. The group held its own discussion led by Julius Manson of the ILGWU teaching staff. Reviewing recent happenings on the national and international scene, Manson laid particular stress on their significance for labor. A lively discussion followed. Minnie Glassberg of Local 32 and Sol Goldberg of Local 99 were in charge of the program.

Members also made full use of the recreational facilities of the ILGWU vacation resort.

Hyde Park Trip

Final plans for the trip to Hyde Park, N. Y., on July 10 have been announced by the Student Fellowship and the ILGWU Educational Department which are jointly sponsoring the trip.

Members will meet at the ILGWU headquarters, 1710 Broadway, at 8:30 A.M. where they will board chartered buses. Only those who have made reservations will be permitted to go. Round-trip fare is $2.25.

Aside to Sen. Taft: Famous Co. Votes "Union" 105-0

Two years ago workers at the Famous Infants Knitwear Co. in New York picked Local 99, Office and Distribution Employees, as their bargaining agency in an election in which they turned down offers by two CIO organizations to represent them.

Early this month with their first agreement slated for expiration in July, the workers were told about the Taft-Hartley requirement.

The election that followed, according to Manager Louis Dworkin, was held on the company's premises with only NLRB personnel present.

Do you want the ILGWU to enter an agreement with the company which requires ILGWU membership as a condition of continued employment, the Famous Co. workers were asked. Reviewing their union shop "hardships" of the past two years, they voted:

105 for the ILG.

Opposed to the union: 0.

◆

Irving Frank Trophy Won By "66" Bowling Five

The bowling team of Local 66, Bonnaz Embroiderers, carried off the ILGWU Irving Frank memorial trophy with its victory over Local 111, Allentown, Pa., on June 26 at the Bowlmor Alleys in New York City.

Winner of two out of three games in the series, the New York five took the last game by a score of 2,567 to 2,407. Harry Yanness and Tommy Richards starred for Allentown while Sal Puma was high man for Local 66 in the final match.

N. Y. C. Educational Directors Meet to Widen ILG Activity

Educational directors from locals in New York and vicinity met at Central headquarters last month to compare notes on how to involve more people in the union's educational programs.

Stressing the fact that the rapid turnover in membership makes education a recurring process, Mark Starr, head of the Educational Department, led the discussion on methods and techniques, mentioning some of the suggestions which had been made by the Education Committee of the General Executive Board.

There is no substitute for movies in bringing the union closer to the new members, one director stated. Citing his experience in showing films and filmstrips at shop and district meetings, he outlined the following major problems: few documentary films, made usually on a small budget, can compare with the slick, high-cost films turned out by Hollywood. Union members, used to the Hollywood product, are often disappointed with movies that are not technically perfect. In addition, the high rentals charged on films and projectors by commercial concerns run up the cost of showing movies in union halls.

One answer to the latter problem, Mark Starr said, is the National Film Cooperative which has been formed by unions, cooperatives and other non-profit organizations. This group is developing its own film library and projector service and eventually hopes to produce its own documentaries.

Other suggestions made at the conference included holding meetings of an educational nature where union business is not discussed, giving diplomas to those graduating from new members' classes, issuing posters or calendars bearing the union message which can be hung in the shop, putting monthly leaflets on the machines and conducting meetings for shop chairman with the business agent and the educational director explaining various phases of union procedure.

The directors continued their discussion informally at a luncheon given by the ILGWU Educational Department. Those present included educational directors from Locals 9, 22, 32, 35, 40, 60, 62, 91, 155 and the Cloak Out-of-Town Department. Abe Belsky of the Philadelphia Joint Board was a guest.

◆

ILG Awards $25 Bonds To 2 High School Grads

Twenty-five dollar bonds were awarded by the ILGWU to the two students graduating with the highest honors from the Central Needle Trades High School last month. Recipients of the annual award were Elizabeth Dottore and Elisa Pineiro.

FTC Trial Examiner Charges Coat Board Restrains Trade

Andrew B. Duvall, trial examiner of the Federal Trade Commission, has ruled, in a 58-page document, that the by-laws of the National Coat and Suit Industry Recovery Board constitute an illegal restraint on trade.

His recommendations issued on June 25, which include a request for the issuance of a cease-and-desist order, eventually will be acted upon by the full FTC after oral argument is heard. The final decision will have a binding effect upon a companion proceeding involving trade practices in the blouse industry. The National Association of Blouse Manufacturers has entered into a stipulation with the FTC agreeing to be bound by the doctrine laid down in the coat and suit case as to parallel trade practices.

Duvall charged the ILGWU with "complicity" in the creation and maintenance of the National Coat and Suit Recovery Board, holding that the "law forbids a union to join with producers to control commercial practices."

Carl M. Owen, of Willkie, Owen, Farr, Gallagher & Walton, chief counsel to the Recovery Board in the FTC proceedings, declared when the FTC trial examiner's report was made public that it is not a cease-and-desist order and has no present effect on the Recovery Board's activities.

The National Coat and Suit Recovery Board was organized in July, 1935, subsequent to the Supreme Court's annulment of the recovery codes throughout American industry in the famous Schechter Bros. decision. The recovery board's rules and regulations aimed at the achievement of one principal objective — the stabilization of the coat and suit industry on the basis of voluntarily assumed fair trade practices and standard union work conditions.

The proceedings against the NCSRB by the Federal Trade Commission were begun on Sept. 17, 1941. The late Wendell Willkie, whose firm still continues as attorneys of record in this case, appeared for the coat and suit board and affiliated organizations.

Bialis, Back from Puerto Rico, Tells of Successful AFL Task

Vice Pres. Morris Bialis a short time ago returned from Puerto Rico, where he went on an AFL mission to settle a controversy of long standing between two longshoremen's unions.

Bialis was appointed to the Puerto Rican mission by Pres. William Green at the suggestion of Pres. David Dubinsky late in April. With him went Frank P. Fenton, AFL's international representative, and while in Puerto Rico both were capably assisted by Nicolas Nogueras Rivera, secretary-treasurer of the Insular Free Federation of Labor.

The controversy in Puerto Rico involved a deep-seated rivalry between one AFL union chartered 41 years ago by the Insular Federation, known as the UTM and claiming about 6,000 members, and another chartered some 10 years ago by the International Longshoremen's Association. The San Francisco convention of the AFL last year voted to send over a commission to Puerto Rico "to look into the long shore situation and settle it."

Cooperation Achieved

"Upon our arrival in Puerto Rico," Vice Pres. Bialis told the writer, "we were met by a large delegation of union men and women bearing banners and flowers. We went to work at once, and after ten days of thorough, and I may add tactful, handling of the conflicting claims were successful in resolving this problem. We finally brought harmony between the two groups and an agreement embodying full cooperation was reached.

"But besides the longshore situation," Vice Pres. Bialis continued, "I spent considerable time in Puerto Rico investigating work conditions in other island industries, in the sugar cane refineries, among distillery labor, hair net production, and, last but not least, garment making. I found work conditions and pay deplorable and union organization in some trades almost absent. I spoke to government representatives and visited many agencies. All told, economic conditions on the island have hardly changed since Pres. Dubinsky and Vice Pres. Zimmerman visited it seven or eight years ago.

"There are, we were told, about 50,000 needle workers in Puerto Rico but only a few of them are organized. There is little machine needle work there. Most of it is hand needle work, and it is produced not for island consumption but for export. On the other hand, most of the finished goods which the islanders consume is being imported from the States and sold in Puerto Rican stores at high prices, far beyond the means of the average worker.

ILG Efforts

"The ILGWU, some years ago made a try at organizing the garment workers in Puerto Rico and we chartered several locals there. In fact, I saw an old ILGWU charter on the walls of the Arecibo Labor Hall. At that time, they still had some sizeable garment factories here and at one time we had about a thousand needle workers organized. But they did not stick, and then the war came and the garment industry tapered off into home-work and hand-work production.

"I have been told, however, that some Eastern businessmen are planning to come back to the Island to install factories. There may be something to this, as labor is plentiful in Puerto Rico and unemployment is rampant. However it may be, the lot of the Puerto Rican wage-earner is a hard one and his living conditions cannot begin to compare with those of American wage earners. American citizenship for Puerto Ricans, it can readily be seen, has not automatically brought a higher standard of living. It will take years of uphill struggle to achieve this."

Many ILGWU Affiliates Enjoy Unity Weekends

During June the following affiliates and locals held outings or weekends at Unity House: Local 25, Local 48, Local 117, Local 190, Local 142, Local 155, as well as the Brooklyn Division of the Cloak Joint Board, the Out-of-Town Cloak Department, Eastern Out-of-Town Department and Northeast Department. The General Executive Board also held its third quarterly meeting at the union resort the beginning of the month.

CUTTERS COLUMN

LOCAL 10

ISIDORE NAGLER, Manager

Sportswear Cutters

About 350 cutters in the sportswear trade, together with workers in the other crafts, will benefit from gains achieved in writing the new collective agreement. The old contract, which expired June 1, was continued during the negotiations.

The outstanding provision in the new pact sets up a retirement fund financed by percentage payroll contributions of the employers. Although the average age of workers in this trade is below that in the cloak industry this benefit will assume increasing importance in the years ahead. It is likely that the fund will be patterned after the one which has been in existence in the cloak industry for several years.

The workers in the sportswear industry who previously had vacation and health benefits will now also have protection in the vital matter of old age security for which federal government payments are entirely inadequate.

The sportswear cutters, who recently obtained a $7 weekly increase, will have their minimum scales substantially increased by the new agreement. Minimums will be $71 for markers and $64 for machine cutters as compared with $55 and $48, respectively under the old agreement. An indication of the progress made by the cutters in this branch may be seen from the fact that in 1939 there were three scales, $26 for stretchers, $36 for machine cutters, and $48 for markers. Since that time stretchers have been eliminated as a separate craft and placed in the category of regular machine cutters.

Of course the great majority of cutters today earn more than the minimum scales. In fact, the present average prevailing wage of sportswear cutters is $87.65.

As has often been stated in this column, minimum scales are particularly important as a foundation supporting the wage structure particularly during unfavorable economic periods.

It is significant that the contract will run for five years although the cloak agreement will run for only three years. In both instances the former contracts were for a five-year period. Workers are protected against further increases in the cost of living by escalator clauses permitting the union to reopen wage rates.

The negotiations for Local 10 were conducted by Manager Nagler in conjunction with Louis Reiss, manager of Local 23, Skirt Makers, and Joseph Breslaw, manager of Local 35, Pressers.

Vacation Checks

During the past month vacation payments have been made to cutters in all branches. The checks will certainly be helpful to our people particularly at this time.

There are individual cutters who may not have received their checks. They should contact the Vacation and Health Department of Local 10 as soon as possible.

Working Cards

Members of Local 10 are reminded again that, beginning July 1, working cards should be changed in accordance with our regular seasonal custom. This applies to cutters in all branches.

The purpose of this requirement is to keep the office records up to date and this will help to maintain the local's efficient service to the membership.

'48 Campaign Fund

To date, half of our membership of over 7,800 has contributed to the voluntary fund-raising drive of the special Local 10 Campaign Committee. Similar drives are being conducted by special committees of ILGWU affiliates throughout the country. In the coming weeks, the balance of the cutters, who are getting back to the shops as they begin operations, are expected to make their contributions and swell the fund.

During the past year we have seen many instances of how the Taft-Hartley law has hamstrung the efforts of many unions in their drives to organize the unorganized workers. The purpose of the law is to undermine the strength of labor organizations. As time goes on, the dangerous aspects of the law will become clearer as certain employer groups begin to use its provisions as a shield against legitimate union activity.

The coming campaign offers an opportunity to help defeat the reactionary members of Congress who voted for the Taft-Hartley Act.

By electing a progressive Congress we can not only undo the harm done by the present Congress in emasculating labor and social welfare measures, but we can help enact legislation which will carry forward the great work of the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

ATTENTION
Members
LOCAL 10
REGULAR MEETING
Monday
July 26, 1948
Right After Work
MANHATTAN CENTER
34 St. & 8th Ave.

N. Y. CLOAKMAKERS

CLOAK JOINT BOARD

N. Y. Cloak Bd. Sets $100,000 As '48 Campaign Chest Target

A drive to raise $100,000 as a campaign chest for the election of liberal Congressmen in 1948 was launched by the recently organized New York Cloak Joint Board Campaign Committee at a luncheon meeting at the Hotel McAlpin on June 28.

General Manager Israel Feinberg, chairman of the committee, announced that every cloakmaker in the metropolitan area would be asked to make a voluntary contribution of $2 to the political fund. The 75 officers and members of the staff of the joint board at the luncheon, who constitute the campaign committee, pledged an all-out effort to raise the quota.

"The forthcoming elections," said Feinberg in explaining the purpose of the proposed fund, "will be of decisive importance in moulding the future of America—and of the world. The 80th Congress made a miserable record in domestic and international affairs.

Cloakmakers Alert

"I am confident that the cloakmakers of New York, with their long tradition of political alertness, will eagerly contribute to wage an effective campaign against Congressmen who voted for the Taft-Hartley Act and for other reactionary legislation. Labor must do its part in electing a liberal Congress which will carry forward the program of the New Deal."

Pres. David Dubinsky, chairman of the National ILGWU Campaign Committee, made a plea for political mobilization of trade union forces against repressive legislation. He warned that the complacent attitude toward the Taft-Hartley Act, prevalent even in many liberal circles, was completely unwarranted by the facts. Organized labor, he said, was being stymied at every turn by this law and its members were being deprived of gains obtained after long years of struggle.

"This is only the beginning," said Dubinsky. "Our enemies are biding their time, waiting for the elections to be safely out of the way. Such men as Sen. Joseph Ball have already brazenly announced that they are preparing additional anti-labor measures. They look toward the Congressional elections for a mandate to continue their hatchet work.

Battle Ahead

"We would be deluding ourselves if we indicated that the battle ahead will be an easy one. Unfortunately circumstances have created a political mood in America which has been seized upon by vested interests to turn the clock back on social reform.

"In this crisis, labor must rise to the occasion. Labor's League for Political Education, formed by the AFL, is a welcome ally in this fight. The ILGWU intends to back it to the limit, conducting simultaneously its own activities. The affiliates of our International are readily responding to this call for action and, as usual, the cloakmakers are taking a leading role. The success of our campaign to elect forward-looking men to the 81st Congress will depend in a great measure on the financial and manpower resources union members will furnish to the 1948 election war-chest."

Leading members of the campaign committee include, in addition to Vice Presidents Isidore Nagler and Joseph Breslaw, the managers of all the locals of the joint board and department heads.

Local 117 Joining Liberal Party Club

Cloak operators are responding to the call of the union to enroll in Local 117's Central Liberal Party Club. A number of successful meetings have been held and campaign activities will be launched shortly.

Local 48 Hears Talk On Immigration Bills

A meeting of Local 48, Italian Cloakmakers, on June 8 at the Italian Labor Center heard Victor Anfuso, well-known attorney, discuss "Immigration and the Stratton Bill."

DEBORAH 'TB' HOME DEDICATES FLOOR TO CLOAK, SUIT TRADE

An entire floor at the Deborah Sanatorium was dedicated to the cloak, suit, skirt and reefer industry, at ceremonies attended by 100 leading labor and management representatives on June 16, at Brown Mills, N. J.

The project was made possible by funds derived from a series of campaigns conducted jointly by the associations and the joint board, under the chairmanship of Benjamin Kaplan, manager of Local 117.

Following a tour of the sanatorium's facilities for treating tubercular patients, the guests gathered in the auditorium for the ceremonies. Pres. David Dubinsky, General Manager Israel Feinberg and Executive Director Samuel Klein of the Industrial Council joined in paying tribute to the splendid work of Deborah on behalf of the needy ill.

Joseph S. Elichman, president of the institution, presented Dubinsky with a 14-carat life membership card from Deborah in recognition of his active interest in charitable endeavors. Gold medals in the shape of hearts were given to the executive directors of the associations, Kaplan, Feinberg and Vice Pres. Joseph Breslaw.

'23' Secures Retirement Fund in 5-Year Renewal

The establishment of a retirement fund highlighted the gains achieved by New York sportswear skirtmakers in the renewed five-year contract with the National Skirt and Sportswear Assn. Some 5,000 workers are involved, mostly affiliated with Local 23 but including several hundred in Locals 35 and 10.

A well attended special membership meeting of Local 23 on June 24 at the Hotel McAlpin greeted the report of Manager Louis Reiss with enthusiastic applause. The workers were keenly interested in his description of the innumerable conferences held with the employers and the diligent efforts made to reconcile diverse viewpoints. Agreement had been reached in principle by June 1, when the contract expired, and it was decided to extend the old pact for several weeks while implementation was worked out between the parties, he said.

1% of Payroll

The retirement fund will be patterned after that existing in the cloak industry. Employers will be obligated, beginning with the first Monday of January, 1949, to pay a sum equivalent to 1 per cent of their gross weekly payroll for workers in each of the crafts covered by the agreement employed in inside or contracting shops. Beginning with the first Monday in January, 1951, the employers' contribution will be increased to 1½ per cent. The administration of the fund will be in the hands of representatives of the union, the association, and a member representing the public.

Reiss expressed his gratification that the minimum wage scales had been increased to bring them into line with earnings prevalent in the industry. The formula used was to add ⅔ of the increases previously obtained to the old minimums. Although wages are uniformly higher than the new minimums, the skirt chief stressed that the new "floors" would be of great help in maintaining standards.

Led Brooklyn Cloakmakers to "Unity"

The committee which planned the recent outing of Brooklyn cloakmakers at Unity House included, left to right: Samuel Zeldin, assistant manager; Mary Viola, Manager Edward Molisani; Executive Secretary Howard Molison, Mary Locascia and Brooklyn Manager Anthony Cottone.

TORONTO CLOAKMEN ENDORSE FORMATION OF RETIREMENT FUND

Toronto cloakmakers, comprising Locals 14, 68, 83, 92 and 94, at a meeting June 16, in the Labor Lyceum, gave approval to the formation of a retirement fund covering all union members employed in the plants of the Toronto Cloak Manufacturers Assn.

The fund is to be raised from 3 per cent weekly payroll contributions by the employers, starting July 1, 1948. The retirement fund was accepted in place of the union's original demand for a cost-of-living bonus. The current agreement, which still has a year to run, was renewed for an additional two years, with a proviso that the union may ask for a wage increase should the cost of living rise above 5 per cent around Nov. 1, 1948.

The extended agreement also raises the present cutters' minimum from $54 to $58 per week.

Samuel Kraisman, Toronto Joint Board Manager, negotiated the pact renewal with the association. The new contract marks a firm step ahead in the progress of the local ILGWU organization.

JUSTICE
INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

INFLATION AND THE REPUBLICANS

The night the GOP convention nominated Thomas Dewey for the presidency, Elmo Roper, one of the country's top opinion pollsters, in a "quickie" sum-up on the air, gave the Republicans a fifty-fifty rating to carry the country against a reasonably "strong" Democratic candidate.

The New York World-Telegram, a consistent Dewey champion, the next morning, after exulting over the GOP selection, stated that Dewey's "election is not necessarily in the bag as the convention seemed to assume."

There seems to be plenty of reason, indeed, for this reservation of judgment. Discounting the froth and suds of convention oratory and the mechanical perfections of the Dewey vote-gathering machine, the country as a whole will be inclined to judge the GOP bid for added power on the record of its two-years control of Congress and, to an even greater degree, on the pledges contained in its Philadelphia platform.

It is reasonable to assume that foreign policy differences will play no weighty part in the forthcoming campaign, even though a great many Americans will find it difficult to forget how close to collapse the European Recovery Program had come in the closing hours of the last Congress session through the bullnecked tactics of leading GOP isolationists—Taber, Wollcott, Brown, Halleck and Speaker Martin among them.

The main cannonading, on both sides, however, will center on the record of the 80th Congress on domestic affairs—housing, "regulation" by law of organized labor, social security expansion, taxation, veteran aid, civil rights legislation and a half-dozen other angry issues.

Above all, inflation and the high cost of living, ever-mounting and blanketing the country from coast to coast, will emerge among the top campaign issues. The 50-cent dollar, the sorest and ugliest blemish on the escutcheon of the "businessmen's" Congress which has just ended, may well become the Achilles' heel of the overconfident GOP steamroller.

* * *

Lots of things may happen between now and November that are unpredictable at this hour. What we do know, beyond cavil or fear of misjudgment, is that the dollar will continue to flop as a buyer of the things we need.

Between mid-April and mid-May food prices alone jumped 1.4 per cent, according to the consumers' price index of the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Here are some more figures. Last month showed a general price increase of 9.3 per cent over the same month last year, 27.9 per cent over June, 1946, and 72.9 per cent over August, 1939. Food went up 12.4 per cent above last year, 44.8 per cent over June, 1946, and *125.6 per cent over August, 1939.*

Such are some of the economic facts of American life in mid-1948. The housewife learns it as she shops for groceries and home furnishings. The wage-earner is struck smack in the face by these facts as he goes to buy a summer suit and realizes that what was once a minor purchase now consumes a week's paycheck.

* * *

Would you care to know what the GOP high command proposes to do about this creeping inflation, about restoring some of the fast-fading worth of our wage and salary dollar?

The Republican platform acknowledges that "prices are cruelly high." It promises a "fight on inflation." But how? A roll-back of prices, perhaps? A freezing of prices at present levels, at least? The creation of a stand-by price board with powers to put a stop to price-spiraling in emergency events?

Has the GOP platform a word of criticism for the Congress majorities which threw price controls out of the window in 1946 to permit the gamblers in life's necessities to squeeze out of the American consumer an estimated 50 billion dollars in "free market" profits in the past two years alone?

Not a word. The GOP platform writers, instead, have the unfathomable gall to offer the harassed consumer as anti-inflation measures the hoary quackery of "increased production," of "incentives for thrift" in the form of some mysterious "fiscal policies," and—get this last one!—"a sound currency," as if the dollar could again become a real 100-cent piece by the mere waving of a magic wand, without regard to bread-and-butter, clothing or rent prices and costs!

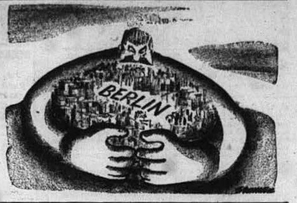
* * *

Meaningless, to a point of insult, this plank on inflation, in our judgment, is a dead give-away of the Republican callous approach to the country's top domestic issue, the cost-of-living issue which agonizes nine-tenths of the American electorate morning, noon and night.

This problem—how to halt the catastrophic fall of the dollar's buying power, how to stymie the carnival of the profiteers who are literally squeezing the country dry and are making a mockery and a futility of every wage revision—obviously, will not be solved by such GOP mumbo-jumbo as "elimination of waste in government" or similar irrelevant palaver. The American consumer—and that means all America—will demand action, real action to check the orgy of rocketing prices before many months have gone by.

The cocky GOP strategists may have reckoned that they could get away with most anything in 1948, "their year," or else they would not have dared to insert this swindle promise of a "fight on inflation" in their national platform. For all it means and amounts to, this plank could have been authored by the corniest food, textile and anti-housing lobbyists who pollute Washington's air in and out of legislative seasons.

"The Borscht Circuit"



Pins & Needles

M. D. Danish

SOMETHING worth remembering. . . .

When Klement Gottwald, Czechoslovakia's new Communist president, was inaugurated two weeks ago, U. S. Ambassador Steinhardt, dean of Prague's diplomatic corps, sent him, as a matter of protocol in all likelihood, a brief congratulatory message. Steinhardt expressed the hope that the new head of the Communist regime would "carry on with the benevolence, justice, tolerance and magnanimity of your predecessor."

Selfsame Gottwald, when he first appeared in the Prague Parliament in the spring of 1936 at the head of a squad of Communist deputies, told the then Premier Benes: "We are here to break your necks, and we're going to do it." We wonder if Dean Steinhardt had that incident in mind when he uttered that prayer for "benevolence and tolerance" on the part of Gottwald. Such bourgeois superstitions!

▼

THE skies over the soft coal fields have cleared.

John L. Lewis won two smashing victories last week, one of them, of all places—in the court of his old nemesis, Justice T. Alan Goldsborough himself!

Categorically rejecting the suit brought by Ezra Van Horn, operators' trustee of the 1947 miners welfare fund, who sought to halt payments, the court's decision not only untied the $47 million fund for miners who were employed by the mine operators at the time the 1947 pact was signed but also for union miners not employed by these operators.

The agreement creating this welfare fund, Judge Goldsborough said, was entered between operators and the union, not between operators and THEIR employees. In line with this sound logic, the court forbade Van Horn to play Gromyko on fund policy, if the other two—union and public trustees—reach a concord.

The resumption of the ruptured joint wage parleys a few hours following the Goldsborough verdict was in the nature of a chain reaction. The settlement—$1-a-day more in pay with the doubling of the industry's welfare fund to $100 million a year—was Lewis' second blitz operation in 24 hours. The country will not begrudge the miners a single penny of added earnings or an added dollar for old-age pensions.

▼

THE Star, a morning daily which replaces PM on the newsstands of New York, is, physically, a substantial improvement on its predecessor. It actually looks like a newspaper.

The Star promises to be as "independent of the tyranny of colors, slogans as it is of vested interests." In a world of side-taking that's quite a tough assignment. The late PM, on occasion, used to be kibitzed as the "uptown Daily Worker," and not without cause. It had too many on its staff who honestly belonged to that Communist sheet.

New York is supporting a liberal daily in the afternoon—The Post, and it probably has room for a morning liberal paper. Such a paper, however, would have to stay clean of Commie taint. It could well afford to leave this putrid luxury to Mr. Foster's own puny newspaper.

▼

WALTER WHITE, hard-hitting, outspoken secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, minced no words the other day at the association's annual meeting in Kansas City in setting down his opinion of Henry Wallace's "New" party.

"The Wallace crowd has muddled the political waters of the Negro organizations" and the "Wallace movement will lead to the return of a more conservative Congress than the one just ended," the Negro leader declared.

White's statement will help to prick the bubble which the Foster-Wallace comaraderie—in and out of Harlem—has been assiduously trying to manufacture to the effect that the Negro population is looking upon Wallace as a political Messiah or, at least, another Father Divine.

Slowly, the Wallace myth, we believe, is disintegrating. The "millions" of faithful which the first Wallace cross-country spurt was to have produced are dissolving into thin air. The indelible "made-in-Moscow" trade-mark on the Wallace political venture is the kiss of death which eventually is bound to smother it.

▼

IT looks like a rival CIO central council in the making in New York now that the Amalgamated and the Transport Workers — each 40,000 strong — have bolted the old "left-wing"-ruled outfit.

Louis Hollander, CIO state chairman, said in explanation of the ACWA move that "CIO members were refusing to be dragooned into allegiance to the banner of the Cominform." For the Transport Workers, their president Michael Quill said the CIO Council was "in the hands of irresponsible left-wing crackpots . . . a group that is a cancer in the side of labor."

The green light, presumably, will have to come from top headquarters, from Philip Murray himself. Signs are not lacking that such a riot act will not be long in arriving.