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JUSTICE

INTERNATIONAL LADI[illegible] GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

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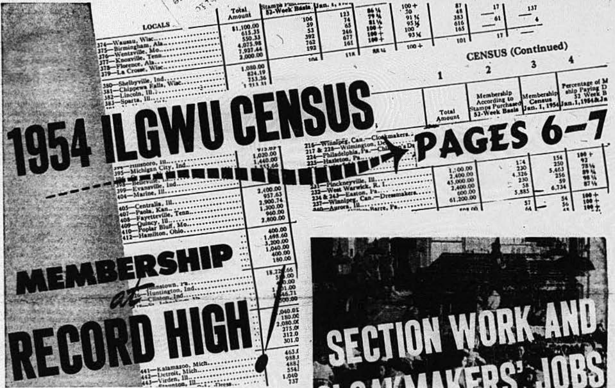
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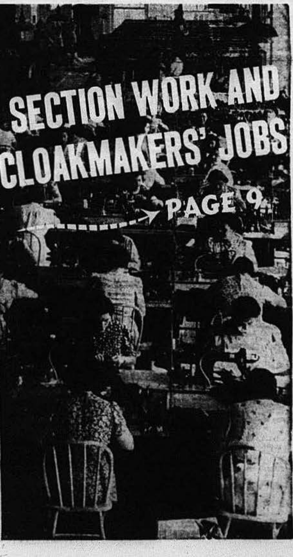
SECTION WORK AND CLOAKMAKERS' JOBS
PAGE 9

'Writ,' By Hand. When the striking workers of the Freydberg plant in Appomattox, Va., learned that the company had won injunctions restraining their activities, they invited the sheriff (left background) to a union meeting to serve them personally. The smiles are not in vain, either: The union has now won a counter-injunction blocking company intimidation of workers. (See story, Page 3.)

STACK 3

Knit Workers Digest Politics at Lunchtime

Political Director Gus Tyler gives lowdown on tax bills to Laurel Knitting Mills workers.

Many propagandists proclaim that "politics is the property of the people" as blandly as they assert that "AT&T has 250,000 owners." Actually, in politics as in business, individual shareholders may dutifully cast their ballots at election time each year, but the real influence is wielded by organized minorities who work all year long. Last month, knitwear workers' officers and union political directors in New York opened fire in a campaign to reverse this trend.

Immediate objective is to swing Congressmen into line with labor's program to beat the recession, including raising of the minimum wage, tax reductions for lower-income brackets and more liberal exemptions for special categories like working mothers.

The drive incorporates a new twist in political education: lunchtime talks. This idea was hit on by ILGWU Political Director Gus Tyler and Local 155 Education Director Joe Shane as they surveyed means of reaching the greatest number of members in the shortest possible time. Each knitting shop is visited at least once. Workers "contribute" part of a lunch hour to hear a short talk on what they can do about their problems, ask questions and are told what action will do the most good.

The program is still in its first stages. Nine shops employing 700 have been visited so far, but well over a hundred remain to be covered. Even this small sample has evoked such enthusiasm from the workers that Local 155 Manager Louis Nelson was prompted to remark that, "As far as we're concerned, the program is already a success."

According to Tyler and Shane, this is the first time political action has been brought directly to the members in the shops.

Last week, their schedule took Tyler and Shane to Laurel Knitting Mills in Brooklyn. The firm's 100 employees took a quick lunch and then gathered around while the ILGWU political director told them what the Eisenhower tax program meant to them (. . . "If you're a working woman and must pay someone to take care of the kids, you can get a tax deduction on the cost —but only if your husband is dead"); explained why the minimum wage had to be increased to $1.25 an hour (". . . If times are tough and the boss can get someone to work for less, legally, is he going to pay you more?") and told them what they could do (". . . Write to your Congressman and Senator. Tell them what's on your mind. Make them realize you know the score.")

This is the story that will be retold in knitgoods shops all over New York. Of course, the directors of the program are hoping that the workers who hear these talks not only will take action themselves but will tell their families and friends what they think. It's about time the Big Business lobbies had a little competition!

Nachman Co. and Philly Dress Union End Suits; Firm Pays Welfare Funds

L. Nachman & Son, Inc., and the Philadelphia Dress Joint Board have agreed to drop federal suits against each other, but picket lines are still in force as the campaign to unionize the firm goes into its 22nd week, Joint Board Manager William Ross reports.

The company agreed to withdraw a $250,000 "damage" suit and to pay $10,986 sought by the union for health, welfare and retirement funds. The union had charged further that the firm, in violation of contract, had removed its plant to Easley, S. C.

Still pending before the Board of Review of the Pennsylvania Bureau of Employment Security are cases of 73 workers who filed for unemployment insurance following a layoff last June which the company claimed was the result of a labor dispute. The firm recently withdrew its appeal against a ruling granting compensation after Dec. 30, 1953.

Two hundred employees of the Nachman firm have been striking since Oct. 28 when the company's mounting malpractices were brought to a head on the heels of these developments:

After the company president resigned from his manufacturers' group, the firm refused to grant wage increases awarded by an impartial chairman; demanded to operate non-union shops outside Philadelphia in return for a contract; countered the union's refusal to accept such terms by laying off 80 workers; notified the employment bureau that the workers were involved in a labor dispute.

A picket line, in addition to the one around the Philadelphia plant, is also being maintained at the firm's New York showroom.

Board Sues Rosinsky

The Dress Joint Board has filed a $290,000 damage suit against H. H. Rosinsky & Co., charged with failing to make payments to the health and welfare funds, sending work to non-union contractors and o'he violations of the collective agreement.

The action is in conformity with a ruling handed down by the courts The case, in litigation since June, 1950, was originally ordered to arbitration, a decision which was later upheld by a higher court when the company appealed.

Jesse J. Rosinsky, head of the firm, contended he was not subject to the jurisdiction of the impartial chairman because the company had resigned from employers' association.

JUSTICE

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Strike at Gresham Hits at Discharges

Thirty employees at Gresham Needlecraft, Inc., Gresham, Wis., have gone on strike to defend their right to join the union.

Spirit on the picket lines is very high, according to Midwest Regional Director Morris Bialis. The strike was precipitated when the employer fired 23 workers who had signed ILGWU cards.

Meany and Morse to Get Awards at L.I.D. Lunch

George Meany, president of the American Federation of Labor, and Wayne Morse, independent Senator from Oregon, will receive awards for distinguished public service from the League for Industrial Democracy at the group's annual luncheon, Apr. 10 at Hotel Commodore.

INSIDE WASHINGTON

by David Williams

GOP 'New Look' in Defense Old Hat With Trick Mirror

WASHINGTON—I must begin by apologizing for something of which an observer of present-day Washington should never have been guilty—thinking too well of a politician and, worse still, putting my thoughts into print. Last month, carried away by my enthusiasm for Sen. Flanders' speech against McCarthy, I wrote of this "quixotic old Yankee" wanting to expel Wisconsin's junior Senator from the Republican "team."

Like Diogenes, we keep seeking through the murk of our nation's capital for the one honest man. I really thought I had found him.

Now Senator Flanders has set me right. After basking in the television spotlight, and enjoying the flood of letters supporting him, he has backed down. He does not object, it appears, to putting McCarthy's "Twenty Years of Treason" circus on the road against the Democrats. His finer feelings trouble him only when McCarthy roughs up his fellow Republicans.

In this he agrees with Vice President Nixon. It's fine, the Veep elegantly told his nation-wide TV audience, to go out shooting rats, but rat-shooters should be careful of their aim lest they wing other rat-shooters (no word of sympathy was dropped for the innocent bystanders who sometimes get shot in the process). Rat-shooting, like everything else in this Administration, should be organized on a team basis. Nixon also made it clear that the Republicans still rely upon their one-two punch for victory in November—an Eisenhower right to the jaw, followed by a McCarthy left below the belt.

In what was perhaps the most significant section of his address, Nixon drew liberally upon Eisenhower's prestige to justify the much-debated "new look" in defense policy—christened by the hucksters about the White House as "more bang for a buck." The decision "to rely in the future primarily on our massive retaliatory power which we could use, in our discretion, against the major source of aggression" was taken, he assured his audience, by the President himself, out of his unequalled competence in military affairs.

In this respect, however, the "team" seems to have got its signals very much crossed. The decision to abandon the "traditional" policy of "meeting aggression by direct and local opposition" (as we did in Korea) was first unveiled by Secretary of State Dulles on Jan. 12.

For the ensuing three weeks, the mighty specter of the atom bomb hung over the world, troubling our allies as well as our enemies. Then, on Feb. 2, Secretary of Defense Wilson (who has never learned to act like a politician) blurted out: "I personally wish we would quit rattling the atom bomb." Admiral Carney, Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Radford, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Secretary of the Navy Anderson, and finally Wilson again declared that the United States must be prepared to wage a variety of wars, and could not rely exclusively upon the atom.

The "new look" seemed to have wilted very rapidly, until Nixon put it on TV. Two days later, General Ridgway, the Army Chief of Staff, backed up Nixon by intimating that a "basic decision" had been taken and showing, under sharp Congressional interrogation, considerable uneasiness about it.

The very next day, however, Dulles virtually clarified the "new look" out of existence. All he had meant on Jan. 12, he said, was that the United States should have the capacity for atomic retaliation. There is nothing "new" about this. In fact, it is probably America's capacity for such retaliation which has, ever since Hiroshima, restrained the Soviet rulers from launching a third World War.

Are you confused? So is all Washington, so are our allies (to the extent that Foreign Secretary Pearson of Canada pled publicly for enlightenment), and so—dangerously—are our enemies. Are we going to counter every aggression of the Soviet world against the free world? Or are we going to act, with all our atomic power, only against aggressions to which we choose to respond? If there are some to which we will not react, won't there be an overpowering temptation to the Kremlin to see just what aggression it can carry through?

This is the basic question that Stevenson put at Miami, in a speech whose importance is only gradually beginning to be realized. It is the question which, in the interest of all of us, must be answered.

End of a Fifty-Year Story

Formal ending of 50-year non-union existence of Bloomfield Co. of Cleveland, O., is marked by contract signing in that city. Organized earlier were firm's Canton and Massillon, O., shops. Seated, left to right: Karl Hoffman, for union; Michael L. Lopez, chairman of organization committee; Ohio-Kentucky Director Nicholas Kirtzman; Howard Bloomfield of company; William Rosenfeld, counsel for firm; Timothy McMahon, union attorney. Standing: Robert Gladnick, of organizing staff; Statia Seclak, Betty Glenn, Albert Katafias, Henry Glaser, Vincent Anselmo, for union.

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Joint Retirement Fund In Out-of-Chicago Area

Euclid notwithstanding, sixteen garment firms in the out-of-Chicago area proved last month that the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. Acting on a suggestion by Vice Pres. Morris Bialis, the employers, each of whom had contracted with the union to set up a retirement fund for his workers, decided to pool their over-age contributions in one general plan covering all 16 shops Result: the Central States ILGWU Retirement Fund was born,

This move was accomplished at a meeting called by the union on Mar. 9. Bialis, addressing the conclave, reminded the employers that though each of them had a separate retirement fund agreement with the ILGWU, no action had as yet been taken to implement the provision. As a result, no money had been received or deposited. He suggested that a central fund might be more efficient and time-saving than the separate plans then in effect.

Without further ado, this idea was okayed by the assembled employers. They then formally approved the depositing of contributions with the central fund and elected a committee to work with union representatives in formulating rules and regulations to guide the fund's operations.

States in which signatory firms are located include Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin and Michigan.

Correlary to this development, it was announced last week that the second group of retirees in the Chicago dress and cloak trades will start receiving pensions in May. The number of workers to be retired and the eligibility of those applying was scheduled to be determined at a meeting of the retirement fund trustees late last month.

Labor Lectures

The first two in a series of five talks on current labor problems by Joel Seidman of the University of Chicago Social Science Department were given on Mar. 16 and 30. Seidman's audience is composed of ILGWU chairladies and members of price committees in Chicago.

In his opening lectures, Seidman discussed "Is Prosperity or Depression Ahead?" and "Legislative Proposal Affecting Workers." Future dates and topics include: Apr. 6, "Political Issues of 1954"; Apr. 20, "Foreign Affairs and Labor"; May 4, "The Labor Movement."

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Strikers Granted Injunction Barring Freydberg Terror

Striking workers of the Freydberg plants in Appomattox and Lynchburg, Va., recently turned the tables in a neat switch when they answered the company's injunction with an injunction of their own. In a man-bites-dog situation, the strikers were awarded an injunction ordering the company to stop coercing the pickets.

Attorney Arnold Schlossberg of Roanoke, the union's lawyer, pleaded before Judge Joel E. Flood in Appomattox that the instigators of all unlawful and violent acts were the Freydberg-Englander corporations and that they twisted the facts to make the injured strikers appear as the wrong-doers. Judge Flood accordingly issued an injunction against the Appomattox Garment Co., the Lynn Manufacturing Co. and all of their agents, officers and employees.

It was a happy day for the strikers when injunction notices were served on company officials and each individual strikebreaker, and were posted on the doors of the plants. The decree restrains the companies from "threats of force or violence, threats or insinuations of reprisals, intimidation, insulting or unlawful language or the actual employment of force or violence or other physical restraints to hinder, interfere with or prevent lawful picketing."

The strike, now in its twelfth week, has received a tremendous shot in the arm as a result of this injunction, which caught the two companies completely unaware. The union's victory in this matter followed closely on the heels of the injunction issued against the strikers—at which time the sheriff was invited to a union meeting to serve the papers on the strikers. As each girl received her injunction notice, she was rewarded with roars of applause from her fellow members.

Each paper received from the sheriff was accepted as if it were a coveted high school diploma. As the officer doled out the documents he was rewarded with remarks like, "I'll see you at election time—," "I'll remember you at the ballot box—" and the like.

Meetings held weekly in the high school auditorium in Appomattox have grown in attendance to the point now where they have become community enterprises, with figures upwards of 800 at meetings that in the early part of the three-month-old strike had only 350 to 400 present.

The situation has settled down considerably in that arrests on both sides have tapered off to nothing. Pickets are undaunted in their long trek at all entrances to the shops. About 35 per cent of the employer's normal force continues in strikebreaking operations inside the plants.

Production in the labor-busting Freydberg plants is so badly affected that his Virginia agent, Englander, has begun to lay off strikebreakers because of lack of work. The union has received a letter from the Virginia Unemployment Compensation Commission advising that several strikebreakers have applied for unemployment benefits.

Union officials and strikers have been encouraged by new expressions of support from a few of the elected officials and business men of the community who have finally begun to see the light and to understand that the battle being fought by the ILGWU and its members in Virginia is a fight for the self-respect of the town as a whole.

Last week a committee of 100 farmers, businessmen and workers not connected with the garment shops published an advertisement in the Appomattox newspaper calling on the merchants and politicians to be fair to the union people and thanking those who had already shown a broadminded approach to the problem.

Vice Pres. Charles Kreindler, Upper South Department supervisor, and Manager Angela Bambace have assured the workers that even though all efforts to bring the employer to the bargaining table have failed so far, the union will continue to give the workers all-out support until victory is won.

Encouragement has been drawn too from the ever-increasing numbers on the picket line of Freydberg's Greensboro, N. C., shop, where the entire cutting department has joined the strike.

Cleveland Union Trains Sights On Hess, Contract Companies

Non-union shops in and around Cleveland have become the targets of a new organizing drive following the successful organization of three Bloomfield Co. shops in Cleveland, Canton and Massillon, Ohio-Kentucky Director Nicholas Kirtzman reports.

Lined up in the union's sights are the Hess Manufacturing Co., cotton dress firm of Louisville, O., and the Contract Garment Sewing Co of Cleveland

The Hess shop, with 60 workers, has its parent plant in Wheeling, W. Va. The Contract Co., in existence for several years, has been sowing anti-union seeds among its workers for some time.

International organizers Robert Gladnick and Henry Glaser and student organizer Irving Kasden have rolled up their sleeves to wage a full campaign to win union conditions for the workers.

Handmacher-Vogel Talks

Representatives of three Handmacher-Vogel locals in Kentucky have initiated negotiations with the firm for renewal of the contract, and talks are tentatively set for some time in April.

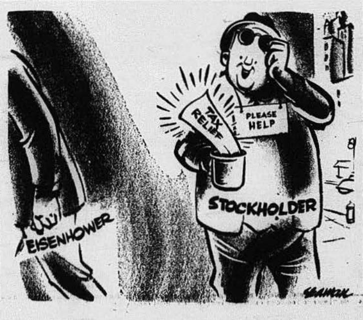
Participating in a conference Mar. 13 to outline the union's demands were William Kaufman, manager of the Kentucky area, Kirtzman and representatives of Local 481 of Glasgow, Local 526 of Harrodsburg and Local 472 of Lebanon.

Cleveland Conference

The first organizational conference of Ohio and Kentucky locals will be held May 22 and 23 in Cleveland, Kirtzman announces.

To be discussed at the conference are organizational, shop, political and welfare problems of mutual concern to locals in the area. Pres. David Dubinsky, Kirtzman and other ILG leaders will address the delegates.

"Gee, Thanks!"



Rice-Stix Employes Get Severance Pay

Over $1,000, representing the first severance payments won in the Southwest Region, was distributed to former employees of Rice-Stix Dry Goods in McLeansboro, Ill., last month. The firm made the settlement after deciding that it would not remain in McLeansboro, since no new plant to replace its old outmoded shop was available. Dave Topper of the union staff negotiated the settlement.

A unanimous vote approving the ILGWU as bargaining agent was cast by workers at Gross Sportswear Co., Princeton, Minn., on Mar. 19. The election, ordered by the National Labor Relations Board upon request of the union, guarantees establishment of union standards at this new women's sportswear firm.

Reinforcements on the Registration Front

Five members are added to executive board of Local 424, Johnstown, Pa., as affiliate readies its drive to insure registration of every member. Area is one of those designated by Political Department as "marginal" districts, where small percentage of vote can swing election. Assistant Manager George Griffiths, holding "One in Twenty" chart showing 'tight' areas, outlines registration drive to board.

10,600 Swell 35-Hour Week Ranks In 207 Eastern Out-of-Town Shops

More than 10,600 members of the Eastern Out-of-Town Department employed in 207 shops have won reduced working hours since the union launched its 35-hour drive last year, Vice Pres. Israel Horowitz told the department's staff conference last week.

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EOT managers, business agents and organizers, at an all-day session, heard the department's general manager give a detailed report of the affiliate's activities, as well as highlights of decisions reached by the recent meeting of the ILGWU General Executive Board. In addition, Horowitz referred to a number of current union matters, including new rules and regulations of the Dress Retirement Fund, multi-plant contracts, and a review of the status of health, vacation and retirement fund collections.

Others who presented reports to the meeting were Adolph Held, director of ILGWU Health and Welfare Benefits and administrator of the Eastern Region Retirement Fund; Edward Kramer and Abe Staum, the general manager's assistants, and Sol Kapelsohn, EOT general counsel, who analyzed legal problems facing trade unionists.

Held, who disclosed that retirement applications of 42 EOT members had been approved by the Eastern Region Retirement Fund, instructed staff members on assisting workers in filling out forms necessary to obtain first benefit checks.

In connection with Held's report, Horowitz indicated that all EOT locals will be arranging appropriate ceremonies to mark distribution of first pension checks to ERRF retirees.

Kramer, in pinpointing organizational developments, cited especially the union's success in winning such shops as Watertown Undergarment Co. in Waterbury, Conn., and Kops Brothers in Ozone Park, Long Island, employing more than 600 workers. At the same time, he warned, employer resistance to unionization is stiffening. The fact that it is easier for firms to obtain injunctions today than at any time during the last 20 years, and that in many localities police show partiality to management, bolster employers' anti-union attitudes, Kramer averred.

Staum, who detailed current conditions in the dress industry, described difficulties encountered in reaching price settlements. He stressed the necessity for continuing production without interruption while orderly collective bargaining machinery is at work.

1954 Eligibility Rules For Dress Retirement

Rules governing 1954 retirement of eligible dressmakers, for which registration starts Apr. 15, have been announced by the New York Dress Joint Board. These regulations are applicable to members of Locals 10, 22, 60 and 89, as well as those of out-of-town locals working for New York jobbers, who wish to retire effective Oct. 1, 1954.

In these rules, the phrase "covered employer" means one who has or had a union contract during the years concerned. "Contributing employer" means one who contributes to the retirement fund under terms of the dress collective contract. To be eligible, members must be able to meet requirements listed under either "A" or "B":

A	B
1. The member must be 65 or older as of June 15, 1954.	**1. The member must be 65 or older as of June 15, 1954.**
2. He must have worked in the industry in a union shop for the last 15 years.	**2. He must have worked in the industry in a union shop for 20 years, whether continuously or not.**
3. He must have been employed continuously in a contributing shop since April, 1949.	**3. He must have been continuously employed by a contributing employer in the industry, since 1947.**
4. (a) If the member quit the industry before 1949, he receives one "credit year" for each two years of actual work between 1933 and 1949, for a covered employer.	**4. (a) He receives one "credit year" for each year of membership AFTER 1933, while working for a covered employer in the industry.**
(b) In addition, the member receives one "credit year" for each year of last continuous employment for a covered employer in the industry.	**(b) In addition, one "credit year" will be given for each five years of actual work BEFORE 1933 for a covered employer in the industry.**
5. The total of "credit years" must add up to 15 or more.	**5. The total of "credit years" must add up to 20 or more.**

Here are two typical retirement cases:

Member X worked in a union shop from 1933 to 1943. He then left the industry, returned in 1944 and has worked continuously up to the present time.

In this case, the member receives five "credit years" for his ten years of work in the shop, prior to dropping out. He receives ten "credit years" for the ten years worked continuously from 1944 to the present time, 1954. Member X therefore has accumulated 15 "credit years" and is eligible for retirement.

In another case, Member Y worked in the industry from 1910 to 1930 and left the industry. For that period, he receives four "credit years," that is, one "credit year" for every five years of actual work.

Member Y returned to the industry and worked from 1934 to 1943, and left the industry again. For this period, he receives nine "credit years."

Returning to the industry again in 1947, he has worked continuously since. For the work period 1947 to 1954, Member Y receives seven "credit years." Member Y thus has accumulated a total of 20 "credit years," and is eligible for retirement.

Additional information may be obtained by visiting the Retirement Department, New York Dress Joint Board, 218 West 40th St., fourth floor.

IN THE MARKET

by Leon Stein

Consumer Confidence Slips, Federal Reserve Bd. Shows

We have now arrived at that season of the year in which, according to Administration leaders, it will be decided whether the nation can proceed without any special intervention of the government to correct economic imbalance or whether it will be necessary to launch a "slam-bang" program to hoist it up by its economic bootstraps.

The aggravating fact remains that the future is impenetrable. Even those experts who specialize in seeing ahead are compelled to admit that they deal only in better grade guesses.

Master of the situation is the consumer. The Federal Reserve Board takes an annual survey of consumer expectations. It has just released findings based on 2,800 interviews conducted this past January and February. The survey indicates that consumers have lost confidence even if they have not lost cash. With less confidence in their own economic futures they are planning to buy fewer cars, less furniture, less appliances.

Among other findings of the survey was a consumer tendency to postpone purchases. About 14 per cent, as compared with last year's 10 per cent, expected their incomes to decline this year.

Some interesting theories have been advanced to justify optimism at this time.

One of these comes from the retailers who insist, among themselves, that business can be better if selling becomes more vigorous. You've got to pull the customers in with screaming ads, with special merchandising, with hoopla sales. The consumer will buy if he is sold strong enough.

Another explanation for present consumer reluctance is found in the calendar. Apparently, the decline in sales is caused in large part by the lateness of Easter this year. Tough luck.

A third school of thought has been urging the nation to wait until those excise taxes are cut and the customers will break down the doors to buy toasters and mixers and what-nots.

The most interesting argument of all is the one that for a time has been advanced by the economists themselves who, in recent weeks, seem to have lost their initial enthusiasm for it. Sales are ahead of production, they insisted, because manufacturers and retailers are getting rid of their stocks and inventories. As soon as they clean out their shelves they will have to place orders again for more goods and we will be back on our feet again.

A certain amount of hesitation has crept into this tune of late. With one thing depending on another it now develops that getting rid of stock has meant less work in the shops, less money in the pay envelope, less sales slips in the stores and less orders for the manufacturers. This is our old friend, the spiral. To stop it we will need confidence as well as cash.

AWAIT NLRB RULING ON DISPUTED VOTES IN ELLIS ELECTION

Hearings by the National Labor Relations Board concerning the status of challenged ballots in the Connecticut Ellis plant elections were concluded Mar. 25, Vice Pres George Rubin, manager of the Cloak Out-of-Town Department, announces.

Evidence was presented as to the eligibility of 125 ballots, the great majority of which were challenged by the company, that were cast in balloting held last Oct. 5. The score of ballots counted so far stands at 229 for the ILGWU and 248 for no union.

Final decision on the questioned ballots will be made by the NLRB in Washington. If enough challenged voters are declared eligible, it is expected that a union victory will result. In that event, the board will certify the ILGWU as official bargaining agent for workers of the Ellis plants in New Britain and Manchester, Conn.

At the hearing, the firm maintained that most of the challenged voters had been laid off "indefinitely" and thereby lost their employment status. However, evidence indicated that many of them had been told their layoff was only temporary, and a number have been called back to work.

Handling the case for the union were Morris Glushien, ILGWU general counsel, and Charles Mandelstam of the Legal Department. Irwin Suall, who conducted the organization campaign at the firm under direction of Vice Pres. Rubin, assisted.

Ring in the New

Shelley Appleton (left), new manager of Local 99, Office and Distribution Employees, is installed in New York in ceremonies attended by (left to right) Harry Sesofsky, executive board chairman, Pres. David Dubinsky, Vice Pres. Louis Stulberg, and Local 105 Manager Martin Cohen.

Pottsville Enrolls 225, Scores Raises for 250

Substantial wage boosts for 250 members and additions of 225 new workers to union ranks highlight the recent gains chalked up by Local 351 in the Pottsville, Pa., area, of the NE Department, District Manager Oscar Newman reports.

A 6 per cent pay increase was won for members employed at Summit Station Manufacturing Co. of Pine Grove and the two shops of Tower City Manufacturing Co. of Tower City. The raises go into effect Apr. 12 at the Tower City plants, and Summit Station workers will receive theirs about the same time.

Both companies are covered by collective agreements of the New York dress industry. The Summit Station shop works for "Kelrose" and the two Tower City mills produce "Mago Walters" and "Sunshine Togs" garments.

Newly organized plants in the Pottsville area are the Alco Tex Manufacturing Co. of Minersville, which employs 50; the Carmin-Lou Dress Co. of Pottsville, 75; a branch mill of Summit Station located in Pottsville, and the MacReady Manufacturing Co. of Minersville, 45.

The Alco Tex firm makes shirtwaist blouses and miscellaneous sportswear, the Carmin-Lou shop produces dresses, Summit Station makes ladies' sportswear and the MacReady shop contracts on dresses.

All the new shops have become members of the Pennsylvania Manufacturers' Assn., with which the union has contractual relations

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Business Agent F. Habib Of N. Y. Local 62 Dead

Fred Habib, business agent of Local 62, Undergarment and Negligee Workers, died Mar. 30 in New York after a long illness. He was 42 years old. Habib had been associated with the local since 1933, and was widely respected by his colleagues and the workers whom he served.

The deceased leaves a wife and two children. Funeral services were held Apr. 1 at Our Lady of Lebanon home in Brooklyn.

ILG Donates $10,000 For Truman Library

Acting on a recommendation by its finance committee, the ILGWU General Executive Board, meeting in Washington last month, voted to contribute $10,000 toward building of the Harry S. Truman Library in Independence, Mo. The structure will house important papers and documents bearing on events that occurred during the former President's Administration.

Creation of New Styles Seen Undergarment Industry Need

Those undergarment firms that have had the foresight and ingenuity to anticipate new style demands of the consumer have been able to hold their own in a season that has not been good generally, according to Vice Pres. Louis Stulberg, manager of Local 62, New York Undergarment Workers.

On the other hand, the more inflexible, unimaginative manufacturer has found his orders curtailed and little work for his employees, Stulberg stated in reporting to the local membership on current industrial conditions.

He cited especially the new trend in negligees, short garments to be worn in the home, which allow freedom for household tasks and at the same time are attractive and well styled.

Commenting on spring styles, Stulberg pointed out that the American woman has found greater comfort—and a becoming style—in the full skirt. Popularity of this skirt has produced a demand for the full petticoat (often stiffened) that goes with it, and firms that sensed this trend have "cashed in" on this line in many different materials.

Turning to the role of synthetics, the undergarment manager asserted that synthetic materials are not always comfortable for hot weather wear, nor do they have the body and crispness of cotton. As a result, he reported, their dominance in the lingerie field is waning, and for the past few summers styles have seen the return of cotton undergarments and negligees to the market.

Stulberg warned that, though many industrial factors maintain a hopeful outlook for the immediate future, the apparel trades are so quickly affected by general business conditions throughout the country that expectations for prosperous conditions in ladies' garments must depend on the health of the national economy—on the buying power of the general public.

Three Shops Bagged in Drive By Long Island EOT Locals

Sustained organizational activity by the Long Island, N. Y., locals of the Eastern Out-of-Town Department has resulted in unionization of three additional shops in the last few weeks, it is reported by Manager Jack Grossman.

Organization of the **J. Salvo Co.**, skirt and blouse contractor of Richmond Hill, was achieved after a year-long campaign. The firm agreed to abide by terms of the industry-wide agreement by joining the Greater Blouse and Skirt Assn.

Workers won a reduction in hours from 40 to 35, with piece workers receiving a compensating wage increase and time workers getting the same pay for the lesser hours as they received for 40. Before they were unionized, employees had no paid holidays; now they will have six and one-half.

Anna Zolla was named chairlady of the Salvo shop.

Laurelton Apparel Manufacturing Co. of Springfield Gardens, another blouse and skirt contractor, also cut hours from 40 to 35 in joining union ranks. Piece workers obtained a compensating pay boost while week workers, in addition to getting the same pay for the lesser hours, received a further $2 increase. Paid holidays standard in the industry also are provided. Dorothy Cohen was elected shop chairlady.

Also added to union rolls was **Richey Blouse and Dress Co.**, dress contractor of Woodhaven. This company has joined the United Popular Dress Manufacturers' Assn., and as a result workers will enjoy all benefits and standards provided under terms of the collective agreement in the New York dress industry.

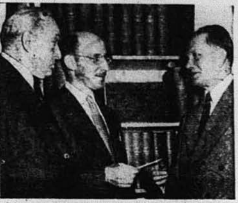
Hours were reduced from 37½ to 35, week workers will get the same pay as formerly and piece workers will receive all percentage adjustments over and above settled prices on par with those in effect in the dress industry. Six and one-half holidays will be paid for. Lydia Myers was elected shop chairlady.

Assisting Manager Grossman in organizational work at these shops were Business Agents Richard Cerbone and Bert Cooper.

New Trade for New Americans

Utilizing skill of new refugees for work in garment trades is important function of Bramson School of Organization for Rehabilitation through Training (ORT) in New York. Above, Jack Liebson (right), member of Neckwear Workers' Local 142, instructs recent immigrants in cutting techniques. Local 142 Manager Joseph Tuvim, chairman of school, reports 10,000 newcomers in New York have received free garment industry training at Bramson.

Chipping In for Good Health



On behalf of ILGWU, Vice Pres. Louis Stulberg (right) presents check for $500 to Beth Israel Hospital Charles H. Silver Clinic, for Alumni Association Building and Maintenance Fund. Receiving contribution are Silver and Medical Director Maxwell Frank.

"IN OTHER WORDS . . ."

by Frank McGilla

Higher Minimum Pay Means Greater Apparel Production

In my shop, there's a woman who makes about $1.50 an hour. Ever since she reached this point, she has worked out a dollar-and-fifty-cent philosophy. She talks like this to me:

"What are you bothering me with a petition to my Congressman to raise the minimum wages from 75 cents to $1.25? I'm the wrong one to talk to. I make at least $1.50 already. It's not my business if those other ones make 75 cents or twenty-five cents. I mind my own business—strictly!"

The trouble with such a dollar-and-fifty-cent philosophy is that it's very bad business.

In my shop we make cotton dresses. Now who wears these dresses? Mainly housewives and women who work. These women—and their husbands—may be peanut pickers or salmon canners in Texas or Oregon. How much they make is very important to me and it should be to my philosopher friend who likes to mind her own business. How much the peanut pickers or the salmon canners make decides how many cotton dresses they buy.

If people are making only 75 cents an hour—which is $35 for a 40-hour work week—they can't buy as many dresses as when they make $1.25 an hour—which is $50 a week.

These other workers are our customers. They buy what we make. The more they make, the more we make.

Another reason, too, why this minimum wage is our business. There are some bosses who are always "moving," or at least they say they're "moving" whenever there is even the smallest trouble in the shop.

Where will they move? They're always talking about those places where they pay less, where they pay 75 cents an hour. I'm tired of such talk—and a good way to stop it is by seeing to it that no matter where the boss goes he will have to pay at least $1.25 an hour.

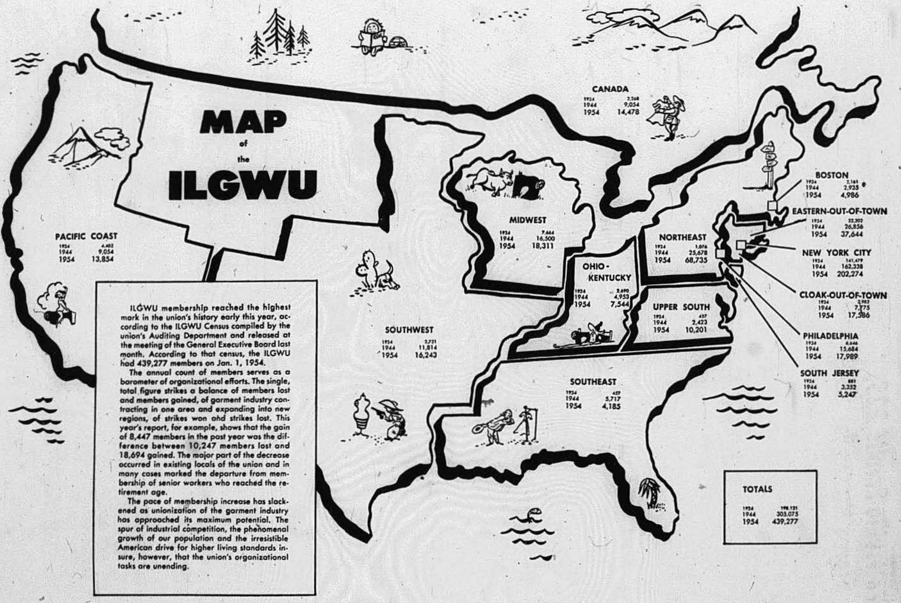
In other words, a higher minimum wage is everybody's business. The higher the minimum, the more work, the steadier the work, the higher the maximum, and the higher the in-between

Also, just in case you may be one of those who has a heart for other people, even if they live a hundred miles away, you might remember that it's pretty hard to raise a family on 30 bucks a week. It's a little easier on 50.

Prelude to a Long Vacation

Easton, Pa., District Manager Grace Sardegna Birkel presents honorary life membership cards in ILGWU to retirees George Amato, Lena Azzalina, and Catherine Check. Illness prevented attendance of fourth member of group, Sara Ardizzone.

MAP of the ILGWU


CANADA
1934 2,268
1944 9,054
1954 14,478
PACIFIC COAST
1934 4,402
1944 9,054
1954 13,854
SOUTHWEST
1934 2,721
1944 11,814
1954 16,243
MIDWEST
1934 7,664
1944 16,500
1954 18,311
OHIO-KENTUCKY
1934 2,690
1944 4,953
1954 7,544
NORTHEAST
1934 1,076
1944 25,678
1954 68,735
UPPER SOUTH
1934 457
1944 2,423
1954 10,201
SOUTHEAST
1934 457
1944 5,717
1954 4,185
BOSTON
1934 2,161
1944 2,935
1954 4,986
EASTERN-OUT-OF-TOWN
1934 22,202
1944 26,856
1954 37,644
NEW YORK CITY
1934 141,479
1944 162,338
1954 202,274
CLOAK-OUT-OF-TOWN
1934 2,987
1944 7,775
1954 17,586
PHILADELPHIA
1934 6,646
1944 15,684
1954 17,989
SOUTH JERSEY
1934 881
1944 3,352
1954 5,247
TOTALS
1934 198,131
1944 305,075
1954 439,277

ILGWU membership reached the highest mark in the union's history early this year, according to the ILGWU Census compiled by the union's Auditing Department and released at the meeting of the General Executive Board last month. According to that census, the ILGWU had 439,277 members on Jan. 1, 1954.

The annual count of members serves as a barometer of organizational efforts. The single, total figure strikes a balance of members lost and members gained, of garment industry contracting in one area and expanding into new regions, of strikes won and strikes lost. This year's report, for example, shows that the gain of 8,447 members in the past year was the difference between 10,247 members lost and 18,694 gained. The major part of the decrease occurred in existing locals of the union and in many cases marked the departure from membership of senior workers who reached the retirement age.

The pace of membership increase has slackened as unionization of the garment industry has approached its maximum potential. The spur of industrial competition, the phenomenal growth of our population and the irresistible American drive for higher living standards insure, however, that the union's organizational tasks are unending.

1934

1944

ILGWU MEMBERSHIP

1954

The ILGWU today is at its greatest organizational strength. Peak membership has been achieved in spite of new challenges and changing attitudes toward the ideals and program of organized labor. But all growth of the union has been attained in the face of obstacles, sometimes more severe and numerous than at other times.

1934 The report of the General Executive Board to the Twenty-Second Convention of the ILGWU in 1934 noted that "We have gained in the past year nearly 150,000 new members boosting our total in two years from 60,000 to 198,131. From an unenviable position as tail-end union in the ranks of American labor, we have emerged as the third largest international union in the American Federation of Labor, with our fighting morale at its highest point and our material resources multiplied many times. But we still have a distance to go.

1944 Ten years later the Twenty-Eighth Convention met in a time of war. A good deal of the distance to which the GEB referred in its report of 1934 already had been covered, with the ILGWU counting a total of 305,075 members. Said the GEB, in its report to the 1944 Convention:

"Out of the gain of 65,000 members in the last four years, no less than 50,000 was scored in the non-war year of 1941 as the result of widespread organizing campaigns throughout the country. In regularity of employment, in dollar volume, in the development of welfare provisions we have made significant progress."

1954 Now, twenty years after its first great spurt in membership and a decade after the end of the war, the ILGWU faces new organizational tasks emerging in an industry in which competitive practices have reasserted themselves, in which new methods and techniques of production are being developed in which the mobility always characteristic of its markets has resulted in the spread of garment making into new centers and regions.

NEW YORK CITY — The major census change for the big city has been the rise in the membership of its miscellaneous locals during the past ten years. These have increased their membership in that period from 66,215 to 98,819 or 49 per cent, while total membership in the city rose 25 per cent.

But of 12,000 retirements from membership under benefit rules, 7,000 have been in cloaks and 3,500 in dress divisions, so that the problem of finding replacements has grown more acute. Over the ten-year span dress membership dropped from 40 to 32 per cent of the city total and cloak membership remained the same proportion of the total in 1954 as in 1944. But in the last three years cloak membership dropped from 44,392 to 38,735; dress from 68,632 to 64,720 while miscellaneous rose from 89,421 to 98,819.

Percentages of Total ILGWU Membership

	1944 %	1954 %
New York City	53.2	46.1
Eastern Out-of-Town	8.9	8.6
Cloak Out-of-Town	2.6	4.0
Northeast	8.4	15.6
Philadelphia	5.2	4.1
South Jersey	1.1	1.2
Boston	1.0	1.1
Upper South	.8	2.3
Southeast	1.9	1.0
Ohio-Kentucky	1.6	1.7
Midwest	5.4	4.2
Southwest	3.9	3.7
West Coast	3.0	3.1
Canada	3.0	3.3
	100.0	100.0

EASTERN OUT-OF-TOWN—Membership in the non-cloak locals in areas immediately around New York City has risen 40 per cent in the last ten years. Production of miscellaneous women's apparel has increased at a rapid rate. In this area dress production was 59 per cent of total garment production ten years ago; today it is 46 per cent.

CLOAK OUT-OF-TOWN—Workers making cloaks in the areas around New York City are governed by Cloak Joint Board contract terms. In the past ten years their numbers have increased more than 125 per cent.

NORTHEAST—The growth of this department's membership, spread through New England, Upstate New York and Pennsylvania, has been phenomenal in the past decade. Its count of 25,678 members in 1944 was considered to be a mark of tremendous organizational progress, in an area of organizational difficulties consisting for the most part of smaller centers and establishments located in rural areas.

Since then many of the establishments that were considered to be merely outposts of the New York market have become permanent features of their respective communities inheriting the traditional problems of the industry. In the past ten years the Northeast membership rose 168 per cent.

SOUTHEAST—The Deep South continues to be the area in which great organizational effort yields only modest results. The area has recently become the center of new interest on the part of employers and drives of new vigor by ILGWU organizers.

PHILADELPHIA—In this Keystone State metropolis the ILGWU touched off its great organizational revival with a major strike in 1933. Membership has been stabilized, going from a total of 15,684 in 1944 to 17,989 this year.

SOUTH JERSEY — Slow but steady organizational work has brought ILGWU membership in this area up from 3,352 ten years ago to a present count of 5,247.

BOSTON—As a center for the manufacture of the well-tailored garment and other specialties Boston has held its own. Joint board membership in the past year has risen 70 per cent.

UPPER SOUTH—Organizational drives directed from headquarters in Baltimore have scored remarkable union growth in a territory in which determined community opposition to unionism matched by strong pro-labor sentiments of the workers is not uncommon. These have made for frequent labor struggles of great intensity. The result in the past decade has been a membership jump from 2,423 to 10,201 or about 320 per cent.

OHIO-KENTUCKY—Membership in this area largely outside of Cleveland has increased more than 50 per cent in the past ten years.

SOUTHWEST—In this vast region membership rose 37 per cent in the last ten years. About one-third of the membership is in St. Louis.

MIDWEST—Chicago, in the last decade, has experienced a slight decline. In other sections of the area membership rose by 30 per cent in the same period.

WEST COAST—Membership of West Coast locals is up 53 per cent in ten years. Los Angeles raised its membership by 42 per cent for a total of 9,851; San Francisco doubled for a total of 2,882.

CANADA—Canadian membership is now 45 per cent higher than it was ten years ago. More than 60 per cent of membership is in Montreal.

1953 Financial Report ILGWU General Office

As has been our practice for many years past, a detailed financial report covering the General Office and the local unions and joint boards will be published sometime in June when the annual audits of our affiliates throughout the country are completed. The report will then be made available to our affiliates and to our members, and full and sufficient notice will be given to them that such a report is available.

This report of the General Office only is printed in its present form in advance of the audits of the local unions in order to comply with NLRB requirements.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
December 31, 1953

ASSETS

Cash	$ 1,848,056.43	
U. S. Government Bonds	16,603,426.20	
Loans Receivable	5,658,765.26	
Investment in Corporate Stock	110,502.00	
Mortgages Receivable	235,000.00	
Deposits	425.00	
Furniture, Fixtures, Automobiles	89,959.05	
Inventory—Supplies, Labels, etc.	25,000.00	
Total Assets		$24,571,133.94

LIABILITIES

On Account of Collections	1,150,820.58	
Withholding Tax	22,540.96	
Securities	3,558.00	
Reserve Available for Death Benefit Payments for Members	10,069,715.66	
Staff Retirement Fund	15,314.78	
Total Liabilities		$11,261,949.98

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
January 1 to December 31, 1953

RECEIPTS

Dues Per Capita	$ 4,147,889.75	
Death Benefit Funds	3,188,191.61	
Initiation Tax	117,552.35	
Supplies	24,702.05	
Interest on Investments	476,027.14	
Miscellaneous Receipts	27,931.88	
Total Receipts		$7,982,294.78

DISBURSEMENTS

Administrative Expense

Publications Cost—Printing, Mailing, etc.	382,851.79	
Salaries—Bookkeepers, Stenographers, Clerks, etc.	467,488.15	
Rent—Office	37,669.03	
Printing, Stationery and Postage	69,029.86	
Telephone and Telegraph	34,289.01	
Dues to Other Organizations	215,485.22	
FICA, Federal, State Unemployment Insurance and Annuities	61,481.71	
ILGWU Staff Retirement Fund	164,329.78	
Departmental Expense	89,533.27	
Miscellaneous Expense	30,769.30	
Total Administrative Expenses		1,552,927.12

Organization Expense

Salaries—Organizers	943,211.66	
Organizing Expense	473,123.80	
Legal Fees and Expenses	55,502.49	
Committee Expense	10,642.80	
Educational and Recreational Expenses	84,183.96	
ILGWU Training Institute	75,457.68	
Publicity, Advertising—Radio	12,696.90	
Strike Benefit and Expense	166,138.48	
ILGWU Convention Expense	118,001.99	
Total Organization Expense		1,938,959.74

Donations and Relief

Relief to Members	2,815.00	
Charitable and Labor Organizations	444,140.67	
Total Donations and Relief		446,955.67
Death Benefit Payments to Members		1,677,424.27
Total Disbursements		$5,616,266.80

Switch to Piece Work Sought To Boost Pay at Annshire Co.

A change in production from time to piece work topped the list of demands put forth by the Southwest Regional Office in talks with the Annshire Garment Co. of Pittsburg, Kan., on Mar. 19. According to union spokesmen, the time work system now in effect at Annshire has resulted in a wage level substantially below that prevailing in other cloak shops in the region.

In requesting the production changeover, Vice Pres. Meyer Perlstein emphasized that the new system must provide for wage yardsticks to keep earnings from falling below minimum standards. At the same time, there should be no restrictions on the workers' ability to add to their income by utilizing skill and experience.

Assisting Regional Office representatives were officers of Local 509. Joseph Koralchik, legal adviser to the Kansas City Garment Manufacturers Assn. and counsel for Annshire, was present for management. Still pending in a federal court is a suit by the union against Annshire asking back pay owed several of the company's employees.

Weil-Kalter Arbitration

Three instances in which the Weil-Kalter Manufacturing Co. violated contract provisions were outlined at arbitration proceedings against the firm on Mar. 17.

In the first case, union spokesmen said that the company had reduced the number of paid holidays in its shipping departments because the workers received a 10 per cent wage increase when they joined the union. It was also charged that the firm refused to provide the union with statements of average hourly earnings of piece workers and that it had locked out piece workers in its Millstadt, Ill., and Louisiana, Mo., shops.

Other Weil-Kalter shops represented by workers' committees, who testified to the correctness of the union charges, were those in Bristow, Okla., and Poplar Bluff and Malden, Mo. Additional hearings were set for Mar. 24.

LOS ANGELES CLOAK RAISES CONVERTED INTO PERCENTAGES

Piece workers in Los Angeles coat and suit factories under contract with the ILGWU will have their last two wage increases converted into percentages, it was announced by Isidor Stenzor, manager of the Los Angeles Cloak Joint Board. Week workers will continue to receive their increases on the same hourly basis as in the past.

The conversion, to take effect Apr. 5, includes total increases of $8.25—$4.25 gained originally in the agreement of January, 1951, and $4 negotiated last autumn and made effective Nov. 2, 1953 by the industry impartial chairman.

Percentage rates, based on average earnings, will be 7 per cent for operators, 10½ per cent for finishers, 5 per cent for pressers, 9 per cent for lining makers, and 9 per cent for skirt makers. These will be added to existing percentage bonuses which range from 16 per cent for pressers to 27 per cent for finishers. The increases are added to the paycheck after all piece rate work, including overtime, has been computed, Stenzor said.

A joint meeting of executive board members of Operators' Local 55, Finishers' Local 58, and the Cloak Division of Pressers' Local 97 gathered at Cloak Joint Board headquarters on Mar. 22 and unanimously approved the recommendations of the union's administration on the increases. Local membership meetings during the next two weeks will receive the recommendations.

Signing Up for Freedom

Crusade for Freedom and Radio Free Europe received 100 per cent support of workers in Robert Bruce Knitwear Co. in Philadelphia last month. Frances Daly and Jane Rush, members of Local 190, sign petition backing up Crusade's fight against Soviet tyranny in Eastern Europe. This shop was first in city to deliver unanimous endorsement of organization's work.

From the Army of Labor to the Army of Salvation

Local 373, Bristow, Okla., reaffirmed its importantrole in community life last month with contribution to Salvation Army. Local members are employed by Weil-Kalter Manufacturing Co.

Upstate N.Y., Vt. Renewals Win Major Gains for 1,500

Agreements recently renewed by the Northeast Department's Upstate New York and Vermont District with six area garment manufacturers grant the 1,500 members employed by these firms wage increases or a shorter work week and other union benefits, according to District Supervisor Max Wexler. Where hours were cut, workers were assured the same pay they previously received for 40 hours.

The renewal with **Dick's Dress Co.** of Rutland, Vt., which employs 90 workers in the manufacture of women's dresses, provided for a 6 per cent wage adjustment and reduced hours effective as of Jan. 11, 1954.

In Massena, N. Y., the contract covering 350 employees of the **Warner Brothers Co.**, which manufactures corsets and brassieres, became effective Mar. 11 and granted a shorter work week with a compensating pay boost of 6½ per cent.

College Knitting Mills of Buffalo, N. Y., agreed to pay a 5 per cent general wage increase to their 50 workers effective Apr. 1. The company manufactures knitwear.

On Mar. 1, the **Kordeen Manufacturing Co.** with plants in Herkimer and Utica, N. Y., under terms of its new union agreement, increased wages by 6 per cent and reduced the work week. The firm employs 500 and manufactures sportswear for women.

The **Elmira Knitting Mills** of Elmira, N. Y., employing 300 workers in the manufacture of knitted products, agreed to contribute 2 per cent of payroll, to the union's retirement fund effective as of Jan. 1, 1954.

Terms of the renewed agreement with the **Ford Manufacturing Co.** of Waterford, N. Y., are retroactive to Nov. 25, 1953 and specify a 4 to 6 per cent general wage increase. More than 225 workers are employed by the company.

Shop committees of workers from the various mills were involved in the negotiating conferences. Heading the negotiating teams was District Supervisor Max Wexler, who was assisted, in Rutland and Waterford, by Business Agent Alec Karesky, and in Buffalo, Massena and Elmira by Business Agent James Belluso. Vice Pres. David Gingold, director of the Northeast Department, served as advisor to the negotiators during talks with Kordeen.

Junior Trend Co. in Montreal Signs Pact After Short Halt

The employer of Junior Trend in Montreal just couldn't take a hint. First he tried to scare his employees away from the ILGWU by making veiled references to the fact that most of them are recent displaced persons. Then he twice tried to bring in a rival union. Then he got just plain ornery. When he paused to think up some new dodges, his employees began a work stoppage. Result: Welcome to the ILGWU, Junior Trend!

The Montreal Cloak Joint Council has been wrangling with this firm for several months, Vice Pres. Bernard Shane reports, despite the fact that the employees, most of whom recently arrived in Canada from German DP camps, clearly indicated their preference for the ILGWU. In several instances, the employer tried to take advantage of their status as newcomers to "threaten" the workers if they joined a union.

However, the firm had no such compunctions about forcing its workers to join the "National Syndicates" union. This may have had something to do with the fact that absolutely no improvements were included in the Syndicate's contract. And that may have had something to do with the fact that the employees twice threatened to strike if the Syndicate was brought in.

On Feb. 26, the workers stopped production and prepared to make their demands stick. The employer thereupon signed a contract with the ILGWU and all standard conditions and improvements went into effect.

Miller Striking

Thirty-five employees of A. J. Miller are in the sixth week of their strike designed to force the firm to rehire workers discharged for union activity and to sign an ILGWU contract.

When the majority of employees signified their desire to gain union status, the ILGWU asked for a certifying election from the Quebec Labor Relations Board. The employer thereupon discharged several workers known to be active in the union. The employees promptly accepted the challenge and walked out.

SERVICES EXPANDED FOR HOSPITALIZED ST. LOUIS MEMBERS

ILGWU members in St. Louis, Mo., now will receive free care during and after hospitalization, according to an agreement reached last month. The treatment is provided through the St. Louis Health Center. Prior to the agreement, all health services had to be given on the center's premises.

Vice Pres. Meyer Perlstein, Southwest regional director, announced the new policy following a conference with the Associated Garment Industries of St. Louis on Mar. 18.

The medical requirements underlining the extension of services were explained by Dr. Melvin B. Kirstein, the center's medical director.

Under the new plan, ILGers required to be hospitalized will receive medical treatment including surgery, X-rays, anesthetics, etc. After returning home, the member is entitled to continue receiving doctor's care for a limited period.

Council 1 Fete

District Council 1, comprised of ILGWU locals with members employed in shops of Forest City Manufacturing Co., celebrated its seventh anniversary at a luncheon in St. Louis on Mar. 13. Eula Carson, president of the council, and Russell Thompson, manager, came in for high praise from Vice Pres. Perlstein and other speakers for the excellent manner in which they have guided the unit since 1946.

NAACP Legal Unit Elects Zimmerman

Vice Pres. Charles S. Zimmerman, manager of New York Dressmakers' Local 22, has been elected to the board of directors of the Legal Defense and Educational Fund of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People.

The fund is the legal arm of the NAACP, and in the past 15 years has been actively involved in hundreds of cases affecting the rights of Negro Americans, including preparation of the case now before the Supreme Court aimed at ending segregation in public and elementary schools.

Nagler Calls for Section Work in Cheaper Lines To Boost Employment in New York Cloak Trade

A positive policy of encouraging the introduction of section work in order to save the tailor shops that remain in the cheaper lines of New York's cloak industry has been recommended by Vice Pres. Isidore Nagler, general manager of the Cloak Joint Board of that city. It was made in a special report presented by Nagler last month to the officers of the board and was based on many months of intensive study of the problems confronting the cloak industry in New York.

NAGLER

Nagler's analysis of the industry included a summary examination of recent changes in the nation's economy. During World War II, the American consumer, because of war production, was unable to buy hard goods. As a result, there developed a great increase in demand for women's coats and suits. Since 1949, the industry has suffered a recession, because the consumer concentrated his buying on the durable goods that had become available in sufficient supply.

The new habits of American home life as well as the growth of suburbia, the development of new fibres and the growing informality of American life have all led to a more informal way of dress, with stress on separates rather than the usual coats and suits. He also examined the effect of the present recession on the coat and suit industry.

Nagler dealt in detail with these three major changes:

1. The cloak industry's labor force.
2. Section work.
3. Cloak Joint Board membership.

Folllowing are highlights from General Manager Nagler's report:

Labor Force

Important changes have taken place in the composition of the coat and suit industry's labor force since the beginning of World War II. Historically the industry was one in which male workers, skilled mechanics producing the entire garment on the tailor system, were predominant. The major source of the industry's labor supply had been immigration—prior to the Eighties, of Germans, then of Jews, and later of Italians—that continued until restrictive legislation was enacted in the early Nineteen Twenties.

Many immigrants came to these shores as skilled tailors and went, naturally, into the needle trades. Others, because of language barriers, found that the easiest way to start life in the new country was to go into the trades where their fellow countrymen already were. It was quite common, and was considered a moral obligation, for a skilled worker to take his "landsman" or "paisan" from the old country into his shop and teach him the trade.

This immigration was the reservoir from which the skilled cloakmakers came. Through the toil and idealism that animated these people, the great Cloakmakers' Union was built.

With the restriction of immigration in the Nineteen Twenties, particularly from those countries from which most of our members came, the source of cloak mechanics was virtually cut off. But unlike other industries, into which a substantial number of children of immigrant workers followed their parents, an entirely different picture emerges in the case of the cloak industry.

The immigrants were quickly Americanized and caught hold of the American dream of rising on the social ladder, if not by them, then at least by their children.

Among Jewish workers, the stress on the importance of education, and the abundant opportunities which were opening up with the great expansion of the white collar field, led them to make great sacrifices in order to provide their American-born children with higher education.

Moreover, the nature and character of the cloak industry, with its intense seasonality and attendant insecurity of annual earnings, were not the type of working conditions conducive to attracting young Americans. Even after conditions had improved very substantially, as a result of our union's victories, the myth that the cloak industry was a sweated trade persisted.

The Italian community is following the same pattern, being only a decade or so behind, simply because its mass immigration had started later. Young Italian men have not been entering the cloak shops recently either. Italian girls, who up to now were entering the industry, came only to spend a few years in it, and even their numbers are beginning to dwindle.

The drying up of the reservoir of the industry's labor force has ramifications that are most important for the industry and the Union.

Section Work

The development of section work on a large scale is of fairly recent origin, dating back to the war years, when the industry expanded in all lines—better, medium and cheaper—in response to an exceptional increase in demand for its products. The New York cloak contractors, as well as the workers, were so fully absorbed on the medium and better lines, where more money could be made, that they therefore were indifferent to the lower price range.

Not being able to find sufficient manpower and productive facilities within New York City, the cheaper end of the industry spread into outlying areas. In the small towns of New Jersey or upstate New York labor was available, because the wages offered women in the cloak shops generally were higher than what they could earn elsewhere.

Large plants were built in these small communities, which were happy to have them. The growth of this new labor force is reflected in the fact that the out-of-town proportion of the total Cloak Joint Board membership has risen steadily, from 12.2 per cent in 1940 to 29.2 per cent as of July 1, 1953.

The general trend toward simpler styles, which cut out a great deal of skilled hand work, helped pave the way for section work, and was accelerated by government wartime production regulations, such as restrictions on the use of trimmings, etc., which forced a simplification of garments.

Since skilled mechanics were not available in the outlying areas, the new shops manufactured the garment on a division of labor basis, whereby all that was needed was a core of well-paid skilled workers for the more intricate operations, while the bulk of the complement of workers was easily trained (most women have some familiarity with sewing machines) to perform the more routine and simple operations. In time, the section system operators, although not mechanics, became quite proficient in their particular operations.

The advantage of a good factory, with workers of lesser skill being used for the more simplified operations, resulted in the production of a garment that was less costly and more uniform in quality. Naturally, the joint board took immediate steps to unionize the workers in the sectionalized shops in both their, and our own, interest. Had we not done so, they would have become a real danger to our existence.

For understandable reasons, the union, in the past, took a position against section work, even refusing officially to recognise it, though it existed right across the bridges over the East and Hudson Rivers. This system of production has grown, and today more than half our members are employed in the section shops. We must recognise the significance of this fact.

Membership

The industry, not being able to find sufficient manpower in New York City during the war years, expanded in the outlying areas. The great expansion in the industry's production occurred during the decades of the Nineteen Forties and the total Cloak Joint Board membership rose by 30,084 in that 11-year span (1940-1951), growing from 33,322 in 1940 to 63,406 by 1951.

Three joint board affiliates: Local 23, Skirt and Sportswear workers; Local 48, Italian Cloakmakers, (whose great expansion in membership resulted from the growth of section shops in the Brooklyn territory); and the Out-of-Town Department, together, accounted for 27,324 of the 30,000-member expansion. While it is true that our other cloak locals did grow somewhat during, and immediately after, the war, that increase was never enough to handle the tremendous growth in the industry's production. Thus Cloak Operators' Local 117, at its peak of 9,750 members in 1948, had only 623 members more than in 1940. Pressers' Local 35 membership also reached its height in 1948—3,408, but this was only 138 more than in 1940.

Since the industry's 1948 production peak, Local 117 has lost 18.5 per cent of its membership, Local 9, 14.7 per cent and Local 35, 25.6 per cent. These losses in membership have occurred despite the taking in of new members, for the simple reason that retirements and deaths are greater than recruitment.

The Coat and Suit Industry Retirement Fund finds that, at the present, 64.3 per cent of the Local 117 membership is 56 years of age or older; in Local 9, 52.6 per cent is 56 years and over; and in Local 35 (sportswear pressers included), 49.2 per cent are in this upper age bracket.

In this respect, the coat and suit industry differs from other sections of the garment industry. In the dress, skirt and miscellaneous trades, as the Jewish and Italian proportions of the labor force have declined, their ranks have been filled by younger people of other national origins.

In the cloak locals, the Jewish membership has been falling steadily, and the membership of the Italian Cloakmakers' Union, Local 48, after a remarkable rise during the decade of the Forties, has declined 17.6 per cent in the past two and one-half years.

Our locals, experiencing a decline in membership at a time when their expenses have been rising, face financial problems. Realizing that such matters, under our local autonomous set-up, belong to the locals for their consideration, I nevertheless feel it my duty to express my sincere belief that they should give serious thought to the possibility of solving these problems, either by consolidation of their administrative affairs or by merging, in those cases in which it is practical.

Naturally, I do not underestimate the complex nature and difficulty of the task, but I am convinced that times and conditions eventually may compel us to take these steps. However, in some instances, we shall find that it may be a bit too late for corrective action. I am, therefore, asking the leadership of the locals in question to give this matter their earnest attention.

The pertinent question to be asked at this point is, "Why haven't other groups entered the New York cloak industry so far?" There are two reasons. For one thing, it is easier to work on the lighter materials—silk, rayon, etc.—of which the garments of other women's apparel industries are made. Secondly, since New York cloak shops use the tailor system of production almost exclusively, the potential work force cannot enter the trade, for it doesn't have the skill of our old mechanics.

Nor do these other elements have the opportunity to learn that skill, for in large measure, they are not adaptable to the tailor system; moreover, these new elements lack personal contact with skilled workers.

For these reasons, the available labor forge in New York City is declining, thus confronting our industry and our union with serious problems that demand solution.

Conclusion

Thse necessity for increasing employment opportunities in New York is clear to everyone. The prime obligation of our union is to do all in its power to protect its members who will continue to work in the industry for many years to come.

The importance of maintaining the union as a powerful force in New York is also obvious. Everyone will agree that a union with a concentrated membership in a large city is in a much better position to protect and raise the standards of its members, both in the city and in the smaller dispersed surrounding communities.

There is another reason why we should feel strongly on this point. After all, our union has never been a pure and simple economic organization. It has a distinctive spirit and outlook on political and social affairs. All of us have contributed to this, and in turn we have, to a degree, infused the entire American labor movement with it. Shouldn't we feel a desire to pass this heritage of progressive trade unionism on to those who follow us?

To accomplish this, it is imperative to maintain a strong union here in the city, where we can use our full influence in this direction. Indeed, if newcomers enter the ranks while the old-timers are still here to guide them, they can be quickly integrated, and a large measure of our outlook can be transmitted to them.

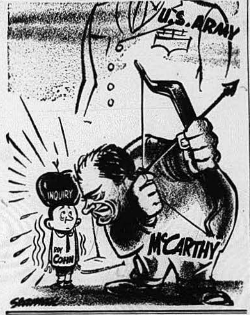
Of course, our problem is not the better line of work. I want to stress this as strongly as possible. This line has remained, and for obvious reasons will continue to remain, in New York City. In this line, the tailoring system of production will prevail, because of the hand work involved, the small bundles of more styles and the required care in the handling of the individual garment. As a matter of fact, in the better line, there is a growing concern about the lack of a sufficient number of good mechanics.

We are primarily concerned with the lower priced garment production, which has been consistently drifting away from New York. This, of course, again leads us to a discussion of section work.

The main reasons for the section system having gained ground over the tailoring system in the lower price field are that, in section shops, with a large volume of production, there is a fuller usage of machinery, much of it of modern design, eliminating much handwork. A division of labor on simpler operations, and a greater use of

(Continued on Page 10)

"We'll Show 'Em, Kid!"



RENEWAL TALKS ON WITH THREE FIRMS IN SCRANTON AREA

Contract renewal negotiations affecting more than 170 members of the Northeast Department's Scranton, Pa., District are in progress, reports Manager Harry Schindler.

The three shops involved in negotiations are the M-K Co. of Dunmore, which makes children's dresses, the Carroll Ann Blouse Co. of Scranton and the Better Maid Dress Co. of Pecksville.

Assisting Manager Schindler in these conferences are Business Agents Amelia Merva, who services the Better Maid shop, and Jack Sobel, who services the M-K and Carroll Ann mills, plus the various shop committees.

According to Schindler, negotiations are proceeding as anticipated and the union looks forward to a satisfactory conclusion of the agreements in the near future.

PANEL DISCUSSION WILL EXAMINE ARTS IN CHANGING WORLD

The annual Panel Discussion sponsored by the Educational Department took on added interest last week when it was announced by Secretary Fannia M. Cohn that at least six outstanding personalities will attend as guest speakers.

The topic under discussion is "How Is Our Troubled, Changing World Reflected in the Arts—the Novel, Poetry, Theatre, Movies, Television, Paintings?"

These are the authorities who will participate in the discussion: Irwin Edman, professor of philosophy at Columbia University; Prof. Howard Mumford Jones of Harvard University; Henry David, professor of history at Columbia; Robert Goldwater, professor of art at Queens College; Maxwell Geismar, critic and novelist; and Budd Schulberg, author and former motion picture producer.

The panel will get underway at 12:30 P.M. on May 8, in the auditorium of Hunter High School, 68th St. and Park Ave., Manhattan. Admission is free but by ticket only. Write to Fannia Cohn, Educational Department, 1710 Broadway, New York 19, or call Columbus 5-7000. A student fellowship reunion will follow the discussion. Reservations for the latter must also be made in advance.

FREE LEGAL SERVICE ESTABLISHED IN N.J. OUT-OF-TOWN UNITS

A Legal Department has been established to meet the needs of New Jersey members of the Eastern Out-of-Town and Cloak Out-of-Town Departments, it was announced jointly by Vice Presidents Israel Horowitz and George Rubin, heads of the EOT and COT Departments, respectively.

Representatives from the law firm of Kapelsohn, Lerner, Leuchter and Reitman will establish the legal bureau at the ILGWU building, 3 William St., Newark. Their services will be available from 4 to 7 P.M every Thursday in the Council Room on the third floor.

Horowitz and Rubin emphasized that many phases of union life and activity today are affected by federal and state legislation. Members frequently are required to appear before governmental agencies regarding proceedings concerning unemployment compensation, disability insurance, refunds of social security, overpayments, and similar matters, they pointed out.

Sol Kapelsohn, Jersey ILGWU counsel, states that members who wish to avail themselves of the union's Legal Department should always bring their booklets and official notices with them when they come in for assistance in matters pertaining to unemployment compensation and temporary disability.

The free service will be available to members of EOT Locals 144, 145, 148, 149, 150, 157, 160, 161, 162, 166, 220, 222, and 251, and COT Locals 21, 130, 133, 134, 135 and 158.

KNOW YOUR CITY

April 24, 12:30 P.M. Metropolitan Museum of Art, 5th Ave. and 82nd St. Guided Tour.

May 1, 1:30 P.M. Labor Temple, 242 E. 14th St. (near 2nd Ave.), Special Exhibit, "Labor Unions In Arts and Crafts."

HOW TO BUY

by Sidney Margolius

Don't Fall for Brand Names In Buying Garden Fertilizer

Now that over half the families in the country own their own homes, we're all learning how surprisingly costly it is to maintain a lawn and some shrubbery. Good lawn seed is expensive, especially this year when it often costs $2.50 to $5 a pound. Fertilizer, insecticides, crab-grass killer, garden tools and mowers are other expenses with which the homeowner has to contend.

You can save much of the cost if you know how and what to buy. You may pay as much as 20 to 40 per cent more for various fertilizers and other products under coined trade names when you could buy them under their ordinary chemical names at reasonable prices. The main point in buying these products is to read the labels carefully to see the actual chemical or other ingredients, and their strength.

Don't be fooled by larger-size packages either. For example, potassium cyanate is widely used as a crab-grass killer. One widely-sold brand is offered under a coined trade name in a larger can than several of the lesser-known brands of potassium cyanate. But if you read the labels, you observe that the solution in the apparently bigger package is weaker, and you have to use more of it for the same area. Thus it turns out to be the most expensive brand. The more concentrated solutions go further.

But you save most by buying potassium cyanate as such and not under brand names. The best place to buy this and other lawn needs is in the farm-supply co-ops which can often be found in the rural areas bordering many towns and suburbs, like the G.L.F. cooperative stores in the Northeast, the Farmers Union-sponsored co-op stores, and many others maintained by other suburban and rural cooperatives throughout the country.

The same situation occurs in fertilizers. Many small homeowners buy several well-advertised brands in small packages at large prices. Retail prices of the same grade of fertilizer vary noticeably, but for home-lawn needs, one fertilizer is essentially the same as any other of the same grade, the N. Y. State College of Agriculture points out. Its lawn expert notes that every package of fertilizer must be labeled to show the minimum analysis or grade of the three important fertilizer materials. The widely-used "5-10-5" fertilizer contains 5 per cent nitrogen, 10 per cent phosphoric acid and 5 per cent potash.

Similarly with lawn seeds. It's very expensive this year because of last year's drought, so use it carefully, and read the label on the package to see actually what you are buying. Particularly compare the percentage of permanent grasses in each mixture as against the percentage of temporary grasses like rye. The mixtures containing higher percentage of permanent grasses are more desireable. In fact, the experts recommend never buying a mixture that contains less than 50 per cent of total permanent grasses as listed in the analysis. But you often find that one mixture for less money contains as much permanent grass as another for more money.

It's also important to select a mixture which contains a higher proportion of the particular permanent grasses which have been found best adapted to the soil and growing conditions in your region, or to buy those particular seeds to make your own mixture. You can find out which is the best grass for your area by writing your state college of agriculture.

Now that power mowers have come down to more reasonable levels, an increasing number of small homeowners are showing interest in their possibilities for relieving the mowing chore. Power mowers are most desirable for large open lawns. For the average small lot, or one heavily planted with shrubs and trees, a hand mower may still be more convenient.

Section Work Urged to Boost N. Y. Cloak Jobs

(Continued from Page 9)

floor help, frees the operators of unnecessary handling of the garment. All these factors combine to increase the output per man hour and reduce the cost per garment.

After wrestling with this matter for a long period of time, we recognized these facts of life and accepted the principle of section work in our 1951 agreement, thus providing the basis for regaining the cheaper end of production. But to be quite frank about it, while we reasoned this thing out, our hearts weren't really in it. Our attitude has remained that, although you cannot prevent the flourishing of section work out of town, and even in Brooklyn, New York is a different story. This appears to me to be an unsound attitude, particularly since practice has shown that our New York cloakmakers can receive good earnings as mechanics on the more skilled operations in section shops.

Unless we now firmly adopt a positive policy to do all in our power to encourage the introduction of the section system in New York, the remaining tailor shops in the cheaper line will surely disappear, and their workers left high and dry. Foresight and wisdom require us to act now and take measures that will not be too little or too late.

I therefore propose the adoption of a positive policy, to substitute for our past indifference, of encouragment to employers to open section shops, in the cheaper end of production, in New York.

Of course, I realize that this is no easy task and poses many problems, such as drawing in new manpower for the less skilled operations, the securing of proper loft space, and the need for centralized union control. I am confident, however, that once the union adopts the policy I have recommended, we shall be able to overcome these obstacles.

There is reasonable ground for believing that employers will become interested, because there are many advantags to having a shop located in the city. The city is the style center of the nation, and it is highly beneficial for a firm to be as close to it as possible. The buying offices are concentrated in the garment center, and it is preferable for a cloak house to be near them. A firm in New York has lower transportation costs. Last, but not least, nearness to the factory gives a firm a more direct control over the quality of production.

I have no doubt that we could approach public authorities in the city for help in retaining our trade here. After all, the apparel industry is a tremendously important segment of the city's industrial life.

It is clear that, as new section shops would be encouraged to grow in New York, they would attract new elements as the labor force for the more routine operations, and many of our mechanics in the cheaper line of production, who now have difficulty finding employment, would be able to enter these shops as the more skilled all-around workers and earn good wages. Furthermore, as the supply of workers in the better line dwindles, due to retirement and death, many mechanics will shift from the cheaper end to the medium line, and those in the medium line to the better line.

The solution to this problem can only come about gradually, over a period of time. In implementing this policy, we must exercise patience and flexibility. It is not an overnight proposition.

Our union must plan its program to meet all these problems with utmost care, and at the same time, with courage and vision. The entire history of the Cloakmakers' Union has been one of pioneering new innovations as a means of adjusting to changed conditions. We have faced problems before and solved many of them successfully.

When unregulated piece work wrought havoc with our workers, we supplanted it with week work in 1919. When bootleg piece work became rampant, as a result of the spread of jobbing, sub-contracting and free lancing, we returned, in 1933, to controlled piece work, but with designation of contractors and jobbers' responsibility. Today we must take the initiative and encourage the spread of the cheaper line of production in the city.

It is my sincere conviction that if we act vigorously, we shall encourage employers in the cheaper line of production to stay in New York and not to run away. Thus, we shall be able to save the jobs of our people. In this way, we shall be able to maintain the strength of the union in New York and infuse some of its progressive tradition and idealistic outlook into the newcomers who will enter our ranks.

The Cloakmakers' Union, which blazed the trail pioneering many reforms in the garment industry, may be old in years, but it is still capable of assessing the present situation and taking the necessary measures. A union, which only a decade ago established the first industry retirement fund in the country, has sufficient vitality and flexibility to adjust to changing conditions.

I am confident that our union will not fail to respond with energy and enthusiasm to leadership which points the way toward renewed strength of the New York Cloakmakers' Union and its continued progress in the years that lie ahead.

CUTTERS COLUMN

$598,000 Health, Welfare Benefits Paid Cutters in '53

Health and welfare services furnished to members of Local 10 was the subject of recent comment by Moe Falikman, manager of the cutters' organization. He stated that a report submitted by Sam Winick, who is in charge of the local's Health and Vacation Department, reflected not merely the very substantial benefits received by the cutters but also the efficient conduct of this phase of the local's activities.

According to the report, which covered the calendar year 1953, benefits furnished to members in all branches totaled $598,000. Included in this amount were $419,000 in vacation payments and $179,000 in health benefits.

These benefits are financed through percentage-of-payroll contributions made by employers under the collective agreements in the various branches of industry in which members of Local 10 are employed

The largest item of disbursement among the various health services was sick benefit, of which over $88,000 was paid to cutters during 1953. Members of Local 10 also received $33,000 for hospitalization, $10,000 for surgical expenses and $8,000 for eye glasses.

Cutters have made liberal use of the comprehensive facilities of the Union Health Center. An average of about 3,000 members (close to one-third the total membership of the local) have availed themselves of these facilities annually in recent years. Services to members such as medical examinations, X-rays, treatments, etc., exceed 20,000 a year. During 1953 such services involved an expenditure of $38,000.

Emphasizing the value of the UHC for prevention as well as cure of illness or disease was a recent case involving a cutter of a large dress firm. He contracted tuberculosis and is now receiving the best available treatment in a sanitorium to which the union makes regular contributions. However, the other 30 cutters with whom he worked became alarmed, fearing they might have caught this highly contagious disease. Arrangements were speedily made, through the Health and Vacation Department of Local 10, for examinations including chest X-rays for them at the Health Center. Happily, the test showed a negative result in all cases.

Manager Falikman pointed out that the close to $600,000 disbursed by Local 10 for health and vacation benefits did not include the $7 per capita payments made from the health fund to the ILGWU to cover the cost of the $1,000 death benefit, for which each member contributes only $1 a year. The annual cost of this benefit is about $60,000

Nagler's Report

At the last meeting of the executive board of Local 10, Manager Falikman discussed the annual report presented recently by General Manager Isidore Nagler to the Cloak Joint Board. Praising the report as an able and comprehensive analysis of the present state of the cloak industry, Falikman said it merited close study, especially the portion which dealt with the need for preserving employment opportunities for cloak workers in New York.

The recommendation in the report that large section work shops be encouraged in the cheaper and medium line of work to keep this type of production in the city was considered highly significant. While the cutter is not directly affected by section work as such, he has a vital interest in efforts directed toward keeping low-end production in New York, Falikman maintained.

Stressing the fact that the welfare of the cutters was closely bound up with that of the other crafts, Falikman declared that cutters cannot consider this problem "in splendid isolation" but rather as one with which they too were seriously concerned. Even the cutters in trades other than cloaks should interest themselves in recent trends in that branch, he concluded, in order to learn certain lessons which may be valuable in meeting the problems that develop in their respective trades.

A very lively discussion took place on this matter, in which many members of the executive board participated. There was such intense interest in the subject that it was decided to continue the discussion at the next executive board meeting.

Regular Meeting
Monday, April 26
Annual financial report and other matters.

TODAY AND TOMORROW

by Luigi Antonini FIRST VICE-PRES. • ILGWU

Mazzini's One-World Dream Reflected in the United Nations

A monument to Giuseppe Mazzini, Italy's greatest political thinker, stands today in New York's Central Park in the obscurity that somehow seems to befall all park monuments.

It is a monument mislocated two miles from the square in front of the United Nations, where it deservedly belongs.

For where is there a place more suitable to post the pillar of a political architect whose blueprint for the unification of Italy telescoped a United States of Europe? The maturation of Mazzini's greatest objective for a fraternity of nations a century ago is mirrored today in the house of glass that is the world's window.

Mazzini was not a nationalist in the narrow and fanatical sense that is descriptive of our present-day chauvinists. Neither a racist nor an ethnocentric, he clung to the ideal that the greatest security for the Italian nation lay in respect for other nations, peoples and races—in short, mankind.

To him the word "nation" meant fortress of freedom. He rejected the rigid materialism spawned by Marx and prophesied a coming era of industrial democracy. The free world became the proving ground for that force to measure social, political and technological progress in the twentieth century.

Mazzini foresaw too the present role of the United States as a world power at a time when a man in a stovepipe hat was struggling to navigate a newly emancipated nation through the choppy waters of destiny.

The parallels of history take many forms and shapes. The monument in Central Park is both timeless and timely.

Retire at 65? That's for Softies!

Anna Incrocci, Baltimore cloakmaker who will be 87 in June, receives first retirement check of Baltimore Joint Board from Pres. David Dubinsky, while Vice Pres. Charles Kreindler, Upper South director, looks on. Mrs. Incrocci can recall vividly events in 1910 general strike, in which she played active role. Luncheon honored 45 retirees, first to receive pension checks in Baltimore cloak market.

HEALTH FRONT

by Pauline Newman

High Costs of Medical Care Prove Need for Health Plan

While findings of the University of Chicago's recent survey of medical costs revealed nothing new, it must have shocked a good many people to learn that 8,000,000 families are obliged to go into debt for medical needs; that a half-million families have medical bills larger than their total income. The survey also discloses that Americans spend more than $10,000,000,000 a year on illness.

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Some legislators of the Republican Administration have had the courage to criticize the American Medical Assn. for its branding any health plan it does not like as "socialism." Representative Wolverton of New Jersey had no hesitation in stating that, "Whenever legislation is proposed which would prove helpful to the average citizen, too frequently the charge is made that it is "socialized medicine."

An eminent physician, too, has had the courage to attack the policies of the AMA in a book entitled "Doctors, People and Government." The author is Dr. James Howard Means, who until his retirement had been professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School and chief of medical service at the Massachusetts General Hospital. His long experience in the field of medicine should qualify him to take issue with the AMA on its policies of obstruction and reaction.

"What-the-traffic-will-bear method of charging for medical service," Dr. Means states, "is not in the best interests of either the patient or the doctor. Organized medicine headed by the AMA is making a desperate effort to preserve fee-for-service payment and to prevent health insurance from becoming comprehensive." Hats off to Dr. Means for his courage to speak out!

DRESS JOINT BOARD GIVES BIG WELCOME TO SHIPPING CLERKS

Officers and members of the New York Dress Joint Board, headed by General Manager Julius Hochman, heartily welcomed a delegation of dress industry shipping clerks into the ranks of the ILGWU at a board meeting on Mar. 25.

Commenting that the achievement of the Dress Shipping Clerks' Union in winning union recognition and a favorable, industry-wide agreement was "most impressive," Vice Pres. Hochman led the veteran dress unionists in applauding the remarks of Don Steibel, executive board chairman of the newly-organized Local 60-A.

As spokesman for the group, composed of workers who had been active in forming the union, Steibel expressed the appreciation of the shipping clerks to the joint board for "all-out support of our effort to build a union," and vowed adherence to ILGWU ideals.

Steibel's remarks followed a report by Manager Jack Spitzer, who announced that the shipping clerks had ratified unanimously the terms of their first union contract.

Hochman said it was a "thrilling experience for the old timers" to observe the spirit and vigor with which the shipping clerks, headed by Spitzer, had organized a union and obtained a very favorable collective agreement.

Included in the shipping clerks' delegation were Algy Clark, Henry Nanton, Charles Prince and George Smith. All are executive board members of Local 60-A.

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Fete M. Goldofsky, Retiring '35' Leader

Morris Goldofsky, assistant manager of Local 35, Cloak Pressers, will be feted with a testimonial banquet May 12 at Hotel New Yorker, on the occasion of the pioneer unionist's retirement from active service.

Goldofsky has been a leader in Local 35 and in the New York Cloak Joint Board for more than four decades. He was one of the original builders of the union, having served on the General Strike Committee in 1910, when the Cloakmakers' Union became firmly established. In addition to his duties with Local 35, Goldofsky currently is president of the United Hebrew Trades.

BOOK FRONT

by Miriam Spicehandler

Total Destruction And Total Survival Are Dual Problems

THE CHALLENGE OF MAN'S FUTURE. By Harrison Brown. The Viking Press. $3.75.

If there is any threat more depressing than the possibility of the total destruction of the world's population by some devilish bomb, it is the threat of the total survival, at its present rate of increase, of this same world population, thanks again to advances made in medicine and health care.

In a most challenging book, Dr. Brown considers these ultimate ends of the earth—destruction by bomb or biology—and presents well-reasoned thoughts on what can still be done to prevent either eventuality.

His book deals with the age-old race between population and food supply. In our own time progress in medicine, in mass health care in biotics and disease preventives has served to increase the number of mouths that must be fed. Food and other natural resources of limited volume continue to be consumed without any serious regard to the need for increasing their supply.

What is more frightening is the historical record which shows that in the race it is always population that "catches up" with supply, that supply only rarely outstrips need. Now, says Brown, more industrialized nations are offering backward countries the scientific knowledge that makes certain even more rapid increases in population. There is no control of that growth. Nor is there always the offer of means to increase industrial production and food supply. The inevitable result is an increase in mass health and in mass poverty.

This is a hard-headed book on a most urgent problem for which there is no easy solution. Control of the birth rate involves tremendous problems not the least of which are religious and emotional in nature. If established on a worldwide scale it would also imply an authority which exercises the control in a most dictatorial manner.

Brown, one of this nation's outstanding geochemists, adds up the possibilities for the thoughtful reader. The price of survival is immediate action which many will find distasteful. But failure to act raises the spectre of destruction by progress. As the King of Siam would say: "Is a puzzlement."

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Testament

By MAX PRESS

To live with dignity, to meet your fate:
With the wry, the wan, the ironic smile;
Enduring bravely what you cannot help,
Fighting, brave till the end for what you can;
Does not this give a meaning to your life,
Is not this the sure road by which you come
To stand with Wisdom on the clear, clean heights
And face the wind, the lightning and the rain?

ANSWER THE CALL!

JUSTICE
INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

NO PLACE LIKE HOME

REPUBLICAN CONGRESSMEN HAVE SPARED the President the embarrassment of leaving unfinished the housing developments he helped dedicate. In the final days of March they cut to ribbons the so-called public housing program he favored. But like good businessmen they provided against breach of contract. Homes for which contracts have been let will be completed. That is all.

Thus ends a dream that stirred even the late Sen. Robert A. Taft. He gave strong support to the Housing Act of 1949 which proposed construction of 810,000 units over a six-year period at an average annual rate of 135,000 units. In the light of the nation's desperate need for more and better homes he perceived no threat of creeping socialism, no danger to private builders, no waste of public funds in the program.

But the triumph of Taft's party doomed public housing. In an effort to salvage at least a remnant of the 1949 program, President Eisenhower last January proposed construction of 35,000 housing units annually for the next four years. But even this sorry shadow of the previous plan was too much for the aroused legislators.

Almost one-third of the nation's non-farm families earn less than $3,000 a year; about 17,000,000 families live in the middle-income bracket. Both of these groups are now trapped between unsteady and slipping incomes on the one hand and rising rentals in crowded areas on the other. The prospect they face is a sad one, for which the remedy is a steady pounding away at the doors of their elected representatives in Washington and the judicious exercise of the franchise, come November, at the polls.

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THE SAME KIND OF DESTRUCTIVE FATE has befallen the President's proposal to provide homes for the brave of other lands seeking entry to our shores. Eight months ago he signed the emergency immigration bill clearing the way for the admission of 214,000 refugee victims of these disjointed times.

The McCarran Act has given the Communists a powerful weapon with which to lose us friends and allies by advertising to the world the discriminatory features of our basic immigration law. But last August the President pushed open the golden gate and reached out a welcoming hand to the thousands soon expected to cross our threshold.

They have not come. Not because they do not wish to come but because a cloud of red tape, suspicion and incompetence has barred their way. Out of the vast hordes yearning to breathe our free air, six refugees have been allowed to enter under the President's program. Fortunate, indeed, must they be for since the President signed the emergency law the government has spent under it $672,000, or slightly more than $100,000 per refugee admitted. Neither economy nor humanity has been served.

UNKINDEST CUT

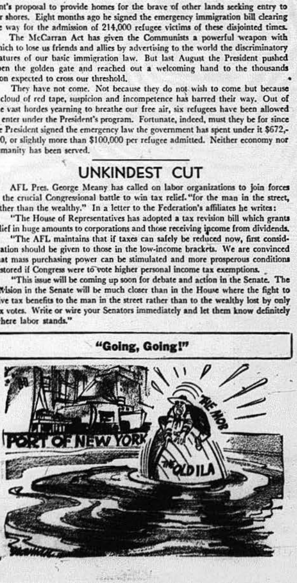
AFL Pres. George Meany has called on labor organizations to join forces in the crucial Congressional battle to win tax relief "for the man in the street, rather than the wealthy." In a letter to the Federation's affiliates he writes:

"The House of Representatives has adopted a tax revision bill which grants relief in huge amounts to corporations and those receiving income from dividends.

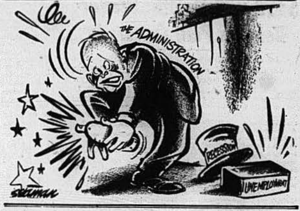
"The AFL maintains that if taxes can safely be reduced now, first consideration should be given to those in the low-income brackets. We are convinced that mass purchasing power can be stimulated and more prosperous conditions restored if Congress were to vote higher personal income tax exemptions.

"This issue will be coming up soon for debate and action in the Senate. The division in the Senate will be much closer than in the House where the fight to give tax benefits to the man in the street rather than to the wealthy lost by only six votes. Write or wire your Senators immediately and let them know definitely where labor stands."

"Going, Going!"



"April Fool!"



Power--Private and Public

By
Gordon R. Clapp

From a lecture given at the University of Chicago by the head of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

WE are a people with a profound conviction in the efficacy of competive enterprise. In specific instances we sometimes forget that private ownership is not synonymous with competitive enterprise. Public ownership is frequently met by strong opposition.

Still, the public systems have done the best job where there has been the greatest drive for widespread use of electricity combined with the strongest contest from the private utilities. In those areas we have an opportunity to judge the effect of competition.

WHAT has been the effect of public power operations upon the surrounding privately owned utilities?

The competitive example public power creates is analyzed by the President's Water Resources Policy Commission studies published in 1950. These studies reveal that in areas in which a federal agency was actively marketing power from river basin developments, the cost of power purchased by rural cooperatives from pivate companies in the same areas was about half as high as the cost of similar power where no competitive forces were in operation.

Wholesale rates to cooperatives in the private utility areas surrounding the TVA average about three-quarters of a cent, whereas in the Northeast the average ratu runs twice as high. The wholesome effects of competition are apparent when one sees successively higher charges as one moves farther and farther from the Northwest and the Tennessee Valley, the two major centers of competition between public and private power.

A similar comparison may be made for residential rates. Today the Tennessee Valley ranks with the Northwest in having the lowest rates for residential use. And now the residential rates charged by private utilities adjacent to the TVA service area are substantially below the rates charged in the North, in the East, and in the Middle West.

WHAT has happened to the rate of power capacity expansion in those private utility areas nearest the Tennessee Valley? Has the threat of a public power neighbor, expanding its power capacity about 500 per cent since 1933, scared capital away and frozen the neighboring private utility systems into static paralysis?

On the contrary, low rate policies and inspired merchandising in the Tennessee Valley public power systems have resulted in a notable expansion by neighboring private utilities. The expansion for the nation has been less than 150 per cent since 1933; if the national figures are limited to privately owned systems and adjusted to exclude the private company neighbors of TVA, we find an increase between 1933 and 1952 of only 91 per cent.

But in the eight states adjacent to Tennessee, power capacity owned by private utilities has increased 200 per cent since 1933, when the TVA Act was passed!

In the six New England states where the private utilities are at a safe distance from any effective competition from federal power developments—a fact that suggests one of the reasons why the inviting power potential of the St. Lawrence has been so long delayed—the level of power rates is highest and growth of power supply has been slowest. Power capacity in New England has increased only 75 per cent compared with the 200 per cent among the private companies adjoining TVA.

HOW about the stockholders of the private companies who have suffered, as they say, from the competitive proximity of public power enterprises? Federal Power Commission data show that financial returns have been excellent for those private utilities stirred by neighboring, if not neighborly, public enterprise. TVA's neighbors are making more money now than they did before TVA began to worry them.

The irony of this situation should be apparent. Most utilities could show better earnings if they performed a better public service. Instead of opposing TVA with political slogans and economic dogma, they might prudently espouse a few aggressive centers of public power examples in their midst.

IT should be remembered that: the electricity business, whoever owns and operates it, is a public business; private corporations engaged in the electric business enjoy privileges granted by the public through law, franchise, or license; these privileges are granted in order that the companies may perform a public service efficiently.

Competition benefits the consumer and the nation. And the record shows competition brings the private companies' stockholders a higher dividend. What a challenge to a real spirit of enterprise!