

JUSTICE

INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

Vol. XL, No. 10

Jersey City, N. J., May 15, 1958

Price 10 Cents

G. F. P.

- Authorizes \$1,000,000 annual ILGWU union label promotion.
- Reports 95 per cent of ILGWU members in U. S. on 35-hour week.
- Told more than 60 per cent have 7-hour day overtime provision.
- Calls for creation of 1958 ILGWU Campaign Committees.
- Hears of "recession" drop in dues, membership, welfare contributions.
- Gets Pres. Dubinsky's report that dress pact gains have already set pattern for 50,000 more.
- Approves appropriation to build old-age home.
- Endorses N. Y. shop fire warden plan.
- Sets 1959 ILGWU Convention for Miami Beach.
- Reaffirms suspension of Gerachtigkeit.
- Reports 758 applications for 1958 ILGWU National Scholarships.
- Announces ILGWU assets total \$78,984,175.86.
- Reports \$22,300,000 fund resources committed to construction of homes for armed forces.
- Modifies ILGWU investment policy.



At 'Hotel de Ville' General Executive Board members meeting in Montreal were greeted at City Hall by Mayor Sarto Furnier. Above, Pres. Dubinsky signs city's Golden Book for honored guests as Vice Pres. Bernard Shans (left) and Mayor look on.



No Tea Party.

Boston labor movement protested its city officials' action roughed up ILGWU pickets (above) in front of H. T. Johnsoningerie shop. (See story Page 2) Members of Boston Joint Board pickets now encouraged by judge's refusal to issue injunction sought by company.

ILG at UN.

United Nations tour highlighted New York visit last month by 225 South Jersey-Philadelphia Joint Board members (right). Group was greeted by Jo Mazur, former ILGWU staffer, now general counsel of N.Y. State Labor Dept.



Restrain Boston Police; Deny Johnson Injunction

A peaceful picket line in front of the H. T. Johnson lingerie plant in Boston's garment center this month felt the impact of massed police activity that led to the first strike violence in 20 years.

When six union pickets were up, the entire local labor movement was aroused and protested to the city government.

At a subsequent meeting with the police commissioner, the heads of the AFL and CIO city councils, together with National District Manager Max Levin and Local Manager Henry Bröds, obtained an agreement for a change in police tactics.

The firm has been a long-time holdout against unionization, and the strike developed when the workers decided they no longer could endure the lack of decent working conditions.

Meanwhile, Vice Pres. David Ginzgold, Northeast Department director, reports that the firm's application for an injunction has been denied by the Massachusetts Superior Court.

Substantiating the union's con-

clusion that the strikers were not a threat to public order, the judge—in refusing to grant the injunction—said that "the public officers charged with the duty of protecting the plaintiff's property are able and willing to furnish adequate protection."

Union Bolstered

Both actions—the injunction denial and the agreement with Police Commissioner Leo Sullivan—have bolstered the Boston ILGWU's fight to eliminate this non-union vestige from the local lingerie industry.

The Northern New England District of the Northeast Department has received the fullest support from the Boston Joint Board and its manager Vice Pres. Philip Kramer, in the strike. All locals have assisted in manning the picket line, reports Manager Levin.

Those who were arrested on the picketline are General Organizer Frank Lyons, Saul Walker, Myer Cohen, Leo Karsky, Russel Lawry, John DiGregorio and Business Agent Milton Kaplan. DiGregorio was pushed and dragged by the police and finally bundled into a patrol car.

Efforts by the state Board of Conciliation and Arbitration to settle the strike have not yet brought any results.

ILG SPOKESMAN GIVES ANTI-RECESSION PLAN TO HARRIMAN PARLEY

Two hundred and fifty labor and industry representatives journeyed to the New York State Legislature early this month for a state-wide emergency conference on unemployment called by Governor Averell Harriman.

In a statement presented on behalf of the ILGWU, Vice Pres. Isadore Naeher, general manager of the New York State Joint Board, called for federal aid to the unemployed; federal minimum standards for state unemployment insurance; a federal program of slum clearance and highway, school and hospital construction; improved social security benefits; income tax reductions for low and moderate income families, and aid for communities suffering from chronic economic distress.

"Mass unemployment is a responsibility of the federal government under the Employment Act of 1946," he asserted.

The meeting was cut short by Governor Harriman out of respect to Thomas A. Murray, president of the State Federation of Labor and a major participant in the conference, who collapsed five minutes after addressing the meeting and died a few minutes later in an adjoining office.

The 250 representatives of industry and labor gathered in the chamber stood for a moment of silence before adjourning.

One-half of all women workers in the U.S.A. are over 35 years old, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

Hillquit Memorial



Contributions totaling \$250,000 will be sought in campaign to endow chair in civil liberties at Brandeis University in memory of Morris Hillquit, counsel to the ILGWU and other unions when they were struggling for survival. Shown at luncheon opening campaign are (left to right) fund-drive treasurer Shelley Appleton, manager of ILGWU Local 99, Paul Hall, president of Seafarers' International Union of North America; former Senator Herbert Lehman, Brandeis University trustee, and Clarence O. Berger, university dean of administration.

WASHINGTON MEMO

by John Heving

Sen. Douglas Triumphant On Welfare Fund Ethics

WASHINGTON—Senator Paul Douglas, Democrat of Illinois, stands out on Capitol Hill as the true example of combined integrity and competence. He is one of the great and inspiring figures of Washington—along with the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial. He sustains vitality in the legislative process for the protection and development of ordinary folks and their families.

For example, a few days ago the Senate passed a bill which will protect the interests of workers and their families in welfare and pension funds. This climaxes a four-year crusade by Douglas in and out of the Senate, aimed at eliminating shadyluggery and mismanagement—where there was any in joint union-management welfare funds. Also, he insisted on including under the law's application those funds which were controlled by employers alone.

This raled a storm. The employers were willing and eager to crack down with pen when Senator Douglas said: "You too must come under the scrutiny and be subject to disclosure and punishment if you violate the law. There must be no double standards of morality—one for unions and the other for management. In this area where you are handling the funds which affect the present health and future security of workers and their families—you must be included."

This took a lot of preening and arguing. Senator Douglas had the support of Senator Vile, Republican of New York. He made inroads on Democrats and a growing group of Republicans. Finally, Labor Secretary James Mitchell testified for an inclusive disclosure bill from which no funds would be exempt, except possibly those covering fewer than 100 employees.

\$4 Million Affected

Who and what are affected by this legislation? Today \$4 million persons—including dependents—are covered by one form or another of welfare and pension funds. These plans cover group life insurance, double indemnity in case of accidental death, disability benefits, sickness, hospitalization, surgical and other benefits, supplemental unemployment benefits and pensions.

The annual contributions to these funds exceed \$6½ billion. Douglas points out that employer contributions to these funds, which came to almost \$6 billion in 1950, are deductible from taxable income. If these were not tax exempt, the federal government would be receiving nearly \$3 billion more a year.

Already the reserve funds for pension plans alone come to \$30 billion. Therefore, we must, says Douglas, know exactly what happens to this money—because how it is spent and invested not only shapes our welfare but also influences the stability of the economy.

The whole Douglas career has been a dedication to the interests of people against exploitation—no matter which form the exploitation takes. He keeps thinking, talking and fighting with great determination and enthusiasm—even when the going becomes rough.

When you look down at the Senate floor, and see Douglas in action, you remember how, even as a senator at Columbia, he joined the picket lines in front of New York Department stores, or how he aided the embattling garment workers and miners. Not many Senators can boast such a background.

He has trained generations of students and teachers in the tough, rough work of stylizing our industrial civilization. With his disclosure bill safely through the Senate—and now before the House of Representatives—he stands as the Triumphant Intellectual, who serves not only the labor movement, but a grateful country.

PAULSBORO DRESS CO. SIGNS S. JERSEY PACT ENDING 5-DAY STRIKE

All dress shops in the South Jersey-Philadelphia Joint Board's territory have agreed to the dress industry contract terms won by the ILGWU in the recent multi-state general strike, reports General Manager Morris Dobren.

The last holdout firm, Paulsboro Dress Co. of Paulsboro, N. J., was persuaded to union demands May 1 after a week-long strike. Gains netted by the Paulsboro ILGers included an 8 per cent pay increase, the 35-hour week, paid holidays, severance pay, and use of the union label on all garments produced.

Captained by shop co-chairman Angie Hillman and Anita Brooks, the strike picket lines were manned by over 90 workers; additional picket-line assistance was provided by Business Agents Carrie Snyder (who services the shop), Beverly Abel, Tommy Sole and John Moretti. Coordinating ILGWU efforts at the Paulsboro plant was Assistant Manager Harry Benz.



N'East Strikers of Penna. Picket New York Jobbers

Faced with the continued refusal of several Pennsylvania dress contracting firms to sign contracts with the union, strikers from shops in Wilkes-Barre and Sweet Valley, Pa., have been picketing two non-union New York jobbers who supply the work.

Vice Pres. David Ginzgold, Northeast Department director, charged that the jobbers—Budget Dress and Smart Sue Dresses—have been sending work to Clover Dress No. 1, Clover Dress No. 2, and Harvic Sportswear (all in the Wyoming Valley District) whose workers have been on the picket lines since March 6.

The two jobbing firms have also been struck by the New York Dress Joint Board, which is cooperating with the Northeast Department to obtain collective agreements providing the

same settlement terms as accepted by the entire dress industry.

District Manager Min L. McInnes reports that the strikers at the contracting plants are maintaining their vigilance against the movement of any dresses.

In the Scranton District, Mitchell Manufacturing Co. of Scranton and Ronnie Dee of Jersey, subsidiaries of the Harvic firm, are still out. Scranton Manager Harry Schneider reports that picketing also continues at Peggy Ann Dress Co. in Pottsville.

Pennsylvanians in New York



Northeast Department ILGWU members from Wilkes-Barre, Pa., picket New York City offices of Smart Sue Dresses, one of two jobbers sending work to Pennsylvania firms which have refused to sign standard dress contract with union. The two jobbers have also been struck by the New York Dress Joint Board.

'Chemise' Helps Bolster Apparel in Face of Recession

(Highlights from the economic report in the General Executive Board prepared by Dr. Lucene Teper, director of the ILGWU Research Dept.)

ON the whole, our industry has escaped the main brunt of the recession in the absence of a further material slowdown in the tempo of economic activity, operations in women's and children's wear will continue to be maintained at a reasonable level.

In the last several weeks, it became increasingly apparent that the willingness of consumers to purchase our industry's products was deferred in the recent months more by the weather than by anything else.

The present downturn has been centered primarily in the area of durable goods, with non-durable commodities making a much better showing. From 1956 to 1957, retail sales of women's and children's apparel even registered a 5 per cent gain, though sales of men's and boys' clothing remained at a virtual standstill. In the early part of the present year, the share of the consumer dollar spent on women's and children's wear

remained substantially the same as last year.

However, with the decline in total consumer spending sales of our industry's products softened somewhat. Still, they remained ahead of the comparable 1957 period by about 1 per cent.

THE underlying strength behind the relatively high demand for women's and girls' clothes stems from the continuous growth in the nation's population, the need for normal wardrobe replacements, "dress better" campaigns on the part of schools and communities, the greater number of women in the work force and their lower rate of unemployment, compared to men, during the current recession. The inability of many families to make large-scale purchases of durable goods, or their unwillingness to do so, also enabled many of them to divert funds to items calling for smaller outlays, such as clothing.

The recent dramatic shift in fashion also helped to bolster interest in our industry's products. The chemise and its variants became the most-talked-about program. Developed in the main by

medium and lower-priced houses, it was disseminated by the young women and girls who patronize mass markets. Negative comment and derision based on the new designs only helped to heighten consumer curiosity; they came to the store to look, tried the garments on, and bought! In fact, they bought immediate prospects for other items—body supporting garments, slips, and even coats which go with the new shapes.

From 1955 to 1957, sales increased in the unit-priced dress industry by 4 per cent, in dozen-priced dresses and blouses by 8 per cent, and in skirts by 14 per cent. In the coat and suit industry, on the other hand, the dollar volume increased 2 per cent between 1955 and 1956 was wiped out by the 1957 decline, bringing last year's sales to three quarters of 1 per cent under the 1955 level.

Indications are that children's wear and corset and brassiere volume improved slightly in the first three months of this year, as compared with a year back. In the case of women's outerwear, however, volume was generally lower. The smallest dip—3 per cent—occurred in the case of skirts. At the other extreme, coats

and suits and unit-priced dresses declined 14 per cent; the general strike in the dress industry accounts in part for its showing.

The figures for the first quarter do not fully reflect spring business. In recent years, a decided tendency has emerged in prolonging the selling season beyond Easter, particularly when it is an early one.

Industrial changes in the different branches of our industry diversity affect the fortunes and employment opportunities of the garment workers specializing in the production of the particular items. With the demand for children's wear remaining relatively high, this branch of our industry showed a comparatively consistent growth in the number of jobs, amount of available work and pay rolls.

A somewhat similar pattern emerges in the undergarment and the corset and brassiere branch of the industry; however, in their case a temporary slowdown in employment appeared in the last quarter of 1957 and the first quarter of 1958. The women's outerwear field showed less buoyancy during the entire period under review.

Wears 95% on 35-Hr. Week; Votes \$1 Million to Promote Label

Pres. Dubinsky's Market Survey Shows New Dress Pact Sets Pace

The terms by which the general strike of 105,000 dressmakers in seven northeastern states was settled in March are already serving as the basis for contract renewals by other ILGWU affiliates. Pres. David Dubinsky pointed out at the start of his report on the state of the union with which the meeting of the General Executive Board, opened in Montreal on May 12.

He indicated that in the two months that have passed since the end of that strike and achievement of a new agreement, the pact terms have affected an additional 50,000 members. These, he said, are the Boston dress and sportswear workers, the Fall River and Philadelphia dressmakers and the sportswear workers in New York.

Because of the extraordinary importance of the dress general strike, Pres. Dubinsky put it first on the agenda of business. The entire meeting session of the first day was devoted to an analysis by him of the conduct of the strike, the negotiations and the significance of the contract terms. Before the president gave his report, he called on

Montreal Mayor Welcomes GEB

The social aspect of the visit of the General Executive Board to Montreal for the first time in eight years was highlighted by a reception at the City Hall on May 14. The entire board and its guests were received by Mayor Sarto Fournier. Pres. Dubinsky and first Vice Luigi Antonini signed the visitors' Golden Book.

The stay also included a reception on the evening of May 14 at the ILGWU headquarters and health center. Local executive board members, Montreal ILGWU staff members, and shop committee members met at the visiting officers, who also heard a short concert by the ILGWU Girls' Chorus in its early evening roundup on May 15. The Canadian Broadcasting Corp. television carried coverage of the reception.

Vice Pres. Julius Heckman, general manager of the New York Dress Joint Board and chairman of the strike committee, to describe the historic error.

Pres. Dubinsky said he considered the dress strike of 1949 to be just in importance to the historic walk-outs of 1939 and 1910 in which the strength of the ILGWU was first

(Continued on Page 4)

The economic recession and the dramatic style switch to the chemise have had a mixed impact on the women's garment industry, according to reports presented at the semi-annual meeting of the ILGWU General Executive Board, which ended a four-day meeting at Montreal's new Queen Elizabeth Hotel on May 15.

Market reports indicated that where the new styles were a factor, chiefly in outerwear, they had helped sustain the level of garment sales, but for garments worn below the surface, the new fashion lines were of little or even of negative influence in terms of volume of sales and work.

Pres. David Dubinsky, chairman of the session, noted that the effect of the general weakness of the economy was evident in the drop of ILGWU membership, dues and welfare fund receipts.

The union sustained a loss of 3,500 members in 1957. By the end of that year its total membership was 440,000.

In the first three months of 1958, as compared with the first three months of 1957, employer contributions to ILGWU health and welfare funds decreased by 4 per cent. This represents a loss of about \$2,500,000 in fund receipts. The contribution is calculated as a percentage of payroll, and therefore reflects industry conditions.

The same period-to-period comparison shows a drop in the total volume of union dues of 6 per cent.

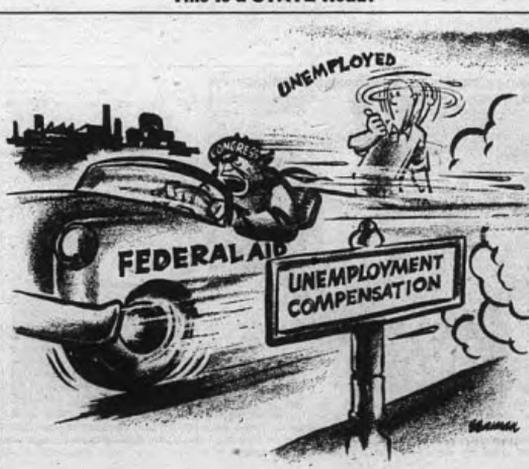
However, part of the decline was caused by the arch-strike of dressmakers in March, and a more accurate figure for the general loss would be between 4 and 5 per cent.

Despite the recession, Pres. Dubinsky pointed out, the union faces no crisis. Its funds, both general and special, are in excellent condition, and even though health and welfare benefits have continuously been improved as reserves have warranted, the health and welfare funds disbursed 84 per cent of their annual receipts last year.

The period has also been one in which, again despite general weakness in the economy, the ILGWU membership has grown 100,000 in its history, emerging with a vic-

(Continued on Page 4)

"This Is a STATE Road!"



Antonini, Bambace At Italian Rallies

First Vice Pres. Luigi Antonini and Vice Pres. Angela Bambace addressed important union rallies during their stay in Montreal.

A mass meeting of Italian workers and their families, recently arrived in Canada, was called by the Montreal ILGWU for May 18 at the Casa Italiana. Arranged by Vice Pres. Bambace and the meeting gave an enthusiastic reception to Antonini as he traced the contribution of Italian immigrants to the building of the American trade union movement. Vanni B. Modugno, editor of Giustizia, also addressed the meeting.

Earlier in the week, Vice Pres. Bambace made her first union speech in Italian before a mass rally of members of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America on strike against Hurdle Clothing Ltd. ACWA is seeking certification for more than 500 employed by the firm, but a company-union has temporarily blocked the effort with a legal maneuver.

Pres. Dubinsky Says Dress Makers Gain Set Price

(Continued from Page 3)
 forged. He declared that the 1937 general election was the first in the history of the ILOUW in a quarter of a century—and that its outcome would affect all affiliates. This would be clearly the case in the major gains, which he listed as:

- Overtime pay after seven hours a day and holiday pay piece work as well as time workers;
- The acceptance of the union label;
- The establishment of a severance pay fund as first suggested by Pres. Dubinsky at the 1936 convention;
- Payment for legal holidays for piece as well as time workers.

He described the steps by which the strategy of the strike was developed. He said that the two main causes for the intervention of the General Office in the strike relied on Dress Joint Board and Eastern Out-of-Town and North east Departments were:

- The stalemate of the conferences between the dress settlements and the general economic conditions and resistance by employers;
- The situation in Pennsylvania, where contractors, with prior agreement with a number of New York jobbers, had resigned from the industry association and asked for separate status, agreement and conditions.

The alternatives for the union were either to strike the city and the areas separately and get separate settlements, or to call all 105,000 dressmakers out in one general strike. The latter alternative had the effect of arousing an enthusiastic spirit of unity that swept through dress shops in seven states and brought a quick victory in all cases except in the die-hard anti union shops. Pres. Dubinsky recounted six times that terms of settlement with the Pennsylvania shops were reached, only to be vetoed by some invisible force.

The strike cost, ILOUW \$1,600, 000. This includes the \$25 week strike benefit that was paid after two weeks to those who struck for more than that length of time, and a special Easter strike bonus sent to the pickets in Pennsylvania on Good Friday.

N'East, EOT

The survey of the general strike included the reports of Vice Pres. David Glasgow, director of the Northeast Department, and General Manager Edward Kramer of the Eastern Out-of-Town Department. Both noted the warm spirit in which delegates from the Northeast and EOT Departments had worked on strike committees jointly with New Yorkers. In Pennsylvania, Glasgow noted, there was maturity and devotion was evident in round-the-clock picketing even in blizzards, and in a number of cases in which women pickets blocked shipments by stopping trucks with their bodies. Kramer stressed that the general walkout consisted of a successful general drive throughout the EOT which is still continuing and has already accounted for the unionization of 40 shops.

Following his detailed review of the conduct of the dress general strike, Pres. Dubinsky continued with his summary of reports presented in behalf of other branches, markets and regions.

N. Y. Cloak

Vice Pres. Isidore Nagler, general manager of the New York Cloak Joint Board, reported on the gains won in the new sportswear agreement ratified in April by Local 10, 23 and 35. He noted that the 1947 spring season was virtually wiped out by the year's fall season. A measure of this

was the fact that June 1947 welfare fund collections were 7 per cent ahead of the first six months of 1947, but by the end of the year had fallen back to only 1½ per cent ahead. The downward trend has continued into 1948 and has affected health and welfare fund collections and the number of applicants for retirement who will be approved.

Cutters' Local 10

The special impact of changing styles on the amount of work available for cutters was emphasized in the report of Vice Pres. Joe Falkman, manager of Local 10. He noted that in the miscellaneous trades, cutters' employment has been fairly steady in recent years. But in the most recent period, cutters in unskilled and semi-skilled branches have had less work, resulting, partly, from the popularity of the chemise silhouette which, otherwise, is held to have boosted garment sales.

Blousemakers' Local 25

Since the spring season started, employment in the blouse industry has been irregular, according to Vice Pres. Charles Kraselner. In his report he attributed this to the blouse industry's concern with price competition, instead of a strong effort to create new styles.

Children's Dress Local 91

Unfavorable economic conditions that are general throughout the country have also affected the children's wear industry, according to Vice Pres. Harry Greenberg. This has been reflected in a small decline in the local membership and the exit of a number of firms from the industry.

Knitgoods Local 155

Vice Pres. Louis Nelson reported that employment has increased in all knitgoods markets and that a number of mills have been liquidated. In addition, the industry faces competition from imports from Japan, Puerto Rico and Italy. He called for a special immediate effort to organize knitgoods workers in New Jersey.

COT

Vice Pres. George Rubin noted that in the cloak-out-of-town shops the season ran down from a high in the middle of December to a lull around Easter. The impact was most serious in children's coat shops while work was most plentiful in the better lines. Membership gains was maintained through organization of 18 new shops.

Upper South

Organizing drives are in progress in western Maryland, on the state's (Continued on Page 3)

GEB Votes \$1 Million Label Promotion

(Continued from Page 3)
 tory that has set the pattern for contract improvements in other branches and markets.
 Most notable, since the last GEB meeting, has been the steady advance in implementing convention mandates dealing with the 35-hour work week. Pres. Dubinsky reported the board that 55 per cent of the union's U. S. membership now works under agreements providing for the 35-hour week. Further, 45 per cent of these are covered by the additional provision calling for time and one-half overtime rates after seven hours a day.

In New York City, 75 per cent of the members now have the 35-hour, seven-hour provision. By next convention time in May 1949, it is expected that 90 per cent of ILOUW members will have the overtime provision.

Promote Union Label

Moving ahead on a program that arose in the dress general strike, the GEB authorized an expenditure of \$1 million a year to promote an ILOUW union label. The dress agreement that terminated the general strike provides for a union label to go into use Jan. 1, 1949. Similar provisions are also in the children's wear, undergarment, Boston, West Coast and other agreements.

The ILOUW label will enable consumers to distinguish the garment made under dress standard union conditions from those who seek to evade those standards and depress labor conditions. A label committee consisting of Vice Presidents John Hochman, Isidore Nagler, Harry Greenberg and Executive Vice Pres. Louis Stulberg was named to deal with matters of designing, producing and arranging for the label promotion.

Retiree Program

The GEB also approved a program by the Health, Welfare and Profit Benefits Committee that the ILOUW finance the construction of a new wing to the Workmen's Circle Home in the Bronx. N. Y. in the program being worked out by the union for retired members.

As part of the program, existing facilities for housing the better lines and other needs of retired members are being surveyed. It was reported, ILOUW members who are also members of the Workmen's Circle are already eligible to stay at the home. The new wing, estimated to cost \$1 million, would ac-

commodate about 150 ILOUW members who are members of the Workmen's Circle, the fraternal organization that operates the home.

Members of the GEB devoted half a day to a discussion of Greenblatt, the Jewish edition of JUSTICE which ceased publication with its January 1948 issue. The decision that led to discontinuing the publication was made at the board meeting last November after careful weighing of the need for such publication in terms of service to the union's members.

The discussion at this board meeting, among other things, dealt with the reaction to the suspension of the publication, the sentimental and emotional arguments against suspension, the availability of other news sources for Jewish-reading members on the Daily Forward and the Day.

Participating in the discussion were First Vice Pres. Louis Antonini and Vice Presidents Louis Nelson, Nicholas Kirman, Benjamin Kaplan, Charles S. Zimmerman, Morris Blain, Max Falkman, Samuel Otto and Isidore Nagler.

The GEB reaffirmed its previous decision and approved the action discontinuing Greenblatt.

Union Assets

The total assets of the ILOUW were reported by Pres. Dubinsky to be, as of the end of 1947, \$78,904, 179.86 of which \$18,619,936.91 are assets of the Death Benefit Fund. The affiliated local and joint boards hold assets \$43,313,367.87 of the above total. The total liabilities of the union amount to \$20,454,807.06.

Pres. Dubinsky also reported that the total expense of operating the union, its General Office and affiliates, in 1947 was \$27,573,866.26 including death benefits. Total receipts of the union in this period was \$28,197,119.58.

Other actions, decisions and reports at the GEB meeting included:

- Decided to establish ILOUW 1948 Political Campaign Committee to collect voluntary contributions for support of pro-labor candidates in the coming campaign.

- Approval of the union's program in New York City to establish a corps of shop fire wardens with the cooperation of the New York Fire Department.
- Announcement that 316 applications for 1948 ILOUW National Scholarships have been received. Final selection of the 10 winners who will receive the \$2,000 scholarship award will be made in June.
- Only children of ILOUW members are eligible for the annual award.

- Approval of the recommendation of the Finance Committee that corporate bonds be authorized for funds of the union, of any affiliate and of any special fund. Such investment is to be limited to high-rated securities and no more than 20 per cent of a fund's reserves are to go into such bonds, and no more than 4 per cent in bonds of any one issuer.

- Reported, through its controller, that at present more than \$22 million in general and special fund reserves have been committed for mortgages to construct homes for armed forces personnel at the Little Rock Air Force Base, the Stead Air Force Base, Point Mugu Naval Air Station, Fort Ord Army Base and Fort Leonard Wood Army Base.

- Announcement that the 36th convention of the ILOUW in May, 1948 will be held in Miami Beach, Florida. Executive Vice Pres. Isidore Nagler in reporting on the arrangements stated the convention will be held at the Municipal Auditorium.
- Approved a committee report postponing filing of GEB reserves in view of the approaching ILOUW convention.

- Approved financing of a Jewish Home in Miami Beach, Florida. The memorial to be erected at North Beach which is southeast of Rehoboth where the Weitzman Institute is located, will be a cultural community center serving nine groups of colonies and consisting of an auditorium to seat 720, a library, office and stores.

- The group reported to have been who have immigrated to Israel from all parts of Europe and Africa. The New York Cloak Joint Board and the Eastern Out-of-Town Department, Vice Pres. Isidore Nagler, will give the time of his death a year ago, with the aid of the ILOUW, will include \$45,000 to the total cost of \$124,000.

- The board heard reports covering all ILOUW institutions and departments. First Vice Pres. Antonini reported on the March of Dimes and Dollars Drive this year which he headed. (A detailed account will appear in a forthcoming issue of JUSTICE.) Dov Beigon of the Histadrut, the Jewish labor movement, appeared before the board to give a progress report on the building of the hospital in Beersheba, for which the ILOUW has pledged \$1 million aid.

Nagler Sails to Europe For Conference of ILO

Vice Pres. Isidore Nagler, general manager of the New York Cloak Joint Board, will sail for Europe May 21 on the Queen Mary, accompanied by Mrs. Nagler, to attend the conference of the International Labor Organization, slated to start in Geneva, Switzerland, on June 1. Nagler will serve as an advisor to the American-ILO delegation headed by George Messers.

Pennsylvania at Northeast Seminar



Bury of Allentown-Reading District ILOUW attending one of the Northeast Department weekend seminars at Lehigh Valley, Pa. From left to right: Isidore Nagler, ILOUW assistant executive secretary, describes union's function. James Lipsitz, ILOUW assistant executive secretary, describes union's function. Northeast Department conducted six consecutive weekend institutes for various department districts.

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DAVID DUBINSKY, President and General Secretary-Treasurer
 LEON STEIN, Editor

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June at Unity House

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ALL RATES ARE 25% LOWER IN JUNE.

Pascagoula BVD Strikers Get \$20,000 in Back Pay

Back pay awards totaling \$20,000 have been awarded by the National Labor Relations Board's 15th Region to 44 employees of BVD, Inc. of Pascagoula, Mississippi, who struck in the spring of 1952 against the company's unfair labor practices.

Payment by the company climaxed a lengthy legal battle. When the discharge of the 44 striking employees was first taken to the NLRB, it held that they were not entitled to reinstatement to their jobs because they allegedly had condoned picket line violence by unknown persons, or did not protest against such violence. Together with the AFL-CIO, the IGLWU took the board to court, and in 1956 this decision was set aside.

Distribution of the back pay completes the case in which BVD was required to cease and desist from intimidation and coercion of its employees, and was forced to reinstate all 44 former strikers. Recent rulings by the NLRB limiting back pay awards prevented the total from reaching several times the amount paid.

\$49 Million Health, Welfare Benefits Paid IGLers in '57

IGLWU members last year enjoyed \$49,252,126 in health, welfare and retirement benefits. Pres. David Dubinsky announced last week in releasing the annual report covering the income, disbursements and assets of the 90 health and welfare funds and 49 retirement funds established by union affiliates.

MARKETS SURVEYED AT MEETING OF CEB

(Continued from Page 4)
Eastern Shore and in Virginia, Vice Pres. Angela Bambara reported. In recent months scores of agreements have been reached in this area with the inclusion of a clause calling for overtime pay based on the 35-year work week. Baltimore cloak employees have also agreed to this provision.

Midwest

Reporting for Chicago and the Midwest, Vice Pres. Bernia Blais noted a generally poor cloak season that was poked up toward its finish by unseasonably cold weather and a better-than-anticipated silk dress season. As in the main to the east, trousers and other style manipulations.

Ohio-Kentucky

While conditions and standards in shops in Cleveland and the Ohio-Kentucky Region remain high, the garment industry there has recently suffered retrenchment in employment and production due, for the most part, to the departure of a number of firms from the industry. It was reported by Vice Pres. Nicholas Kitzman.

Philadelphia

In Philadelphia, as reported by Dress Joint Board Manager William Karp, applications initiated under terms of a recalcitrant clause were affected by the unusual dress strike and its outcome, so that the Philadelphia settlement achieved not only wage adjustments, but also severance and overtime pay and labor clauses.

South

Three reports covered recent developments in the South. Frederick Simons, Southeast Region director, reported that a survey by the regional office has pinpointed areas in which organizational work will be concentrated. S. C. Chalkin, director of the Lower Southeast Region, noted that non-union firms in many cases have been hit even harder than unionized shops by the drop in work volume. E. T. Keizer, director of the Southeast Region, reported that the effect of the recession is to be noted chiefly in the loss of overtime, short work weeks, and, in many cases, the frequent style changes. He lauded the spreading acceptance

in the years in which those funds have functioned, the report indicates a grand total of \$73,943,670 in benefits have gone to garment workers.

Vice Pres. year's total paid out, over \$3,139,000 came from the health and welfare funds for benefits that included hospitalization, disability, annual welfare checks, eye examination, surgery, maternity, and health creche services.

Also, at the end of the year, 15,447 retirees were receiving monthly pensions at the annual rate of \$11,200,000. Since IGLWU retirement funds were first set up, over \$85 million has been distributed to 22,234 members who have been retired during the entire period.

Wide Coverage

Of the IGLWU total membership, 84 per cent are covered by health and welfare funds; 84.97 per cent by retirement funds. Administrative costs of these funds, which are financed by employer contributions on a varying percentage-of-payroll basis, have been held down to the low average of 5.42 per cent for health and welfare and 13 per cent for retirement.

The pension funds—and most of the health and welfare funds—are of the union label as a major aid to organizing.

Boston

Reporting for Boston, Vice Pres. Philip Kramer described terms of a recent contract renewal in the dress and sportswear industries of that city.

Pacific Coast

Vice Pres. Samuel Gile reported that the 1956 spring season was a poor one in all Pacific Coast markets. It started late and was short. There was considerable unemployment, and for the first time in many years, the small shortage of operators at midseason failed to materialize.

Canada

Canadian garment markets have felt the same drop in garment production and employment as the U. S. markets, Vice Pres. Bernard Shuch reported.

Supplementing reports with comments were Vice President Charles S. Zimmerman, Benjamin Kaplan, Jennie Mayne and Edward Melnick. Pres. Dubinsky also reported on settlements and negotiations by Local 100, 118 and 145.

administered jointly by union and management.

In line with the policy set down by the IGLWU General Executive Board, health and welfare benefits have been increased as reserves have been built up. Levels considered ample to provide the needs of the members. Thus, 97.33 per cent of pensions were distributed as benefits in 1957; by the following year, this had risen to 96.5 per cent, and in 1957, it reached 93.95 per cent.

Net resources of the 129 health, welfare and retirement funds total \$111,112,221. Of this, \$90,000,000 is held by the health and welfare funds; \$11,510,228 by the retirement funds. The health and welfare funds have about 78 per cent of their assets in U.S. Government and U.S. Agency bonds; about 84 per cent of retirement assets are so invested.

The report prepared by Adelph Herd, director of the IGLWU Welfare and Health Benefits Department, also states that the union operates 18 health centers and four mobile health units (the latter in Puerto Rico, Pennsylvania, New York State and the Southwest) serve the shop's workers signed up with 430,000 members or 94.11 per cent of the union's total membership.

ACME UNDERGARMENT IN JERSEY GOES EOT; 2-DECADE HOLDOUT

After operating non-union for more than 20 years, the Acme Undergarment Co. is producing knitted underwear in Hightstown, N. J., issued in the town when the shop's workers signed up with the IGLWU 100 per cent, according to General Manager Edward Kramer of the Eastern Out-of-Town Department.

In a whirlwind campaign, EOT organizers enrolled the firm's 90 workers. Sparking the drive was a workers' committee consisting of Frank Pfeiffer, Margaret Rademacher and Irvin Johnson. Local Manager Peter DeLorenzo, by Jersey arrangement, directed the activities of Business Agents Bernard Cohen, Jerry Thibault, Ray Larson and Bernard Kozman.

S'East Spring Sport Sprouts 400 'Buds'

Three new shops employing more than 400 workers are the latest additions to the IGLWU roster, enrolled via the Southeast Region's continuing spring campaign, reports E. T. Keizer, regional director.

These include, 150 workers a Brunswick Manufacturing Co. in Brunswick, Ga., and 50 at Asheville Manufacturing Co., Asheville, Ga. Children's coat manufacturers, who have agreed to a 5 per cent wage increase, overtime pay after 27½ hours, \$1.15 hourly shop minimum, employer's contributions of 6 per cent of payroll for health, vacation and retirement benefits, plus other standard Southeast provisions.

Inter-Area Cooperation

Operating non-union in Georgia for some time, these firms were enrolled through the combined efforts of Executive Vice Pres. Louis Stollberg, New York Local 190 Manager Martin Cohen, and the Southeast Regional Office.

As an aftermath at the seventeen New York dress market strike, 200 workers of Jo-Lag Sportswear in Spartanburg, S. C., have been organized. The new agreement calls for an 8 per cent general wage increase, all dress industry fringe benefits, including retirement and severance pay, and overtime pay after 2½ hours. This firm is a part of Youth Fair, Inc., a Jonathan Logan subsidiary.

"The Jo-Lag organization is of particular importance," stated Keizer, "because the Spartanburg-Greenville area consists of the largest non-union market in the entire Southeast."

In 1957 we conducted a sit-down strike at Spartan Under, to secure a beachhead in this important area. Now, with this substantial dress agreement, we are beginning

to have a significant effect on the region's labor standards. Further organization should result."

HUGHES IN REVERSAL PENS MONTREAL PACT

A recalcitrant employer who fought the IGLWU successfully four years ago did a complete turnaround last week, agreeing to union terms including wage boosts and other benefits for 150 employees.

The employer, Val Hughes Inc. signed a union contract granting an immediate 5-cent hourly increase, two weeks' paid vacations and aid at the welfare benefits enjoyed by other union members in Montreal.

Vice Pres. Bernard Shane announced, shortly after the contract signing, the Leader, spokesman, director of the union's engineering department, would come to Montreal soon to inspect the Val Hughes plant and to advise on more efficient production methods.

In 1954, when the IGLWU first attempted to organize Val Hughes, the Quebec Labor Relations Board ordered a vote among employees of the shop, but employer hostility foiled the union election.

This time, with the union's Canada-wide organizing drive in full swing, Val Hughes saw the light. Workers backed to join the IGLWU when making a formal application to the Quebec Labor Relations Board for dissolution of the company union that has been functioning since the shop.

JOBS for AMERICA

UNEMPLOYMENT is a grim reality for millions of American families today. Layoffs mean that these families must cut down in spending. They can purchase only the most essential goods and services. In our vast economy, what one family spends becomes part of what another family earns. When spending slows down, earnings drop and jobs are reduced. Families cannot do without food, even if food prices are high. They cannot do without medical care, even if medical costs are high. They cannot escape rent or mortgages. But they can—and do—cut down where purchases can be postponed. The purchasing power that turns the wheels of American industry shrinks up.

But there are ways of replenishing it and bringing back more jobs. One way is to aid the nation's wage earners who make up the vast army of consumers. More purchasing power can be put into their hands by cutting their taxes, improving their unemployment insurance and social security, providing a public works program. Another way is to bring prices down so that their dollars can buy more. Today, consumers don't buy and goods don't move, but prices stay high.

These are the two roads of federal action for more jobs: relief through federal legislation cutting taxes for low- and middle-income families, improved unemployment insurance, etc., on one hand, and, on the other, federal action to break the grip of monopolistic and administered prices and restore the benefits of a free competitive market.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
Tuesday, May 8, 1938

Contrary Consumers 'Buy Now' Drives Don't Influence Them Though Their Desires Are Many

They Talk of High Prices Lack of Cash; Uncertainty Leads Many to Shun Debt

"It's a Good Time to Save"

A Wall Street Journal, New York
A little more spending money and a bit more price reductions would spur consumer spending more than all the current encouragement by industry and Government to get Americans to buy now.

Who says so? Consumers, who've got their eye on all kinds of goods, from autos and to a new line in houses and new summer suits.

In the past few days, Wall Street Journal street smarts, noted jingles, lawmakers, corporate executives and industry workers in suburban and rural parts of the country. They found almost all had a hesitating to buy one or more major items, from new little electric vacuum cleaner buying. Justice had been "reluctant" by the past week's spending spree. A survey of 100 consumers in the past week to explain the phenomenon.

Not only a few of those interviewed were actually planning to purchase goods now if it were possible. Most consumers, however, were "on the fence," despite the fact that they were in the line of goods to be bought. They were in the line of goods to be bought. They were in the line of goods to be bought. They were in the line of goods to be bought.

Millions today are compelled to leave it they what they can pass up because 1) they have to spend and 2) it takes more money to buy of balance can be restored in the nation's economy can be provided—through a) a program of low- and middle-income families, required unemployment and public-works that would replace purchasing power and b) steps by the federal to break rigged and administered prices that private profit tax on the incomes of America's wealthy.

1

High prices mean fewer sales. Fewer sales mean reduced production. Reduced production means more unemployment, less pay. If prices were free to move they would come down to the point at which sales would rise, production would pick up. There would be more jobs, more pay, more purchasing power. But despite more unemployment and fewer sales, prices stay up. Why don't they come down?



JOBS

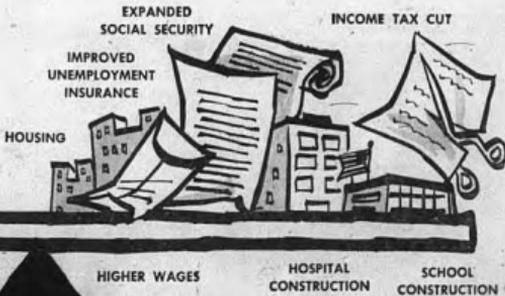
2

They don't come down because in respect to many goods and services the consumer wants, he no longer has a choice of price. Either the item is made by one big company that sets the price, or several companies make the same thing and have agreed on the price. Profit makes up a good part of price, and short-sighted corporations refuse to cut back on either. Pricewise, the American consumer is being offered goods and services on a "take it or leave it" basis.



3

They buy less of
have less money to
buy at high prices.
economy—more jobs
can of tax relief to
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Zimmerman Pinpoints Algeria, Europe Crises

Unless the crisis in Algeria is quickly and constructively resolved, a conflagration may break out involving all of North Africa. This is the warning voiced by Vice Pres. Charles S. Zimmerman, manager of Local 22, in reporting on his conversation with President Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia during his recent visit abroad.

In speaking before the Local 22 Executive Board last week following his return from the International Labor Organization Textile Committee session in Geneva, Switzerland, Zimmerman emphasized that Bourguiba, leader of the free world, needs help, especially from the United States, in stemming the tide of anti-western forces and instabilities. Influences that are poisoning unceasingly in North African lands.

Zimmerman was recommended as a delegate to the sixth biennial session of the ILO Textile Committee by AFL-CIO Vice Pres. George Meany and appointed Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell.

The conference, in which Zimmerman was an active participant, dealt with working conditions and the effects of technological developments on wages, conditions and level of employment in the textile industry.

While agreeing with many of the excellent recommendations adopted by the conference, he said that "there is a need for popularizing the ideas and recommendations of the International Labor Organization and its related committees. It is important to have a free exchange of ideas between the various nationals on the committees in order to make these conferences more effective."

Highlights of his visit, Zimmerman said, included his talk with President Bourguiba, his meetings with Giuseppe Saragat, leader of the Italian Social Democratic Party; with Giulio Pastore, head of the Italian free trade unions (CISL); with Achmed Thani, general secretary of the Tunisian trade unions (UGTT); and conversations with many other leading unionists in France, Italy and Tunisia.

In the course of a two-hour report to an extremely interested executive board, Zimmerman stressed the following:

—The Tunisian labor movement is led by a group of outstanding, intelligent and practical trade unionists who are firmly on the side of the free world. He pointed to the excellent progress the Tunisian trade unions have achieved in establishing cooperatives in the fisheries and in the garment, print-

ing and construction industries. —There is no religious discrimination in Tunisia. He visited several homes of Tunisian citizens of the Jewish faith in Tunis and Bizerte, and found that the Jewish citizens were an integral part of the community.

—In Italy, there is a compelling need for the non-communist unions to unite to protect effectively the interests of the workers both from the employers and the Communists.

Upper South, Kreindler Mark Major Milestones

A portrait of progress and problems was painted by the 80 delegates to the Upper South Department's annual conference in Baltimore on May 2 and 3, reports Vice Pres. Angela Bambarce, department manager.

Pres. David Dubinsky, Executive Vice Pres. Louis Stuberger and Vice Pres. Moe Falkman were among the prominent unionists participating in the conference, which marked two milestones of ILOUW history in the Maryland-Virginia-West Virginia area.

—Twenty-five years of union leadership by Vice Pres. Charles Kreindler in Baltimore and the area that has become the Upper South Department, of which he is supervisor; —Fifteen years of the Upper South Department.

Starting with two locals and 528 members in 1942, today the Upper South department services some 19,000 members in 40 locals. Manager Bambarce reported to the conferees.

In honoring Kreindler, the format of the television program "This is Your Life" was adopted, with Assistant Manager Eddie Milano acting as narrator.

Pres. Dubinsky, in summing up the activities of Charles Kreindler stated that he typifies the traditional idealism of the ILOUW.

The department's 18 years of progress and the challenges it still faces were spotlighted in the delegates' reports.

In their reports, delegates told of their participation in the general dress strike of March and its accomplishments in bread-and-butter

Ohio AFL, CIO Join; 37th State Merger

One million Ohio trade unionists joined the AFL-CIO state merger parade May 5 as 2,743 delegates, meeting in Cleveland's Convention Hall, voted unanimously to combine their old AFL and CIO state bodies into one united statewide organization, the largest merged state body thus far, and the 37th state to take the step.

All but a handful of states are expected to merge within the next three months. slated for later in May is Indiana's labor movement; Idaho is scheduled to follow in July. Two other states, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island, are expected to have their merger-convention dates set by the end of the month. In Kentucky, New York, California and Wisconsin, committees from AFL and CIO state bodies are working out the framework for a merger agreement.

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HOW TO BUY With Phony Guarantees

by Sidney Margolis

You Get No Protection With Phony Guarantees

Any guarantee is only as good as the company behind it. Thousands of Midwest families were stuck with faulty incinerators when the manufacturer went bankrupt. Another firm bought the manufacturer's assets, but not its guarantee liabilities. The Cleveland Better Business Bureau reported that the burner unit lasted only about three months and then had to be replaced at a cost of \$12.50. The buyers' only recourse was a little one: to sue for \$12.50.

Read the guarantees to see what it actually covers. A blatant example of phony guarantees was shown to a New York Governor's Conference on Fraud, by Harry Gerber, president of the American National Jewelry Association. It read, "Unlimited Guarantee." But small print underneath said, "exclusive of parts." "What does that mean?" Gerber asked. "That the guarantee is for the strap and buckle?"

"Lifetime" guarantees generally are meaningless. When such advertisements are pinned down, they explain they merely mean that the item is guaranteed for its own lifetime, not yours.

Not only "triple" sellers, but even big manufacturers and dealers sometimes put limitations in their guarantees so that you don't have as much real protection as is sometimes advertised.

One woman found that her "20-year furnace warranty" stipulated that it was limited to the exchange of any defective parts, which had to be shipped to a distant factory, charges prepaid.

Too, the much-advertised "five-year guarantee" on refrigerators applies to the compressor, not the entire refrigerator.

When you buy equipment, it's important to save the bill showing the purchase date. Manufacturers generally can tell from the serial number and condition of an appliance approximately when you bought it, but a dated receipt is extra protection if your picture tube or vacuum cleaner motor explodes about the same time as the guarantee.

Nowadays it's important to inquire specifically whether or not the purchase price includes a year's service on labor as well as on parts. The guarantees of the more reputable manufacturers all imply a year's free parts and labor, except on TV sets. But dealers tend to tell you they bought the appliance without a labor guarantee. This way they free themselves from any liability.

It's not known to the public, but a dealer who is "self-servicing" (provides the service), can buy appliances from some manufacturers without a "service order," for about \$10 less on a typical item. He may simply pocket this \$10 and still charge you for labor even under the guarantee if this question is not cleared up before signing the contract.

Follow Instructions!

Aside from defects in equipment itself, many equipment troubles are caused by homeowners' own failure to follow instructions for keeping appliances in order. Among the most common forms of neglect are failure to keep refrigerator coils clean and to defrost refrigerators and freezers. And many women seem to regard the manufacturers' instruction booklets merely as advertising matter.

In fact, a Chicago retailer got a frantic call from a customer that her new dishwasher wouldn't work. He found that the instruction booklet had become jammed in the machinery. It had never even been removed. Another woman angrily called the manufacturer of her new automatic refrigerator to complain it didn't make ice cubes. The serviceman found the reason was that she hadn't put water in the ice-cube trays.

You'll avoid some wrinkles over guarantees, and also service calls for which you may have to pay, if you keep manufacturers' instruction booklets handy, and refer to them when troubles develop.

Chi Cotton Garment Pact Takes Pressed

Full-scale negotiations for contract renewals in the cotton garment industry of Chicago and surrounding areas are continuing apace between union shopmen and representatives of the garment industries of Illinois and with the R. & M. Kaufman Co., which operates six plants.

However, there are as yet no signs of agreement on pact terms, and the union is going ahead with preparations for a strike should it become necessary. Main talks in the parlors are the 35-hour week, higher minimums and bonus to pay, according to Vice Pres. Morris Blais, Midwest regional director.

A conference with Garment Industries of Illinois on May 1 was followed by an informal session with that group on May 1. The meeting with R. & M. Kaufman on May 2, was augmented by representatives from locals in La-

Salto, Spring Valley, Mattson, Skovran and Aurora, Ill. and Clinton, Iowa.

79 New Retirees

In Chicago, June retirements were announced for 79 more ILOUW members by three funds. Party workers will be retired from the Chicago dressmakers' fund; 20 by the clockmakers' fund, and nine by the clockmakers' fund.

Also, the Central States Retirement Fund announces that it has received about 100 applications for retirement. Central States fund retirees will receive eligibility of these applications on May 20.

UPPER SOUTH DEPARTMENT

International Ladies' Garment Workers Union



Vice Pres. Charles Kreindler, supervisor of Upper South Department, presided at session of department's 15th Anniversary Conference, Flushing Meadows, at Vice Pres. Angela Bambarce (left), Upper South manager, and Ed Johns, president of Baltimore AFL-CIO. Occasion also marked 25 years of Kreindler's leadership in the area. Speakers included Pres. Dubinsky, Executive Vice Pres. Louis Stuberger and Vice Pres. Moe Falkman.

Shop Door Bolted, She Bolts Job -- Wins Jobs Pay

"No door leading into or out of any factory or any floor thereof shall be locked, bolted or fastened during working hours."

That's what the New York State Labor law says. But when Rose Cosenza, 60-year-old member of Italian Dressmakers' Local 85, went to the 23rd floor of a Seventh Ave. factory to fill a sampler-making, she had to grope her way through a dimly-lit hallway to find that the door leading to where she was to work was locked.

After the knocked on the door, it was unbolted, she was admitted—and the door bolted again. Rose Cosenza was hired, and was to report for work the following day.

However, when she returned home and thought about the bolted door, she decided not to accept the job. She feared that, in case of an emergency such as a fire, her life might be endangered because the door would be unable to be opened and bolted. She told this to her prospective employer.

At an unemployment insurance hearing on the case, Rose Cosenza pointed out that the bolting of the door

to the workroom was against the law. Nevertheless, she was disqualified from receiving benefits on grounds that she had refused employment "without good cause."

The unemployment insurance referee, in upholding this decision, conceded that the door in question had indeed been kept locked, but insisted that the worker had been "unduly timid about the situation?"

But the matter did not rest there, for the ILGWU, through its Research Department, took the case to the unemployment insurance Appeals Board.

In the memorandum prepared by Daniel Nelson, the union cited the New York labor law prohibiting the locking of factory doors during working hours, plus indications that provisions of the law concerning obstruction of passageways also had been violated.

"Thus," the ILGWU maintained, "far from being 'unduly timid about the situation,' claimant's reasons for refusing employment are fully supported by the New York State labor law. The conditions of the offered employment constituted a fire hazard."

In a clearcut, strongly-worded decision, the Appeals

Board upheld—Rose Cosenza and the union. In addition to the state labor law, the board pointedly recalled the Triangle Fire of 1911, and quoted from a court comment on that tragedy which declared:

"For the protection of employees, the law has placed upon the employer an obligation to have all doors leading to his factory unlocked during working hours. . . . A locked door opens neither inward nor outwardly. If any door leading to the factory was locked and bolted during working hours, the law was violated."

In view of the facts and circumstances of the case, the Appeals Board ruled that Rose Cosenza's fears "were well founded" and that she had "good cause to refuse the offered employment not only under the labor law generally, but under the unemployment insurance law."

Accordingly, the board overruled the referee. Rose Cosenza received the unemployment insurance to which she was entitled—and in fighting for her rights she simultaneously strengthened the current efforts of the union to prevent further shop fire disasters.

Shop Fire Tragedies Cited At National Safety Confab

"Safety Conserves Manpower—Manpower Builds The Future," was the theme this year as 2,500 representatives of labor, industry and government assembled for three days in Washington, D. C., for the 11th annual President's Conference on Occupational Safety.

Featured speakers at this year's conference included President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell and AFL-CIO Pres. George Meany.

Speaking at the closing session of the safety conference, Pres. Meany asked whether Americans would continue to be aroused "to the need for adequate industrial safety provisions only when faced by horrifying, death-dealing catastrophes."

"Think back to the Triangle Shirt Waist Co. tragedy on March 25, 1911, when scores of young women burned to death in a factory where there was neither sufficient space between the rows of sewing machines nor enough doors to let them escape with their lives from the fire," Meany said.

"Beside it, place another factory fire which occurred on March 13, 1956—almost 47 years later to the day and just several blocks away from the scene of the original tragedy."

In the field of industrial safety, Meany noted, "America has made progress through tragedy. . . . Must Americans continue to make progress against occupational hazards only through tragedy?"

The AFL-CIO chief proposed a five-point action program, including the establishment and adequate financing of accident-prevention bureaus by federal and state governments, and stricter safety legislation and enforcement.

Many representatives invited by the White House to attend the conference included Joseph Tustin, manager of New York Ladies' Neckwear Local 142, and Arthur Colton, secretary of the ILGWU Educational Department.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, preliminary estimates show job injuries in 1957 disabled 1,130,000 American workers. About 14,500 workers were killed, and another 83,860 suffered permanent physical impairment.

Health Center Closes Saturdays in Summer

During July and August, the New York Union Health Center will be closed on Saturdays. Medical care will be available Mondays through Fridays until 7 P.M. Members are urged to make appointments for services on these days.

In case of urgent need when the center is closed, information and assistance can be obtained by phoning WA 4-2510.

L.A. CLOAKS MOBILIZE TO GUARD STANDARDS

Los Angeles cloak shop chairmen, gathering at their joint board headquarters last month for a special pre-season meeting, were cautioned by Manager Isidore Nagler to consult with their business agents before setting any piecework prices. Otherwise, some employers may take advantage of current economic conditions to depress workers' earnings, the cloak manager warned.

In just a month and a half, on July 1, Los Angeles cloakmakers will receive their "second round" of wage increases under the terms of their 1947 union agreement. Nagler reminded the group.

These will range from \$1.50 to \$1.35 weekly for time workers and from 2 to 3 per cent for piece workers.

Fight Anti-Union Bill
ILGWU members' wives and daughters will be enlisted in the union's campaign against the California "right-to-work" proposal. It is reported by Vice Pres. Samuel Otto, Pacific Coast director.

First of a series of events, kicked off by the Cloak Joint Board, will be a "Wages Campaign" Rally, staged with special entertainment and well-known guest speakers, to take place May 21 at the Los Angeles Cloakmakers' Auditorium.

N. Y. Cloaks Push Enforcing Map Action in Fire Warden

At a conference last week of New York Cloak Joint Board staff members called to survey industry conditions and the union's contract enforcement procedures, General Manager Isidore Nagler emphasized that eternal vigilance was the key for maintaining union standards, in good seasons—and bad.

At the session held May 9, department managers, business agents and joint board officers heard the cloak chief review current economic developments and trace their impact on the coat, suit and sports wear markets.

He cautioned the cloak and sportswear staff to be ever alert against any attempt by some employers to utilize the national economic recession to evade prompt payments of welfare fund costs to the union.

Nagler outlined other areas of contract enforcement where special surveillance was vital. He referred to the wage increase granted all coat and suit workers last year by the impartial chairman, and which has been strictly observed throughout the industry. However, the union must guard against any possible evasion by some employers, he stated, now that conditions were uncertain.

The staff was administered to

Cite Laboda of '99 For Handicap Work

New York ILGWU Local 99 Business Agent Ben Laboda has been awarded a Citation for Meritorious Service from both the Governor's Committee and the President's Committee on Employment of the Physically Handicapped.

In a letter in Manager Shelby Appleton's official distribution (union local, Orin Lehman, chairman of the Governor's Committee, said, "We have received many reports from numerous social agencies in the city about Mr. Laboda's truly wonderful work in effecting the placement of physically disabled workers."

The first labor laws passed in the U.S. were child labor laws. In 1813, Connecticut passed a law requiring mill owners to have children in their factories taught the "three R's."

Artcrafts on Parade at Spring Festival

For ten days this month, the second-floor studio at ILGWU general headquarters in New York City was transformed into an art gallery, sculpture room, music hall and "little theatre" for performances of arts and drama and demonstrations of arts-and-crafts techniques.

The occasion? It was the union's annual Spring Festival and Crafts Exhibit, vividly presented for the seventh consecutive year by the ILGWU Educational Department.

"The best result" of this exhibit of ILGWU members' talents, declared Vice Pres. Julius Hochman, OEB Education Committee chairman, in a message read at the festival's opening, "would be an increased participation by our members in the rich and colorful cultural activities provided by our union."

Other features of the May 5 opening ceremony included a talk by the eminent ceramist, Walter D. Krings, and a musical performance by the chorus of New York Shipping Clerks' Local 80-A.

On the second night, Mrs. John Gilson, widow of the famous artist, described, with the aid of 50 overhead slides, the various stages of her husband's work. On the following night, the choral group of Children's Trees Local 91, directed by Ben Wolf, gave stirring performances of "No Man is an Island" and "The House I Live In."



Among flow of visitors this month to ILGWU Spring Festival arts and crafts exhibit were these enthusiastic members of New York Corset and Brassiere Workers' Local 32.

Successing nights saw a hand-crafts demonstration by Pearl Ester and Susan Bell, a sculpture demonstration by instructor Arturo Sola, a dramatic performance by Local 62, under the direction of Elizabeth Rose, and dance performances by Local 99's group, led by Murray

Fire Safety Warden

Following Nagler's report, JUSTICE Building Leo Stern detailed the current efforts of the union and the Fire Department to strengthen and enforce fire prevention regulations. He also announced that the tragedy at Monarch Undergarment which cost the lives of 24 garment workers.

He reported on the union's steps to establish a corps of fire safety wardens in all garment shops in the city, and Nagler directed the joint board staff to begin active implementation of this plan.

N. Y. Members Must Get Medical Credit Cards

Members of New York Local 20, 82, 91, 96, 105, 132 and 153 are advised by Assistant Executive Secretary James Liping that credit cards must be obtained in order to get service at the Union Health Center. The cards will be available until Dec. 31, 1958. This applies only to members of these locals.

Present medical credit cards will not be valid after July 1. The new cards are now available at offices of these locals.

Holdouts, New Units Capitulating to EOT

More than 150 workers in eight more shops have won the benefits of union conditions through the Westchester phase of the vigorous organizing campaign being conducted without letup by the Eastern Out-of-Town Department, according to General Manager Edward Kramer.

Manager Louis Wolf of Local 137, 141 and 142 negotiated Dress Joint Council agreements for all the newly organized shops providing the following conditions: overtime pay after seven hours each day; 47 per cent added on top of settled piece rates; higher minimums; 6½ paid holidays in all weeks; no union health, welfare and retirement benefit.

The union label will appear in the dress made by these new union workers as soon as it is distributed to union shops.

Holdout Enrolled

Kay Dress Co. of New Rochelle, New York since 1947, was organized in view of the general dress strike. Numerous campaigns had been conducted at Kay Dress previously.

Before unionization, the workers were paid for overtime only after 40 hours, and they received no paid holidays, sick benefits or other welfare benefits. Ann Mantura was elected shop chairlady.

Tarytown workers at Sara Sportswear came into union ranks soon after the end of the general strike. The workers received no vacation or holiday pay prior to unionization, and the union-won piece rates have helped boost their pay.

Organized soon after opening its doors for business, Alteris Dress of Port Chester was settled through the auspices of union officers. Rita Tumblerman was chosen shop chairlady.

Quick action by union staffers recruited E.M.E. Dress of Mt. Vernon. Organized within a week after the shop's starting operations, the workers gained dress industry conditions. Laura Farrell is shop chairlady.

Brack Dress Corp. of Nyack was also brought into the union fold within days after opening its doors for business. Most of the workers in this new shop are veteran union members, and their determination won this shop into the ILGWU. Shirley Cary was chosen shop chairlady.

Lines Capitulate

A 10 per cent hike in pay secured 10 workers of Lena Dress Co. of Mt. Vernon upon unionization. This shop, which had been non-union for over a year, finally capitulated. Lena employees previously worked a 40-

hour week, received no vacation or holiday pay, had no votes in shoprats' settlements. Jennie Assandé was elected shop chairlady.

After working more than a decade for low pay, with little security and no fringe benefits, workers at Hakay Dress Co. in Yonkers now are covered by terms of the dress industry agreement signed by the firm, incorporating a 10 per cent wage increase, 6½ paid holidays and overtime after seven hours a day. Clementina Baj was named shop chairlady.

Blouse workers of Bobbie Dress of Mt. Vernon received a boost in minimum for all crafts, a reduction in hours with compensating increases, time and one-half after seven hours a day, and union retirement pay, sick benefits, death benefit. Few workers will receive 6½ paid holidays. Carmella Piasco is shop chairlady.

Spanish Advisory Unit Set by '40

A Spanish Advisory Committee composed of Spanish-speaking shop chairman and chairladies, has been set up by New York Belmakers' Local 48, reports Manager Henry Schwartz.

The purpose of the new group, Schwartz explains, is to encourage Spanish-speaking members of the local to participate more actively in union and community activities. Other steps in this direction by Local 48 include publication of union materials in Spanish and classes in English for Hispanics.

Guest speaker at the Spanish Advisory Committee's recent monthly meeting was Tony Lesquire, labor editor of La Prensa, New York City Spanish-language daily.

Women hold nearly one-third of the jobs in the United States.

Summer Education Activities Slated

The spring session of Thursday-evening ILGWU activities at New York's Textile High School draws to a close May 22, reports Education Secretary Pamela Cohn.

But ILGWU in the area can look

PA. DRESS STRIKERS ARE NEW PIONEERS DUBINSKY TELLS W.G.

Pennsylvania miners' garment-wearers, who played such a militant role in the union's victory over recalcitrant dress contractors in that state, are the "next day pioneers" of the ILGWU, Pres David Dubinsky declared last week in an address to the national convention of the Workmen's Circle.

He told the delegates to the labor fraternal order's convocation, meeting in Montreal, that those women were today's counterparts of the "old-timers" whose participation in the historic strikes early in the century established the union on a permanent basis.

Recalling that many of the 70,000 Workmen's Circle members were among the veteran Jewish garment workers who helped build the union, Pres. Dubinsky reviewed the factors leading to the suspension of Cerebitchnik, which had been the ILGWU's Yiddish-language publication.

Pointing up the relationship between the Workmen's Circle and the labor movement was the election of Israel Breslow, a 4,813 1/2 member of Dressmakers' Local 22, as the new president of the order.

Breslow, a veteran of 35 years in dress union activity, has also served, among other capacities, as a dress union trustee agent, chairman of Local 22, vice chairman of the Dress Joint Board, and chairman of the Dressmakers' Liberal Party Club.

Crosswath Ends Service With N. Y. Housing Unit

Sixteen years of service without pay as a member of the three-man New York City Housing Authority came to an end for ILGWU general organizer Frank Crosswath on April 30, as the members of that body were replaced by a new full-time, paid board, under the terms of a recent reorganization statute.

Crosswath, who is chairman of the Negro Labor Committee, was originally appointed in 1942 by the late Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia.

forward to a stimulating summer program of educational activities, including discussions on a wide range of topics at the union's air-conditioned general headquarters building, 1710 Broadway, and group visits to various points of interest, including the United Nations.

Also continuing throughout the summer will be the ILGWU Education Department's Book Division, which assists members in selecting and ordering books, and contributes toward the purchase cost.

EDUCATION ALLIANCE SUMMER ACTIVITIES FOR DRESS RETIREES

Summertime activities for retired members of New York Dressmakers' Local 22 will include bus trips to the country, roof garden concerts and dances in the evening and vacations for some at the Educational Alliance summer camp, plus use of such year-round Alliance facilities as lounges, the craft shop, painting and sculpture studios, the sewing room and the auditorium. It was announced this month.

All Local 22 retirees are invited to take part in the program, details planned by the local and the Educational Alliance staff to help senior members of the Dressmakers' Union to spend new leisure and hobbies and meet new friends.

The group meets every Wednesday at 2 P.M. in Room 204 of the Edu-

Journal of the American

FASHION CITY, U.S.A.

Inside Story of New York's Fabulous Garment Industry

Women's desire for individuality in dress has produced a labor-management plan...

New York City's fabulous garment district—that segment of Manhattan Island, ten blocks long and two blocks wide, where two-thirds of the entire nation's women and children's clothing originates—was the subject this month of a 14-part series of articles published by the New York Journal-American.

Dubbed "Fashion City, U.S.A.," and written by Journal-American reporter Marjorie Farnsworth, the series traces the growth of New York's largest industry from its wretched late 19th century origins in the sweatshops and tenements of the Lower East Side to its present position as \$6.4-billion-a-year pace-setter for the fourth largest industry in America and rival to Paris as the fashion parer-setter of the world.

Constantly "polishing" this "confusing crazy quilt" of an industry, whose "biggest producer accounts for less than 4 per cent of the total output," is the ILGWU, described by the author as "a great pro-American union with a sense of responsibility to its members, management, the community and the nation."

"Today," Miss Farnsworth writes, "the ILGWU is not only one of the nation's richest labor unions, with more than \$250 million in accumulated funds and \$20 million invested in a great cooperative housing project in New York's Lower East Side, but it is also a union of tremendous power. Today, from its headquarters in New York, the ILGWU represents 450,000 men and women in more than 500 locals in this country and Canada."

In one of the articles, Dubinsky's rise to the presidency of the ILGWU is sketched from the beginnings of his trade union career as the 16-year-old assistant secretary of the bakers' union of Lodge, Poland, to his election in 1932.

Described in fascinating detail in other articles of the 14 installments are the Triangle Fire of 1911 and other significant events; the union's unique price-settlement system, under which the labor costs for every one of the 150,000 dress-style variations introduced in the market every year, is "disputed, argued, compromised and agreed" between the manufacturers and the union; and the story of the industry's turbulent decades of labor-management strife, beginning with the "Uprising of the Twenty Thousand" seamstresses in 1909 and capped with 25 years of grace after 1933, broken only this past year by a week-long industry-wide walkout.

Also described is the pioneering role of the ILGWU in winning employer-contributed health and welfare benefits and the fact that it was "the first union in the United States to institute unemployment insurance to which employers contributed... the first to establish an education department and a health center."

Today, notes Miss Farnsworth, the ILGWU has a coast-to-coast chain of health centers. Its Unity House, the first vacation camp established by a union for members, occupies nearly 1,000 acres in Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains, and it has another mansion-like resort in Croton, N. Y. It operates more than 90 health and welfare funds and more than 40 retirement funds.

Other articles graphically depict such features of the garment district scene as the lunch hour "schmooze," a daily period beginning at high noon when 200,000 workers and bosses pick out of their daywear factory attire to grab a drink, talk, talk, talk; the fashion shows; the traffic snarl, compounded of colorful handcars, giant trucks loading and unloading, and swarming masses of humanity; and the Fashion Institute of Technology, where tomorrow's industry leaders are trained.

Also included are a number of "pen portraits" of manufacturers and designers currently prominent in New York City's garment district—or, as the Journal-American calls it, "Fashion City, U.S.A."

national Alliance, 191 East Broadway. Registration fee is \$1.50. The lower contributes an additional \$1.00 for each retiree participating.

At a recent meeting of "23" representatives, Vice Pres. Charles B. Zimmerman, local manager, noted that city.



Placing their signatures on New York Skirmishers' contract renewal with National Sportswear Association are Eli E. president of manufacturers group, and ILGWU Pres. David Dubinsky, flanked by Vice Pres. Isidore Nagler, general manager of New York Cloth Joint Board. Behind them are (left to right) association attorney Milton R. Weir, Local 23 Manager Louis Reiss and union attorney Emil Schlesinger.

CUTTERS COLUMN

File Applications Immediately For Cutter Upgrading Classes

Members of Local 10 who wish to take the union-sponsored course in grading in order to upgrade their skill and earning capacity must apply at once to Secretary Harry Shapiro at the office of the local, announces Vice Pres. Moe Falkman, manager.

The fall semester of Local 10's "school for cutters" begins in September.

The course is designed to give "choppers" a better understanding of measurement and the construction of the garment, improved procedures such as where to skip and where not to in setting materials, and how to grade sloes from patterns. Started several years ago as an experiment, the classes have been highly successful and widely appreciated by the local membership. Several hundred members have completed the course and a number are now serving as graders or head cutters.

At the end of June more than 300 students now enrolled in three classes will complete the course that began last February. Students attend 20 weekly sessions of two hours each.

Cover All Trades

Members of Local 10 who are outstanding in the trade and licensed to teach by the Board of Education are on the teaching staff. 601 St. George and Harry Greenberg conduct two classes comprising members working in the dress and skirt trades such as blouses, underswear, etc. A third class, with Sol Cohen as instructor, includes a group of cutters selected from the cloak, sportswear and related fields.

The classes are held at the local office after working hours. Special collapsible cutting tables are set up, and other necessary tools and equipment, complete with black-board, are provided. Students receive assignments which are carefully reviewed by instructors. Similar courses provided under private auspices are costly, but the Local 10 course is offered free to members of the organization.

For those who are qualified to take the course, the rule is first come, first served. There are only three classes and those who are interested should make their applications immediately.

Membership Trend

Figures recently compiled on the membership of Local 10 during

Cutting the Ties



Veteran cutter Max Horowitz, 70 [behind cutting machine, wearing bow tie], long-time member of New York's Local 10, celebrates retirement after 47 years in IGLWU. 15 years with Loma Dress Shop in Manhattan. Flanking him, left and right, are Shop Chairman Phil Shulman and employer Richard Rubin.

Completing the Design



Nicholas Mastroto (second from left), executive board chairman and charter member of New York Designers' Guild—Local 30, got kiss from wife, handshake from Manager Ben Moser and heartfelt cheers by all in dinner honoring him last month on his retirement. At right is James Hymanson, local president.

Designers' Local Honors Mastroto

Nicholas Mastroto, executive board chairman of New York Designers' Guild—Local 30 and a member of the local since it was founded in 1924, was honored last month at a farewell dinner tendered by the local's officers and executive board members on the occasion of his retirement.

Speakers at the dinner, including Local Pres. James Hymanson, Manager Benjamin Moser, and union attorney Emil Schlesinger, extolled Mastroto's role of a

century of service, including his former presidency of the IGLWU—Local 30 and regular participation in contract negotiations, and, until his retirement, duties as treasurer of the local's emergency relief fund and member of its health, welfare and retirement fund board of trustees.

In appreciation for his years of service to the union, Mastroto was also presented at the dinner with a lifetime honorary membership on the designers' executive board.

BOSTON SPORTSWEAR SETTLEMENTS SWING 24 SHOPS TO NEAT

The ranks of the IGLWU's Northeast Department have been swelled by the addition of 24 newly organized sportswear contracting plants as a result of the recent stoppage in the northern and western areas of Massachusetts, reports Vice Pres. David Ginzburg, department director.

The stoppages and organizing drive, in conjunction with the Boston Joint Board, succeeded in spreading the union's latest contract pacts to the last holdouts in the industry.

Northern New England District Manager Mary Levin listed the following with whom terms for the new contracts have been completed: Boston — American-Kingston Printing, Lincoln York, Ace Pressing Co., West Sportswear, Firebrook Manufacturing Co., Angles-

Sportswear, Massachusetts Printing and Stitching Co., Harwell Blouse, Quisley-Terry Sportswear, San's Sportswear, Midport Sportswear, Kingsham-Groce Sportswear, Washam-Meredith Sportswear, Washam-Drea, Everett — Maynard Dress, Glamour Maid, Lynn—Bersa Manufacturing, Maynard-Meredith Sportswear, Lowell—Lowe Blouse, Midtown Sportswear, Lawrence-Boulevard Sportswear, Lowell — Weaver, Manager Ralph Roberts—Reporta new settlements with M. R. Co., B. S. & G. Co., Jackson Sportswear.

Negotiations are continuing with plants in several Maine areas, in addition, to those in the northern and western Massachusetts districts with the active assistance of General Organizer Frank Lyons and his staff.

TORONTO CLOAKS SET FOR WEEK-WORK CUT

Toronto cloakmakers will move one step closer to the 35-hour week this July, reports Sam Kraisman, manager of the Toronto Cloak Joint Board. Under the terms of their current three-year contract with the city's Cloak Manufacturers' Association, cloak shop working hours will drop from 40 to 35 hours a week, with compensatory upward adjustments in wages.

A year later, in July 1959, the Toronto cloakmakers' work week will decline another 2½ hours, again with compensatory upward wage reductions.

Cloak and sportswear workers in this Canadian metropolis are also counting the days to another happy event: the beginning of their annual two-week paid-vacation period, set for June 15 through Sunday, July 12.

Local 150 organizers have succeeded in signing Dun Dee Sportswear, which employs about 30 workers. Initial-contract negotiations are also under way with a children's wear manufacturer in the city, employing approximately 100 workers.

Contract-renewal parleys are also under way with a number of 150-member shops, whose individual contracts will expire on June 15. Settlements with these firms are expected to yield substantial gains.

Nearly one-fifth of all trade union members in the U.S. are women.

BOOK FRONT

by Alvin Karpman

There's a Lot Of Life Left After Age 65

LONGER LIFE, By George Soule, TRINE Press, \$2.

In 1950, only about one-fourth of the U. S. population consisted of persons over 65 years old; in 1953, nearly one-tenth of the population was in this category.

The steadily increasing proportion of our people who are 65 or older makes ever more pressing the social and economic problems of the "Ages. Certainly, it is by now apparent that 65 is no magic number at which point everyone can abruptly have a change of life-style—even if one is financially in a position to do so.

The eminent George Soule, the author of this book, makes a constructive point in a human's productive contributions to society



is aberrant. To him this concept and the discriminations and condescensions that go with it are akin to segregation based on race.

He cites the examples of people like Winston Churchill, Arturo Toscanini, Sophocles, Goethe, Handel, Louis Pasteur, Michelangelo and others who performed some of their greatest feats of leadership or creativity when they were well past the supposed retirement age.

To further demolish the stereotyped beliefs about infirmity—allegedly, he maintains that experiences in at least some industries indicate that older workers lose fewer days from insignificant illness and accidents than younger men, and that general statistics covering the whole population show that those above 65 are often more liable to incapacitating accidents.

With an eye to the future, Soule feels that the advent of automation and the continuous reduction of the work week may, on the one hand, make the problem of more leisure time less to be feared by all age groups, and, on the other, make it more possible for older persons to continue their occupational pursuits on a trade of parity with their younger colleagues, with physical and mental capacities the criterion in both cases.

A recent sample survey, he indicated, he says that only between 6 and 7 per cent of those who retire have done so because they wanted "more time for myself," and many who have been compelled to retire desire or need to go on working.

Though the problem has many facets, Soule pinpoints two main directions in which progress may be sought: "One is to find more employment for older persons who want jobs and are competent; the other is to provide more adequate insurance for those who cannot find jobs or, for justifiable reasons, do not want them."

Dress Strike, Industry Reviewed in Pamphlet

The latest addition to the publications of the IGLWU Education Department is "Seventy Avenue—Road to Improved Labor-Management Relations," a 16-page pamphlet, by Director Mark Blatt, a reprint of an article from the Jewish Frontier. An analysis of the recent dress strike is combined with a general description of the economic problems of the industry, which comprises 10 per cent, with reduction for quantity rates.

JUSTICE

INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

IT ALL DEPENDS

THE INTERDEPENDENCE of the women's garment industry was strikingly illustrated in reports presented last week at the meeting of the General Executive Board in Montreal. Most encouraging, of course, were indications in these reports that while our industry has felt the impact of the general economic recession, this has been neither as deep nor as widespread as the downturn in other industries.

Pres. Dubinsky pointed out that consumers seem to be in a better frame of mind in respect to women's apparel when there is a greater reluctance to undertake purchases of heavier goods that would involve increasing the family's load of debt. This has been a main factor in the industry's continuing strength, qualified only by the limits set by unseasonable turns of the weather.

But the item-by-item preferences of the consumer have, in turn, depended on the force of the "new" chemise and trapeze silhouettes. We leave to others attempts to explain the inexplicable nostalgia American women have at this time for the fashions of the Nineteen Twenties. For us, it is sufficient that the mystery of style is keeping the cash registers ringing in the dress departments of the big stores. But, we shouldn't forget that the same baggy outline has reduced the demand for certain lines of undergarments and corsets, making this "innovation" a mixed blessing.

THE CONTRARINESS of the garment industry was also evident in Pres. Dubinsky's report on the dress industry's first general strike in 25 years. While the rest of the economy quaked over cutbacks and things were described as being bad all over, 105,000 dressmakers in seven states, late March brought to a successful conclusion one of the greatest strikes in ILGWU history. The timing of the strike, call, the termination of the walkout in five days, the enormous gains won can puzzle only those who are unfamiliar with the quality of ILGWU leadership and membership devotion.

The repercussions of that settlement have already been felt by 50,000 ILGWU members who were not even involved in the walkout. As time passes, others, too, will feel them. For the dressmakers, like the cloakmakers, are pace-setters. In an industry as competitive as ours, gains won in a major branch must of necessity spread to other centers, in order to block the tendency of work to "leak" to lower wage areas.

The terms of the dress agreement—especially its provisions on severance pay, overtime and holiday pay for piece workers, union-label—are being passed along from one contract to the next. In our industry, it takes time for such improvements to work themselves into the thousands of agreements that govern our membership.

But this has been the way in which the 35-hour week, made mandatory by a convention only as late as 1953, has already spread to 95 per cent of our U. S. membership, with the 1956 mandate for overtime pay catching up.

Now an entirely new phase of ILGWU action has been opened with the authorization by the GEB of an expenditure of \$1 million a year for the promotion of an ILGWU union label. The standards won by our union depend for their survival on the strength of our union. But that, in turn, has depended to a great extent on the public good will enjoyed by the ILGWU for more than half a century.

Our union label will be an effective aid in organizing. It will enable the public to recognize garments produced under conditions that have made our industry and our union outstanding. It will also isolate garments made by chiselers who substitute depressed labor standards for managerial know-how.

It will forge a new link between our union and the American woman, so long dependent on each other for good looks and good wages.

"You'll Be the Death of Me Yet!"



"Physical Training"



Pressure Groups and Power

By
Stephen K. Bailey

Excerpts from recent talk over the British Broadcasting System by the professor of government and public affairs at Princeton University.

PRESSURE groups are both the inevitable product and the manifest evidence of a free society. In the United States they received Constitutional protection. The First Amendment to the Constitution guarantees, among other things, the right to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

The real argument is not about the existence of pressure groups, but about their power. The first and obvious reason why pressure groups seem inordinately powerful in America is that we have an irreversibly free press. Many newspaper columnists, for example, fill their columns with stories of pressure-group activities—stories compounded of fact and half-truths and interpretations.

The second reason why pressure-group activity is peculiarly visible in the United States is our Constitutional system of federalism and separation-of-powers. It is difficult to discourage a pressure group in America. If their legitimate demands or their importunities are ignored by the President, they repair to the Congress which, contrary to the British Parliament, has a vote distinguishable from that of the Executive; if the Congress is unresponsive, the pressure group may work up a Constitutional issue to be settled by the Supreme Court. If they lose in the Supreme Court, they may decide to try a Governor or a state Legislature.

A third, and extraordinarily important, reason for the visibility (or audibility) of pressure groups in America is the absence of strong national political parties which might perform the function of acting as a buffer between particular interests and public policy.

ACTUALLY, in the United States, group interests perform a wide variety of extraordinarily valuable services: They make articulate the demands, grievances, and creative ideas of the many publics which comprise a democratic order, and often preclude festering pockets of social unrest and group frustration; they often provide to busy officials expert opinions on highly complex matters; they are mutually suspicious watchdogs who sniff out each other's subtle importunities and make these visible to pre-occupied public officials and to the public at large; they serve as media for disseminating information about public issues to an ignorant segment of the community.

The real dangers of pressure-group activity in the United States are to be

found in attempts to exert influence covertly.

WHAT are the real protections against the evils of lobbying—granted that most lobbying is not evil, and that a free society cannot exist without the open petitions of pressure groups? In the United States, it is my belief that strengthened national party organizations, with adequate financial resources of their own would be the most impressive contributions towards containing the power of lobbies when such power becomes inordinate.

I say this because I cannot help but feel that a virtual monopoly of campaign funds in the hands of private interests which dole out money to political candidates on the basis of whim and self-interest is the single most corrupting force in American public life.

Without financial support from a responsible national party headquarters, Congressmen are left to make their peace with powerful local interests which may or may not represent the best interests of the Congressman's district, let alone the broader national interest.

Already, at least one of the major parties has attempted to strengthen and to diversify its financial support, and through a special advisory committee has attempted to develop national programs which might knit the executive and legislative wings of the party together. These are hopeful signs—although they do not touch the level of state and local government in the United States, where pressure groups are often powerful.

UNTIL we can develop more responsible national parties in the United States, we must depend for protection against the excesses of certain pressure groups upon the ethics of our civil servants, the sense of devotion to duty, and the leadership of our elected officials— notably the President— and upon the publicity that a marches free press, registration laws, and competing group interests give to those who would use the powers of government for venal or selfish ends.

These are not insignificant weapons; they are kept sharp by the ultimate protection—the decency of the people. The ultimate faith of the victory of democracy, after all, is in the moral fiber of the citizen of the United States. The average man is above the average.