

# JUSTICE

INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT UNION

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## Dubinsky to Congress: Pass \$1.25

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### NLRB Puts Back-Pay Crimp In Bonnie Lass Knit Runout

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### 1,000 Win Renewal Raises At Maidenform in West Va.

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**Urging** passage of the Kennedy-Morse-Roosevelt Bill, which would raise the federal minimum wage to \$1.25 an hour and extend coverage to some 8 million unprotected workers, as well as providing a penny-for-penny hike in Puerto Rico, is ILGWU Pres. David Dubinsky, testifying before House Labor Subcommittee in Washington. At his side is employer spokesman Reid Murphey.



**Searching** for the most important lock in any garment, the ILGWU union label customer in a downtown Kansas City department store gets an assist from sales person. This scene is being repeated in stores from coast-to-coast, as the label promotion campaign emphasizes consumer support for the program, as well as seeking cooperation from the nation's retail and specialty stores.

**Building** of ILGWU-sponsored cooperative housing development requires demolition of many buildings in Manhattan's Chelsea district, and provides startling contrast in this view of the project's Empire State Building from the shadows of the debris.

BRADLEY

# THE CASE FOR A HIGHER MINIMUM WAGE

OUR union has always fought hard and vigorously to raise the general level of working conditions of garment workers throughout the nation. But despite our many accomplishments, we cannot reach every ungarmented worker. Here is where the adoption of a realistic federal minimum can end will be of great help.

It will help reduce competition in terms of substandard wages; it will force the less efficient firm, which will be required to raise its minimum, to make its operations more productive. Both the industry and the nation will benefit through the greater productivity thus fostered and through the increased purchasing power generated among the lowest paid of our workers.

Economic growth is not dependent on the continued preservation of low wage standards. Information on employment changes which have occurred since the passage of the Fair Labor Standards Act demonstrates that the largest employment gains took place in the states where average hourly earnings are the highest.

A federal minimum wage of \$1.25 an hour is long overdue. Indeed, even \$1.25 falls short of the law's aim to achieve a "minimum standard of living necessary for health, efficiency and general well-being of workers."

In short, in terms of what is needed today, the proposed minimum wage is indeed a conservative one. Our union advocated enactment of a \$1.25 minimum back in 1955. We felt at that time that the \$1.25 minimum was sound and that its enactment was amply supported by the record then. In urging the same \$1.25 minimum now, despite the advances that have taken place since then in the nation's productivity, its wage levels and in the cost of living, we are quite clearly taking a most conservative position.

OUR economy can readily absorb a \$1.25 minimum. Even though some 15 percent of workers covered by the Wage and Hour Law would get some wage adjustments if a \$1.25 minimum is enacted, the increased cost would be less than 1 percent of the covered payroll, in relation to all payrolls of the economy, this adjustment would approximate only four-tenths of 1 percent.

Of course, different segments of the economy would be affected differently by the \$1.25 minimum. Payrolls of the entire apparel and fabricated textile industry would rise by approximately 4.2 percent. In the case of our own women's outerwear industry, payroll increases would approximate 2.6 percent. Yet, even these adjustments would generate an inflationary pressure. For example, wholesale prices of apparel this February were three-tenths of 1 percent lower than in 1947—this despite the inflicting advances in federal minimums as well as gains made in wage levels by collective bargaining.

Our entire experience with earlier minimum wage adjustments strongly supports the conclusion that the proposed increase in the federal minimum will not hurt employment. Even though it was often argued in the past that higher minimums would cause unemployment, this never turned out to be the fact.

Excerpts from statement presented by Prof. David Dubinsky on April 11 before the Subcommittee on Labor Standards of the Committee on Labor of the House of Representatives, supporting the bill to raise the federal minimum wage to \$1.25 an hour and extend its coverage.

By DAVID DUBINSKY

When the results of the 1950 change in the national minimum were studied, the Department of Labor found that the increase to the 75-cent minimum "appeared to have had only minor effects on such variables as employment, plant shut-downs, prices, technological change, hiring policies and overtime work."

CONDITIONS are actually more profitable today for the adoption of the \$1.25 minimum than they were for a 25 cent minimum when the original Wage and Hour Law was passed in 1938. At that time, when the minimum

now turned to another aspect of the proposed amendments: minimum wages for Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and American Samoa.

It has been the position of the ILGWU, as well as that of the AFL-CIO, that the minimum wages applicable in these areas should be raised by the same number of cents per hour as the increase in the statutory rate on the mainland. With this as a floor, industry committees will continue to review minimum wages periodically with a view to raising the mainland minimums as rapidly as is economically feasible.



In House Labor Subcommittee hearing room, General Secretary-Treasurer Louis Stulberg, Ann Baird of Central States region, and ILGWU Pres. David Dubinsky.

was first set at 25 cents, with provision for 30 cents in 1939 and 40 cents in 1945, average hourly earnings in the lowest-wage areas were very close to the statutory rates. Today, the proposed \$1.25 minimum is substantially below average wages in even the low-wage areas of the country. This leads additional support to the position that the \$1.25 minimum can be absorbed with relative ease and with no adverse effect on the economy of any area.

I believe that the case for the \$1.25 minimum is overwhelming. While the proposed increase of 25 cents an hour in the minimum wage will have but a minor effect on the nation's total wage bill, it will be of great significance to lower-paid workers. By bolstering their purchasing power, it will stimulate additional demand for goods and services and may help reduce the current unemployment of nearly 6 percent of the nation's labor force. It will tend to provide a better climate for competitive relations for employers. It will strengthen our economy and help to reduce substandard labor conditions which constitute an unfair method of competition in commerce.

I am aware, however, that the Puerto Rican Resident Commissioner and Secretary of Labor of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico have recommended a somewhat different approach. Their proposal is to raise the existing minimum in Puerto Rico by the same percentage as the rise in the statewide minimum wage, but that when it is demonstrated to the Secretary of Labor that such a statutory minimum would substantially curtail employment in a given industry, a special industry committee be appointed to determine which rate should apply to that industry.

The proposal made by the commonwealth government deserves most serious consideration. It certainly represents a step in the right direction.

WHILE the commonwealth's proposal is not fully satisfactory in all respects, the ILGWU is not prepared to oppose it, provided the proposed across-the-board minimum wage increases go into effect automatically where there is no actual threat of substantial curtailment of employment and provided that proper safeguards dealing with the right to petition to seek exceptions to these automatic increases

through special industry committees are written into the law. Without such safeguards the proposed increases in minimum wage for Puerto Rican workers may simply become paper possibilities, rather than mandatory minimums. I am certain that the commonwealth authorities are as anxious to avoid this as we are.

To that end, if Congress does decide to consider the percentage approach favorably, we suggest that a petition for the appointment of such a special committee be received only from an industry or from employers representing a majority of the workers employed by the industry.

Furthermore, such petitions should not stay the application of the applicable mandatory minimum unless firms requesting such a stay post bonds or place money in escrow with the U. S. Department of Labor to guarantee that workers will not be deprived of their proper wage when the final determination is made. In addition, we do not believe that committees appointed pursuant to such petitions should take the

(Continued on Page 3)

## Employer For \$1.25 U.S. Pay

Excerpts from testimony before the House Subcommittee by garment industry employer Reid Murphy, supporting an increase in the U. S. minimum to \$1.25 an hour:

I am in favor of the \$1.25 per hour minimum with continued provision for learner rates, and my reasons are: I believe that competition should not be based upon the payment of substandard wages — but upon management's ability to manufacture and merchandise its products in the most effective manner. Our industry's average hourly wage was \$1.43 per hour during the year 1959 — yet there are many manufacturers whose average wage is well below this figure. The pricing policies of these manufacturers with lower wage levels have a far greater influence in the market than is justified by the volume of their production.

We are an industry composed of a few large companies, many medium sized companies and many more smaller companies. No one company dominates our market and, furthermore, of us, the pricing of our products is directly related to varying levels to the lowest price quoted in the market. Therefore, the manufacturer with low wage rates is a serious threat to all of us.

I would like to see the minimum wage increased to lessen the advantage enjoyed by the manufacturer paying these substandard wages — and also to establish a more reasonable base price in the market.

Another valid reason for a higher minimum wage is to increase the purchasing power of the one and three quarter million factory workers now making less than \$1.25 per hour. These workers must find it difficult to buy food and shelter alone, much less clothing — and an increase in their earnings would undoubtedly increase our market.

# Raises for 1,000 at Maidenform in W. Va.

More than 1,000 garment workers employed at three plants of the Maidenform Brassiere Co. in West Virginia won a substantial package of gains, headed by wage increases, improved vacation provisions, beginning of a severance pay fund, and use of the union label, under terms of a new three-year agreement that went into effect April 2.

In announcing the new terms, Vice Pres. Annetta Bamberger, manager of the Upper South Department, pointed out that area Maidenform workers already enjoy the 38-hour week, 4% paid holidays, and a complete program of health, welfare and retirement benefits.

Wage boosts stipulated

under the new pact include 10 cents an hour for those workers, an 8 percent rise in standard hourly rates for floor clippers and 5 percent for all other piece workers. Guaranteed plant minimums for experienced workers were set at \$1.29 an hour.

It is also understood that should the federal minimum wage be increased, plant minimums will rise also.

### Other Gains

Long-time Maidenform employees now will get a third week's paid vacation. The new vacation

schedule provides for one week after a year's employment, two weeks after three years, and three weeks after 15 years.

With union label use now given contractual status, plants are now underway to get the label sewn into each Maidenform item as quickly as possible. Chaperlins also were worked out concerning layoffs and leaves of absence due to maternity. In addition to Vice Pres. Bam-

berger, who headed the negotiating committee, the union bargaining team included West Virginia Director Henry Glaser, Business Agent Josephine Spruette and two representatives from each of the three shops.

Priorities: Local 210 was represented by Jean Ann White and Eleanor Hillier; Charleston Local 414 soon Patricia Smith and Doris Lantz; Huntington Local 426 delegated Jane Wellman and Odessa Fischer.

# Dubinsky Urges Congress Pass 'Long Overdue' \$1.25 Minimum

## Inspector-Governor

Charging that a federal minimum wage rate of \$1.25 an hour has been long overdue, Pres. David Dubinsky on April 11 appeared before the Subcommittee on Labor Standards of the House Committee on Labor and urged the speedy enactment of the higher minimum, the spread of minimum wage protection to millions of Americans not now covered and ad-

justments in the minimum rates for Puerto Rican industries.

The garment union president made a 40-minute statement in which he outlined the case for these changes on the basis of previous experience with increases in the minimum rate as well as on current needs. For an additional 45 minutes, he answered questions put to him by committee chairman Phil M. Landrum and other members of the House body.

In his prepared statement, Pres. Dubinsky traced the production picture of the garment industry, outlined bargaining techniques and the wage structure. In detail, he showed how the national minimum wage rate has lagged behind the rise in the general average of wages, thus putting in ever greater jeopardy those workers who are either excluded from the federal wage safeguard or work in low-wage jobs.

He then went on to explain why the important adjustment of minimums in the garment industry, if the rate is raised to \$1.25, would aid those who need such an increase but would have only a minor effect on the ultimate price of apparel to the consumer.

(Excerpts from Pres. Dubinsky's statement are on Page 2.)

### Employer Backing

The point of view of the enlightened garment industry employer was presented to the committee by Reid Murphy, president of Signal Knitting Mills in Chattanooga, Tenn., employing about 1,000 ILGWU members. (See excerpts on Page 2.)

In the questions he put to Pres. Dubinsky, Chairman Landrum, relying heavily on a letter he had received from a high ranking official of a garment employer association, tried to establish the inflationary impact of a raise in the government's minimum wage rate.

The chairman's understanding seemed to be that any increase in that minimum would become effective in the same amount for all workers. Pres. Dubinsky patiently explained that what was at stake was the change only in the "minimum" minimum in union contracts, those which are based directly on the government's wage floor and not necessarily those that have

been bargained for the higher skilled.

Pres. Dubinsky also told the Congress that the women's apparel industry, one of the most competitive in the national economy and dispersed throughout the country, has no national agreement and that union minimums are individually bargained for each contract.

### Stable Prices

It is because of the severe competition that the garment industry functions on small margins of profits. For the consumer, he pointed out, this has meant stable apparel prices despite the wage adjustments made in the garment industry, at a time when prices for most other goods and services have risen.

In a dramatic departure from his prepared statement, Pres. Dubinsky summarized the ILGWU fight against sweatshop wages. He showed the Congressmen the famous magazine article by Frances Perkins on the \$5 dress and a report by the Pennsylvania Labor Department called "Three Cents an Hour." Both depicted pre-New Deal conditions.

The ILGWU presence was complemented by the Congressmen for his statement. In his replies he amplified points of that declaration.

Rep. James Roosevelt said that the statement showed (Continued on Page 10)



During a visit to New York City, Puerto Rico Governor Luis Muñoz Marín finds time to visit Bronx garment shops. He was escorted through the Patty Lynn Dress Co. plant by Saly Nehama, director of the Local 22 Spanish Department, Business Agent Louie Delgado and Joseph Monserrat, director of the Immigration Division, Puerto Rico Department of Labor.

## GOP-SPONSORED LAW SLAPS N. Y. WORKERS ON JOBLESS BENEFIT

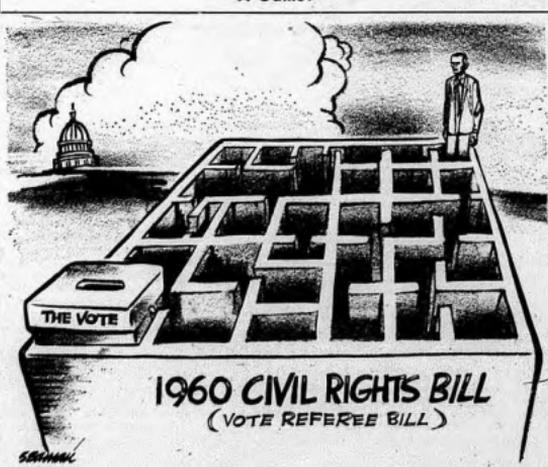
Under strong pressure from large groups of employers, and over the opposition of all unions in New York State, the Republican-dominated legislature in Albany has pushed through some amendments to the unemployment compensation laws that provide harsh disqualification penalties for jobless workers.

The new Republican measure provides that a worker disqualified for losing or refusing a job will not be able to collect benefits until he works on at least three days in four different weeks or earns \$200. Previously, a worker was denied benefits for six weeks, a period recognized as sound by impartial experts and the U.S. Department of Labor.

The bill, in effect, means almost permanent disqualification for many workers, particularly those in small towns and in industries which have fluctuating employment levels.

The Republican-sponsored law hits especially hard at women workers, who are penalized when they marry or follow their husbands to another locality.

## "A Game?"



## Living Costs Back At All-Time Peak

The nation's cost of living, under the impact of mounting mortgage interest rates and higher medical bills, turned upward in February to equal last November's all-time high, according to the Labor Department's monthly Consumer Price Index.

The CPI reversing a two-month downturn, rose 0.2 percent to 125.8. This means the market basket which cost \$1 in the 1947-49 base period now costs just under \$1.26.

Commenting on the outlook for spring living costs, Robert J. Myers, deputy commissioner of labor statistics, told reporters that "things are likely to get a little worse before they get better."

In an accompanying report, the department said that the fall in spendable earnings, taken with the increase in the cost of living, combined to cut the buying power of factory workers' earnings by about 1.5 percent over the month.

# Step Up Forand Bill Push Despite GOP Roadblocks

Liberals on both sides of Capitol Hill stepped up their drive for legislation to provide health care for the aged, despite stiffening Republican administration opposition to the Forand bill and initial rejection of the AFL-CIO-backed measure in the House Ways and Means Committee.

Meanwhile, Congressmen continued to be deluged with the heaviest flood of mail in years, showing mounting public demand for the Forand bill's social security principle.

And the GOP Old Guard, ever ready to public opinion as well as force it to do something about health aid for the aged, is trying to take it out on labor leadership.

Ernest McKinley Dirksen, Illinois Republican and reactionary minority leader in the Senate, is desperately trying to prove that the Eisenhower administration wants to do something about the medical plight of the retired and has been taking out at top AFL-CIO leaders because of their charges that the administration has surrendered to the American Medical Association and the private insurance industry. Dirksen first took out his re-

sentment at the Auto Workers' Walter F. Reuther, declaring that Reuther's charges that the Eisenhower administration is dragging its feet were "stinking." He sought to prove that the GOP was deeply concerned over the health problems of the aged and wanted to do something about them.

**Administration Stalls**  
He again took the same vitriolic line when Electrical Workers James B. Carey appeared before the McNamara Subcommittee on Problems of the Aged and Aging. This time he went even further with an obviously calculated insult: that Carey's charges of administration foot-dragging were "obnoxious and stinking."

Late Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare Arthur S. Flemming said also the committee that the Eisenhower administration was studying the problem, that "further" study was needed

and that he hoped to come up with some proposals within two weeks, although he gave no guarantee of what action the Eisenhower administration would take. The Eisenhower administration, in line with the AMA and the National Association of Manufacturers, has opposed the Forand bill as representing "compulsory" medicine and has favored "voluntary" medicine. Actually there are no indications that it proposed to do anything about the problem as it went out of office this year.

Eight Republican Senators, unwilling to wait for the administration proposal, introduced a complex plan. Actually for Federal state grants to help provide insurance by subsidizing the cost of private programs. Retirees could be required to share in the cost with contributions on a sliding scale geared to retirement income.

## Civil Rights Spansors



In protest against racial segregation at lunch counters of southern branches of national-wide chain stores, members of the Congress of Racial Equality met to organize a boycott of Woolworth stores. From left, facina camera, are: Marvin Rich of CORE, the Rev. Eugene S. Calender, and J.G.W.U. Vice Pres. Charles S. Zimmerman, a member of the CORE executive committee and AFL-CIO Civil Rights Committee Chairman.

## March Jobs Down 250,000; Weather Blamed This Time

WASHINGTON — Jobs went down by 253,000 during March and the number of jobless shot up 215,000 for one of the worst breaks in the employment situation between February and March since the end of World War II.

The Department of Labor, which has been boasting about the splendid shape of the economy, blamed it on the weather.

"Unusually cold weather and heavy snowfalls which blanketed large areas of the country in mid-March contributed substantially to the drop in employment and rise in unemployment over the month," said Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell. At the same time, the report conceded that while a large part of the rise in unemployment occurred among outdoor workers, there were also some employment cut-backs in automobiles and aircraft plants.

The figures are as follows:  
Employment at 64,287,000 was 223,000 lower than for February. Unemployment at 4,268,000 was 215,000 higher than in February, only the fourth time in the past 30 years that the number of jobless has gone up over the month. The jobless rate went up from 4.6 in February to 5.6 percent in March, once again approaching the 6 percent mark which means a "substantial surplus" of workers over jobs.

### More Bad News

- There were other figures that were not too good, either. There were:
  - State-insured unemployment, which usually declines slightly at this time of the year, moved up about 100,000 over the month in the week ending March 13. It has, since 1949, dropped although total figures are not yet in.
  - Non-agricultural industries showed a job drop of 200,000 with contract construction dropping 114,000 and manufacturing dropping 34,000. Wholesale and retail trade dropped 33,000, also blamed on the weather.
  - The factory workweek dropped two-tenths of an hour with a resulting drop of 48 cents in weekly earnings to \$96.00.
  - There was a 236,000 rise in long-term unemployment, "substantially more than the slight rise expected for this time of year."
  - The number of unemployed adult men "expected to drop seasonally in March" rose about 120,000, a reversal in the decline trend in recent months.

Labor Department officials insisted that the bad March record does not indicate the true state of the economy, contending that the usual spring pickup simply had been delayed and that the picture would be much better for April.

Nevertheless, labor economists who feel strongly that a good deal of trouble stems from failure of the economy to expand as it should are finding the monthly "explanations" a bit unconvincing. Last year, when Secretary Mitchell set his famous 500,000 jobs rate because the number of jobs during October was still more than 3,000,000, the blame was placed on "layoffs" in steel-related industries hit by the steel strike.

The November unemployment increase of almost 400,000 was blamed on "mounting layoffs in automobile and other steel-using industries."

The statisticians get a relief during December when employment went up and unemployment down "as the seasons rebounded from the effects of the steel strike."

But the December picture with employment dropping 1,000,000 and unemployment mounting by 800,000 helped the explanation that this was due to "the usual substantial post-Christmas contraction in trade and further winter curtailment in outdoor work."

Cold weather and snow storms were the explanation for the March bad news.

What the April picture will show remains to be seen.

# Promotion of Union Label In Fast Pre-Easter Pace

The ILGWU union label drive has hit a fast pre-Easter pace, it is reported by Vice Pres. Julius Meckman, director of the union's Label Department. He reports that in recent weeks the consumer has received messages through various media extolling the label and that reports indicate mounting consumer demands for it by women shopping before the holiday.

Other recent developments on the ILGWU label front are:  
—The exhaustion of the first edition of 100,000 copies of the ILGWU Label Department booklet "How to Dress Well." The first in a series aimed at serving the consumer, the booklet has been reprinted in a second edition of 100,000 and this, too, is almost all gone.  
—Demand has been stimulated for the booklet by the spreading work of local ILGWU label committees, who in their own centers have been giving Saturday afternoons and other heavy shopping periods over to distributing leaflets in front of department stores calling on consumers to look for the label.

—Typical, even though large, was the meeting of New York local label representatives at the Diplomat Hotel on March 31. The enthusiastic meeting of more than 200 committee members made plans for leaflet distributions in

front of neighborhood apparel stores during the pre-Easter season.  
—The shirt industry completed plans for the use of the new cloak label, combining the insignia of the United Coat and Suit Industry Recovery Board and the ILGWU insignia starting May 2.

—The 1958 Union-Industries Show, to be opened by President Eisenhower at the National Guard Armory in Washington, D. C. will feature a huge ILGWU label exhibit demonstrating the progress since the era of the sweatshop

symbolized by the label. Admission to the exhibit is free. The show is scheduled for May 5 to 11.

—Plans for cooperating with the nation's trade union publications in popularizing the ILGWU and other labels were discussed at the meeting of the executive council of the International Labor Press Association held in New York City April 8 and 9.

—Women's clubs, civic organizations and television stations continue to keep demand high for the Label Department's film on fashion.

## Pact Propels Pay Boost In St. Louis Embroidery

Embroidery workers in St. Louis put the finishing touches on a new contract last month, when they unanimously ratified a three-year agreement with the embroidery branch of the Associated General Industries, Vice Pres. Frederick Siems, manager of the Central States section, reports that the new agreement is exactly like the one recently signed by new plantlets in the dress and sportswear branches of the industry in St. Louis, Minneapolis and other Central States towns, except for the difference in scale.

Work-week hours go down to 37½ and then to 35; wages go up 6½ percent for all workers now, with another pay boost of 7 percent during the life of the agreement. Employers will increase their contributions for health, welfare and retirement and begin to make payments for a severance fund. Total payments for these purposes go up from 3 percent to 7 1/2 percent of pay.

Minimums for all crafts rise in two steps, with the lowest step rising 70 cents an hour for those members, 18 cents for floor workers, 18 cents the same for all, after a year in between.

Four shops are covered by the new contract, which was negotiated by a committee headed by Siems and including Glenn Clay and Vera Johnson, manager and assistant manager of the Cotton Joint Board and these representatives of Local 241: Jessie Brier, Vera Breese, Juanita Williams, Ralph Hart, Mary Tagger, Marj Walters and Lucretia Cron.

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**Nutmeg Strikers Join Gothamites on Sellmore Line**



Seventy-member delegation from Norwich Frocks in Meriden, Conn., sent by the 50 strikers on strike for an agreement with the ILGWU's Eastern Region since March 15, is joined by some 600 metropolitan area dressmakers in mass demonstration before the New York City showrooms of holdout jobber Sellmore Dress Co.

**Eastern Region, '22' Man Sellmore Lines**

The efforts of the Eastern Region and New York Dressmakers' Local 22 were combined last week in a mass demonstration outside the 35th Street showrooms of holdout jobber Sellmore Dress Co.

Supporting the demonstration staged by the Dress Joint Council was a six-member delegation from Meriden, Conn., where some 50 workers are on strike at Sellmore's inside shop in that town.

Operations in Meriden have been completely halted, and periodic demonstrations are taking place in New Britain, Conn., where Sellmore work was located in a contracting shop.

More than 400 workers arrested during the streets during the 300-hour demonstration in the hour of Manhattan's garment district. Proof of the effective

**Philadelphia Wins F&C, Thwarts Back-Door Deal**

A concerted organizing drive at the F & C Co. in Philadelphia, that had to buck a competing union and a convenient "back-door" agreement, was concluded earlier this month with the signing of a pact netting the 60 workers an immediate 3 percent pay boost, reports Vice Pres. William Ross, treasurer of the Philadelphia Dress Joint Board.

The increase, accompanied by a reduction in hours, will be followed by another 3 percent pay hike and establishment of the 35-hour week on January 1, 1961.

Additional provisions of the pact all for five paid holidays, shop minimums of \$1.20 an hour, use of the union label, and employer contribution of 10 percent of payroll as package payment into the health and welfare, retirement and severance funds.

**Workers Go ILG**

According to Ross, the competing union had offered the employer a contract with no provision for pay increases and only some minor fringe benefits. But the offer was withdrawn by the other labor organization when the workers learned of the proposed transaction, and opted for the ILGWU.

Terms of the new ILGWU agreement were unanimously approved at a membership meeting conducted in English and Spanish.

The organization campaign was sparked by Harry Oiler, James

Workers under 25 will account for nearly half of the labor force growth during the 1960s.

**NLRB Puts Back-Pay Crimp In Bonnie Lass Knit Runout**

A precedent-setting ruling by the National Labor Relations Board has awarded the workers of the now-abandoned Bonnie Lass Knitting Mills of Clifton, N.J., a back pay remedy estimated at more than \$100,000, according to Vice Pres. Edward Kramer, general manager of the Eastern Region.

In a series of directives to the company, the NLRB may have set the groundwork for an effective deterrent formula in the runaway plant, was ordered to:

—Form a preferential hiring list and mail the list to all former ILGWU strikers.

—Offer immediate reinstatement to strikers in the event full operations are resumed.

—Make good on back pay to a worker fired during the organization drive in the summer of 1958.

—Award back pay to strikers from December 15, 1958 to such time as the workers found or do find similar work at comparable wages, in the event the Clifton plant is not reactivated.

**Machinery Moved**

The organization strike at Bonnie Lass began in August 1958, and continued until December, when the workers sought to end the plant and started to move out its machinery.

At this point, unfair labor practice charges against the firm were filed with the NLRB, citing increasing committee violation with

company with coercion, intimidation, discriminatory firing and efforts to form a company union.

According to Peter DeStefano, manager of Knitgoods Workers Local 22, the total examiner findings upheld every union allegation of company violence, fraud and illegality. The firm's countercharges were discounted in the light of "unmistakable and self-contradictory" testimony by the owners.

The decision rendered by the board majority in Washington sustained the trial examiner's findings, and dating from March 21, 1960, employers maintaining thoughts of runaway operations may be faced with economic liability by being required to continue to pay wages to workers who lose their jobs because of such unlawful conduct.

Attorneys for the union in the case were Tom Krasnow, Lerner, Leitcher and Rosman of Newark.

**M'West Walkout Brings Diamond to Parley Table**

A walkout by the 20 workers at the Sam Diamond Knitting Mills in Chicago, coupled with a series of unfair labor practices filed with the National Labor Relations Board by the ILGWU, have finally brought the firm to the bargaining table, reports Vice Pres. Morris Blalis, director of the Midwest Region.

The strike began late in March, when two members of the union were suspended from the work-

shop were laid off.

On March 13 the employer agreed to recognize the ILGWU as bargaining agent for the workers, and negotiations are now under way for a first-time contract.

**Tribute to Teiser**

On March 31, more than 600 persons thronged the union hall in Chicago to pay final tribute to the memory of Dr. Stanley Teiser. The director of the Midwest Health Center died in the airplane that recently crashed near Tell City, killing all 63 persons aboard, including his wife and son.

Dr. Teiser was eulogized by Vice Pres. Blalis, Assistant Director Harold Schwartz, Dr. Joseph C. Meyer of the Health Center, Maurice A. Smoler, president of the Garment Industries of Illinois, and Irvin H. Welas, executive director of the Chicago Association of Dress Manufacturers.

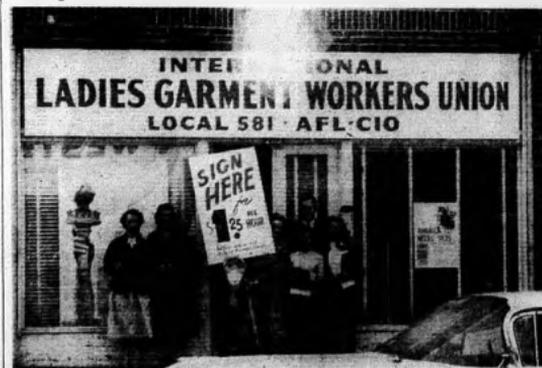
**Steff Shifts**

In a series of inter-department staff appointments, Norbert Ciech has been named as ILGWU state representative for Indiana, and Bernice Perry is the new business agent for Locals 54, 208, 212,

Ciech, a graduate of the Training Institute, has been with the Midwest Region since 1955, serving as both business agent and organizer. He replaces Robert Hess.

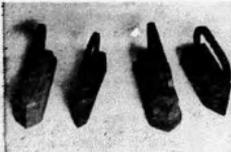
Bernice Perry Blis Ciech's vacancy.

**The Signature That Counts**



The campaign for a \$1.25 minimum wage extends into Spartanburg, S. C., where members of Local 581, with Business Agent Joe Ferguson, set out from union office with petitions urging Congress to pass the BR. They are carrying campaign into the heart of anti-union territory.

# THE IRON



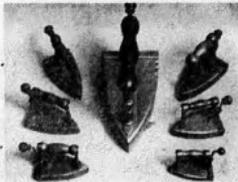
Heavy tailor's irons, used on thick fabrics, were heated on stoves. Some exceeded 30 pounds, made a man after years of use list to right, grinding bone and muscle into distortion and pain. Used in second half of Nineteenth Century.



Powerful, early Twentieth Century pressing dreadnought, with built-in gas burner ending interruptions or changing irons, had breather openings on side. May still be used as weights in cutting rooms or as functioning iron in neighborhood tailor shops.



Graceful sets of this European iron with ornate trivets were used by dressmaker establishments. Graduated in size, they were heated by iron slugs, taken from stove and slipped into iron through slot in rear opened by knob behind handle.



During the late 1880s, mushrooming slum sweatshops made widespread use of two irons in twin berth. The center handle attached to a trivet made possible the carrying of two irons at a time to and from hot stove on which entire contraption was set for heating.



Photos by Harold Low

**I**n the end it is the presser who makes the garment look finished and new. Last man on the production line, it is he who catesses the fabric or pounds it into shape and seals the garment on its way.

To remove the creases, open the seams, round out the shoulders, flatten the collar, shape the body, line up the sleeves, bring up the nap—to do all of these things, the presser uses one tool: the iron.

Pressing through life, he gets to know this tool like he knows the fingers on his own strong right arm. At work, he rocks in rhythm with it as he picks it up and rides it across the garment on his pressing cradle, rocks again to turn the garment on his board to a new position and once more lifts the iron which has, in effect, become part of his presser's personality.

The virtues of a presser are strength, endurance and "feel." There is tremendous weight in his iron, and in total he lifts-tons a day with his right arm. In years long past, he used his mouth as a spray to spread the moisture that rose as a hot cloud when kissed in the cloth by his iron. Today, even the sponge is not universally used for this purpose, this function is more performed by mechanical devices attached to the iron.

The presser will insist that his strength is secondary to his artistry—the feel he has for a garment and for fabrics. New fabrics have complicated his life, called for even greater skills. But the presser knows when to hear down, how to maneuver his massive and weighty iron so that it rides tip-toe down the middle of a long seam. He knows how to pound with the broad heel of the iron or hedge-hop across an expanse of skirt a fraction of an inch above its surface, because contact would fuse its synthetic fibres.

Irons differ in size, shape, weight and the manner in which they are heated. The ancient Egyptians buried theirs in long rows of hot stones. In more modern times irons have been heated and kept hot by coals put into them or heated metal slugs slipped into them. Recent means have included gas heating exterior to the iron and later built into the iron; alcohol pumps attached to the iron, and electric grids inside the iron. Currently, both gas and water lines feed into the irons.

Into these heavy companions of their working lives, the men who make the irons have put ingenious design and clever contraptions. Sometimes they couldn't resist the urge to decorate the massive metal. Sometimes they turned them out in a graded set of sizes, but miraculously all of the same weight.

Irons from the collection of Joseph Newman, Forest Hills, N.Y.



Ornate, heavy and somehow humorous, this iron from Holland came into use first in mid-Eighteenth Century. It carried its own heating plant of charcoals glowing red hot through the ribbed openings and riding on a flat base suitable for heavy pressing or a softer touch on starched aprons.

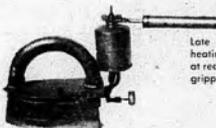


Known as Swiss irons, these charcoal burners of Mid-Nineteenth Century differed in size but not weight. Snorkel breather took air in on forward motion, let gas out in reverse.



Two screws under wooden handle hold down lid that opens to allow for loading hot charcoals. Slot under the lid allowed for ventilation. This iron was used in U. S. after 1850.

Crude, heavy, with one-piece handle large enough for two-handed grip, iron of ancient Egypt was heated in cradle of hot stones and held with remnants of hand-woven cotton.



Late Nineteenth Century iron with interior heating system burning alcohol stored in tank at rear. After several sweeps, presser paused, gripped pump to build pressure in tank.



This charcoal burner is still used in Caribbean area. Front rooster is weighted latch governing lifting of lid. Side vents and scalloped trim on lid permit air circulation.



Charcoal burner of late Nineteenth Century had air vents on lid, protective sheath under handle. Swivel door near bottom partially opened for air, fully opened to dump ashes.



Known as Swiss irons, these charcoal burners of Mid-Nineteenth Century differed in size but not weight. Snorkel breather took air in on forward motion, let gas out in reverse.



Many thousands of immigrants who poured into garment industry sweatshops at the turn of the century knew this iron well. It rested in its own cradle which was a gas-burning heater with slot. While presser turned garment, iron heated.



## S'East Lasses Levy After Runaway Try

In a throwback to the bleak beginnings of labor-management relations, Levy Brothers, an Atlanta dress manufacturer, turned its back on its employees and attempted to sever long-standing contractual relations with ILGWU Local 1227.

Southeast Regional Director E. T. Kehrer reports that at expiration time of the contract the firm's owners claimed that they were in financial difficulty and had had to cease operations. Work in the shop began to slacken and the company began to lay off its employees.

However, a check on the activities of the shop turned up the information that instead of getting out of business, the firm was sending its work out to non-union contractors.

Confronted with these facts, the firm denied any responsibility for its employees—some of whom had been with the company for 20 years or more—and refused to negotiate with the union.

Instead, one night, a truck was backed up to the entrance of the factory and, under cover of darkness, went stealthily to work.

In the morning, the employees who reported for work were shocked to find themselves greeted by a locked door and an empty building. Without warning, the machines had been removed and the firm had vanished.

### Hide-and-Seek

Thus began a grim game of hide-and-seek with the welfare of some 33 union members at stake.

## Scholastic Grants Offered to Women

The Women's Trade Union League trust funds a selection applications for financial grants up to a maximum of \$400 under its scholarship program.

Applicants must be women living in the metropolitan New York area. High school seniors, college students or trade union members, whose educational field is in the social sciences or teaching.

Those wishing to apply should write to: Gerel Rubien, education director, Local 62 ILGWU, 873 Broadway, New York City. The letter should briefly outline the students' educational and trade union background, interest in the labor movement and plans for future study.

Applications must be filed before May 1.

## Now It's Official



An formal signing of industry agreements between Associated Dress and Brocade Manufacturers and Local 32 covering some 6,500 workers in metropolitan New York area are, seated, left to right: Association Executive Secretary Jay Sybert, Association Vice Pres. Benjamin Murdock, ILGWU General Secretary-Treasurer Louis Stenberg, Local 32 Manager, Mrs. Goldstein, Local 10 Manager, Mrs. Falkner, Standing, from left: Malvin Kleeblatt, association attorney, union attorney Elias Lieberman, Abe Dolgen, manager of Cutlers' Local 10 miscellaneous department and ILGWU attorney Isidora Katz.

## UNITY HOUSE OFFICE MOVED

The best time to make reservations for a 1946 vacation at Unity House is now. The new office of Unity House in New York is located at 275 Seventh Ave. OR. 5-5900. Bring your union book when registering.

## L.A. Cloak Locals Vote Building Assessment OK

In a secret ballot, members of locals affiliated with the Los Angeles Cloak Joint Board voted overwhelmingly to continue a special assessment of \$1 per member each year for the next three years, according to Joint Board Manager Iain Sumner. The contribution goes to help pay for the indebtedness of the cloak union for its headquarters opened in 1935.

Approval of continuing the special levy came by more than a two to one majority as cloakmakers voted 618 to 131 on the measure. Casting ballots were members of Department Local 88, Finemakers' Local 58, Pressers' Local 97, Cutlers' Local 84, and Miscellaneous Workers' Local 512.

## Welcome Back!



When the Fairfield Garment Co. of Fairfield, Ill., closed down several months ago, some 250 ILGWers were left jobless. Efforts by the Midwest Region to replace the defunct manufacturer finally brought results earlier this year, when the R.M. Kaufmann Co. decided to reopen the plant. Shown here are some of the Local 468 members taking the union oath again.

## N'East Staff Maps Wide-Front Actions

A higher federal minimum wage, elimination of non-union factors threatening the standards of organized garment workers, enforcement of settled prices—these three areas were the focal points at a meeting of all Northeast Department district managers last month, reports vice area David Ginspod, department director.

The minimum wage drive is receiving priority rating in all areas of the department, according to reports from the managers. In conjunction with the ILGWU Political Department, Northeast staffers and members are waging a vigorous campaign on behalf of the \$1.25 an hour Minimum Wage Bill.

### Thousands Sign

To date, thousands of signatures have been obtained on petitions, an eight-state area from Maine to Pennsylvania has been flooded with literature, and delegations have been visiting Congressmen and Senators urging their support of the legislation.

Vice Pres. Charles S. Zimmerman, general manager of the Dress

Joint Council, brought the staff members up to date on developments in the new approach toward enforcement of the piece rate schedule in the dress industry. He analyzed the diffuse factors involved in setting up the new machinery, chief of which is the training of settlement personnel and clarifying production problems. However, he emphasized that during the period in which effective techniques are being developed, the joint council will not deviate from the basic course which had been announced earlier.

Following this outline, Ginspod announced a continuous survey of dress shops in the department to prevent an influx of non-union, non-label work. Field Supervisor Jack Halpern was assigned the task of directing a constant shop-by-shop check.

On the unionizing front, 14 rank-and-file organizing committees were reported operating within the Northeast Department. These volunteer teams, under the direction of Field Supervisor Halpern, work under the guidance of organizing directors Sol Hoffman and Frank Lyons and under the immediate supervision of the district managers.

Towards the close of the all-day meet, a schedule of district education activities was announced, culminating in the department-wide training school at Unity House, August 21 to 26.

## Coast ILG is Upheld On Sir James Lists

Declaring that a union, as the collective bargaining agent of employees in a designated unit, has the right to a complete list of names and addresses of employees for whom it bargains. Martin S. Bennett, Trial Examiner for the National Labor Relations Board, has ordered Sir James of Anston to furnish ILGWU Local 451 with such a list.

The decision arises out of an unfair labor practice charge initiated by the ILGWU when the firm's "industrial relations adviser," Mrs. Marie Selvin, stated that the supplying of such a list to the union would be a "betrayal of their (the employees) desire for privacy" and refused to accede to the union's request. Submission of the dispute to a hearing produced the decision as "far-reaching in effect."

In commenting on the NLRB ruling, Vice Pres. Samuel Otto, Pacific Coast Director, hailed the decision as "far-reaching in effect." Under terms of Arizona's right-to-work law, no union activity provisions could be written into the pact negotiated with Sir James, after the firm's employees had voted in an NLRB election last year to be represented by the garment union.

As changes in the contract were made, the ILGWU asked for lists of employees so that information could be given to them about the new employment. In addition to the normal turnover of employees, there are certain periods during the year when an influx of new workers occurs. These are the workers who are particularly difficult to reach.

The trial examiner, in making his decision, declared that many things indicated that "the facilities for communication between the union and its constituents are restricted in nature" and that communication of this sort is a valid and proper function of any bargaining agent if it is to perform effectively.

In essence, the ruling by the NLRB makes it improper for an employer to seek to isolate its employees from a union duly constituted as their bargaining agent. Attorneys for the union were Basil Feinberg and Charles Backer.

## Education Sessions Resume April 28

The ILGWU Education-Recreation Center, after its holiday recess, resumes its regular programs on Thursday, April 28, at the Charles Evans Hughes High School, 18th St. between 8th and 9th Avenues, New York City, and resumes Pannia Cohn, secretary of the Education Department.

The sessions, which include classes on current events, followed by folk music and dancing, are held in Room 401 every Thursday beginning at 6:29 P.M.



## Pa. N'East Shop Poll List Slips to a Third

The number of dress contracting shops in Pennsylvania districts of the Northeast Department that will be involved in NLRB representation elections next month has dwindled to barely a third of those listed in an order handed down last November.

The order had been issued after reports and the National Labor Relations Board had concluded that the now-defunct Pennsylvania Garment Manufacturers Association, which initiated the petition, no longer was in a position to speak for most of the plant owners.

### Desert PGMA

The petition by the PGMA had been made before the dress strike of March 1958. In an attempt to disrupt the negotiations with the various employers' groups in the industry who jointly participated in the collective bargaining agreement.

In the ensuing weeks and months the Pennsylvania group had been abandoned by most of its members. Nevertheless a small group of die-hard kept pushing the matter through the courts and the NLRB.

When the November ruling was made, 177 plants were listed for such elections to be held. However, employers have been withdrawing from the election — as they have a right to do — within the list finally shrinking to a point where only about a third of the 117 shops will be voting the first week in May.

### For 'Yes' Vote

Vice Pres. David G. Goldberg, Northeast Department director, said that "most members will vote 'yes' because none of them want to see the revival of an employers' coalition which is unpredictable and untrustworthy, whose only purpose is to degrade and depress the earning opportunities of the dress workers in the garment industry."

Glinsold, in a statement issued

in Pennsylvania, observed that the "elementary barrier behind the banner of the defunct organization see through this NLRB ploying, an opportunity to compound confusion and create uncertainty which they hope will weaken our union in this period when we are striving on a determined drive for higher earnings through effective rate enforcement."

Glinsold said, following surveys which were made in the shops, that "undoubtedly there will be an avalanche of 'yes' votes for the ILGWU."

## Eastern Region Net Catches 3 in Jersey

An organizing drive aimed at non-union segments in the northern New Jersey area, sparked by Local 144, has enrolled shops in three different branches of the garment industry in recent weeks, reports Vice Pres. Edward Kramer, general manager of the Eastern Region.

A new two-year pact with Fashionable Models Co., sportswear manufacturers of Newark, will set the workers an average pay hike of 15 percent, plus profit sharing. Other terms of the agreement provide 8 1/2 paid holidays, time and one-half after 35 hours, and a package contribution by the employer of 8 1/2 percent of payroll to the health and welfare, retirement and severance pay funds.

The first-time agreement at Value Undergarment Co., also in Newark, is highlighted by a 18 percent wage increase and

## 'SPRING CLEAN' MOPPS CLAIRE CARTER FIRM INTO MIAMI ROSTERS

The ILGWU "spring cleaning" drive in Miami, which is rolling out lists of non-union manufacturers, has resulted in enrollment of another dress manufacturer into the union's ranks.

Northeastern Regional Director R. T. Kohrer reports that, as a result, the 25 employees of the Claire Carter Costume Co. have won all the prevailing Miami wage scales and benefits, including employer's contribution to the health and welfare fund and reduction of the work week to 35 hours during the life of the contract.

Negotiations were conducted by Miami Business Agent James Robinson.

Some 25 million persons have benefited from the social security program.

## Upper South Renewals Boost Wages for 500

The union's Upper South Department became Easter Bunny last week as it delivered some jumbo-sized "nest eggs" to approximately 500 workers in Maryland and West Virginia, in the form of wage hikes and other gains signed into new contracts.

For 136 members of Local 224 in Thurmont, Maryland, pay packets will be mailed by 1 1/2 percent some June 1. That's the effective date of the contracts covering Globe Frank Co., makers of custom washstands, and Thomas Bell and Nevelly, an auxiliary shop, reports Vice Pres. Angelo Buschman, manager of the Upper South Department.

Plant minimums were set at \$1.20 an hour; average wages, which were \$1.42 last year, will rise to \$1.60 after the increase. Workers also obtained an additional paid holiday, for a total of six. They are already getting two weeks' holiday pay, and are rewarded by the full complement of union health, welfare and retirement benefits.

Major innovations in the new pact are the start of employer contributions to a severance pay fund, and agreement to set the union label into each garment.

### Reason Sealar

Wage increases, the seven-hour

day, severance pay, five union label, and additional paid holidays were among the contract gains won by the workers of Lord Lorn Manufacturing Co. in Hanson, West Virginia.

Lord Lorn, producers of Westbury Fashion, took over the Hanson shop one year ago. This culminated a three-year effort on the part of the ILGWU to get a garment employer to supply work for this shop, which was vacated by another firm three years earlier.

In two steps, the renewed calls for wage increases amounting to 15 percent, a guaranteed minimum of \$1.60 an hour, overtime pay after seven hours a day, six paid holidays, anti-work invasion, the beginning of a severance pay fund, the union label, and the complete package of health, retirement and life insurance benefits.

The three-year agreement becomes effective March 1, 1968 and will expire concurrently with the contract at Dobler Manufacturing of Hagerstown, a sister shop in the ILGWU, when the previous employer left.

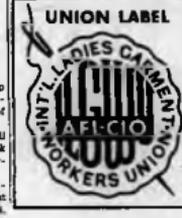
Under South American Manager Eddie Milano and Business Agent Irving Adine, a hared union negotiating teams at these firms, which included sizable representations from the shops.

415 additional buildings for all workers. The pact also calls for a reduction in hours and fringe benefits to conform with the pattern set by the industry for the area.

The campaign also caught up with the Tom Roberts Co., children's dress manufacturers of Princeton.

Workers at the three shops will have the services of the Newark Health Center and its recently expanded drug department.

The drive was directed by Manager Peter Diefelman, with an assistant, Fred Phillip Goodman of Local 144.



# THE CASE FOR A HIGHER MINIMUM WAGE

(Continued from Page 2)  
place of the regular biennial review now provided for by the law. And finally, we do not believe that such petitions should be permitted in those industries which now pay a minimum of \$1 an hour, the same as on the mainland.

**P**ERCENTAGE adjustments in in-  
sular minimums will accomplish several things. Workers as the island will receive the same increases in minimums as workers on the mainland. They will provide a floor under the insular minimum wage structure, other than in the rare and exceptional situations. They will reduce the extent of the new competitive advantage which will follow the general increase in the statewide minimum wage. At the same time, the increase in insular minimums will improve the economic level of an important segment of the Puerto Rican population, heighten local demand for goods and services, and as such help to create additional employment and spur on industrial and commercial development of the commonwealth.

The rise in Puerto Rican minimum wages will serve another function. Living costs are much higher there than on the continent, a fact attested many times by representatives of both the Puerto Rican and U. S. governments.

Such studies have revealed, for example, that living costs in San Juan, Puerto Rico range from 17 to 28 per cent higher than the living costs in Washington, D. C.

The higher living costs in Puerto Rico highlight the inadequacy of existing minimums there as well as the hardship suffered by workers there. On the one hand, wages are lower; on the other, living costs are higher. The proposed amendment would not, of course, fully remedy the situation. It will, however, improve the conditions of many workers without curtailing their employment opportunities.

There is another reason why minimum wages should be raised by statute following the adjustment statewide. Here, on the mainland, the legal minimum is paid only to a fraction of our labor force. The average worker earns much more. Furthermore, between changes in minimums, wages do not remain static. This is not so in Puerto Rico. The labor movement there is relatively weak. Because of population pressure, a ready reservoir of unemployed seeking work tends to depress wages. As a result, between legal wage determinations, wage levels tend to remain unchanged.

Moreover, the commonwealth is an integral part of the American market. As the Puerto Rican Economic Develop-

ment Administration recently noted, the "merely idealistic framework of business law provides for free movement of people, goods, capital, and payments between the United States and Puerto Rico. This, in turn, means that U. S. and Puerto Rican industry are in direct competition in whatever market they seek to sell."

**M**INIMUM wage adjustments in Puerto Rico had no adverse effect on local employment. The data gathered by the U. S. Department of Labor also indicate that "antidote minimum wage increases since July 1, 1966 did not, on an overall basis, result in curtailing employment, but rather that the growth of the economy continued. In fact, higher minimum rates may have stimulated mechanization in existing industries and encouraged the channeling of capital into the capital intensive industries."

Over the years our union has been keenly aware of the problems faced by Puerto Rico and its workers. We do recognize that Puerto Rico, whose we have over 5,000 members, does need industrial growth. We favor such an expansion. At the same time, we believe that the proposal to raise minimum wages by the same percentage

there as statewide, is the very least that the Congress can accept at this time.

I want to add just a few words regarding the extension of coverage. I strongly favor the extension of coverage in line with the proposal contained in House Bill 4488. It seeks to cover only some 7 1/2 million workers out of the total of over 70 million who are not presently protected by minimum wages. It does not seek to apply minimum wage protection either to employers of small retailers and specifically rules out small stores run by members of a family.

At the time the Wage and Hour Law was adopted over 21 years ago, there existed an understandable caution on the part of the Congress regarding broader coverage. For this reason, legislation was confined to interstate activities.

In the years that have passed a body of experience, however, accumulated to demonstrate that coverage can and should readily be extended to other persons in our working population whose activities affect interstate commerce and who need a floor under the rules of competition.

I strongly urge your committee to recommend extension of coverage to the Congress of the United States as a sound and constructive step.

# Handmacher-Vogel Pay Hikes for 350

After months of negotiations, which also included bargaining sessions in New York, agreement has been reached on a renewal pact which provided a 5 percent across-the-board wage increase for some 350 workers at the Glasgow, Kentucky, plant

A key factor in the settlement, finally reached in Glasgow was the work of ILOUW Pres. David Dubinsky and General Secretary-Treasurer Louis Stulberg, who led

talks at the General Offices in New York City.

The new pact, ratified by the members of Local 481 on March 14, also provides for a wage adjustment on a merit basis for 28 percent of the firm's workers. The agreement expires December 31, 1961.

Aiding Kirtzman during negotiations were Business Agent Arlene Leonard, Shop Chairlady Ruby Geron, Lee Martin and C. G. Morrison, chairman and secretary of the local, and committee member Marie Johnson.

### Local 44 Retires

Retiring members of Italian Local 44 were honored by executive board members and invited guests at a meeting held by Meyer Berkman, manager of the Cleveland Joint Board.

The sentiments of the retiring workers were voiced by Frank Piazza, Vice Pres. Kirtzman reviewed the history of the local since its inception in 1923.

## DRESS HEALTH FUND STAFFERS UNCOVER \$600,000 SUMS DUE

The New York Dress Joint Board policy of "stringent auditing" of employers' books last year paid off a whopping \$610,000, Vice Pres. Charles S. Zimmerman, general manager, reports.

The sum was collected for the Health and Welfare Fund on bills issued after fund accountants, headed by Martin Ford, found unreported items on firms' books. Such items were found in slightly more than one audit out of every five.

The unreported items included work sent by jobbers to non-union contractors and, in contrast shops, work done for non-union jobbers and jobbers not covered by the Dress Joint Council agreement. Over \$450,000 was collected from jobbers, and the balance from contractors.

Health and Welfare Fund accountants conducted a total of 2,461 audits during the year. At a recent joint board meeting, Zimmerman warmly commended the accounting staff for the way in which they performed their duties. He said that this kind of performance is essential to the union's effectiveness in defending the interests of its members.

## June 1 Deadline to Apply To ILGWU Evening Institute

More than 100 members of the ILGWU have requested applications in the last month for the Evening Institute that is conducted by the union to train members for staff and officer positions. These requests are for the class that will begin a year's training this summer.

The Training Institute has announced that applications to the Evening Institute will be accepted for members of the union up to June 1, 1960, according to Director Carl Tyler. Following receipt of application, members will be interviewed for their qualifications.

While graduates of the Evening Institute are not guaranteed positions with the union, the training they receive provides them with

additional know-how in preparation for any future work with the organization.

Although the present evening institute class has not yet completed its full year, a number of those in training have already been employed by various departments and locals in a variety of capacities as organizers, business agents, etc.

## It's Unanimous in Kentucky



Members of Glasgow, Kentucky, Local 481 ratify new agreement with the Handmacher-Vogel plant, highlighted by a 5 percent across-the-board wage increase. Vice Pres. Nicholas Kirtzman, (far right), director of the Ohio-Kentucky Region, outlines the terms of the renewal agreement.

## Dubinsky

(Continued from Page 3) the "sense of responsibility of the union yet had." He agreed that the garment industry, because it was not subject to monopoly influences, as is for example the food industry, could not force prices up.

Congressman William Ayres told Pres. Dubinsky that he had examined both the statement and the convincing manner in which it was made. Congressman Carroll Kearns, not a member of the committee but sitting in for the session, also lauded the ILOUW president. In reply to his questions, Pres. Dubinsky noted that the garment industry looked to Puerto Rico now for purposes only of manpower expansion.

### 'Most Informative'

Rep. John H. Dent told Pres. Dubinsky that his statement on Puerto Rico was far more informative than others that had been made before the committee. He said he was especially concerned with the effect on domestic industries of increased foreign competition.

Both Pres. Dubinsky and Mr. Murphy commented on the problems raised by low-cost, low-priced foreign imports. The ILOUW president declared, however, that the \$1 minimum wage was a national disgrace and that the problems of dealing with goods made by labor that earns 12 cents an hour required another solution, not the depressing of American standards.

## Mark Half-Century Of Buttonhole '64

Some 250 members and guests gathered at the Trade Show Building in New York on April 2 to mark the 50th anniversary of Local 64, Buttonhole Workers.

Manager Samuel Rabinowitz, introduced by Local Chairman Max Lerman, was toastmaster of the event. Well-wishers on hand to greet the buttonhole makers on their milestone included Vice Pres. Heinrich Mendelsund, general manager of the New York Clink Joint Board; Vice Pres. E. Howard Molinari, manager of Local 48, on behalf of joint board local managers; Murray Gross, manager of Local 66, for the Accessories Council; and union attorney Abe Schlesinger. Pres. David Dubinsky sent a message to the gathering.

Though the smallest unit of the Clink Joint Board, Local 64 can boast of a rich tradition of union achievement, and played an active role in the battles of the ILOUW's formative days.

## HITS AND MRS.

by JANE GOODSELL

### Cleanup Try Only Proves Desk Real Treasure Trove

Spring-cleaning fever has got me, and I've decided to clean out my desk. (Yes, I know it isn't spring yet. This is last year's cleaning. I'm doing.)

Naturally, I keep only necessary and important things in my desk, but I'll have to file a few things away someplace else. The other day I tried to put four air-mail stamps in the top drawer, and they wouldn't fit. Matter of fact, I had to pry the drawer open with a paper knife.

Maybe I can start by getting rid of the paper knife. I never use it. I just tear envelopes open with my fingernails. Still, I think I should use a paper knife. It's neater and more refined. I'd better keep the paper knife and train myself to use it.

New I'll just remove the top drawer and dump everything on the bed. Well, for goodness sake! Here are my manly scissors! Isn't it a shame, I bought a new pair!

No use keeping an empty paper clip box. Gracious, I had no idea I had so many rubber bands. There must be hundreds of them. Still, you never know when you'll need a rubber band so I'd better keep them. I'll just fish the paper clip box out of the wastebasket and put them in it.

Here are a whole bunch of 3-cent stamps which seem to be stuck together. Too bad I didn't know about them last week when I had to go downtown to buy a stamp.

And here are few pencils, just like new except their points are broken. Seems to me I used to have a pencil sharpener. And what in the world is this sticky mass? It seems to be a collection of cough drops, broken lead, strands of hair, loose tobacco and little gummed reinforcements. I could use those reinforcements. No! I'll be ruthless and toss the mess out some. Maybe I'd better put all these things away, and tuck the top drawer some other time.

### 'What Have We Here?'

Now I'll go through the other drawers. Well, look at this recipe for Veal Birds in Sour Cream! My, that sounds good, doesn't it? And here's a photograph of somebody. It certainly is fuzzy. On the back it says, "Mrs. 1953." Do I know somebody named Irma? Well, I must know her. Why else would I have her picture? I'd better paste it in my album. I wonder where the album could be?

And here are a whole bunch of washing instruction tags. It's very important to keep those. I wonder if this one could be from Katie's jacket? It says, "Do not put in dryer." It probably is from Katie's jacket because the lining got all matted when I put it in the dryer.

Here's that Christmas card list I was looking for. I'd better keep it to check against the new list I made. And here's a box top entitled me to enter a contest to win a trip around the world. Oops! The contest ended December 31, 1956. Why, here's a little booklet on removing spots and stains. And here's another on 'First Aid. Isn't that nice? I'm glad I have these. They're full of vital information.

And what's this? It's a raffle ticket on a television set. I can't remember buying it so I guess the raffle is over by now. Still, suppose the called me tomorrow and told me to bring my ticket and collect the TV set. I'd not 'woudn't I feel terrible if I'd thrown the ticket away? I'd better hang on to it, just in case.

Oh, boy! Look at all these trading stamps! Now, if I can just find that stamp book to paste them in. . . . Oh my goodness! Look at the time! Five-thirty, and I haven't even thought about dinner. Maybe I'll fix Veal Birds in Sour Cream. . . . No, there isn't time. We'll have to eat hamburger again. I guess. Oh, well.

I'd better just dump all this stuff back in my desk. I'll straighten it out tomorrow, for sure.

ILGWU Training Institute  
1710 Broadway  
New York 19, N. Y.

I am interested in applying for the ILGWU Training Institute class beginning in the summer of 1960. Please send me necessary information and application form.

I prefer to attend sessions in daytime  evening

Name .....

Address .....

City .....

State .....

### CUTTERS COLUMN

## Cutters Action Nips Scheme To Take Away 'Ripping' Work

The cutters' union, in cooperation with other ILGWU locals, has moved swiftly to nip in the bud another scheme or "gimmick" for violating the agreement and for taking away work traditionally done by cutters.

According to Vice President Fullman, manager of Local 10, it has always been part of the cutter's job to tear or "rip" piece goods into desired widths in preparation for pleating.

Following up a complaint, an investigating committee of Local 10 found, at 8115 P. M., five individuals — not cutters — working in a jobber's cutting room, ripping piece goods for skirts to be sent out for pleating.

For some time past, it had been the practice of this jobber to send piece goods for ripping and pleasing to a pleating contractor, who billed the jobber for the entire operation. However, when the pleating firm was very busy it would send the men up to the jobber's premises on evenings and Saturdays to lay out and rip the goods, making them ready for pleating.

#### Practice Held

As soon as the information was gathered under the direction of Abe Dolan, supervisor of the Metallurgical Department of the jobber, the jobber stopped working. The principals of the firm hastily appeared at the office billed the jobber for the goods would be sent out for "ripping," as this work belongs to the cutters. Subsequently, the cutters started to work overtime for the first time in two years and, in fact, engaged two additional members of Local 10.

Three other firms were later found to have engaged in the same practice — which was terminated by agreement with the firms that tearing or ripping was to be done by the cutters. One of these firms hired an additional cutter.

Commenting on this new development, Abe Dolan, chairman, declared that the union's policy of safeguarding the work of the cutters would be vigorously enforced, and that the local would not permit the functions, associated by long practice and tradition with the cutter's craft, to be whisked away by some other human.

That was why it took action against cut-out shops that shifted turning on establishments that performed no other manufacturing operations, had no regular complement of workers and employed non-union men; that was why it got a step to photomarking by outside printers at the expense of the cutters while permitting firms, however, to acquire a machine that made duplicate markers — tools which are operated by a member of Local 10, and that was why a similar policy was adopted with regard to the cutting out of piece garments by electric machines used in the corset and braider industry.

Fullman emphasized the determination of Local 10 to prevent efforts to chip away at the cutter's craft. We will not permit cutting to be reduced to the status of an accessory trade, he concluded.

#### Fare Clause

At the last membership meeting of the Local, two motions were made in which the union had invoked the clause in the collective agreements prohibiting firms from serving to a benefit beyond the 15-cent fare rate.

**LOCAL 10 MEMBERS**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**MONDAY**

**April 25**

**Right After Work**

**MANNHATTAN CENTER**  
34th Street and 8th Avenue

A dress firm employing eight cutters decided to move to Wilkes-Barre, Pa. It had actually started to move materials there when Local 10 and the Dress Joint Board called the firm to account. After conferences, the firm agreed to remain in New York, and it has since added four additional permanent cutters.

A similar situation involved a corset and braider firm employing two cutters. It moved to Jeanette, Pa., but legal action by the union forced it to return its operations to New York.

## DRESSMAKERS Applications for Retirement

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 1960

Will Be Accepted Only From

April 15 to June 15

Dressmakers employed in New York City dress shops wishing to retire on October 1, 1960 must apply at the office of the Retirement Fund, 218-222 West 40th Street, New York City, in Room 6104144 Floor between the hours of 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.

Dressmakers employed in dress shops located outside of New York City, who work on garments for New York dress jobbers, should apply at the Retirement Fund office which is on the same premises as the local union of the Eastern Region and Northeast Department.

A worker who does not file his application during the registration period noted above will not be able to retire during the retirement year October 1, 1960 to September 30, 1961.

- A thru C — April 15 to April 22
- D thru G — April 25 to April 29
- H thru M — May 2 to May 8
- N thru R — May 9 to May 13
- S thru Z — May 16 to May 20

If you cannot come in during the period set aside for you, you may register from May 23rd to June 15, 1960.

At time of application a worker must produce proof of age and Social Security card. A member of the union must also submit his union card. An applicant for disability retirement benefits must also produce a doctor's work. Proof of age submitted by a female applicant in the form of a birth certificate or passport bearing a name different from her present name must also produce a marriage certificate.

For information about rules and regulations pertaining to eligibility for retirement may be obtained at your local union office.

**RETIREMENT FUND OF THE DRESS INDUSTRY OF NEW YORK**

Charles S. Zimmerman    Abe Goukman    Harry Miller  
Treasurer                      Secretary                      Chairman

### Spotlight on Youth



Beverly Reece, daughter of Kansas City Local 114 member Ruth Reece in the office of Missouri Congressman Richard Bolling. Beverly was one of the delegates appointed by Governor James Blair to the White House Conference on Childhood and Youth.

## 'Once-in-a-Lifetime' Chance

The White House Conference on Childhood and Youth was a great experience for Beverly Reece, 15-year-old delegate from Missouri. An honor student at Northeast High School in Kansas City, and a Girl Scout, Beverly participates in youth activities at the First Presbyterian Church, which has an integrated congregation. Her mother, Mrs. Ruth Reece, is a longtime member of ILGWU Local 114.

Kansas City Education Director Wimple Lippman took Beverly to one of the state meetings held as preliminary sessions to the national White House conference.

and Beverly found herself appointed by Governor Blair as one of 13 youth delegates from Missouri.

The conference is a once-in-a-lifetime affair to "review the unmet needs of young people and recommend solutions." To be one of the 7,000 adults and young people at the 1960 conference was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Beverly. But where was the money coming from?

The ILGWU provided the answer. Wimple Lippman organized a money-raising project and was the active sponsor of the union retirees, the joint board, and the membership, enough boxes of candy were sold to send Beverly to Washington.

Now Beverly is reporting back to "her" union as well as to her youth groups and her community. She is reporting her satisfaction in finding that adults wanted the viewpoint of youth; her impression that the biggest thing at the conference was the importance placed in civil rights, with 90 percent of the youth voting to recommend the eradication of all forms of racial segregation.

Most interesting, she says, were the workshop sessions, and she is already making arrangements to follow up the workshop on juvenile courts which she attended in Washington with a study of the Jackson County Juvenile Court in Kansas City. And she hopes to follow that up a few years hence by going to law school.

### BOOK FRONT

by MIRIAM SPEICHLER

## Nazi Monster Tells How 'Efficiently' He Killed 2 Million

COMMANDANT OF AUSCHWITZ. The Autobiography of Rudolf Hoess. World Publishing Co. \$4.50

This book should achieve the permanence of a classic. It is the autobiography of one of the most monstrous murderers in history. In two and one-half years as commandant of a Nazi extermination camp, he killed by his own account, 2 million human beings.

There was nothing "mad" about him. His youth and early manhood were ordinary. His first political experiences, in terms of his time, were not extraordinary. His appearance was ordinary. Yet, nothing is what he did... and the description of it in calm, considered detail in the pages of this book is not easy reading...



struck him as being monstrous. In the fight to win a war his orders were to exterminate. He had no sense of a right about an entire people. He went about doing it with efficiency, with pride, with no remorse. And with regrets only that he had not done a better job and that the world, "in his stupidity, neglected the 'virtue' of his cause."

It is a terrible, frightening story but one which must be told frequently enough to keep the world reminded of the depth which human bestiality can reach. These are not the horrors of battle or conquest. Here is the ultimate horror of race and sanity, obedience and loyalty applied to an inhuman end.

Could it have happened anywhere else than where it did happen? Under any other political regime than the one that commissioned it? Or is Hoess the symbol of a beast that lurks just below the surface of all human beings?

It is to be hoped that this apology by one who considers his greatest achievement to have been the development of more efficient techniques of exterminating human beings continues to be read as a frightening reminder of the evil of race hate and force against which the world must be constantly vigilant.

## '20' Sifts Rainwear Import Problems

In reporting on industrial problems to the membership meeting of Waterswear (Garment Workers' Union) last month, chairman Joseph Kessler detailed the adverse effects on the domestic market of cheap imports from other countries and Japan, produced under repressed working conditions.

Such products, he pointed out, were being sold here at prices less than half U.S. labor costs allow.

In general, he said, the best fall and spring work seasons were being experienced.

Kessler also emphasized the importance of the union label as a medium for safeguarding workers' standards. Several million labels already have been sold, he indicated, and special staff members have been hired to direct the labeling program.

The chairman announced that the local is starting preparation for celebrating its 20th anniversary later in the year.

## ILGWU FILES PROTEST AGAINST PHONY UNION AT DORSAY IN CANADA

A petition filed by the ILGWU in Canada last week asked the Quebec Labor Board to take immediate action on certification of a company-dominated "union" as the Dorsay (Singer) Plant in Drummondville, Quebec. Vice President Joseph Shone...

The so-called independent union (after long relations had terminated) which had been established for a renewal of the ILGWU agreement covering the 200 workers at the plant.

Dorsay's protest that the new formation "independent" was a tool of the employer, the QLRB ordered an election. A vote on the company's side placed on the company premises, and ended in a tie. At the second election on March 18, won by the company union, the organizing of the representatives were illegally prevented.

# JUSTICE

INTERNATIONAL LADIES GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

## THE MONEY CHANGERS

SENATOR PAUL DOUGLAS heads a committee considering a bill that would require full and accurate disclosure of interest charges on loans, mortgages and installment purchases. In the opinion of some, the proposed legislation strikes at the heart of American business enterprise.

A good deal of American life and standards depends on the worker's desire and ability to buy. These, in turn, are limited to a considerable extent by his promise to pay back. The American worker's family is under a constant barrage of advertising that stimulates its hunger for goods and services far beyond what it can pay for with ready cash.

What they lack in their envelopes they are forced to supplement with the phantom funds they borrow. For this they pay at a rate of interest set by the lenders and uniform at all lending agencies at any given time.

The banking and lending business is full of all kinds of mysterious rituals which must be accepted even though not understood. We are a civilization that rests on credit, and bankers are among the important pillars of our society. But still to be discovered is the ethical justification for making people in need pay for borrowing other people's surplus money which the bankers hold in trust—payment in the form of interest that goes far beyond a return to the original owner of the money.

But Senator Douglas is not questioning the reason for interest rates as such. He is concerned with the phony price labels attached to borrowed cash or credit. Accuracy in this matter is of no small importance. Bank installment loans have soared 236 percent in the past decade; outstanding installment credit equaled 12.8 percent of all consumer spending last year, double the 1949 proportion.

IT IS THE ARITHMETIC that bothers Senator Douglas. A 6 percent interest charge, he believes, is hardly ever just that. It is the charge on the full amount of the loan at the time it is made. But that amount begins to diminish with the first partial repayment of the loan. Yet the interest charge remains unchanged, yielding in the end an interest return about double the declared rate.

Understandably, the objections to his proposals have come from banking and lending interests. They fear, they say, that the enactment of the disclosure provisions would spread government bureaucracy, would confuse and mislead the consumer, would stimulate buying, would stop buying and would undermine the nation.

WILL CHANGING the arithmetic make much difference? The lure of the credit card is strong, perhaps strong enough to make little difference in the volume of loans, whether the return to the lender is called 6 percent or 12 percent.

Nor are the merchants and lenders without the will to retaliate. A spokesman for the National Retail Merchants Association has argued that the bill would lead certain merchants to disguise credit costs as part of the actual cost of the item.

Senator Douglas' proposals will not collapse the country if they are enacted into law. On the contrary, such legislation could lessen the burden of the borrowing tax that keeps most American families in an unending hole of debt. It would certainly curtail the shameful and misleading merchandising of credit cards and other easy credit gimmicks that now beset the consumer in advertising.

Such a new law would help. But what is really needed is less credit from the high-priced money lenders and more cash in the pay envelope. This would enable American workers to buy back what they produced without having to "pay off" those who handle their money.

## "Is There a Doctor in the House?"



## "That'll Spoil My Russian Dressing!"



## The Price We Must Pay

By  
GEORGE MEANY

Message from the president of the AFL-CIO to the silver jubilee convention of the Jewish Labor Committee in Atlantic City last month.

YOU in the Jewish Labor Committee and we in the AFL-CIO have far more in common than the word "labor" in our names. We have fought shoulder to shoulder on many issues and for many causes.

But there is one of our common bonds, our common principles, that gives me a special sense of pride, as I am sure it does you. Although our enemies sometimes claim otherwise, neither of our organizations is a special interest group. What we want for ourselves, we want for all humanity.

In your case, you have fought valiantly to preserve and extend individual rights against all forms of bigotry and totalitarianism—not just Jewish rights, but the rights of every man.

In our case, whether at the collective bargaining table or in the legislative hall, we fight for the economic and social progress of the people as a whole.

I know it sometimes seems to our friends that we move very slowly indeed on matters that are of deep, primary concern to them. Are we doing enough on the minimum wage law? Some of our own affiliated unions would say we ought to be doing more. Are we doing enough on the Forand bill? Not enough to satisfy everyone who is interested in medical care for the aged. What we are doing is the very best we can in the light of all the problems we face.

We find the same situation when we come to an even more fundamental issue—the issue of civil rights, of equal opportunity. It has been said by some that while the AFL-CIO supports civil rights legislation in Congress, we have not been vigorous enough in ridding our own movement of practices based on bigotry and discrimination.

I want to make two points absolutely clear.

First, on this matter, as in so many others, I have nothing in common with the Southern Senators. I do not propose to argue, a century after the Civil War, that discrimination will disappear if we just leave it alone. We haven't left it alone; we're not leaving it alone today;

and we will never leave it alone until we wipe it out.

Second, while I do not pretend to enjoy criticism, I do not resent it when it is honest and factual, although sometimes I wish our friendly critics would keep in mind the ground we have already covered, as well as the distance we have yet to go.

I think the record proves we have come a long way. Many of our older unions were born and grew up in an earlier and less enlightened period. They reflected the attitudes of their communities—prejudices based on ignorance. Discrimination was not only accepted; it was respectable.

It is a measure of our progress that where discrimination still survives in the labor movement, it is a bootleg product, created in by subterfuge. Even those who practice discrimination know that its days are numbered. And we are going to make sure of it.

There are still some units within the AFL-CIO that engage in discriminatory practices. And there are others in our ranks, whose own records are clean, who think it is unwise for us to take a vigorous, public stand on civil rights.

They argue that we have enough problems and enough enemies, without inviting more. They say that the civil rights issue is used to prevent union organization in the South, and to weaken the unions that exist in that part of the country. They say that some Southern Congressmen, who might otherwise be receptive to some parts of our legislative program, are alienated by our civil rights position.

I have heard all these arguments of first hand. They have not changed my convictions in the slightest degree.

I say that if we have to practice discrimination to organize workers, then organizing will have to wait until we educate the unorganized.

I say that if we have to lose a vote in Congress on minimum wages, or the Forand bill, or unemployment compensation because we take a stand on civil rights, that is a price we are prepared to pay.