

ILGWU 60th Anniversary Issue

JUSTICE

INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

Vol. XLII - No. 11-12

Jersey City, N. J., June 1-15, 1960

Price 10 Cents

AMERICAN



FEDERATION OF LABOR

→ BOTH GRANT THIS ←

Certificate of Affiliation

To *Herma Bassman*
Small Silverman
Samuel Bluff
Samuel Balat
Joseph Schwartz
Ralph Schweiger
Jacob Sabowitz

and to their successors lawfully qualified to constitute the Union herein named and known under the title of **International Ladies Garment Workers' Union** for the purpose of authorizing organization of the trade, and a unit perfect Federation of all TRADES and LABOR UNIONS.

And do, since long duty joined, a empowered and authorized to initiate into its membership any person or persons in accordance with its own laws. And to conduct the business affairs of said Union in compliance with the best interests of the trade and labor in general. The autonomy of the Union is hereby advanced and secured.

Provided, That the said Union do conform to the **Constitution, Laws, Rules and Regulations of the AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR**, and in default thereof, at any part, this Certificate of Affiliation may be annulled or revoked according to the laws of the FEDERATION. And should the said **International Ladies Garment Workers' Union** be dissolved, suspended or forfeit this Certificate of Affiliation, then the persons to whom this Certificate of Affiliation is granted, or their successors, bind themselves to undertake the same with such other property as shall properly belong to this FEDERATION. And further, in consideration of the due performance of the above, the:

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

International Ladies Garment Workers' Union

James R. G. Thompson
Nine Hundred

has hereby bind itself to support the said **International Ladies Garment Workers' Union** in the exercise of all its rights, privileges and autonomy as an affiliated Union.

In Witness Whereof, We have subscribed our Names and affixed the Seal of the American Federation of Labor this *1st* day of *June* 19*60*.

Sam'l Compers
McNire
James Duncan
John C. Russell
John Mitchell
John Murray
Edgar J. Ford
John B. Leonard
Grand Monison

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

President
Vice-President
Sec - -
Asst - -
Gen - -
Treasurer
Secretary

JUNE 23, 1900. On this date, the American Federation of Labor granted this charter to the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union which had been organized three weeks earlier. The world into which the ILGWU was born and in which it struggled to survive is pictured in this special anniversary issue of JUSTICE. These pages from the past, drawn from contemporary sources, are witnesses of the courage and perseverance, the vision and the idealism that from its start have been the spirit of the ILGWU. Countless forthcoming generations of ILGWU members will continue to draw inspiration from them.

PLEASE RECYCLE

"NOW We Are 60"



WE garment workers have a special admiration for the word pioneer. We call the men and women who founded our union 60 years ago pioneers. But we also use the same word to describe many who came after them and who through acts of courage and imagination won new and significant gains for garment workers.

For us, pioneers are not a thing of the past. In the 60 years since the start of our union we garment workers have crossed many frontiers and it is the crossing of frontiers, the launching out into new and untried areas of human improvement, that makes our kind of pioneer.

There are all kinds of frontiers. There is the frontier of the pay envelope—the steady improvement of wages. There are frontiers of time—the determined reduction of the length of the work day and the work week. In more recent years, we have crossed frontiers of industrial and community relations, pioneering in collective bargaining, in the use of impartial machinery to settle disputes, in providing safeguards for workers' health and old-age, in spurring community and political activity by our members, making them both better union members and better citizens.

The record of our pioneering efforts may be traced in the development of our collective agreements. These are a kind of log book of how we

made a clearing in an industrial wilderness and through self-sacrificing effort brought sanity into work conditions, decency into pay envelopes, responsibility into collective bargaining.

At all times—even today—wherever our picket line appears for the first time, there another frontier of our union has been established. There, too, you will find again brave pioneers. They may speak a language far different from that spoken by the men and women who started this union; their backgrounds may be different and their historical and cultural roots remote. But they are pioneers nevertheless, because like ILGWU members of other generations they are fighting for improvements that mean a better life for themselves and their families.

BUT there was something special about those pioneers who 60 years ago created an organization they decided to name the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. Today's pioneers, whether in our union or elsewhere, no longer work in a wilderness. Now, those who hear the union appeal of the ILGWU for the first time know that our organization enjoys tremendous respect, that our financial resources are considerable, that we have close to half a million members.

But the little band of garment workers that set down to create a union back in 1900 met in a world that was bitterly hostile to the idea of

workers joining together to improve their lot. In their world the length of the work day, even for women and children, was unregulated; the rate of pay was dictated by the boss, the life of the worker was cheap, shortened by the pace of the work, malnutrition, unsanitary conditions. To fight jointly against these evils constituted illegal conspiracy.

Aligned against these first ILGWU pioneers were the courts, the police, public opinion, arrogant employers—and, most tragic of all—the workers themselves. Driven by hunger, pushed by the pace of work competition, lashed on by their own dreams of lifting themselves out of the misery, garment workers fought for the bundles of work—doled out by employers to the most beaten—upon which their very lives depended.

They had come from the old world, most of them, as other immigrant groups had come before them, filled with the dreams of a world of plenty and opportunity, of freedom and sunshine. And they had landed instead into a place of darkness and dirt, of crowdedness and noise. They suffered deep disillusionment but never surrendered their dreams.

Instead, they mustered once again the organizational skills they had learned in the old countries fighting Czarist outrages, political persecutions, poverty and the ignorance which is always

by
DAVID DUBINSKY

President, International Ladies'
Garment Workers' Union



JUSTICE

FOR THE WORKING CLASS

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DAVID DUBINSKY • President • LOUIS STARNBERG • General Secretary-Treasurer

LEON STEIN • Editor • BETTY MILLER • Assistant Editor • BERNARD MANAH • Art Editor

JUNE 1-15, 1950

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The Role of the Pioneers in Our Union

the ally of despotism. Young Jewish and Italian men and women, with little more than their own desperation and hope as weapons, dared time and again to challenge the anarchy and inhuman exploitation of the garment industry. Over and over again they formed the fragile unions they could not sustain through a season.

But the one they started on June 3, 1900 and chartered three weeks later on June 23 with the American Federation of Labor lasted. How can we measure what they wrought? By what means, after 60 years, can we appreciate the immensity of the challenge that confronted them, the resourcefulness with which they faced it, the alternating hopes and heartaches they must have felt?

This special issue of Justice attempts to do this through an imaginative leap back to the start of the century. In the pages of this issue are gathered some of the few precious relics left behind by those who started our union. Here are the minutes into which they wrote their hopes, the letters into which they poured their despair, the handbills in which they cried "encourage." Here too are pages from contemporary publications that witness their early triumphs and tribulations.

Poverty was the chief problem of their desperate beginning. There was no money with which to pay the rent for meeting halls, with which to dispatch organizers where they were needed, with which to pay strike benefits where hunger loomed on the picket line. Often, during the first decade of our union's existence, it seemed even to its staunch supporters that it was impossible to continue.

Its impoverished members could not support its starving officers. Employers, astounded at the persistence of this thing called the ILGWU, launched attack after attack, counting each one the last. Membership rose, then dwindled. Logic supported the resolution introduced at the 1906 ILGWU convention to disband the union. But in the shouted "noes" in the stirring vote to continue, despite the lack of success and the absence of funds and the bitter employer opposition, was



Entire families worked long days limited only by endurance in the homework shops of big city slums. The front room, the only one with two windows facing the street, was the workshop. Behind it, often windowless, were the bedrooms.

the heart and the spirit that has made our union great.

WE have come a long way as a union since those first faltering steps. In these pages you will find the record of that progress into the present. Much has changed and much remains unchanged.

What we have accomplished as a union, as part of the vast family of organized labor in America, is something more than just the abolition of our own poverty and helplessness. The America of 1900 was a land of towering wealth and devastating poverty. Between the very rich, small in number and great in power, and the very poor, swarming in numbers but powerless, was a bitter division, increasing since our national frontier had hacked out to the end of the line at the Pacific Coast.

In time, in other lands, this kind of division toppled governments, uprooted societies. Generally, the accompanying violence brought bloodshed. With us also there were battles when organized working men and women began to fight for democratic rights in their working lives such as they could exercise in their political lives.

Through the instrumentality of trade unions the inequities in the distribution of the goods and services produced by this nation's workers were being lessened with a minimum of violence and injustice. We have, in these 60-odd years, levelled off the extremes and levelled up the status of all.

It is sometimes easy to miss the point of trade union history because so much of it is taken up with such material considerations as money in the pay envelope, clean toilets, health fund contribu-

tions, severance pay, overtime. Yes, to those who see only the surface of things, it must certainly seem that unions and union members are very much like banks and bankers—all they want is more.

They want more because in the memory of their own beginnings as organized workers is the lesson that more means better—that in the time when the worker had less he was treated by his masters as little more than an animal given just enough so he would have the strength to drag, to lift, to stitch and stitch and stitch until he dropped from exhaustion.

Paradoxically, by concentrating on material goals we have won spiritual triumphs not only for our members but even for the industry in which they work. Between slave and master, exploiter and exploited there is fear, not respect. But between worker and employer who recognize the common problems behind their conflicting interests, a mutual respect develops that rids their industrial environment of jungle combat.

In effect, it is the enrichment of life, in all respects, that is the true and continuing goal of trade unionism. That enrichment is as limitless as our own capacity to dream, to innovate, to pioneer.

Sixty years ago our dreams were of the most primitive kind: to abolish hunger, to banish the sweatshop. Through the years the targets have changed, but the goal has remained constant.

In the first decade of our ILGWU our purpose was to survive; in the second, it was to create the basic instruments of collective bargaining and industrial responsibility; in the third decade it became to fight off the challenge of political totalitarianism infiltrating our ranks.

Then, in the fourth decade of the life of our union, we undertook to rebuild it from the depth of defeat and to utilize the opportunity provided by a New Deal in our nation that recognized the legal right of workers to organize for social betterment; in the fifth decade we rallied our resources to help our nation in time of international conflict; and in the sixth decade we sought to improve old and develop new securities and safeguards against illness and age and other uncertainties of our industry.

Because we work in a very special kind of industry, somewhere, every day, in our widespread jurisdiction, this cycle, varying only in detail, is beginning again for a group of garment workers. Their first frontier is union recognition. For their ILGWU sisters and brothers, older pioneers, the search for new frontiers goes on as our great union starts its seventh decade.



Four ILGWU chief executives—Left to right, Herman Grossman, first ILGWU president; Abraham Rosenberg, ILGWU president during 1909 and 1910 strikes; Morris Sigman helped union survive Communist disruption in mid-Twenties; Benjamin Schlesinger first served as president in 1903, then again from 1914 to 1923 and finally from 1928 to 1932.

East Side's Rivington Street—Uptown's Fifth Avenue



The World of 1900

PHOTOGRAPH ENCLOSURES
The original and only reliable method of attaching your photographs to your album.

"Just as Good"
\$10
Accept this dress as a guarantee of quality and value. It is made of the finest materials and is guaranteed to last for years.

For Christmas
Buttonless Suspender
Don't wear any other kind.

BOSTON GARTER
The Improved Boston Garter
The Best in the World

4 FULL QUARTS WHISKEY
PENNsylvania RYE
\$3.00

Keeley's Cure
Stomach, Bowels, Bile, Gall, etc.

HAY FEVER
Cures
WHILE YOU WORK, READ OR SLEEP.

THE LION

EXTREMES of wealth and poverty cut a deep gulf through American life at the start of the century. National creative genius produced a flood of machines, gadgets and knickknacks in elaborately poor taste and beyond the reach of its huddled masses. Without a union, garment workers could only dream of a future made brighter by these things; meanwhile, day by day they possessed only the heavy burden of their work and their poverty and increasingly bitter exploitation.

With unashamed verbosity, as shown by these start-of-the-century advertisements, producers tempted consumers with promises of the biggest, the cheapest, the most effective and the best.

APRIL—1903

THE PRAYER OF THE TENEMENT

"**B**REATH—breath—give me breath." A Yiddish whisper, on a night in April, 1903, from the heart of the New York Ghetto.

At 18 Clinton street, back in the rear tenement, a young Hasidic Jew lay dying of consumption. I had come in with a Jewish doctor. With every breath I felt the heavy, foul odor from poverty, ignorance, filth, disease. In this room ten feet square six people lay on the floor packed close, rubbing the heavy sleep from a tired eye, and staring at us drowsily. Two small windows gave them air, from a third story, and starting at us drowsily. The other room was only a closet six feet by seven, with a closed window high up opening on an air-shaft eighteen inches wide. And in that closet four more were sleeping, three on a bed, one in a cradle.

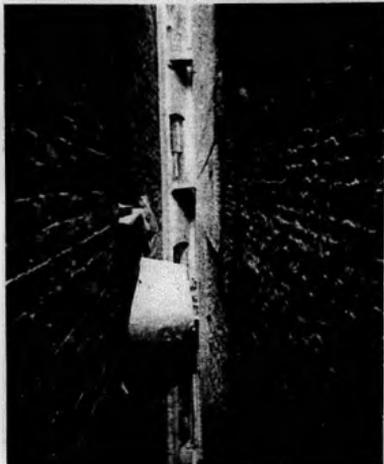
"Breath—breath—give me breath." The man's disease was infectious; and yet for two long weeks he had lain here dying. From his solid bed he could touch the one table, where the two families ate; the cooking stove was but six feet from him; the cupboard, over his pillow; he could even reach one of the cradles, where his baby girl lay starting frightened at his strange position. For his woman held him too feeble to sleep; too drowsy, too tortured to lie down. His young wife held him up while the sleepers stared silently on, and that Yiddish whisper came over and over again, but now with a new and more fearful meaning. "Breath—breath—give me breath. Oh kill me; O, kill me."

Two years ago this man had come to America—one of the four hundred and eighty-eight thousand in 1891. He came young and well and hopeful, with his wife and their baby son. Two more had been born since then. It was to be a new country, a new home, a fresh start, a land so healthy that the clear, heavy air of the sweat-shop from six in the morning until ten at night, stung him today and tonight as ever fifty thousand like him working. And late in the night when he left the feverish labor, at the hour when other homes are sleeping, he had come in, through the foul court and had sunk into restlessness in the dark closet six feet by seven. There are three hundred and sixty-one thousand such closets in the city. And this was his home.

"Left—give me breath." He spoke only Yiddish. The new country had given him the plague before the language. For the sweat-shop and he had not fought; his weakened body could make no fight, the machine in the sweat-shop took his strength; he had worked over the machine to buy food and coal, to keep the garments he sewed—feverish, tired, fearful—to buy food and coal, to keep his "home" alive. And now, on this last day of life, ten times he had whispered to his brother, begging him to care for the wife and the three little children. The struggle now is ended. The home is scattered. It speaks the appeal of forever homeless. "Breath—breath—give me breath."

ERNEST POOLE.

From "The Plague in the Sweatshop," published September last by the Committee on Prevention of Tuberculosis of the New York Charity Organization Society.



Jacob Ritz, the great reformer, took this photo of the only bathtub on a slum block, outside tenement window.



Behind them as they arrive in America, the poverty of the old world; ahead, the slums and sweatshops of the new, with many years of hardship, disappointment and struggle to come.

were up in years and uncommunicative. One of them had an ugly sore on her hand which she tried to keep covered. I would not "feish" for her, and so incurred her dislike. I said nothing, but always took work from someone else in preference.

Another place, where I worked but half a day, was more interesting to me because a number of young girls were there and they kept the place lively all the time. I asked one of them if she supposed we could get work in a factory, and she said: "Law, yes, if yer wants to join the union!" As for herself, she claimed that anything was better than "livin' by rule." The others declared that she was not skilled enough to belong to a union, and they grew quite merry in the dispute, so I could not determine just what her real objection to the factory was. These were the first happy sweaters I found. The six girls sweated gum, and laughed while they sewed. They ran the machines in a care-free way that almost made my hair stand on end. I got fifteen cents for my half-day's work. I was not needed longer, so I had to



A YOUNG TOILER.

seek other scenes of labor. I did not want long engagements in the sweat-shops. They were not necessary for my purpose. I simply wished to verify my knowledge regarding actual conditions of work. I had visited over a hundred of these places, and I already knew the aspect they present to the observer; but a few minutes' visit can never teach one the hardships of the workers. We may gape when we are told of women who toll twelve or fourteen hours for a mere pittance, but, after all, it is without meaning until one has experienced the weary eyes and dizzy head and aching back

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
 423-425 G. Street, N.W., Wash., D.C.

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF AFFILIATION

THE OFFICE OF THIS FEDERATION HAS THIS DAY GRANTED TO THE ABOVE NAMED LOCAL UNION THE STATUS OF A FULL MEMBER OF THIS FEDERATION, AND IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED THAT THE SAID LOCAL UNION IS IN FULL COMPLIANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THIS FEDERATION.

(CITY AND DATE) *June 21, 1901*

THE UNDERSIGNED, WIGG WALKER, believing it to be well calculated to improve our industrial and social conditions, and to promote a unified well-being and advancement, respectfully petition the American Federation of Labor to grant a Certificate of Affiliation to the organization of

International Ladies Garment Workers Union
General office
7 1/2 Street City
New York
 State of *New York*

THE SAID LOCAL UNION, lawfully and constitutionally, is governed by the Constitution, By-Laws, and By-Laws of the American Federation of Labor, with the consent and approval of the majority of all members of our own organization subject to such amendments or any branch of the said organization, as our organization may deem

THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS IN SAID LOCAL UNION *1000*

NAME OF MEMBER *Samuel Gompers*
Samuel Gompers
Samuel Gompers

NAME OF MEMBER *Samuel Gompers*
Samuel Gompers
Samuel Gompers

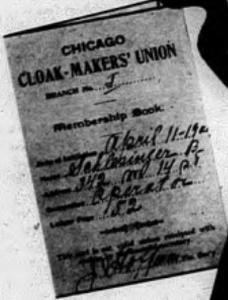
NAME OF MEMBER *Samuel Gompers*
Samuel Gompers
Samuel Gompers

Birth of a Union

WITH a union, garment workers could fight effectively for a better life. At the start of each work season they made brave efforts to organize themselves. For short periods they stood united in bargaining with their employers, only to find that with the season under way, the work running through the machines, their fledgling unions soon expired. But the union started June 3, 1900 by 11 garment-worker delegates meeting in New York lasted. Even then, many looked upon it as just another garment union; in historical perspective, it became the union of the ladies' garment workers.



Samuel Gompers, founder of the American Federation of Labor.



From American Federation of Labor Convention Report, 1900.

INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS UNION

NEW YORK, July, 1901.

DEAR SIRS & MESSRS: ---

The lock-out declared by Messrs. Knicker, Stern & Stein, of Cincinnati against the members of the Cloakmakers Union of Cincinnati, is still in force. While the firm has felt that it is meeting opposition in selling its goods, having lost according to its own statement thousands upon thousands of dollars; what has been done up to date is not still insufficient to force the firm to recognize the Union and abolish the team system.

We therefore appeal to you to take active part in this strike, and that you cause your committee to call on all the firm's customers in your locality and try to induce them to withdraw their patronage from Messrs. S., S. & S.

The members of the Union have from the first stood fast together; not one has deserted; the ranks to-day are as solid as on that first day some 6 months ago, that the men were locked out.

The condition of the men is most pitiable, the majority are in the last stages of poverty, their wives and children are suffering all the bitter pangs of hunger and want, the distress is great, but all are determined to win or die. Brothers extend them your helping hand and help them win.

Do your duty by your fellow workers; help the oppressed throw off the yoke of the oppressor.

"To loose means slavery, that is why they are compelled to fight to the bitter and until they win or die. HELP THEM!!!"

Write to S., S. & S., 256 West 6th Street, Cincinnati, O., calling on them to settle.

Awaiting favorable reply. I am

Very Respectfully,
 S. HEATY,
 Gen. Sec'y-Treas.

... A. E. Kraushorn & Co. of Philadelphia; ...

The Uncertain Years...

REPORT

OF THE
PROCEEDINGS

OF THE
SECOND ANNUAL CONVENTION

OF THE
INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT
WORKERS UNION.

HELD AT

PHILADELPHIA, PA., JUNE 9 & 10, 1901.

PUBLISHED BY I. L. S. W. U.

FOR close to a decade the ILGWU struggled to survive. Its financial resources were practically non-existent; its organizers were voluntary crusaders; the attacks upon it grew more bitter as it refused to expire. Its first faltering steps are traced in its 1901 Convention Report (selected pages reproduced here) marking the end of its first year. Its first general secretary-treasurer, in 1902 wrote a hopeful "official" history in the American Federationist. Its second general secretary-treasurer, half a dozen years later as the decade drew to an end, saw little reason for hope.

142163

Report of Proceedings.

FIRST DAY - MORNING SESSION.

Columbia Hall - Philadelphia, Pa., June 9, 1901.

Pursuant to the resolution of the first annual convention, held in New York June 1, 1900, Herman Grossman, President, called the second annual convention to order and introduced Joseph Schwartz, organizer of the Cloth-makers' Protective Union, of Philadelphia, and member of the International Executive Board, who on behalf of the Philadelphia Local, presented to the delegates the activities of the Locals of Philadelphia.

During the course of his remarks, Brother Schwartz endeavored to impress upon the delegates the absolute necessity of perfect harmony in the ranks of the International. He expressed the opinion that the time has now come when it is imperative that the organization and to surround the label of the International. It closing he said that he felt sure that the work of the Convention would bear rich fruit in the near future. Repeating the address of the Philadelphia Local, Brother Schwartz closed his address. His address was warmly applauded by all present.

Mr. Ellis, Philadelphia correspondent of the "Forwards," on behalf of the press, welcomed the delegates and presented the International as set, and called upon the International to accept the members in a resolution of the importance of the subject.

The following committees:
1. Committee on Credentials
Finance
Minutes of the previous convention adopted

Local 8 (Clothmakers' Union of San Francisco)
Local 11 (Machinists' Union of St. Louis)
Local 11 (Clothmakers' Union of Cincinnati)
Our membership is increased by 1000. Its total now being 3070.

The following is a complete statement of the strikes sustained, pending and compromised, and of the benefits accruing therefrom:

A total of thirty nine (39) were engaged in; of the ratio number thirty three (33) were won, six (6) lost, twenty six (26) compromised and one (1) pending.

Twenty one hundred and sixty five (2165) persons were involved. Of this number seventeen hundred and fifty nine (1759) were benefited and five hundred and twelve (512) were not. The total average gain in wages is 25%, and in one case the strike of the Clothmakers' Union of Cincinnati against the firm of Hirsch, Stern & Stein. All of the above is accrued plus a total of \$140,000.

During this period three were received at this office:
From London 101 letters
From A. F. of L. 21 letters
From the members of Executive Board 21 letters
From the members of the Executive Board 21 letters
From Headquarters 21 letters
From Headquarters 21 letters

And a total of 615 letters were sent from this office. Increase in impression of the year.

Local 1
Clothmakers, New York

Stamps And Tax Contributions

Month	Stamps	Tax	Contributions
June	100	100	100
July	100	100	100
Aug	100	100	100
Sept	100	100	100
Oct	100	100	100
Nov	100	100	100
Dec	100	100	100
Total	600	600	600

To the Delegates to the Second Annual Convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union.

Dear Sirs & Nees:
GREETINGS!

The following is a complete report of the work of this body for the year ending June 1, 1901.

On June 2nd, 1900, at the request of the Clothmakers' Union of New York, there met in that city 11 delegates, two from each of the different organizations, from 8 different states of the Union. The delegates came as the representatives of 25th (Cloth, Suit & Shirt Makers, located in New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore).

Of the six organizations represented at the convention, in addition to the following have charters been issued: Clothmakers' Union, N. Y., and Clothmakers' Protective Union, Philadelphia; Cloth Processors of N. Y., and Clothmakers' Union of Baltimore. The two in N. Y. and Clothmakers' Union, N. Y., and the Philadelphia and Baltimore, have since affiliated with the Clothmakers' Union, N. Y.

Since that time our organization has generally extended its jurisdiction. We are no longer confined to the eastern section of the country. In the West and Central West we are represented by locals in St. Louis and Cincinnati, while in the Pacific Slope we have established ourselves in San Francisco. A Clothmakers' Union in Philadelphia and a Clothmakers' Union in New York represent our gains in the East. So that in all directions we have been issued during the year, the following being a complete list of the affiliated organizations:

- Local 1. United Brotherhood of Clothmakers No. 1, of New York and vicinity.
- Local 2. Clothmakers' Protective Union of Philadelphia.
- Local 3. Clothmakers' Union of Pennsylvania.
- Local 4. United Cloth Processors of Baltimore.
- Local 5. Clothmakers' Union of Lowell.
- Local 6. Affiliated with Local 1.
- Local 7. Shirt Makers' Union of Philadelphia.

War for Independence

1418

THE INDEPENDENT

marched to the union headquarters at Clinton Hall, 151 Clinton street. Before night 30,000 were estimated to be on strike.

The union officials were as little prepared for this development as the "bosses," as the employers are called. The strikers choked Clinton Hall from floor to floor and overflowed into the side streets, stopping traffic and arousing the whole thickly populated East Side. All the strikers wanted to pay dues to join the union at one and the same time. It was several days before some semblance of order was secured. Halls throughout the East Side were engaged and in these workers from the different shops established themselves and held shop meetings.

When the strike commenced Ladies' Waist Makers Local Union 25 had a

and from their speakers were assigned to address shop meetings, pickets sent out and new members for the union taken in. Mrs. Bertha Poole Weyl, another League member, has had her own desk in the office of the union and acted as assistant to Secretary-Treasurer Solomon Shindler from the first day.

What do the strikers want? Narrowed down, the main issue is recognition of the union. On that hinge all the other questions at issue, for the officials declare no other questions can be settled unless that one is settled. The employers' association as emphatically declares against the union and for the "open shop."

Conditions in the shirtwaist making trade are bad. The wages generally are low, the hours worked per day are many, the shops, especially the smaller ones,



MILITARY STRIKE PICKETS

thousand members. This has grown to over twenty thousand members and the number is increasing daily. The Women's Trade Union League, headed by Misses Dreier, Marol, Schneiderman, Pike and O'Reilly, established an Information Bureau in Clinton Hall.

poorly ventilated, dark and unsanitary. It is difficult to strike an average of the wages, which in many instances run as low as \$4 a week, irrespective of hours worked. In some cases as much as \$12 worked. In some cases as much as \$12 and \$14 a week is received. These are highly skilled workers. The inside con-

Pages from The Independent and Munsey's telling of the shirtwaist strike.



AFL Pres. Samuel Gompers of historic Cooper Union meeting.

AT the moment of their accident, desperation, garment workers won the right of their union to exist, to bargain for them, to win the improvements that meant a better life.

First in November 1909, New York's waistmakers, in a spontaneous uprising, demonstrated the power of organization by striking the shirtwaist industry. Jewish and Italian immigrant girls showed that neither sex nor national origin could affect unity of purpose. Then in July 1910, the predominantly male cloakmakers' union, after months of careful planning, marched its members out of the shops. When that walkout ended in September 1910, the right of garment workers to be represented by the ILGWU and the obligation of the employers to deal with it had been established on a permanent basis.



The shirtwaist strikers march on City Hall to protest police brutality.

WOMEN IN A LABOR WAR

75

some disorder in the streets. In the scuffling, some of the girls were grabbed by the hair, and their heads were bumped against the curbstones. Never mind—let the strike go on!

More than six hundred were arrested, and a score were sent to the workhouse. What of it? Merely incidents of industrial warfare—let the strike proceed!

The six thousand who stayed out to the bitter end after the other twenty-four

what they would do. They filled the hall. A patriarchal Jew of seventy began to speak. He told his hearers that he was one of the few men engaged in the shirtwaist industry. He was the father of nine and a score were sent to the workhouse. He knew what hunger was; he knew what cold was; he knew what work was. Also, he knew what vicious were made of, for he himself had visions of a happier day when the union should protect them all.



A CROWD OF STRIKING MISTRESS-MAKERS ON ONE OF THE EAST SIDE STREETS OF NEW YORK

thousand had won their victory were actually starving. One day, on a single street, out of thirty pickets, twenty-eight fell in their tracks. It was not magnificent—just industrial war. Forget it, and remember the strike!

Then came the day when the employers of the remaining six thousand offered terms of peace. Back to the Cooper Union—read the terms! What were they?

As terms go, they were liberal. Every demand was granted except one. But that one rejected grievance—no union! Not recognized. Spurned, ignored, thrown out of court!

Starving girls were called upon to say

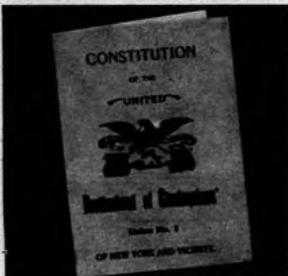
In the same simple Yiddish that Clara Lenich had employed at the beginning of the strike, he counseled the most careful consideration. They had struck for the union, it was true; but winter had come. The valiant remnant of the strikers had been reduced to bread and soup. Some of them had only an apple for breakfast, and nothing afterward. If the strike were to be ended upon the proffered terms, conditions would be better than were to go on, there would be an indefinite continuation of bread and soup—and, in a little while, there might be no bread. An advance of twenty years had been made in

Path to the Present

A chronicle of ILGWU events tracing its major campaigns, its significant achievements and the efforts through which it has gained its present outstanding position.

1896

SEPTEMBER 15. United Brotherhood of Cloakmakers Union No. 1 incorporated in New York. Membership: 22.



1897

DECEMBER. United Brotherhood issues national convention call for January 12. Never held.

1898

JANUARY. Philadelphia cloakmakers start United Brotherhood Union No. 2.

SEPTEMBER 1. Chicago cloakmakers strike Reifield.

1900

MARCH 11. N. Y. cloakmakers issue convention call. JUNE 5. 11 delegates representing 7 cloak locals in 4 cities form International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

JUNE 23. American Federation of Labor charters ILGWU.

JULY 3. ILGWU General Executive Board holds first meeting in Philadelphia.

OCTOBER. Manhattan Knife Cutters join ILGWU.

1901

JULY. ILGWU charters Waistmakers' Local 12.



1903

NOVEMBER. Philadelphia cloakmakers fight lockout.

1904

AUGUST. Cleveland cloakmakers strike.

SEPTEMBER 25. ILGWU considers closing General Office.

1906

JUNE 21. Delegates to union convention vote down resolution to dissolve ILGWU.

DECEMBER 26. Long strike starts against Heller & Co. in New York. Injunction breaks without.

1907

MARCH 22. Hosierymakers' strike, one of bloodiest on record, starts after lockout by employers.



MARCH 23. Boston cloakmakers strike. Employer storey Louis D. Brandeis' suggested "preferential union shop" rejected by union. Injunction ends without.

JULY 1. Under pact won with AFI. Free Samuel Chambers' Aid, New York employers begin providing free sewing machines in their shops.

1908

AUGUST 8. United Hebrew Trades and New York Cloak Joint Board meet to consider general strike.

1909

OCTOBER 29. Triangle Waist Co. urges employers form protective association.

SEPTEMBER 27. Shirt waistmakers strike Triangle shop after strike.

NOVEMBER 22. Waistmakers declare general strike at Cooper Union meeting.

DECEMBER 26. Waistmakers' strike spreads to Philadelphia.

1910

FEBRUARY 15. Waistmakers' strike ends. Over 500 firms accept union.

APRIL. Cloak Joint Board starts publishing The New Post. ILGWU launches The Ladies' Garment Worker.

JUNE 28. Cloakmakers' rally fills Madison Square Garden.

JULY 7. General strike of cloakmakers starts.

JULY 28. Brandeis chairman of first conference seeking settlement.

AUGUST 27. Justice Goff issues injunction making strike, picketing illegal.



SEPTEMBER 2. Cloak strike ends. Protocol of Peace brings grievance machinery, sanitary controls, 44-hour week, wage minimums, price committees.

OCTOBER 31. Joint Board of Sanitary Control, with Benjamin Schaberg and Dr. George Price representing ILGWU, holds first meeting.

1911



MARCH 25. 146 garment workers lose lives at Triangle Waist Co. fire. JUNE 6. Cleveland cloakmakers strike.

1912

FEBRUARY 24. Kalamazoo, Mich. corset workers strike. MAY 12. Cloak Board of Grievances rules for registering contractors.

1913

JANUARY 15. Waist and dressmakers strike for protocol.

JANUARY 22. Theodore Roosevelt visits kimono workers' strike ball.

FEBRUARY 24. Production engineer of dress wage-scale board, pioneering "scientific" rate determination, issues first report.

MARCH 29. The Outlook declares protectionism expresses "broad principles of democracy which should govern every industry as well as every State."

MARCH. New York pressers vote to establish tuberculosis benefit fund.

1914

JANUARY 22. Joint Board accepts resignation of Isaac A. Hourwich, marking growing cleavage over interpretation and application of Protocol of Peace.



JANUARY 24. Board of Arbitration provides for impartial chairman in new Action Committee.

1915

JANUARY 21. Board of Arbitration rules equal division of work is "desirable and necessary."

MAY 12. Cloak union leaders indicted on false charges.

MAY 17. Cloak employers break industry agreement; later accept constitution ruling.

JUNE 12. AFI. Free. Compare heads Madison Square Garden protests against arrests.

JULY. First Unity House rented at Pine Hill, N. Y.

SEPTEMBER 24. Arbitrators establish collective bargaining in Chicago.

OCTOBER 8. Falsely indicted cloak leaders acquitted.

1916

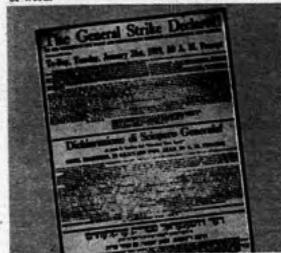
FEBRUARY 5. Dress pact wins 49-hour week, piece-rate schedule.
 APRIL 28. Chicago employers lock out cloakmakers.
 MAY 3. New York cloakmakers start 14-week strike.
 AUGUST 4. Cloak strike ends with 49-hour week.
 SEPTEMBER 29. Dress employers reject Valentine report calling for industry competition on ability and skill, not labor exploitation.

1918

JANUARY 4. ILGWU inaugurates Workers' University in New York's Washington Irving High School.
 JULY. Dressmakers open Unity House in Forest Park, Pa.
 JULY 23. Cleveland cloakmakers strike.

1919

JANUARY 1. ILGWU publishes Justice.
 JANUARY 21. Dress and waistmakers in first wartime garment strike with 2-week trial period, equal division of work.



MAY 14. Start cloak strike that wins 44-hour week.
 DECEMBER 24. Cleveland cloak pact calls for efficiency in production.

1920

OCTOBER 4. Dress Joint Board formed in New York.
 NOVEMBER. ILGers pace election of Meyer London to Congress from New York's 12th Congressional District.
 DECEMBER 18. Union Health Center opens at 131 E. 17th St. in New York.

1921

APRIL 22. New York cloak association demands wage reduction.
 OCTOBER 25. Cloak employers announce intention of ending agreement on Nov. 14.
 NOVEMBER 14. 55,000 cloakmakers strike.
 NOVEMBER 29. ILGWU gets temporary court injunction against cloak association for breaking agreement.

1922

JANUARY 11. Justice Robert F. Wagner makes cloak injunction against employers permanent.
 JANUARY 17. Cloak walkout ends.
 FEBRUARY. Morris Sigman elected ILGWU president at meeting ending Feb. 17.

1923

AUGUST 16. GEB directs dissolution of Communist-led groups in ILGWU locals.
 OCTOBER. ILGWU GEB issues 12-point labor-management stability program.

1924

JUNE 22. Special committee appointed by Gov. Alfred E. Smith issues first report. Calls regulation of jobber-contractor relationship crucial.



Bernard Shoenig, Herbert Lehman, Lindsay Rogers on committee.

JULY 7. Jobbers accept basic Smith Commission recommendations.
 AUGUST 22. Herbert H. Lehman named temporary cloak industry chairman.
 SEPTEMBER 22. Mrs. Alfred E. Smith sews first sanitary code label.

1925

JULY 11. Communist-led Joint Action Committee holds Yankee Stadium rally.
 AUGUST 10. Communist stage mass work stoppage in New York's garment industry.



NOVEMBER 30. ILGWU convention in Philadelphia sees Communist walkout, then return as ordered by party leader.

1926

MAY 20. Gov. Smith's special committee issues second garment industry report.
 JULY 1. 28-week Communist-led strike starts.
 NOVEMBER 12. Agreement with Industrial Council marks end of ILGWU's disastrous strike.
 DECEMBER 13. ILGWU takes over affairs of Cloak Joint Board in effort to save union.

1928

DECEMBER. Schlesinger, Dubinsky float \$250,000 union reconstruction bond among members. Borrow \$100,000 from bankers to save union.

1929

JULY 2. Walkout demonstrates cloakmakers' rehabilitation.

1930

FEBRUARY 2. Gov. Franklin D. Roosevelt and Lt. Gov. Lehman intervene in dress strike. Settlement features permanent impartial chairman.



1932

JUNE 13. GEB in special meeting following death of Pres. Schlesinger elects David Dubinsky president and secretary-treasurer in session ending June 15.
 JULY 26. First industry agreement negotiated by Pres. Dubinsky, covering New York cloakmakers, accepts 45 wage cut to establish real wage in place of illusory contract provision.
 OCTOBER 14. GEB allocates part of per capita for out-of-town organizing drives.

1933

MAY 9. Long-delayed Philadelphia dressmakers' strike breaks out; its successful conclusion preevents coming drives.
 JUNE 22. National call to all garment workers to use National Recovery Act for organizing issued by Pres. Dubinsky.
 JULY 20. Morris Hillquit, ailing, dies in ILGWU-chartered plane, to defend union proposals at Washington NRA hearing.



JULY 24. Cleveland garment workers strike.

AUGUST 4. President Roosevelt signs coat and suit industry NRA codes that provide 35-hour work week, contractor designation, piece-work.

AUGUST 10. St. Louis dressmakers begin 2-week stoppage.

AUGUST 16. 60,000 New York dressmakers, supported by workers in New Jersey and Connecticut, strike.

AUGUST 21. Chicago dressmakers strike to strengthen ILGWU move for NRA establishment of national 35-hour work week in garment industry.

SEPTEMBER 7. Embroidery workers in New York strike.

SEPTEMBER 12. New York undergarment workers strike.

SEPTEMBER 13. Knitgoods workers chartered, begin organizing drive.

SEPTEMBER 19. Blousemakers in New York strike.

SEPTEMBER 27. New York children's wear workers strike.



OCTOBER 4. Strike victory celebrated by New York dressmakers in Madison Square Garden.

OCTOBER 8. Los Angeles dressmakers strike.

OCTOBER 30. Report 27 general strikes in 8 weeks, membership at 175,000.

1934

JANUARY 10. New York dressmakers begin enforcement stoppage.

JANUARY 16. Toronto garment workers strike.

JANUARY 24. AFL meeting on organizing mass industries attended by Pres. Dubinsky in Washington.

FEBRUARY 16. Communists disrupt trade union Madison Square Garden meeting called to protest anti-labor violence in Austria.

APRIL 6. "Voice of ILGWU" series over eastern radio network inaugurated by Pres. Dubinsky.

MAY 28. \$1,500,000 ILGWU debts inherited from period of Communist upheaval reported by Pres. Dubinsky as paid.

OCTOBER 12. Pres. Dubinsky elected AFL vice president and member of AFL Executive Council.

1935

FEBRUARY 7. U.S. Code Authority reaffirms cloak industry contractor designation.

APRIL 12. Attending as first U.S. labor representative, following U.S. government decision to affiliate with International Labor Organization, Pres. Dubinsky describes sessions of Governing Body of ILO in broadcast from Geneva.

MAY 23. Continuation of NRA asked at huge Madison Square Garden rally.

MAY 27. NRA nullified.

MAY 31. \$250,000 for organizing allocated by GEB.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

Department of Labor and Industry

BALTIMORE & BOSTON, January

Division of Women and Children

RESTRICTED & SECRET - Conf.

Three Cents an Hour

An Increased Power of Industrial Home

Work in Pennsylvania

JULY 14. Cotton Garment (Northeast) Department established.

AUGUST 15. Union Health Center leases first space in 275 Seventh Ave. skyscraper.

SEPTEMBER 11. Dressmakers girl for contract renewal at Madison Square Garden rally.

OCTOBER 10. Pres. Dubinsky joins John L. Lewis and four other international union presidents in signing minority AFL convention report favoring industrial organizing.

NOVEMBER 11. ILGWU joins group of AFL unions forming Committee for Industrial Organization.

1936

FEBRUARY 27. Boston garment workers strike.

JULY. Pres. Dubinsky attends meetings of International Federation of Trade Unions and International Clothing Workers Federation in Europe.

AUGUST. Garment workers raise fund for relief of victims of Spanish Civil War.

AUGUST 7. Los Angeles dressmakers win first collective agreement.

SEPTEMBER 1. Pres. Dubinsky resigns from AFL Executive Council.

SEPTEMBER 5. AFL Executive Council suspends 10 international unions, including ILGWU, over industrial union issue.

SEPTEMBER 12. Pres. Dubinsky named New York State Democratic elector; reactionaries raise clamor.

OCTOBER. Garment workers raise \$150,000 political fund; campaign for Roosevelt re-election.

NOVEMBER 9. \$500,000 set by GEB for organizing.

DECEMBER 30. Blue Dale court decision halts shops from running away beyond 6-cent face limit.

1937

MAY. Death Benefit Fund (\$150), Officers' Localization Course established by ILGWU convention.

SEPTEMBER 23. First vacation pay won by Local 91 bathrobe workers.

OCTOBER 18. Research Department started.

NOVEMBER 27. "Fins and Needles" opens at Labor Stage.



1938

FEBRUARY 3. White House performance of "Fins and Needles" applauded by President Roosevelt.

MARCH 1. New York dressmakers mass picket low-price firms.

MAY 25. Three-man labor peace committee (Luigi Antonini, Isidore Nagler, Julius Hochman) appointed by General Executive Board.

NOVEMBER 11. ILGWU goes independent. GEB votes against joining permanent Congress of Industrial Organizations.

DECEMBER. White Paper, on ILGWU labor unity policy, published.

1939

JUNE 16. 35-40 cents minimum wage rates recommended by Wage and Hour Law Appraisal Industry Committee.

NOVEMBER 22. GEB votes \$225,000 Refugee Aid Fund to be raised by ILGWU.

1940

JANUARY 31. 1,555 individual shop strikes since March 1938, reports Pres. Dubinsky.

MAY 27. "I Hear America Singing" segment in Madison Square Garden opens ILGWU convention.

JUNE 4. Third term for President Roosevelt elected by ILGWU.

JUNE. Reaffiliation with American Federation of Labor voted by ILGWU convention.



SEPTEMBER 18. Pres. Dubinsky leaves for Puerto Rico wage hearing; floods island garment workers prevailing average wage 2 cents an hour; Wage-Hour Administrator later approves recommendation of raise to 15 1/2 cents.

NOVEMBER 21. Anti-racketeering resolution introduced by ILGWU at New Orleans AFL convention; Pres. Dubinsky assaulted in hotel lobby; ILGWU alone refrains from voting for re-election to Executive Council of Browns (later jailed) because of his alleged racketeering.

1941

MARCH 24. Central Organization Department created for out-of-town dress organizing drives.

MARCH 25. New York Dress Institute founded; ILGWU contributes \$100,000.

JULY. Management-Engineering Department started.

OCTOBER 30. Wendell Willkie to defend Coat and Suit Recovery Board before FTC on anti-trust charges.

DECEMBER 17. No-strike pledge for war's duration made at labor-management conference called by President Roosevelt.

1942

FEBRUARY 9. Pres. Dubinsky confers with President Roosevelt on division in organized labor at wartime problem; sees John L. Lewis on same matter.



FEBRUARY 21. ILGWU Women's Service Brigade formed on division in organized labor at wartime problem; sees John L. Lewis on same matter.

APRIL 8. War Production Board freezes apparel styling.

JULY 23. Merchant Navy Club, ILGWU-financed, opened in heart of London; dedication includes trans-Atlantic broadcast by Pres. Dubinsky.

1943

MARCH 2. Pres. Dubinsky labor spokesman at China Relief-Madame Chiang Kai-shek Madison Square Garden meeting; following day announces ILGWU gift of \$250,000 for China war orphan school.

MARCH 19. Pres. Dubinsky meets with President Roosevelt on wartime wage controls.

MARCH 30. Alter-Erich meeting in Mecca Temple, presided over by Pres. Dubinsky, protests murder by Russia of two Jewish labor leaders of Poland.

MAY 27. First industry-wide retirement fund won by New York cloakmakers.

AUGUST 26. Local 91 buys Tammany Hall building.

SEPTEMBER 22. General office opens new headquarters at 1710 Broadway.

1944

JANUARY 24, 27, FEBRUARY 2. Four Liberty Ships, financed by dressmakers' war bond purchases, named for Morris Hillquit, Benjamin Schlesinger, Morris Sigman, Meyer London, launched.

MARCH 3. Philadelphia opens first out-of-New York ILGWU Health Center.

MARCH 22. New York dressmakers win welfare fund.

MAY 20. Liberty Party of New York founded after Communists capture American Labor Party.

OCTOBER. Garment workers campaign for re-election Roosevelt; raise \$153,000 fund through voluntary contributions.

1945

JUNE 13. Welfare Benefits and International Labor Relations Departments created.

OCTOBER 5. ILGWU buys 275 Seventh Ave., housing Health Center.



OCTOBER 19. Pres. Dubinsky elected member of AFL Executive Council from which he resigned in 1936 during conflict over Committee for Industrial Organization.

NOVEMBER 5. Pres. Dubinsky attends labor-management conference called by President Truman.

DECEMBER. \$1,863,000 ILGWU 1945 War Relief Fund raised.

1946

FEBRUARY 26. \$90,000 raised by ILGWU members for relief of General Motors strikers presented to Walter Reuther.

JULY 11. First 900 retired by New York cloakmakers.

AUGUST 8, 30. Pres. Dubinsky confers with President Truman.

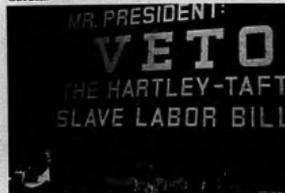
1947

JANUARY 30. Bust of Franklin D. Roosevelt presented by ILGWU to Hyde Park Roosevelt Library.

FEBRUARY 23. Pres. Dubinsky testifies before Senate Labor Committee on pending anti-labor (Taft-Hartley) legislation.

MAY 11. New York Times Sunday Magazine features Pres. Dubinsky's article on fighting totalitarianism.

JUNE 4. Veto Taft-Hartley rally in Madison Square Garden.



SEPTEMBER. Legal and Political Departments established.

SEPTEMBER 12. New York Catholic War Veterans cite Pres. Dubinsky for his fight on Communists in trade unions.

OCTOBER 14. AFL convention approves ILGWU resolutions condemning slave labor, calling for conference of trade unions of free nations on Marshall Plan, asking for creation of world center of free trade unions.

1948

JULY 15. ORT School in Paris, ILGWU-supported, dedicated by Pres. Dubinsky in presence of Leon Blum.

JULY 24. Franklin D. Roosevelt Institute in Mondello, Italy, ILGWU-supported, dedicated by Pres. Dubinsky in presence of Vice Premier Giuseppe Saragat, Luigi Antonini.



AUGUST. Pres. Dubinsky an AFL delegate to London conference of free nations on Marshall Plan.

SEPTEMBER 11. Italy awards Star of Italian Solidarity to Pres. Dubinsky.

SEPTEMBER 20. Hoodlums invade New York dress union headquarters, beat 3 officers.



SEPTEMBER 29. New York dressmakers demonstrate against hoodlums.

OCTOBER. Garment workers campaign for re-election of Truman, stage huge garment district demonstration, voluntarily contribute \$275,000 campaign fund.

OCTOBER 25. Cloakmakers in New York vote 99 to 1 for union shop in Taft-Hartley balloting.

NOVEMBER 16. King's Medal of Service awarded by Great Britain to Pres. Dubinsky.

1949

JANUARY. Pres. Dubinsky's article in "Foreign Affairs" describes tasks of free world labor in fighting Communism.



MAY 9. William Lurye, ILGWU organizer, murdered. **MAY 23.** Pres. Dubinsky, as an AFL delegate, attends founding meeting of International Confederation of Free Trade Unions in London.

1950

MARCH 9. ILGWU and affiliates pledge to purchase \$1 million Amun-Israeli housing bonds, help sell \$7 million worth.

MAY 1. ILGWU Training Institute begins first class. **MAY 23.** ILGWU Golden Jubilee Convention opens in Atlantic City, increases death benefit to \$1,000, votes to rid Los Angeles ILGWU of Communist disrupters.

JUNE 15. "With These Hands" opens on Broadway.

1951

FEBRUARY 5. Cost-of-living wage increases for 390,000 won in 5 months, GEB report shows.

JUNE 16. Bard College confers honorary Doctor of Laws degree on Pres. Dubinsky for "leadership that has helped millions to a more equitable share in the bounty of this productive land... service to labor that has been a service to the health and strength of the nation, to mankind itself."



1952

MAY. At AFL Executive Council, Pres. Dubinsky proposes committee be named to study extent of issuance by international unions of "paper local" charters to so-called professional organizers. Executive Council names Pres. Dubinsky as 1 of committee of 3.

JULY. New York garment workers picket against open-shoppers.

OCTOBER. Garment workers campaign for election of labor-endorsed Adlai Stevenson, raise voluntarily contributed \$341,000 campaign fund, stage record Seventh Ave. rally.

DECEMBER 5. First merging of welfare funds centralizes individual funds covering 53,000 garment workers employed by 712 firms in Eastern Region Retirement Fund.

1953

MAY. ILGWU convention issues mandate for 35-hour work week in entire women's garment industry.



Instead of the McCarty Method

Advertisement of the McCarty Method

JULY 26. New York Times Sunday Magazine features Pres. Dubinsky's article on alternatives to McCartyism.

NOVEMBER 21. ILGWU Cooperative Village ground-breaking.

1954

JANUARY. Pres. Dubinsky on special Puerto Rican wage committee which recommends raising brassiers industry hourly minimum from 33 to 35 cents; later approved.

MAY 17. Two South Carolina pacts bring 35-hour week to South.

JULY. "American Federationist," official AFL publication, features Pres. Dubinsky's article favoring legislation requiring filing by unions of health and welfare fund reports.

1955

JANUARY 12. Investment policy of ILGWU, heretofore limited to government bonds, modified to include FHA and veterans' housing, government-guaranteed savings loans.

JANUARY 19. Pres. Dubinsky appointed to AFL committee that promulgates code approving of legislation requiring welfare fund reports.

FEBRUARY 9. AFL and CIO reach full accord on unity terms.

MARCH 1. Labor group, including Pres. Dubinsky, visits President Eisenhower on higher minimum wage. **APRIL 20.** Senate Labor Committee hears Pres. Dubinsky on need for higher minimums for mainland U.S., Puerto Rico.

JULY. Pres. Dubinsky delegate to 4th World Congress of ICFIU, visits Italy, Israel.

JULY 14. Spanish-speaking ILGWU members rally in New York for higher Puerto Rican minimum wage.

AUGUST 21. ILGWU Mobile Health Center on heroic 3-day mission in Eastern food-stricken areas.

OCTOBER 22. ILGWU Cooperative Village dedicated in New York.

DECEMBER 5. AFL-CIO unity celebration in New York ends 20-year division in labor's ranks.



Pres. George Meany keynote AFL-CIO merger.

1956

JANUARY 16. First Puerto Rican garment industry collective agreement reached.

MARCH 13. First industry severance pay plan won by Local 105.

AUGUST 12. Puerto Rican ILGWU Mobile Health Center initiated in rescue service during island hurricane.

AUGUST 29. Pres. Dubinsky appointed to 8-man AFL-CIO Executive Committee, Executive Council adopts ethical practices code, meets at Unity House. **SEPTEMBER 26.** \$20 million planned investment in veterans' housing announced by ILGWU.

NOVEMBER. Pres. Dubinsky on AFL-CIO committee, headed by Pres. George Meany, in good-will South American tour.

DECEMBER 19. Federal Trade Commission restraint-of-trade charges against ILGWU dismissed.

1957

JANUARY 14. GEB announces "understudy" officer program.

MAY 1. \$20 million ILGWU investment in housing for Air Force personnel announced.

MAY 15. Governor Luis Muñoz Marin sees Pres. Dubinsky break ground for \$25,000,000 ILGWU housing in Puerto Rico financed by union through Rockefeller's International Basic Economy Corp. (Ibec).

JUNE 13. Twenty-fifth anniversary of David Dubinsky's presidency of ILGWU celebrated at Madison Square Garden.

AUGUST 9. Pres. Dubinsky's affidavit told Senate Committee ILGWU's anti-racket record.

NOVEMBER 18. ILGWU National Scholarship Fund started.

1958

JANUARY 13. U.S. Supreme Court, in ILGWU's Baxley, Georgia, case rules licensing of union organizers is unconstitutional.

JANUARY. Gerechtigkejt, ILGWU Jewish publication, suspends.

FEBRUARY. Plans announced for \$35 million ILGWU cooperative housing development in mid-Manhattan.

MARCH 5. 105,000 dressmakers in 7 states stage first ILGWU general strike in quarter century.



MARCH 11. Strike ends with pact providing severance pay, ILGWU label, wage, overtime, enforcement and other gains.

MARCH 19. 24 garment workers killed in Monarch Co. fire in N.Y.C.

JUNE 25. ILGWU Label Department formed.

SEPTEMBER 1. First ILGWU Scholarship winners announced.

SEPTEMBER 4. Undergarment workers launch ILGWU fire warden plan.

NOVEMBER 17. ILGWU GEB meets in Puerto Rico.

1959

JANUARY 9. Mrs. Nelson Rockefeller sews first ILGWU label.



FEBRUARY 20. Greene, assistant dress manager, beaten by thugs.

FEBRUARY 26. Announcement plans for ILGWU wing to Workmen's Circle Aged Home.

MARCH 4. \$1 million annual label program launched. **MARCH 10.** Anti-trust indictment in blouse industry jeopardizes basic union contract provisions.

MAY 10. 30 million readers in 30 cities see ILGWU's first label advertisement.

MAY 15. ILGWU sponsors New York Times supplement to mark 30th convention.

MAY 19. Convention elects Louis Stulberg general secretary-treasurer.

MAY 20. Thugs beat up dress general manager Zimmerman.

SEPTEMBER 4. Restrictive Landrum-Griffin Act passed; excepts garment industry jobber-contractor relations.



SEPTEMBER 7. ILGWU's 20,000 largest contingent in New York's first Labor Day parade in 20 years.

OCTOBER 20. Pres. Dubinsky dedicates ILGWU hospital in Israel.

1960

FEBRUARY 4. Unanimous Court of Appeals upholds ILGWU refusal to deal with former union officer changing to employer side.

APRIL 11. Pres. Dubinsky urges Congressional committee to raise minimum wage, spread coverage.

MAY 1. ILGWU membership at 452,017 peak.

For Which We Stand...

No matter of human progress, social justice, concern of the ILCWU and its members. In recognizing that our union delegates, the only ones entrusted to the trust of the law, constitute their faith that the well-being of the union members can only be secured by the working of the union, our members, our representatives a forum of which government workers take a stand in their own interest and world problems. Here, from the record of the 1950 ILCWU convention, are samples of what membership in the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union means today.

\$1.25 MINIMUM WAGE

The Fair Labor Standards Act must be brought up to date; it must be made an effective instrument to deal with conditions as they exist now.

To bring the law up to date, we urge that Congress raise the level of the federal minimum wage from \$1 to \$1.25 per hour, provide for as much of an increase in the minimum wage levels in Puerto Rico, and extend the protection of the Act to at least 7½ million workers not presently covered.



SOVIET AGGRESSION

If we should ever agree to let our enemy decide for us what is realistic or not realistic, what is practical and not practical, then we shall have signed our own death certificate and realized Khrushchev's boast that he will "wipe us off the face of the earth."

We are against any concessions without adequate counter-concessions by the other side.

We believe that our country must always be able and ready to deter and, if necessary, to defeat Communist military aggression. The historic East German revolt of 1953 shattered the myth of the invincibility of the Communist terror machine.



CIVIL RIGHTS

Full civil rights in America is necessary for our national survival in a world where a totalitarian enemy exploits every shortcoming in our nation for international propaganda, especially among the colored nations and continents of the earth.

The concept of full and equal rights is not some pious parchment to us; it is our daily practice. It is contained in our insistence on equal pay for equal work; it is expressed in our practice of dividing work equally in the shop; it consists of equal citizenship in the shop — the right to vote, to serve on committees, to run for union office.



'RIGHT-TO-WORK' LAWS

We must continue to show workers and voters and legislators that "right-to-work" laws provide no rights and no work. We must show that they violate the basic democratic concept of majority rule. We must show that their only real objective is to weaken and destroy the trade union movement.

The real fight on this issue is only beginning. It is the fight to get rid of this scourge, and it is a fight which will be conducted in state legislative chambers and in the halls of Congress. It is a fight which must and can be won!



FORAND BILL

This convention urges the Congress to adopt the Forand Bill and further urges the following additional important changes in the social security program:

- Increase the benefit schedule in order to protect the aged, the surviving widows, the dependent children;
- Ease the restrictions on supplementary earnings after retirement;
- Increase the maternal and child welfare benefits;
- Eliminate the 50-years-of-age requirement for disability benefits;
- Reduce the retirement age for women from 62 to 60 years of age.



SHORTER WORK WEEK

Since 1938, worker-productivity has sharply increased. In terms of manufactured goods, it requires approximately what by two workers today to produce what it took three workers to make in the same amount of time in 1938.

A shorter work week is also necessary as a weapon to fight continued high unemployment. Shorter hours will help reduce unemployment and will mean that purchasing power will become more widely-spread through the economy.



HEALTH PROGRAM

This convention calls upon Congress to enact legislation:

- providing for expanded federal help for state and local public health units, and
- providing for the development of a national mental health program to provide trained personnel and increased facilities for caring for those afflicted with mental illnesses.

Such a program, we feel, will set the nation on the right road, and will enable us to face and meet the health needs of America.



HOUSING

In many areas of our nation, slums have decayed to the point where they are a physical menace to the people living there and a social menace to the entire community.

Such slum dwellings are not necessarily inexpensive. In ghettoized communities, new population groups are often forced to crowd into these overcrowded hovels and compelled to pay exorbitantly high rentals.

The renewal of our urban areas, through the replacement of slum areas by new low cost rental or cooperative dwellings, has become a national must.



COLONIALISM

That is why we are against all colonialism—the old Western type as well as the new and barbarous brand of Soviet imperialism. We insist that our Soviet imperialism make far more energetic government make far more energetic efforts to have our allies break with every vestige of colonialism in Africa, Asia or wherever it may exist. If we want the colonial peoples to be on our side in the fight for freedom, these peoples must first have freedom and independence worth defending. This applies to Algeria, no less than to Kenya.



UNEMPLOYMENT

We believe that the American economy can stabilize prices, balance budgets and do so with full employment. Indeed, we believe that only through full employment — with our economy going at full speed, with every worker gainfully employed and paying his taxes, with our productivity increasing at 5 to 6 per cent per annum, with our gross national product expanding with stepped up productivity and enlarged working force — Only with such emphasis on the great output, full employment, and the full life can we get the needed funds to balance the budget and the needed supply of goods to keep a stable price level.



DISABILITY BENEFITS

The impact upon a worker's family of loss of income due to illness is no different from the impact of loss of income for other causes. There is no doubt why this type of economic danger should be treated differently.

Far too many years have passed since any new state was added to the ranks of those states having temporary disability benefits laws. Responsibility for this situation rests squarely upon the shoulders of the state legislators in those states without this form of protection. We call upon them to act speedily to meet one of the most important needs of the people.



JOBLESS BENEFITS

The inadequacy of present unemployment benefits can be seen in the light of our recession experiences. Through the winter of 1958-1959, one family in every four in the United States had had someone unemployed during the wages which, less than a quarter of the wages which these unemployed persons lost due to loss of jobs was replaced by unemployment compensation payments. The need for improvement is obvious, and the means for improvement are available: federal minimum standards.



AID TO EDUCATION

This convention urges the enactment of strong federal financial aid to state educational systems on the basis of school population, and calls for passage of the Murray-Metcalf bill by Congress.



IMMIGRATION

RESOLVED, that this convention calls upon the Congress to replace the racist national origins quota system with a non-discriminatory system which is equitable and non-discriminatory. This could be accomplished by a system under which, after a total number of immigrants to be admitted from all countries has been established, the number of immigrants from any one country shall be determined by the proportion of applications made in that country to the total number of applications from all countries.



By and For...



HUNDREDS of thousands of ILGWU members are consumers of the goods they produce. Thousands of them are working mothers who are both breadwinners and homemakers. In their own lives they mark the cycle of fabric as it enters the sewing machine as cut parts and leaves the retailer, ultimately, as a purchased garment.

But whether as producers or as consumers, our members look for the ILGWU union label in their apparel. For them it is not only the mark of well-made, well-styled clothing; it is, above all else, the symbol of decency, fair labor standards and the American way of life.



INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION • AFL-CIO