

Urge Veto of N.Y. Firetrap Bill

JUSTICE

INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

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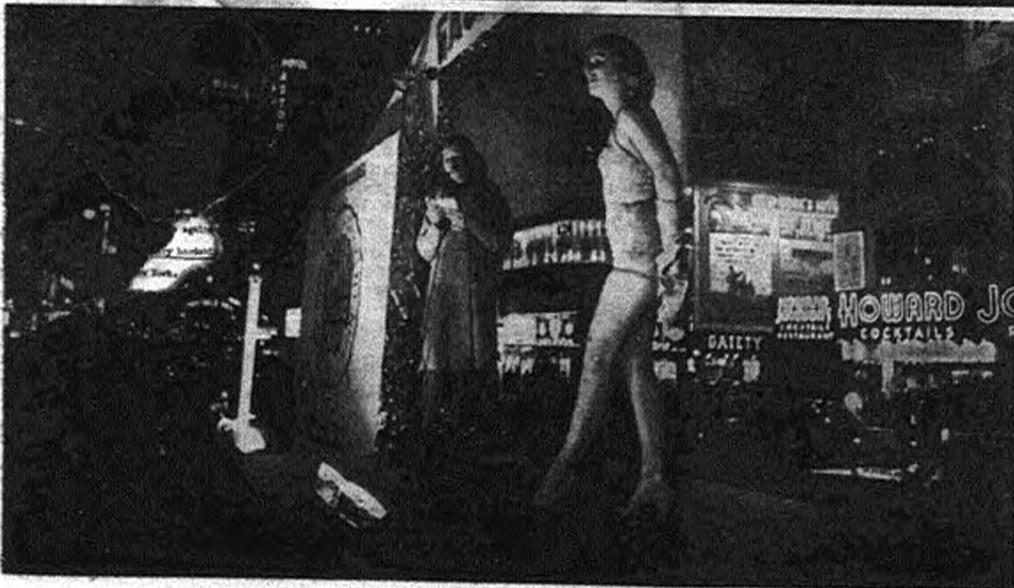


Legislative

First meeting of President's Advisory Committee on Labor-Management Policy at the White House. Seated from left: Secretary of Commerce Luther B. Hodges, Secretary of Labor Arthur J. Goldberg, President John F. Kennedy, Railway Brotherhood Pres. George M. Harrison. Standing, from left: Richard S. Reynolds Jr., president of Reynolds Metals, ILGWU Pres. David Dubinsky, publisher Elliot V. Ball, Automobile Workers Pres. Walter P. Reuther and U.S. Lines Pres. John M. Franklin. The Presidential task force, formed to advise on the effects of wages and prices on the national economy, addressed itself to the problems of mounting unemployment and threat to jobs posed by automation. (Story Page 2.)

Commemorative

Memorial meeting commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Triangle fire held at Greene Street and Washington Place in New York City, site of old Triangle Shirtwaist Co. where 146 garment workers died on March 25, 1911. Representatives of the ILGWU, Fire Department and New York University joined to honor the memory of the martyrs and survivors of the holocaust. Pres. David Dubinsky addresses audience and guests prior to unveiling of commemorative plaque lodged in building wall. Following brief ceremony, chartered buses carried garment workers to Brooklyn cemetery to lay wreaths on headstone of grave erected to mark the resting place of unidentified victims of the fire. (Story Page 3.)



Demonstrative

New York can be a summer festival all year round, as this model demonstrates. She is participating in "Fashion Goes to Town," a sidewalk road-show sponsored by the ILGWU Union Label Department and the fashion industries of New York to promote the union label. In the week before Easter, a dozen exhibits were put on in key areas around the city, displaying the latest in fashion and a preview of styles to come. The premiere performance featured stars of many Broadway hit shows, and took the play away from other attractions on Times Square. The traveling troubadours were directed by popular TV and stage personality Beverly Bruce, who served as master of ceremonies and commentator for the noon-time productions, held in garment and financial districts, Grand Central area, Times and Brooklyn. (Story Page 4.)

Focus on Senators For \$1.25 Pay Bill

Rescue operations for the Kennedy administration's minimum wage bill following the Republican-Democrat gang-up in the House now center on the Senate, where liberal Democrats are rallying around a measure introduced by Senator Pat McNamara, (D-Mich.) that retains most of the administration proposals.

The McNamara bill would raise the federal minimum to \$1.25 an hour over a period of 28 months. It would extend coverage to an additional 4 million workers at \$1 an hour, and gradually bring them to the \$1.25 level within four years.

Administration strategy apparently lies in securing passage of the McNamara measure in substantially its present form, thereby forcing a Senate-House conference to iron out differences in the two versions of the bill in the expectation that it will be responsive to the President's more liberal proposals.

In the House vote last week, the reactionary coalition of Republicans and Democrats squawked out a halting 186-183 defeat of a compromise Kennedy bill introduced by majority whip Carl Albert (D-Ore.).

The House then adopted the coalition substitute, symbolically sponsored by William Ayres (R-Ga.) and A. Paul Kitchin (D-N.C.), by a 218-203 vote.

'Party Issue'

The Republican Policy Committee of the House had decided to make the minimum wage bill a party issue, and on the unrecorded teller vote which defeated the Kennedy measure, nearly all of the few Republican "liberals" abstained, some moderate Democrats, under Big Business pressure from home, also refused to stand up and be counted.

The so-called Kitchin-Ayres substitute finally adopted by the House would raise the minimum wage to \$1.15 an hour, and extend coverage to only about 1.5 million additional retail and service workers at \$1 an hour, with no provision for further increases.

Only overwhelming Senate support for the McNamara bill and a firm liberal stand in conference committee seems likely to salvage the administration measure. The Senate Labor Committee has decided to consider the McNamara bill on April 11.

In 1914 a man worked almost three times as long to "earn" a pair of children's shoes as he did in 1954.

Peak Unemployment Hits Nation's Industrial Areas

The "recession" may be bottoming out, as some economists seem to think, but the country's job shortage is worse than ever.

Latest statistics released by the Department of Labor show that 25 new major industrial areas have been added to the "substantial unemployment" list, bringing the total to 101 out of 150 for a new all-time high.

The previous record high was 89 at the low point of the 1957-58 recession.

during the week ending March 18. The insured rate was running at 8 percent, as compared with 9.8 percent a year ago.

Darkest news, however, was the department's report on the country's major industrial areas. Even employer predictions of "moderate optimism" about their future hiring plans failed to counterbalance the heavy increase in areas of "substantial" joblessness, especially in key cities.

Among cities which dropped into the 4 to 8.9 percent present unemployment class were such major ones as San Francisco-Oakland, Chicago, Milwaukee, Indianapolis, Cincinnati, New Orleans and Miami.

A symptom of how serious and how widespread unemployment has been throughout the country was the prevalence of 36 state unemployment officials at the Department of Labor at the time the new jobless figures were announced.

News on the job front was gloomier. Insured unemployment during the week ending March 11 dropped about 90,000 as outdoor work began to pick up, but this was countered by a 30,000 increase in initial unemployment claims.

The Last Stand!



While liberal Democratic forces were mobilizing in Congress for a last-ditch battle to obtain passage of the administration's \$1.25 minimum wage bill, these Central States ILGWU met in the shadow of the historic Alamo to plan action for distribution of petitions throughout San Antonio. From left, Gertrude Hartung, Elizabeth Kennel, Valeria Alexander and Sophie Gonzales, who were later joined by 20 additional ILGWU volunteers, sign petitions themselves before going to collect more than 2,000 signatures throughout San Antonio in support of the measure.

WRITE—WIRE—VISIT YOUR SENATORS!!

Urge them to support minimum wage bill S1457 introduced by Senator Pat McNamara (D-Mich.). The McNamara bill would: 1) raise the present federal minimum wage to \$1.25 an hour within 28 months, and 2) extend coverage to 4 million unprotected workers at \$1 an hour, with an increase to the \$1.25 level within 4 years. The Senate Labor Committee will open hearings on the bill April 11. Act now!

Labor and Industry Kennedy Advisors Get Economy View

President John F. Kennedy has expressed the belief that the nation could go through a form of "recovery" this summer "and still have 6 or 7 percent of our people unemployed in the fall."

The President voiced his warning at the first meeting of his Advisory Committee on Labor Management: Policy as the tripartite group of labor, management and public representatives met with Administration leaders at the White House on March 21.

ILGWU Pres. David Dubinsky attended as one of the seven labor members of the group. Kennedy told the group gathered in the Cabinet Room for more than six hours that the problems of long-range unemployment is "a matter of utmost concern."

Kennedy said the purpose of the advisory committee was to give "direction to the general movement of wages and prices so that the general welfare of this country can be served."

In the past, he said, other Presidents have attempted to "intervene in the wage-price matter with general exhortations" but that such pleas "have not had a very great effect." Kennedy said one of the purposes of having the advisory committee was to consider the wage-price situation "before there is a crisis" so that the White House will not "have to come in at the last minute."

The President appointed the 21-member advisory group in February to explore the broad area of free and responsible collective bargaining, industrial peace, sound wage and price policies, higher standards of living, and increased productivity, in his executive order creating the committee. The President urged prompt consideration of how best to insure that American products are competitive in world markets, and a study of both the benefits and problems resulting from automation.

Labor Secretary Arthur J. Goldberg, designated by Kennedy to serve as chairman of the committee during its first year of operation, told reporters at a briefing following the meeting that the committee agreed it would not function to settle labor-management disputes or as a negotiating group in contract talks but would, instead, recommend policies that the President might adopt to encourage industrial peace.

Meetings Set

The committee will meet again April 3 and after that on the first Monday of each month, Goldberg said.

Among those addressing the committee's off-the-record session were Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson; Commerce Secretary Luther E. Hodges, who will alternate annually with Goldberg in the committee's chairmanship; Defense Secretary

Robert S. McNamara; Under Secretary of State Chester Bowles.

Labor members present at the first session, in addition to Dubinsky, included AFL-CIO Pres. George Meany, Auto Workers Pres. Walter P. Reuther, Railway Clerks Pres. George M. Harrison, and Intl. Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Sec. Joseph D. Keenan. Absent were Mine Workers Pres. Thomas Kennedy and Steelworkers Pres. David J. McDonald.

Aid to Areas Bill Passed

The Kennedy administration's \$354 million aid to distressed areas bill passed the House of Representatives on March 29 by a roll-call vote of 250 to 167.

A similar measure has already passed the Senate, but a conference committee must iron out differences in the two bills concerning financing.

The House bill provides \$100 million loan fund for urban renewal projects, a similar amount for rural areas, and another \$100 million fund for low-term, low-interest loans for public facilities. Smaller communities benefit from another \$75 million fund for public facilities. The measure also provides \$4.5 million for re-training of the unemployed and \$10 million for subsistence while workers undergo this retraining.

The bill was voted on along party lines, with only 43 Republicans joining 207 Democrats to secure passage. In an earlier vote on a less liberal measure, not a single Democrat supported a Republican substitute.

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Survivors, IL Gers, Leaders Join For Triangle Fire 50th Memorial

A fire bell slowly tolled and the Fire Department Honor Guard of more than 50 stood at sharp attention as Frances Perkins, Rosa Schneiderman, Pauline Newman and David Dubinsky placed a wreath at the corner base of the building where 146 garment workers died in the Triangle fire 50 years ago.

A number of men rose from the finished audience. And on the platform on which more than a dozen survivors of that tragedy sat as honored guests the memory of March 25, 1911 still burned. They shed tears and there was one among them who had lost two sisters and another who had lost a sister and another a mother.

Memo Editorial

The Fire Department had brought equipment for the memorial meeting an old pump on one horse-drawn, a shiny new engine with its ladder extended at the front of the building to the eighth floor a mute memorial on the street and tragically inadequate ladders of 50 years ago.

It was a cold morning and many of the old-timers had to stay away. But starting at 9 A.M. they began to arrive for the Triangle Fire Memorial Meeting at the corner of Washington Place and Green

Street, looking up and pointing to the windows and seeing again in their mind's eyes the flaming bodies hurtling down the sidewalks.

By 10:30 the crowd had gathered but the platform was still empty. Justice Editor Leon Stein opened the meeting by calling out the names of Triangle survivors and singly they came to the platform. Then there was a drum roll, the national anthem was played and Pres. Dubinsky called on the first speaker.

It was Prof. Robert S. Hoizman of New York University who told of the school's interest in safety education and the part it has played in formulating courses in civic administration and related fields. The former Ash Building is now part of NYU.

Esther Peterson, head of the Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor, stressed the

relationship between legislation—state and federal—and workers' standards and welfare and reported on pending minimum wage legislation.

In his address, Pres. Dubinsky traced the effects of the Triangle tragedy. He lashed out against those who had pushed through the Albert-Folmer bill postponing the effective date of fire safety legislation.

Fire Commissioner Edward F. Cavanaugh Jr. joined in the attack and warned that the bill would set back safety by 50 years. Dramatically, even as he spoke, the Commissioner was being called away to a four-alarm fire and he departed with sirens screaming.

Two Great Ladies

The audience listened with great respect and admiration to the next two speakers, two of America's great ladies. First Frances Perkins, Secretary of Labor in the admin-

istration of Franklin D. Roosevelt, gave an eye-witness account of the Triangle fire. She told of the work of the Industrial Commission appointed afterward that helped formulate pioneers progressive labor legislation.

Eleanor Roosevelt reminisced about the time when she and her husband were shocked by accounts of the fire. She underscored the need for constant vigilance.

The audience then grew silent as a small group left the platform to place the wreath and only the single bell tolled. Pres. Dubinsky unveiled the special bronze plaque which will now mark the place where the Triangle victims perished. Fire Department Chaplain Fred Eckhardt recited a prayer. The plaque reads:

"On this site, 146 workers lost their lives in the Triangle Shirtwaist Company fire on March 25, 1911. Out of their martyrdom came new concepts of social responsibility and labor legislation that have helped make American working conditions the finest in

the world. International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, March 25, 1961."

The meeting then approved the sending of a message to Governor Nelson Rockefeller urging that he veto the Albert-Folmer bill.

Upon adjournment of the meeting, several hundred filled six buses decorated with signs noting the 50th anniversary of the Triangle fire. With police escort and accompanied by a group of officers from the New York Fire Department, the party journeyed to the Evergreens Cemetery.

Here a short ceremony was conducted at the monument marking the place where the last seven unidentified bodies of the Triangle tragedy are buried. Pres. Dubinsky told how the memory of these martyrs has been kept alive, how hundreds of ILGWU members have journeyed to this grave under the auspices of the ILGWU Student Fellowship, guided by Fannie M. Cohn, Fire Chief Benjamin Aaronson made a short address. Then the crowd returned to the buses.

Urge Veto of N. Y. Firetrap Bill; Assail Industrial Commissioner

The historic irony throughout the Triangle Fire Memorial Meeting was the fact that it not only paid homage to a tragedy that occurred half a century ago but was also much concerned with impending disaster.

Pres. Dubinsky, in a sharp attack on the Albert-Folmer bill passed by the New York State Legislature, called it an outrage and noted the part played by the Industrial Commissioner in putting through the bill which is on the Governor's desk for veto.

His call for a veto of the bill was strongly endorsed by Fire Commissioner Edward F. Cavanaugh, Jr. who declared that if passed it would set back the cause

of industrial safety by 50 years. A telegram to Governor Nelson Rockefeller expressed the sentiment endorsed by the meeting condemning the bill.

In his talk, Pres. Dubinsky was especially critical of the New York State Industrial Commissioner. One New York newspaper questioned the charge against the Commissioner that he had urged passage of the Albert-Folmer bill.

Commissioner Criticized

On this page is reproduced the memorandum by the Commis-

sioner, dated February 15, which was all of the cliches, innuendoes, special pleadings, ambiguous phrases to argue for a bill that puts property above life. This is by the same Commissioner who only a short time ago said the Albert-Folmer bill, which he now seeks

(Continued on Page 18)

Office of the Industrial Commissioner
February 15, 1961

MEMORANDUM TO: Assistant Commissioner
MEMORANDUM FROM: Legislative Counsel to the Fire Bureau

1. Purpose of Bill
To establish a flexible system of building fire codes for the State of New York in order to provide maximum protection to employ a wide variety of necessary buildings to employers.

2. Summary of provisions of Bill
Chapter 88 of the Laws of 1961 which amended the Labor Law to order to add protection against industrial fire hazards is amended by a striking any provisions of such chapter until January 1, 1962. The Board of Standards and Appeals of the City of New York is directed to adopt appropriate rules and regulations to be in addition to the existing provisions of the Labor Law to protect employees and to provide a practical, effective and comprehensive system of fire codes for the City of New York.

The Board of Standards and Appeals of the City of New York is directed to adopt such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

3. Provisions of the Bill
The original provisions were enacted in 1911 as a result of a factory fire in New York City on March 10, 1911 in which approximately 146 workers died. Specific standards were incorporated into the standards in some instances, while in other instances the Board of Standards and Appeals was directed to specify standards. Recognizing that industry would require time to conform to the standards issued by the Board of Standards and Appeals, the effective date of the standards was set for January 1, 1912.

Since the effective date of the standards, numerous amendments have been made to the standards in order to bring them in line with the safety requirements of the State. Furthermore, amendments have been made to the standards provisions to make them more comprehensive and to provide for maximum protection to employers and employees.

Presently the law requires that all interior stairways and the landings, platforms and passageways connected therewith shall be enclosed on all sides. It is not always necessary on the top floor or a roof level floors of factories, warehouses, or similar structures to work on the stairs. The right of stairs to open up to the street is not always necessary. The structure of a continuous passageway when stairs are added to take account is very expensive and should be avoided where alternative safety provisions are feasible.

Further specific building fire codes are also required under the law, but there is not sufficient data to justify a floor fire code. Furthermore, an exception is made for certain buildings where necessary, but such an exception should be provided to some other manner and which may be initiated upon for operational purposes.

Appropriate provisions are required for all existing buildings erected before January 1, 1962 although some are located in areas where there is no fire hazard. It is suggested that the Board of Standards and Appeals be directed to adopt appropriate rules and regulations to provide for the safety of such buildings.

Finally, a building containing a factory is to be classified as high, medium or low hazard depending on the most serious fire in the building to any building the most hazardous category of the building and to be located from the rest of the building and the building itself should be provided a more effective fire protection than would otherwise be required.

These specific statutory provisions require modifications and alterations through administrative rules which maintain the safety of all the employees as of highest priority, but it is suggested that the Board of Standards and Appeals be directed to develop safety standards through an administrative agency and to provide the provision of administrative fire standards.

This bill would require the administrative agency to adopt rules that are not intended to adopt in order to have a flexible procedure for dealing with industrial fire hazards, and would provide maximum protection to employers and employees.

Appropriate industrial code provisions will be provided. Presently the Board of Standards and Appeals is directed to the Board of Standards and Appeals the Board shall hearings on the proposed rules, make necessary alterations and thereafter submit the final rules.

Notice phrases and sentences underlined by Justice. On Page 1 of Industrial Commissioner's memo, two pencilled changes push the effective date back six months more than was typed; a flexible approach and the elimination of "unnecessary hardships" to employers are sought in a matter of life and death to workers. On Page 2 "experience" is cited in arguing for additional time and less rigidity, whereas worker's experience has been that there has been enough time, not enough rigidity. Triangle's two stairs (2nd paragraph) were "not near each other" but it didn't do the dead any good and (4th paragraph) New York City has enough water for sprinklers.

Write to Governor Rockefeller, Executive Chamber, Albany, N.Y. asking him to veto the Albert-Folmer bill.

ILG Label Cues Easter Modes

The fashions that were to highlight the Easter Parade on thousands of Main Streets across the nation were previewed on the sidewalks of New York during the last week in March via a series of outdoor fashion shows sponsored by the ILGWU Union Label Department. And numerous prints of the latest label film were being seen all over the U. S.

The "Fashion Goes to Town" series, inaugurating a coast-to-coast dress-up-for-Easter campaign, was kicked off with a gala performance on Times Square, March 22, with stars from seven Broadway hit shows participating and Roddy McDowall of "Cameo" as master of ceremonies.

New Yorkers were urged to take advantage of the opportunity to view the latest in fashion glammor by Mayor Robert F. Wagner, who officially proclaimed the week of March 21-29 as "New York Spring Festival of Fashion Week."

The "curbstone" presentations, which were arranged by Michael Johnson, assistant director of the Union Label Department, were narrated by popular stage and TV personality Beverly Bruce.

Film Popular

Simultaneous with the fashion road-shows has come a step-up in demand for copies of the third in the series of ILGWU couture films, "Fashion, Spring and Summer 1961."

According to Vice Pres. Julius Hochman, director of the Union Label Department, some 50 prints of the half-hour long color and sound film, covering the full spectrum of fashion style and trends, are circulating around the country.

In another aspect of label promotion, the miniature fashion factory (that was the hit of the Union-Industries Show in Washington last year) will be brought back by popular demand and featured at this year's exhibit in Detroit from April 7-12.

Re-runs of the New York City movie a spectacular had been scheduled for "two-a-day" noon-time viewings in the garment center, the financial district and the Grand Central area as a follow-up to the Times Square premiere.

Additional showings were arranged for the Bronx Concourse and Downtown Brooklyn shopping districts.

The Actors Equity members who helped open the fashion reviews included Nathaniel Prey and Patricia Wilson of "Fiorello"; Eileen

Hodgers and Lee Becker of "Tenderloin"; Rita Schwartz of "The Tenth Man"; Dean Jones featured in "Under the Yum-Yum Tree"; Flora Ekline of "Rhinoceros"; Paula Stewart appearing in "Wildcat"; and Carla Huston, star of "The Fantasticks."

Canada ILG Meet To Chart Kickoff Of Label Crusade



Receiving the first shipment of ILGWU union labels in Montreal—numbers 1 to 100,000 consigned to Dress Town Inc.—as preparations begin for Canada-wide use of symbol of decency. From left to right are Business Agent Cecile Debut, employer A. Abrams and Vice Pres. Bernard Shane. April coordinating conference will map promotion to inaugurate use of label.

With more than 5 million garments bearing the union label now in production in Montreal and Toronto, Canadian members of the ILGWU will launch their campaign to popularize the fair-standards symbol at a coordinating conference in Montreal April 14-16.

General Secretary-Treasurer Louis Stulberg and Claude Jodoin, president of the Canadian Labor Congress and ex-manager of ILGWU dressmakers in Montreal, will be on hand for the conference, to be held at union headquarters. Some 100 delegates from Vancouver, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Toronto and Montreal locals will attend.

Carlota Reiser

As a curtain-raiser to the vast promotional campaign planned in Canada, members of the ILGWU will distribute "Coming Soon . . ." giveaways in front of Montreal's main department stores and in the lobby of the hotel where the coordinating conference delegates will be guests at a banquet Saturday, April 15.

Premier Jean Lesage of Quebec and his wife have been invited to officially inaugurate the national union label campaign later in April in Montreal, the key Canadian center. The Premier has advised the ILG that he hopes to be able to do so.

The Quebec Legislature's session has continued longer than usual this year, restricting the Premier's non-legislative activities.

Official inauguration of the campaign aimed at the consumer will be timed to coincide with the arrival of summer lines in retail outlets early in May. Advertising

Label Lassie



While the road-show fashion exhibit sponsored by the ILGWU Union Label Department was in progress, these lovely label lassies from Local 23 distributed rovelties among the spectators.

Agree on Main Terms of New '105' Contract

Nearly 6,000 members of New York Local 105 crowded into Manhattan Center after work on March 21 to approve the main terms of a new industry-wide agreement now being negotiated.

In making his "progress report" to the membership, Manager Martin L. Cohen emphasized that some key issues have still to be resolved.

He said that terms already agreed to and initiated by employers will give piece workers a 7 percent wage increase on total earnings, with a \$5 top and a \$3 bottom. Week workers will get a flat 12 increase.

The number of guaranteed holidays will be increased from 5 1/2 to 6 1/2, with Thanksgiving Day as the additional holiday.

The new agreement will provide also for an increase of 10 percent in employer contributions to the union's health and welfare fund and for the union label.

The meeting, the largest in Local 105 history, gave unanimous approval to Cohen's report. The meeting had originally been planned as the first step in preparations for a general strike.

The main stumbling block remaining in negotiations is the union's demand for substantially higher minimums for all crafts.

Okay Extra Jobless Pay

Congress last week gave final approval to a temporary unemployment compensation measure, keystone of President John F. Kennedy's anti-recession program.

The extended jobless benefits, first major piece of legislation to clear Congress this session, was speeded to the White House after final passage by a voice vote in the Senate and a 361-31 roll call in the House.

The measure extends jobless pay for a period half again as long as present state maximums, with a ceiling of 39 weeks of combined federal-state aid. It will be financed by a temporary four-tenths of 1 percent increase in employer payroll taxes.

The bill will provide aid for some 925,000 workers who exhausted unemployment payment rights since June 30, 1960 without finding work, plus an estimated 2.5 million more who are expected to use up regular state benefits between now and April 1, 1962, cutoff date under the emergency program.

Women's Division of JLC To Fete Esther Peterson

Esther Peterson, director of the Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor, will be guest of honor at a luncheon sponsored by the Women's Division of the Jewish Labor Committee on Saturday, April 29 at Club 65, 125 Astor Place, New York City.

Contessa, Superior Go ILG As Puerto Rico Drive Rolls

ILGWU organizing efforts in Puerto Rico continued to roll forward in high gear with the signing of two more undergarment shops recently.

In old San Juan, agreement with Contessa Lingerie, employing 160 workers, brings to a close an eight-year non-union chapter in the history of this firm. In the current drive,

the workers' enthusiastic response convinced the employer the time had come to sign a contract providing standard union conditions and benefits.

Contributing strongly to the success of the campaign, according to Local 601 Manager Jerry Behnen, was the overall coordination by General Secretary-Treasurer Louis Stulberg and the invaluable cooperation of Vice Pres.

and publicity will appear across Canada at the peak of the summer buying period.

In the meantime, there's feverish label activity in both Montreal and Toronto shops, where customers have been appointed and initial label orders filed. First shop to purchase labels was Dress Town in Montreal, where Vice Pres. Bernard Shane joined employer A. Abrams to mark delivery by the ILGWU of the first 100,000 labels.

Angela Bambace, manager of the Upper South Department where the firm has two shops.

At just about the same time, in Sabana Grande on the other side of the island, another non-union bastion fell when all 65 employees of Superior Embroidery Co. joined the growing ranks of the ILGWU in Puerto Rico.

Sabana Grande, long a non-union area in the island's hinterland, was surprised one morning by the arrival of the Clinica Rodante, the union's mobile health clinic. Greatly impressed by this

tangible evidence of the service provided by the union, workers of other shops have begun making cautious inquiries, and it is expected that, before long, this once "forbidden territory" will be the scene of several more ILGWU enrollments.

Here too, the overall direction of the drive was coordinated by General Secretary-Treasurer Stulberg, and a valuable asset was given by Matthew Schoenwald, manager of New York Undergarment Local 62.

Business Agent Aida Cruz will service both shops.

The timely reminder on the adjoining page, appearing in 124 newspapers across the nation on March 20, brought the ILGWU union label to the attention of women's apparel consumers just as the shopping-for-Easter season hit its peak.



Wear it in good conscience!

Now is when everybody—especially every girl body—is getting Easter'd up. Now is when Easter finery becomes its finest. Anything you wear for Easter should be fine. And in several ways. For one, it should be in the highest, latest, hottest style. It should be well and meticulously made. It should be wearable not only in good health but in good conscience. Best way to make sure of all this? Make sure *your* Easter finery boasts the ILGWU label.



When you buy this label, you can be sure you've bought American all the way

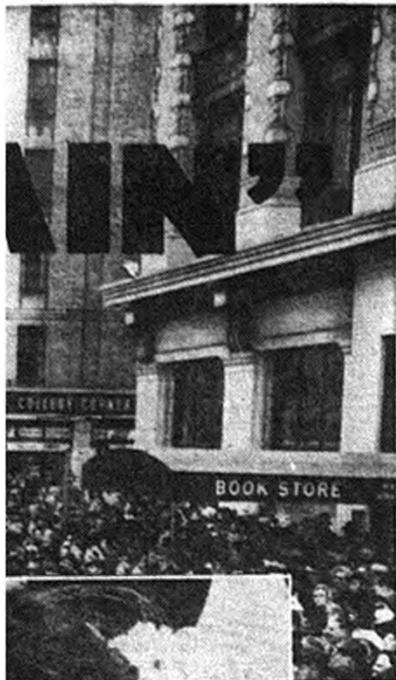
Spelled out, this label is the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union label. The presence of this label on your Easter finery means the presence of pride in its making. It means confidence in the Economy that makes it all possible. The Economy that—in enabling one man to make a buck in one trade—enables others to do the same in their trades. Beyond anything else, this label's presence means the absence of any indignity in making any woman's or child's garment it adorns. So look for the ILGWU label.



MORE than a dozen survivors of the Triangle fire were on the platform at the memorial meeting last week. Captain Frank Rubino (above, left) was one who fought the fire, among the first firemen to arrive at the scene. Above, Josephine Nicolosi worked on the eighth floor and saw the fire start. Trapped at the closed staircase door she finally helped push it open. Above, right, Cella Walker Friedman was one of small number of girls on ninth floor who leaped for life into the elevator shaft. At left is Anna Gullo Pidone, who prepared to jump but was saved. She lost alster in fire.



Among the others memorial meeting (right): First Vice I tenini, Fire Comm. F. Cavanagh Jr., S. Holzman of I versity and Esthe rector of Wor U. S. Departme



At impressive ceremonies (above) Chief Thomas Hartnett, Pauline Newman, Frances Perkins, Rose Schneiderman and Pres. Dubinsky unveiled memorial plaque. Below, left Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt and Mrs. Perkins reminisce. Bottom, Pres. Dubinsky speaks at Evergreen Cemetery tomb of 7 unidentified victims.



addressed
 ve left to
 . Luigi An-
 nor Edward
 raf. Robert
 York Uni-
 'eterson di-
 's Bureau,
 of Labor



'Sacrifice to Human Greed!'

WE STAND HERE WHERE THE dream of self-reliance and opportunity which brought millions of immigrants to these shores was tested to a hilt. On this site was the Triangle shoe with a thousand workers on its three floors. And this was 50 years ago.

It was not a traditional sweatshop. It was an airy shop, a shop with efficiency, with profits which bosses who knew what they wanted and in 1906 made a million dollars profit out of their workers.

When you made that much money 50 years ago you couldn't afford to have a sense of social responsibility either to the individual worker or to the community.

No Triangle made a company union to keep its workers from joining the ILGWU. And when they did join the ILGWU anyhow, the company fought them until the workers went out on strike. And when those immigrant girls, Italian and Jewish girls who had come here full of dreams and hopes for a better life for themselves and their families walked the picket line right here on this street where we stand now, Triangle hired gangsters and loose women to bump into the pickets and their friends from the Women's Trade Union League and to start fights so that they could be arrested and thrown into jail.

WHAT A TIME THAT WAS! WHAT a test for these new Americans! Where were the streets paved with gold? Where were the shining new opportunities? Where was the extra couple of dollars with which to bring over a mother or a father or another sister or brother from the old country?

Triangle had it—but not for its workers. So it fought the ILGWU, and when the shirtwaist workers won their long strike, they didn't win it at Triangle where the whole thing started. The victorious shirtwaist workers had shown America that women could organize, even young immigrants. But this lesson was lost for Triangle.

So Triangle locked its doors. Yes, it barred its doors so that no union organizer could get in and not a scrap of fabric worth half a penny could get out.

Its young workers had to submit to the indignity of a search when they left the shop. They had to line up and pass single file through the one door on the Green-

From address by ILGWU Pres. DAVID DUBINSKY at memorial meeting marking the 50th anniversary of the Triangle fire.

Street side because the other was kept locked.

HERE, 50 YEARS AGO, THESE young children of those who filled the slums of the East Side were sacrificed to human greed on a hellish, flaming altar. Greed locked the doors. Greed made the doors open inward instead of outward. Greed put a cheap fire escape on the backside of the building, so cheap that it collapsed, throwing scores more to their deaths.

Greed said no fire drills. Greed commanded that there be no fire sprinklers, even though Chief Croker of that day had pleaded for fire sprinklers. Greed decided that this building should be 10 floors instead of 11. One more floor and the wooden windows would have had to be metal, the wooden floor would have had to be concrete.

OUT OF THIS TRAGEDY CAME A great industrial commission in this state. It inquired not only about safety in the shop but also about lighting and ventilation and industrial poisons, about conditions under which women and children worked ten hours a day and on night shifts. In fact, the commission broadened its jurisdiction until it took in the entire industrial scene.

What a commission that was! It included Robert Wagner, later Senator and author of the Wagner Act; it had Alfred E. Smith, later Governor of New York; Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor; and Mary Dwyer, head of the Women's Trade Union League were members of the commission. Both had helped the shirtwaist makers in their great uprising in 1899. Gompers spoke at their rally, Mary Dwyer marched on their picket line.

Among its investigators was one who later became the New Deal Secretary of Labor, Frances Perkins. Rose Schneiderman who led our girls in their strikes, Dr. George Priebe who founded our Union Health Center were also investigators for the commission.

As a result of their work, scores of laws were enacted—good laws, fire laws, laws that have saved lives. But how do

you legislate against selfishness?

THE GREED THAT WILL SAVE A few dollars even at the cost of a few lives is still with us. Right in this neighborhood, soon after the Triangle fire, other garment workers have lost their lives long after the lessons of Triangle should have been learned by all. And they—as well as firemen—have died in buildings that were real estate junk 50 years ago.

No, this is not a memorial only for the Triangle martyrs. This is also a Memorial for those who died exactly three years ago in the Monarch Undergarment fire, which in a sense was even more outrageous than Triangle.

This building at least is fireproof. But the Monarch Building, 23 years older than this one, was not fireproof. And 47 years later it still had no sprinklers.

We in the ILGWU launched a drive in 1958 to put sprinklers in all buildings entered by workers for the purpose of making a living. That's the least our members are entitled to have. Assemblyman Abrams introduced a proper bill and it was passed. As a result, from July 4, 1960, even the old buildings, the buildings that really needed them the most, were required to have sprinklers.

But selfishness dies hard. Here we have a law to save lives. But it costs money to install the sprinklers to save lives.

And for some people money comes first, ahead of lives.

Now we have the outrageous action of the property interests who have hauled and pulled and worked a kind of legislative miracle.

They have been able to cripple the Abrams provisions.

They have taken a law already effective and made it ineffective. They have done this by prevailing on the state legislature to change the effective date from July 1, 1960 to April 1, 1962. More: they have said that anyone already found guilty under the Abrams provisions is to be forgiven.

WHAT AN OUTRAGE! WHAT A mockery of the sacrifice of 146 garment

workers here and 24 at Monarch! What gall to pass such a law in the very weeks in which we mark in sorrow these deaths! That bill was passed only 10 days ago. It is now on the Governor's desk.

I pray it doesn't happen—but if it does, on whose conscience will it rest if before 1962 there is another fire with loss of life in an un-sprinklered building?

Not on the consciences of the landlords who pushed through this outrageous bill, for it is obvious they have no conscience.

But if there should be another such tragedy, how will the Industrial Commissioner of this state be able to sleep nights? He is supposedly pledged in this progressive state to maintain its rich and honorable tradition of concern with its workers, a concern that practically originated with the Triangle fire.

But the Albert bill that sheds tears for the owners of these death traps bears the prominent note that it was prepared under the direction of the State Department of Labor.

A memorandum sent in February by the Industrial Commissioner to the Council to the Governor noted that even the effectiveness of the Abrams bill had been delayed one year to give the owners time to conform. Now, the Industrial Commissioner pleads that industry—the means the property owners—need still more time.

YES, THEY NEED MORE TIME. THE three years since Monarch is not enough time. The 50 years since Triangle is not enough time—and the lives that have been lost the lives of garment workers and firemen, are not enough lives.

We say enough! We say no more Triangles or Monarchs! We say that the toll of life taken by industrial alums must end just as we are wiping out 'the human cost of residential alums. And we say that it is an outrage in this state that has pioneered so much labor legislation, to have its Industrial Commissioner take a stand that increases rather than cuts down the danger in the shop.

We want a fitting memorial to the martyrs we honor today. No better one can be found than to increase the respect for and the safety of workers. I call on each and everyone of you to write today to Governor Rockefeller and to demand that he veto the Albert-Folmer bill.

Seldom has a terrible catastrophe had such a beneficial effect, as the Triangle fire did 50 years ago. I still recall the feeling of shock and horror unleashed by that appalling fire—and the sense of revulsion which swept New York and the nation at the conditions which allowed such a disaster to occur. Your union, of course, was established in the aftermath of that tragedy. But even though the sweatshops as we knew them at that time have been largely wiped out—thanks to the efforts of your union and others—there is still far to go to eliminate completely all the bad conditions that were so prevalent 50 years ago.

—From message by HERBERT H. LEHMAN

The story of the Triangle fire did not reach me through history books. I learned of it, its meaning and its consequences, from my father. As you know, he was deeply moved by that fire, became involved in its aftermath, and was one of the principal architects of the ensuing reforms. From him I learned that the fire was a horrible tragedy in which many humble workers perished.

And so has history hallowed the suffering of those who were the victims of the Triangle fire. They have become martyrs to a great cause. They should be remembered and honored not only because of the anguish they endured but because by their suffering they helped civilize the working conditions of all their fellow workers.

—From message by MAYOR ROBERT F. WAGNER

I remember very vividly the horror with which my husband and I heard of the Triangle fire. I think it started the real awakening of the conscience of the people so that they felt they had an individual responsibility to do something about conditions. Unfortunately we forget our obligations. We must remember them if we wish to stay alive. We must keep working in behalf of this cause.

On this day we must rededicate ourselves to doing whatever can be done to prevent fires, to see that the laws are complied with. And I hope that the Governor will not sign the Albert-Folmer bill.

I have never forgotten what happened here 50 years ago today. I hope we will all continue to remember it and to work for the things that are good for humanity.

—From address by ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

'A Sense of Public Guilt...'

I AM ONE OF THE VERY FEW people who not only remember the Triangle fire but also actually saw it. I was visiting a friend on the other side of Washington Square that Saturday afternoon when we heard the fire engines. We rushed out to see what was going on. We saw the smoke pouring out of the building and we ran toward it and saw them jumping out of the windows.

I shall never forget the frozen horror that came over us as we stood with our hands to our throats, watching that horrible sight, knowing there was no help. They came down in twos and threes, jumping together in their desperation.

No one survived. The life nets broke. The firemen kept shouting to those above not to jump. But they had no other choice. The flames were behind them.

From address by FRANCES PERKINS, Secretary of Labor under President Franklin D. Roosevelt, at Triangle fire memorial meeting.

THE CITY OF NEW YORK, THE state were stricken by a sense of public guilt. There was the feeling that we all had been wrong, that something was wrong in that building or the tragedy never would have happened. With stricken conscience, we banded together to find a way by law to prevent this kind of disaster and other hazards confronting the working people of this country.

Out of this episode came a self-examination in which the people of this state came to realize the value and worth of each of the individual 146 who fell or was burned to death. Then we began to understand also the great human value

of every individual who is injured in an accident by a machine.

Then, too, we realized the need for new laws, for enforcing them and for re-vamping the entire building code respecting factories.

The work of the Factory Investigation Commission established after the fire marked the beginning of an important drive to introduce human considerations into the work environment. The stirring of the public conscience and the action of the people in penitence brought new laws which made New York the first and the best state in respect to the factory laws.

A SIMILAR STIRRING OF CONSCIENCE in 1932 introduced a new element into national life with the election of Franklin D. Roosevelt. This came to be known as the New Deal but it was really based upon the experience we had had in New York State and in an ultimate sense on the tragic event of March 25, 1911.

We had awakened the people to the necessity of law based on a democratic awareness of the need to safeguard all of our people. In New York we had produced the greatest battery of legislative bills to prevent human disasters. In the New Deal we applied the same approach to national problems.

The heritage of those who died in that terrible fire 50 years ago is deep in American life. They did not die in vain and we shall never forget them.

"At Your Service"



UNITY HOUSE



Registration for 1961 season starts Monday, April 3 at Unity House office, 275 Seventh Ave. (same building as Union Health Center) 10th floor. Open 9 A.M. to 6 P.M. in Philadelphia, apply at 929 N. Broad St.

MAKE RESERVATIONS NOW!

Upper South Boosts Pay at Petti Frocks

Workers at Petti Frocks of Whiteford, Maryland won wage increases, the shorter work week, use of the union label, a severance pay fund, additional paid holidays and other gains in their second union agreement recently negotiated, reports Vice Pres. Angela Bambara, Upper South Department manager.

The Local 526 members who first came into the union in 1957 won the 35-hour work week and a shop minimum of \$1.30 an hour to be accomplished in two steps. The first step calls for a minimum of \$1.30.

The three-year agreement, effective as of February 15, 1961, also calls for an additional 3 1/2 paid holidays which will bring the plant total to 6 1/2 during the life of the contract.

Leading the union's negotiating team were Manager Angela Bambara, Director of Organization Joseph Shane and Martin Waxman and Alice Rees of the education department, who have alternately doubled as shop business agents.

Also on the negotiating committee were chairlady Thelma Hutton,

CONTRACT EXTENSION POSSIBILITY RAISED AT CLOAK PAY TALK

A second negotiating session between representatives of the New York Cloak Joint Board and employer associations on the union's demand for a 10 percent cost-of-living wage increase was held March 28 at the industry impartial chairman's office.

At this session the employer spokesmen stated that while they still felt an increase would be unwise at this time, they were prepared to negotiate on this union demand provided that the current agreement, slated to expire in May 1962, could be extended.

Vice Pres. Benoch Mendelsohn, joint board general manager, replied that "we take it that the proposal of management to discuss our demands for a wage increase in conjunction with other problems of the collective agreement with a view toward an extension was made in all seriousness."

He said that although the union is presently asking only for a wage increase, it is facing a number of other problems. The union therefore, he said, is willing to consider extension of the collective agreement if in addition to a wage increase it could come to an understanding with management with regard to these other problems.

'22' Section Meetings To Get Pact Details

Details of the new dress agreement will be outlined by Manager Israel Lir-slow at the following section meetings of Local 22 this month: **Bronx**, April 11, Hunts Point Palace, 933 Southern Blvd.; **Boro Park**, April 12, Boro Park Educational Center, 1377 42nd St.; **Brownsville**, April 13, Premier Palace, 305 Butler Ave.; **Williamsburg**, April 20, Schwaben Hall, 474 Knickerbocker Ave.; **Harlem**, date to be announced, LaGuardia House, 311 East 116 St. All meetings will be held right after work.

Ellen Smith, Alice Deso, Pauline Sullins, Ruby Haga and Elizabeth Evans.

The Whiteford members are now completely covered by the union's program of health benefits, retirement pensions, life insurance and severance protection.

Label Lookouts



Locked out but still on the job of looking for the union label are these members of Allentown (Pa.) Local 111, from left, chairman, Myrtle Vogel; secretary, Grace Hofflinger; and Business Agent Stanley Stepelovich, who were asked out after protesting the absence of labels at Deeville Blouse Co.

N'East vs. Deeville: Lockout Over Label

Alert ILGers who refused to produce garments that did not bear the union label have been made victims of a lockout in a series of events that culminated in a petition charging violation of contract being filed against the firm, reports Vice Pres. David Ginzgold, director of the Northeast Department.

The lockout at Deeville Blouse Co. in the Allentown (Pa.) District was touched off when the workers, noting the absence of union labels, stopped the shop's production.

Get Labels

At a hastily-called conference between the union and employer Faust Capablancio, arrangements were made for obtaining the labels. The incident was seemingly closed, according to District Manager Ike Gordon.

However, when production was resumed the employer, upset by the alertness and militancy of the ILGers, became abusive and disrupted the flow of work. When Bus-

ness Agent Stanley Stepelovich asked to meet with the employer to iron out the difficulties, Capablancio ordered the workers out of the shop.

Manager Gordon immediately charged the company with a lockout, and filed a petition with the industry impartial chairman accusing the firm of a violation of the collective bargaining agreement.

Meantime, with the guidance of union staffers, the workers filed claims for unemployment compensation. They had additional assistance from John Hart and Eugene Fuzria, manager and assistant manager respectively of the Bethlehem Bureau of Unemployment Compensation, who drove to the shop site at Danielville.

Cleveland ILGers Ratify New Bobbie Brooks Pact

The new pattern for collective bargaining established last month when the ILGWU signed the first national agreement with Bobbie Brooks Inc. has received the endorsement of the more than 300 garment workers at the firm's home plant in Cleveland, reports Vice Pres. Nicholas Kitzman, director of the Ohio-Kentucky Region.

Ratification of the two-year renewal signals major gains highlighted by wage increases ranging from 7 to 14 percent for the company's 4,000 workers employed at

37 plants across the nation. Bobbie Brooks owns 12 factories outright and contracts work to the remaining shops.

The terms of the first national contract, with a major apparel producer, came after months of negotiations, including sessions at the ILGWU General Office in New York which were attended by Kitzman and chairlady Vice Fulton.

The detailed terms of the agreement, contained in the March 15 issue of Justice, were outlined at the ratification meeting by Cleveland Joint Board Manager Meyer Berkman.

Voice of 89' Broadcasts Saturday Radio Network

First Vice Pres. Luigi Antonini comments on events of the week on the Voice of Local 89 radio program, which is broadcast every Saturday from 10 to 10:30 A.M. over an Eastern Network including WEVD (1530 kc.) New York City; WJMJ (1540 kc.) Philadelphia; WHAY (810 kc.) New Haven and WBOK (1600 kc.) Boston. The program, which also features labor and community news as well as popular and operatic music, is re-broadcast in the New York area every Sunday from 3:30 to 4 P.M. over WHOM (1480 kc.)

ER Jogs Conn. Statehouse

Garment workers from Connecticut Local 152 don't intend to "let George do it" when it comes to political action. They plan to work for better laws themselves--and recently this meant an appearance before the House Labor Committee of the state legislature to testify on pending bills.

After careful study of proposals under consideration by the legislature at a workshop sponsored by the State Labor Council, rank-and-fileers Ruth Jelenc and Anna Manlamele and Business Agent Arthur Appel presented the trade union viewpoint to the House Labor Committee.

The ILGWU delegation opposed a number of thinly-veiled versions of the so-called "right-to-work" laws and a measure that would seriously hamper labor's effectiveness in political campaigns in the state.

On the other hand the ILGers favored a bill that would compel

firms in the state employing 25 or more workers to give at least two weeks' notice when they planned to discontinue operations, or when operations were reduced to such an extent that 25 or more workers would be dismissed.

According to Vice Pres. Edward Kramer, general manager of the Eastern Region, the year-round political activity is part of a pilot project formulated following last December's ILGWU national legislative conference in New York City.

Object Lesson

There was an object lesson for non-union garment workers in the

recent hearings before the Labor Committee, according to Ben Cooper, manager of the Connecticut locals.

The bill endorsed by the ILGWU which would compel employers to give two weeks' notice of intention to halt or curtail operations affecting 25 or more workers was aimed specifically at firms like Sarsang, Inc., a non-union foundation garment manufacturer located in Connecticut for more than 40 years.

On a recent Friday the management at Sarsang casually announced that there was no need to report for work next Monday; the firm was moving to another area. More than 200 workers, some with 35 years of service to the company, lost their jobs without notice.

Dress Renewal Signed; Stress Shop Complying

New agreements covering some 90,000 union members in the eight-state New York metropolitan dress market were formally signed on March 24 in the council room of the General office.

ILGWU Pres. David Dubinsky and Vice Pres. Charles Zimmerman, general manager of the Dress Joint Council, joined in expressing the hope that the new agreements will mean greater stability for the industry and better times for the dressmakers.

All factors expressed appreciation for the key part played by Harry Uviller, dress industry impartial chairman, in achieving new agreements through peaceful negotiations.

Representing the union at the signing ceremony, in addition to Dubinsky and Zimmerman were Vice Pres. David Gingold, who signed for the Northeast Department, Vice Pres. Edward Kramer, who signed for the Eastern Region; Vice Pres. Luigi Antonini, general secretary of Local 89, Vice Pres. Moe Palikman, manager of Local 10, Israel Breslow, manager of Local 23, Bill Schwartz, manager of Local 86, N. M. Minkoff, council secretary-treasurer, Sol

Greene, council assistant general manager, and union attorney Emil Schlesinger.

Applying the Terms
Meanwhile the Dress Joint Council sent out instructions to all shop chairmen and chairladies as to how terms in the new agreement should be applied in the shops. The key points covered were:

Wage Increase. This goes into effect the week beginning Monday, April 3. It provides for a 3 1/2 percent increase (to the nearest quarter), but not less than \$3, for all week workers and for a 3 1/2 percent increase for piece workers.

This means that the percentage will go up from the present 47 percent to 55 percent.

Holidays. The new agreement provides for 6 1/2 guaranteed holidays in "two stages." In 1961, dressmakers will receive 4 guaranteed holidays and 2 1/2 pro rata holidays. Beginning in 1962, all 6 1/2 holidays will be guaranteed.

The four guaranteed holidays this year will be Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day and Thanksgiving. The 2 1/2 pro rata holidays will be Decoration Day, half of Election Day and Christmas.

A guaranteed holiday is one for which members will be paid regardless of whether or not there is work in the shop during the week of the holiday, and regardless of the day on which the holiday falls.

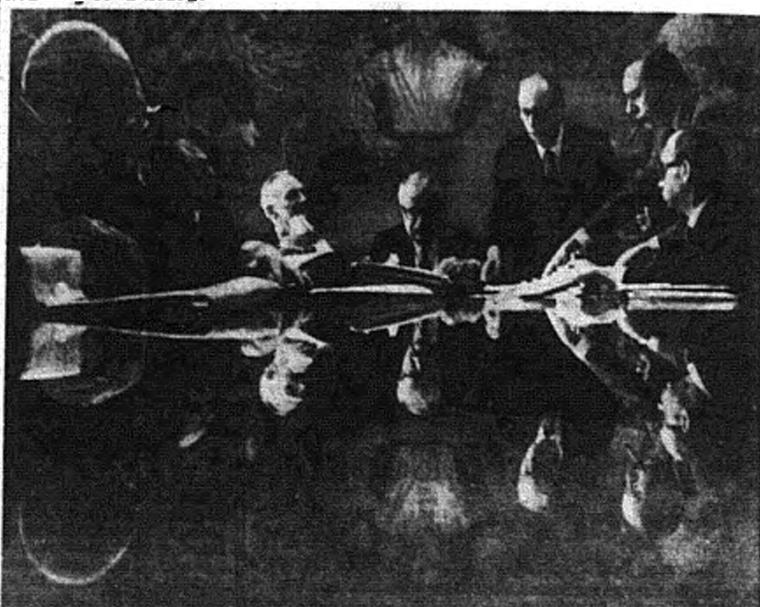
The 2 1/2 pro rata holidays this year will be paid for, as in the past, in proportion to the number of hours worked during the week of the holiday.

Schedule. The instructions to the shop chairmen and chairladies also noted that an official piece rate schedule has been adopted. Beginning in April, it will be applied in the course of settlements and, after a period of testing and needed adjustments and corrections, it will be published and distributed. An official schedule for finishers is also being worked out.

The chairmen and chairladies were asked to notify the union at once if workers in their shop do not receive the gains written into the new agreement.

Part-time employment increased by nearly 40 percent between 1960 and 1961, compared with a gain in full-time employment of about 8 percent.

Making It Official



At official signing of Dress Joint Council renewal agreement, at head of table are industry impartial chairman Harry Uviller, ILGWU Pres. David Dubinsky, Vice Pres. Charles S. Zimmerman, general manager of the council, and attorney Emil Schlesinger, with employer spokesmen.

Fire Law

(Continued from Page 3)
to cancel, was "fair and reasonable."

The underlining is by Justice. But the penciled changes in the dates, further postponing the requirement of sprinklers, etc., are not.

New York newspapers have joined the ILGWU and Justice in calling for a veto of the Albert-Polmer anti-sprinkler, pro-death-trap bill. The World-Telegram did so on March 24; The New York Times, editorially on March 25, noted the Triangle anniversary and called for a veto of the bill and the New York Post did so on March 27.

The Times headlined its front page, three-column story on the meeting, "Bill Delaying Sprinklers Hit at Triangle Fire Memorial." The Herald Tribune placed similar emphasis while the Journal American further noted that fire safety is now part of ILGWU contracts.

Veto Urged

The text of the telegram in behalf of the meeting to Governor Rockefeller reads:

"Gathered in solemn memorial in shadow of Asoh building where 146 workers died in Triangle fire this day 50 years ago and with Eleanor Roosevelt, Frances Perkins, Fire Commissioner Edward Cavanagh Jr. present we urge you veto Palmer-Albert bill (S.I. 3149) which would postpone to April 1, 1962 effective date of 1959 legislation enacted after 24 died in Monarch fire.

"In the very fortnight we mournfully mark those two tragedies it is mockery of the martyrs they made to leave industrial death traps unchanged even one additional day. Interests pleading for more time have had 50 years since Triangle, three years since Monarch but will endlessly ask for more time to be paid for with more lives lost.

"We are shocked plea in their behalf was made by Industrial Commissioner who thereby increases hazards confronting workers instead of reducing them as he is pledged to do. This state has proud tradition in formulation of labor legislation. In that tradition and in memory of martyrs who contributed to it through sacrifice of life itself we call upon you to veto this dangerous, death-trap bill."

Canada Towns Fly ILG Banner

The ILGWU banner was hoisted in two new Canadian towns this month as more than 120 workers in two dress and one cloak shop won higher wages and improvements in working conditions as a result of agreements with two employers.

Valleyfield and Laprairie, both in the Montreal region, are the centers where the ILGWU has acquired membership for the first time as a result of a contract with Topper Dress, which has shops employing 100 workers in the two towns. The cloak shop, California Women's Wear, is located in Montreal and employs 20 workers.

Topper Dress employees in the out-of-town shops had not been included in previous contracts.

signed by the firm and the ILGWU for its employees in Montreal proper.

The new agreements, providing for a union shop, gave employees an immediate hourly

boost of 7 1/2 cents, employer contributions to the health funds of the union and the health center and six legal holidays. They will also receive 4 percent vacation pay. Employees of California Women's Wear will receive all the benefits provided for in the most recent agreement covering the cloak industry in Montreal.

Knit Local 155 Lauds Dress Agreement Terms

Stating that "this victory does not belong to the dressmakers alone," the executive board of Knitgoods Local 155, of which Vice Pres. Louise Nelson is manager, adopted a resolution congratulating the Dress Joint Council on the terms of the new dress agreement.

The knitgoods affiliate stated it was "particularly pleased by the tremendous effort exercised in obtaining the clause securing the manufacturing and purchasing of only union-made knitted outerwear and knitted parts of garments."

\$360,000 Welfare Paid in Puerto Rico

In addition to the improved wages and working conditions that come with unionization, the members of Local 600 in Puerto Rico learned they also had benefitted to the tune of almost \$360,000 from the ILGWU's health and welfare fund during the past year.

The fund's board of trustees, at its meeting in Puerto Rico last month chaired by General Secretary-Treasurer Louisa Stulberg, studied the annual financial statements prepared and audited by independent accountants and released the figures pointing up the impressive growth of the ILGWU on the island.

Payments Double

Those showed that sick benefits

paid to members of Local 600 during 1960 amounted to \$50,995—more than twice as much as during the previous year, reflecting also the increase in maximum benefits from \$15 to \$20 a week. Surgical benefits almost doubled, coming to \$10,672. Hospital benefits, not provided in 1959, totaled \$9,680 and \$5,092 was paid out for the purchase of eyeglasses.

The largest and most pleasing expenditure was the \$236,163 distributed in vacation benefits during the past year.

A small but significant item in the report was the \$5,930 income received from investments, in keeping with the ILGWU's traditional policy of putting the money to work. This fund was added to the resources of the funds.

Funds Healthy

The trustees were particularly gratified by the healthy state of the funds. Reserves had been set up in such a way as to assure the continued, uninterrupted payment of all benefits, even in case of a drop in contributions resulting from unfavorable business conditions or other reasons.

One additional benefit was voted by the board of trustees. Starting April 1, members who are hospitalized will be eligible for reimbursement up to \$25 to cover at least part of the costs of operating room, anesthesia, laboratory tests or special medicine.

Puerto Rico Powwow



At meeting of Puerto Rican corset industry health and welfare fund board of trustees, which was held last month, from left: ILGWU General Secretary-Treasurer Louisa Stulberg, Local 600 Pres. Gregoria Cartagena and Manager Jerry Schoen; association representatives Melvin Kleban, general counsel, and Lawrence Gluckin, president, and Dr. Francisco Borio, Puerto Rico Under Secretary of Health and also medical consultant to the jointly-administered funds.

CUTTERS COLUMN

Local 10 Aiding Dress Council On Pa. Cutter Enforcements

The problem of contractors' cutting departments in outlying areas, particularly in Pennsylvania, was the subject of a recent report by Vice Pres. Moe Falkman, manager of Local 10.

During the local's 60 years of existence, he explained, cutting operations had been concentrated predominantly in the city of New York and this is still the case. Even when contractors working for New York jobbers or manufacturers opened shops in adjacent out-of-town sections, notably New Jersey, where garments were even the cutting of piece goods was performed in the city.

Later, when a number of these contractors acquired cutting facilities, the cutters were members of Local 10 subject to the same standards and conditions as other members of the organization in the particular trade, whether it was a cloak or dress shop or one of the miscellaneous trades such as underwear, coats and brasserie, etc.

In short, the development was characterized by uniformity of cutters' wage and work conditions under Local 10 control. In the Pennsylvania area the situation developed somewhat differently. Manager Falkman stated some years back, New York jobbers and manufacturers employing a number of cutters started to send some piece goods to contractors in Pennsylvania who had cutting facilities. These were union shops but the cutters were not affiliated with or subject to Local 10 supervision.

Extend Pact's Scope

Consequently their standards

UNAUTHORIZED '102' WALKOUT SETTLED; PACT NETS RAISES

Wage increases totaling \$12.50 a week, in three steps, cap terms of a new three-year agreement reached last week covering some 1,560 New York garment truck drivers and helpers as of Mar 1.

Agreement on the issue just ended a two-day walkout called without asking for international union endorsement--by members of Cloak, Dress Drivers & Helpers Local 102, who had turned down a proposed contract.

The old contract with five associations of trucking employers had expired February 28 negotiations for a new pact had been under way for the past three months, according to Herbert Sherman, manager of Local 102.

Final parleys preceding the settlement were held the evening of March 22 at the office of New York City Labor Commissioner Harold A. Felix.

Terms Ratified

The new agreement, ratified by the members the same evening, called for pay raises of \$7.50 a week the first year plus \$2.50 in each of the next two years.

Also, during the second year, employees with service of two years or more will receive a third week of vacation. Employers agreed to increase their payments into health and welfare funds by 60 cents a week for each worker.

New minimums set for drivers are \$82.50 for the first year, \$85 the second and \$87.50 for the third; for helpers, the corresponding amounts are \$72.50, \$75 and \$77.50, for pushboys, \$60, \$62.50 and \$65.

Attorney Abraham Schlesinger was counsel for the union in the parleys.

NEXT REGULAR LOCAL MEETING MONDAY, APRIL 24.

and conditions are below those of members of Local 10. This situation posed a problem which was the subject of a good deal of thought and discussion particularly during the recent negotiations which led to the renewal of the dress agreements.

Since the end of the 1958 general dress strike these agreements cover shops not only in the greater New York area but in a seven-state territory including Pennsylvania. The union's Dress Joint Council has the task of insuring the enforcement of the agreements.

As previously reported, an arrangement has been reached whereby Local 10 will assist the Dress Joint Council in enforcing the agreements insofar as the cutters in the Pennsylvania contracting shops are concerned. It is assigning a full-time representative to the area who will make the necessary inspection of wage scales and work standards of cutters in the shops.

This will be carried out in cooperation with the local union officers in the various localities.

It is Local 10's view, Falkman stated, that if cutting has to be done on premises of contractors the differential in wage standards shall not be unfairly competitive with those of New York cutters so as to cause undue hardship.

Aside from reducing disparities in standards of cutters, the Local 10 representative will also have the task of spearheading the elimination of "cut-up" shops in the area which perform no operations other than cutting. Dealings by manufacturers and jobbers with such shops are prohibited by the agreements.

Felix Retires

A veteran union officer and long-time member of Local 10, Morris Felix is retiring from active service. He joined the organization in 1913 and became a member of the executive board in 1923. Since 1929 he has been a business agent handling dress shops of the Affiliated Association.

Council Pact Role OK'd By Dress Shipping Clerks

At a meeting held last month in the Hotel Diplomat, members of New York Shipping Clerks' Local 60A unanimously ratified terms of the agreement that for the first time includes them as part of the Dress Joint Council bargaining unit, reports Manager William Schwartz.

The pact provides the shipping clerks a 5 1/2 percent wage increase, with the boost in no case to be less than \$1. Minimums were raised by \$3.50, from \$42.50 to \$46 and from \$46.50 to \$50.

Other provisions call for 4 guaranteed and 2 1/2 pro rata holidays the first year and 6 1/2 guaranteed holidays thereafter; employer payment of \$4.50 per worker to the health fund and 1/2 percent of payroll into the severance fund; a one week vacation period after

Palmetto Politico Parley



ILGWU political activists from South Carolina analyze recent Congressional action and hammer out legislative program at conference sponsored by Southeast Region held at Charleston.

ILG'ERS TAKE LOOK AND FIND--

Good Votes Rare Among S. C. Congressmen

ONLY ON RARE OCCASION did the South Carolina delegation to Congress vote the right way on issues affecting people's welfare.

Data what 33 Palmetto State ILG'ers learned when they attended the one-day statewide legislative conference at the Pruders Marion Hotel in Charleston last month.

Southeast Regional Director E. T. Keltner, who opened the session, gave an account of behind-the-scenes activity in Washington. Stressing the importance of raising the mini-

mum wage to \$1.25 an hour and broadening the law's coverage, he urged delegates to let their Congressmen know that their votes on this issue were being closely watched at home.

NICK BONANNO, ASSISTANT to the regional director, pointed out that all six South Carolina Congressmen had voted lame after lame for the benefit of special interest groups and against the welfare of their constituents.

On issues such as labor legislation, housing, health, educa-

tion, taxes and social security, they almost invariably ignored the best interests of the majority of the people they are supposed to represent, he said.

USING A SPECIALLY PREPARED tally sheet, the delegates kept score on their Congressmen's voting records; the South Carolina batting average turned out to be extremely low.

The conference ended on a brighter note: a special showing of the new union label fashion film "Spring and Summer—1961."

Education-Recreation Resume April 13

The regular Thursday evening sessions of the ILGWU Education-Recreation Center will be resumed on April 13 following a brief recess for the Easter and Passover holidays announces Education Department Secretary Phyllis Cobb.

The meetings are divided into lectures and recreation periods and are held every Thursday beginning at 6:10 P.M. in Room 923 of the High School of Fashion Industries, 225 West 24th Street, between 7th and 8th Avenues.

Topical discussions are led by the city's outstanding authorities on current events.

During the decade from 1948 to 1959, employment will continue to grow faster in the service industries than in the production industries, with a continued decline in farm work and unskilled occupations.

DRESSMAKERS Application for Retirement

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 1961

Will Be Accepted ONLY From

April 15 to June 15

Dressmakers employed in New York City dress shops wishing to retire on October 1, 1961 must apply at the office of the Retirement Fund, 218-212 West 40th Street, New York City, in Room 312 (3rd Floor) between the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 5:00 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 in their area.

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, 1961 to September 30, 1962.

Registration in New York City will be accepted in the alphabetical order listed below. Those whose last names begin with letter:

- A thru C -- April 15 to April 21
D thru G -- April 22 to April 28
H thru M -- May 1 to May 5
N thru R -- May 6 to May 12
S thru Z -- May 13 to May 19

If you cannot come in during the period set aside for you, you may register from May 22 to June 15, 1961.

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 book. An applicant for disability retirement benefits must also produce a doctor's certificate attesting to the worker's absolute inability to 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.

Full 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

JUSTICE

INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

EDITORIAL PAGE



BARGAIN-BASEMENT MINIMUM

IS \$50 A WEEK TOO MUCH PAY for an American worker today? Even in the light of present high prices and continuing rises in the cost of living, there are many who believe it is. Of course, these opponents of the \$50 minimum do not include those who have to live on that low level.

But even though they don't comprise a large group, they are a loud and influential group. And they are now preparing their last-ditch drive to oppose a measure backed by the President of the United States which says that almost all working Americans should earn at least \$50 for a 40-hour week.

Not all; almost all. And the haggling and lobbying in the coming weeks over the McNamara bill in the Senate and the pressures that will be exerted as House and Senate conferees later meet to work out a final bill will be directed by the anti-\$50 elements at broadening the exceptions to the minimum.

Chief among the opponents of the McNamara bill are the nation's organized retailers. The bill would increase the present \$1 minimum wage to \$1.15 as soon as it is enacted and to \$1.25 two years later for all those who are now covered by the minimum wage law. The retailers are little concerned with this portion of the bill.

They are bothered by the provision which would extend minimum wage coverage to their employees who are at present not covered. The McNamara bill would cover an estimated additional 4 million workers, including 2.5 million in retail and service trades, and would achieve the \$1.25 minimum and the 40-hour week after three years for this group. The retailers prefer a version passed last week by the House which would extend minimum wage coverage to only 1.2 million retail employees, holding the minimum wage at \$1 with no overtime.

IN OUR MERCANTILE SOCIETY we are, of course, all customers of each other. Retailers understand this and pray for most Americans to have enough in their pay envelopes to keep the cash registers ringing.

All they ask now is that their own employees be excluded from the army of beneficent consumers. They are on the payrolls of the stores and every dollar going into their pay envelopes, even if it raises them no higher than the \$50 a week level, is a drain on profits.

To bolster this position, retailers come up with arguments about interstate commerce and stores doing less than a quarter of a million dollars worth of business, ignoring the fact that even their lowest paid clerk plunges into the mainstream of interstate commerce by opening a can of tuna.

LOW-PAID RETAIL WORKERS are a drag on the rest of the economy. They cannot buy enough of the products made by other workers and industries. Their minimum wage is therefore a direct concern of all workers.

The program of the opposition is clear. The American Retail Federation has sounded the tocsin for its members. It has called on them to come to Washington "in force" during the week of April 10 as the Senate bill comes up for consideration.

"Organize!" cries the ARF. "Organize groups from your local or your state retail association. This type of activity is a 'must.' This is indeed your last and finest opportunity to preserve your exemption." ARF urges in its call for a retailer's march on Washington.

The answer to them must be a flood of letters and messages to Senators calling on them to affirm \$50 as a minimum as provided in the McNamara bill, even for retail employees.

'Socialism'—for Whom?

By
ROSCOE FLEMING

From a recent article in the OIL, Chemical & Atomic Union News by the frequent contributor to the Christian Science Monitor, London Economist and other publications.

ARTHUR L. "RED" MOTLEY, head of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, is quoted as saying that President John F. Kennedy "hasn't a socialistic bone in his body, and won't listen to those socialistic jerks from Harvard."

Quite apart from the charming delicacy of the language, this takes us into the realm of semantics, or the science of words and how they can mean anything people want them to mean.

Take this very word "socialistic," and the way it is used by Motley and his allies in the National Association of

hospitals; but it is not socialistic to subsidize the largest oil companies through the depletion allowance.

It is socialistic to share the nation's wealth with its poorest people, but not socialistic for its richest to share our wealth.

It is socialistic to give labor unions the power to protect the interests of their members, but not socialistic to grant corporations billions of dollars in special governmental aid to enhance the wealth of their stockholders, by tax amortization, rapid depreciation, and similar devices.

It is socialistic for the government to help provide school buildings and better teachers for the children; but it is not socialistic for it to sell publicly-owned industrial plants to private industry, at 10 to 20 percent of their cost.



Manufacturers, the American Medical Association, the American Farm Bureau, et al.

In their world of word-meanings, it is socialistic for the government to pay people anything directly, as in farm supports, unemployment, social security and old-age benefits; but not socialistic for the government to subsidize corporations, and the bigger and wealthier the corporation, the less socialistic the subsidy.

It is socialistic to do anything directly to increase the buying-power of the consumer; but not socialistic for the government to help corporations produce unneeded goods.

It is socialistic to tax people in accord with their ability to pay, as in the income tax; but not socialistic to allow untaxed corporation spending to the degree that the expense-account racket has become a pillar of our private economy.

It is socialistic to help communities provide public goods and necessities, such as schools, highways, parks and

It is socialistic for the people to provide electrical power directly for themselves through developing their own resources; but not socialistic for the government to give away to private power-companies the falling water from our dams, to provide power for their profit.

It is socialistic for the government to hold onto any resource that promises to make money for the people; but it is not socialistic for it to keep money-losing enterprises, or to bail out private corporations caught with such enterprises.

It is socialistic to insist on public regulation of prices that consumers must pay for such natural resource necessities as natural gas; but not socialistic for the federal government to help private companies develop such resources, and then allow the private companies to charge the public all the traffic will bear.

It is socialistic to encourage farmers' and consumers' cooperatives, but not socialistic to encourage luxury apartment houses, built for the rich in cities.

THE COMMUNISTS ARE NO 'SUPERMEN'

By WILLY BRANDT

From address by the Mayor of West Berlin at the Roosevelt Day Dinner in Washington last month.

COOPERATION WITHIN THE WESTERN COMMUNITY should become closer than has been the case so far. We certainly should not neglect our military security. But, we must be on guard lest we look at everything from a military angle.

Not only the recently developing countries are involved. Our relationship to the people in the Communist world is also at stake here. The ideas of freedom and of human dignity are being challenged as long as fellow men starve and suffer oppression—wherever it may be.

It is in the very nature of Communism that it should claim to be gospel and to proclaim that our grandchildren shall be Communists. In Berlin, we need to look only across the street to see the Communists in their everyday appearance and not dressed in their spotless Marxist Sunday best. Their perspective of world revolution need not make us tremble. It is the design of men and not of supermen.

being charged with weakness or receptivity to Communism. Nor do we have any illusions. But, sometimes it would appear as if the fear of Communism grew in proportion to the distance from



It. The people in the Soviet-occupied part of Germany—which surrounds my city—have seen through Communism—in their minds they have largely overcome it.

We really have no need to evade the spiritual struggle. Peaceful coexistence—that is another way to describe a struggle by every means short of war. But, it also means that within the Soviet sphere of power some of our standards have been accepted. The program to catch up with and to overtake the United States in production

means that the West—to this extent—is the yardstick by which the Communist world wants to be measured itself.

I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE COMMUNIST leaders are in a position today to radically revise their long-term program. If that is a correct conclusion, certain consequences must be drawn. Then, new efforts make sense—efforts to banish the danger of war step by step, and to replace the balance of terror by the rules of a peaceful contest.

This contest, however, has started already and no one will be able to escape from it. What we need is firmness in our fundamental convictions, self-reliance, confidence in our friends and—not least—an unprejudiced view not dimmed by yesterday's truths, but fearlessly studying what has to be done in a world of change. I know that the idea of freedom has the longer reach.

And let me stress once more that we are not only called upon to arm and to parley, but that we also have to maintain ourselves in the economic and social and—above all—in the ideological struggle and, that in this struggle we must push on toward new frontiers.

WE IN BERLIN ARE NOT IN DANGER OF