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JUSTICE

INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

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RECEIVED
MAY 3 1963

Budget 'Econo-misers' Endanger Million Jobs

"A cut of \$5 billion now from the proposed federal budget, as many have suggested, would cause 1 million fewer jobs by the end of the fiscal year."

Umbing points and facts such as this, President Kennedy lashed out against budget-cutting conservatives in an address to the American Society of Newspaper Editors in Washington last week.

He vigorously defended key administration programs which have labor backing and warned that the country could not afford reductions dreamed up by Congressional economisers.

"Adoption of these new federal programs would not effect the independence of the people," he declared, "any more than other federal programs their representatives in Congress helped enact and programs which are also part of the domestic budget, programs which must be continued."

Meet Peoples' Needs

Taking direct aim at his critics, the President added:

"The federal government is not a remote bureaucracy. It must seek to meet those needs of the individual, the family and the community which can best be met by the nationwide cooperation of all and which cannot be met by state and local government."

Kennedy said that if these needs are not met by the federal government, they must be assumed by state and local governments which are, even now, overwhelmed by their burdens.

The legislative agenda of domestic programs, Kennedy said, "is short, consisting of less than 30 top priority measures. And it is not expensive inasmuch as their total elimination would reduce next year's \$12 billion deficit by less than \$2 billion."

Among the 30 top-priority measures defended were:

Youth employment opportunities; preservation of natural resources; action against water pollution; health programs, including medical care for the aged; housing and urban renewal; manpower retraining; welfare programs; legislation against racial discrimination; federal aid to education.

"The federal government is the people," the President said, "and the budget is a reflection of their need. As the nation grows larger, so does the budget. But non-defense budget expenditures are lower now in relation to our gross

Pity Poor Corporation Chief Squeezed by Tiny 35% Raise

For several months multi-million dollar corporations have been moaning over what they have termed a "profit squeeze"—a pitiful economic plight that will prevent them—so they have repeatedly proclaimed—from giving pay raises of more than 3% or 3 1/2% this year.

In the space of just four days, however, two of the nation's most authoritative publications pulled the rug clean out from under the "profit squeeze" nonsense. The New York Times reported on a Tuesday that U.S. industry's net profits last year had broken all previous records, soaring to nearly \$18 billion—a 16% jump over 1961. Four days later Business Week magazine, the bible of big business and industry, reported that its survey of executive salaries showed that last year more than half the corporations had hiked their presidents' salaries as much as 35% higher than the previous year.

Here are some examples of how the profit squeeze worked on corporation presidents' take-home pay: Litchfield, of Alcoa, had his income jumped by \$40,000 from \$170,000 to \$210,000; Rickmore, of National Biscuit Company, enjoyed a \$53,768 raise, from \$114,600 to \$168,368; Vaughn, of Eastman Kodak, took home an additional \$25,000, representing an increase from \$175,000 to \$200,000; Brackett, of Gulf Oil, rated only a \$15,000 increase, from \$260,000 to \$275,000 while Kerr, of Avco Corporation, suffered a "profit squeeze" that jumped his pay only \$50,000—from \$155,000 to \$205,000.

national product (total of all goods and services), roughly 7 percent, than they were 25 years ago."

Kennedy noted just how expensive government economy can be. He made reference to the 1957-58 recession.

Resulted in Recession

"In that year," he said, "a stretchout of defense and other contracts—required in part as I have said by an unrealistic ceiling—caused the layoff of many workers. Those who lost their jobs and those who were fearful of losing their jobs cut back on personal spending; retailers trimmed their orders; their suppliers reduced their own payrolls; and so the downturn continued, affecting in the end the incomes which are the basis of most of our federal taxes."

"This economic policy, the President continued, resulted in the

recession and instead of having a \$500 million federal budget surplus as President Eisenhower had forecast, we had a \$12.5 billion deficit—the largest in history.

Kennedy predicted that if federal expenditures had not been increased, we would have had a recession last year as we did in 1958. At the conclusion of his address, the President was asked whether he still favored a tax cut despite the fact that some economic indicators have shown improvements. He replied:

"I still think that it is desirable . . . I think we are fortunate not to have had a turndown this winter or spring, which would have meant that the program we recommended was inadequate. Now we have a chance of having what I think is an adequate and responsible program tied into an economy which is in reasonably good health this time."

Honoring Label Ad



Dr. Lewis Webster Jones, president of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, presents National Mass Media Brotherhood Award for advertising jointly to Gus Tyler (second from left), ILGWU assistant president, on behalf of the union, sponsor of prize-winning union label ad, and Martin Solow, left, president of Weston Co., Inc., advertising agency and creator of entry. Looking on is Gerald Miller, right, head of Advertising Writers Assn. of N.Y., host at presentation ceremonies.

WASHINGTON LETTER

Power Company Windfalls Cost Americans Over Billion

WASHINGTON (PAI)—When it comes time to pay your monthly bills, a fair-sized check to your power company—electric and gas—is always included.

In fact, in 1962, American consumers paid nearly \$13 billion for electric power alone. This encompassed not only what you paid directly, but indirect charges reflected in the price of clothing, household goods, automobiles, and virtually every product necessary in everyday living.

So it is of utmost importance to you that charges for electric and gas power be fair and reasonable. The question has arisen: Are they?

A research study by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, a reputable organization, shows these startling conclusions:



Thirty-eight power companies received \$1.25 billion in overcharges during the last five years; consumers have paid these companies almost \$1.5 billion "for taxes" since 1954 but the money never went for that purpose; 53 power companies gave their stockholders \$500 million in tax free dividends in the last eight years.

In light of this study, the NRECA has called for a full Congressional investigation into the rate overcharges and other practices.

Support for the NRECA position was given by Howard Morgan, vice chairman of the Federal Power Commission, in testimony before a House subcommittee. Morgan has asked President Kennedy not to reappoint him to his post and has castigated the commission for failure to protect the public interest. He declared:

"... The electric and gas utilities of the United States are currently syphoning off hundreds of millions of dollars a year of consumers' money by means of paying taxes to the Treasury on a basis of accelerated depreciation, while reporting their tax expenses to the Commission for rate-making purposes on the basis of the full taxes they would have paid without accelerated depreciation.

"This means that consumers are being charged huge amounts representing phantom taxes which, in the opinion of most, if not all, disinterested students of taxation, will never be paid."

Price Bonanza

One reason that the whole utility situation has gotten out of hand is that few, if any, utilities find their prices controlled by competition as are most business products. If the price is unreasonable the consumer cannot turn to another utility.

To meet this problem the Federal Power Commission was established as a federal regulatory body to protect the consumer; it is one of many such regulatory agencies.

The theory behind regulatory agencies is that they guard the public interest, ensuring fair and reasonable rates and adequate and dependable service. The question is whether the theory and practice are the same in the power field.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association study indicates that many power companies now enjoy a rate of return higher than what has been found reasonable and fair by their own state regulatory commissions.

To bring home what these overcharges mean dollarwise NRECA points out that an overcharge of one per cent on the base rate would amount to enough money to purchase 130,000 new automobiles each year, 1.8 million new air conditioners, 1.6 million new sewing machines, 2 million automatic washers, or 1.3 million refrigerators.

N.Y. Salutes Labor Department



ILGWU Pres. David Dubinsky listens intently to address being delivered by Labor Secretary W. Willard Wirtz of New York celebration marking 50th anniversary of the U.S. Department of Labor. Also shown are Lucy Monroe, noted singer, and Morris Iushewitz, secretary of the N.Y. City Central Labor Council. Similar observances have been held throughout the nation.

ILG Victory at Rhoda Lee

Intensive negotiations at the ILGWU General Office and a flying mission to Israel by the union's General Secretary-Treasurer have scored a victory in the nine-week-long walkout of the plants of the Rhoda Lee Blouse Co., it was announced last week. The settlement, reached April 23, was the signal for a return to work by close to 200 workers in

Elberton, Georgia, and more than 100 in plants in Mt. Carmel, Pa. and New York City.

The new three-year agreement for the Elberton workers features a total 18 percent wage boost with 4 percent effective at once, 3 percent more in September and an-

other 1 percent in May 1964. In addition to other improvements, the Elberton pact brings into the ILGWU the shipping employees at the Elberton plant.

The walkout was touched off at the Elberton plant on February

19 when bargaining for renewal of the agreement covering that shop broke down. Workers in the other two locations then walked out in sympathy. They have now gone back to work under terms similar to those of the regional association blouse agreements

effective in their areas.

Stulberg Returns

General Secretary-Treasurer Louis Stulberg returned from his week-long trip to Israel on April 21. During the previous week he had conferred with officers of Histadrut, the Israeli labor federation.

When it was established for them that Rhoda Lee was importing and selling in the

U.S. blouse made in Israel during the walkout, the Israeli labor officials immediately arranged to end the export of the blouse.

The large consumer appeal campaign by the ILGWU has been ended and, pending legal actions taken by each of the parties against the other, have been dropped. Elberton workers ratified the new pact on April 23.

Appellate Court Upholds ILG On Judy Bond Runaway Sums

Mrs. Roosevelt Fund Gets Gov't. Charter

President Kennedy has signed into law a bill granting a federal charter to the Eleanor Roosevelt Memorial Foundation and expressed his confidence that the American people will respond generously to appeals for support of the organization.

The foundation, under the terms of the charter, will work in the areas of Mrs. Roosevelt's principal interests: relief of the poor and underprivileged; promotion of public health; promotion of economic welfare; and furtherance of international good will.

\$25 Million Goal

An initial goal of \$25 million has been set for a one-time campaign to be completed by October 11, 1964, the 80th birthday anniversary of Mrs. Roosevelt, who died last year.

(At its meeting in March, the ILGWU General Executive Board directed that a call be issued to all ILGWU affiliates to collect the equivalent of one hour's pay from each member for this drive.)

Present at the ceremony were members of Mrs. Roosevelt's family and trustees of the foundation, including ILGWU Pres. David Dubinsky. The President remarked that Mrs. Roosevelt "would

be pleased to know that her friends and associates have chosen this way to continue her work, especially because it enables all citizens to take part in deeds rather than just words."

UN Ambassador Adlai Stevenson will serve as chairman of the foundation, Philip M. Klutznick will be national campaign chairman and Hyman H. Bookbinder, a former AFL-CIO legislative representative now on leave as special assistant to the Secretary of Commerce, will serve as foundation director.

Labor representatives on the board of trustees, besides Dubinsky, include AFL-CIO Pres. George Meany and federation Vice Presidents Walter P. Reuther and Joseph D. Keenan.

In a momentous court decision, runaway Judy Bond has incurred another staggering defeat in its efforts to nullify two awards of \$61,000 and \$22,464 to the union made against the firm by the blouse industry impartial chairman and still outstanding to the ILGWU.

On April 25, the Appellate Division of the New York Supreme Court unanimously

upheld a lower court ruling that a contract between the runaway blouse manufacturer and New York Blousemakers' Local 25 does not violate anti-trust laws or the Landrum Griffin Act. It was Judy Bond's contention that its agreement with the union breached these statutes, that the arbitrator's awards constituted financial penalties levied against the firm and therefore not enforceable by law.

The Appellate Division dismissed the firm's legal arguments and ruled that the arbitrator's awards were valid in providing for payments for contract violations.

The awards at issue and still not paid to the union are as follows:

—\$61,000 in damages, because the company, while under ILGWU contract, violated its obligation to make all of its work in unionized shops and channeled \$1,000 dozen blouses into non-union production. On this point, the Appellate Division noted that the arbitrator's award based on a dollar a dozen "did not appear unreasonable."

—\$22,464 to the industry's health and welfare fund for the amount it failed to pay for this non-union production.

Four Awards

Four awards were made against the firm on July 10, 1962 by George J. Minter, industry arbitrator, acting on charges filed by the ILGWU after the firm broke away from the employer's association in December 1961. Judy Bond then closed its New York operation just as negotiations were being completed by the union and the National Association of Blouse Manufacturers for renewal of the collective industry agreement. Subsequently, the blouse firm obtained a plant in Brewton, Alabama, and moved all of its production south.

To date, two of the arbitrator's awards have been complied with. Last December the union received a check from the firm covering the award of \$25,381 for underpayments and overtime sums stemming

from Judy Bond's failure to abide by contract terms calling for a 35-hour-work for shipping clerks, who had worked 48 hours instead.

Also, the union was successful in obtaining court implementation of the award directing the firm to make its fourth quarter 1961 records available to the ILGWU.

Handling the union's case before the New York Court and the impartial chairman is the law firm of Lieberman, Katz and Aronson.

NH UGW Role

Last year, the Executive Council of the AFL-CIO, using the labor movement's internal dispute machinery for the first time, unanimously branded the agreement between the United Garment Workers and Judy Bond as strikebreaking, found that this pact, which also gives the struck firm use of a phony union label, has wage and welfare terms far inferior to those that are standard in ILGWU contracts.

The AFL-CIO told the ILGWU to disregard the UGW pact and an ILGWU organizing drive is under way at the firm's plant in Brewton, Alabama.

Eleanor Roosevelt Memorial



President Kennedy hands one of pens used in signing charter launching memorial foundation for "perpetuating the ideals" of the late Eleanor Roosevelt to her son, Franklin D. Roosevelt Jr., Assistant Secretary of Commerce. Witnessing ceremony held April 23 at the White House are, from left, ILGWU Pres. David Dubinsky, N.Y. Congressman Emanuel Celler, Philip Klutznick, national campaign chairman, Anna Rosenberg, foundation member, Boss Myerson, TV personality, and UAW's Walter Reuther. Foundation is starting \$25,000,000 fund raising drive.

May Day Message By Meany Avows Liberty's Primacy

"The first requisite of labor's progress is labor's liberty," AFL-CIO Pres. George Meany said in a message to workers abroad who annually celebrate their "labor day" on the first of May.

Drawing a contrast between workers behind the Iron Curtain and the free workers of the West, Meany pointed out that in the Communist satellites "shabbiness and despair give testimony to Communist's failure."

"I do not claim that there are no shortcomings in free societies, including that of the United States," the federation president said the world's workers, "But in these free societies, through free and independent trade unions, workers can pursue the constant quest for a better life unhampered by rigid ideological concepts, unfettered by the tyranny of an all powerful ruler."

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DAVID DUBINSKY, President
LOUIS STULBERG, Gen'l Sec'y-Treas.
LEON STEIN, Editor
MEYER MILLER, Mng. Editor

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ILGWU FUND HIKES WEEKLY SEVERANCE, LUMP SUMS FOR LONGTIME JOBLESS

Fifty ILGWU and management representatives, who on April 17 attended the third annual meeting in New York of the Board of Trustees of the ILGWU Supplementary Unemployment-Severance Benefit Fund, heard a report that the fund, at the end of 1962, had a reserve of \$15,656,944 in spite of an increase of 65 percent in the number of approved

applications for its benefits. Major improvements in benefits were enacted by the board, which consists of ILGWU officers and employer representatives from all areas and markets in the U.S.

The success of the fund—resting on employer contributions equivalent to 1/2 of 1 percent of payroll—was indicated by the fact that since its inception in late 1960, the fund has paid out a total of \$4,147,638 in benefits as of the end of 1962. Until now, it has softened the blow of joblessness for 15,782 workers in 745 shops that went out of business.

Adapt Improvements

During 1962, the fund paid out a total of \$2,681,030. Approximately \$1,076,000 was in lump-sum payments to workers at the time they became jobless because their firms went out of business; \$1,606,000 was for weekly supplementary unemployment benefits.

The Board of Trustees also enacted significant improvements in both the weekly benefit and the lump-sum benefit. These affect workers who are entitled to more than 26 weeks of the supplementary unemployment benefit under the rules of the fund. Details of these improvements were completed and announced by Pres. David Dubinsky on April 23.

(See editorial on back page.)

In announcing the changes that were adopted, Louis Rolnick, administrator of the fund and head of the ILGWU Welfare and Health Benefits Department explained that workers entitled under rules of the fund to receive more than 26 weeks of supplementary weekly unemployment benefits would get a larger weekly payment after the 26th week if still unemployed. A second lump-sum severance benefit is to be paid to such a worker if he or she is still unemployed a year after losing the job because of a firm going out of business.

Kind of Benefits

The rules of the fund provide two kinds of benefits for eligible workers who lose their jobs because of their employers going out of business:

1. **Lump-sum:** As soon as a worker becomes jobless for the above reason he is entitled to receive the lump-sum benefit. The amount of that lump-sum depends on the worker's average weekly wage and the number of consecutive years he worked for the company, and is 25 percent of his total possible benefit for the year at the time he becomes jobless.

The amount of this benefit ranges from \$12.50 for one who has worked only half a year and for under \$55 a week to \$400 for one who has worked for the firm one year or more at a weekly wage of \$95 or more.

The improvement just passed gives a worker who was originally entitled to receive 26 weekly benefits a second lump-sum payment equal in amount to the first if he is still jobless one year later. (Example: If such a worker had been employed by the particular firm for 14 years at a weekly wage averaging \$75 to \$84.99 he or she would have received a lump-sum benefit of \$290 when firm becoming

jobless. Now, if that worker is still jobless one year later, he is to get a second benefit of \$280.)

2. **Supplementary weekly benefit:** When a worker loses her job because her employer goes out of business, if she meets the rules of the fund she is entitled to receive weekly supplementary unemployment benefits in addition to the lump-sum. The amount of this weekly benefit also depends on the worker's weekly wage.

The amount of this weekly supplementary benefit ranges from \$12.50 for those with average earnings under \$55 a week to \$25 a week for those with average earnings of \$95 or more a week. Three weeks of such benefit is paid for every year of continuous employment with the departing firm.

The improvement just passed provides that a worker entitled under the rules of the fund to receive more than 26 of the weekly benefits is to receive a bigger weekly amount after the 26th week. It is to be raised 54 percent. (Example: If the weekly benefit during the first 26 weeks was \$20 it is to be raised to \$30 after the 26th week.)

Both improvements—in the lump-sum and in the weekly payment—are only for those who at the time of losing the job were entitled to more than 26 weeks of supplementary benefit under the fund rules.

Further Study

The Board of Trustees authorized study of the feasibility of making the 50 percent increase in the weekly benefit after 26 weeks effective also for those who don't meet the 26-week requirement. At present a worker must have been employed at least 9 years by the departing firm to meet this condition. He does not meet it if he worked less than 9 years for this last firm. The board is studying for its next meeting the possibility of extending the increased benefit after 26 weeks to this category of worker provided all other terms of eligibility are also met.

The resolution passed by the board in enacting these improvements declared that the action was being taken because: "the distress of unemployment grows more burdensome to an employee the longer he is unemployed." Those continuously unemployed

are generally eligible for only 26 weeks of unemployment insurance in New York State and after that period the state benefit payments end. The change thus meets a meritorious humanitarian need.

The all-day meeting of the Board of Trustees was chaired by ILGWU Pres. Dubinsky as chairman of the board. Participating were also I. A. Agre and Joseph L. Dubow, secretary and vice chairman respectively and representing the employers, ILGWU General Secretary-Treasurer Louis Stulberg, board treasurer, was absent on an ILGWU mission overseas.

The full board holding its third meeting is a management labor body of 50. On its executive, in addition to the four top officers, are also (for employers) Joseph L. Rubin, Harold Korzenik, Irvin H. Weiss; (for employees) ILGWU Vice Presidents Charles S. Zimmerman, Henoeh Mendelaund and Morris Bialia. Reports were also made by the board counsel, Max Zimny, and William Schulman of Wolf and Schulman, accountants. The fund is employer contributed as provided by union contracts.

Administrator Rolnick also announced that approximately 412,000 members of the ILGWU are now eligible to receive benefits of the fund, which is the only national garment industry welfare-benefit fund.

Sam Janis New Director Of Ohio-Kentucky Region

Sam Janis, assistant general manager of the Eastern Region and an ILGWU veteran of 25 years' service, has been named by Pres. David Dubinsky as director of the Ohio-Kentucky Region, succeeding late Vice Pres. Nicholas Kirtzman.

Following the appointment, Pres. Dubinsky introduced the new director to the regional staff and membership at a meeting in Cleveland headquarters on April 24.

Janis, who is 52, in 1939 became assistant general manager of the Eastern Region, which encompasses some 39,000 members in 850 shops covering the tri-state area of New Jersey, Connecticut and New York (excluding New York City), a post he held until his present appointment.

Born in Paterson, New Jersey, Janis joined the ILGWU staff in 1939, starting as a business agent and organizer in Elizabeth, New

Jersey. From 1941 through 1951, he served in similar capacities in various parts of Connecticut.

In 1952, he became manager of Eastern Region locals in Connecticut. During his tenure there, Janis was a major factor in getting the state's fire safety laws passed during Abraham Ribicoff's term as governor.

A vice president of the Connecticut State Labor Council and president of its Civil Rights Committee, Janis also served on Governor Ribicoff's Labor-Management Conference and the Bridgeport Public School Committee. In addition, he was very active in fund raising drives on behalf of various worthwhile charities and took an active role in community affairs.

In accepting his new appointment, Janis said:

"I realize I am following a great trade unionist and above all a great human being in the person of Vice Pres. Nicholas Kirtzman. I hope I can fill his shoes and continue his work to revitalize the Cleveland area market, using some of the experience I have gleaned from the vast New York City garment industry."

He has been reading in Englewood, New Jersey with his wife, Lilian, and three children. He will shortly relocate his family and move to Cleveland.

Severance Fund Meet



At severance benefit fund meeting, ILGWU Pres. David Dubinsky, flanked from left by William Schulman, accountant, Joseph L. Dubow, employers' representative, Louis Rolnick, fund administrator for union, Max Zimny, assistant general counsel, and First Vice Pres. Luigi Antonini, also on Board of Trustees.

M'West Bares Ruse In Moordale Runout

A dispute between the union and a runaway firm in the windy city of Chicago is reaching gale force and may eventually require settlement by court action, reports Vice Pres. Morris Bialia, director of the Midwest Region.

The controversy now entering its critical stage concerns the Moordale Corp., cloak manufacturer for 20 years, and a member

of the Chicago Cloak and Suit Manufacturers Association.

Toward the end of last December, the firm notified the union that it had decided to discontinue manufacturing operations as of December 27, 1962, and immediately ceased operations on that date, leaving some 75 workers without employment.

However, the union learned recently that the firm did not really discontinue manufacturing operations but had merely ceased producing its garments in Chicago and had made arrangements to manufacture them at Brand and Puritz Co. in Kansas City, Mo.

When these facts were brought to light and verified, the Chicago Joint Board charged Moordale with violating its union contract and placed the firm in the category of a runaway shop.

Urkov Pact Terms

Wage boosts, higher minimums and paid vacations highlight terms of a new three-year agreement recently reached with the Urkov Manufacturing Co. of Chicago, drapery producer, covering some 40 workers.

The new contract calls for a general 10-cent hourly pay increase now and another 5-cent hourly wage based on November 1, 1964. It also provides for higher minimums, 6 paid holidays, medical coverage, and vacation pay based on the following employment service: 1 week after 1 year, 2 weeks after 2 years, and 3 weeks after 10 years.

Heading the contract talks for the union were Jack Rubin, manager of Local 76 and organizer Mordecai Weiner, both of whom directed the organizing campaign at the Urkov plant. They were assisted by a workers' committee consisting of shop chairlady Kathleen O'Sullivan, Helen Farrell, Martin Buck, Jeanette Collins, Agnes Lawrence, and Robert Stunne.



ILGWU Pres. David Dubinsky and Sam Janis, newly appointed Ohio-Kentucky Region director (second from right), shown after conferring with staffers and members at special gathering in Cleveland, flanked by Ed Milano, assistant regional director, and Bernardine Gardiner, Cleveland Knitgoods Council manager.

Cloak Group Picks Unit For Research 1st Step In Industry's Promotion

Implementing a decision made by its 26th annual convention in Miami several weeks ago, the National Coat and Suit Industry Board has announced it has retained an independent marketing research firm, Audita & Surveys Co., to investigate consumer purchasing habits as part of the board's extensive research-marketing program aimed at increasing substantially consumption of women's coats and suits.

The NCSIB, formerly known as the Recovery Board, is a unique labor-management organization whose origin dates back to NRA days.

While full details of the program will be announced in the near future, Joseph L. Dubow, chairman of the National Board's public relations committee, said "a grass roots investigation of the factors that stimulate consumer buying of coats and suits, and equally important, the factors that retard such purchasing, is the initial step in our program to instill greater vigor into the marketing and merchandising of our product."

Shareholder Sales

He asserted that "we feel when

we discover the answer to these questions our efforts to stimulate coat and suit sales at the wholesale and retail levels will be more productive."

The 20-year-old research firm is considered the second largest organization of its kind in the country. It has conducted some surveys for the government, including one on fibers. It also conducted surveys on in-store promotions for other clients.

The National Board stated that as a result of some of the findings of the national survey it may be possible to "launch our full-scale program within a comparatively short time."

The survey will take the form of face-to-face interviews with both consumers and retailers in various sections of the country.

Cloak union spokesmen long have underscored the need for an active industry promotion program.

NLRB Upholds ILG Actions On 'Union-in-Union' Figures

The National Labor Relations Board on April 22 upheld the intermediate finding of its examiner last August that the ILGWU had not fired Constantine Sedares, a leading organizer of the "union within the union," for his activity on behalf of that group nor that it had discharged or transferred Isidore Bloom, another leader of that group, for the same reason.

The trial examiner in August called the issue of the discharge of these two "the hardest fought

and most important issue in this case."

The basic issue of a "union within a union"—whether a faction of business agents and organizers in the ILGWU constitutes a valid unit for collective bargaining with the ILGWU—is the subject of another case still pending before the NLRB.

In its decision last month the board directed that the ILGWU make good the losses suffered by those involved because the granting of an increase in pay was delayed from January to July. The union holds that when made effective in July, the increases were calculated higher in order to cover the delay as that no increases were authorized. It will, therefore, appeal for reconsideration of this ruling.

ILG Statement

Upon receipt of the board's new ruling, ILGWU Assistant Pres. Oda Tyler issued the following statement:

"We are gratified with the decision of the board that Constantine Sedares, president of the Federation of Union Representatives, was not discharged for union activity but for proper and legitimate reasons.

"We are likewise gratified with the board decision that ILGWU action in regard to Isidore Bloom, one of the prime movers of FOUR, was not an unfair labor practice.

"The ILGWU will be asking for reconsideration in the matter of retroactive pay for some staff members since the pay increases subsequently granted to staff was of such a character as, in effect, to cover the period from January 1st.

"The ILGWU continues to maintain, as a matter of major principle, that union officers — as distinguished from union employees — are not properly a unit for collective bargaining purposes.

"While union employees are entitled to union contracts and have been covered by such contracts for decades, the union officer who represents the will of the membership and is in a key policy making post, is not appropriately a subject of collective bargaining. This primary matter is still before the board in another proceeding and has not yet been finally decided."

Allentown Strike Win



Some of the workers who took part in picketing activities during 2-week strike at L and S Manufacturing Co. in Allentown, Pa. Strike was called when firm unfairly discharged one of its workers. Protest action resulted in employees reinstatement.

Northeast Scores Advances In Allentown Organizing Push

The union's intensive organizing drive now being waged in the Allentown, Pennsylvania area is scoring on many fronts and has already produced a series of significant victories, reports Vice Pres. David Gingold, director of the Northeast Department.

Recent organizing triumphs were highlighted by the signing of two first-time contracts and successful actions, including a two-week strike and the upholding of the union's charges of unfair labor practices filed against two employers, which resulted in the reinstatement with back pay of three unjustly discharged workers, according to Northeast Field Supervisor Jack Halpern and Sol Hoffmann, Pennsylvania organizing director.

Cover 75

The newly-won agreements were reached with Colony Fashions and Stewart Mills, area sportswear firms, and cover some 15 workers. Contract parleys were

spearheaded by Ike Gordon, manager of Allentown Local 111, who was assisted by Business Agents Dominick Costantino and Al Huber, with Charles Lang sparking organizing efforts.

2-Week Strike

The two-week strike took place at the L and S Mfg. Co. in Allentown, early last month when the firm without proper cause fired one of its workers, Ginger Smith. The workers immediately set up a picket line and the union had no time in filing an unfair labor practice charge against the firm.

The strike ended when the employer, faced with the double-barrel determination, rehired Ginger and paid her

back wages.

Picketing activities at the plant were directed by staffers Ed Belasco and Mickey Roth.

Workers Discharged

At Barnell Manufacturing Co. in Allentown, the firm discharged two workers, Irene Gerab and Helen Tiederman, for pro-union activities after a majority of its workers, through the efforts of organizer Lang, signed authorization cards favoring the ILGWU as their bargaining agent.

Unfair labor practice charges were lodged against the firm and on April 16 the Philadelphia Bureau of the NLRB upheld the union and issued a complaint against the firm ordering that the two workers be reinstated with back pay. The back pay sum is over \$1,500.

In a related development, a sustained organizing push at the Paris Neckwear Co., in Walnut Port, has been in progress for the past two months. Organizers Lang and Joe Ferguson are making steady advances in signing up more and more of the firm's 400 workers and the prospect of bringing these workers into the ranks of the ILGWU appears to be very encouraging.

Organizing efforts at this large manufacturer of women's neckwear and handkerchiefs are being stepped up with continuing leaflet distribution, followed up with visits to workers' homes in the evening, detailing the many benefits of joining the ILGWU.

Illinois House Passes Bill On Equal Pay for Women

The Illinois House, by a vote of 130 to 19, has passed a bill authorizing equal pay for women. The measure now goes to the State Senate for further action. A state law already on the books applies only to manufacturers employing 8 or more persons.

NEW YORK LOCAL 99 BEGINS NEGOTIATIONS ON COAT, SUIT TERMS

New York Office and Distribution Employees Local 99 has begun negotiations for a new collective agreement covering approximately 700 members in the coat and suit industry. The present agreement expires on May 31. Manager Douglas Levin said that the local is asking for a wage increase, higher minimums, establishment of a severance pay fund, improved vacation, holiday and sick leave clauses.

Levin presented the union's demands at a conference with coat and suit associations on April 22. With him at the conference were attorney Abraham Schlesinger, staff members Nick Muller and Greg Vargas and James Belley, Moe Eisenberg, Oia Mae Scrivens and Seymour Zucker, all members of the negotiating committee.



Don't just sit there and day-dream! Vacations are coming up and the time to do something about it is NOW. The

place to go—UNITY HOUSE

is the perfect vacation for every purse and purpose. The ILGWU's summer resort in the beautiful, cool Poconos of Pennsylvania has the tops in accommodations, food, recreation, sports, swimming, entertainment—in short, everything that's needed for that wonderful vacation.

P.S. If you make reservations now you may still be able to get accommodations to the GALA 4-DAY DECORATION DAY HOLIDAY WEEKEND at UNITY HOUSE . . . tempting cuisine . . . star-studded entertainment . . . Register now at Unity House office, 276 Seventh Ave., 10th floor, from 9 A.M. to 6 P.M.

What's in a Dress?



Northeast Department staffers from the Allentown, Easton, Reading and Harrisburg districts are briefed on the procedures of dress piece rates in conjunction with the Dress Joint Council's current price settlement enforcement drive. At this meeting, one of many taking place in Pennsylvania and Upstate New York, a dress has been taken apart and the separate operations are being performed on a sewing machine to illustrate proper methods for pricing items with price settlement sheets.

'66' at Fifty

FIFTY YEARS OF STRUGGLE AND ACHIEVEMENT were marked by thousands of members of New York Local 66—bonnaz, embroideries, tuckers, pleaters, stitchers—who gathered in Manhattan Center on April 28 to celebrate the golden anniversary of their organization.

After brief remarks by Local 66 Manager Murray Gross and ILGWU Pres. David Dubinsky, the celebrants enjoyed an evening of entertainment and dancing.

In connection with the anniversary observance, the local published a special souvenir booklet, entitled "We Have Just Begun to Fight," detailing the local's history and attainments through the half-century.

In his greetings written for the publication, Pres. Dubinsky recalled that "... in the early days, it was often argued that 'professional pride' among the bonnaz embroidery workers, considered an 'elite' element in the needle trades, would be an insuperable barrier to unionization. . . . Fortunately, the determined pioneer spirit of unionism among the embroidery workers, such as Nathan Riesel, Ossip Wallinsky, Zachary L. Freedman and others did not share this pessimistic outlook. If one attempt did not take hold they tried again—and again—until the present local gained a permanent foothold in 1913."

FROM ITS HUMBLE BEGINNINGS IN AN UNFAVORABLE environment, Local 66 has successfully hurdled innumerable obstacles to amass an array of impressive victories throughout its half-century of existence, bringing to its members throughout this period higher wages, better working conditions and numerous "fringe" benefits.

Economic conditions during the early years of the century were harsh and grim. Subjected to ugly and inhuman exploitation by unprincipled employers, bonnaz operators, along with other garment workers, began to talk "union" as the only effective means of abolishing the "savagery of sweatshops" with its degrading working conditions. But, faced with chaotic and insecure economic conditions, efforts to organize the bonnaz workers at first were unsuccessful.

Then, through the persistent endeavors of pioneer ILGWUers who received their "battle" training in the great waistmakers' and cloakmakers' strikes, these workers were finally organized and on April 30, 1913 Local 66 was chartered by the ILGWU as the Bonnaz, Singer, Hand Embroiders' and Scallopers' Union.

HOWEVER, THE NEWLY-FOUNDED LOCAL rested on a fragile and precarious foundation. Hobbled by the general economic depression of the time, it tottered along on the verge of dissolution for several years. During this formative period, meetings were often held by candlelight because funds were lacking to meet electric bills. But despite numerous hardships and handicaps, the local did survive and in 1915, when economic conditions improved, it met the true test of any labor group's strength—on the picket line—winning its first successful strike.

Under the leadership of its first manager, Ossip Wallinsky, members won a reduction of the work week, obtained weekly minimums for crafts, received paid holidays and were assured equal distribution of work.

DURING THE SO-CALLED "GOLDEN TWENTIES," bonnaz workers suffered many lean years as a result of an economic downturn in the industry. This

On the current "66" scene: (Top) Braving cutting wind and rain, workers take up posts in recent organizing drive at 8 & W Lingerie. (Center) ILGWU Pres. David Dubinsky and Manager Murray Gross at gala affair marking local's 50th anniversary. (Bottom) Local's baseball team and cheerleaders at opening day game of Metropolitan League held on April 21 in Crotona Park, Bronx.

hardship was coupled with a relentless effort by a number of large employers to return working conditions to their grim pre-war standards. Mounting all its forces, the local successfully weathered these threats and succeeded in holding its own.

In addition, the mid-20's were years of crises for Local 66 threatening its very existence as a responsible and effective labor organization. In conjunction with its attempts to dominate the ILGWU, a Communist faction within the local sought to control its affairs by waging a deceitful campaign of untruths aimed at winning membership support. But the members of Local 66 were not fooled by these tactics and the Communist threat was bootled back. Local 66 came through these turbulent years without a break in its ranks and emerged on a stronger footing.

Also, during the 1920's and 1930's the industry underwent a drastic change. Many embroidery firms began to do pleating and stitching. As a result there was a growth in the number of mixed shops with tuckers, stitchers, pleaters and embroiderers working side by side belonging, however, to different locals of the ILGWU. All these other locals were subsequently merged into Local 66, resulting in greater efficiency and widening its bargaining powers in contract negotiation.

IN THE YEARS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING World War II, Local 66 continued to rack up steady gains for its members. In 1937, it obtained a sizable wage boost without a strike, widened the union's right to examine employers' books and won a trail-blazing agreement with employer groups to set up a revolving fund to guarantee wages in cases of default by individual member firms.

Continuing to garner even greater benefits for its members in the ensuing years, other mergers and vigorous organizing drives during the 1940's and 1950's brought covered button workers and numerous allied crafts within the jurisdiction of Local 66.

These notable achievements were sparked by the leadership of Zachary L. Freedman, who headed the local on a full-time basis from 1937 until his death in August 1955.

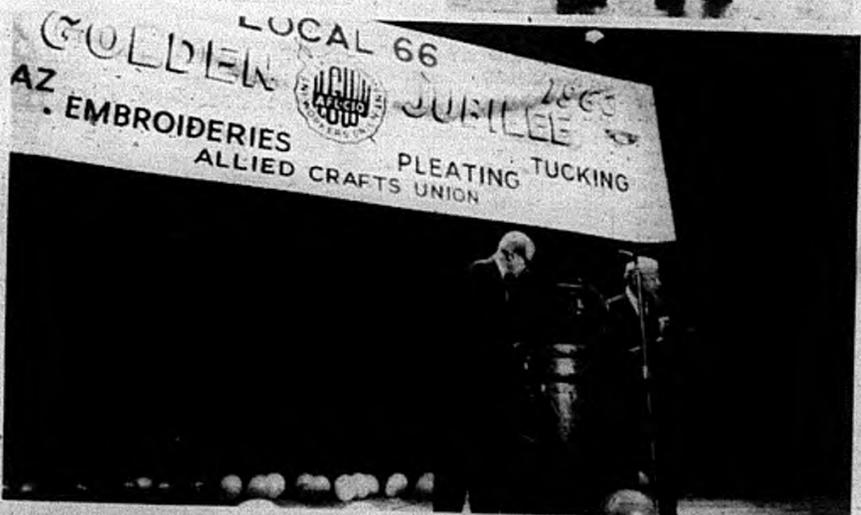
IN OCTOBER 1955, THE LOCAL'S EXECUTIVE board named Murray Gross who had been assistant general manager of the New York Dress Joint Board, as the new manager. In addition to his union activities

Gross has been active in many liberal and community causes. He was re-elected for a second term as national chairman of the American Veterans Committee in June 1962 and was appointed by Mayor Robert F. Wagner that month as a Commissioner of Human Rights for the City of New York.

Under Gross' leadership, Local 66 has continued to add to its record of outstanding achievements. In 1958, a severance pay fund was established, the latest in a long line of postwar benefits that include a health and welfare fund, pension rights and vacation benefits as well as a steady rise in wages.

Today, Local 66 has agreements with employer associations and individual employers covering some 8,260 members working in about 750 shops located in the Bronx, Brooklyn and Manhattan.

Over the past 50 years, Local 66 has grown from a small local of solely bonnaz embroidery workers and some auxiliary semi-skilled workers to a local embracing the entire broad spectrum of crafts within the trimmings and decorative trades. It has eliminated sweatshop slavery, the drudgery of homework and starvation wages by guaranteeing to every member the true criterion of man—dignity.



Pay Hikes Top Undie Demands for 16,000

Across-the-board wage increases, additional paid holidays, two weeks' vacation and higher minimums for all crafts highlight union demands in contract renewal talks now in progress affecting some 16,000 workers in the undergarment and negligee industry.

Contract parties began on April 20, reports Matthew Schoenwald, manager of New York Undergarment Workers' Local 62.

Also under discussion with representatives of the employers' group is the merging of Local 62's retirement funds, in anticipation of the time when all such monies will be grouped into one national retirement fund, such as now exists for severance funds.

Okay Demands

At an overflow membership meeting held on April 24 at Roosevelt Auditorium in Manhattan, Manager Schoenwald outlined the demands recommended by the local's executive board to

be advanced in pact renewal talks.

The suggested proposals were unanimously approved by the membership and a union negotiating committee, headed by Manager Schoenwald, was subsequently formed.

Min Matheson, director of the Union Label Department, addressed the gathering—her first meeting with any New York local since assuming her new duties. Her message was of the vital importance of the ILOWU label to every worker in the garment industry.

"First, sew the label in; second, insist on it when you buy women's garments; third, tell your friends to look for the union label", she stressed.

Their Stamp of Approval



Members of New York Undergarment Workers' Local 62 express approval of demands to be sought in industry-wide pact renewal talks, now in progress, which affect some 16,000 workers.

NLRB Orders Vote At Chippewa in Wis.

Workers at a Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin plant who had been represented by the ILGWU until a new owner bought the plant and refused to recognize the union, will be given the opportunity to decide for themselves through an NLRB election who will represent them, reports Vice Pres. Morris Biala, Midwest Region director.

The firm, the Chippewa Falls Wooten Mills, had been placed in receivership in early 1962 and went out of business. Its plant was purchased by the Excel Garment Manufacturing Co. and operation was begun again in November 1962. The Excel firm, which manufactures jackets, has a plant in Minneapolis under contract to another union.

Since the former ILOWU members in Chippewa Falls wanted to continue to be represented by the ILGWU, the Midwest Region requested the employer to recognize it as the sole collective bargaining agent at the Chippewa Falls plant.

Excel, however, refused to do so, whereupon the ILOWU filed a petition for a representation election with the NLRB. At the labor board hearing that followed Assistant Director Harold Schwartz presented the union's case. The company contended that

its Minneapolis contract with the other union was a bar to an election in Chippewa Falls and that the Minneapolis and Chippewa Falls plants should be treated as one bargaining unit.

The NLRB regional director refused the company pleas in his decision. He held that the Minneapolis contract is not a bar to ILGWU recognition at the Chippewa Falls plant, which should be considered a separate bargaining unit. He directed that the workers be given free choice to choose their bargaining agent through a representation election.

This news has been enthusiastically received by the Chippewa Falls workers. The election is expected to be held within a month.

About one-fifth of all employed workers in 1962 worked 48 or more hours, while another fifth—voluntary and involuntary part-timers—worked less than 35 hours.

FASHION-IN-'63 FILM TAPS CANADA MODES, PROMOTES ILG LABEL

"Fashion in '63" is the title of a new 15-minute film previewing Canadian spring and summer styles just released across Canada by the ILOWU. The film features a wide variety of fashions produced by union label houses in Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver. English narration is by the noted Canadian fashion authority, Doreen Day, and French commentary by TV personality Micheline Theroz.

The black-and-white film is being made available as a consumer service to television stations and women's groups across the country free of charge.

Vice Pres. Bernard Shane said "Fashion in '63" is designed to assist Canadian women in spotting spring and summer trends as reflected in styles produced by some 300 Canadian manufacturers who sew in the union label.

The white-and-blue label, attached to most ready-to-wear fashion produced in Canada, "has been a key factor in stimulating interest in clothes designed and manufactured in Canada by the ILOWU's 20,000 members.

HOW TO BUY

by SIDNEY MARGOLIUS

'Quality Stabilization' Bill Is Just Price-Fixing Again

A new price-maintenance law is slipping through Congress unnoticed and unprotected by the public which would have to pay higher prices as the result. This was the frank warning sounded at the annual conference of the Council on Consumer Information in Washington recently by a group of consumer-minded congressmen.



talow to sell their brand-name products if the retailer cut the prices.

"Quality stabilization" sounds like something desirable. But like the "right-to-work" name on anti-union legislation, it is an attempt to fool the public as to its real intent. In this case, the real intent is to limit competition among retailers and require all retailers to sell a manufacturer's brand at the same price if the manufacturer so desires.

The reason some manufacturers and retailers, especially in the drug industry, are pushing to get this new law is that fair trade laws have been declared unconstitutional in about half the states. In the other states, fair trade either was never enacted or is being ignored to a large extent by price-cutting retailers and manufacturers.

But "quality stabilization" could damage your pocketbook more than the fair trade laws ever did because it would make it even easier for manufacturers to fix prices. The manufacturer would not even have to seek price agreements with retailers state by state. His fixed price would apply in all states, including those that previously never had a "fair trade" law.

The effect on prices you pay would be drastic. Rep. John Dingell (Dem-Mich.) warned the consumer conference that a shopping survey by the U.S. Justice Department indicated that prices of such goods as household equipment could be raised as much as 27.5 percent. Another serious effect would be to freeze prices of medicines at present high levels.

Public Unaware

The alarming fact is the speed at which the bill is moving through the U.S. House of Representatives with no protest from the public. The public itself has no warning and does not realize the danger. Dingell reported that he has had heavy mail from his own district in favor of the bill, but not a single letter in opposition.

Senators Estes Kefauver (Dem-Tenn.) and Lee Metcalf (Dem-Mont.) also warned that the new price-fixing bill could be enacted before the public knew what had hit it, and that they too got heavy mail from businessmen against consumer legislation but little from consumers supporting their own interests. Metcalf reported that the "California Retail Druggist" published a "modest" letter in favor of price-fixing laws that druggists could adapt to send to local newspapers.

Government agencies which have the responsibility for fighting price-fixing are strictly against such laws. The Federal Trade Commission, Justice Department and Commerce Department all have attacked the "quality stabilization" bill as a price-boosting measure.

Lee Loevinger, assistant attorney general in charge of the Anti-Trust Division, last year told a Senate Commerce subcommittee that "quality stabilization" would let manufacturers fix prices at high, non-competitive levels "calculated to yield what the traffic could bear." Moreover, under the proposed measure, price-fixing could be extended to fresh produce, canned goods, clothing, gasoline, building materials, even meat and potatoes, Loevinger warned.



General Secretary-Treasurer Louis Stulberg expresses heartfelt appreciation to fellow union officers for tendering dinner and presenting portrait in celebration of his birthday. Affair was held on April 25 at the Hotel Astor in New York. Seated at head table are Pres. Dubinsky, Vice Pres. Harry Greenberg, chairman of the event, Mrs. Stulberg and Albert Murray, artist.

Protesting Discrimination



Hundreds of ILGWU members from New York City locals marched on picket lines April 20 to protest segregation at stores in Southern cities, particularly Birmingham, Alabama.

1,000 Catch N'East Raises At Suffolk, Malden Spinning

More than 1,000 workers employed in the spinning and dyeing divisions of Suffolk Knit and Malden Knit concerns in Massachusetts have won sizable retroactive wage boosts and other significant improvement in working conditions as the result of three-year renewals negotiated last month, reports Vice Pres. David Gingold, director of the Northeast Department.

These firms conduct integrated operations, from processing of yarn and knitting of the cloth to production of the knitted garment. Parleys are continuing on terms covering close to another thousand in the companies' sewing plants, according to Northern New England District Manager Mary Levin.

At Malden's spinning and dyeing branch, located in Lawrence, the new three-year compact brings some 800 workers raises totaling 15 cents an hour, in three steps: 5 cents retroactive to Decem-

ber 1962, another 5 cents in December 1963 and the final 5 cents in December 1964.

Other gains won at Malden include higher employer contribution to the health and welfare fund, establishment of severance benefit coverage, an extra paid holiday for a total of 8, and a second week's paid vacation for eligible employees.

Contract parleys were brought to completion in Boston, with Gingold and Assistant Director Sol C. Chaikin joining local ILGWUers including Manager Levin and Business Agent Sid Bronstein in reaching the settlement.

At Suffolk's branch in Middlesex, more than 200 workers also won wage increases total-

ing 15 cents in three steps higher shop minimums; a rise of 1/2 percent in employer's contribution to health and welfare, and 1/2 percent for severance pay benefit; 7 guaranteed paid holiday and provision of a second week's vacation pay for eligible workers.

Taking part in the talks at this plant, in addition to top Northeast leaders, were Lowell Manager Tom Ahearn and local committee.

Almost 23 million girls and women were enrolled in schools and colleges in 1961. Over half the female population 5-34 years of age was in school. The 1.4 million college women were one-third of all college students.



Making It Official



Shaking hands on settlement at spinning and dyeing shop of Malden Knit Co. in Lawrence, Massachusetts are owner Aaron Feuerstein and Bill Angelone, president of Northeast Department Local 311. Looking on are Joseph Goodwill, the firm's personnel director, and Business Agent Sidney Bronstein (right).

WARSAW GHETTO REVOLT:

Chapter in Annals of Human Heroism

"... A chapter in the annals of human heroism, an inspiration to the peace-loving people of the world and a warning to would-be oppressors which will long be remembered."

With these words, President Kennedy last month described the Warsaw Ghetto uprising against the Nazis, and called on the people of the United States to commemorate its 20th anniversary.

"Of the more than 400,000 Jews whom the Nazis had previously walled into the Warsaw Ghetto," the President recalled in his proclamation, "only about 40,000 remained in April of 1943. With deadly efficiency, most of the other inhabitants had been transported by the Nazis to concentration camps and had there been exterminated. The surviving Jews, suffering from malnutrition and disease, with pitifully few weapons and virtually no hope of assistance from any source, determined to sell their lives as dearly as possible. They engaged the Nazis in battle.

"The result was known by the Jews to be foredoomed. Yet, though they lacked both military resources and a military tradition, they were able to conduct their struggle against the overwhelming forces of the Nazi occupiers for more than three weeks..."

Memorial gatherings were held by various organizations last month. One of these was the assemblage attended by several thousand persons who overflowed the Statler Hilton ballroom in New York City on April 18, at a meeting sponsored by the Jewish Labor Committee, of which Adolph Held is



chairman and ILGWU Pres. David Dubinsky is treasurer.

In a message to the gathering, Pres. Dubinsky declared the sad anniversary also pointed up the fact that it memorialized the 6 million Jewish men, women and children exterminated throughout Europe by the Nazi murderers during their bloody rule.

He recalled that 20 years ago, in the name of the U.S. labor movement, he had broadcast an appeal to the German workers, through the facilities of the U.S. underground radio, to overthrow the murdering Nazi gang that ruled in the name of the German people. But, he said, the appeal was a lone voice in the desolation created by the Nazi hordes in what had been the highly developed European civilization.

"Together with you, I bow my head. In sorrow and pain in memory of those who fell as heroes and martyrs in the Warsaw Ghetto, as well as in those in

other cities of Poland," Dubinsky declared.

A major speaker at the JLC rally was James Farmer, national chairman of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). Asserting that "the worst evil of our civilization is racial and religious hatred," the noted civil rights leader paid a moving tribute to the martyrs of the Warsaw Ghetto. He added that "while I do not equalize the horror of Hitler's genocidal acts with our situation here, both flow from the same immoral anti-human source, race hatred. Because the American Negro knows racial discrimination, we have a special feeling about the people who perished in the Warsaw Ghetto. They were, in the deepest sense, our brothers."

Others who addressed the memorial included Mrs. Raisie Meed, a heroine of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, who was known by her underground name of "Wladka"; Max Brauer, a Social Democratic deputy of the West German Bundestag and former mayor of Hamburg, who was sent from Germany by his party expressly to speak at the gathering; U.S. Senator Jacob Javits; New York City Council Pres. Paul R. Srebnik, representing Mayor Wagner; Benjamin Tabachinsky, national executive director of the JLC; and Jacob T. Zukerman, president of the Workmen's Circle, who was chairman.

Among the messages to the rally were those from Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson, Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, Senators Hubert Humphrey and Paul Douglas, British Labor Party and Socialist International.

In a special statement for the JLC rally, the AFL-CIO Executive Council declared:

"Twenty years ago, the world witnessed what was at once an heroic struggle and an act of unspeakable inhumanity—the battle of the Warsaw Ghetto.

"Forty thousand Jews, all that remained alive from the half million men, women and children herded into that ghetto by Hitler, revolted against this totalitarian monster. With makeshift weapons and incomparable courage, they held out against the might of the Nazi army for six incredible weeks.

"They died finally—bravely and without compromising their honor—when the Nazis raved the Warsaw Ghetto by aerial bombardment.

"We are proud of the key role played in that heroic hour by the Jewish labor forces in Warsaw. And we are proud as well that on April 19, 1963—twenty years later—these heroes are to be honored.

"To our friend, Adolph Held, chairman of the Jewish Labor Committee, and to his associates, we extend our appreciation at this memorial to the courageous Jews of the Warsaw Ghetto."

Prior to the meeting at the Statler Hilton, some 800 persons, representing 50 organizations, placed wreaths on the Ghetto Memorial monument at Riverside Park, 133rd St. and Riverside Drive, at conclusion of a procession.

Photos and documents of revolt are on exhibit at YIVO (Jewish Scientific Institute), 55th St. and 5th Ave., N.Y., weekdays 10 A.M.-5 P.M.; closed Saturdays, open Sundays.

350 Net L.I. Wage Boosts In Eastern Region Bra Pact

On the heels of the major market corset and brassiere industry settlement, Long Island Locals 57-77 have concluded parallel agreements covering some 350 workers at Treo Company and Nemo (Kops Bros.), reports Vice Pres. Edward Kramer, general manager of the Eastern Region.

Highlight of the twin pacts was a 5 percent general wage increase for piece workers, and for time workers, 5 percent or \$3 a week, whichever is higher.

Craft minimums covering cutters, operators, pressers, shipping clerks and miscellaneous workers were also improved to keep pace with the new levels attained in the New York settlement.

Two innovations were clauses providing a degree of work security and improvements in the vacation plan from 10 days to 12 days for certain categories of workers.

Numerous Sessions

The pact at Treo, of Ozone Park, is the 11th renewal in a history of harmonious labor-management relations that dates back to 1946.

Countless rounds of negotiating sessions were required before settlements were reached with employers' representatives. Union bargaining committees were led directly by Vice Pres. Kramer.

According to Richard Cerbone, manager of Queens and Nassau Locals 57-77, the Treo committee consisted of chairman William Sandhoff, Thelma Croughton, Alma Paul, Alice Neff, Louise Braun and Dorothy Chapman.

The Nemo committee was headed by chairlady Christine Permakoff, and included Jean Sadowaki, Mary Di Rienzo, Helen Sterzer and Ann Gutherman.

Brentwoods Bows

Chalk up another newcomer to the Eastern Region fold via the strike route—and credit New

York City Locals 10 and 62 with assists.

A two-day walkout at Brentwood Lingerie Co. on Long Island quickly brought a first-time ILGWU agreement with terms following the provisions of the major market pact, according to Suffolk County Local 107 Manager Ed Banyal.

Key factors in the rapid settlement: the shop's cutter, upon request by Local 10, stopped working; Local 62 stopped and later signed a New York City producer for the firm; Eastern Region Hoboken local staffers located and stopped the firm's work in a union shop.

Richard Iovino was elected shop chairman.

And Away They Go!



Plane tickets and passports in hand, these gals are all set for the 19-day European vacation sponsored by New York Local 105. The 29 travellers will leave Idlewild Airport on May 2, bound for Paris, Rome, London, and other great European cities.

N'East Pact Boosts For 340 at Carnival As Name Rings True

The spirit at Carnival Creations shops seemed to reflect the firm's name when word came of renewal of contract terms affecting some 340 workers at its corset and brassiere plants in Meyersdale and Jeanette, Pennsylvania last month.

According to Vice Pres. David Gingold, director of the Northeast Department, the new three-year pact reached with this firm, located in the heart of the state's glass manufacturing center, provides a wide range of wage increases, retroactive to January 1, 1963.

These include boosts of 5 percent to be added to piece workers' total gross earnings; time workers also obtain a raise of 5 percent, with the stipulation that it be no less than \$3 a week; they get \$2 as of January 1, 1963 and another \$1 effective on September 2.

On craft minimums, agreement was reached on the following:

Effective as of January 1, 1963: Piece workers (operators) are guaranteed \$1.60 hourly mini-

mums, and miscellaneous and floor workers, \$1.32½.

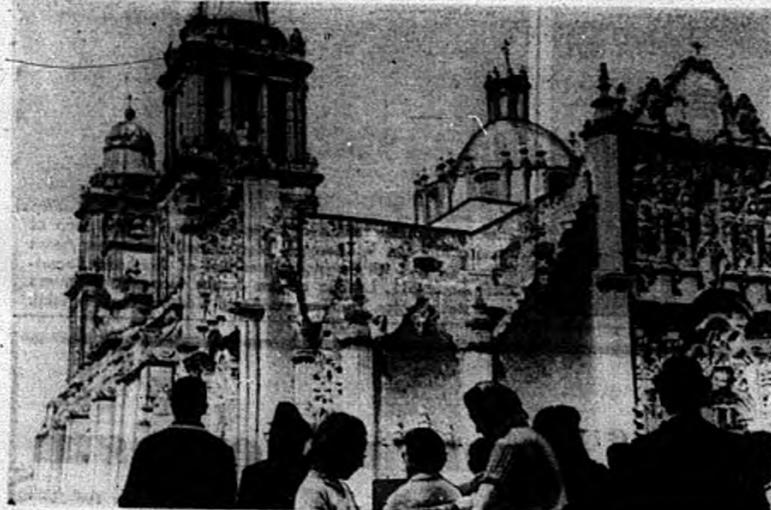
Effective September 3, 1963: Operator minimums go up to \$1.43 an hour, and miscellaneous to \$1.40.

Effective July 1, 1964, the operators pay floor rises to \$1.60 an hour.

Also obtained in the new agreement was a second week's vacation benefit, to be paid directly by the employer, starting in the summer of 1964.

Heading up union negotiators were Gingold and Assistant Northeast Director Sol C. Chalkin. Joseph Horowitz is manager of the Western Pennsylvania District in which the shops are located; shop chairladies are Kay George in Jeanette and Violet Reckner in Meyersdale.

Through Mexico With '155'



MAP ACTION TO BEAT ATTACKS FROM FOES OF PA. DRUG PROGRAM

A full review of the workings and problems of the drug service program, which has been enthusiastically received by some 50,000 garment workers in Pennsylvania, was made at a conference in New York attended by leading figures of the Northeast Department, its health and welfare division, union attorneys and the ILGWU Welfare and Health Benefits Department on April 19.

Facts and figures—including an outpouring of letters from members throughout the state lauding the program, which makes pharmaceutical needs available at low cost—showed a high rate of usage by area ILGers.

A large part of the conference was devoted to discussing possible effects on the program arising from election of a Republican state administration. It was pointed out that some reactionary elements, who had fought establishment of the program, already are seeking to take advantage of the change in state leadership to press their efforts to emasculate the union's drug plan.

However, conference discussions indicated the union's forces were prepared to meet any attack on the program.



Members of New York Knitgoods Workers Local 155 recently completed ten fun-filled days in sunny Mexico on a union-sponsored trip. The ILGers visited Mexico City, Cuernavaca and many other points of interest; then capped the vacation off with three days at the fabulous resort city of Acapulco. (Top) magnificent craftsmanship of a 16th century Mexico City cathedral impresses the group. Hundreds of brightly colored statuettes decorating the sides, were laboriously carved by Indian masons who devoted lifetimes to the task. (Bottom) Vice Pres. Louis Nelson, manager of Local 155, pauses during tour of Indian city of Teotihuacan to gaze at carving of Indian god Quetzacoatl, the feathered serpent. Legend has it that Quetzacoatl, originally a human with white skin and beard, came to Mexico from across the seas, 1,000 years before Columbus.

HITS AND MRS.

by JANE GOODSELL

How You Can Distinguish Between Men and Women!

What is a man? A man is a creature who can remember how many electoral votes Truman got in '48, the number of rounds it took Dempsey to knock out Sharkey and the gas mileage he got out of the first car he ever owned. But he can't remember what size socks he wears, the ages of his children or the name of that old Tommy Dorsey number that his wife, refers to as "our song."



What is a woman? She is a person who can't recall who won the football game she attended last Saturday, and she's vague about the year and model of the car she drives. But she can rattle off the calorie count of anything from an orange section to a chocolate sundae. And she can give you a detailed description of the blue chiffon dress she wore to her high school prom.

A man is brave and fearless about hurricanes and loaded guns and cars that accelerate from zero to 60 in 8.6 seconds. But he blanches at the sight of anything served in cream sauce in a paty shell and he develops a nervous twitch if he has to enter a dress shop or a beauty salon or a hospital.

A woman is brave and stoical about plucking her eyebrows and sleeping on wire hair curlers. She's adventurous about eating calves' brains and sweetbreads and snails. She's cool and collected about nosebleeds and little children who wake up, sick to their stomachs, at 3 A.M. But she bursts into tears over a frizzy permanent. And if she reads a news story about a murderer who escaped from a prison in a town 1,500 miles away, she lies awake half the night hearing funny noises downstairs.

A woman can distinguish real pearls from synthetic pearls at 20 paces. She can do needlepoint and peel grapes, and apply fingernail polish on her right hand. But she can't fold a road map or keep track of her gloves or whistle through her teeth.

By keeping these distinguishing traits in mind, you should be able to tell a man from a woman.

CUTTERS COLUMN

Extra Week's Paid Vacation Heads Undie Demand Packet

A package of demands, including an extra week's vacation to be paid by the firm, was presented by the union to the employers associations of the underwear, lingerie and negligee industry on April 29. This was the first of a series of conferences to negotiate renewal of agreements.

The union is also asking for a 10 percent wage increase, higher minimums, additional payments to the health and welfare fund and a clause approving a merger of the resources of the industry retirement fund into a national retirement fund when it is established.

Vice Pres. Moe Falikman, manager of Local 10, and Assistant Manager Abe Dolgen, who is in charge of the cutters in the miscellaneous trades, are representing Local 10 in the negotiations that are being conducted in conjunction with Local 62 representing the other crafts.

Between Seasons

The coat and suit industry is now in the transitional period between the spring and fall manufacturing seasons. A recent development is the launching by labor and management in the industry of a consumer promotion and marketing program. A research organization has been engaged to conduct a national consumer survey. Purchasers will be polled on buying habits and preferences including styles, fabrics, colors, serviceability, price ranges, etc. Textile firms including wool growers, fiber and fabric producers, lining houses and other suppliers to the coat and suit industry are assisting the undertaking.

Discussing this project at a recent executive board meeting of Local 10, Manager Falikman expressed the hope that the survey will pro-

Local 20 Mourns Death of Altman

Herman Altman, business agent of New York Waterproof Garment Workers' Local 20, died on April 19 after a long period of illness. He was 68.

Both as a member and staffer, Altman services to the local spanned five decades. He was business agent from 1936, previously serving as the local's vice chairman for 8 years until he joined its staff in 1953.



A pioneer of the local, Altman was always in the vanguard of workers who, unhesitatingly and at personal sacrifices, took part in many of the local's early struggles. On trumped-up charges involving his activities during a 1921 strike in Staten Island, Altman, along with 2 other local members, was sentenced to a 2 1/2 to 5-year prison term. After 4 months in Sing Sing, the truth was finally uncovered and Altman and the other 2 members were pardoned by Governor Alfred E. Smith.

In recognition of his many services on their behalf, hundreds of workers from the shops attended the funeral where the eulogy was delivered by Joseph Keasler, Local 20 manager.

He is survived by his wife, son and daughter. His son, Allen, is a Local 10 member, and his brother, William, is manager of Staten Island Local 154.

Unveiling of Headstone to the memory of SAMUEL WINICK late president of Local 10 Sunday, May 5 at 11:15 A.M. (Block 18, Section D) Cedar Park Cemetery, N.J.

vide the information needed to get greater vigor into the marketing of women's coat and suits and spur consumer buying resulting in greater employment and earnings for the workers in this branch of the garment industry.

Popular-priced dress lines are reported to be enjoying a vigorous spring season employing virtually all the cutters. Better dress lines, which has not fared as well, are now concentrating on fall styling and production.

In the miscellaneous trades the pace of production and the level of employment is satisfactory, Falikman reports. He agreed with recent comments in the trade press concerning the failure of women's apparel manufacturers to cash in on booming demand for ski wear and ski-type sportswear to the growing number of people visiting ski resorts as participants in the sport or as spectators. More initiative in this field by apparel manufacturers would mean good business for them and more employment for the workers, he stated.

Union Label Folder Spurs Dress Drive

The Dressmakers' Joint Council is issuing a series of union label folders as part of its continuing campaign to keep members aware of the importance of the ILGWU label. Vice Pres. Charles S. Zimmerman, council general manager, said last week.

The folders stress the need to make sure that a union label is sewn into every dress, and urge members to get their families and friends to ask for the label when they shop for women's and girls' apparel.

Brightly colored and attractively illustrated, they remind members that the success of the union label campaign means more work for union shops and more money in the pay envelopes of union members.

Parente, Boston Officer, To Be Honored on June 1

For his many years of dedicated service to the ILGWU, Enrico Parente, business agent of the Boston Joint Board for the past 13 years, will be honored by a testimonial dinner and dance on Saturday, June 1, reports Vice Pres. Philip Kramer, board manager and honorary chairman of the event.

The affair is being tendered by officers and members of Italian Cloak, Suit and Dressmakers Local 80 and will be held in the Dorothy Quincy Suite of the John Hancock Building, 180 Berkeley Street, Boston.



SYMBOL OF DECENCY, FAIR LABOR STANDARDS AND THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE

Court Hits Conduct of Probe Against '10' in Holmes Case

A New York State Supreme Court judge has declared that Cutters' Local 10 ILGWU is "entitled to expeditious hearing" in a case brought by Ernest Holmes charging the union with discriminatory practices. The union has been asking for such a hearing before the State Commission on Human Rights for almost a year.

Judge Thomas A. Aurelio granted the union's motion to quash a subpoena issued by Rupert Ruis as investigating commissioner, requesting additional union records. Local 10 pointed out that the issuance of the subpoena was part of the strategy to delay a public hearing, now set for May 15, where the union is prepared to prove that the charges against it are unfounded.

The court accepted the union's contention that "there is no basis in fact or in law for the issuance by the investigating commissioner of the subpoena." In his decision, Judge Aurelio stated that "the time for investigation is past as well as perchance the appropriate time for decision." Local 10 informed the court that it intends to present the subpoenaed records at the hearing as part of its own case.

The union further claimed that there has been a "disclosure of proposed conditions of conciliation" in violation of the statute governing the SCHR. The court sustained the union's position, citing Section 297 of the law, that declares that "the members of the commission and its staff shall not disclose what has transpired in the course of such endeavors."

"We are highly gratified by the court's decision," stated Moe Falikman, manager of Local 10 ILGWU. "For many months now, the finding of probable cause by a hearing commissioner has been repeatedly misinterpreted to mean that our union is guilty of discriminatory practices. We have been requesting a full hearing to clear our name. At one point, Ernest Holmes withdrew his complaint against our local, but since the charge of probable cause still

ILG Reaffirms Stand On 'Union-in-Union'

In response to a decision by the National Labor Relations Board, received as Justice prepared to go to press, the ILGWU announced that in the matter of the union-within-the-union it would continue to contest the basic principle, namely, the misrepresentation of a union recognizing a union of policy-making union officers. The position of the ILGWU, as previously declared, is:

"The present labor laws were not intended to grant a political faction of union officers the immunities and privileges of a collective bargaining agent. We believe that a fundamental principle is involved in the basic difference between employees and officers, between a union and a faction, an issue that will finally have to be determined in the courts."

stood, we demanded a hearing. "We are now pleased that the court has removed the present cause for further delay. We are confident that at the hearing we will prove that Local 10 has not practiced discrimination either against Ernest Holmes or any other applicant for membership in the union.

"We regret the unwarranted circulation of charges against our local in clear violation of the statute governing the commission and protest the indefensible delay in granting us the hearing to which we were entitled many months ago."

N. Y. Cloak Children's Coat Unit Casts Watchful Eye on Evaders

Contract violations—small or large—will not escape the ever-watching eyes of the union. If additional proof of this were really necessary, the recent report furnished by the Children's Coat Department to the New York Cloak Joint Board's board

discharged worker, who was subsequently reinstated.

Close to \$11,000 was collected during 1962 to date from Future Fashions (on total of \$10,000). The firm also had failed to produce books and records to complete examination, and had maintained a double set of records for purposes of concealment.

At the Cloak Joint Board meeting on April 17, Vice Pres. Mendelsund, in reporting on the Future case, vowed no effort would be spared to make the firm comply with the union agreement.

On payment for wages and legal holidays, the sums obtained totaled more than \$8,500 and \$3,300, respectively, on behalf of workers.

During the spring 1963 season, the department manager points out that staff members settled 483 styles on a piece work basis and 280 styles on section work systems. Also, 150 shop meetings were held and staffers made more than 400 shop visits.

Reinhardt voiced appreciation to the efforts of all department and local managers and to his assistant, Americo Panaro, in helping to safeguard the interests of area workers.

BOOK FRONT

by ABRAHAM SPIEGELBERG

Book Depicts Links In New York, Paris Fashion Industries

THE RAG RACE. By Bernard Roschow Fuch & Wagnalla, 55. There is a considerable library of books, both fiction and non-fiction, about the garment industry. A good many of them are nothing more than extended anecdotes or two-dimensional stereotypes that took shape almost half a century ago when Potash and Perlmutter were two popular garment manufacturers on the stage and in widely read stories. What distinguishes Mr. Roschow's book from all the rest is that it avoids stereotypes, is extremely readable despite its firm founda-



tion in fact and is written from the inside out. That is, Mr. Roschow is not one who has come to his subject because it is colorful (there is plenty of color in his pages) or because of the inherent interest of half the population in fashion (there are fresh and excellent insights about fashion in the book).

He is rather intrigued by the continuing role of human skill, intelligence and resourcefulness that goes into the production of garments worn by women, the basic human hunger that styled apparel seems to satisfy, the unpredictable shifts in human preference involved in the seasonal and perishable qualities of garments.

So far, automation has not raised its threatening head in the garment industry. At all levels and stages of production human judgments remain the chief thing. Mr. Roschow, with the understanding that is the product of both direct experience and patient research, traces those judgments as they build upon one another from the designing stage in Paris to the merchandising racks in Klein's or the private salons of the haute couturier.

It's the garment business that there is no other business like. Its real product is an intangible thing called fashion. At every stage, investment is made in future taste and preferences. In the end a high priced, high-styled product has a most competitive life, racing to be sold before it gets knocked down from price line to price line.

Skilled labor is still a primary cost factor: in most cases profit rates are modest and it is volume that counts. Only in most recent times has the phenomenon of the big firm become evident in this industry dominated by the small producer.

Mr. Roschow writes of these and many other fascinating aspects of the garment industry with authority, with incisive humor and with a sense of human drama that is refreshing and informative.

JUSTICE

INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

EDITORIAL PAGE



IT WORKS

SIXTY MEN SAT DOWN in a New York hotel meeting room last month to decide what to do with close to \$16 million. Fifty of them were union officials and employer representatives in equal numbers; the others were administrators, lawyers and accountants responsible for operation of the ILGWU Supplementary Unemployment-Severance Benefits Fund.

Both the union men and the management men had gathered from all parts of the country. They represented all garment markets, all products, all price lines in the nation's most competitive industry.

But as they sat down around the huge conference table they were moved by a single, common concern: how best and most equitably to administer the fund which softens the blow a worker feels in an industry of high employer turnover when he or she is left jobless as the firm to which skills, energy and years have been given goes out of business.

In the historic 1938 general strike in the dress industry, Pres. Dubinsky made the establishment of a severance fund (and adoption of a union label) a primary demand. The theory was that as the dress industry would go so would go the entire garment industry.

Out of that strike came the ILGWU's first single country-wide welfare fund and the nation's first national severance fund. With modest employer contributions equivalent to $\frac{1}{4}$ of 1 percent of payroll, resources have been accumulated that cushion virtually the entire U.S. membership of this union against the shock of joblessness, that by now have protected close to 16,000 workers "severed" by 745 departing firms and that, at the time of the third annual meeting of the fund's Board of Trustees, has reached close to \$16 million.

WE ARE LESS THAN HALF A CENTURY away from the tuberculosis-laden sweatshop and the scrapheaps onto which exhausted workers were tossed before their time. Garment employers today are no less competitive than they were at that time nor have they lost their drive to maximize profits. Yet, last month, labor and management of the garment industry—without threats, without strikes, without even raising their voices—cautiously weighed the question of how much could be spared from fund reserves, despite unpredictable ups and downs of the industry, to provide a little more for the jobless worker.

And more was provided: an increase of 50 percent in the weekly supplementary unemployment benefit for workers eligible to receive more than 26 such weekly payments; a second lump-sum severance benefit equal in amount to the first sum that is paid when joblessness sets in. A measure of what this means is the fact that a worker (generally an older one) entitled to maximum fund benefits who fails to get a job for a full year will receive by the end of the year a total of \$2,300 instead of \$1,600 as hitherto in lump and weekly payments.

OUR GARMENT INDUSTRY has always had its share of special problems and heartaches. These are unavoidable in an industry making a staggering variety of products, with a multitude of collective agreements, high mobility of firms, contending with the vagaries of weather and the whims of women and the fluctuations in national well-being and confidence.

Somewhere in this vast industry history begins every day as the ILGWU enters a town for the first time; somewhere bargaining has stalemated, a strike is being planned, grievances are being processed, prices are being settled. But in the half-century since our historic strikes in which employers learned that unionism is practiced every day and not only when contracts expire, bargaining by force has receded in favor of bargaining by reason and human values.

Who can contemplate this record and say that collective bargaining doesn't work?

Disarmament: Musts and Myths

By

DAVID E. LILIENTHAL

From recent talk by the former chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission.

EVER the world in which we live today—a world in motion, confident, restless—there hangs the dark cloud of the atom; what the President has called the "nuclear sword of Damocles."

Everyone recognizes what a terrible disaster the use of nuclear weapons can bring to the whole world. But what can be done about this threat of disaster? I believe it to be fundamental that it is the causes of war that must first be ameliorated before we can safely make

for disarmament treaties at this time, such as those pending in Geneva, add to the risks of disaster. For they provide the tinder for an increase rather than a decrease in acute animosities, distrust, and tensions; the incentive for lying, for saber rattling is brought to a high point.

2. A disarmament treaty now, between the Soviet Union and the United States and the West would leave the warlike Chinese in a position of power dangerous to world peace; even a serious prospect that both the great powers might disarm could be disturbing to peace-loving peoples in Asia, under the shadow of China.

3. Disarmament negotiations, that is a preoccupation with weapons, distract and dilute our energies, and attention from those multiple, diverse ways and means of strengthening bit by bit the sense of community and commonality of interests in the world in which lies the real hope of making weapons less relevant.

4. If negotiations for disarmament are undertaken seriously under current conditions they are unrealistic. Therefore, they have the infirmities and dangers of any escape from reality in a tough and changing world. And if they are not undertaken seriously but as propaganda moves, they have the risk of any transparent maneuver; little hope of gain for peace, and real danger of moral injury.



progress toward eliminating or even limiting substantially the terrible weapons of war.

The reason nuclear weapons are a threat to the world lies not primarily in the weapons themselves, but in the animosities, the suspicions, the conflicting drives and ambitions and ideologies of the nations who possess the weapons; that while the very existence of such awesome weapons increases tensions, it is more than futile—I believe it is courting disaster—to negotiate for general disarmament in the present atmosphere of distrust and hatred.

THE crucial question is not whether we are for or against disarmament, for or against peace. What we must ask ourselves carefully is whether negotiations about disarmament at this time are for or against the interests of peace.

There are four chief concerns I have about continuation of disarmament negotiations at this time with the Soviet Union.

1. High priority given to negotiations

THE crucial question is not immediate withdrawal, or indefinite recess of the Geneva Conference. What is crucial is that we should not allow our participation in disarmament discussions to become such a deep preoccupation, such a strong emotional commitment, that it blinds or beguiles us so that we cannot face the facts of how utterly remote and dangerous these negotiations are at this time. What is of central importance is that whether these talks continue or not, they do not distract our attention and dilute our energies away from the less dramatic, the multiple, diverse and far more realistic roads to peace which have nothing directly to do with disarmament.

MEDICARE: SOCIAL SECURITY'S NEXT STEP

By HUBERT HUMPHREY

Excerpts from a recent speech on the Senate floor by the Democratic Senator from Minnesota.

THE NEED FOR A FISCALLY SOUND METHOD of financing health care in old age has become severe in the past decade. In part, the problem is due to the spectacular progress that has been made in medical technology which has been a principal reason for the greater numbers of people who live to suffer the illnesses that accompany old age. Changing technology has also audibly increased the cost of medical care. For the aged, the increasing cost of health care and the increasing need for it have not been matched by an adequate method of financing it.

The crux of the problem of paying for health care in old age can be summed up in a few words. The average health costs of people age 65 or over are twice as high as those of younger people while the incomes of the older group are only half as high.

A LOOK AT THE FACTS IS ENOUGH TO show that there can be no doubt about the magnitude of the problem:

—Nine out of ten people go to the hospital at least once between age 65 and death. An elderly



couple can expect about five hospital stays during their later years.

When a person aged 65 or over goes to a hospital, he stays, on the average, 15 days, twice as long as does the average younger person.

—Only half of the couples headed by an elderly person have incomes of as much as \$2,500 per year.

—Only about half of the people 65 or over who

live alone have incomes of more than \$1,000 a year.

—About one-half of the elderly have no health insurance; and much of the health insurance that the other half has is worth very little to them in the event of a serious illness.

NEITHER PUBLIC ASSISTANCE NOR PRIVATE health insurance offers the solution to the problem of paying health costs in old age. What is needed is a mechanism whereby persons can provide in advance—when they are working and can afford to do so—for the health costs they will face in old age.

The hospital insurance benefit program proposed by President Kennedy would be a logical as well as greatly needed addition to the present social security program. As the President said: "We urgently need health insurance for our senior citizens—and we need it now. This is our Number 1 objective."