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JUSTICE

INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

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ASK PUERTO RICO WAGE RISE

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"Severance Pay Is Essential"—Pres. Dubinsky

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Muchas Gracias. At conclusion of recent hearings in Puerto Rico to investigate wage standards of island's brassiere industry, delegation of workers visited Pres. David Dubinsky at his hotel to thank him for his efforts on their behalf.



Picket Pageantry. The democratic Spirit of '76—the humanity of Abraham Lincoln and the liberal ideals of labor are all the same, say these strikers at Royal Manufacturing Co. in Allentown, Pa. They're protesting firm's unfair practices.



The Inside Track. A first-hand look-see at the way a labor union operates is what these students of Columbia University School of Journalism are getting from Executive Secretary Frederick E. Hughes. This is part of an intensive labor reporting given to all students of journalism. On their visit the budding Pulitzers were briefed on the functions of every major ILGWU department. Standing at left is Stanley Levey, labor reporter for New York Times and course instructor.



Check-Up. Preparing for construction of union health center in Montreal, tri-partite commission representatives from that city made recent inspection visits to New York and Philadelphia Health Centers. Above, in New York, director Dr. Leo Price goes over the fine points with group.

STACK 3

Propose 6% Increase in Puerto Rican Bra Wage

An increase in the minimum wage of Puerto Rican brassiere and corset workers from 33 to 55 cents an hour has been recommended by a special committee of the U. S. Labor Department's Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Division.

The move was carried by a vote of 6-3, meeting the approval of the industry and public members of the committee but not of the labor members. The latter group, which included ILOUWU Pres. David Dubinsky, called the 15-cent figure inadequate and asked instead for a minimum wage level of 75 cents an hour.

While the recommendation marks a considerable improvement, Pres. Dubinsky declared, it still leaves a wide gap for unfair competition between the island and the mainland.

The recommendation as it now stands goes to William R. McComb, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, who will hold public hearings on the proposal and then issue a decision. McComb has the power to accept or reject the committee's findings, but not to change them.

On the evening of the day on which the commission reached its decision representatives of Puerto Rican garment workers staged an enthusiastically spontaneous greeting to Pres. Dubinsky at his hotel, hailing him for his efforts on behalf of the workers.

The present minimum wage of 33 cents an hour was established in June, 1951 following recommendations issued by a special committee the previous August. In arguing for a 75-cent minimum, the labor members were attempting to rectify inequities which persisted even after that earlier investigation.

The present group designated Special Industry Committee No. 15, has three subdivisions: corset and brassiere, women's garments generally, and men's clothing. The labor members were of corset and brassiere workers which were under discussion in the recently-concluded hearing

ings, which ran from Jan. 11 to 14 in San Juan, the island's capital. After hearing evidence for four days the committee made its recommendation on Jan. 14.

The committee was first given an outline of the Puerto Rican corset and brassiere industry from Thomas Judge of the Wage and Hour Division. He supplied the following facts: From 1948 to 1953 brassiere factories increased in number from 20 to 159; in 1953 the Puerto Rican brassiere industry exported 119,297 dozen pieces, valued at \$917,529—in the first seven months of 1953 alone the exports rose to \$4,587,288, with a gross value of \$4,540,288. The number of workers employed in brassiere plants in the meanwhile reached 3,000. The average wage: 63 cents an hour.

Against this background of high production, high profits (35 per cent net on sales) and modest wages, the labor members, led by Dubinsky, pressed across the following points: Living costs in Puerto Rico are totally higher than in the United States; despite their low wages, Puerto Rican workers are expected to maintain high profits level equal to that on the mainland; retail prices of brassieres produced in Puerto Rico are no lower than those in the United States with better paid labor; workmanship on the island is actually on a par with that in the States.

The companies' best answer to this was a vetoed threat to remove industry from Puerto Rico if the minimum wage were raised. Bernard Baskin, general manager of Esquilado, the largest manufacturer in Puerto Rico (the only employer representative to appear) spoke of "hav-

ing to move the shop to Japan" if an increase in wages made the industry unprofitable. Of course, he added, the present plan for expansion would also be cancelled.

Immediate refutation was offered in testimony by Lazare Teper, research director of the ILOUWU. Citing Baskin's own figures as a basis for his argument, Teper said that a 75-cent minimum would be more than fair. For example, Baskin claimed that Puerto Rican brassiere workers are only 79 per cent as efficient as American workers. Even if this were true, Puerto Rican workers should still be paid an average wage of \$1.05 an hour, since American workers received \$1.36 an hour. But, was a 75-cent minimum would result in a wage of no more than 80 cents an hour, on the average, for Puerto Rican workers.

Thus, Teper pointed out, the island's brassiere industry would still maintain a competitive margin and be able to reap a higher percentage of profits than American firms. He also showed that complaints about alleged inefficiency of the workers were unjustified, and that differences based on freight transportation costs were spurious.

Dubinsky's contention that living costs were disproportionately high in comparison to wages was borne out by evidence presented by representatives of the Independent Brassiere Workers' Union. They told of the deplorable conditions under which families live, and of the impossibility of improving their lot under present wage conditions. They described a typical day's workman (black coffee for breakfast, rice and

(Continued on Page 3)



Pres. David Dubinsky (right) takes time out from hearings on wages of Puerto Rican brassiere industry to attend function of Economic Development Administration in San Juan. Left to right: Fernando Sierra Berdecia, Puerto Rican Secretary of Labor; Mrs. Pedro Amador Pagan de Colon, director of the Bureau of Employment; and Administration Director Teodoro Moscoso.

INSIDE WASHINGTON

by David Williams

America Is Leading With Chin In Atomic 'Retaliation' Policy

WASHINGTON—Six inches of snow fell in Washington last month. As always, this accident of nature happened in this semi-tropical city, traffic got completely snarled up. Government workers, even though released from work two hours early, found the journey home long and difficult. Schools were closed everywhere.

Throughout Washingtonians fretted: "If six inches of snow can cause such chaos, what will happen if an atom bomb is dropped here?" It seemed a particularly appropriate warning of this capital's unpreparedness for atomic attack. For the Administration had just unveiled its "retaliation" policy—under which, according to the most reasonable interpretation of the obscure language in which the idea was expressed, may further arm challenge by the Communist world would be met with atomic weapons.

For a nation as unprepared to defend itself against atomic attack as the United States now is, this seemed very much like leading with the chin. To be sure, the theory is that a distinction can be made between the "reaction" and the "retaliation" use of the atom. Under this theory, the initial Communist attack will be repelled "tactically" by the use of atomic cannon, or "pre-shooters" as they are known in current Pentagon slang. The hope is that the enemy, in spite of his known ability to set off the dreaded hydrogen holocaust, will show similar restraint.

Among the small but able group here who, until last year, guided the United States through the shoals and reefs of the cold war, there is grave uneasiness. In the first place, they are not sure whether the decision was made on military grounds or as part of the budget-balancing mania of the Eisenhower "team." Ordinarily, enough news would have seeped through the walls of the Pentagon to give some answer to this question, but this time the generals are gagged and mute.

Secondly, they fear that increasing American reliance upon the atomic weapon will deprive us of the flexibility needed to meet the widely varying needs of the cold war. What if the Communists take power in Italy, either by force or by fraud? How can we handle upon a largely friendly population the horrors of the atom. What if "volunteers" from China appear in the Indo-Chinese jungle? Towards what target should we then turn our atomic weapons? And will we carry over allies with us if we do?

In the war of words, also, too great reliance on the atom weapon may trip us up. The biggest psychological success of the new Administration was scored when Eisenhower made his speech to the United Nations General Assembly, calling for the peaceful development of atomic power. To this the Russian response was to repeat the demand for the outlawing of all atomic weapons. This demand is certain to be repeated over and over again, and to make a considerable impact upon world public opinion.

If we are forced to yield, even partially, to the pressure for atomic disarmament, our weakness relative to the Russians in conventional forms of military power will be nakedly exposed.

Above all, the doubters here are in the new Administration appear a revised version of Taft's and Hoover's "Prevent America" concept. Withdrawal of troops from Europe and Asia, reliance upon retaliation launched from peripheral bases, total abandonment of the mainlands of the two continents to Soviet invasion—all are in the spirit of unconstructed isolationism.

It's the very plausibility of the "more bang for a buck" talk that gives informed Washingtonians the creeps. The Administration's new line has just the qualities the isolationists want: it sounds tough, but it looks cheap, as well. How to tell the American people that it may be dangerously ineffective? Walter Millie, staff editorial writer of the New York Herald-Tribune, resorted to the novel technique of writing letters for his papers own "Letters to the Editor" column, finding no other way to place the velvet curtain with which it was shielding the Administration.

More and more voices will have to be raised, people here are saying, if the Administration and the American people are to be aroused from a pipe dream of atomic security which may end in annihilation.

200 Workers at Guckin Co. Plants Win 35 Hours, Pensions in Renewal

Two hundred employees of Guckin Corp. plants in Hackensack, N. J., and Suffern, N. Y., won shorter working hours and greater old-age security as the result of a recently concluded general contract, according to Vice Pres. Israel Horowitz, general manager of the Eastern Out-of-Town Department.

After protracted negotiating sessions, agreement was reached on a new pact with the major brassiere firm providing for a two-step reduction in the work week to 35 hours, establishment of retirement fund benefits, and addition of New Year's day as a paid holiday. Both

piece and time workers now will be paid for four and a half holidays, regardless of whether they occur on a working day or not.

Under terms of the renewal, the work week was reduced immediately from 38 to 37½ hours, with piece workers receiving a 10-cent an hour compensating wage increase, and time workers receiving the same pay for 37½ hours as they previously earned for 40.

Within two years, when the shop goes on the 35-hour week, piece workers will receive an additional 10 per cent increase on their piecework rates, and time workers will get the same pay for 35 hours as they previously obtained for 37½. In both cases, all work over the daily regular hours is considered overtime, and is paid for at the rate of time and one-half for both piece and time workers.

Agreement by the company to participate in the retirement program of the union by making contributions to the Eastern Region Retirement Fund rounds out the deal. The workers of the shop a complete program which covers health, welfare and vacation benefits.

Union negotiators were headed by Horowitz and included Maner Herman, director of Local 166 and Business Agent Edward Hinz. Representing the company at the bargaining table were Lawrence Guckin, president of the corpora-

tion, and Charles Rosenbaum, attorney.

THE SKILLED
CRAFTSMEN
OF THE
HAT
CORPORATION
ARE ON

CUTTING

PLEASE DO NOT BUY
THESE HATS

**KNOX
DOBBS
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Clinton Recovery Bd. Surveys Impact of Textile Industry's Dismal Voices Need for Severance Pay

In a special press conference following the conclusion of the meeting of the National Coat and Suit Industry Recovery Board in Miami Beach, Pres. David Dubinsky reminded all factors of the ladies' garment industry that, in the words he used to introduce him-

self at the 26th ILOUW convention last May, "severance pay continues as an active item on our agenda." In his interview with the press on Jan. 31, the ILOUW chief declared that there was a definite need to protect workers against plant shutdowns or moves to areas outside the union's jurisdiction. It should be possible, he added, to work out one of two plans for handling severance pay.

One plan, he said, is to establish severance pay funds in the individual manufacturing companies, and the other method would entail an industry-wide fund, somewhat on the order of health and vacation funds and retirement funds that already are part of the union contracts.

"We know that it is a difficult problem today," said Pres. Dubinsky. "If we had started payments for a severance pay of \$5, 10 or 15 years ago, it would have been much easier. The money would now be accumulated. We feel, though, that it is still worth the effort to the benefit of all concerned. When a manufacturer wants to retire, he still must realize that he has a responsibility to the worker."

"I believe it most essential that we have severance pay in the garment industry," he declared. "I do not believe it will be a burden on the industry if the employers will work at it in the right light and recognize its need. It will be a blessing."

"The question of severance pay was first raised by Pres. Dubinsky in his keynote address to the Golden Jubilee Convention of the ILOUW in 1950. At that time he declared:

"The union is faced with a job severance problem which could cause great harm to men and women who have spent the better part of their lifetime working for the firms in question."

"It is obviously a problem which we must carefully approach and seek to anticipate in order to prevent it from becoming the general practice in our industry. The employer who accumulates wealth through the faithful labor of his workers should not be allowed to leave the industry cost-free, deserting the

Garment Workers Sending Sizeable 'Dimes' Donations

Contributions to the ILOUW drive for the March of Dimes are being received at the office of Executive Secretary Frederick Umhey in New York and by their Jase indicate that garment workers in all parts of the country are giving all-out and to the fight against infantile paralysis.

The majority of "Dimes have been completed or are in the final stages of the drive, according to Umhey. He urges locals and Joint boards to complete the campaign with utmost speed and to forward monies collected and the collection lists to the General Office without delay.

Shorter Hours Now in Effect In Newly Won Local 66 Shops

Provisions have gone into effect for establishing the 35-hour work week for two recently organized groups of shops affiliated with Local 66, New York Bonnaz Embroiders, Tuckers, Stitches and Platers Union, according to Zachary L. Freedman, local president.

A reduction in hours from 40 to 37½ a week, affecting a number of Bronx shops, is the first phase of a two-step provision which will scale the work week down to 35 hours by January, 1955.

The 35-hour work week already has become operative for workers in bullion shops, employed in military and civilian ornamental work. Proportionate raises in hourly rates, minimum scales and piece prices accompany the reduction so that workers in the Bronx shops do not suffer a loss in earnings.

Accordingly, all week workers are to continue to receive the same weekly wage for the 37½ hour week that they had previously been paid for 40 hours. Piece workers in turn get a compensating 7 per cent increase on the prices of current

styles and piece rates on new styles will be set so that piece workers will earn at least as much for 37½ hours as they had earned for 40 hours.

Piece workers moreover will continue to receive the 10 cents an hour for each hour worked in addition to their weekly earnings at piece rates. The basic minimum scale is thus raised by \$3.75 a week.

When the time comes for the second reduction to the 35 hour week, Bronx workers will get wage and piece price adjustments.

The present gains are the results of organization drives last year when the Bronx shops signed with the union in February following strikes that lasted from four to six months. The outcome was that workers won a \$4 wage boost and

Labor and management spokesmen surveyed the impact of recent changes in the nation's cloak trades at the 18th annual meeting of the National Executive Board of the National Coat and Suit Recovery Board, which ended its three-day session in Miami Beach, Fla., on Jan. 30.

Particular scrutiny was given to such developments as manufacturer-retailer relationships, new fashions and fabrics, and the changing volume of sales.

"ILOUW Pres. David Dubinsky headed the labor contingent at the confab, which was also attended by representatives of 2100 firms producing more than 90 per cent of this country's output of women's and children's coats and suits.

Board members heard Chairman Max Weintraub warn against "a tendency to magnify adverse factors and to gloss over the more favorable elements. A bad morale thwarts the initiative," he cautioned, and "creates the possibility of self-inflicted adversity."

"A warning optimistically, he declared: 'A reaction toward an improved position for apparel in inter-product rivalry... indeed, a kind of 'apparel renaissance' is a fair and logical expectation."

"The augmenting of the style appeal of our merchandise can be seen as counting heavily in this," he added. "There is no question but that the industry's efforts in behalf of newness and distinction of design

other gains including reduction of the work week.

About half the bullion shops in New York are organized as a result of an intensive drive launched at the end of last summer.

22 More Retired

Twenty-two members of Local 66 have been added to this year's retirement list, bringing the total number to 60 who will be drawing \$50-a-month union pensions for the rest of their lives.

The average age of this year's group of retirees is 68.6 years, as compared with the average age of 67.68 for last year's retirees. The average age for the first group retired in 1932 was 62.55.

sign are being consistently intensified."

He went on to criticize retailers for a tendency toward over-promotion of goods and deplored the practice of catering primarily to the barest instinct, obscuring the appeal of merit of merchandise and service.

"Experience has taught that value destruction does not cultivate the most valuable of all merchandise assets—the 'repeat customer,' the steady patron," Weintraub stated.

Samuel Klein, chairman of the board's Fair Trade Practice Committee, reported that the basic soundness of the cost and suit industry's structure of fair business standards remains conclusively evident.

Stressing the need for sustained efforts to abate the returns left in the industry, Klein drew attention to the fact that, according to the latest figures of the U. S. Bureau of Census on the subject covering the first half of 1953, this involves \$5.88 worth of goods out of every \$100 in shipments.

The Recovery Board has continued to stage the seasonal anti-retail campaign, it is anticipated some years ago. Klein said. They are carried on at the juncture of the season when the cost of returns might be expected to rise, the activities ordinarily employed in combating the evil being intensified at that time.

Reporting a drop in the sale last (Continued on Page 9)

MONTREAL VISITORS VIEW HEALTH UNITS IN N. Y. AND PHILLY

A ten-man Canadian committee, headed by Vice Pres. Bernard Blane and including Montreal Dress Joint Board-Montreal Claude Jodan, last month spent several days in New York during which they conferred with Executive Secretary Frederick P. Umhey and Dr. Leo Price, director of the Union Health Center in New York.

The committee included representatives of the Montreal garment industry employers, members of the medical professional societies in Quebec and officers of the ILOUW. Their aim was to survey health center practices in New York as well as in Philadelphia as a guide to equipping and operating the ILOUW Health Center now being constructed in Montreal.

Three members of the committee extended their trip to Philadelphia for the purpose of studying operation of the ILOUW center in that city which, it is estimated, is comparable in size and number of members serviced with the coming center in Montreal.

Members of the committee, in addition to Blane and Jodan, were: Dr. Mark Trudel, president of the Medical College of Quebec; Dr. J. A. Paquin, registrar of the National College of Physicians; William M. representing the Montreal Dress Manufacturers' Guild; Abraham D. Gould, president of the Montreal Clothes Manufacturers' Council; J. J. Sreer, attorney for the union; David Randolph, director, and Dr. Charles Pacific Orton, chief physician of the Montreal Dress Health Fund; and Dr. David L. Muddel, chief physician of the Philadelphia Cloth Health Fund.

TALKS IN PROGRESS ON RECOGNITION OF NY SHIPPING CLERKS

As JUSTICE went to press, Jack Epstein, manager-secretary of the Shipping Clerks' Union, Local 80-A, announced he expected that the negotiations between the union and the representatives of the dress employer associations would be successfully concluded "within a week."

Epstein, who also serves as manager-secretary of the Dress Pressers' Union, characterized the talks with the employer representatives as "difficult and protracted." On Jan. 12, the Shipping Clerks' Union conducted a one-day organizational strike against three major buildings in the New York dress industry. The strike ended when the association leaders agreed to discuss union recognition of the dress industry shipping clerks, after having held out against unionization for many years. Meanwhile, Local 80-A has gone ahead with its educational program. The Shipping Clerks' Chorus and a public speaking team meet every Tuesday at 7 P.M.

"Down the Middle of the Road!"



Vacation Pay Registrations Started In New York Dress, Cloak Trades

Business agents and shop chairmen of the New York Cloak and Dress Joint Boards currently are providing instructions to more than 120,000 garment workers in the city on procedures to be followed in registering for 1954 vacation benefits.

In the dress locale, each business agent is distributing special registration cards in his district, to be filled in by every member. Information obtained from the cards also will be used in setting up new record systems in the union offices.

Shop chairmen must turn in to the union this card, plus social security card and union book, for each worker; registration will not be completed unless all three items are presented at the same time. No individual registrations will be accepted; the chairman will register the permanent workers of his shop as a unit.

Registration for 1954 vacation benefits for New York cloakmakers will begin on Feb. 15, it was announced by Vice Pres. Judah Nagler, chairman and treasurer of the

400 in X-Rays Get Chest B-Report Thru ILG Program

Health history was made in Bridgeport, Conn., recently when more than 400 members of Eastern Out-of-Town Locals 152, 164 and 222 participated in a chest X-ray program sponsored by the union in cooperation with the Connecticut Tuberculosis Assn. Three days were reserved for garment workers to be X-rayed at Salvation Army Hall.

Jerry Freeman, business agent for Bridgeport local, pointed out that the X-ray survey was one of many civic and community activities conducted by the city's ILGWU affiliates.

Leo Dunn, chairman of the Bridgeport County's Chest Fund Drive, and Ben Bartmess, chairman of the industrial division voluntary group, gave high praise to ILGWU community activities at a recent Chest meeting.

Health and Vacation Fund, and Murray M. Koller, administrative secretary.

The procedure governing registration for benefits, outlined in a letter sent to all shop chairmen in New York and Brooklyn, is as follows:

On Feb. 15, shop chairmen will collect union books from regularly employed workers, who are actually working at that time, and are members of locals affiliated with the Cloak Joint Board. Only 1954 union books will be collected. Those who are not regularly employed, or who are not actually working at the time the books are collected, or who are members of other locals, must register in person at 22 West 28th St., on the 10th floor, after April 1. They should bring with them their 1953 withholding tax receipts (which show 1953 earnings) and their unemployment insurance booklets to facilitate registration.

Hours Cut in Pact Renewed At La Mode Novelty in Chi

A new agreement calling for a reduction in weekly working hours has been reached with the La Mode Novelty Co. of Chicago, Vice Pres. Morris Bialis announces. Despite the cut in hours, wages will be maintained at the levels observed under the longer work-week.

Arbitration Invoked on Rises At Major Firms in Southwest

With negotiations hitting a snag, arbitration is being invoked by the Southwest Region against several firms in the area, Vice Pres. Meyer Perlstein reports.

200 MEMBERS GAINED BY CLOAK EXAMINERS IN 1953 ORGANIZING

Some 200 new members were brought into the ranks of Local 62, New York Cloak Examiners, during 1953 as the result of an intensive organizing drive, especially in Brooklyn. Manager Charles Bernstein reported at a special membership meeting held Jan. 14.

A capacity turnout of examiners and floor workers heard Bernstein deliver the annual report on his stewardship of local affairs at a gathering in Hotel Diplomat.

During the past year, Bernstein noted, the local handled 432 grievances and 216 discrimination cases. Jobs were located for 288 workers, pay adjustments totaling \$454 in wages were obtained for 50 workers, white back pay of \$1,603 was collected for another 73 members.

On the health and welfare front, Bernstein reported that \$25,465 was paid in sick benefits to 99 members, whose jobs simultaneously were protected. During the year, gratuity payments were made to 28 members, and 31 retired for a total of 130 since establishment of the cloakmakers' pension fund.

The manager also indicated that the local's finances were in fine shape.

Welfare Watchdogs



Operations of the Kansas City Health Center and Kansas City Retirement Fund are under the vigilant supervision of Executive Secretary Rosamunde Yost and Executive Director Dorothy Culp.

IN THE MARKET

by Leon Stein

Changes in Timing of Seasons Affecting Salability of Apparel

The recent seasons of the National Coat and Suit Industry Recovery Board are summarized elsewhere in this issue. The present state of the coat and suit industry was depicted with what has become usual incisiveness by NCSIB Chairman Max E. Weinstein. His report dealt with industry practices, production volume, the use of synthetic fibers and other aspects of the industry, especially interesting was that section on his survey describing the change in the timing of seasons. He said:

"Efficient timing is, of course, recognized as among the principal elements in the salability of a product. It is obviously necessary to seek to perfect a seasonal pattern with that thought in mind. There are certain changing circumstances that must be weighed in this connection. The growth of importance of the Pacific Coast, Southwest and South America has led to a change in the timing of seasons. The growth of importance of the Pacific Coast, Southwest and South America has led to a change in the timing of seasons. The growth of importance of the Pacific Coast, Southwest and South America has led to a change in the timing of seasons.

South as consuming areas suggests the need for additional specific attention to the public's seasonal needs in those regions.

"In contrast to this are indications that there is a trend at this time by a sizable segment of the public in the country as a whole to purchase apparel closer to the time when it is actually required.

"In the seasonal schedule generally followed during and since the war, with the introduction of lines several weeks earlier than prior to it, there has been a re-shuffling of the comparative importance of the respective months in percentage of production represented by them. Depicting this are the following monthly percentages of coat and suit production for last spring and the 1953-54 season, taking the December-March period as 100 per cent for purpose of this comparison:

	December	January	February	March
1952-53	23.8	28.1	29.1	19.0
1953-54	11.4	25.9	38.4	24.1

"It will be noted that while the February and March percentages in 1953-54 were higher than those of last spring, the December and January figures were lower.

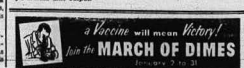
"It is a question as to whether, in later launching of the seasons, the loss of December production could be fully counteracted by subsequent volume gains. An early start appears to have the effect of spreading production more evenly over the season. It has the added advantage of making possible the identifying of consumer preferences in time to facilitate re-ordering.

"Of direct interest to any review of the industry's seasonal structure is the increased importance of merchandise that bridges the seasons. Featured are the so-called winter-to-spring and summer-to-fall types. The great increase in year-round travel seen in retail and suburban influences are doubtless factors in this trend. It has been aided also by a augmented diversity of appropriate fabrics.

"A marked broadening of the selection of lightweight materials suggests possible efforts to formalize a separate summer season. Besides the new synthetics are the silks, cottons and blends. It is probable also that with some encouragement from the trade, woollen and worsted mills would augment their offerings of summer-weight fabrics.

"The need for filling in the interval of actual retail and manufacturing operations is, surely, sufficient incentive for sponsorship of a summer season. May and June, combined, accounted for an average of only 19.2 per cent of the annual coat and suit unit production in the most recent three-year period reported upon. In retailing in those same years, May-through-July yielded an average of but 12.3 per cent of the annual business, according to Federal Reserve figures on department store operations.

"The strides made by men's clothing trade in developing summer activity are worthy of note. Garments classified as summer goods are shown by the latest figures to comprise 21.9 per cent of that industry's annual unit output."



a Vaccine will mean Victory!

Join the MARCH OF DIMES

Issue 2 to 31

Members of Locals 10, 22, 60 and 89:

Registration for Retirement

will be accepted

STARTING APRIL 15, 1954

Those wishing to retire this year must apply in person at the office of the Retirement Fund, 218-32 West 40th St., New York City, in Room 409 (fourth floor) between the hours of 9 A.M. and 5 P.M.

Members of the Eastern out-of-Town and Northeast Department locals in shops located outside of New York City, working for New York jobs, should apply at their local union office.

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

- A to B — April 15 to April 23
- C to D — April 26 to April 30
- E to G — May 3 to May 7
- H to K — May 10 to May 14
- L to R — May 17 to May 21
- S to Z — May 24 to May 28

If you cannot come in during the period set aside for you, you may register from May 31 to June 15, 1954.

RETIREMENT FUND OF THE DRESS INDUSTRY OF NEW YORK

Julius Hochman Abe Goodman Harry Uviller
Treasurer Secretary Chairman

Spirited Picketing Sparks Campaign To Unionize Royal Mfg. in Allentown

Colorful and spirited picketing at the Royal Manufacturing Co. plant in Allentown, Pa., last month sparked the union's vigorous drive to organize the shop, reports District Supervisor Sol Greene. The firm manufactures knitted underwear and normally employs over 100 workers, of whom the majority have signed up with the ILOUW.

The union's request for recognition and for conferences to negotiate a contract has been flatly refused by the company, and one of the employers countered the demand by stopping the power in the mill and using abusive language to the workers.

Pickets wearing costumes, beat-

ing drums, singing union songs and carrying large signs began marching before the Royal plant at lunchtime on Jan. 15. As the demonstration continued, workers from nearby factories and passers-by gathered to watch and cheer on the pickets. The line was manned by about 75 members of Local 111's "Committee of 100" while other members handed out leaflets explaining the reason for the picketing.

Leading the parade were three women members dressed in colonial costumes representing the "Spirit of '76." They carried a sign proclaiming that "Taxation Without Representation is Tyranny," referring to the company union to which the Royal workers have been paying dues without getting results.

Next in line walked a worker dressed as Abraham Lincoln, carrying a banner bearing a pro-labor quote by the Great Emancipator. A woman member dressed as a pirate carried a poster reading, "Buccannery Days Are Over - Workers Have Rights." Other pickets carried signs asking for union recognition and freedom of choice.

State Organization Director Greiner has offered to allow either Allentown's Mayor, the president-elect of Lehigh County or any other respected and responsible citizen to examine the signed cards and verify that the union's majority is valid as a preliminary to negotiations. The company has rejected the offer. The case is pending before the National Labor Relations Board.

HOROWITZ RECALLS EOT GAINS IN 1953 AT JERSEY SESSION

Implementing the ILOUW convention resolution establishing the 35-hour week as a matter of basic policy for all garment workers was hailed as the union's outstanding gain in 1953 in a recent address by Vice Pres. Israel Horowitz, general manager of the Eastern Out-of-Town Dept.

Speaking before members of Newark Locals 220 and 251 and Plainfield Local 140, Horowitz disclosed the faithful observance of the department's irrevocable rule that no new contract could be negotiated without a provision for the 35-hour work week.

Reports from all sections of the department showed employers were aware this was an issue for which the union was prepared to strike, he stated.

Another major gain was the change in computing differences in New Jersey and Connecticut, resulting in boosting earnings by approximately 2 per cent, he pointed out.

In the field of organization, the department's progress was sure and steady, with shops formerly considered unorganizable brought into the union fold, he reported.

The year 1953 also saw the Eastern Region Retirement Fund become a reality, he said. "We can now say to all of the 32,000 EOT members have retirement pensions to which they can look forward."

Graduation Day



Employees of Penn State Mills firm in Allentown, Pa., part of that city's "Committee of 200," educational group, receive watches marking their completion of Local 111's forum series. Vice Pres. David G'ingold, Northeast Department director, makes the presentation.

NLRB TO SIFT 102 CHALLENGED VOTES OF ELLIS ELECTION

Acting on a petition filed by the ILOUW, the National Labor Relations Board has agreed to audit the challenged ballots of 102 workers to those of 76 whose voting status in the Ellis representation election will be decided at hearings set for Feb. 8. It is reported by Vice Pres. George Rubin, manager of the Cloak Out-of-Town Department.

In balloting at the two Ellis plants in Connecticut held last October, the tentative count showed 229 for the union and 248 against. Thus, the board's decision on the eligibility of these 102 company-challenged ballots will determine the final outcome.

Retirees Honored

Following up on the successful meeting for retired members of Local 133 in Union City, N. J., the department has scheduled similar events for each of its locals. At these gatherings, retirees are presented with Life Membership Cards. In the presence of prominent community leaders and delegations from the shops, February meetings have been scheduled by Locals 130, 134 and 165.

Local 135 Dance

More than 200 persons danced to the music of Vincent Lopez' band at the 11th annual dance of Local 133, Newark, held at the Terrace Ballroom on Jan. 22. Proceeds of the affair are contributed to worthy liberal and labor causes. Business Agent Amendo Talleres was master of ceremonies assisted by Ed Patu. Congressman Peter Rodino was guest of honor.

FIGHT POLIO!

Join March of Dimes!

Glad Hand for the New Chief



Shelley Appleton, new manager of New York Local 99, Office and Distribution Workers, receives congratulations of executive board officers Aurora Sinfator, secretary, John Lavietz, vice chairman and Harry Safolsky, chairman.

24-Hour Picketing Hits Freyberg Plants in Va.

Picket lines at the Virginia plants of the Freyberg Co. remain solid in a walkout that began Jan. 11, when it was charged by union officers that the company was committing unfair labor practices. The union dropped its earlier request for a National Labor Relations Board election because of this.

Upper South Department officers, headed by Vice Pres. Charles Kreindler, Director Angela Bamber and Steve Schlosberg, report that strikers at the Appomattox Cement Co., the doll factory in Appomattox and the Lynn Manufacturing Co. in Lynchburg are maintaining "round-the-clock" picketing.

In New York, the firm has gone to the courts to get first of all, an

injunction restraining picketing of its premises by members of Childs Dress and House Dress Workers' Local 91. In the past week it came to court again to ask that arbitration proceedings against picketing before the industry's impartial chairman, Isaac Segmiller, be dropped. Local 91 has charged that the firm violated terms of the collective agreement by sending work to non-union contractors.

At the Virginia plants, picketing has been so effective despite employer attempts to start back-to-work movements. ILOUW members also put an old school bus to use as a field kitchen for providing coffee and sandwiches for the pickets during the recent cold spell.

All but one of the cutters and spreaders in the Virginia plant are on strike and include Junior Smith, Franklin Smith, Carson Padgett, Kenneth Emitt, Elbert Yates and George Woodard.

The strike committee in Appomattox consists of Mrs. Glen Woody, Margaret Gotta, Pauline Oxford, Gertrude Page, Mary Pennix, Frances Ferguson, Sally Lou Bailey. In Lynchburg the committee includes Elizabeth Smith and Marie Carson.

Staff members working under Schlosberg's immediate direction are Murray Markoff, Grace McQuarrie, Sam Newmeyer, Maurice Flynn, Martin Vay, Marvin Mosher and Harry Haller.

TODAY AND TOMORROW

by Linda Anderson First Vice Pres. ILOUW

Ike's Taft-Hartley Proposals Will Make Bad Law Worse

In presenting before Congress a fortnight ago its recommendations for revising the Taft-Hartley Law, President Eisenhower finally came down to earth, but his head was still in the clouds.

What a disappointment!

N. Y. Corset Local 32 Marks Jubilee Feb. 20

The Corset and Brassiere Workers' Union in New York will celebrate its 20th anniversary on Feb. 20. It is announced by Abraham Snyder, manager of Local 32.

The occasion will be marked with a luncheon at the Commodore Hotel. The event will start at 12:30 P.M. and will feature entertainment and dancing.

Barnet Rosenberg Dies; Local 9 Vice Chairman

Local 9, New York Finishers, suffered the loss of its vice chairman, Barnet Rosenberg, who died suddenly at his Dec. 27 meeting of the local's executive board. Rosenberg had been an active union member for 40 years. In addition to serving as vice chairman, he also had been a delegate to the Cloak Joint Board, chairman of the local grievance committee and member of its executive board.

35 Added to Ranks Of Union Retirees In Phila. Dresses

Thirty-five more Philadelphia garment workers joined the ranks of retired members in that city last month. In ceremonies held at ILOUW Auditorium on Jan. 16, the retirees were each presented with first monthly pension checks of \$50 and an honorary lifetime membership card guaranteeing them a number of continued union rights and benefits.

Dress Joint Board Manager William Ross transmitted to the retirees the gratitude of all ILOUW members in the city. He also pointed out the pioneering role of the ILOUW in industry-financed retirement plans. The idea of pensions for retired members was also lauded by Abe David, director of one of the city's apparel manufacturers' associations. "This plan," he declared, "has been the industry's greatest achievement."

The session was emceed by en-

Recommendations or substantial changes in the law were ignored. The proposal to compel employers to sign the anti-Communist oath was a feeble gesture. In the case of labor, the affidavit hasn't proved to be an effective weapon against a system. For a Communist, the end justifies the means, doesn't it? Sure, he'll sign a hundred oaths. So what?

That's one way to "fight" communism in contrast to the best and surest way for a labor movement to safeguard democracy—by opposing in principle and fighting in practice the various machinations of the Moscow philosophy on the national and international scene today.

When Eisenhower addressed the AFL convention in 1952, he recognized all this in the extent that Taft-Hartley law aimed at weakening it. He promised that if he were elected President, he should favor the abrogation of these provisions of the Taft-Hartley law.

The promise was not kept, and Secretary of Labor Duffin resigned as a result. Later Vice President Nixon came to address another AFL convention in St. Louis. He assured the delegates that there was a "misunderstanding."

Without the latest version of the "misunderstanding." It appears over the Presidential seat. Instead of an improvement, Ike's proposals would make a controversial and lamented law more so. In recommending government-conducted strike votes, for instance, the President is proposing that the government become a strike-breaker.

Talk about incoherence. On the one hand there is a crusade against government interference in the lives of citizens, and on the other hand, Ike is proposing to extend it. In the midst of trying to open giant bureaucracy and the high cost of government services, laws are being proposed at the same time to spur bureaucracy by providing the National Labor Relations Board with new, more complicated procedures.

restraint provided by the joint labor's charter, which rendered arrest labor and talk songs.

The ONE VOTE IN TWENTY!

To get a more "liberal" Congress for the next two years, ILGWU locals in critical Congressional areas of the United States have been called upon to mobilize their members now for the election this coming November.

In the Congressional elections this year, a total of 435 seats in the House of Representatives will be at stake. Eighty-seven of these seats are in "marginal" areas—where a switch of 5 per cent of the vote or less can determine the outcome of the election. Fifty-eight of these "marginal" districts are in areas where the ILGWU has locals.

Although ILGWU locals in all parts of the country will be urged to help turn out a vote for a more liberal Congress this November, locals in the "marginal districts" are urged to move into action immediately.

ONE VOTE OUT OF TWENTY in these marginal districts can guarantee a victory for liberals in 1954.

The five-point program for immediate action in these areas is:



Is Your Congressman

The Issues in '54...

Several major issues will dominate the present sessions of Congress. They will form the basis for judging the stands of Congressmen.

Some of these issues are:

1. **UNEMPLOYMENT.** There are 2,000,000 jobless reported now. This does not include about 700,000 new workers who entered the labor market in the last year, bringing the jobless total up to some 2,700,000. Measures to combat "recession" will be a major problem for Congress.

2. **TAFT-HARTLEY.** Amendments to "soften" as well as to "toughen" the law are before Congress. Other measures will be introduced. The ability of labor to act freely to improve wage and working standards is one of the ways to keep up buying power to combat unemployment.

3. **MINIMUM WAGE.** The present minimum of 75 cents is out of date. Labor is asking for \$1.25 legal minimum. The added buying power is another way to combat unemployment.

4. **SOCIAL SECURITY.** Proposals to extend coverage to 10,000,000 more; to up the benefits; to provide for partially and totally disabled; to provide



medical insurance for those getting social security, including income groups up to \$6,000.

5. **HEALTH.** The President has proposed government aid to private health insurance plans. Further proposals will be submitted by Congressmen to extend the idea of health insurance to make medical care available for all at reasonable cost.

6. **PUBLIC HOUSING.** The housing shortage continues as an ever greater problem. Slums are growing faster than new housing.

7. **TAXES.** Proposals to shift the tax burden to lower income groups in the form of a "sales" tax have been offered. These must be defeated to keep up the buying power of the people, and to place taxes on upper income groups best able to bear them.

8. **NATIONAL DEFENSE.** To repel Communist aggression and keep the peace, America must be strong. Steps to strengthen our military position, to strengthen our allies must not be sacrificed by blind "economy" moves.

Other important measures involve civil rights, investigations, farm income, unemployment insurance, public works, natural resources.



There are 87 United States. In the last election of the total vote above map by locals are local members can locate such districts w

To keep "the vote" on the Congress on the last issue of the day—the ILGWU issues contribute to the up to date by periodic reports on the be posted in union headquarters to "know" is kept on a non-partisan basis by his acts, rather than by his party.





1. Advise the executive board of a local that it is in a marginal district.

2. Become acquainted with the name and voting record of the Congressman in that district.

3. Post the "Score On Our Congressman" prominently in the union headquarters, the plant, or the Central Labor Union. (Both the voting records and the "score" will be provided by the ILGWU Political Department, 1710 Broadway, New York City.)

4. Arrange for speaker or speech materials on the major issues for the 1954 campaign through the ILGWU Political Department.

5. Set up a local committee to get 100 per cent registration, so that all members will be eligible to vote in the primary and on Election Day.

To get top results, locals are, in many cases, working with other unions in their areas or through Central Labor Unions.

n Here?



87 marginal Congressional Districts in the U.S. These are "tight squeeze" districts where, at election, a Congressman won with 55 per cent of the vote or less. The districts indicated on the map by stars are marginal districts where ILGWU is located, and where early mobilization by union can help elect friends of labor. There are 58 districts where ILGWU locals function.

the Congressman — to know how he votes — the Political Department of the ILGWU. These cards are kept in the key notes. These "notes" are used to keep members informed. The time limits, judging the Congressman's party affiliation.



MARGINAL DISTRICTS FOR '54

STATE	CONGRESSMAN	PARTY	CONG. DIST.	CLOSING REG. DATE	ILGWU LOCALS
Calif.	Malillard Hiestand	Rep. Rep.	4 21	Sept. 8 Sept. 8	San Francisco Los Angeles
Conn.	Dodd Cretella	Dem. Rep.	1 3	Oct. 9 Oct. 9	153 151, 153 *
Del.	Warburton	Rep.	At large	Oct. 16	228, 403
Ill.	O'Hara Busbey Yates Mack	Dem. Rep. Dem. Dem.	2 3 9 21	Oct. 4 Oct. 4 Oct. 4 Oct. 4	Chicago Chicago Chicago Chicago
Ind.	Crumpacker Merrill	Rep. Rep.	3 8	Oct. 4 Oct. 4	337, 455 399
Kan.	Miller	Dem.	1	Oct. 22	198, 512, 522, 532, 545
Md.	Fellton Small Friedel	Dem. Rep. Dem.	4 8 7	Sept. 17 Sept. 17** Sept. 17	Baltimore Baltimore Baltimore
Mass.	Boiland Donohue Goodwin Curtis	Dem. Dem. Rep. Rep.	2 4 8 10	Oct. 1 Oct. 1 Oct. 1 Oct. 1	228 75, 313, 391 281 Boston
Mich.	Rabaut Oakman	Dem. Rep.	14 17	Oct. 4 Oct. 4	Detroit Detroit
Mo.	Hilleman Cole Carmahan Cannon	Rep. Rep. Dem. Dem.	4 6 8 9	Varies Varies Varies Varies	527 322, 455 227, 278, 389, 541, 543, 549, 550 195, 255, 292, 320, 328, 376, 388, 544
N. J.	Howell Williams Addonizio Kean Hark	Dem. Dem. Dem. Rep. Dem.	4 6 11 12 13	Sept. 24 Sept. 24 Sept. 24 Sept. 24 Sept. 24	125, 217 221 Newark & 161 — Orange Newark 133, 146, 162
N. Y.	Booth Holtzman DeLaney Dorn O'Brien	Rep. Dem.-Lib Dem.-Lib Dem. Dem.-Lib	5 6 7 12 30	To be set To be set To be set To be set To be set	57, 71, 107, 125, & NYC locals Brooklyn & other NYC locals 163
Ohio	Schenck Bow	Rep. Rep.	3 16	Sept. 23 Sept. 23	349 522, 546
Oregon	Angell	Rep.	3	Oct. 2	70
Penn.	Green Scott Carrigg Roun Rhodes Walter Stauffer Baylor	Dem. Rep. Rep. Rep. Rep. Rep. Rep. Rep.	5 6 10 11 14 15 16 22	Sept. 11 Sept. 11 Sept. 11 Sept. 11 Sept. 11 Sept. 11 Sept. 11 Sept. 11	Philadelphia Philadelphia 109, 131, 256 255, 249 91 234, 243 287, 316*** 434
R. I.	Forand Fogarty	Dem. Dem.	1 2	Sept. 2 Sept. 2	324 232
Utah	Dawson	Rep.	2	Oct. 22	385, 430
Va.	Fuff Wampler	Rep. Rep.	6 9	Oct. 2 Oct. 2	400, 419 402, 406, 474
Wash.	Magnuson Pelly	Dem. Rep.	At large 1	Oct. 1 Oct. 1	Seattle Seattle
W. Va.	Molishan Bailey Neal	Dem. Dem. Rep.	1 3 4	Oct. 2 Oct. 2 Oct. 2	517 418 420, 423
Wis.	Kersten Johnson	Rep. Dem.	5 9	Oct. 30 Oct. 30	Milwaukee 361

Notes: *—Locals 141, 167, 182, 164 are located in another district but have members living in the 2nd C.D.

**—This district extends beyond the Baltimore city limits. Outside the city the final registration date is Oct. 2.

***—Local 198 is located in another district but has members living in the 18th C.D.

Recommend 6% Raise In Puerto Rico Bra Pay

(Continued from Page 2)
leave for lunch and dinner) and pleaded for a 75-cent minimum wage to help relieve their present miserable conditions.

The committee was also impressed with the testimony of Miguel Garriga, regional director of the American Federation of Labor, who declared that "Puerto Rican workers are American workers by law and have the right to enjoy the same wages, benefits and conditions as those on the continent." He emphasized that other industries on the island are already paying 75 cents an hour and prospering.

At the conclusion of the brazer hearings, Dubinsky resigned from the committee in order to attend the National Cost and Suit Recovery Board meetings in Florida. His place was taken by Dr. Tryer.

During his stay in Puerto Rico, the ILO chief met frequently with local representatives of the needlework industry. One immediate result of these talks was the decision of the Independent Brazer Workers' Union to affiliate with the AFL. At a final conference held Jan. 16, Dubinsky urged the workers to undertake immediate and intensive "circulation" campaign and promised that the ILO would either directly or through the AFL, would render assistance to the local unions in their drive to sign workers.

Gladys Dickson, vice president of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, and a labor member of the committee, spoke at the same conference and emphasized Dubin-

sky's invaluable work during the hearings on behalf of the Puerto Rican workers. The local delegation in turn expressed its gratitude to him for his services and told him that the ILO had then, even higher in their esteem as a result of the hearings.

Members of the committee during the brazer hearings were:
For the Public: A. Cecil Snyder, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Puerto Rico; Juan Borden Cull, Providence, R. I.; Pedro Munoz-Amato, dean, School of Social Sciences, University of Puerto Rico.

For the Employers: George Martin, executive director, National Women's Neckwear and Scarf Assn., John Tucci, Herbert A. McGowan.

For the Employees: David Dubinsky, president, ILO; Gladys Dickson, vice president, Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America; Hipolito Martinez, general counsel, Puerto Rican Federation of Labor.

Nachman Strikers Undaunted As Phila. Firm Pulls Lockout

Two hundred employees of L. Nachman and Son, Inc., in Philadelphia, Pa., have begun the 14th week of their strike undaunted by company harassment in the form of a damage suit filed in federal court.

The Pennsylvania Unemployment Compensation Bureau has approved the application of Nachman workers for unemployment benefit. This decision follows an announcement by Nachman that it intends to sell its Philadelphia plant. Under Pennsylvania law workers engaged in a labor dispute are not qualified to receive compensation, except when the employer locks out his workers.

Drew Joint Board Manager William Kline states that the union's business agents have been alerted to place Nachman workers on jobs whenever available, and all officers of the joint board are making a special effort in this matter. It is clear that the lockout by this firm which is seeking for bargains in the South is becoming a costly affair for the company, thanks chiefly to the union's vigilance.

Steinberg Gives in

With the refusal of Common Pleas Court Judge Theodore L. Ritzel to issue a restraining order against the Dress Joint Board from picketing his premises, I. Steinberg has given up his struggle to maintain a non-union shop. Last month the firm officially joined the Women's and Children's Apparel Producers Assn. of Philadelphia.

The joint board has been picket-

Away From Home but Right to the Point



Southeast Department officials had to come all the way to New York last month to continue contract talks with Portrait Frocks firm, whose plant in Wallerboro, S.C. (Wallerboro Manufacturing Co.) went ILG by smashing merger in NLRB voting recently. Shown during last stages of negotiations are: Southeast Associate Director E. T. Kehrer; Nick Bonanno, supervisor for union's North and South Carolina Division; Wilbur Daniels, of ILGWU Local government; Hatia Rhodes, Lana Drawdy and Retha Lemacks, for union; firm counsel Max Lovell; owners Gerald Halbreich and Samuel Halbreich.

VIA AIR MAIL

Unions 'South of the Border' Struggling for Independence

MEXICO CITY—What's it like to be a union member "south of the border"?

An analysis of the trade unions south of the Rio Grande was prepared recently by Serafin Romaldi of the AFL, one of the assistant secretaries of the Inter-American Labor Organization (OITR) of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions. OITR headquarters, once in Havana, Cuba, now are here in Mexico City. Here's what Romaldi reported:



Trade unions in the 20 Central and South American countries vary widely and it would be impossible to attribute uniform characteristics to them. The unions which most closely resemble those in the United States are the ones in Mexico and Cuba. There, collective bargaining agreements generally are negotiated by national unions or national trade federations, with the national labor centers or confederations (comparable to the AFL or CIO) playing a supporting role, mainly as intermediary with the government when employers are stalling.

In countries ruled by military governments or totalitarian dictatorships, such as Argentina, Venezuela, Peru and the Dominican Republic, negotiation of contracts—if negotiation is the proper word—is performed by the government, which generally determines by decree what wages and working conditions should be. Employers have far more influence on the final result than do workers.

Arbitration proceedings and fact-finding boards are very infrequent in Latin American labor relations. Biggest reason for this is the lack of funds, which prevents unions from training their own people to handle such work or hiring outside experts to represent labor. Lack of funds also handicaps the unions in other serious ways. Except in Cuba, Mexico and a few other countries, there are no union general departments to supply the union spokesmen with facts that would enable him to argue successfully with the employer—or the union frequently comes out second best.

Labor leaders appear extremely reluctant to ask their members for higher dues, or in some cases any dues at all, preferring instead to seek a special subsidy from the government. Too often, this puts the union right under the government's thumb. In Colombia, for instance, no union convention can be held unless the government grants a subsidy for transportation and expenses. In some countries, Cuba, Paraguay and others, union headquarters are provided by the government.

Government power to "intervene" in union affairs and displace legally elected administrators with temporary commissioners or receivers has led to many abuses, the most glaring in Argentina, Peru and Brazil. Governments which do not have intervention powers often resort to police pressure to gain their ends or, as in Venezuela, simply dissolve the union under the pretext that it is subversive. Mexico has no such practices as these.

But legal recognition of trade unions is required in practically every Latin American country, including Mexico, and without this recognition the unions are not permitted to function. This gives the government great power in forcing the union to submit to its directives. Destruction of the free labor movement in Argentina was largely brought about by the widespread use of this weapon by Peron.

Without financial independence, Latin American unions must rely on political and government support and have no independent strength. Labor leaders frequently look toward government jobs or legislative seats as the only way of improving their economic status. Government and employers conspire to keep this situation as it is because it keeps the unions from becoming really effective.

But the day may not be far off when all this will be changed. Young trade unionists from Latin America have seen how the U. S. labor movement operates when they have been in America on Point Four scholarships or attended the Point Four (formerly U.S.) trade union school in Puerto Rico. Wide distribution of Spanish books on labor on the history, activities, structure and practices of U.S. labor also is contributing to a growing desire for trade union independence in these countries.

—L. P. A.

Christmas Bonus Held to Be Wages

Christmas bonuses paid by the Julius Kevner Co. and its predecessor at its plant in Nazareth, Pa., for 28 years were held to be part of the wage structure and condition of employment under the agreement with the union, in a decision handed down Jan. 11 by Judge William G. Barthold of the Court of Common Pleas of Northampton County, Pa.

In an extremely able and well reasoned decision the court held that because of this, the dispute over payment of the bonus was arbitrable. The company had contested the union's request for arbitration, claiming that the issue raised was not subject to arbitration under terms of the contract.

The firm has agreed to submit the issue to Arbitrator G. A. Dash of Philadelphia. Representing the union in the case, which involved extensive court action, were ILO General Counsel Morris P. Glushkin, Redner Handler and the firm of Levine and O'Brien of Boston, Pa.

Happy Witnesses to the Signing



Shop committee of Waterston Underwear Co., Waterston, Conn., an enthusiastic audience as Eastern Out-of-Town Department General Manager Israel Horowitz signs contract recently negotiated with firm. Standing behind him is EOT Coordinator Edward Kramer.

Cloak Recovery Bd. Surveys Impact of Industry Changes

(Continued from Page 3)

year of consumers' protection labels. Vice Pres. Isidor Nagler, manager of the New York Class Joint Board and chairman of the Label Committee and of the board's Resolutions Committee, said it was gratifying that the bulk of garments manufactured are labeled, signifying that they are made under fair labor conditions.

He expressed concern, however, that there are still some garments which do not bear the label. "The committee is in hearty accord with the policy of intensely publicizing the label and enlisting the support of those who buy and use the products of our industry," Nagler declared.

In other reports, ILGWU Vice Presidents George Rubin and Samuel Otto stressed the importance of management-labor cooperation in meeting industry problems. Vice Pres. Charles Kreindler and Nicholas Kirtman, manager of the Cleveland Joint Board, spoke of the need for severance pay for workers of firms that go out of business. Vice Pres. Philip Kramer, manager of the Boston Joint Board, mentioned "enlightened management" - labor standards of the Boston area. Vice Pres. Morris Blane, manager of the Chicago Joint Board, said that the workers and management had a common stake in increasing the volume of work.

The need for cooperatively sponsored research activities in a business made up of relatively small units is most appropriately met through the National Recovery Board. Charles Baker, chairman of the Committee on Research and Statistics, told the meeting.

The board's own library of statistical information, the committee said, not only provided a source of data on every phase of the industry, "Facts on national and world economic affairs conceivably having upon ours and kindred trades are also maintained for ready reference," Baker said.

The branches of business that manifest proper awareness of this have a pronounced advantage over those in which such a consciousness is lacking, the report added.

Part of the Research Committee's report was a survey on "Synthetic Fibers, Fabrics and Blends and the Women's and Children's Coat and Suit Industry," prepared by the organization's Research Department, headed by Harry Haskel. It emphasized that the fashion as well as the functional qualities of fabrics or garments of synthetic fibers must be highlighted if they are to play a still larger role in coats and suits.

"Fiber content and fabrics interest, however important, must not obscure the dominant role of creative styling which is the principal key to increased sales in a fashion industry," the report noted.

Advocated by the board were preparations for swift and vigorous government action to protect small business in the event of an economic decline. Two avenues of remedial measures were suggested: the use of machinery to be set up under the Small Business Act of 1953; the liberalizing of anti-trust laws concerning small business.

"To big business, a moderate decline is just that, moderate," Joseph L. Dubow, chairman of the Legal Committee, noted. "It may mean a reduction in the work-week of so many thousand employees, occasional lay-offs for some, the shutting down here and there of the least profitable of a number of plants scattered over the country."

But small business doesn't have "the vast corporate structure to absorb the shock and distribute its impact among tiers of executives, workers and shareholders," he continued. "When one of our plants

closes, it means that some member of our industry has had his capital wiped out, and his workers have been left without a livelihood."

The liberalization of anti-trust laws was termed "necessary to maintain the atmosphere of free competition which is fundamental to our economy. . . ."

In urging that the federal minimum wage be killed from the present 75 cents to 81 an hour, Dubow noted: "In terms of the hourly wage rates of its workers, the coat

and suit industry stands among the highest in the nation."

Arguments against a manufacturer's sales tax were formulated in the report which observed that: 1) the tax burden will be shifted to those least able to pay; 2) whenever the Communists have taken over a country, the first tax revision has been the imposition of a sales tax. This revision is deliberately imposed to discourage the public's consumption of goods, resulting in a lower standard of living.

2 Jersey Undie Shops Netted By EOT Organizing Campaign

It's full speed ahead in Jersey. Buckling under the determined organizational drive conducted by the Eastern Out-of-Town Department, two more underwear contractors joined the union rosters recently, it is reported by Vice Pres. Israel Horowitz, EOT general manager.

Latest unionized shops are Fleet Undergarment Co. of Jersey City and Gilda Undergarment Co. of Union City. Conquest of the Gilda firm is especially significant, as it has been a non-union holdout since 1948.

Highlighting agreements signed with both firms was a reduction in the work week from 40 to 35 hours. Week workers will receive the same pay for the shorter hours as they did previously, and piece workers will obtain compensating increases.

For the first year of the agreement, Fleet workers will receive three and one-half holidays with pay, and in the second year they will be increased to five and one-half days. They also will have full coverage by the union's health, welfare, vacation and retirement programs. Millie Strang was elected shop steward.

Gilda workers obtained four holidays with pay, and vacations of up to two weeks to be paid directly by the employer. In addition, they are covered by all regular health, welfare and retirement provisions

of the union agreement. Stephanie Wasek was named shop chairlady.

Active in organizing these two shops were rank and file executive board members of Locals 148 and 352, headed by Chairman Al Nadler.

Health Coverage, Pay Raises Granted At Salo in Laredo

Another Laredo, Tex., firm was added to those providing health benefits to their employees when the Salo Manufacturing Co. was signed to a contract last month.

The pact calls for payroll contributions by the employer to a health and medical fund, wage increases for all workers and paid vacations and holidays. Terms were negotiated by Elizabeth Kimmel of the regional staff and Sara Ligarde, secretary of Local 350.

Several other agreements were signed recently with Laredo firms which incorporated basic health benefits for the workers.

"I See a Man . . ."



Cleveland Cloak Pay Up; Keller-Kohn Co. Settles

A wage increase of 4 per cent and additional employers' contributions of 1 per cent of payroll to the retirement fund have been negotiated in the Cleveland cloak industry. This brings the retirement contribution to 2 1/4 per cent, reports Ohio-Kentucky Regional Director Nicholas Kirtman. Heading negotiations were Cleveland Joint Board Manager Louis Friend and Business Agents Louis Friend, Meyer Berkman and Al Burby. Terms of the agreement, subject to ratification by the joint board, are to go into effect May 1.

Keller-Kohn Agreement
A temporary agreement has been reached with the Keller-Kohn Co. providing for half of

its production to be done in Cleveland and half in Baltimore. The settlement, which is considered to be fair by cloakmakers in both cities, was reached after negotiations that followed the declaration of a strike against the firm by the workers in Cleveland and their successful appeal for union solidarity to the Baltimore workers.

Pensions for Disabled

Seven totally and permanently disabled workers below the minimum retirement age were put on pensions by the Cleveland Retirement Fund last year, Kirtman reports. This humane move, resulting from a precedent-shattering decision of the fund's officers, was greeted enthusiastically by the membership. In all, 55 workers were retired last year.

Portnoy Must Pay Amounts Overdue Vacation, Health

Negotiations are in progress with Portnoy Garment Co. for an agreement which not only gives the firm's workers wage and other improvements but calls for payment by the company of outstanding delinquencies in vacation and health benefits.

The firm now has shops in St. Louis, Mo., and Granite City, Ill., and has resumed contracting for Portnoy City Manufacturing Co. It stopped its work for Portnoy City during a short period last year and during this hiatus it failed to distribute vacation pay to workers in its Alton, Ill., plants (no longer operating) and it also cut off contributions to the St. Louis Health Center.

The new contract with Portnoy will call for the firm to make good on these obligations through weekly payments to the workers who are entitled to vacation benefits and to the center.

The End Is Only the Beginning



Having reached the required minimum age, these veteran Philadelphia Dress Joint Board members are getting ready for a long overdue vacation: retirement. Ceremonies honoring latest group of retirees were held on Jan. 14. Manager William Ross is third from right, bottom row.

TARIFFS

STANDARD

N. Y. Dressmakers to Receive \$5 More in Vacation Checks

Sixty thousand New York dressmakers, of all crafts, will receive an additional \$5 in their 1954 vacation checks, it was announced by Vice Pres. Julius Hochman, general manager of the New York Dress Joint Board, at the meeting of the Board of Directors on Jan. 20.

Averaging an 11.5 per cent increase over payments during 1953, the rise will add approximately \$200,000 to the funds expended for dressmakers' vacation benefits. Since 1946, when the system of vacation checks was initiated, payments have averaged about \$2,500,000 each year.

With addition of the \$5, new vacation benefits will be paid to the various crafts as follows:

Cutters and pressers, \$52; operators, sample makers, special machine operators and drapers, \$50; examiners and finishers, \$45; cleaners, floor workers, plinkers, \$44. It was also announced that, in compliance with the New York State Disability Law, sick benefits for a second year of illness under the Health and Welfare Fund would be eliminated unless the member has gone back to work.

Kazin Assays Work Of Eugene O'Neill At Hunter Opening

Alfred Kazin, noted critic and author, will discuss "Eugene O'Neill: His Contribution to the American Theatre" at the opening session of the new Hunter College lecture series on Saturday, Feb. 27. The program begins at 1:20 P.M. in Room 1403 at the school, 69th St. and Park Ave.

Kazin is the author of the best-seller "A Walker in the Streets" and a frequent reviewer for the New York Times and the New Republic. In later seasons Kazin and other prominent speakers will discuss "Criticism of the American Novel and Biography."

Education-Recreation Center activities continue at Tenth High School Thursday evenings, Fannie Cohn, secretary of the Educational Department, reports. The program consists of discussions on current events, literature, political problems, etc. followed by dramatic activities, folk dancing or other recreation. Programs begin at 6:30 P.M. in Room 564, 18th St. between 8th and 9th Ave.

Plans are being completed for the forthcoming annual Educational Department panel discussion.

MARCH 1 DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS TO TRAINING CLASS

Mar. 1 is the deadline for filing applications for the 1954-55 term of the ILOUW Training Institute, Director Arthur A. Elder announces. The new term is the fifth in the history of the pioneer labor school, dedicated to the professional training of union personnel, with a heavy emphasis on organizing work.

Tuition is free, expenses are paid for field work and all students satisfactorily completing the year's sessions scheduled to open in New York City June 14, 1954, are guaranteed positions with the union. A number of ILOUW affiliates provide scholarships to aid their members who are admitted to the school.

Applicants must be between 21 and 35 years of age and have at least a high school education or its equivalent. The year's curriculum calls for six months of lectures and workshop seminars in New York City and six months of field work in the United States or Canada. Application forms and further information may be obtained from the ILOUW Training Institute at 1710 Broadway, New York 19, N. Y.

Commencing on the forthcoming opening of the Institute's fifth year, Pres. David Dubinsky stated it was anticipated that experience obtained during the past four years would result in an increasingly effective training program. "While we continue to 'signpost' the institute in an experimental frame of mind," Dubinsky asserted, "our efforts believe that through our program we have introduced a most useful method of training personnel. At the same time we have developed a history-making approach to meet the problem of providing opportunities for service in the labor movement."

The fourth group of institute students to enter full time union service will be graduated in May, 1954.



ILGW Chief Named To Advisory Group On Int'l Affairs

ILGWU Pres. David Dubinsky has been named by Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell as a member of the reactivated Trade Union Advisory Committee on International Affairs of the Department of Labor, it was announced last week. The committee, originally formed in 1946, provides a formal channel through which the American trade union movement and the U.S. Government can work in the field of international relations.

The ten-man group contains representatives of all sections of American organized labor. AFL members, besides Dubinsky, are Pres. George Meany, First Vice Pres. Matthew Woll and International Representative George P. Delaney.

Boston Rainwear Parleys Continue On Pact Renewal

Negotiations between Rainwear Local 24 of Boston and the New England Clothing and Rainwear Manufacturers' Association are continuing following several fruitless conferences to renew the collective agreement, which expired Dec. 31, 1953, but was extended by mutual consent. Manager Nathan Barker reports.

The association represents 22 Boston plants employing some 2,000 waterproof workers.

The Northeast Department, with Local 34 as affiliated, has been represented during these negotiations by its director, Vice Pres. David Gluski and Field Supervisor Jack Halpern.

Ring in the New



Ray Hagarty (standing) retiring manager of Kansas City Joint Board, extends best wishes and congratulations to board's new officers: Helen Bengtson, manager, and Morton Shapiro, assistant manager.

HOW TO BUY

by Sidney Margolis

Follow Hints on How to Lick Rigged "Shortage" of Coffee

With many brands of coffee already \$1.19 a pound and threatening to go higher, we may soon become a nation of drinkers, with very sparing use of coffee. And if that happens, you'll soon see the price of coffee head down as it has before.

Actually, there is reason to believe there is no real coffee shortage and the market is being rigged.

Just since December, wholesale quotations for coffee have jumped 15 to 20 cents a pound, and retail prices have been spurring upwards as dealers get in new stocks. Alfred N. Landeberger, coffee-department manager of Eastern Cooperatives, Inc., points out that the rise has been accompanied by headlines and stories like "Frost Damage in Brazil" and "There will not be coffee enough to fill the increasing needs of the world."

But, Landeberger says, the largest coffee-growing countries keep strict controls over shipments of coffee and its price. He feels that high financing of coffee has been keeping it in the interior of these countries, and that this regulation has been affecting prices more than actual supply and demand. Although the daily newspapers keep repeating the shortage story, which they are spoon-fed by coffee trade interests, estimates of the supply of coffee have varied enormously. Landeberger says daily no real coffee shortage is in sight unless consumers start a rush for it and particularly start hoarding the vacuum packs.

So don't fall for the shortage story and, above all, don't let the higher price of coffee drain you of money needed for other things, as you can in a family of several enthusiastic coffee drinkers. You can keep the lid on your coffee bill by careful use and serving other beverages. Most people can still make a cup of tea for a penny or two compared to the 2 to 3 cents a cup for coffee. As millions of moderate-income families cut down their coffee consumption, you'll see the price sink again.

Subtle or dried (instant) coffee is definitely a money-saver. You may not save as much as promised by the makers of some brands of soluble drinks, since instant coffee drinkers like to use a heavier dose of it than the packages indicate. For example, some brands of soluble coffee claim you can get 40 cups out of two ounces—the number you usually get from a pound of ground fresh coffee. But coffee experts say you are more likely to get only 20 cups. Even so, soluble coffee in the large size containers, which have a lower cost per ounce, give you the equivalent of a pound of coffee for only 60-70 cents.

Measure the use of soluble coffee eliminates waste, since you measure it out for only as many cups as you actually use.

Here are ways to save on coffee:

- You save substantially on the private brands of the large markets. Stores that have fast turnover also usually have fresh stocks. And freshness of coffee is generally a more important factor in flavor than even the blend. Vacuum-packed coffee costs more and is unnecessary except possibly for a small family that uses little.
- Moderate use of chicory (some like it, some don't) increases yield much beyond the amount of chicory added.
- Measure your use of ground coffee carefully, in terms of level tablespoons.
- Make only the number of cups you actually need.
- Don't stick to just one brand because you always have used it. Prices vary, not only on fresh-ground but on soluble coffee. It pays to experiment with the less-expensive brands. You may find them quite satisfactory.

SATURDAY VISITS To Points of Interest*

Feb. 6, 1:15 P.M. Columbia University. Program commemorating 25th anniversary of Columbus, 1492-7th Ave. (IRT) train to 116th St. School of Business, (opposite subway) Room 519 A.

Feb. 12, 1:30 P.M. Children's Special Exhibit, Port Tryon Park IRT W-47 train, 8th Ave. "A" train to Dywiden.

Feb. 20, 1:30 P.M. Museum of Natural History, Exhibit, Film, Central Park West and 79th St. (7th Ave. W-47, IND subway).

FOR THE FRONT

Cutters Okay Cloak Renewal, Demolish Commie Arguments

Highlighting the membership meeting of Local 10 on Jan. 25 were the ratification of the recent cloak renewal and approval of increases in vacation benefits to the cutters in the miscellaneous trades, paralleling similar action already taken by the Dress Joint Local covering all workers in that branch, including dress cutters.

Over a thousand cutter, attended the meeting, which was one of the most lively and interesting gatherings in years. One member known for his Communist sympathies took the floor to criticize the new cloak agreement. He complained that the five-year term of the pact was too long, that it provided for no wage increases and that it was a rise in contributions to the retirement fund and did not provide for severance pay, recently the subject of a widely publicized statement by Pres. Dubinsky.

Manager Mo Falkman, in a sharp, analytical and factual statement, demolished these contentions in a way that evoked frequent outbursts of approval from the membership. He pointed out that each October the cloak cutters, notwithstanding unfavorable conditions in the trade, had succeeded in obtaining a wage increase

No meeting of Cutters' Union Local 10 will be held in February as the union had made a change in the regularly scheduled meeting date.

through a decision of the impartial chairman. As for the five-year term of the agreement, he noted that it established an escalator clause permitting the union to seek increases in wage up to five in the cost of living.

Falkman further emphasized the importance of the additional contributions that were to be paid by the employers into the retirement fund under the new agreement. Not only will the amount of benefits to aged workers remain intact, but it will not be possible to retire as early as workers, he said, adding that ILOUW affiliates would not permit their funds to become so inadequate that benefits had to be reduced as

had recently occurred, unfortunately, in the case of certain unions. The contract which he drew between the second position of the ILOUW and its funds with the chaotic and distressing conditions prevailing in the Communist-led Pur Workers' Union drove home the difference between constructive and remodelable trade union and one that was a tail to the Communist Party kite.

Manila pointed out that, for many years, the union had made outstanding gains with the "haunting" record of industrial strife in the city. The wage increase obtained since the Thirties, the vacation, health and retirement benefits, job security as well as important industrial reforms such as limitation of contractors which had helped to promote a more stable industry.

As for severance pay, Falkman recalled Pres. Dubinsky's avowal that this goal remains on the union agenda, and indicated that the time for pressing this demand obviously depended on conditions in the various trades and the economic situation in general.

Following the manager's remarks, the cutters adopted almost unanimously the executive board's recommendation that the new cloak contract be approved.

Vacations Raised

Another issue developed with the executive board recommended increasing the vacation benefit in the miscellaneous trades from 35 to

55. In these trades the vacation and health funds are under the jurisdiction of Local 15, whereas in the dress and cloak trades they are operated by the respective joint boards. The boost from \$35 to \$55 had recently been approved by the Dress Joint Board. In the cloak trade the vacation benefit is \$60. Here too, criticism was voiced by the spokesman for the Communist clique who strained hard to find fault even with the proposal to increase vacation benefit. With typical demagoguery, he demanded to know why the union didn't obtain a full work's wage as vacation in the fund and he stressed that the union was raising vacation benefits despite unfavorable industrial conditions.

Manager Falkman called attention to the fact that vacation and health benefits were part of a single fund, and he noted that, in addition to the vacation benefit, there are many health benefits such as disability payments, hospitalization, surgical indemnity, medical examinations, etc. He emphasized the importance of a responsible approach to maintain the solidarity of the fund and he stressed that the union was raising vacation benefits despite unfavorable industrial conditions.

Manila disclosed that, in addition to the 212 cloak cutters who had previously been retired, over 40 additional were being accepted for retirement for the coming year. During 1954 there also will be additional retirement of cutters in the dress trade, where 117 have been retired to date and in the miscellaneous trades, where 48 members now are getting pension benefits.

BOOK FRONT

by Marion Speichandler

Parents' Love Stronger Than Tot's Handicap

TRIUMPH OF LOVE, by Lena R. Bruckner, Simon and Schuster, \$3.

The novel is filled with handicapped persons although it shows their disability as vividly as little Billy Bruckner whose mother, in this book, writes a most moving treatment of faith and courage and understanding.

Billy, who is still too young to go



to school, was born without arms. This is the kind of shocking tragedy that can happen without warning in any family. In this case it is supported by two brilliant young Americans, both of whom are children of garment workers.

Dr. Bruckner has written a staggeringly honest book which adds to the usual fascination of medical matters the exciting hold of a direct narrative.

What she has to say is something which at first is crabsolutely personal and turns into a message that is universally inspiring. She and her husband, Ray, at first pulled away from their child. In fact and in essence they were trying to deny him. But they could not keep thinking about him.

How they reclaimed him, how they overcame their first bewilderment, how hope slowly supplanted despair, how they discovered the work of the remarkable Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation in West Orange, N. J. how they reached out to make fast friendships with persons of all faiths to share a larger faith in the indomitable human spirit provide only a few of the moving passages of this book.

But there's nothing less balmy, falling, rising again, Billy learning to skate, Billy beginning to learn the limits of his disability and Billy's sister Karen boasting of her brother's tremendous achievements—all these bear a profound lesson for all of us; for who among us is without fault?

THE DEATH OF KINGS, by Charles Wertheimer. Random House, \$2.95.

This is an idea-packed chronicle of the great political trials of the last 15 years. Superficially it is a novel about a powerful newsmagazine and the men who run it. Actually it is a study of the notions of democracy and liberalism can be translated on, even in a democracy, in periods of great political stress.

In the great anti-fascist year of 1932, Louis Baron, new publisher of Beacon magazine, tells his editors: "We are opinion makers. We are the 'kings of the revolution.' This book is about the death of these kings and of the idea of the revolution. Louis Baron thought he could direct public opinion, but faced with the challenge of changing times, he surrenders and gives in to popular dogma.

Along the way his idealistic editors drop out. One is falsely accused of being a Communist. Louis turns his back on him. Another quits the magazine to defend a traitor. A third, a former Communist, shifts to the other end of the political spectrum and becomes a key man in Bennett's operations. Of the other two, one a bigoted Southern, dies in France in 1944, while discovering, in a revelation to Louis' cynicism, that he loves the little people.

To Louis Baron, fighting communism means abandoning all modernism for extreme right-wing vigilance. Those who resist this trend are his victims.

HEALTH FRONT

by Pauline Newman

President's Health Program Leaves Much to Be Desired

President Eisenhower's message on the health needs of the nation leaves much to be desired. Of course, we heartily agree with the President when he said that "the means for achieving good health should be accessible to all. A person's location, occupation, age, race, creed or financial status should not bar him from enjoying this access." These are noble sentiments. But there is nothing in his program which would make it possible to translate these lofty words into reality.

He also declared that "there exists in our nation the knowledge and the skill to give us all still greater health protection and still longer life." But the fact is that medical knowledge and skill are so expensive as to be unavailable to the vast majority of the American people.

For instance, there are some cities in the South where discrimination does exist and where Negroes are not admitted to "white" hospitals—not even to emergency cases. There are men and women in rural areas where hospital facilities are located within a radius of 40 to 50 miles.

He still thinks—or was advised—that voluntary health insurance is the answer to people's health needs, but he may not know that vast numbers of our people are not able to meet the premiums of voluntary health plans. Furthermore, he may not even know that his friends in the AMA are interfering with such plans.

We are happy to announce that beginning with Feb. 15 issue of JUSTICE, Dr. Leo Price, director of

the Union Health Center, will share this space with the present writer by contributing information on and answering questions about health and medical matters of interest to all ILOUW members.

Dr. Price has had many years of experience as a practicing physician, as director of the New York center and as consultant to ILOUW health centers throughout the country and in Canada.

From the many letters sent in by ILOUW members, it is evident there is a great demand for this kind of information. Readers therefore are urged to write in about their problems, simply and so the point and Dr. Price will give them his personal attention and reply in this column.

Address your letters to Dr. Leo Price at JUSTICE, 1710 Broadway, New York 19, N. Y.

CLOAK LOCALS GIVE ENTHUSIASTIC OKAY TO NEW PACT TERMS

The new five-year contract in the New York cloak industry, which strengthens the retirement fund, received the wholehearted approval of workers attending membership meetings of three locals last month. After hearing a report on negotiations by Manager Joseph Breslaw, members of Local 33, Cloak Pressers, enthusiastically ratified the agreement at a meeting held Jan. 27 in Hotel Diplomat.

Edward Weisman, chairman of the advisory board of the skirt and sportswear growers of Local 35, will be tendered a testimonial banquet to mark his 25 years of active union service on Feb. 4 at Hotel New Yorker.

Members of Local 117, Cloak Operators, stamped their approval on the renewed agreement at their meeting in Hotel Diplomat on Jan. 11. In addition to reporting on-part details, Manager Benjamin Kaplan also discussed current industry problems.

It was announced that Local 117 will honor its office manager, Nat Davidson, for his 40 years of union activity with a dinner on Feb. 28 at Hotel Commodore.

Fox Trot, Anyone?



Got a secret desire to mambo? Does your pulse beat faster when they play a slow waltz? Christine Naubert (right foreground) is the instructor for the Educational Department's social dancing class held Thursday evenings in Studio A, 1710 Broadway, and she guarantees to make any amateur look like an old pro on the dance floor.

LOCAL 117
N. Y. Cloak Operators
will honor its office manager
NAT DAVIDOFF
for
40 Years of Union Service
on
Sun., Feb. 28, afternoon
Hotel Commodore
Tickets at Local 117 office.
242 W. 36th St.

JUSTICE

INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

BARGAIN HUNTERS

JANUARY MEETINGS of the National Coat and Suit Industry Recovery Board have become annual demonstrations of the common interest management and labor have in maintaining responsibility on both sides of the bargaining table. That common purpose has been achieved through strict adherence to the processes of collective bargaining and the use of impartial machinery in the settlement of disputes. The results have included decades of industrial peace and the elimination of cutthroat competition whose cost workers ultimately bear.

The vast majority of firms in the garment industry know the cash value of stability. They have based competition on managerial know-how rather than twisting the screw of exploitation another turn from time to time.

The lesson of their experience is implicit in the fact that the cloakmakers of New York were recently able to renew their agreements with important gains six months in advance of their expiration time—and without a strike. It may be recognized in the fact that in little more than half a year the ILGWU has been able to win provisions for establishing the 35-hour week for close to 150,000 members, covered by scores of contracts—without a strike. It is clear in the fact that in this same period a half-dozen major die-hard holdouts against unionization have signed ILGWU contracts without having to endure, first of all, the bitterness and losses of a strike.

BUT IN EVERY INDUSTRY there is a small breed of businessman who, when market conditions put a premium on managerial skills, is tempted to seek profit windfalls by discovering new sources of cheap labor. This bargain hunter and industrial gambler scampers off in all directions in his search for corners of the economy in which subsistence living and the fear it induces have kept labor organization at a minimum.

In the Carolinas, for example, ILGWU officers are now in the final stage of negotiating agreements with two large firms. At the same time pickets are parading before the plants of firms which, in their hot pursuit of profits, have run away from New York and Philadelphia rather than subscribe to the elementary principles of job security and jobber responsibility.

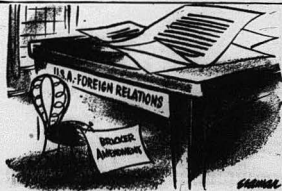
Pres. Dubinsky last month was in Puerto Rico as a member of the U. S. government commission which recommended raising the minimum wage for corset and brassiere workers on the island from 33 to 55 cents an hour. This is an important, if short, step toward ending the basis of unfair competition between island and mainland at the expense of workers in both places.

Less certain are the benefits which the House Ways and Means Committee seems to have provided in its vote to make taxable the industrial development bonds with which municipalities in Tennessee and other states have sought to entice corporations. One day after the vote the Wall Street Journal reported the committee had also decided to keep corporations free of the obligation to include in their gross income for taxing purposes contributions to their capital. This means that what they formerly got as bargains they will soon get as gifts.

NEITHER THE NATION nor its industries can, tolerate competitive advantages based on the preservation of substandard conditions of labor or tax rebates and outright gifts to corporations at the expense of workers. Pres. Dubinsky's pertinent reminder that the establishment of severance pay funds in the garment industry remains an active item on the union's agenda is especially timely. It can serve as a corrective for those who seek to use the easy mobility of the garment industry as a means for escaping their responsibilities to the workers whose labor has been the source of their profits.

In the final analysis the revival of anti-labor hopes has been stimulated by the change in the political atmosphere. The ILGWU Political Department has launched its program now for showing workers how that atmosphere may be altered in next November's crucial elections. Industrial peace in the nation will depend on the extent to which workers will realize between now and November that political action, as well as union organization, is needed to safeguard the pay envelope.

"Bricker-Brac"



"Don't Touch Him—You Socialist!"



Who Pays for 'Free' Taxes?

By
John F. Kennedy

Excerpta from a recent speech in Chattanooga, Tenn., by the Senator from Massachusetts.

It is my understanding that the Tennessee Industrial Revenue Bond Building Act of 1951, as amended in 1953, authorizes all incorporated municipalities and counties to erect buildings and acquire sites, as inducements to new industry, through the issuance of revenue bonds.

An advertisement in the New York Times goes on to proclaim proudly:

"Since the bonds are exempt from state and federal taxation, and most materials used in the building are also tax exempt, it is possible for local governments to provide factory space at a lower financial outlay in most cases than would be possible for such space to be provided by private financing."

This constitutes, in my opinion, unfair competition to the private companies which must pay higher interest rates to finance taxable bonds for a new plant. Indeed, in effect, the taxpayers of Massachusetts and every other state are handing a subsidy to Tennessee and the industry moving into Tennessee and other Southern states to take advantage of this subsidy.

Textile, apparel, machine, leather, abrasive paper and other important industries have been lured to these states at least partly through the use of industrial development revenue bonds. I understand that last year the city of Elizabethton, Tenn., approved a \$6 million bond issue to finance the erection of a plant for Textron, Inc., once a major source of employment in New England. Although this particular deal apparently fell through, Textron has located many of its Southern plants through the use of various tax loopholes, including charitable trusts.

WHY are such securities exempted from federal income taxes when they are issued for a proprietary rather than for a public purpose? The U. S. Chamber of Commerce, the Investment Bankers Assn., the Municipal Finance Officers Assn., the American Bar Assn.'s Section of Municipal Law and others have all condemned this practice.

I am hopeful that Southern spokesmen will assist me in my efforts to plug up this federal tax loophole. In the long run, fair competition is just as important to the South as it is to any other section.

There are areas in Tennessee and the Southeast which already share New England's troubles of surplus labor areas, a declining textile industry, one-industry

towns, and the out-migration of industries to take advantage of unfair inducements elsewhere. These are all problems, in fact, that exist now in many parts of the country and which will multiply as the economies of those regions mature, and which will particularly trouble the Southeast because of its dependence on textiles, already hit by the impact of synthetic fibers, foreign competition and migration.

ALTHOUGH six Southern states besides Tennessee have statutes offering tax exemptions to new industries, the fact does not mean that the Southeastern States Tax Officials Assn. has condemned the practice of tax-free municipal plants as "inequitable and unfair to industry in the state and detrimental to the taxpayers of the state because what is given away must be paid for by other businesses and individuals, ultimately thereby creating an unhealthy social and economic condition."

Industries thus attracted are migrants, not new enterprises. Their home offices are generally not in Tennessee, but in New York, Boston or elsewhere. Once having accepted your tax benefits and a few years of heavy profits, they may again move, leaving your community as well with empty buildings, stranded workers and a heavy bond issue.

As such use of public credit spreads, no community can be sure of the stability of the enterprises on which its citizens depend for their livelihood. I am told that the town of Elizabethton, with only 10,000 people had \$26 million in municipal bonds for private industrial plants in February, 1952, and was planning another issue to bring this total to \$51 million, or an additional debt load of more than \$5,000 plus interest for every man, woman and child in town.

I INTEND to work for the elimination of unfair competition of this character in Congress, and urge the South to support this move for its own benefit. This is not an issue between North and South, but one concerning the stability and integrity of our entire national economy.

The competitive struggle for industry will and must go on, but it must be a fair struggle based on natural advantages and natural resources, not exploiting conditions and circumstances that tend to depress rather than elevate the economic welfare of the nation.