

ROOM 108

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# JUSTICE

INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

Vol. XXXVIII, No. 1

January 1, 1956

Price 10 Cents

## Donate \$1 Million for Israeli Hospital First Puerto Rican ILG Pact Pending

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"—AND A  
HAPPY  
NEW YEAR  
TO ALL!"



### Union Envoys

Group of members of New York Dressmakers' Local 22 become union's goodwill ambassadors as they depart for ten-day trip to Puerto Rico. First of its kind to visit island, group is composed primarily of former Puerto Ricans who have settled in New York. Accompanying the group are (behind banner) Vice Pres. Charles Zimmerman, Local 22 manager, and Saby Nehama, group leader. They were met by island government and union representatives.



### Un-Biased

(Right) Pennsylvania members gather around Governor George Leader as he reads petitions from workers asking removal of provisions unfair to married working women in state public assistance laws. Governor agreed, state board removed bias. Girls are Catherine Davorick, Edna Kauffman, Margaret Hoover, Josephine Murray.



### The Reason

(Left) Vice Pres. Louis Nelson, manager of Knitpops Local 155, which is traditionally first with donation to ILGWU March of Dimes drive, gives check for \$11,255 to Adrienne Altus, Manhattan Marshall of dime campaign. Despite utilization of Salk vaccine, large funds are still required to care for those already stricken.

### An Editorial

## THE YEAR AHEAD

WE AMERICANS HAVE MADE IT a practice to start each new year by wrapping up our hopes in a bundle of resolutions. Generally, it is a heavier bundle than we can carry far into the year. Certainly, come next year we shall be picking up the good resolves we dropped along the way.

But there is one resolution we need make no longer. The standing hope of every working American for the past two decades has been for the liberation of this nation's labor movement. The schism in our ranks, now happily a thing of the past, weakened our strength at home and under-

cut our prestige abroad. United, American labor can look forward to a year in which it will be a most effective force for progress.

As heartwarming as it is, labor unity is the fulfillment of only one of our hopes. What is it we Americans want most, now? Where do we pin our strongest hopes in this holiday season of good will?

Now, as at all times, our strongest hope is for a world at peace. As a nation born in freedom, we have a deep longing for an end to man-made

(Continued on Page 12)

EXACTS

# The 1955 Year and Labor Highlights

## January



Chicago opens health center. . . L. A. Springfield wins 38 hours. . . Executive Secretary Frederick F. Unruh dies. . . GEB stays ILGWU investment policy change. . . N. Y. drive pact extended one month. . . Pres. Dulinsky asks Secretary of Labor for identical minimum wage rates in U. S. and Puerto Rico. . . Medieval Trees Taps goes union. . . Kentucky ILGWU wins free speech fight. . . Generalissimo Franco provides first Trans requirement benefits.

APL in all-out drive for enactment of labor legislation in new Congress. . . AFL-CIO Unity Committee explores merger problem. . . Unions mobilize to back Back Business attempts to pass union-wrecking laws in six more states. . . Major holdout in hat industry re-elected after 27 years. . . Louisiana farm workers appeal to U. S. Supreme Court against strike ban.

## February



Dress talks stall, union-prepares for strike. . . Pres. Dulinsky heads AFL subcommittee on welfare funds. . . Address mass rally in Miami. . . Local 89 members give ILLUM to March of Dimes. . . Resigned N. Y. dress pact brings welfare gains. . . ILO fights organizing fee in Georgia. . . Millman strikers' ranks sold as walkout at Massachusetts firm enters second month. . . Newark pleading shop, 14-year holdout, bows to EOT. . . Chicago belt organizing near finish.

AFL-CIO leaders agree on terms for unity by end of year. . . Telephone workers seek shorter week to cope with automation displacements. . . Idaho defects, Utah passes anti-union-shop law. . . 50,000 new England textile workers fight wage cuts. . . Metal trades unions ask federal subsidy to rebuild nation's machine strength; only 60,000 employed in shop-building, compared to 1,300,000 at wartime peak.

## March



First Canadian ILG health center opens in Montreal. . . Pres. Dulinsky and six other AFL and CIO leaders confer with President Eisenhower on raising minimum wage. . . First railworker strikers retire. . . N. Y. dressmakers launch enforcement drive. . . ILG defies terrorism in Alabama and Mississippi. . . GEB halts AFL-CIO merger steps, hears Senator Douglas, revokes industry and organizational proposals.

Union-busting laws sponsored by Maryland legislature, vetoed by Kansas Governor Hall. . . 23,000 strike on three Southern railroads which Fed Presidential Emergency Board and backed all pact accepted by all other roads. . . Canada's two major labor groups agree to form single million-strong organization.

## April



Italy's Premier Seotta visits N. Y. garment shops. . . ILGWU pushes inter-union effort to boost U. S. Puerto Rico minimums. . . Nagler, 60, balloted. . . Pres. Dulinsky tells Senate Committee U. S. needs higher minimum wage. . . Tennessee strikers hit by "iron curtain" injunction. . . N. Y. dress drive nets 10 jobs, manufacturers. . . EOT calls 23 strikes to enforce contract provisions. . . Deere's Garment in Eastern jobs; North-east ranks after two-decade resistance.

Hotel workers revolt against substandard conditions, strike Miami luxury hotels. . . AFL maps big organizing drive among 500,000 in Puerto Rico. . . Pennsylvania enacts improvements in unemployment insurance benefits. . . Labor Department survey shows work stoppages reached new low last year.

## May



Hundreds of ILGers in Washington tell Congressmen "raise minimums." . . Pres. Dulinsky attends world congress of International Confederation of Free Trade Unions in Vienna. . . Kreidler sparks war on red unions in International Garment Workers Federation. . . Scores of Serbian strikers convicted of breaking injunction banning approach to within 1,000 feet of plant. . . Los Angeles affiliates drive hard on organizing plans. . . Manufacturing workers in Oklahoma give overwhelming margin to ILGWU.

Phone and rail strikers in South emerge victorious after bitter, lengthy walkouts. . . AFL-CIO says proposed joint constitution. . . American delegates spark more effective role for ICTU at Vienna congress. . . AFL and CIO unions in paper, shoes and insurance consider merger.

## June



ILG Training Institute graduates fifth class. . . Hochman urges House committee to raise minimums. . . Pres. Dulinsky visits Italy and Israel. . . Utah union-ship pact thwarts anti-labor law. . . EOT captures four Jersey dress, blouse contractors, names workers job in Troy. . . Northeast and Boston launch joint organizing drive. . . Three-month Merrill Wool strike ends in full victory for union. . . Hears clashed in renewal at Waterbury Manufacturing in South Carolina.

Auto workers win supplemental layoff pact at Ford and General Motors. . . Twelve-hour strike nets 15-cent hourly package for 600,000 steel workers. . . Congress passes pay boosts for 1,300,000 postal, other federal employees. . . AFL-CIO no-riding agreement handles 48 cases in last year. . . Widespread protests kill Ohio Mill curbing labor political activity.

## July



Huge rally of Spanish-speaking ILGWU members aids fight in Puerto Rico minimum wage. . . Midwest settles as manager of Local 48. . . Judge bans all picketing of Serbin in Tennessee. . . ILG sends Federal Trade Commission charges to act in restraint of trade. . . Summer institutes ahead among ILG affiliates. . . Ohio-Kentucky shuts all effort at Cleveland, Ashland ball-ers.

Congress votes 81 minimum wage, waters down housing measure, shelve bill on social security school construction. . . Joint AFL-CIO negotiators obtain 15-cent hike from aluminum companies. . . Luring costs jump to year's high; corporate profits soar 34 per cent in second quarter. . . Many urge NLRB hold representation poll among Miami hotel strikers. . . New talks fail to settle 15-month strike at Kohler Co. in Wisconsin. . . New England textile workers return to job as companies back down on wage cuts.

## August



West Coast, Eastern Out-of-Town and Southwest unending drives roll up victories. . . Zachary Friedman, Local-62 manager, dies. . . Canada ILG launches cross-country organizing drive. . . New York dressmakers announce Health Insurance Plan, Group Health Insurance and Blue Cross coverage. . . ILGWU makes initial appropriation of \$100,000 for food relief. . . Northeast Mobile Health Center in three-day mission of mercy in strikers' area.

Five-year General Electric pact provides 6-cent package. . . NLRB refuses jurisdiction in Miami strike. . . Transit workers in Washington win after 52-day halt. . . Major can companies sign 24-week pay guarantee. . . AFL bars exchange reports with Soviet "minions." . . NLRB visits seven out of ten workers voted union in representation polls held during year's added capacity. . . Board okay use of word "wash" in organizing drive.

## September



Philadelphia Clark and South Jersey Joint Boards merge, Los Angeles Drive Joint Board and Sportswear Joint Council combine. . . ILGWU organizer for Puerto Rico named. . . Pennsylvania Governor Leader awards merit citation to ILGWU for funds and Mobile Health Center aid during flood.

Labor Day celebrations stress forth-coming unity. . . Strike closes 15 floating canneries in California supplying 81 per cent of nation's canned tuna. . . Surveys show average rates in union plants 18 to 20 cents higher than in nonorganized. . . Secretary of Interior McKay tries to break strike in his Oregon auto agency.

## October



GEB authorizes organization drive based on 11 minimum wage. . . Continues policy of higher union minimum and calls on affiliates to maintain average-minimum pay relationship. . . Approves list of health matters. . . M. Y. dressmakers expand welfare benefits. . . Thousands attend dedication of ILGWU Cooperative Village on N. Y. East Side. . . Impartial chairman holds Japanese imports violate union contract; levies \$60,000 damages. . . ILG chalks up 2 to 1 victory in vote at Michigan plant in Massachusetts.

Taft-Hartley's union-busting machinery eased off for use in four-month strike of auto workers at Perfect Circle plants in Indiana. . . Union-wrecking legislation fails in Wisconsin. . . Pa. Governor signs fair employment practices bill. . . U. S. Supreme Court tackles heavy load of labor cases.

## November



Pres. Dulinsky calls for end of unfair international competition. . . Two West Coast centers cleared of assault charges. . . Spanish-speaking ILGWU members writing in Puerto Rican relatives and friends about benefits of unionism. . . Official call for SPA ILGWU Convention issued. . . New pact at Perfection Garment secures union shop, provides wage hikes. . . Sewing pact with dressmakers strike. . . Lays off pay guarantee in Allenston covers 1,200.

Big Business' \$500,000 war chest beats OIO referendum calling for jobs pay improvement. . . AFL-CIO charges NLRB strikes for even more anti-labor interpretations of Taft-Hartley. . . New York taxi cab driver nets 13,500 members. . . Palmetto 'Duckin', 'Teamsters' Tolls die.

## December



AFL-CIO merger convention starts ILGWU. . . JUSTICE wins four labor press awards. . . Local 185 seeks representation pay in part renewal. . . Pres. Dulinsky appoints to Puerto Rico pay committee. . . Southeast Regis launches five-state drive to organize 6,000. . . Wage boost demands top strike in St. Louis paralyzes. . . Puerto Rico broader negotiations start. . . Chalken named Lower Southwest Director.

Labor Unity becomes reality as AFL-CIO holds first convention in New York, creating world's largest free union movement with 16 million members. . . Pledge backing for Miami Beach, Westinghouse, United Air Lines strikers. . . Sets eight-organizing millions of auto service, chemical fields. . . Meats hits neutralization, urges liberals fight Red. . . AFL-CIO International Brotherhood of Longshoremen launches new campaign to gain certification as bargaining representative for New York dock workers.

# 1955 Year!

# Parley With Puerto Rico Bra Group

Negotiations between the ILGWU and a group of brasserie manufacturers in Puerto Rico will be confined on the island during January, according to Pres. David Dubinsky. The parleys, which thus far have produced little progress toward achieving a collective agreement, were started last month at two conferences in New York. The firms involved

contributing to the growth of an economy beneficial to all," Dubinsky emphasized. Dubinsky is scheduled to arrive in Puerto Rico on Jan. 8 to serve as a member of the government's industry committee that will draw up recommendations for higher minimum wage rates for apparel and textile industries in the island.

### 3,000 Workers

The group of employers with which he and a committee of Puerto Rican garment workers will continue to negotiate operate 20 brasserie plants employing about 3,000 workers, or 75 per cent of the island's leaverie industry.

**Union-Spots Clause**  
"Our agreements with these companies," Dubinsky said, "clearly provide that they must have their work made in union shops. The shops they operate in Puerto Rico are not yet unionized and we would have been within our rights in invoking the clause or seeking the penalties it provides for violations."

"We have refrained because we are deeply concerned with the industrial development of Puerto Rico, with the welfare of its garment workers, and with

ILGWU. The union is conducting simultaneous organization drives on the mainland and in Puerto Rico against firms that have not yet been unionized."

"We have always held," Dubinsky declared, "that industry on the island is entitled to a fair, competitive differential in minimum wage rates compared with the mainland. But we have also insisted that such a differential is unfair when it is based on substandard working and living conditions for the Puerto Rican garment workers."

"Last summer, our union tried to remedy this situation by calling on the Congress of the United States to keep the gap between island and mainland minimums from growing into an association. It was made up of firms that have long retarded collective bargaining with the

But in Puerto Rico, with each industry having its own minimums no such change is to be made, so that the two sets of minimums will draw even further apart.

"We are convinced through our experience on the mainland that a healthy economy cannot be built on the island or anywhere else on stagnant minimums. For this reason, we are now trying to accomplish through organization and negotiation what we failed to achieve for Puerto Rico last summer through legislation."

### ILGWU Visitors

Meanwhile, Puerto Rican garment workers are learning what it means to be a member of the ILGWU from a visiting group of Local 22 members touring the island. Headed by Manager Charles S. Zimmerman and Business Agent Baby Nichols, the 30 dressmakers were flown to Puerto Rico on Dec. 22. They will stay about ten days.

When they landed at San Juan they were met by Gus Tyler, representing Pres. Dubinsky, Robert

Glodnick, ILGWU organizer on the island, and a large group of reporters and photographers who reflected the widespread interest aroused by the group's visit.

Backing up the drive to organize Puerto Rico garment workers, Spanish-speaking members of the union in New York City are sending letters to their friends and relatives on the island telling about the ILGWU, its welfare and wage benefits, as well as the meaning of the increase in the minimum wage that goes into effect Mar. 1.

"Tyler reports that since the arrival of the visiting dressmakers, the island's leading newspaper, El Mundo, has devoted Page 1 and 2 to a clarification of the ILGWU position on higher minimum wages, as well as to other aspects of the union's policies.

The regular ILGWU television program on Fridays at 9:30 P.M. over WPTX-TV, the station's only TV featured coverage of the dressmaker. (Continued on Page 10)

# Name Chaiken to Head ILG Gives \$1 Million for Israel Hospital for West Region

S. C. Chaiken, who started his ILGWU activities as an organizer in New Bedford, Mass., in 1940, has been named director of the new Lower Southwest Region, comprising Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas, it is announced by Pres. David Dubinsky.

These states formerly were included in the Southwest Region, the rest of which is under the direction of Vice Pres. Meyer Perlstein and includes Missouri, Kansas, Tennessee, Nebraska, Southern Illinois and part of Indiana.

Several thousand ILG members in these three states are employed mainly in children's wear and cotton garment shops. Recent surveys of the area indicate a considerably larger potential membership.

Chaiken's office will be located in Dallas.

For the most part, the Lower Southwest staff will consist of organizers who have been working in the three states under Vice Pres. Perlstein. New organizers will be added to the staff to meet the needs of special drives.

Chaiken is the son of a pioneer member of the ILGWU. On the same day he was asked to join the staff of the union, he was notified he had qualified to practice law. Chaiken chose the ILGWU.

### Served in Pacific

From 1943 to 1946, he served in the military intelligence branch of the Air Force in the Pacific Theater. On his return, he became manager of the Springfield District in Massachusetts and remained in that post until his new assignment.

At a farewell tendered to Chaiken on Dec. 19 in Springfield, former Congressman Foster Percival served as toastmaster and Northeast Director David Gindoff was the main speaker.

Gindoff reviewed Chaiken's record, detailing the manner in which he had developed the ILGWU in the Springfield area, developed its community role and made it an outstanding factor in the local economy and culture.

More than 400 persons were present, including Chaiken's wife Rosalind, and their four children. Local economy, labor and political issues testified to his active role in the community. Ralph Roberts, who succeeds Chaiken as Springfield director, was introduced to the gathering.

ILGWU contributions to Israel totaling \$1,700,000 for a hospital, a stadium and a trade school were announced last week by Pres. David Dubinsky. The amount was estimated to be the largest ever made by a union for any philanthropic purpose.

By far the largest portion, \$1 million, will be used to construct a hospital in the Negev region near Beer-sheva. In this area, increasing immigration and burgeoning population are outstripping available medical services.

Another \$300,000 will be used to complete a 40,000-seat capacity stadium in Haifa, to be named after ILGWU First Vice Pres. Luigi Antonini. The remaining \$300,000 will help replace outworn equipment and expand the facilities of the International Trade School in Haifa, which was built by the ILGWU ten years ago.

The \$1 million hospital contribution will be made in annual donations of \$250,000 during the next four years. The structure will cost \$15 million, but work can begin immediately on the basis of the ILGWU pledge. A neo-sectarian institution, the

hospital will be built by Hekal-Holim, medical arm of Hekal-Holim, Israel's trade union movement.

The gifts were announced last month at a special luncheon in the Sheraton-Astor Hotel in New York attended by Hittadrut General Secretary Moshe Namir, Haifa Mayor Abba Hushi, and Dr. Dor Bergin, national secretary of National Committee for Labor Israel. Also in attendance were 75 ILGWU officers in New York.

Pres. Dubinsky, presiding at the affair, predicted that actual contributions to Israel, based on voluntary members' donations, would run above the pledged amount.

The Bertha's hospital, the ILGWU chief pointed out, will help

all health needs of a region of dramatic medical services. The Negev population has grown rapidly under the stimulus of Israeli efforts to develop farms and mineral sources and reclaim the desert areas.

Recalling his visit to Israel last spring, Pres. Dubinsky said he was very much impressed that although Israel faces many serious situations, life goes on. They are building day by day. They are planning for tomorrow.

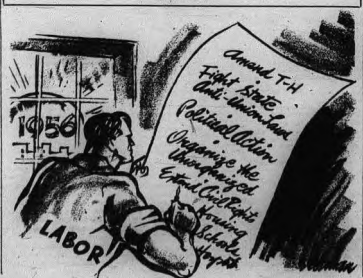
"One of the problems called to our attention was that they badly needed a hospital in the Negev. The leaders of our union were unanimous in deciding that the International provide the means for building a hospital."

He emphasized that the ILGWU regarded Israel as democracy's hope in the Middle East and therefore wanted to assist it in every practical way. The president also reminded the assemblage, in announcing the \$500,000 grant to (Continued on Page 10)



S. C. Chaiken

### "Resolved"



### '132' WINS TOP WAGE FOR 700 EMPLOYEES AT SERVAL ZIPPER CO.

The largest slipper plant in the world is now also the best paying, thanks to a new union agreement bringing a 6-cent hourly boost to some 700 employees of the Serval Zipper Co. in Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

Manager Martin Feldman of Boston and Novelty Workers' Local 132 negotiated the renewal, which workers ratified unanimously last month. Regarded as a model contract, the three-year pact further provides an extra week's vacation (for a total of three weeks) for workers with ten years or more of service.

Among other benefits received by the agreement are a six-day sick leave (which, if not taken, accrues to vacation time) and a company-financed hospital plan. Workers also have rest periods and a shop cafeteria.

# Major Renovations Planned In N. Y. Union Health Center

The New York Union Health Center has launched a \$278,000 renovation program under which a major portion of the center's physical space will be modernized and medical services streamlined for more personal attention.

The alterations are already underway and, in order not to interrupt the normal functioning of the center, will be completed over the course of the next year. Some of the specific improvements are:

- Renovation of 12 examination rooms into modern units designed to give greater comfort and convenience to members, facilitate treatment by a selected group of "personal" physicians and make fuller use of diagnostic facilities.
- Expansion of X-ray facilities, including three new X-ray machines.
- Relieving demand on the allergy clinic by allowing that section more room.
- Speeding up service at the appointment and reception rooms by modernizing those areas.

According to Dr. Leo Price, the center's medical director, the renovations will have the effect of making it possible to establish the of a full-scale health program for retirees and for those with chronic illnesses. Service during the day-time hours, when these persons can normally attend, will be comprehensive and without the pressure of normally-crowded evening hours.

### More Preventive Care

The program also enables the center's directors to step up the program of preventive care which has always been a prime objective but which was sacrificed in large part to the irremediable demand for immediate, day-to-day care.

The New York Union Health Center is the largest out-patient ambulatory clinic in the world. In 1955 the center dispensed 626,047 ambulatory services. Nearly one-third of these, or 200,000, were dispensed during the peak May-June period. 2,500 ILGWU members received daily ambulatory services were dispensed. Most

patients receive more than one service a week.

Demand has run far ahead of the center's facilities. In 1946-49 the center's undertook an expansion program of \$1 million, resulting in an extension of the institution's space from one and one-half to six floors. In a few years, even those improvements were being taxed to their limit.

In 1953 the union dropped the limitation of 530 treatment per year and substituted unlimited service. The center mobilized all its resources to meet the extra demand. Last summer \$30,000 was spent for repairs and general renovation.

### Per Capita Increase

In addition to the \$278,000 improvement program, the strain on the center's facilities will be eased this year by the fact that 43,000 dressmakers will no longer be using its facilities, since they are utilizing the Blue Cross-ILGWU plan of the Dress Joint Board.

The General Executive Board's Union Health Center Committee formally proposed the renovation program.

### Help Me Too!



JOIN THE MARCH OF DIMES

## Initial Polio Fund Collections Presage New 'Dimes' Record

Contributions already are starting to come in from ILGWU affiliates for the 1956 "March of Dimes," and initial returns indicate local donations to the polio fund will surpass last year's record total, according to First Vice Pres. Luigi Antonini, co-ordinator of the union's effort.

At the New York Union Health Center, where the union's headquarters are located, the first local to remit its members' contributions to the General Office, which Manager Louis Nelson turned over a check for

\$11,315. Though additional amounts will be forthcoming from hundreds of workers, this sum represents a \$3,000 boost over the 1955 total.

Another early response has come from Local 91, New York Children's Dressmakers, whose Manager Harry Greenberg transmitted a check for \$2,500, the first of \$500 over the previous year.

### 'Smiley Memorial'

The union's 1956 drive is being conducted in memory of Frederick P. Smiley, the late executive secretary of the ILGWU, who for years has spearheaded labor efforts on behalf of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis.

Anonymous remittants are invited to contribute to the ILGWU General Office, 1710 Broadway, New York City, no later than Jan. 31, so that the total collected may be announced at the 20th birthday of Franklin D. Roosevelt. He emphasized that under no circumstances should any part of the contributions be turned over to any local chapter or withheld for local use.

tion program after a report from a subcommittee composed of Vice Presidents Joseph Brown, chairman, and Harry Greenberg and Pres. David Dubinsky, assisted by Assistant Executive Secretary James Lipitz. A meeting of New York local managers approved the plan last month, voting to finance the improvements by payments of an additional \$1 per capita from health and welfare funds.

Another \$1 per capita increase was approved to balance the center's budget for the coming year after the departure of the 43,000 dressmakers. It is estimated that 15,000 dressmakers—retirees, etc.—will continue to use the center. Their per capita payments are not expected to meet that extra cost.

The 1956 operating budget of the health center, covering 153,000 members, is \$1,048,111. Last year, with 45,000 dressmakers included, the center spent almost \$1.8 million.

Major top and bottom room repairs include: X-ray facilities, including repairs, two and one-half new X-ray rooms completely equipped, lockers, etc., \$173,000; painting, \$18,000; general renovations for 24th and 25th floors, \$28,500.

## HARRIMAN APPOINTS HARRY UVILLER HEAD OF MEDIATION BOARD

New York's Governor Harriman named Harry Uviller, treasurer of the Liberal Party and former chairman of New York City's dress industry since 1936, as chairman of the State Mediation Board.

The appointment was made after ILGWU Pres. David Dubinsky and Alex Ross, president of the United Hatters and Millinery Workers, conferred with the Governor and reiterated and reinforced their opposition to their nomination. Uviller was best qualified for the chief mediator's post on the basis of ability, prestige and respectability.

The new chairman began his Harry Uviller industrial career in the ranks of mill-ploymen. He entered New York's coat and suit industry 40 years ago as a production supervisor and bookkeeper. He has become general manager of the American Coat and Suit Manufacturers' Assn. In this capacity, he served for 15 years as spokesman for coat and suit contractors in collective bargaining with the ILGWU.

In 1936, because of the regard in which Uviller was held by leaders and industry officials alike, the late Mayor Francis LaGuardia designated him as impartial chairman of labor relations for the dress industry.

### Dubinsky Named to Serve On 3 AFL-CIO Committees

George Meany, president of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, has announced the full roster of the first four standing committees of the united organization. ILGWU Vice Pres. David Dubinsky has been named to serve on any of these: ethical practices, civil rights and international affairs.

## Heart of the Union



Orphans in Passaic, N. J., were recipients of articles of clothing. The coat held by Manager William Villano of Cloak Out-of-Town Local 158, and other gifts of Christmas party sponsored by union.

## WASHINGTON MEMO

by John Herling

# GOP Alibis for Inaction On Pay Law Coverage

WASHINGTON—The Administration is preparing its alibi for not extending coverage of the minimum wage law to workers now deprived of its protection.

Assigned to the job is Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell, a very decent fellow personally and a diligent public official. But when the signals are called, he doesn't hesitate to carry the ball for the "team" whenever he can make yardage for the Administration.



At the Labor Secretary's last press conference of the year, we asked him what the Administration's plans were concerning the minimum wage.

"Are you going to recommend increased coverage, to act more quickly under the umbrella of a higher minimum?"

Well, said the Labor Secretary, the President will repeat his request to Congress in his State of the Union message to consider extending coverage to "many more workers." But by gesture and facial expression, he conveyed the impression that the Administration wouldn't break its back fighting for that kind of legislation.

### Administration Cool on Coverage

Moreover, he said—and here is the alibi—because Congress voted for \$1 instead of the 90 cents recommended by the Administration, it will be difficult to expand coverage of the pay floor to several million workers now exempt.

For that reason, he asserted, the \$1 minimum wage "has caused us to re-examine the whole question of expanding coverage. . . . The higher the minimum gets, the more difficult it becomes to expand it in certain areas because of the impact it might have."

This statement means that the Administration will use this kind of argument to fight any attempt "to raise the minimum wage to \$1.15, as soon as practicable," as demanded by the AFL-CIO.

Also, the first AFL-CIO convention called on Congress to make it a "matter of first priority to extend the full protection of the Fair Labor Standards Act to all workers in industries engaged in or affecting interstate commerce."

What makes the Labor Secretary's position more than a little strange is the fantastic switchpost in which he is caught. Last September, he delivered a very hot reply to former President Truman, who had chided the Administration for caring more about the "fat cats" than the working folk. Mitchell recited a list of Administration accomplishments purported to show that Truman was wrong.

### Claims Credit for \$1

Among these attainments, Mitchell included the \$1 minimum. Worth this reporter asked him how he could make such a claim in face of Eisenhower's insistence on 90 cents, he replied: "We have a right to list the \$1 minimum as a point for the Administration because the President signed the bill passed by Congress, didn't he?"

Laughter and raised eyebrows greeted this crazy-quilt logic, but the Secretary didn't smile.

Neither did Democratic Senator Paul Douglas, chairman of the Senate Labor Subcommittee which had conducted hearings on the minimum wage. Field Douglas:

"For whose unadvisedness, Secretary Mitchell's statement takes the cake. The truth is that the Eisenhower Administration fought against the \$1 minimum wage for 36 cents. It was only through the work of the Democratic majority and a few Republicans that we got the minimum up to \$1."

Now, of course, Mitchell finds himself in the uncomfortable position of trying to turn around once again. It is now implying that the Administration—those long-range planners—wanted 90 cents in order to gain wider coverage.

But those old devils, the Democrats, by being crafty and holding stubbornly on \$1, spiked the wheels of social justice. . . . At least, that's the way Mitchell sees it in December.

## JUSTICE

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# Leaflets Pace Coast-to-Coast Organizing Drive



The holiday season has put a small pause into the organization campaign through which the ILGWU is making the full meaning of the higher minimum wage rate clear to thousands of garment workers. The present federal minimum wage is scheduled to be increased from 75 cents to \$1 an hour on Mar. 1, 1954.

With the drive due to pick up pace after the New Year, it has already accounted for the distribution of more than 300,000 leaflets explaining the nature of the increase in the minimum wage. The leaflets have been aimed especially at unorganized workers who, without a union to give them support, face the prospect on Mar. 1 of finding the new minimum putting a squeeze on their wage structure.

The leaflets tell what the provisions of the law are. They also explain that ILGWU policy has been to get union minimums above the legal minimum. They then show why the schedule of rates in a shop must also be adjusted upward along with the rise in the minimum in order to preserve the relationship between average and minimum earnings.

Major interest in the leaflets has been shown by workers in Southern regions. In a number of instances, union organizers have been told, after the leaflets were handed out, that a non-union firm had announced a wage freeze, passing it off as a generous gesture by the firm rather than the legal requirement for which the ILGWU and other unions fought last summer.

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The leaflets also demand for an upward adjustment in wages and minimums. The union also is seeking a 35-hour week for scheduling clerk, guaranteed holidays for piece workers and week workers and an increase in employer contributions to the retirement fund.

The employers are expected to reply to the union's proposals at the next conference, scheduled for Jan. 10.

## Golden Girl Employees Defy Threats In Landslide 130-6 Vote for Union

Workers at the all-Negro Golden Girl shop in Newport News, Va., have refused to be swayed by threats of reprisals or empty promises of special rewards and have voted, by the overwhelming tally of 130 to 6, to have the ILGWU as their collective bargaining agent. The overwhelming election victory was scored on Dec. 21, according to Eddie Milano, assistant manager of the Upper South Department.

Manager Angelo Bannace reports that the Virginia shop had been operating as a contracting plant for a noted unionized firm making children's wear until last spring. At that time, the plant changed hands. The new operator represented interests that had long been hostile to the union and had run away from its surveillance in several other localities, according to Vice Pres. Charles Kreindler, department supervisor.

**Company Threats**

No sooner had the new management-taken over than he refused to recognize the contract that had been in effect between the union and the previous owner. Union representatives were banned from entering the premises. Determined to ban the union out, the company made threats to move if workers showed they were favoring the union. At other times, it promised bonuses if the workers would spurn the union.

But the Golden Girl workers, who had enjoyed the benefits of unionism under the contract now disregarded by the firm, were not swayed. The new employer, non-union for a quarter of a century, continued to work against the union, but less than a week before Christmas, the issue was decided in the landslide vote.

The shop committee that organized the pre-election drive included the following members of Local 62: Jessie Sinclair, president; Nancy James, Marie Digg, Catherine Lamberton, Doris Tucker, Mary Joyner, Dot Weis and Lillian Boyd.

**Roulette Setback**

Not all elections are won. At the huge Henscher Mills plant in Roanoke, Va., the ILGWU on Dec. 14 lost a bitterly contested election by 277 to 250. Milano reports. About 600 are employed in this mill, of which about 500 are in the large plant and 100 in the smaller one. It is estimated that the union had a majority in the large shop, but both plants comprised one voting unit.

The conduct of the union was

opportunistic manner, just as we would have asked you not to give if we had won.

"More important than winning an election is the manner in which we conduct ourselves. We believe that we conducted ourselves with dignity. Contrast our actions with the actions of some of your supervisors and draw your own conclusions. We fought a hard but clean campaign. We lost, and that's it. We will do better next time.

"We have promised to defend your interests and we intend to do so. If anyone is discriminated against in any manner at all, let us know immediately. We will fight your case with all the means at our disposal.

"The union will accept a loss. We will not accept your lives being made miserable by vicious management. We all of your supervisors are vicious, but there are a few, and we both know who they are."

## Hands Across the Border



Members of New York Dressmakers' Union mark recent visit to Montreal with big banner pointing out solidarity between unions of both cities.

## Local 105 Presses For Severance Pay

A severance pay provision and a wage increase are "musts" for a new agreement, Manager Martin L. Cohen of Local 105, New York Dressmakers' Union, told employer representatives at the first negotiating session held last month at Hotel New Yorker.

Local 10 Manager Moe Palikman, speaking for the cutters employed in Local 105 shops, gave full support to the seamstresses' stand. "All too often, the lack of severance pay has worked a cruel injustice on our members," Cohen told the employers. "As things now stand in our industry, a worker may be employed by a firm for five, ten or 20 years, only to be stranded completely if the firm, for one reason or another, goes out of business. Some cushion must be provided to help such workers."

In his presentation, Cohen under-

## TODAY AND TOMORROW

by Luigi Antonino FIRST VICE PRES. ILGWU

## Extensive Overseas Aid Sign of Union Strength

(From address at recent commencement of the ILGWU's 50th Anniversary in Israel. Part of grant will go for Luigi Antonino in Israel.)

It is a credit to our organization and to the city in which we live that peoples of all nations can live together without fighting. It wasn't always that way. I can remember a time when the Irish, the Italians and the Jews fought and called each other names.

Now they live in the same districts, work in the same shops, and are as one people. Pres. Dubinsky has succeeded what we are doing in our union, how we work together, all the time. When there is a need somewhere, we cooperate 100 per cent. In 1948, Pres. Dubinsky inaugurated a beautiful school in Palermo. Then there was the loan to Iraq which was paid back. And now, the hospital, the school and the stadium.

The 800 square miles that is Israel may be small in area but it is great in other respects. I used to say, on the question of admitting Israel to the United Nations, that those two great peoples of the Mediterranean, the Jews and the Italians, could add color to all the nations bordering that big sea. We hope humanity will appreciate the advances that have been made.

General Secretary (Mordcai) Haimel of Bnei Brak says Israel's weapons are schools and hospitals. That is the right way. Humanity is made of schools and hospitals, more than armories and prisons. The only way humanity can work for a

new generation and a new world is with teachers, doctors, schools and hospitals.

Pres. Dubinsky and I have been attacked many times by Westbrook Pegler on grounds that the ILGWU chief thinks so much of Israel and I think so much of Italy. But the facts are that we think first of America. We have done everything we could to make this a better America. We have built a world organization strong enough to permit us to help not only Italy, not only Israel, but many other parts of the world.

If we were the poor organization we were years ago, when we were almost bankrupt, we could only offer best wishes and ideas. Today the ILGWU under the leadership of our great president and with the good work of his general staff is able to help. And we want to help because it comes from our hearts, because we have to do such things as a duty to our union, a duty to the labor movement, a duty to the free world.

# Liberals Crucial For '56 Victory

By GUS TYLER  
Director ILLGW Political Dept.

THIS year, the American people will elect a President, 33 U. S. Senators, 435 members of the House of Representatives, several Governors and numerous judges and Justices. First of the election will be control of the federal government.

At present, power is divided between the parties, with the Republicans holding the Presidency and the Democrats controlling both houses of Congress. Until recently, the possibility loomed that this division in Washington would continue. This conjecture rested on the assumption that a majority of Americans favored both President Eisenhower and the Democratic Party. To fulfill such mixed and contrary desires, the voters could send Ike to the White House and the Democrats to Capitol Hill.

Since the President's House, however, the feeling has grown that the personality of Eisenhower necessarily will be a much diminished factor in the campaign. Therefore, the 1956 elections are slated to develop into a full-fledged contest for complete control of both branches of government.

Assuming that Eisenhower does not run, then the Democratic Party seems to have a slight edge in the race. More people claim to be Democrats than Republicans. Many thousands of farmers and workers who voted GOP in 1952 have switched sides, as a result of falling farm prices and continued Republican assaults on labor, both in legislation and in speeches.

At the U. S. Senatorial level, where the Democrats have a narrow majority, they are favored in the forthcoming election. Of the 16 Republicans now up for reelection, only one is doubtful; of the 17 Republican seats at stake, 13 are threatened.

The greatest danger facing the Democrats is over-confidence in the feeling they can win with any candidate and any platform. Should they nominate a second-rate candidate to stand on a meaningless platform, the millions of liberal-minded citizens who generally have backed the Democratic candidate for President in the past year might not desert to the Republicans, but they might stay at home in sufficient numbers to make victory impossible for the party of Roosevelt, Truman, and Eisenhower.

The most effective weapon for the Republicans would be their readiness to find outspoken liberals within their ranks to run for President, Vice President and Senate.

Working people in 1956 lack no label for granted. Years of trade union education about the importance of voting for a program are bearing fruit. These millions of votes can be decisive in 1956. Under the aegis of a united labor movement, this powerful grass-roots sentiment can be mobilized to effect the defeat of the merged organizations of the trade unions.

Three millions of votes will not go to a Democrat just because he wears the donkey's skin. Nor will they go to a Republican just because he sports a donkey's wings. The voter has learned to look for a candidate, not a party and parties by what they propose to do about emerging problems. These voting millions will judge the candidates in these terms, by what they can do to make a better America.

# Senior Citizens' Needs Growing

By ADOLPH HEIL  
Director ILLGW Health and Welfare Dept.

THE ability of aged workers to retire with financial aid is a dream come true. But the color has another side. Are elderly people to be promoted, let alone dignified? Are those with many years—perhaps a decade—of work ahead to be forced into retirement by narrow, "youth-minded" employers?

In this field, as in so many industrial and economic sectors, trade unions are again showing government the way. While labor strives to increase and protect pension provisions for workers, demands for simple increases in social security payments are resisted by the Eisenhower Administration. While costs rise, wages edge up, prices remain frozen and the cost of living continues to rise. The Republicans do not want to increase services to elderly if it means that corporations and business have to bear part of the cost.

The government also ignores the social needs of its over-age citizens, but the trade unions are facing the problem realistically. Sixty-five may be the age of retirement; it is not the division between usefulness and uselessness. There are no more work days, but there are days to be spent in some useful occupation.

As this realization grows, so does trade union efforts to meet the problem. In contrast with the passivity of government concern, labor's endeavors to help the elderly creative crafts, social activities, cultural exchanges have larger and larger scope.

It is one of the other great national welfare needs—health—in this year of the Great Prosperity? Characteristically, the Republicans are again silent. In the face of sharply rising medical costs, the government does nothing. Health insurance remains buried under the epithet of "welfare."

# Income R Key To Prosperity

By LAZARE TEPER  
Director ILLGW Research Dept.

WHILE the year just ended was marked by economic recovery, the tempo of advance was less imposing than contrived to be by the levels reached before the 1953 recession. Now were the gains spread uniformly to all sectors.

Farmers did not do well, and their incomes continued to drop throughout the year. Although non-agricultural employment unemployment remained high by comparison with the pre-recession period, the garment trades recorded much more modest gains in business volume than industries producing hard goods; even within the apparel trades, there were considerable variations in the economic fortunes of the different branches.

The demand for apparel also has been tempered by some of the current trends toward informality and the emphasis on home entertainment brought about by television, as well as the greater durability of synthetic fibers.

Consumers tended to buy better and more expensive garments in dresses, coats and suits, but turned toward cotton and less expensive items in blouses and sportswear. While many firms experienced good seasons, others, notably makers of coats, found their sales declining. Compared with other industries, the general improvement registered in apparel was not substantial enough for garment factors to feel the "boom" had reached them.

What is ahead for 1957? The immediate outlook is for continued economic gains. However, there is a number of potential trouble spots that bear watching. There is a growing anxiety over the ability of the automobile and housing construction industries to maintain their levels of production in the coming year.

At the same time, the extent to which consumers can continue to spend is being questioned to sustain their levels of consumption is a moot question.

The present farm programs clearly need revamping to assure higher incomes to all who derive their livelihood from agriculture. Much also needs to be done for the nation's workers. The higher minimum wage of \$1 an hour, which will go into effect on Mar. 1, will help to strengthen the purchasing power of many workers in the lower income brackets, but the gains will not be sufficient by themselves to insure future levels of full employment.

Clearly, then, the unions will have to strive their utmost to obtain for American workers a higher income recovery which will support the growing economy.

The key to a prosperous 1956 lies in a sound program which will provide for the necessary expansion of our national economy. It is clear that all can share in this.

Certainly will require action on the part of the government to stimulate construction of new housing, schools and hospitals; allocation of a larger portion of income among wage earners to broaden the distribution of income; a plan for promoting the industrial growth they need to support our population and provide for their needs, and a solution to the farm problem.

The garment workers of the ILLGW will have to seek solutions to several problems if they are to share in the economic growth to an appreciable extent. Especially vital is the need to devise ways for attracting a larger share of the consumer dollar for purchase of clothing.

Again, trade unions have risen to the challenge. Labor unions, particularly the ILLGW, had the ground-work for national surveys of workers' health needs. The ILLGW Health Centers sprang up to fill an urgent need, were so enthusiastically welcomed that a network of centers exists today from coast to coast. When workers in working areas of Pennsylvania found it impractical to reach the stationary health centers, the union built one on wheels, found it so successful that a fleet of a health-care unit, now being planned.

But even the health centers, so far ahead of government's efforts, were not enough. This year the New York Dress Jakers Board began a mass experiment, entered into plans with the ILLGW to provide health groups for its dress-makers with comprehensive medical, surgical and hospital care. The arrangement is financed by employer contribution. In other ways, other ILLGW units, like the New York Clean and Fresh Eastern and the Tuxedo Department and many others have broadened the base of medical care for their members.

The path ahead for government planning is clear. The millions of workers, many retired workers, especially those without benefit of health insurance, need to be covered through bigger social security payments. And if the meager social security benefit must be raised to provide it, it should be distributed to the walls of big-business, big-dividend corporations.

The Department of Health, Education and Welfare should start working on a plan to institute an extensive system of health care for all children. The small social security allotment should not be responsible for payment of routine medical bills, which aged persons are so prone to encounter.

The last step is long material but just as important. The Federal Government should establish a Welfare Division as every other agency concerned with problems of older people, must place the problems of the aged on a level with other groups of our population. If education precedes action, the aged will never get behind such an educational campaign.

In the past 50 years our total population has doubled. The aged are getting behind and age groups has quadrupled. Can government remain unconcerned?



An annual review of eight ILGWU ex-prospects for c...

# Anti-Labor Acts Loom in States

By MORRIS P. GUSHEN  
ILLGW General Counsel

THE one-sided and partisan bias of the Administration has been most vividly revealed in the past year in the day-to-day workings of our administrative agencies. More than the periodic public faux-pas by Defense Secretary Wilson or the private maneuverings of Commerce Secretary Sawyer, the practical operation of these agencies has demonstrated on numerous occasions how much a Big Business slant has permeated the everyday operation of the government.

One example is the National Labor Relations Board. Nothing that it has done in this period has in any way detracted from the initial impression that this board, the majority of whose members have been appointed by Eisenhower, is consistently weighted in favor of employers. Jurisdiction over so-called small business has been completely abandoned to the detriment of hundreds of thousands of workers who have thereby been deprived by the board of the remedies Congress intended them to have.

More and more, the workers' right to organize without interference has been slipped away in favor of the employer's right to interfere with and destroy this right. Obvious and extreme coercion by the employer has now been dressed up by the board, given the label of free speech, and legitimized.

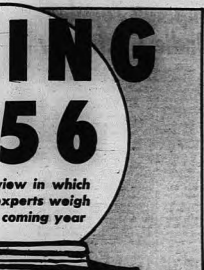
There seems little chance that ever those amendments to the Taft-Hartley Act which almost everyone agrees should be made will have a chance of passage in 1956. It is hoped, however, that the energy of the labor movement will begin a strong drive in the legislative halls of Washington and the state capitals to put an end to the misnamed "right-to-work" laws, which are used to strangle the growth of organized labor in those areas which are most in need of organization.

A new drive of critical importance is shaping up on the state level to restrict even further labor's limited right to picket. For example, at a recent public meeting of the New York State Legislative Committee on Industrial and Labor Conditions, every important employer organization in the state appeared with the avowed demand that organizational picketing be outlawed in this leading industrial state.

The signs of a well organized and well coordinated move were evident in the uniformity of the presentations and the identity of the demands made. If this drive is successful in New York, it will be no time at all before it blankets the rest of the country. The traditional and elementary right to picket peacefully has already been restricted a decade or so without unremitted judicial evasion of the little Norris-LaGuardia acts passed in various states in the Thirties to protect this basic right of labor from injunction.

Today, employer groups are seeking to speed up the pace of this erosion and to wipe out through legislation the right to picket for organizational purposes. Since labor's rights in organizational campaigns have already been severely restricted by the anti-labor attitude of the NLRB, this further invasion on unions' traditional organizational rights has the most serious implications for labor's future growth.

The spread of more state anti-labor legislation will probably be slowed down by the practical requirements of an election year. However, it remains clear that labor will have to pay increasing attention to the state legislatures, where the main drive for restrictive labor legislation is taking place. This will be especially true once the election is over—and no matter what its results may be.



view in which  
experts weigh  
coming year

## Dangers Ahead For Free World

By  
**JAY LOVESTONE**  
Director ILLWU Labor  
Affairs Dept.

FOR the free world, in its relations with the Communists, the last world, 1955 was a year of doubt, confusion and indecision.

If this trend continues, and if 1956 should be merely or basically a repetition of the year we have just left behind, then much darker days are ahead for those who entertain hopes and dreams about our great technical progress providing the foundation for a world free from hunger, despotism and war.

To date, the leadership of the free world has failed to exploit the weaknesses of the Soviet regime. Failing pay to the shambled and most transparent hypocrisy of the admitted clique in the Kremlin, Western statesmanship has, in varying degree, helped Moscow soften the costly impact of the grave difficulties besetting its ruling cortex ever succession to Stalin.

Washington, London and Paris have collaborated to enhance the authority within the USSR and the prestige outside of Khrushchev and Company. The low point of free world statesmanship was reached at the "Summit" in Geneva last July.

Through its imperial policies, through its expanded trade with the Iron Curtain orbit, the democratic camp has greatly helped the Moscow-Peking Axis to bear the burdens of its heavy armament program and to alleviate the cruel consequences of its criminal military aggression in Korea and Indo-China.

Suborned clinging to colonialism by British and France in North Africa and Cyprus and surrender of initiative and leadership in the struggle against colonialism by our own government. (Cuba) have played into the hands of the Soviet dictatorship and helped tighten its grip over the most extensive colonial empire. This new and most ruthless colonialism, with hundreds of millions of victims in Europe and Asia, is now reaching its advanced stage into the Near East (Egypt, Syria) with a view of asserting Africa's flame and bringing this entire continent under its totalitarian yoke.

Under the pretext of promoting universality, London, Paris and Washington—in varying manners and form—joined hands with Moscow to tear to shreds the Charter of the United Nations through the "package deal" admitting 16 new members.

On previous occasions, the UN had voted overwhelmingly to reject Franco Spain and the Soviet puppets Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary and Rumania as foreign-imposed regimes unfit for membership.

Now have the democracies brought credit and prestige to the UN by discontinuing its commission on the disgraceful racialism in South Africa, by shying off discussion of Algerian, and by declining to examine the Cyprus and New Guinea disputes.

In this awesome situation, the united American labor movement spurs no effort to have our country provide for more decisive and constructive leadership to the huddled, blind, and blackened free world. The historic unity convention of the AFL-CIO adopted a comprehensive program for enabling our country to meet its heavy responsibilities at this critical juncture of history.

The AFL-CIO declaration of foreign affairs also provides the guiding lines for American labor playing a far more dynamic and decisive role in rallying free world labor and thereby-loving people on both sides of the Iron Curtain for more greater peace—the preservation of peace and the promotion of freedom and social justice.

## Textile Mergers Touch Garments

By  
**WILLIAM GOMBERG**  
Director ILLWU Manage-  
ment-Engineering Dept.

BECAUSE of the continuing tendency towards large mergers in the textile industry, garment employers in the coming year will find themselves coinciding with a situation similar to that which has left its impact on the hoistery industry.

A principal source of profit for hoistery producers used to be the manufacturer's skill of knowing where and when to buy either the silk yarn or the raw silk itself. Thus, when right buying was attained in the price of the yarn, the manufacturer often enjoyed a greater margin of profit.

With nylon replacing silk, prices became more rigid as the suppliers became dependent on a single, ultimate supplier—this on top of the fact that synthetic prices normally tend to be more rigid than those of natural fibers, which are subject to more unpredictable conditions. The source of profit from skillful buying was practically eliminated. As a result, the hoistery industry has sought to compensate for the loss by seeking cheaper labor.

New, for example, the absorption of the cotton operation at Pacific Mills by M. Lovenstein and Sons means that the parent organization can supply 50 per cent of the country's cotton needs for the house dress industry.

A combination of three top firms accounts for 80 per cent of printed creases. This means the introduction of price rigidities into the power goods market which will have to come to expect from the suppliers of synthetic fibers.

The same development that took place in the automotive industry in the Twenties is now reaching its climax in the textile field. In the Twenties there was a multiplicity of automobile manufacturers. Gradually, the introduction of more complex machinery and the willingness to make huge investments in know-how gave organizations like General Motors, Chrysler and Ford such a competitive advantage over the independents that survive only at the sufferance of big three.

A similar pattern is shaping up in textiles. Giants like Burlington are able to diversify their holdings and make huge strides in gaining an advantage in manufacturing know-how over their smaller rivals.

Another development that will have a heavy impact on the operations of the garment industry in the coming year is the continued changeover from production of work-clothes to sport and casual wear.

New planning centers have been set up in many units of the work-clothes industry and in the sport and the swim suit industry. By a process of substitution, these centers are making up lines of sportswear and casual wear that are capturing the markets for the older established women's apparel lines.

Aside from these principal developments, a number of improvements in equipment should not be overlooked. For example, an edge pressing machine is now used in the cloak industry, for which pressing time is automatically set. Similar synchronous timers appear on creasing machines for collars and jackets. Steam air machines are replacing the older pressing equipment for children's dresses, gowns, slips and pajamas.

It is still too early to analyze to what extent automation could cause displacements. The automation of our industry remains a hope as well as a threat. It remains one of the ways we can maintain a clothing industry for the United States in the face of potential foreign competition.

## Education Gains For U. S. Youth

By  
**MARG STARR**  
ILLWU Education  
Director

THE recent White House Conference on Education was widely accepted as a convenient "delaying act" and an escape from giving the federal aid authority to resume public school education from its crisis of underpaid teachers and overcrowded classrooms.

However, the local meetings and the final conference in November undoubtedly created great interest in and support for federal aid. The Administration can now hardly avoid admitting that the "package deal" is not the final answer.

Previous indications that the Administration was opposed to any extension of federal support were washed away by the overwhelming opinion of the delegates that an immediate and extensive aid to construct schools and provide better teachers' salaries.

Education representatives on all levels rose in challenge those who feared that federal aid means federal control, and even the speaker of President Eisenhower, GI Bill of Rights benefits, the U. S. Department of Labor Education Extension Program, vocational education.

Significantly, even the speaker of President Eisenhower, Vice President Stoen and the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare showed recognition of the need for federal financing. And by a vote of more than two to one, school and state legislatures voted their own insistence on more government aid.

## Higher Outlays Cloud Tax Cuts

By  
**ARTHUR A. ELDER**  
Director ILLWU Training  
Division

THE total collected in local, state and federal taxes now approximates a third of our national income. Representatives of government spending claim that these figures are correct. While spokesmen for organized labor agree that taxes are a piece-rate tax, they know the American taxpayer people have more income available for their needs than they have ever had.

Experience of the last 25 years has shown most dramatically how tax policy can be used effectively to stimulate both production and consumption. Two basic questions are involved: First, whether the various levels of government are providing necessary services; second, whether the taxes paid for the support of these services are being levied fairly.

Approach of the 1956 elections undoubtedly has stimulated talk of federal tax reductions. Representatives of both major parties, as recently as late in November, were vying for credit for initiating tax cuts.

Arguments for tax reduction have emphasized that the present budget will show a surplus rather than the deficit that had been expected. Developments in Washington late in 1955, however, pose serious questions as to the advisability of tax cuts in the immediate future.

When Congress reconvenes in January it will be faced by Administration requests for increases in expenditures for defense and foreign assistance from three to four billion dollars. Additional projected expenditures for public schools for highway needs and for other services, added to increased defense spending, may make any general tax reduction out of the question. Even if revenues from current tax sources increase, they may be required for these additional expenditures.

The AFL-CIO, at its constitutional convention in New York City last year, emphasized that the tax structure could be made more equitable without any decrease in revenue and that current and prospective agencies could be provided without additional general tax increases at the federal level.

It pointed out that long overdue relief for taxpayers in the low income groups could be made available through eliminating the tax on the profits of public schools for highway needs and for other services, added to increased defense spending, may make any general tax reduction out of the question. Even if revenues from current tax sources increase, they may be required for these additional expenditures.

The AFL-CIO points out that this weakening of the federal tax structure, combined with numerous general tax cuts and payroll taxes adopted by state and local governments, tends to shift the tax burden on the tax payers on the income group below \$5,000.

Future needs at all levels of government, in the light of current and prospective economic developments, emphasize the need for the following tax policies:

1. Strengthening the progressive features of the federal income tax, including the personal income tax and state and gift taxes, so that federal income will equal or exceed expenditures, particularly in years of high economic activity.
2. Enactment of more taxes based on ability to pay by state and local governments, to distribute the tax payments more equitably.
3. Greater use of federal taxing power to aid state and local governments in providing services which they are unable to furnish adequately out of present resources, or because of competition between states and/or localities which prevents them from levying necessary tax revenues.

In higher education and in adult education, there is the same need of support—and not even the unprecedented Ford grants to the colleges will be adequate to meet the situation. Incidentally, the program which is allowed the action of the Ford Foundation did not notice that this was indirect federal aid because the government, in the absence of the foundation, would have received some \$2 billion by way of indirect taxes.

In preparation for the merging of the educational activities of the AFL and CIO, staff members participated in a nationwide conference of trade union educational directors. Pres. George Meany assured such meetings that the merger would mean increased educational opportunities, because he insists that the best preparation for trade unionists is the member who understands the facts about the union's contribution to community welfare.

The pooled resources of the AFL and the CIO should make a greater supply of films, pamphlets and books. Suggestions have been made that the increased personnel in the educational department of the united movement should do more public relations work on our educational institutions.

This might well take the form of sending lecturers and guest teachers to school assemblies and classes. Also needed is the writing of pamphlets in language graded for differing age groups which will present the work of the movements of the labor movement and describe the work of such men as Samuel Gompers and his colleagues.

It is hoped that the united action would be a tremendous investment in future growth and maintenance of the movement help the students to help their parents welcome and encourage the spread of the trade union movement into new areas which it has been unable to reach.

There is all the more need for this because the Big Business corporations are paying increasing attention to the school and are supplying great quantities of attractively prepared and illustrated material.

# St. Louis Dress, Cloak Authorize Strike Vote

Authorization to call a general strike in the St. Louis cloak and dress industries, if current negotiations fail to produce an acceptable contract renewal by Jan. 5, was voted by the membership of the respective joint boards, Vice. Pres. Meyer Perlsin, Southeast regional director, reports approval for a walkout by 80% at a special meeting held Dec. 30. At that time, union representatives who are bargaining with the Associated Garment Industries of St. Louis told members of the boards that the employers are claiming wages are high enough and no raises are necessary. The union has spurned this contention.

Earlier, ILGWU negotiators had rejected an employer move to extend the current five-year agreements. In addition to wage hikes, the union is asking for several benefit improvements.

The union is also engaging the association on another negotiator front. It has asked the employers to confer on an agreement to cover workers employed in shipping rooms of association shops.

The Regional Office has informed the unions that the majority of shipping room workers has joined the union and want coverage of a union contract. The pact would provide wage hikes, health and welfare payments, paid holidays and other standard union benefits.

### New Era Boasts

ILGWU representatives have won an increase in health and medical benefits for employees of New Era Bibles Co., which operates plants in St. Louis, Areadia and Piedmont, Mo.

Under the new scheme, women employees will receive the same health insurance coverage provided for men. The factory will receive full benefits at the ILOUW Health Center in that city.

The plan was worked out under terms of the existing collective agreement, which provides a step-up in company payroll contributions at the end of the first and second years of the pact. As of Jan. 1, 1954, the employer pays all premiums for insurance policies, and as of Oct. 1, 1953, the contribution to the St. Louis Health Center is 1 1/2 per cent of payroll.

# EOT UNWRAPS PLANS FOR ALL-OUT EFFORT IN ILGWU ORGANIZING

The Eastern Out-of-Town Department has completed plans for a full-scale organizing drive that will tie in with the ILGWU's general unionization campaign in New York, Israel Horowitz, general manager, reports.

Strategically located offices will be used as organization centers. More than 150,000 leaflets recently prepared by the union are ready for distribution. These leaflets emphasize that only union bargaining machinery can help workers earn an average wage higher than the new federal minimum that goes into effect Mar. 1.

In addition to the regular organizing staff, chairladies, executive board members and active members have been enlisted in the drive. Three different types of leaflets will be distributed to non-union workers with a follow-up via home visits and other types of appeals.

Key organization centers are in New York—Newark, Union City, Plainfield, Elizabeth, Essex Branch in New Jersey—Coveus, Elizabeth, Mt. Vernon, Poughkeepsie, Kingston, Newburgh, Troy, Staten Island, in Connecticut—New Haven, Bridgeport, Norwalk, Stamford and Hartford.

The drive will be directed by Horowitz and coordinated by Assistant General Manager Edward Kramer.

## NOMINATIONS

For local officers and convention delegates will be made at the following New York meetings:

### LOCAL 117

Cloak Operators  
**Tuesday, Jan. 3**  
 8:15 right after work  
**HOTEL DIPLOMAT**  
 128 West 63rd St.

### LOCAL 9

Cloak Finishers  
**Wednesday, Jan. 13**  
 1:15 right after work at  
**HOTEL DIPLOMAT**  
 128 West 63rd St.

### LOCAL 23

Shirtmakers  
**Thursday, Jan. 19**  
 5 P.M. at  
**HOTEL DIPLOMAT**  
 128 West 63rd St.

### LOCAL 30

Designers  
**Tuesday, Jan. 17**  
 6:30 P.M. at—  
**HOTEL MALDEN**  
 (Red Room)  
 Broadway and 14th St.  
 Also: health, welfare and retirement report and recommendations.

### LOCAL 60

Dress Pressers  
**Monday, Jan. 9**  
 8:15 right after work at  
**HOTEL DIPLOMAT**  
 128 West 63rd St.

### LOCAL 62

Undergarment Workers  
**Thursday, Jan. 12**  
 5 P.M.  
**ROOSEVELT AUDITORIUM**  
 100 East 12th St.  
 Also: Discussion of terms for contract renewal.

# MINNEAPOLIS CITES HIGHER LIVING COST IN PAY RISE DEMAND

Two Minneapolis, Minn., Employees Quilters and Nelson Knitting Works—have been requested by Twin Cities Joint Board Manager Michael Pinbolstein to prepare for wage increase talks.

The demand is based on a survey by the union which indicates that living requirements of workers have increased substantially since the last wage rise. The union seeks an early date for the talks.

The Minneapolis association, Minnesota Apparel Industries, has been asked by the Regional Office to present data showing comparative earnings for piece workers this year and last.

The representative periods selected for examination are July 1 to Dec. 31, 1954 and July 1 to Dec. 31, 1953. Comments received from many workers indicate that average hourly earnings for piece workers this year are lower than the year before.

If this is borne out by a study of comparative wage data, it will influence the request for wage hikes to be made when the current agreement is re-opened shortly. The Regional Office has also asked for statements of earnings of cutters and other free workers in association dress and cloak shops.

ILGWU attorneys in Minneapolis have informed union leaders that the change in management for Boulevard Shirts of that city does not affect the current agreement. Therefore, the new owners cannot deny to workers their 1953 vacation pay which is still due.

## Worldwide Audience Hears OF ILGWU Co-op Houses

News of the first occupancies of the ILGWU Cooperative Village has been distributed in a world-wide press and radio audience by the United States Information Agency. In a special feature, the agency depicted the background of the ILGWU-sponsored development in New York and quoted from speeches delivered at the dedication ceremonies Oct. 22.

## Balancing the Wage Bill



Pressers of Melinda Frocks firm, Newark, N. J., had an extra \$400 for the holidays, thanks to back wages collected by EOT Department, distributed by Mandagor Harman Sirota (center) and Business Agent Edward Nash (left). Workers are members of Local 165.

# EOT Campaign Topples N. J. Undie Contractor

The continuing drive against non-union underwear contractors, conducted by Local 148 and 162 in Union City, N. J., has resulted in organization of the Regina Manufacturing Co., it is reported by Vice Pres. Israel Horowitz, general manager of

last year's unsuccessful attempt. EOT organizers returned this year, and fortified by the workers' response they were able to enroll the shop and negotiate an agreement.

Offers include a reduction in hours from 40 to 35, with compensating increases, paid holidays for both piece and work workers, time and one-half for overtime after daily regular hours, no less than \$1.10 minimum beginning Mar. 1, 1954, company assumption of New Jersey disability benefits, and participation in health, welfare and retirement programs.

The employer also agreed to pay no less than \$1.10 per hour to any worker, effective Mar. 1, 1954 when the new federal minimum takes effect. Overtime time and one-half will be paid both piece and work workers after regular daily hours.

In line with EOT policy, the company will assume New Jersey disability payments for its workers without any deduction from their pay. This stipulation is in addition to full health, welfare and retirement benefits.

In the children's dress field, Local 162 also has organized the Jubilee Dress Co. of Hoboken. This contractor's hold-out against unionization for the past three years, was finally brought into the fold because of the union's persistence in not accepting a final

last year's unsuccessful attempt. EOT organizers returned this year, and fortified by the workers' response they were able to enroll the shop and negotiate an agreement.

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## 'Local 89 Voice' Radio Adds WOV

One more radio station, WOV, has joined the growing Eastern network of "Voice of Local 89," sponsored weekly program of the Italian Dressmakers' Union.

The program, broadcast every Saturday morning, 10:30-11:30, features operatic selections, popular music and comments on current events by First Vice Pres. Luigi Antonioni, general secretary of Local 89.

Besides WOV, the "Voice of 89" network includes WFVD, New York; WJMI, Philadelphia; WELT, New Britain; Hartford; WBSM, Boston. In addition, the program is re-broadcast every Sunday, from 4:30 to 5:30 P.M. WHOM, New York and Jersey City.

# Cloakmakers Work Fall Items As Retailers Rush Re-Orders

New York cloakmakers still are working on fall items, General Manager Isidore Nagler told a recent meeting of the Cloak Joint Board in reviewing current industrial conditions.

This, results from the fact that retail stores, whose inventories have been depleted, have rushed re-orders. The cloak chert deplored this tendency of retailers who, seeking to maintain small stocks until they can see which way the wind is blowing, place orders for minimum quantities and then expect immediate delivery on re-orders when the merchandise begins to move.

The industry's increased production during October and November

Because of measures taken in recent months to strengthen the national position of the retirement fund, the fund now is in a position to provide pensions to all eligible cloakmakers wishing to retire, the joint board members disclosed at a board of directors meeting last month.

Accordingly, he indicated, the retirement fund is able to meet present requirements of some 1,100 additional cloakmakers this month. However, a large number of applicants have decided to postpone retirement and continue working in the trade.

Nagler, who was a member of the ILOUW delegation to the historic AFL-CIO unity convention last year, said cloak shops are working on fall and spring production simultaneously, while others are concentrating exclusively on a spring war.

## Applications Now Taken For New Institute Class.

Applications are being taken for the 1954-55 class of the ILGWU Training Institute. It is announced by Director Arthur A. Elser. The school will start interviewing applicants in March, and the new class is scheduled to start early in June, 1954.

Any young person between the ages of 21 and 25, with high school education or better, can apply for the Institute. Special preference is given to ILGWU members and to children of members.

A number of ILOUW affiliates provide scholarships to aid any of their members who are admitted to the school. Information about the school and the position provided in the ILOUW upon completion of one year of study and field work may be obtained by writing: ILGWU Training Institute, 1150 Broadway, New York 10, or by calling Columbia 3-7900.



Another Pin on the ILGWU Map



Officers of Local 478, Winsboro, S. C., proudly accept their new ILGWU charter in ceremonies in that city last month. Standing left to right: Sue Byrd, vice-president; Eleanor Edenfield, recording secretary; Nicholas Bonanno, ILGWU state director; Marie Kinney, chairman; Mary Cameron, business agent. Seated, Betty Truesdale; financial secretary; Ethel Waters, president.

GROSS UNDERSCORES CONTRACT ENFORCING KEY TO BONNAZ WORK

Members of New York Local 66 were told by Manager Murray Gross last month that strict enforcement of the recently-renewed agreement was vital to insure a steady supply of work for members.

It was the new manager's first appearance before a membership meeting of the Bonnaz Embroiders, Tuckers and Finers' Union. He emphasized that work was not to be sent to contractors unless the handle shop had a full week's work on hand, and that work was to be equally apportioned.

Vice Pres. Harry Greenberg, head of Local 91, who had served as assistant manager of Local 66 until election of Gross, reported on his period of stewardship and introduced the new manager.

Gross predated the career of Zachary Freedman, late head of Local 66, and announced that a memorial to be placed in the Bonnaz plant. Gross also announced that membership meetings will be moved to Manhattan. Gross, distribution of jobs will be made heretofore from 4:30 to 5:15 P.M. daily, sick benefit payments will be streamlined and an educational program is being arranged. Additional health benefits also are being considered.

Jacob Jaffe, vice president of the local, and Kate Alonson, secretary, were voted on their retirement with a dinner at the Hotel Astor on Dec. 27.

Philly Seeks Higher Minimum In Talks With 4 Associations

Demand for a \$1.10 hourly minimum by the Philadelphia Dress Joint Board, negotiating with that city's Waist and Dress Manufacturers Assn. last month, spearheaded parleys with four associations, reports Joint Board Manager William Ross.

Involving a wage-respinning clause in its present contract which does not expire until Jan. 31, 1957, the union is asking the manufacturers for a boost in the minimum as well as general upward adjustment of wages.

The union also is seeking a 30-hour week for all time workers in the children's dress and women's cotton dress industries. An official of the management group said the matter would be taken up with the individual groups within the association. These include the blouse, cotton, silk dress and children's dress manufacturers.

According to Ross, similar demands will be placed before the Philadelphia House and Daytime Apparel Assn., Women's and Children's Apparel Producers Assn., and other groups in the accessories, embroidery and belt fields.

Some 10,000 workers are employed by manufacturers in the local association.

Nominating Meetings

Memberships of the eight locals of the Philadelphia Dress Joint Board will nominate a manager, local officers and convention delegates between Jan. 5 and 8. Elections will take place Feb. 5.

New Year Brings Union Gains To 12 New Shops in Montreal

Twelve Montreal garment shops employing 175 workers have been signed up by ILGWU organizers in wake of the nationwide unionizing campaign, reports Vice Pres. Bernard Shane, Jan. 1 and contain all standard union provisions. Eight of the shops make coats and suits; four are dress houses.

The shops are Fashion Junior Garment Co., Fashion Sportswear, Inc., Dainty Sportswear, Inc., Next Fashion, Inc., Blended Cloth Co., Inc., Reliable Cloth and Suit, Etc. Garment, Inc., Ben Bart Sportswear, Val Des Pins Contractors, Corbus Registered, Dior Dress, Inc., Rosedale Dress Contractors.

12 in Kansas City Get \$900 Back Pay

Almost \$900 in back vacation pay was distributed to 12 employees of Leasingport, Spewincoas Co. of Kansas City, Mo., last month. The action followed a ruling by an impartial arbitrator ordering the company to make the back payments.

The delinquent amounts went to workers laid off by the company earlier in the year. Leasingport's refusal to pay the employees forced the union to take the case to arbitration. Individual awards ranged up to \$100.

Another Kansas City ILGWU worker welcome back pay in her Christmas stocking this year. Mary Smith of Phil Jacobs Co. was awarded \$82 in back wages after Joint Board Assistant Manager Sam Schwartz discovered that she was receiving less than the minimum wage specified in the contract.

The Kansas City ILGWU filed 476 stockings at its Christmas party this year. Of these, 350 were distributed to members' children, and the other 126 went to parents of Kansas City General Hospital.

Ninety of the 350 children at the ILGWU party took part in a floor show arranged by Education Director Winnie Lippman.

Missouri Medley



Highlight of annual holiday party by Local 104, St. Louis, is mass songfest featuring favorite season carols. Affair was held at York Hotel.

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OFFICE, DISTRIBUTION LOCAL 99 ORGANIZES CLOAK, CHAIN GROUPS

New York Office and Distribution Department Local 99 has organized a substantial number of new firms into union ranks last month, reports Manager Shirley Appleton.

Among those signed up was J. and J. Block, a major children's coat manufacturer, and two chain stores, Atlanta Hoth and Akins Retail. The Block pact provided for 28 employees with wage increases and a shorter work week.

Block was one of the firms for the chain store workers. In addition to other benefits set by chain store association standards. Local 99 meanwhile is negotiating with two additional chains—Jenny and Dee Jay stores.

In addition, 13 coat and suit firms were organized recently, according to Assistant Manager Douglas Levin. The local is in the process of unionizing four others. Levin also reported that workers who had left when 30 coat and suit firms closed down in recent months have been placed in other jobs.

Union Petitions Remove Inequities from Pa. Assistance Law

Inequities in the public assistance laws of Pennsylvania discriminating severely against married working women have been erased following a public service campaign spearheaded by ILGWU throughout the state.

The new regulations, which levy equal responsibility on men and women for the support of dependent children, became effective Jan. 1. The change was put into effect by the State Board of Public Assistance following a drive approved by the "equality" drive by Pennsylvania Governor George M. Leader.

Vice Pres. David Glasgow, director of the National Department, praised the board's action and noted that ILGWU membership in Pennsylvania, which is overwhelmingly female, would profit directly by the revision.

The crux of the inequality lay

in the fact that public assistance provisions requiring employed children to support their aged parents placed a far greater burden on daughters than on sons.

In substituting the latter's contribution, the state would first allow him money for his living expenses and his wife's and children's support, and then set him to pay a portion of the remainder toward helping his parents.

The attitude toward the married wage earner was much more stringent. After deducting \$35 from her gross income (before taxes)—allowing nothing for her own or her children's support—the state would then demand one-third of the rest for assistance to her parents.

The basis of this law, as outlined by Harrisburg Manager George Orsillo at the beginning of the drive, "dates back to the

old fashioned idea that married women shouldn't be working, and if they do, it's only for pin money. Thousands of great workers who are their families' breadwinners today know better than that."

The principal ILGWU weapon in its drive to eliminate this inequality was a petition campaign carried to all state ILGWU shops. These petitions, calling attention to the disparity, were addressed to Governor Leach and called upon him to "use your good offices to remedy this situation."

The petition drive started late in November. By the first week in December, hundreds of petitions with thousands of signatures were pouring into union headquarters. Seven thousand were gathered up alone by Wilkes-Barre, Pottsville, Johnstown, York, Lancaster and Harrisburg locals.

On Dec. 12, Governor Leach received the ILGWU delegation in Harrisburg, was presented with the petitions, and announced his wholehearted backing for the campaign. He told the delegation:

"In this time of equal rights for all, as evidenced by the recent passage of the state FEPC law, I am troubled about the present inequities in the rules and regulations of the Department of Public Assistance which stipulate in a discriminatory manner the obligations incumbent on children of indigent parents.

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"I am happy to announce that the State Board of Public Assistance will meet to examine a resolution amending the present regulations, so that equal responsibility will be placed on the fathers of aged parents applying for public assistance in Pennsylvania. I feel reasonably certain the board will concur in the findings of the policy committee of the Department of Public Assistance and approve a resolution.

"In addition, the findings of the present regulations in Pennsylvania is already in progress, and a provision for equalization of the law is being contemplated within the near future."

At its meeting the following day, the State Board amended the public assistance regulations regarding support and ruled that sons and daughters would be governed by identical obligations. The revision is effective Jan. 1.

## ILGW Donates \$1 Million for Israel Hospital



Checking details of \$1,000,000 ILGWU gift to Israel are, left to right: Hella Mayer Abba Hushi, Mrs. David Dubinsky, International Secretary General; Maxwell Namir, Exr. Secy., national secretary of National Committee for Labor Israel; ILGWU First Vice Pres. Luigi Antonelli.

(Continued from Page 3)

Hella's International Trade School, that the institution was built originally with a \$250,000 gift from the union.

### Antisocial Studies

Acknowledging the naming of the Hella stadium in his honor, First Vice Pres. Luigi Antonelli stated that the union had also made sizable donations in the past to Italy and other anti-socialist countries. (See "Yankees and Tamers" column on Page 3 for excerpt from Antonelli's address.)

Namir stated that the new hospital would be named for the garment union and would provide service to Jews and Arabs without distinction. It will be the 15th hospital maintained by Kupat Holim, a cooperative medical insurance system maintained by Histradut. The ILGWU gift will permit construction to start shortly after Jan. 1. "Four hospitals," Namir declared, "will have a symbolic value, as it will stand to reaffirm our decision to safeguard the territorial integrity of our land."

Recent convention reports of the ILGWU point up the union's continued generosity in extending needed aid to worthy causes throughout the world as well as here at home. Reports for 1955 and 1954 indicate a total of about \$120,000 for overseas assistance in the period covered by these reports.

In addition to the current aid to Israel, the ILGWU also has given financial support to the sale of American Housing Bonds, which helped build more than 5,000 low-cost housing units to provide for the needs of the country's population influx.

### TIMELY TOPICS

are on the agenda at these programs arranged by the ILGWU Education Department:

#### Thursdays

6:15 P.M.  
TEXTILE HIGH SCHOOL,  
Room 204

10th St. bet. 8th and 9th Ave.  
Dr. Julius Mannon, Prof. Bernard Stern, Abe Weiss will lead discussions on labor merger, automation, ILO structure.

#### Saturdays

1:15 P.M.  
HUNTER COLLEGE,  
Room 406

Park Ave. and 69th St.  
Professor M. W. Aginsky, Eugene Hartley and others will discuss our changing civilization, intergroup relations, drama.

## 8 Chicago Independents Pen Contract Renewals

Eight independent manufacturers of cotton and sportswear garments in Chicago have signed renewal agreements with Local 76 and 261, reports Vice Pres. Morris Bialik, director of the Midwest Region. Settlements with 12 other shops are expected within the next few weeks.

According to Manager Sam Glassman, the signing firms are Alfrink and Alfrink, Bender and Clark, Erwin and Erwin, H. Herman and Co., Klren Blouse Co., Sandra Manufacturing Co., Silverstein Garment Co. and Tobey Sportswear Co.

The new pacts brought higher minimums, a general wage boost for some workers, extra paid holidays, an additional 1 per cent contribution by employer to the health center (for a total of 1 per cent) and an additional 1 per cent to the retirement fund (for a total of 2 per cent), beginning Mar. 1. All piece rates will be applied.

In another settlement, wage boosts were won for employees of the Roney-Poly Manufacturing Co. of Chicago, through a wage reopening clause in the contract.

### Signs of Spring

Calendars to the contrary, spring is busting out all over Chicago's cloak industry. Almost every cloak shop in the city is busy, and all members are employed on spring styles. "If the trend continues," Salim Bialik, "we have every reason to look forward to a good spring season."

Although prospects for a good season in Chicago's silk dress industry are indicated also, that branch is not expected to match cloak levels. Nevertheless, unemployment is low in the silk dress section.

In Chicago's custom garment industry—now that the major agreements have been concluded—all reports indicate that this trade, too, is busy.

### Out-of-Town Pacts

Three new contracts have been signed in the Chicago Out-of-Town area, reports General Organizer Harry Bluf.

Wage increases have been won for all workers at the Hart Garment Co. of Chicago Heights (Local 32) and at the Westlens Dress Co. shops in Bradley (Local 256) and Gilman (Local 375).

The third agreement, concluded with Johnny Manufacturing Co. of Alton (Local 314) and Fairfield (Local 464), calls for a 10-cent hour-

ly boost for all time workers and for substantial increases over the minimums for all piece workers.

### Born: Local 529

Latest affiliates to join ILGWU ranks is Local 529 of Aurora, Ill. The newly chartered local has a membership of more than 300 workers employed at the R. and M. Kaufman shop in that city.

Achievements of the Midwest Region, and the progress of Local 76 and 261 in particular, were lauded by Vice Pres. Bialik at the local's annual year-end party. Bialik also paid tribute to the Chicago Health Center and termed it "the pride of the Chicago labor movement." A successful Yule celebration was also held at the Chicago Joint Board.

Vice Pres. Bialik has been elected chairman of the Trade Union Division of the Israel Histradut Campaign of Chicago.

## PUERTO RICO TALKS START IN BRA TRADE

(Continued from Page 3)  
maker's arrival and their meeting with the Mayores of San Juan.

### Stand Clarified

On Dec. 21, El Mando commented in an important editorial that a statement on behalf of the union by Tyler had removed many of the misconceptions that had existed concerning the ILGWU's attitude toward Puerto Rican minimum wages.

"The ILGWU," said the paper, "does not seek for Puerto Rico the same 31-cent-hour minimum as has been enacted for the mainland. It recognizes the need for a differential, but holds that this should be reduced as the island's economy develops."

"The ILGWU had never taken the position that the minimum on the island and the mainland should be the same. El Mundo acknowledges that it had been assumed by many on the island that this was the position of the union. The paper, in the statement, is enunciating a reasonable position and edifying those who 'that it holds an echo in Chicago.'"

## HOW TO BUY

by Sidney Margolis

## Cost of Living to Climb During Next Six Months

You can expect your living expenses to climb during the first six months of 1956. On the basis of increases already announced or impending, it is estimated that by mid-1956 living costs will very likely be 2 to 3 per cent higher than now.

Moderate-income families may feel the impact of rising costs even more keenly, because the index includes a number of important necessities: meat, shoes, laundry and other clothing items, housing, home heating equipment and furniture. It's also going to cost you more to heat your home and pay medical bills. List prices of new model cars are also higher.

Some of these price increases may not be immediately visible, and you'll do well to watch the quality of the things you buy more closely this year. In the case of furniture and women's shoes particularly, some manufacturers are planning to keep the price the same, but offer lower quality goods or fewer pieces of furniture at the familiar price.

You can offset some of the impending increases by planning to take advantage of sales and by planning meals around foods that will be more abundant this year, avoiding those in scarcer supply.

Here is information you can use in planning buying to keep family expenses under control during the price rise expected the first half of the new year:

**CLOTHING:** Most noticeable price hikes looming ahead are on shoes and nylon hosiery, with men's and boy's shirts and work clothing also a little more expensive.

We recommend shopping the January clearance sales to fill in family needs on these items, especially the valuable shoe sales, but also for other basic clothing necessities. The January sales also offer sharp reductions on men's and women's winter coats.

One bright spot is that products made of the new synthetic fibers like Acrilan, Dynel, Orlon and Dacron will continue to get cheaper.

**FURNITURE:** Prices have been moving up, but some manufacturers and retailers are tending to hide the increase by reducing the number of pieces you get with a set, and by moving up lower-quality pieces to the next customary price bracket. This, you may still find last year's quality priced at \$229, but it may be the quality that last year sold for \$199.

We recommend shopping the February furniture sales starting in late January, and negotiating favorable with great care this year to make sure of durable quality and good comparative value. At sales, you can often find better buys in individual chairs and sofas rather than sets or "suites."

**APPLIANCES:** Television sets generally cost more than last year, but the public is getting a break in the reduced prices of automatic washers. Standard-model automatics are now available for as little as \$118 net, with retailing cutting prices even below that. The larger deluxe models, which generally list around the \$350 mark, have been further improved for 1956, particularly through more thorough rinsing and more economical use of warm water.

**FOOD:** The present abundant supply of pork and beef and the comparatively low prices in the markets unfortunately are only temporary, and family food bills will be climbing with warmer weather. A family trying to keep down its food bills will look to pork more often in early 1956, as beef prices especially will be going up. If you have a freezer, this is a good time to put meat away for the expensive period ahead. Beef holds better in storage than pork.

## Good Job



Agreement between Los Angeles ILGWU and California Department of Employment, recognizing union's job placement office as official employment center for garment industry. It renewed for another year, Vice Pres. Samuel Otto, Pacific Coast director (seated, left), and John Ross of Employment Department sign the agreement. Standing: Max Wolf of Dress and Sportswear Union, ILGWU attorney Paul Fairbank, John Coole, of Employment Department's Appeal Office.

## Cutters Aid Snowsuit Quest For Severance and Pay Boost

Local 10 was represented by Manager Moe Falkman at the first conference for renewal of the agreement in the snowsuit industry, in which Local 105 represents the workers in the other crafts. Supporting the demand for a wage increase, Falkman noted that the number of cutters in this trade had tripled during recent years, reflecting the industry's expansion, indicating that the employers were in a position to grant raises at this time. He also stressed that he had given great service to attract an adequate supply of workers.

Falkman vigorously backed up the demand for severance pay, underscoring the fact that there are those who have been laid off and settled all their bills, except what they owed to workers who had given great service for as many as 20 or 30 years.

The union's demand for an increase in retirement fund contributions was justified in order to make the fund fully capable of meeting its obligations to workers who have to retire in the years immediately ahead.

### Year's Progress

The end of 1955 will ring down the curtain on another year of progress in Local 10. Falkman declared, in his report with the message to members and their families.

Reviewing major developments of the past year, he recalled the gains achieved through several of the dress agreements last spring. These included the 40 cent in contract minimums, increase in contributions to the health, welfare and retirement funds and employer's assumption of the 1/2 per cent disability benefit payment that would otherwise have to be paid by the workers.

As a result of the higher health and welfare contributions, cutters and other workers in the dress industry obtained an expanded health program entitling them to Blue Cross hospitalization, in addition to a choice between the Health Insurance Plan (HIP) or Group Health Insurance (GHI). And under the comprehensive health program in the cloak and millinery trades which takes effect at the beginning of the New Year, hospitalization payments are increased from \$5 to \$15 a day, sick benefits from \$25 to \$30 a week and surgery fees from \$50 to \$100.

Local 10's newest institution—a school for cutters—was established during the year. Forty-five students completed their first semester of classes in

### N. Y. Members Must Get 1956 Medical Envelopes

New York ILGWU members will need a 1956 medical service envelope in order to obtain medical benefits at the Union Health Center, Dec. 19, 1955. The 1956 envelopes can be obtained at local union offices after Dec. 15.

These envelopes will be good for the entire year of 1956, except for members of Locals 20, 82, 91, 99, 106, 123 and 185. Envelopes for members of these groups will be good only until June 30, 1956, and they will have to exchange them at that time to get new ones effective July 1-Dec. 31, 1956.

Members of Locals 22 and 89, and members of Local 20, employed in the dress industry, who have chosen to purchase CMI under the new medical plan will not be eligible to use the Union Health Center, but other members who have chosen to use the service will use its facilities after Dec. 31, 1955, only if they are given a medical service envelope by their local union.

## BOND BACKS PROMISE OF JANE ELLEN FIRM ON UNION-MADE WORK

The Northeast Department has accepted a new commitment from a House firm supplying work to a number of Pennsylvania plants that it will abide by its contractual obligation to have its work come from unskilled sources.

The Jane Ellen Co. has supplied such work to shops in Easton and Allentown, employing a total of more than 200 workers. In recent weeks, the flow of work began to fall off. It was then discovered that the firm was contemplating the importation of labor.

At this point, the workers employed by the company in both Pennsylvania areas struck. They stayed out for three days, after which they returned to work on the basis of a promise that the firm would abide by the union-work provision.

However, it soon appeared that

## Helena Garment Buck-Passing Halts as S'west Talks Strike

Buck-passing between a branch plant manager and the parent firm's attorney last month brought the Helena Garment Co. of Helena, Ark., to the brink of a strike, according to Vice Pres. Meyer Perlstein, Southwest regional director.

Evason was the answer to the union's demand that company officials sit down to negotiate a new contract. The current pact was due to expire Dec. 31. But nobody, it seemed, wanted to talk terms for the company.

Helena is a subsidiary of Ebbly Brooks and Rittiner Sportswear Co. of Cleveland, O. Asked to set a date for talks, the Helena plant manager pleaded lack of authority. On the other hand, the counsel for the Cleveland firm, who negotiated the first agreement signed in 1952, ignored all union requests for negotiation. The latter requests, incidentally, include several legal notices.

At a meeting in Helena, Dec. 16, staffers Frank Hether and Louis Weas of officers of Local 553 repeated the demand that the plant manager start negotiations—and he again shifted responsibility to the parent company. As a result, Helena employees voted approval of a strike for the day after the agreement expires.

At this point, the firm's attorney changed his attitude, and a conference to negotiate a new contract was set for Dec. 27 in Helena.

## Northeast Wins Raises For 450 in Springfield

More than 450 workers in the Springfield, Mass., District gained wage increases and new health and welfare benefits as a result of contract renewals negotiated with two large firms in that area, reports Vice Pres. David Gingold, director of the Northeast Department.

The 200 workers at Gals-Broad Co. in Pittsfield, makers of Campus Owl Linens, robes and housecoats, won a 5-cent raise across-the-board increase. An upward revision of piece rates, to maintain the proportionate differentials between minimums and average earnings, is being worked out and will go into effect during Mar. 1.

Previous gains, such as the 25-hour week, seven day workdays, and health and welfare coverage, are supplemented by retirement provisions. The new agreement also guaranteed firm Gals-Broad employees a full

## Faith

By MAX PRESS

We grow in strength and wisdom through our pain,  
What we gather, we gather up in  
The beauty which lies briefly on our lives  
It is all engendered in the shadowed years.

We love most deeply those whom we have lost,  
Our faith grows stronger underneath the red,  
Life flows back to the learn and grieving heart—  
Through sorrow and through loss we find our God.

the company had made a promise it was not likely to maintain. For this reason, the union insisted in further negotiations that the company provide a bond with which to give additional weight to its promise. Such a bond has now been provided.

## BOOK FRONT

### Totalitarianism Koestler Target In Latest Essays

THE TRAIL OF THE DISOBEDIENT. By Arthur Koestler. The Macmillan Co. \$2.50.

Koestler's is the outstanding example of the double standard in our time. He is a champion of honesty in thought and action, regardless of the consequences, because he is "op-



posed that truth is the key to the survival of mankind.  
He hates "the phony in politics, the snob in art, the totalitarian who destroy freedoms in order, they try, to preserve it. He is especially effective in castigating those who call ex-Communist betrayers, as if loyalty to murder were a virtue, or in showing the dastardly of Eurocentric nationalism, which ignores the fact that in our time to be "neutral" really means to give objective aid to one of the contending camps.

Once again, as in his other books of brilliant essays, Koestler ranges as far among the arts, the political battles, psychiatry and other varied fields. But wherever his intellect is directed, it strikes enlightening sparks. Always he has the experience of leg- and experience with which to track down the facts and the dangerous.

Koestler therefore cannot provide pleasant bromides: "He does not manufacture peace of mind. But he is vigorously challenging, a writer who says important things in a time of easy escapes.

### KREMLIN TACTICS HIT AT ITALIAN-AMERICAN LABOR COUNCIL MEET

Lashing out at the "hypocritical 'Big Sister' tactics of the Kremlin dictatorship," the Italian American Labor Council met for greater unity and strength of the free world to thwart Communist attempts to subvert and conquer the democratic nations, reports Vice Pres. Luigi Antonini, co-speech leader.

Delegates to the annual IALCO conference, held Dec. 17 at Hotel Commodore in New York, charged that Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov, at the recent Geneva Conference, "slammed the door in the face of the free world representatives, who have been sincerely active in an end to world tension through attaining the national renunciation of Germany in freedom, bona fide collective security, effective world disarmament."

In another resolution, the IALCO council congratulated CIO's trade union movement, for its success against the Communists in recent factory elections, and pledged continued support for that country's democratic labor forces.

In the afternoon, the council tendered a testimonial luncheon in honor of Giulio Pastore, general secretary of the Italian Government, in charge of that union's international labor relations. Speakers included ILGWU President David Dubinsky, Mayor Robert F. Wagner Jr., Manlio Brosio, Italian Ambassador to the United States, Pastore and Canali.

Of the 45 state and three territorial legislatures that met in 1955, all but three passed laws relating to workmen's compensation.

# JUSTICE

INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

## THE YEAR AHEAD

(Continued from Page 1)

oppression, a determination to work for the eradication of the stupidity that tolerates hunger in a world with more than enough food, that allows one man to be master of another, that still permits diseases to breed in an age of medical miracles, and ignorance to spread when men can speak to world-wide audiences with electronic speed.

WE ARE ENTERING A SEASON in which these hopes will be reduced to party platitudes. In the year that lies ahead, these deep longings will roar through the land as political slogans, appeals for support, partisan persuasions and enticements for voting.

The program on which working men and women can pin their best hopes is a simple one. It is put in eloquent and concise terms by George Meany, president of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, in the following New Year's message:

"The myth of the Geneva spirit has now been shattered. The hypocritical attempts of the Communists to disarm the free world by use of the 'smiling face' technique have now been exposed. Our first consideration in the coming year, therefore, must be to maintain the defense program in such strength as to deter the Kremlin from proceeding with any further aggressive plans. America and the free world can maintain a firm foreign policy only if they have the military strength to back it up.

"Under these circumstances, it would be folly to cut back defense expenditures in order to balance the budget for political reasons. Labor will support a program of substantial military and economic aid to other free nations to protect them from being forced to yield to communism through the gradual but deadly process of appeasement.

"On the domestic front, we anticipate a continuing rise in production, employment, profits and mass purchasing power. Our economy must keep growing and expanding to provide job opportunities for new workers who will enter the labor market this year and those displaced by automation or sporadic industrial upheavals. We cannot afford to be complacent about the present economic plateau while 3 1/2 per cent of the nation's workers are still unemployed and the Labor Department lists 90 distressed areas.

"Through legislation and through action at the trade union level, the AFL-CIO intends to seek the extension of civil rights to all citizens, regardless of race, creed, color or national origin.

"The labor movement will make every effort to cement the bonds of unity during the year ahead. It will proceed in an orderly way to carry out its pledge to organize the unorganized and bring trade union benefits to millions now working under sub-standard conditions. In all our efforts, we will be guided by a deep sense of responsibility to the workers we represent, to our free nation and to the welfare of the communities in which we live."

PRES. MEANY LISTS among the immediate tasks for the 84th Congress action on school and hospital construction, on low-cost housing, road-building and flood control and farmers' income. Organized labor will seek correction or elimination of anti-labor legislation and improvements in unemployment compensation and Social Security legislation.

There are only some of the targets that must remain clear even as the air fills with the sound and fury of electioneering. We and the rest of the free world have become partners in a crucial play for the survival of liberty. Crowded classrooms and inhuman housing are as much a drag on our cause as inadequate foreign aid or an ineffective defense policy.

The biggest resolve in our New Year's bag of resolutions—and one that we must hold on to throughout the year—is to keep our hopes for humanity in balance with our preferences in politics. In this political year, we can move the world with our vote.

### "What D'you Hear?"



### "Be My Guest!"



## Freedom vs. Indifference

By  
**Manes Sperber**

Excerpt from paper presented by the author of "The Burned Braille" and other novels at recent world conference at Congress for Cultural Freedom in Milan.

It is generally agreed that every individual eagerly desires freedom and is ready to fight and die for it. Yet, our century has seen the rise of authoritarian regimes which claimed, and not altogether without reason, to be based on the passionate consent of their victims.

Our generation, which has witnessed two wars and various totalitarian tyrannies, will never forget the voluptuous cries that rose up, in the capitals of old Europe, to the men whose limitless power was the result of a widespread failure of nerve, of innumerable suicides of freedom. The boss grandeur of Mussolini, Hitler and Stalin fed on the ignoble submission not only of the anonymous masses but also of men who, by virtue of their past, culture and energy, seemed immune to the wiles of an appeal that called for irrevocable renunciation.

There is thus good reason for re-examining the general notion that man aspires to freedom as naturally as he does to health and happiness.

THE meaning of freedom is revealed to the individual when he first encounters an obstacle to the carrying out of an act that follows upon a desire. At first, he will do not suspect the existence of an adverse force. Thus, the desire for freedom begins as a subsidiary or auxiliary will aimed at guaranteeing the individual's power to act and his right to attain a given goal. Generally speaking, one does not notice obstacles until they hinder or thwart the carrying out of a project.

The lazy, well-fed dog can very well ignore his chain, provided that it be a little longer than the radius of his circle that he has no desire to leave. At first, he is sure, he feels the iron collar around his neck, but later he finds reasons for putting up with it: one has to live, he set, and so one has to accept certain conditions, and so on. From that time, when his "vagabond soul" awakens, he grumbles about his lot. But such times become fewer and farther between.

MOST men, when they emerge from adolescence, accept the situation of this dog. Their problem of freedom, when it does arise, has to do only with obstacles which they encounter within the circle to which their chain confines them. Adapting themselves to the necessities of their family life and social and economic existence, they relinquish, with-

out difficulty, the right to dispose of their time, exchanging it, so to speak, for advantages which seem to them superior to the freedom that they are sacrificing. It is very nice to be free and all that, but earning one's living is a matter of vital and constant necessity.

In order to retain illusions that are flagrantly at odds with reality, a man must have an emotional need for them or else must be indifferent to the truth which his illusions distort. The illusion of freedom is born of and feeds on political indifference. This indifference—a rather general one throughout the ages—was regarded by nineteenth-century sociology, particularly Marxism, as a normal attitude resulting from the fact that earlier regimes had deprived the people of the sovereign right to determine its own destiny.

THE explanation is not to be brushed aside, though it is highly intricate. The right to vote which is granted by parliamentary democracies to each citizen invests the people, as an electoral body, with true power. Doubtless, a lessening of political indifference can be observed in the weeks preceding important elections, but such interest rarely persists beyond the event itself. It resembles, in the best of cases, the ephemeral excitement aroused by athletic competitions such as the sixty-day bicycle races and the Football Cup final.

The inordinate expression of political enthusiasm in certain periods does not prove that indifference gave way to lasting interest. Apart from a tiny minority, men are not aware of living as political entities, nor even of living within the social organization to which they really belong. A man lives on a continent, in a country, a city. True enough. But psychologically he lives only in his immediate surroundings, in a room, a house, a street, a neighborhood.

Up to now, freedom has been a subject of preaching, particularly in countries where it was firmly established. It is time now to analyze the real relationships that men maintain with freedom, with their personal and social freedom. It is urgent that we develop methods that can serve in teaching men the consciousness, courage and art of being free, free not only in their private feelings and most inward thoughts, but also in the struggles of their time.