

ESTE ES SU
PERIODICO
•
RESPALDELO!

ACCION

Organo Oficial
del
Local 713,
•
TPU-CIO

Vol. 3 — No. 5

Panamá, R. P., Diciembre, 1947

GRATIS

LA CONVENCION CAUSA CAMBIOS

QUEJA DEL AÑO EN LA PANADERIA DEL PACIFICO

La Unión Gana

El "escándalo" de la Panadería del Pacífico será registrado en la historia del Local 713 como uno de sus éxitos más dramáticos. La conclusión satisfactoria del caso quitará también la mancha vergonzosa del record de relaciones del empleado del Canal de Panamá.

Hace cinco semanas que un grupo de empleados vinieron a la oficina de La Boca y relataron a los oficiales de la Unión un cuento horripilante e increíble del tratamiento cruel e inhumano que los empleados de la Panadería reciben del jefe, Carl Kollman. Los empleados declararon que la atmósfera y las condiciones de trabajo en la panadería fueron como las de un campamento de concentración en vez de una operación de la Zona del Canal. El jefe acusaba a los empleados y en muchas ocasiones usaba palabras profanas y de la naturaleza más insultante. Las empleadas no se escapaban de este tratamiento y parece que actualmente fueron las víctimas más frecuentes. Uno de los empleados se quejó que el jefe le abusaba físicamente y que fué empujado y tratado como un chiquillo.

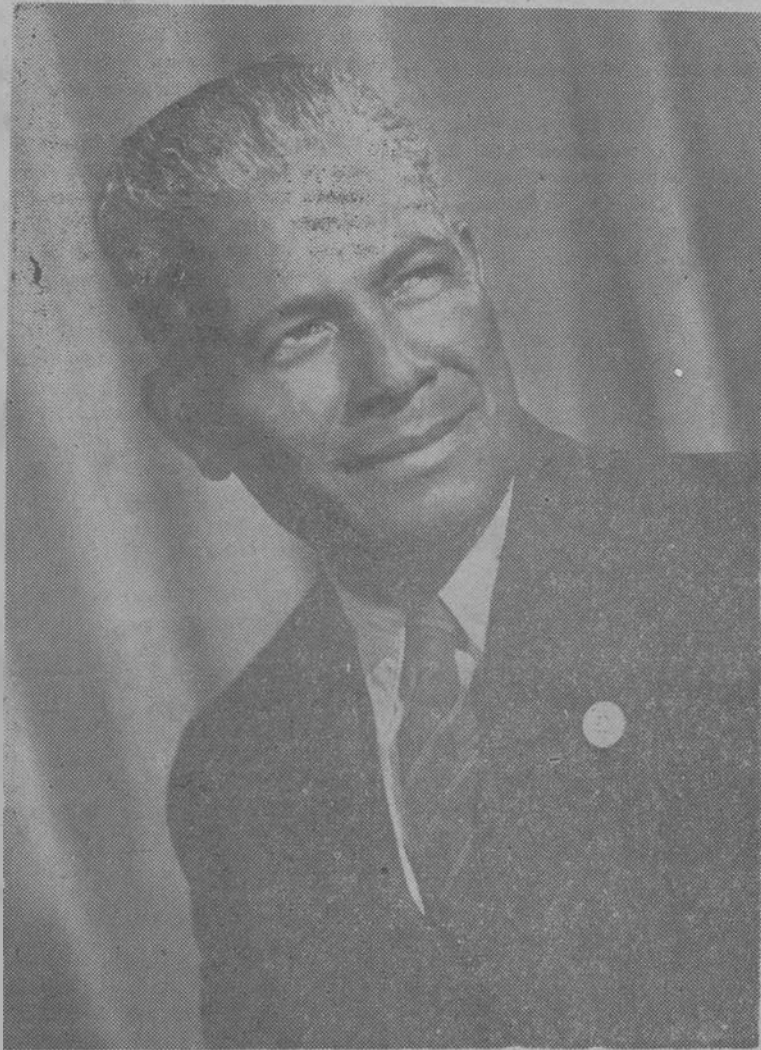
Sobretiempo sin pago

Los empleados declararon que tuvieron que trabajar demasiado sobretiempo—hasta 20 o 30 horas por mes—pero no recibieron el pago para el sobretiempo en todo el mes. Cuando preguntaban acerca de su licencia por enfermedad y descanso fueron insultados. Ellos sufrieron muchas dificultades para obtener licencia y un empleado había trabajado por tres años sin recibir un sólo día de licencia aunque había aplicado por ella en varias ocasiones.

La panadería fué operada como un taller donde se impone el trabajo excesivo y los empleados tuvieron que trabajar por un período de seis y tres cuartos de hora sin un período de quince minutos para almorzar o descansar. El jefe les dijo que podían tomar una hora para almorzar si querían — pero sería por cuenta de ellos después de haber terminado su trabajo por la tarde.

Un día puso un letrado en la pared que decía: "Hay gente aquí que hieden, y si no sabes quien es, pondré su nombre en una lista." Los empleados, por supuesto quitaron la basura insultante y lo guardaron para el record. Luego se quejó de que hay algunos que quitan sus letrados de las paredes.

Si toda la mala fé del jefe fuese incluida en este artículo,



EL NUEVO PRESIDENTE

El sucesor de Francisco Araúz, como presidente del Local 713, TPU-CIO, es el gran luchador, Pascual Ampudia, en cuyas venas corre la sangre del valiente indio panameño de la tribu de los Caribes, así como la de los conquistadores españoles.

El Presidente Ampudia comenzó a trabajar en el Canal de Panamá desde 1906, luchó durante aquellos días memorables de la construcción y pasó por las dificultades del período de mantenimiento y resolvió ayudar en la lucha para mejorar la suerte de sus compañeros de trabajo. Fundó la antigua Unión de Empleados de la Zona en Colón y fue su primer Vice-Presidente; luego ésta se unió con la Unión de Trabajadores de la Zona en Panamá. Estas dos uniones junto con otros grupos luego se convirtieron en el Local 713.

Cuando vino Len Goldsmith se nombró una Administración Provisional y Ampudia fué elegido Delegado Jefe, ocupó el puesto de Vice-Presidente del Cabildo de Cristóbal y fué miembro de la Junta Ejecutiva del Local.

Aunque no tiene más de un mes de ocupar el alto puesto de Presidente del Local, ya se ha visto el fruto de sus labores. Esta personalidad simpática, con cabellos casi todo plateado y con una sonrisa contagiosa tiene una inteligencia singular y ha sabido ganarse la simpatía de todos.

proveería suficiente material para un libro pequeño. Es suficiente decir que estas quejas y muchas más fueron llevadas a la atención del Director del Clubhouse por Clarence Small, Organizador del Local, y Joseph Sachs, Representante Internacional.

Desde entonces todo sucedió rápidamente. Tuvieron varias reuniones con los empleados y distintos oficiales estaban presentes. Se incluyen R. G. Taylor, Director de Clubhouse; W. H.

(Pasa a la Página 2)

Se Gana Una Reclamación

Las hermanas Musa Boyce e Ida Magallón, del Clubhouse de Plata, en Gatún, se quejaron al Organizador Dean, de que fueron pagadas insuficientemente por sus responsabilidades. Dean solucionó los casos y ambas empleadas ganaron un aumento de 6 centavos después de haber demostrado que no fueron clasificadas correctamente.

Richardson y Weinstein en Discursos Animados

El Alcalde, don Mauricio Díaz, asistió

La Segunda Convención Anual Istmeña del Local 713, TPU-CIO, que se verificó el 8 y el 9 de Noviembre en el Clubhouse de La Boca, fué impresionante y productiva de muchos planes sanos para el año entrante.

En asistencia tuvimos como convidados especiales Thomas Richardson, Vice-Presidente Internacional, Robert Weinstein, Director de Organización, don Mauricio Díaz, Alcalde de la Ciudad de Panamá, y la señora B. M. Thorbourne quien dió la invocación el último día.

El salón estaba bien decorado con banderas y palmas, pero el centro de atracción fué la plataforma que tuvo como fondo cuatro dibujos al cartón de Phillip Murray, Abraham Flaxer, Thomas Richardson y Robert Weinstein.

Araúz comienza la Convención

La primera sesión fué abierta por el Presidente Francisco Araúz a las 10 a.m. Después de la invocación por el Hermano John Watkis de Gamboa, la Hermana Virginia King fué la cantante principal en los himnos nacionales de Panamá y los Estados Unidos. El Presidente Araúz pidió fuertemente para la unidad y expresó su buena voluntad para continuar sirviendo al Local. Elogió al hermano Cheresch, Director Regional anterior, por la parte importante que desempeñó en la fundación del Local.

El Segundo Vice-Presidente Alfonso Alexis nombró y la Convención aprobó el personal de los siguientes comités: Credenciales, Reglamentos, Educación, Resolución, Publicidad y Constitución. El Presidente Araúz presentó a don Mauricio Díaz, Alcalde de la Ciudad de Panamá, quien dió una breve plática en la cual elogió a los miembros por su Unión fuerte y expresó su esperanza de que en el año entrante podrán ganar más victorias."

—OO—

Felicitaciones del Gobernador de Panamá

Después de la lectura de las felicitaciones del Gobernador Velásquez de la Provincia de Panamá, el informe del Comité de Credenciales siguió y las discusiones comenzaron cuando el Comité de Reglamentos presentó sus recomendaciones. Una explosión verbal comenzó cuando introdujeron la votación por pasar la lista, cuya inclusión fué evitada con mucho éxito por los cabildos pequeños.

Informe del Director Regional

Max Brodsky, Director Regional, dió su informe en la cual describió las ganancias de la Unión y la parte importante que la Internacional desempeñó en el apoyo del Local. Revisó la crisis debido a la disensión interna y como resultado la disminución en el pago de las cuotas; imaginó las batallas estenuas adelante; y dió un bos-

quejo de los caminos productivos que tendremos que seguir para que el Local disfrute de crecimiento.

Aston Parchment, Director de Educación, dió el informe del Comité de Educación. Este informe recomendó un programa extensivo de educación y recreación que dará a cada miembro el espíritu verdadero del gremio de obrero y rodear al Local con una abundancia de actividades cultas, educadoras, y de recreación.

El Vice-Presidente Richardson Habla.

Después de saludar a la asamblea mencionó que los delegados estaban presentes para resolver los problemas internos, legislativos y económicos que confrontan ahora a la Unión. Declaró, "Yo creo que la responsabilidad que está en su hombro es sumamente grande porque será usted quien tendrá que ir a los miembros de esta Unión para decirles si han o no puesto esta Unión en una base que protegerá los intereses de los miembros que pagan sus cuotas.

Revisó brevemente la historia del Local 713, desde la aparición de Len Goldsmith, la dirección de Edward Cheresch y Jack Strobel hasta su (Richardson) primera visita al Istmo en Abril de este año. Deploró el hecho de que muchas de las recomendaciones hechas durante su primera visita no fueron cumplidas con el resultado de que la atención de los líderes estaba concentrada en las disensiones de personalidades y no en la protección entera de los intereses de los miembros.

Habló acerca de las insinuaciones de que la Internacional y sus representantes no siempre fueron considerados en el bienestar del Local 713. Dijo, "Yo quiero decirles que la Unión Internacional tiene un interés. No estamos al lado de nadie. El único lado en que estamos es al lado de la Unión. Los miembros de la Unión".

El Vice-Presidente Richardson habló acerca de los proyectos de leyes que están pendientes en el Congreso y ha despertado el interés de las organizaciones poderosas de los EE. UU. para el bienestar de los traba-

(Pasa a la página 2)

DIRIGENTES, TPU - CIO, LOCAL 713

Pascual Ampudia	Presidente
Ernest Williams	1er Vice-Presidente
David Alexis	2do. Vice-Presidente
Foster Bournes	Srio. de Corresp. y Actas
Cecil Hall	Secretario-Tesorero
Medora Sangster	Fiscal
Vernon Harper	Fiscal
Manley Rodriguez	Fiscal

REPRESENTANTES INTERNACIONALES

Max Brodsky	Director Regional
Joseph Sachs	Representante Internacional

ACCION

Publica do por el

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A. M. Pachment	Editor Suplente
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COMITE DE PUBLICIDAD

G. M. Ogle	Presidente
Carlyle Clark	Vice-Presidente
Nathan Reid	Secretario

EDITORA PANAMA AMERICA, DICIEMBRE DE 1947

(EDITORIAL)

ENFRENTANDO AL ENEMIGO

A. M. PARCHMENT

“A unirse para combatir al enemigo!”, es la orden del día para nosotros los miembros del Local 713. Hay que obedecer este mandato en la lucha contra el enemigo; tanto el que se encuentra entre nosotros como cualquier otro.

De esta manera presentaremos un frente sólido contra los enemigos que estén fuera de la unión, y como lo son ciertos capataces, la prensa hostil y los sindicales poco escrupulosos opuestos a nosotros. Nuestra arma atómica para acabar con los baluartes de ciertos sectores de la prensa, es de colocar en orden nuestra casa para que las noticias de victorias obtenidas a favor del trabajador, serán el resultado de nuestras actividades.

Ya que cierto elemento de la prensa viene de basura, que se mueran de hambre porque le ofrecemos solo una dieta sana de noticias interesantes procedentes de una unión democrática y progresista. Que recurran aquellos redactores de mala fe al canibalismo si quieren satisfacer sus apetitos.

Podemos neutralizar los esfuerzos de las uniones rivales y los capataces por medio de un Local poderoso que puede defender al trabajador de tal manera que las insinuaciones indirectas de los enemigos no les servirán de nada y acabarán por hacerse ellos mismo un daño.

El enemigo externo nos puede dar un golpe dañino, si nuestro escudo tiene huecos, por lo tanto, procuremos establecer una Unión eficaz protegida por un 100% de organización.

Unámonos para acabar con el enemigo por dentro. Dirección inadecuada, concentración del poder, falta de organización completa y la ociosidad, contribuyen a la picardía y al desorden. Tenemos que orientarnos y tirar a los blancos importantes.

Nuestro criterio de gobierno efectivo debe basarse en el record de producción. Es peligrosa la tendencia de condenar a los “intelectuales” y de glorificar la ignorancia, porque puede crear facción en nuestra unión, y de destrozar las aspiraciones de un grupo que por cuarenta años viene luchando por una educación secundaria. Por otra parte la supresión de la dirección de los obreros generales es sumamente peligrosa para el bienestar de la Unión.

Aunque habrá ocasiones para guardar secretos nuestros movimientos estratégicos, debemos ser los primeros en dar parte a los miembros sobre cualquier informe de interés que se refiera al Local. De esta manera podemos evitar que las noticias sean exageradas o torcidas por el enemigo, siempre alerta.

Tenemos que mantener una cooperación completa entre la Internacional y el Local. Ya nos ha dicho la Internacional que ellos esperan que dentro de poco podremos atender a nuestros asuntos sin la intervención inmediata de ellos. Esta declaración introduce un periodo de preparación para nuestros líderes quienes, poco a poco, tendrán que dirigir los asuntos de la Unión bajo la dirección de la Internacional.

Un respeto mutuo por parte de los oficiales de la Internacional y Local, traerá la armonía.

Aquellos oficiales que perdieron sus puestos en las elecciones recientes tienen una gran oportunidad de establecer un record de construcción por medio de la cooperación. Pueden de esta manera prepararse para la gran cosecha o sea las próximas elecciones. Los merecedores recibirán su recompensa.

Presentemos, pues, un frente unido al enemigo! Dediquemos nuestros esfuerzos a la tarea de organizar al que no lo está. Tendremos en cuenta las palabras de despedida de nuestro Representante Internacional, Thomas Richardson, “La unión está en nuestras manos. Cuidala y protégela como si fuera su propio hijo. Es tan importante como si fuera su propio hijo.”

La Convención...

(Viene de la página 1)

jadores del rol de “plata”. Tomó en cuenta el gesto de Paul Robeson por haber prometido ofrecer una serie de seis conciertos. Parte de los beneficios será enviada al Local 713 para becas.

Al terminar dijo: “Yo creo que la Unión tendrá que hacer una gran demostración de unidad para mostrar la seriedad de esta Unión. Tiene que operar eficientemente. No podrá operar en un defecia cada mes. Tiene que cambiar. Tenemos que obtener el 100% de miembros y lo obtendremos.”

El Segundo Día — Informes de los Oficiales

La sesión del último día comenzó con la invocación inspirada de la Señora B. Thorbourne. Después el Secretario de Actas y Correspondencia leyó el Informe de los Oficiales. Este informe dió una idea clara de las operaciones de la Unión en su primer año e incluyó el informe de finanzas que fué dado por Edward Gaskin Secretario-Tesorero de Finanzas.

Informe del Comité de Resoluciones

El Comité de Resoluciones dió su informe y las siguientes resoluciones fueron adoptadas: Agradecimiento al Presidente Jiménez; Agradecimiento al Gobernador Mehaffey, el Coronel Wang, y los otros oficiales de la Zona del Canal; Alojamiento Decente; La Reafirmación de lealtad a la Democracia; Informe de MacSherry; Salario Mínimo; Plan Decente de Jubilación; Facilidades Educadoras; Aumento Básico de Salario, Aumento de Sueldo para los Marineros del Canal; Cooperación con la Internacional; Agradecimiento al hermano Edward Chersh y la hermana Chersh.

Discurso de Weinstein

Robert Weinstein, Director de Organización en su discurso breve extendió los saludos del Presidente Flaxer y de Jack y Peggy Strobel. Dijo, “No hay diferencia entre la Internacional y el Local. En cualquiera organización hay una cosa muy importante y es escoger su enemigo, vigilarle y luchar. Tiene muchos enemigos quienes tratan de destruir su organización. Búsquenlos y luchen con ellos.” Desenfrenóse vehementemente contra cierto editor de periódico cuyas perversiones fueron dirigidas al Local para destruirlo. Comentó acerca de las disensiones internas y terminó declarando, “Cuando luchamos en todos lados por los derechos democráticos es apellidado subversivo. Max y yo podríamos ser Americanos leales, en la estimación de muchos, si dijera que desde mañana la CIO le daría el título “B” que significa que no les estaremos dando ningún derecho.... Si ustedes trabajan junto con la Internacional tendrán éxito.”

Informe del Comité de Constitución

Se recomendaron varios cambios pequeños en la Constitución y fueron adoptados por la Convención. Lo más importante fué la modificación que permite a los miembros elegir

LAS TENDENCIAS DE HOY

por Foster Bournes

Nunca fué dicho de nuestra Unión Local, “se acaba el tumulto.” El ladrillo áspero de los hombres viles ha sido una ocurrencia común, y por fin estamos aprendiendo a vivir con él. Debemos comprender que el Local 713, distinto a las otras Uniones, es un pequeño tubo de ensayos, y es relativamente desproporcionado el significado de cada palabra y acto. A los guardas del destino de esta Unión no les conviene el placer dudoso de ser indeciso. Deben tener la fuerza de sus convicciones. En fin deben obrar como se debe. En esta conexión, se indica un ataque decisivo en sí mismo. Primero vamos a pensar en términos de servicio y gratificaciones después. Si fundamos nuestra casa en una base sólida no debemos temer los vientos fuertes que nos rodean; estaremos salvo adentro.

—oOo—

La elección de Pascual Ampudia a la presidencia del Local 713 es un ejemplo del espíritu de la democracia verdadera, que es el principio fundamental, la sangre vital de cualquier unión obrera, en todas partes. “El obrero es digno de su salario.”

Eso es un concepto Cristiano, y lo creemos. Pascual, no es escolar, ha demostrado por su celo no mitigado, su determinación y su devoción casi sagrada al Local 713, que su corazón está en su lugar. Pues, vamos a luchar la batalla en los sitios del buen vapor, Local 713. Vamos a calcular trayectoria, después dar al terreno todo lo que podamos. Debemos ésto a Pascual Ampudia y a nosotros mismos.

—oOo—

Han dicho y han escrito mucho acerca de la teoría conveniente de la superioridad de raza. Han dicho por allí cómo un obrero de una raza o nacionalidad puede hacer CINCO veces más trabajo que otro de otra nacionalidad o raza. Vamos a examinar el record. Qué tal si algo de esta superioridad ostentada de intelecto; esta incomparable proeza con herramienta; esta capacidad para ecliptar los mejores esfuerzos de CINCO por UNO? Francamente, nada. Hace tiempo que hemos querido encontrar este carácter legendario, quien con igual instrucción y posición similar podría vencer a otra raza, a base de la raza o la nacionalidad. Hemos faltado al hacer ésto, porque el caballero no existe. Sin embargo, encontramos pruebas de documentos científicos en la cual muestran que todas las razas tienen una parte igual en las victorias de los hechos meritorios. Bien sea la ciencia, las artes, la ingeniería eléctrica, o lo que sea. Esos son los hechos.

SE AUMENTA EL SALARIO

Los trabajadores empleados en los muelles del Atlántico y Pacífico recibieron un aumento de 2 centavos por hora el 15 de Noviembre. Fué estimado que más de 1,500 trabajadores gozarán de este aumento.

Este aumento para los traba-

jares del muelle resultó debido a las negociaciones que la Unión tuvo con los oficiales de la Zona del Canal a fines de Octubre. Este es el segundo aumento que han recibido recientemente los trabajadores en los muelles, siendo el primero el 5 de Octubre, para más de 150 empleados.

Queja del año....

(Viene de la Página 1)

Crooks, M. E. Walker, asistentes; y representantes de la oficina del Secretario Ejecutivo. Los oficiales estaban visiblemente impresionados con los cuentos de los empleados. Como resultado de estas reuniones y negociaciones hubo una serie de cambios y mejoramientos significativos.

En contestación al pedido de la Unión, dos tablillas en que se fijan noticias, no una, fueron colocada y allí podrán poner los reglamentos y literatura de la Zona del Canal. El primer boletín que fijaron fué el que prohíbe el uso de palabras obscenas a los empleados. Los empleados fueron dados un periodo de 15 minutos para almorzar. Al solicitar cuánto tiempo de licencia por enfermedad y descanso le corresponde, todos serán bien informados, y han establecido un procedimiento

por el cual concederán a los empleados licencia de descanso. Instalarán un reloj que registra el tiempo para que cada empleado tenga un record correcto de su sobretiempo. Dos de los empleados que fueron denegados sus licencias por enfermedad recibirán pago por ella. Y uno de los empleados quien fué denegado un aumento de sueldo por dos años recibirá uno el 1o. de Enero.

Ganaron muchas victorias para los empleados de la Panadería, pero son muy numerosas para mencionarlás. Ahora, están respirando, por primera vez, el aire puro de la democracia y no la congestión del campamento de concentración.

Los empleados y los oficiales de la Unión están de acuerdo de que el Señor Taylor y sus asistentes fueron sumamente justos en el tratamiento del asunto y que mostraron mucho interés y justicia en su corrección de los abusos.

los oficiales del cabildo.

Elección de los Oficiales

Después del informe del Comité de Publicidad en la cual presentaron planes para mejorar “Acción” y añadir la propaganda, tuvieron las elecciones de los oficiales conducida por el Hermano Céspedes Burke, y estos fueron los siguientes resultados: Presidente, Pas-

cual Ampudia; Primer Vice-Presidente, Ernest Williams; Segundo Vice-Presidente, David Alexis; Secretario-Tesorero, Cecil H. Hall; Secretario de Actas y Correspondencia, Foster G. Bournes; Fiscales, Medora Sangster, Manley Rodriguez, Vernon Harper.

Terminaron la Convención cantando canciones de la Unión.

FELICES PASCUAS

RESOLUCIONES DE LA CONVENCION

APRECIACION AL PRESIDENTE DE LA REPUBLICA

CONSIDERANDO:—Que don Enrique A. Jiménez, Presidente de la República de Panamá, ha sido un buen amigo de nuestra Unión Local; y,

CONSIDERANDO:—Que prestó sus esfuerzos durante la historia del Local 713, Trabajadores Públicos Unidos CIO, a la idea de unidad entre todos los trabajadores de la Zona del Canal;

RESUELVE:—Que los Representantes Internacionales, los oficiales del Local y los Delegados a la Convención convocada expresan por este medio su apreciación a don Enrique A. Jiménez, Presidente de la República de Panamá.

APRECIACION AL GOBERNADOR MEHAFFEY

CONSIDERANDO:—Que el General Joseph C. Mehaffey, Gobernador de la Zona del Canal de Panamá ha cedido reconocimiento al Local 713, Trabajadores Públicos Unidos-CIO, y ha dado su apoyo a nuestro programa; y,

CONSIDERANDO:—Que el Coronel Frank H. Wang, Secretario Ejecutivo de la Zona del Canal de Panamá por sus principios humanitarios ha manifestado la Democracia verdadera;

RESUELVE:—Que los miembros del Local 713, Trabajadores Públicos Unidos-CIO por conducto de sus delegados en esta Segunda Convención Anual, extiende un gesto de agradecimiento al Gobernador Joseph C. Mehaffey; al Coronel Frank H. Wang, Secretario Ejecutivo, y otros oficiales de la Zona del Canal, en apreciación por su cooperación en el pasado y en anticipación de su futuro apoyo.

AUMENTO DE SUELDO

CONSIDERANDO:—Que los trabajadores en la Zona del Canal que no son ciudadanos de los EE. UU. no pueden hacer las compras de las necesidades básicas de vida que son necesarias para un standard decente de vida para ellos mismos y sus familias;

RESUELVESE:—Que los Trabajadores Públicos Unidos CIO instituyen una serie vigorosa de negociaciones en esfuerzo de conseguir un aumento substancial de sueldo para los trabajadores de la Zona del Canal que no son ciudadanos de los EE. UU. y,

RESUELVESE MAS ADELANTE: Que una petición sea enviada al Presidente Harry S. Truman de los Estados Unidos de América, solicitando que tome las medidas inmediatas para aliviar la condición económica de los empleados de la Zona del Canal que no son ciudadanos de los EE. UU.

LOS MARINEROS

CONSIDERANDO:—Que los Marineros del Canal no han recibido ningún aumento para hacer frente al presente costo de vida;

RESUELVE:—Que la TPU-CIO Local 713, comience negociaciones vigorosas para obtener aumentos para estos trabajadores.

RESUELVESE MAS ADELANTE: Que envíe al Gobernador del Canal de Panamá una petición urgente acerca de un aumento para los Marineros del Canal.

Cooperación con la U. Internacional

CONSIDERANDO:—Que los fines legislativos y económicos del Local 713 de los meses entrantes requieran una organización unida y efectiva;

CONSIDERANDO:—Que los gremios de oficios son una nueva experiencia para la mayoría de los miembros del Local 713.

RESUELVESE:—Que nosotros en la convención convocada solicitemos de los oficiales recién elegidos consultar y aprovecharse de los servicios de los representantes de la Unión Internacional en Panamá;

RESUELVESE MAS ADELANTE: Que la Junta Ejecutiva del Local 713 y los Representantes Internacionales formulen un presupuesto, y que los Representantes Internacionales desempeñen el puesto de controlar en la ejecución del presupuesto, y que los Representantes Internacionales en Panamá sean autorizados para superentender y terminar, si es necesario, los servicios de cualquier personal no elegido para el bienestar de la Unión.

RESUELVESE MAS ADELANTE: Que en el caso de que los miembros de la Junta Ejecutiva creen que las decisiones del representante de la Unión Internacional en Panamá no esten en conformidad con los mejores intereses de la Unión, que el Local tiene el derecho de apelar a los Oficiales de la Unión Internacional.

AFIRMACION DE FE

CONSIDERANDO:—Que el Local 713 Trabajadores Públicos Unidos CIO es una Unión de empleados del Gobierno de los Estados Unidos;

RESUELVE:—Que nosotros, los miembros del Local 713, Trabajadores Unidos, CIO, en la Convención convocada, afirmamos nuestra fé en las instituciones democráticas y garantizamos nuestra oposición determinada a cualquiera cosa que amenaza su seguridad.

CASAS DECENTES

CONSIDERANDO:—Que el alojamiento proveído en la Zona del Canal para los empleados del rol de "Plata" es inadecuado para llevar una vida decente de familia, y

CONSIDERANDO:—Que estas condiciones son contrarias a los conceptos de moralidad; las condiciones verdaderas de cuanto a las condiciones mismas son destructivas a la vida de familia con una tendencia de atrazar el progreso educador de los niños; que estas condiciones promueven delincuencia juvenil;

RESUELVESE:—Que incluyen en el programa del Local 713, Trabajadores Públicos Unidos-CIO una campaña para Alojamiento decente; y,

RESUELVESE MAS ADELANTE: Que la Unión Internacional se encargue de este asunto del Alojamiento Decente que fué llamada la atención del Congreso de los Estados Unidos.

INFORME DEL GENERAL MACSHERRY

CONSIDERANDO:—Que el General MacSherry, Consejero de Labor al Gobernador Joseph C. Mehaffey, ha hecho un estudio de las condiciones

RESUELVE:—Que el Local 713, Trabajadores Públicos Unidos-CIO hizo un pedido formal al General Joseph C. Mehaffey, Gobernador de la Zona del Canal para una copia del Informe MacSherry.

SALARIO MINIMO

CONSIDERANDO:—Que los empleados de la Zona del Canal de Panamá que no son ciudadanos de los EE. UU. son mal pagados, con un número considerable, recibiendo menos de 20c por hora; y,

CONSIDERANDO:—Que el costo de vida según los últimos estudios ha aumentado más que la entrada del trabajador medio del rol de "plata", y

CONSIDERANDO:—Que no hay un salario mínimo establecido para los empleados del rol de "plata", que les asegurará de una condición mejor de vida;

RESUELVE:—Que el Local 713, TPU-CIO, haga un esfuerzo para que el Gobierno de la Zona del Canal de Panamá establezca un salario mínimo de cuarenta centavos por hora, y

RESUELVESE MAS ADELANTE: Que este Local dé su apoyo a la Unión Internacional de los Trabajadores Públicos Unidos para llevar a cabo la legislación que provee en la Zona del Canal un salario mínimo de cuarenta centavos por hora, un proyecto de ley similar a lo que está en el Congreso de los Estados Unidos.

JUBILACION DECENTE

CONSIDERANDO:—Que después de que un empleado que no es un ciudadano de los EE. UU. ha servido al Canal de Panamá la mayoría de su vida, y que durante ese tiempo con salarios bajos, y bajo condiciones pobres de vida, y

RESUELVE:—Que el Local 713, Trabajadores Públicos Unidos-CIO instituya una serie de negociaciones vigorosas en el esfuerzo de conseguir un plan decente de jubilación para los trabajadores del Canal de Panamá, que no son ciudadanos de los EE. UU.

RESUELVESE MAS ADELANTE: Que solicitemos de la Unión Internacional redoblar sus esfuerzos para obtener la legislación que proveerá un programa decente de jubilación para nuestros empleados jubilados.

FACILIDADES EDUCATIVAS

CONSIDERANDO:—Que las facilidades educativas y las oportunidades disponibles para los hijos de los empleados de la Zona del Canal que no son ciudadanos de los EE. UU. son inadecuadas,

RESUELVE:—Que el Local 713, en la convención convocada, solicite más expansión para el mejoramiento de las facilidades educativas en nuestras comunidades;

RESUELVESE MAS ADELANTE: Que el Local 713 solicite oportunidades avanzadas educativas para que sean ofrecidas a los maestros presentes y futuros para hacerles idóneos y enseñar una educación secundaria y más alta.

La Unión depende de Usted

COMPENSACION POR INCAPACIDAD

El hermano Henry Blugh, empleado en Ancón M. E. D., fue despedido el 2 de Septiembre de 1947. Tuvo mucha dificultad para obtener otro empleo, y no tuvo éxito en su petición para conseguir la Compensación por Incapacidad.

El Organizador Milwood trató su caso y no solamente consiguió la Compensación por Incapacidad, sino que consiguió obtener el pago, desde el día que fue despedido, es decir, por tres meses, hasta el 2 de Diciembre.

SE AUMENTA COMPENSACION POR INCAPACIDAD

El hermano Joseph Roberts declaró que su pago no era suficiente por Compensación por Incapacidad. Llevó el caso al Organizador Milwood quien consiguió un ajustamiento en la Oficina Central de Labor, de B.20.00 mensual.

SE RECOBRA DINERO POR DAÑOS

El hermano Samuel Robinson, empleado del Ferrocarril de Panamá, sufrió heridas debido a un accidente con un vehículo del ejército en Junio de 1946. Los daños fueron evaluados en B.780.00; pero solamente le ofrecieron la suma de B.286.50. No la aceptó y el asunto fue regresado a Washington. Todo parecía que no recibiría ni un centavo, cuando presentó su caso al Organizador Milwood, quien pronto recibirá únicamente los B.386.50.

CAMBIOS EN EL METODO DE DISTRIBUIR LIBRETAS

La Unión ha ganado recientemente un cambio valioso en el método de distribuir las libretas de comisariato a los empleados mientras están de licencia.

En el pasado los empleados tenían que reportar al sitio de su trabajo el Viernes antes de la fecha de la distribución de las libretas para firmar. Se necesitaba un viaje adicional para conseguir sus libretas. Los reglamentos nuevos proveen un viaje.

El Coronel Wang, Secretario Ejecutivo, declaró en su carta al Director Regional, Max Brodsky:

"...Una alternativa que parece resolver grandemente este asunto para la conveniencia de los empleados, es que al llegar el tiempo de la licencia de descanso, los empleados deben informar a sus marcadores de tiempo, acerca de la cantidad de libretas que desean cada fecha de distribución, durante el período de licencia. Pues, será necesario para el empleado, llamar al sitio de su empleo solamente en las fechas de la distribución, para obtener las libretas que ha pedido con tal que tenga suficiente salario para cubrir el valor de las libretas. Estoy, pues, arreglando con el Jefe Suplente, del Departamento de Nómina, para notificar a todos los marcadores de tiempo que los empleados podrán utilizar este medio de arreglos, para recibir sus libretas durante los períodos de licencia de descanso...."

SE EVITA LAS OBJECIONES DEL REEMPLIO

El hermano Francis Marius, ex-empleado del Ejército, fué despedido recientemente con objeciones de reemplio. El hermano Marius, por supuesto, tuvo mucha dificultad para obtener otro empleo. Presentó su caso al Organizador García quien por su acción inmediata logró quitar la objeción del reemplio. 28

CAMBIOS EN EL PERSONAL

En el Lado Pacífico, el personal de organización del Local 713 sufrió unos cambios como resultado del regreso de Edward Atherton a su trabajo con el Ferrocarril de Panamá debido a una reducción en fuerza que tuvieron entre los organizadores y la despedida voluntaria de Ernest Hay quien ha regresado a su empleo con el Ferrocarril de Panamá.

Edward Atherton, uno de los primeros miembros del Local 713, fué elegido Delegado Jefe de la Junta Provisional organizada por Len Goldsmith. Ocho tuvo licencia del Ferrocarril de Panamá y trabajó por un año como organizador en la Unión hasta que le despidieron recientemente debido a las medidas económicas adoptadas por el Local Atherton estaba encargado de las siguientes unidades en el lado Pacífico: El Comisariato, la Lavandería, el Ferrocarril de Panamá, el Ejército, y el Hotel Tivoli.

Ernest Hay, también uno de los miembros antiguos, desempeñó uno de los puestos más de la Unión de los Trabajadores de la Zona del Canal que precedió el Local 713, TPU-CIO. Fué organizador por un año y estaba encargado de las siguientes unidades: El Departamento de Sanidad, Transporación de Motores, la División de Construcción, el "District Quartermaster" y el "Supply Department."

Herman Moore reemplaza a Ernest Hay. El es el presente Presidente del Cabildo de Balboa y miembro de la Junta Ejecutiva del Local. Moore fué delegado del taller entre los Marineros del Canal y fué Delegado Jefe del Concilio de Delegados de Balboa. Fué asignado a las siguientes unidades: El Departamento de Sanidad, el Ejército, la División de la Marina, la División de Construcción, el Hotel Tivoli, y el "Supply Department."

SE EVITA LA ORDEN DEL DESALOJAMIENTO

La hermana Geraldine Anderson, empleada por el Comisariato de Cristóbal fue informada por el "District Quartermaster", de Cristóbal, que recomendaría su desalojamiento de la cuartería debido a su falta de archivar a tiempo su informe del censo. El Organizador Evering tuvo una entrevista con el "Quartermaster" y fue posible obtener la recomendación con la condición de que en el futuro archivará su informe del censo a tiempo.

SE PROTEGE A UNA HERMANA

Emeline Ashby, Chapa No. 219945, empleada en la Planta de Tostar Café, División del Comisariato, fue despedida del servicio el 15 de Noviembre de 1947 por causa de "insubordinación" y su conducta y trabajo clasificados "mdiocres". La investigación de este caso probó que la hermana Ashby, al tratar de explicar por qué la producción se había retardado, fue considerada que había cometido "insubordinación."

Esta queja fue tratada en la segunda etapa por los Organizadores Evering y Dean y los resultados fueron desfavorables pero cuando lo trataron en la tercera etapa resulta que las decisiones de las dos primeras etapas fueron cambiadas. La hermana Emeline Ashby fue reingresada el 28 de Noviembre de 1947.



Retratos de la
Convención

Convention Shots

←

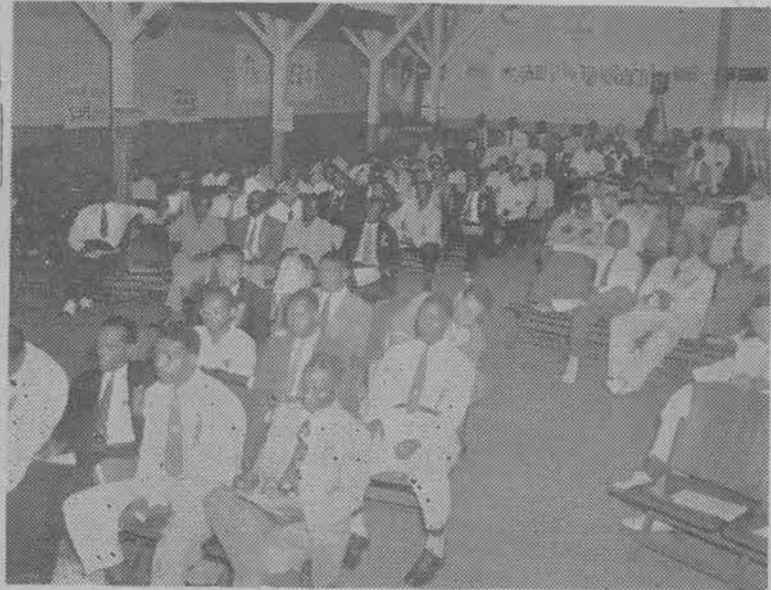
Ex-Pres. Araúz Felicita al Pres. Ampudia.

Ex-Pres. Arauz congratulates Pres. Ampudia.



Vice-Pres. Int'l Thomas Richardson toma juramento a los oficiales

Int. Vice-Pres. Thomas Richardson administers oath to officers



Organice al que
no lo está

Organize the
Unorganized

←

LOS DELEGADOS

THE DELEGATES



El Director de Organización Bob Weinstein habla

Director of Organization Bob Weinstein speaks



Organice a su Vecino

Organize your
Neighbor

←

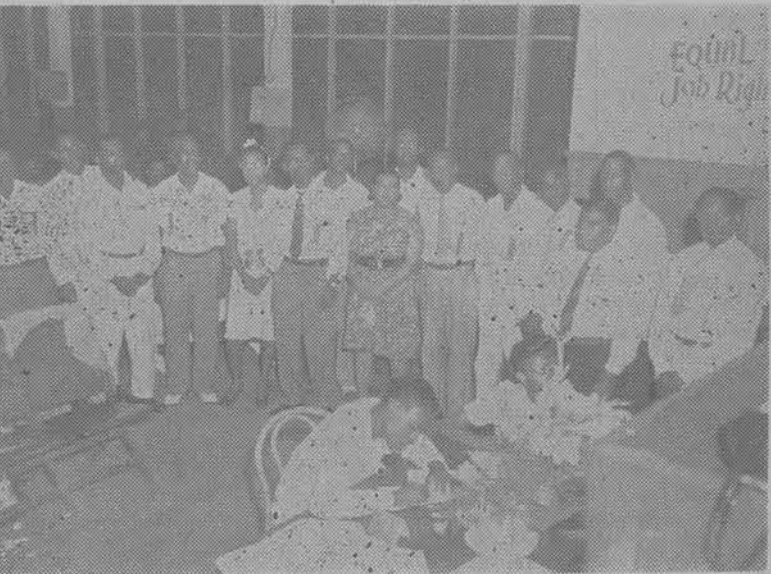
El Director Regional, Max Brodsky habla

Regional Director Max Brodsky speaks.



Thomas Richardson felicita a Pascual Ampudia

Thomas Richardson congratulates Ampudia



Organice al que
no lo está

Organize the
Unorganized

←

El Comité de Arreglos.

The Arrangements Committee.



El hermano York tiene una objeción

Brother York states an objection

La Unión depende
de Usted

The Union Depends
On You

Official Organ
of
Local 713
UPW-CIO

Non-political



This is your
UNION PAPER

SUPPORT IT!

Vol. 3 — No. 5

PANAMA, R.P., DECEMBER, 1947

FREE

CONVENTION BRINGS ABOUT SWEEPING CHANGES

Sweatshop At Pacific Bakery

Union Moves in...

The Pacific Bakery "scandal" will go down in Local 713's history as one of its most dramatic accomplishments. The successful conclusion of the case will also remove a shameful stain from the record of Panama Canal employee relations.

About five weeks ago a group of employees came into the La Boca office and related to Union officials a horrifying and incredible tale of cruel and inhumane treatment of the Pacific Bakery employees by the manager, Carl Kollman. The employees stated that the atmosphere and working conditions in the bakery were more like a concentration camp than a Canal Zone operation. The manager cursed the employees on many occasions using abusive and profane language of the most insulting nature. Female employees were not immune to this treatment and actually appeared to be the most frequent victims. One of the employees complained that he had been physically abused by the Manager and was pushed and shoved around like a little boy.

No Overtime

The employees stated that they had put in considerable amounts of overtime—as much as 20 or 30 hours per month—but received no overtime pay for the entire month. When they inquired as to the amount of sick and rest leave they had to their credit, they were rudely turned away. They experienced untold difficulties in obtaining leave and one employee had worked there for three years without receiving a single day's leave although he had applied for it on several occasions.

The bakery was run like a sweatshop and the employees were required to work a six-and-three-quarter-hour stretch without so much as a fifteen-minute lunch period or any rest period. The Manager nicely told them they could have a whole hour off for lunch if they wanted it—but it would have to be on their own time after they stopped work in the afternoon.

Insulting Sign

One day he posted a sign on the wall saying: "There are people around here who smell, and if you don't know who it is, I'll put your name on a B. O. roll." The employees, of course, ripped off the insulting trash and kept it for the record. He later complained that there were some sneaks around who did underhanded work like removing his signs from the wall.

Our New President



PASCUAL AMPUDIA

If all the foul play of the Manager were included in this article, it would provide enough material for a small-sized book. Suffice it to say, that these grievances and many more were swiftly brought to the attention of the Clubhouse Director by Clarence Small, Local Organizer, and Joseph Sachs, International Representative.

Union Victory

From then on things happened fast. Several meetings were held with the employees at which various officials were present, including R.G. Taylor, Clubhouse Director, W.H. Crooks, M.E. Walker, assistants and representatives from the Executive Secretary's office. The officials were visibly impressed by the stories and facts they heard from the lips of the employees. A series of significant changes and improvements came as a direct result of these meetings and negotiations.

In answer to the Union's request, not one, but two bulletin boards have been installed for the posting of C.Z. regulations and literature. The first C.Z. bulletin posted was the one banning the use of harsh and abusive language to employees. The employees were given a fifteen-minute lunch period. Everyone will be informed at his request of the amount of sick and rest leave due him, and a procedure has

(Continued on Page 2)

Richardson and Weinstein in Stirring Speeches

Mayor of Panama Attends

The Second Annual Isthmian Convention of Local 713, UPW-CIO, held on November 8th and 9th at the La Boca Clubhouse, was colorful, impressive, and productive of much sane planning for the coming year.

In attendance as special guests were Thomas Richardson, International Vice-President, Robert Weinstein, Director of Organization, Don Mauricio Diaz, Mayor of Panama City, and Mrs. B. M. Thorbourne who delivered the invocation on the final day.

The hall was gaily decorated with flags, banners, bunting, and palms, but the center of attraction was the stage which had as background four large charcoal sketches of Phillip Murray, Abram Flaxer, Thomas Richardson, and Robert Weinstein.

Arauz Opens Convention

The first session was opened by President Francisco Arauz, at 10 a.m. After the invocation by Brother John Watkis of Gamboa, Sister Virginia King led in the singing of the national anthems of Panama and the United States. President Arauz then made a strong plea for unity and expressed his willingness to continue serving the Local. He lauded former Regional Director Cheresch for his important role in the founding of the Local.

Second Vice-President, Alfonso Alexis named and the Convention approved the personnel of the following committees: Credentials, Rules, Education, Resolutions, Publicity, and Constitution. President Arauz then introduced Mauricio Diaz, Mayor of Panama City, who gave a short talk in which he commended the members for their strong Union and expressed the hope that greater victories may be gained during the new year.

Greetings From Governor of Panama

After the reading of greetings from Governor Velasco of the Province of Panama, the report of the Credentials Committee followed and the fireworks started when the Rules Committee presented its recommendations. A verbal explosion popped off on the roll call vote the inclusion of which was successfully blocked by the small chapters.

Report of Regional Director

Max Brodsky, Regional Director, gave his report in which he described the gains of the Union and the important part the International played in support of the Local. He reviewed the crisis brought about by internal dissension with the resultant slump in dues payments; pictured the strenuous battles ahead; and outlined the productive paths to be followed in order that the Local may enjoy its fullest growth.

Aston Parchment, Director of Education, delivered the report of the Education Committee. This report recommended an extensive educational and recreational program that will bring the spirit of true trade unionism

to every member and surround the local with a wealth of cultural, educational, and recreational activities.

Vice-President Richardson Speaks

After greeting the assembly he mentioned that the delegates were present to try to solve many depressing internal, legislative, and economic problems now confronting the Union. He declared, "I think that the responsibility which rests upon your shoulders is an extremely great one for it will be you who will have to go to the rank and file members of this Union to tell them whether or not you have put this Union on a foundation which will allow it to protect the interests of the rank and file dues paying members in the next period of time."

He briefly reviewed the history of Local 713, from the appearance of Len Goldsmith, throughout the directorships of Edward Cheresch and Jack Strobel up to his (Richardson's) first visit on the Isthmus in April of this year. He deplored the fact that many recommendations made during his first visit were never carried out with the result that the attention of the leaders was centered on the clash of personalities and not on the full protection of the interests of the members.

He struck at the insinuations that the International and its representatives were not always considerate of the welfare of Local 713. He said, "I want to tell you that your International Union has one interest. We are on nobody's side. The only side that we are on is the side of the Union—the rank and filers of the Union."

Vice-President Richardson touched on the bills now pending in Congress and on the awakened interest of powerful U.S. organizations in the welfare of the "silver" workers. He gave notice of the fine gesture of Paul Robeson in giving a series of six concerts, portions of the proceeds of which will be diverted to Local 713 to be used for scholarships.

In concluding he said, "I think your Union has to come forward with a great demonstration of unity that will keep no doubts in the mind of anyone that this Union means business. It has to operate efficiently. It has got to change from operating at a deficit each month.... We are

(Continued on page 2)

OFFICERS, LOCAL 713, UPW - CIO

Pascual Ampudia	President
Ernest Williams	1st Vice-President
David Alexis	2nd Vice-President
Foster Bournes	Recdg. & Corresp. Secretary
Cecil Hall	Secretary - Treasurer
Medora Sangster	Trustee
Vernon Harper	Trustee
Manley Rodriguez	Trustee

INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Max Brodsky	Regional Director
Joseph Sachs	International Rep.

ACCION

Published once a month by Local 713
United Public Workers of America, CIO.

A. M. Parchment ----- Acting Editor

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

G. M. Ogle	Chairman
Carlyle Clarke	Vice-Chairman
Nathan Reid	Secretary

EDITORIA PANAMA AMERICA, DICIEMBRE DE 1947

EDITORIAL

FACING THE ENEMY

By A. M. PARCHMENT

"Close ranks and fight the enemy!" is the order of the day for us, the members of Local 713. This command must be obeyed promptly to wage an all-out battle against the enemy within and the enemy without.

In closing our ranks we shall present a solid front to our outside enemies — the hostile sections of the press, the unfriendly bosses, and the unscrupulous rival labor organizations. Our atomic weapon to demolish the stronghold of the sniping sections of the press is to set our house in order so that only news of decisive victories for the needy workers can be gleaned from our activities. If certain sections of the local press can exist only on foul garbage, let them starve by offering a wholesome diet of strength-giving, untainted food from the coffer of a smoothly operating and democratic trade union. Let the unfriendly editors and correspondents revert to cannibalism to satisfy the cravings of a putrid maw.

The unsympathetic bosses and scheming rival labor unions may be neutralized by the same defence which shall be a strong local which will be so comforting to the oppressed worker that intimidation and innuendoes will be boomerangs in the hands of our enemies. Since the external enemies can reach us with damaging blows only through the holes in our armor, let us fearlessly tackle the immediate problem of setting up a smoothly functioning labor machine protected by a 100% membership.

Let us close ranks and smother the enemy within. Inept leadership, the corraling of power, loose organization, and idleness are contributing factors to internal dissensions and dishonesty. We must reset our sights and train our guns on the important targets.

Our criteria of effective leadership should be based on production record. Indiscriminate damning of "intellectuals" is a dangerous trend that tends to create new factions, glorify ignorance, and shatter the aspirations of a group that for forty years has been pleading for higher education. On the other hand, suppressing leadership from the ranks of the common laborer snaps the mainspring of our labor machine and bequeaths to us a beautiful, garnished casing that lacks within the welcome throb of power. Our leaders should be selected and maintained in office on their production. We can no longer support hitch-hikers.

Whereas it may be necessary to guard certain of our strategic moves from the public ear, we should normally be the first to break to our membership the news of important developments in the Local. Speedy release of information provides potent weapons of defence for the rank and file and nullifies distortions by the ever-alert enemy.

We must protect the close cooperation that should exist between the International and the Local. It has been stated openly by the International that it is looking forward to the near future that will find us conducting our own affairs without the immediate supervision of the Regional Office. This declaration introduces an in-service training for our leaders who will be gradually exposed to the experiences of leadership under the guidance of the International. Mutual respect on the part of the International and the Local officers will be the keynote to harmony.

Those officers, swept out by the recent elections into the verdant fields of the rank and file, should regain strength in the new pastures and grow in stature to meet the annual election harvest with an impressive record of union-building through co-operation. Production volume will pay off at the next elections.

Let us close our ranks and face the enemy! Let us dedicate ourselves to the task of organizing the un-organized. Let us heed the parting words of International Vice-President Thomas Richardson, "The Union is in your hands now. Take care of it and protect it as if it were your own child. It is important to you as your own child."

Convention

to get 100% membership and we are going to get it."

Second Day--Officers' Report

The session on the final day began with an inspiring invocation by Mrs. B. Thorbourne. The Officers' Report was then read by Cespedes Burke, Recording and Corresponding Secretary. This report gave a comprehensive picture of the first-year operations of the Local and included the financial report which was given by Edward Gaskin, Financial Secretary-Treasurer.

Report of Resolutions Committee

The Resolutions Committee report was tendered and resolutions on the following were adopted: Appreciation of President Jimenez; Appreciation of Governor Mehaffey, Col. Wang, and other C. Z. officials; Decent Housing; Re-affirmation of Faith in Democracy; MacSherry Report; Minimum Wage; Decent Retirement Plan; Educational Facilities; Basic Wage Increase; Pay Increase for Canal Seamen; Cooperation with the International; and Appreciation of Edward Cheresh and Sister Cheresh.

Weinstein's Address

Robert Weinstein, Director of Organization in his brief speech extended greetings from President Flaxer and from Jack and Peggy Strobel. He said, "There is no difference between the International and the Local. There is one important thing in any organization and that is go pick your enemy, keep your eye on him, and fight. You have plenty of enemies who try to destroy your organization. Look for them and fight them."

He lashed out vehemently at a certain newspaper editor whose distortions and villifications were aimed at the destruction of the Local. He struck at the internal wranglings and ended by declaring, "When you fight all around for democratic rights you are often dubbed subversive. Max and I could become loyal Americans, in the estimation of many, if I said that from tomorrow the CIO would be giving you a "B" Charter which means giving you no rights. . . If you work together with the International we can bring home the bacon."

Report of Constitution Committee

Many minor changes in the Constitution were recommended and adopted by the Convention. The most important amendment was that which allowed the rank and file to elect chapter officers.

Election of Officers

After the report of the Publicity Committee which planned for an improved "Accion" and for added propaganda, the election of officers was conducted by Brother Cespedes Burke with the following results: President, Pascual Ampudia; First Vice-President, Ernest Williams; Second Vice-President, David Alexis; Secretary-Treasurer, Cecil H. Hall; Corresponding and Recording Secretary, Foster Bournes; Trustees, Medora Sangster, Manley Rodriguez, Vernon Harper.

The Convention came to a close with the singling of Union songs.

Are you a member?
Join Today!

A SISTER PROTECTED

Emeline Ashby, IC No. 219945, an employee of the coffee Roasting Plant, Commissary Division, was discharged from service on November 15, 1947 for "insubordination" with ratings of "mediocre" for workmanship and conduct. Investigation on this case after the grievance was filed, proved that Sister Ashby, on trying to explain why production was slowed up, after management had reprimanded her on slowing down the work, was considered committing "insubordination."

This grievance was processed in the second stage by Organizers Evering and Dean with unfavorable results but when taken up by the Organizers to the third stage brought about a reversal of the decisions of the early stages. Sister Emeline Ashby was reinstated on November 28, 1947.

Sweatshop . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

been established for the regular granting of rest leave to the workers. A time clock will be shortly installed so that every employee may have an accurate record of his overtime. Two of the employees whose sick leave had been refused by the Manager will now receive pay for their sick leave, and one employee who had been refused a raise for over two years will receive a boost on January 1st.

Many other gains were won for the Bakery employees, too numerous to mention. Now they feel for the first time that they are breathing the free air of democracy and not the stifling congestion of a concentration camp.

The employees and Union officials agree that Mr. Taylor and his assistants were extremely fair in their handling of the matter and displayed concern and justice in their correction of the abuses.

INJURY AWARD REGAINED

Brother Samuel Robinson, employed by the Panama Railroad, was injured by an army vehicle in June of 1946. He claimed damages of \$780.00 but was awarded only \$386.60. He refused the award and it was sent back to Washington. He stood in danger of receiving nothing so he took his case to Organizer Millwood. The wheels started turning and a path was cut through Washington red tape. Brother Robinson has now been promised his award and he will soon be richer by \$386.50.

DISABILITY RELIEF
RETROACTIVE

Brother Henry Blugh, employed at Ancon M.E.D., was terminated on Sept. 2, 1947. He experienced difficulty in obtaining another job and was unsuccessful in his petition for Disability Relief. Organizer Millwood took up his case and not only won him Disability Relief but was able to get it retroactive to the day on which he was discharged. Brother Blugh received three month's payments on December 2nd.

STAFF CHANGES

The Pacific Side organizing staff of Local 713 experienced some changes as a result of the return of Edward Atherton to his Panama Railroad job because of a reduction in force among the organizers, and the voluntary quitting of Ernest Hay who is back at his old job with the Panama Railroad.



EDWARD ATHERTON

Edward Atherton, a charter member of Local 713, was elected Chief Steward by the Provisional Board set up by Len Goldsmith. He obtained leave from the Panama Railroad and worked for the Union for a year as organizer until his release because of economy measures recently adopted by the Local. Atherton was in charge of the following units on the Pacific Side: Commissary, Laundry, Army, Panama Railroad, and Tivoli Hotel.



ERNEST HAY

Ernest Hay, also a charter member, played an important role in the founding of the Canal Zone Workers' Union which preceded Local 713, UPW-CIO. He was an organizer for a year and supervised the following units: Health Department, Motor Transportation, Building Division, District Quartermaster, and Supply Department.

Filling the vacancy left by Ernest Hay is Herman Moore, present Chairman of the Balboa Chapter and member of the Local Executive Board. Moore was shop steward among the Canal seamen and was Chapter Steward of the Balboa Stewards' Council. He has been assigned

(Continued on Page 4)

PAY BOOST

Dock workers employed on the Atlantic and Pacific docks received a 2c hourly boost on November 15th. It was estimated that over 1500 workers shared in this increase.

This raise for dock workers followed negotiations held by the Union with Canal Zone officials in the latter part of October. This was the second increase recently received by the dock workers — the first being on October 5th for more than 150 employees.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS

Resolutions Adopted At Convention

APPRECIATION OF DON ENRIQUE A. JIMENEZ, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA

WHEREAS:—Don Enrique A. Jimenez, President of the Republic of Panama, has proven himself to be a good friend of our Local Union, and

WHEREAS:—He lent his efforts throughout the history of Local 713 United Public Workers CIO, to the idea of unity among all workers of the Canal Zone;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: That the International Representatives, Local Officers, and Delegates in Convention here assembled do express through this medium a full measure of appreciation of the said Don Enrique A. Jimenez, President of the Republic of Panama.

APPRECIATION OF GOVERNOR MEHAFFEY AND OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

WHEREAS:—General Joseph C. Mehafeff, Governor of the Panama Canal Zone has granted recognition to Local 713, United Public Workers-CIO, and has given his support to our program; and

WHEREAS:—Colonel Frank H. Wang, Executive Secretary of the Panama Canal Zone has by his humanitarian principles exemplified the true Democracy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the members of Local 713, United Public Workers-CIO, through their delegates in this Second Annual Convention, extend a vote of thanks to Governor Joseph C. Mehafeff; to Colonel Frank H. Wang, Executive Secretary, and other officials of the Canal Zone, in appreciation of past cooperation and in anticipation of their continued support.

DECENT HOUSING

WHEREAS:—Housing provided on the Canal Zone for "Silver" employees is inadequate for decent family life, and

WHEREAS:—This inadequacy is injurious to health, as so many persons are compelled to live in unsanitary congestion; with relatively insufficient sanitary fixtures, without hot water service, and

WHEREAS:—These conditions are contrary to the concepts of morality and the true standards of decency, insofar as the conditions themselves are disruptive of family life with a tendency to retard the educational progress of children and promote juvenile delinquency, and

WHEREAS:—A large number of the "silver" employees are forced through lack of adequate housing to seek residence outside the Canal Zone, at comparatively higher rentals, which they cannot afford

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That a decent Housing campaign be included in the program of Local 713, United Public Workers-CIO, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the International Union undertake to have this matter of Decent Housing brought to the attention of the Congress of the United States.

DISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL WORK OPPORTUNITY

WHEREAS:—Non-U. S. citizen employees here-in-after designated as "Silver" employees have established an unblemished record of service with the Government of the United States on the Canal Zone; have displayed in their tasks, assignments, and work, efficiency and loyalty, and have won a high mark in workmanship on the Canal Zone, and

WHEREAS:—"Silver" employees have been deprived of equal job opportunities by denial of promotions to positions for which they are qualified, and

WHEREAS:—The denial of earned promotions and lack of recognition of the services of "Silver" employees are discriminatory practices which are not only injurious to employee-employer relationship, but are in sharp conflict with the basic principles of Democracy,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That United Public Workers-CIO endeavour to curb through legislation the discriminatory system extant, and demand equal work opportunities in the various Government Agencies for the "Silver" employees on the Canal Zone.

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

WHEREAS:—The educational facilities and opportunities made available to the children of non-U.S. Citizen employees of the Canal Zone are inadequate,

WHEREAS:—Classrooms are greatly overcrowded, and equipment is inadequate and poor;

WHEREAS:—Teachers in said schools are not provided the opportunities for advanced education to qualify them to teach secondary courses; and

WHEREAS:—The curricula offered to our children are narrow, limited and not conducive to the full development of their talent and skills,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That Local 713, in convention assemble, call for a major expansion and improvement in the educational facilities in our communities;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That Local 713 call for advanced educational opportunities to be offered for our present and future teachers to qualify them to teach secondary and higher education.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

WHEREAS:—Local 713 and United Public Workers of America are composed of people who are unswerving in their loyalty to the support of democratic principles and institutions; and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: That we, the members of Local 713, United Public Workers-CIO, in Convention assembled, do affirm our faith in democratic institutions and guarantee our determined opposition to anything that threatens security.

MINIMUM WAGE

WHEREAS:—Non-U.S. citizens employees of the Panama Canal Zone are underpaid, with a considerable number receiving less than 20c per hour; and

WHEREAS:—The cost of living according to recent surveys has increased far above the earning power of the average "silver" worker, and

WHEREAS:—There is no established minimum wage for "silver" employees which will assure them of a decent standard of living;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That Local 713, UPW-CIO, exert its full power on the Government of the Panama Canal Zone to establish a minimum wage of forty cents per hour, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this Local give its full support to the United Public Workers International Union in bringing about legislation providing for a forty cents per hour minimum wage in the Panama Canal Zone, a bill to the effect now being in the Congress of the United States.

A DECENT RETIREMENT

WHEREAS:—The non-U.S. citizen employee who serves the Panama Canal the greater part of his life, works for low wages, and under poor, living conditions, and

WHEREAS:—When the time comes that the Panama Canal authorities decide that his services are no longer needed, and through some medium declare him physically unfit to work, he is then terminated and placed on what is called "Cash Relief", and

WHEREAS:—After termination of service, such employee is required to leave his Canal Zone quarters and move into the Republic of Panama where the cost of living is very high, and

WHEREAS:—It is impossible to cope with the high cost of living in the Republic of Panama on the meager "Cash Relief" paid to the faithful unfortunates.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That Local 713, United Public Workers-CIO, institute a series of negotiations in an effort to secure a decent retirement plan for the Non-U.S. citizen workers of the Panama Canal, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That we call upon the International Union to vigorously redouble its efforts to achieve legislation which will provide a decent retirement program for our retired employees.

MacSHERRY REPORT

WHEREAS:—General MacSherry, Labor Advisor to Governor Joseph C. Mehafeff, has made a survey of labor conditions on the Panama Canal Zone, and

WHEREAS:—He has submitted a report of his findings of said Survey to the Governor of the Canal Zone,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That Local 713, United Public Workers-CIO make a formal request to General Joseph C. Mehafeff, Governor of the Canal Zone for a copy of the MacSherry Report.

TODAY'S TRENDS

By FOSTER BOURNES

"The tumult dies", was never spoken of our Local Union. The harsh baying of the hounds has become a common occurrence, and at long last we are learning to live with it. We must realize that Local 713, unlike other Unions, is a test tube baby, and that the significance of every word and deed is comparatively disproportionate. The guardians of the destiny of this Union cannot afford the dubious pleasure of fence-straddling. They must have the strength of their convictions. In short they must toe the mark—or else. In this connection, a decided attack on self is indicated all up and down the line. Let's think in terms of service first, then expect rewards afterwards. If our house is built on a solid foundation we need not fear the howling gales which circle round about us; we will be safe inside.

—oOo—

The election of Pascual Ampudia to the presidency of Local 713 is an exemplification of the spirit of true democracy, which is the keynote, the life-blood of any labor organization, anywhere. "The laborer is worthy of his hire." That is the Christian concept, and we believe it. Pascual, no scholar he, has demonstrated by his unmitigated zeal, his unrelenting determination and his almost sacred devotion to Local 713, that his heart is in just the right place. Let us then, man our battle stations on the good ship, Local 713. Let us calculate trajectory, then throw all that we have "On Target." This much we owe to Pascual Ampudia and to ourselves.

—oOo—

Confront any racist with the achievements of Dr. Charles R. Drew, world famous serologist and genius of blood plasma. The answer you will get runs something like this: "Oh! He's an exception," which is no answer. Sure, he's an exception. So were Leonardo da Vinci, and Toussaint Le Overture; Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglas. Contemporary exceptions are many and varied. Einstein, physicist; Meitner, mathematician; Barrow, pugilist; Richardson, labor; Churchill, statesman, ad infinitum. A combination of the life work of hundreds of "exceptions" makes civilization possible. The common garden variety of the human herd owes its very existence and well-being to the ingenuity and the dauntless courage, and the sacrifices of the exceptions; and humanity accepts the gifts they bring without question as to the race of the giver.

BETTER RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

WHEREAS:—Recreation is of vital importance to the well-being of every worker and his family, and

WHEREAS:—This lack of adequate educational and recreational facilities is injurious to our youth, in that Juvenile Delinquency breeds on such conditions, and

WHEREAS:—The lack of adequate recreational facilities is a deterrent to physical development;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That Local 713 urge the Canal Zone Government to provide adequate recreational facilities in these communities in the form of more and improved club-houses, athletic facilities, playgrounds, gymnasiums, and other recreational necessities, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:—That every delegate to this convention institute in his Chapter an active program which will demonstrate to the Canal Zone Government that the members of Local 713, UPW-CIO are strongly behind this resolution for better recreational facilities in our communities.

PAUL ROBESON

WHEREAS:—Paul Robeson has agreed with the International Union, UPW-CIO, to sing at a series of six concerts beginning January 1948 and

WHEREAS:—Paul Robeson is turning over to United Public Workers of America a substantial portion of the proceeds of these concerts for the welfare of Local 713, UPW-CIO; and

WHEREAS:—These proceeds will provide a scholarship fund to enable deserving teachers of Local 713 to take college instruction in the United States;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That we, in convention assembled, do hereby express our heartfelt thanks to Paul Robeson for his selfless and devoted efforts on our behalf; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:—That a letter be sent to Mr. Robeson carrying out the sentiment of this resolution.

APPRECIATION OF EDWARD AND ESTHER CHERESH

WHEREAS:

The workers termed "Silver" employees of the Panama Canal Zone have been exploited for many years, and

WHEREAS:

These workers had failed in their previous attempts to form a Union capable of representing them to the fullest extent, and

WHEREAS:

These oppressed workers are now united under the Charter of Local 713 which is affiliated with the United Public Workers-CIO, and

WHEREAS:

This organization has fully demonstrated its ability to give us full representation, and

WHEREAS:

We are enjoying this privilege and help through the labors of Brother Edward Cheresch and Sister Esther Cheresch

BE IT THEREFORE

RESOLVED:

That a vote of thanks on behalf of Local 713 be given Bro. Edward Cheresch and Sister Esther Cheresch in appreciation of the vital part they played in the organization of Local 713, United Public Workers-CIO.

AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED:

That a copy of this resolution be sent to Brother Edward Cheresch and Sister Esther Cheresch in the United States.

(Continued on Page 4)

Resolutions . . .

(Continued from Page 3)

BASIC WAGE INCREASE

WHEREAS:—The cost of living has increased to the extent that Non-U.S. Citizen employees of the Canal Zone are finding it impossible to meet living expenses, and

WHEREAS:—Non-U.S. Citizen workers on the Canal Zone are now unable to purchase the basic necessities of life which are necessary for a decent standard of living for themselves and their families, and,

WHEREAS:—Non-U.S. Citizen workers are finding these conditions injurious to morale, also detrimental to their health.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That United Public Workers-CIO institute a vigorous series of negotiations in an effort to secure a substantial wage increase for the said

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That a petition be sent to President Harry S. Truman of the United States of America requesting that immediate steps be taken to relieve the economic plight of said Non-Citizen employees of the Canal Zone.

PAY INCREASE FOR CANAL SEAMEN

WHEREAS:

The Canal Seamen have not received any increases to meet the present high cost of living, and

WHEREAS:

The Canal Seamen have no opportunity for promotions like other employees of the Panama Canal organization, and

WHEREAS:

The Canal Seamen are not covered by forty-hour work week regulation, and

WHEREAS:

The Canal Seamen receive no compensation for excessive hours spent on long trips

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the UPW-CIO Local 713, start vigorous negotiations to obtain increases for these workers

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That an urgent petition be sent to the Governor of the Panama Canal to increase the rate pay of Canal Seamen.

COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL

WHEREAS:

The economic and legislative goals of Local 713 in the coming months require a unified and effective organization;

WHEREAS:

Trade unionism is a new and fresh experience for the large majority of the members of Local 713;

WHEREAS:

The unique problems faced by the Union coupled with its brief experience and history made difficult the effective and lasting solution of its internal problems;

WHEREAS:

The recent series of critical situations have made it impossible to carry out effectively the stated principles and aims of the Local;

THEREFORE BE IT

That we in convention assembled call upon the newly elected officers to more closely consult with and avail themselves of the services of the representatives of the International Union in Panama; and

COUPON BOOKS FOR EMPLOYEES ON LEAVE

The Union won recently a considerable improvement in the method of distributing commissary books to employees while on leave.

In the past employees on leave were required to report to their place of work on the Friday before issue date and sign for their books. This necessitated an additional trip to pick up their books. The new regulations provide for one trip.

Col. F. H. Wang, Executive Secretary, stated in his letter to Regional Director, Max Brodsky:

".....An alternative which would appear to resolve this question for the employees' convenience to the greatest extent possible is for the employees, at the time of entering on rest leave, to inform their timekeepers as to the amounts of commissary coupon books which they desire to receive on each issue date during the period of leave. It will then be necessary for the employee to call at his place of work only on the issuing dates to obtain delivery of the coupon books which he has requested provided he has sufficient unobligated earnings to cover the value of the books. I am therefore arranging for the Acting Chief, Payroll Bureau, to notify all timekeepers that employees may utilize this means of arranging to receive commissary coupons during periods of rest leave....."

LOCAL SPONSORS XMAS PROGRAMS

Many Chapters of Local 713 are planning outdoor Christmas programs. The Balboa Chapter teams with the Isthmian Negro Youth Congress for a community program on the La Boca School grounds, on December 23rd, at 8 p.m. Slated to participate are the Cleff Melodaires, the La Boca Hi School Band, and many popular artists.

The Cristobal Chapter has tentative plans for a colorful program at the Mount Hope Stadium on the night of December 21st. The Program Committee is busy making contacts with choral groups to make the affair outstanding.

The Recreational Committee of the Gatun Chapter is working on an outdoor program at the Gatun School, for the night of December 22nd. The many famous singers of the Lock City are certain to be on the program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Executive Board of Local 713 and the International Representatives formulate a budget, and that the International Representatives assume the authority of comptroller in the execution of the budget, and that the International Representatives in Panama be authorized to supervise and to terminate if necessary the services of any non-elected personnel for the good of the Union.

BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED:

In the event that the membership and the Executive Board feel the decisions of the representative of the International Union in Panama is not in keeping with the best interests of the Union, that the Local has the right to appeal to the Officers of the International Union.

GIFT FROM CREW OF SS TALAMANCA

The crew of the SS Talamanca, all members of the NMU-CIO, gave material support to Local 713, UPW-CIO, by donating the sum of \$125.00 towards the expansion of the educational program of the Local. The presentation was made by Sonny Hudson, a former resident of the Republic and now Treasurer of the ship's crew, at a meeting of the Gatun Chapter, December 2.

Tom Mason, Ship's Chairman, speaking in behalf of the crew, related the struggle that the NMW-CIO went through in the last decade to wipe out discrimination on sea-going vessels and to improve wages and working conditions of the seamen. He stated that the members in his crew, as well as thousands of other CIO members, are vitally interested in the developments in Local 713 and have carried to the United States the stories of the advancements made by the Local in behalf of the so-called "silver" workers.

Dugin, second steward on the ship, expressed his pleasure at being able to attend a Chapter meeting of the Local and told of the many victories scored by the CIO on the ships in the fight for equality.

Brother Hudson, in presenting the donation to President Pascual Ampudia, urged unity and solidarity among the membership and assured the Local of the continued support of all CIO members in the States.

EVICION ORDER STOPPED

Sister Geraldine Anderson, employed at the Cristobal Commissary, was informed by the Cristobal District Quartermaster that he would recommend her to be evicted from quarters because of her failure to file her census report on time. Organizer Evering interviewed the Quartermaster and was able to win revocation of the recommendation on the condition that future census reports would be filed promptly.

SICK LEAVE GAINED

Sisters Leonora Callender and Irene Scott of the La Boca Bakery were informed by the Bakery Manager that they would not be paid for time they took on sick leave because of an alleged violation of regulations. Organizer Clarence Small tackled the case and was assured by the Clubhouse Director that recommendation would be put through immediately so that the two employees would receive their sick leave.

Staff Changes

(Continued from Page 2)

to the following units: Health Department, Motor Transportation, Army, Marine Division, Building Division, Tivoli Hotel, and Supply Department.

The changes in personnel have affected the assignments of Joseph Millwood and Clarence Small, organizers. Millwood is in charge of: Dredging Division, M.E.D., Special Engineers, Mechanical Division, Panama Railroad, Aids to Navigation, Madden Dam, and R. & F. A. Organizer Small is assigned to the following units: Executive Department, Club-

REEMPLOYMENT OBJECTIONS LIFTED

Brother Francis Marius, an Army employee, was discharged recently with objections to re-employment. Brother Marius, of course, found some difficulty in securing another job. He brought his case to Organizer Garcia who by prompt action was able to have the re-employment objection removed.

DISABILITY RELIEF INCREASED

Brother Joseph Roberts claimed he was being underpaid on Disability Relief. He brought his case to Organizer Millwood who won him an adjustment at the Central Labor Office to \$20.00 per month.

IMPROVED RULING ON SICK LEAVE

Restoration of sick leave on reemployment within sixty days of termination is the latest gain for alien employees as a result of Union negotiations with Panama Canal officials.

Formerly, alien employees retained their accumulated sick leave if they were reemployed within thirty days after separation from service. A more liberal period is granted in the new ruling which is contained in circular No. 602-42 a section of which follows:

"Sec. 3.8 Restoration of sick leave on reemployment. All sick leave with which an employee was credited at the time of his separation from the service for any reason other than separation for cause shall be credited to the leave account of the employee as of the date of his reemployment if such reemployment is effected within 60 days following separation: Provided, That sick leave shall not be restored to the credit of an employee upon his reemployment following separation for cause."

RECLASSIFICATION

Sisters Musa Boyce and Ida Magallon of the Gatun "Silver" Clubhouse complained to Organizer Dean that they were being underpaid for their responsibilities. Dean handled the cases and won both employees increases of 6c per hour after he demonstrated that they were under-classified.

LUNCH SHED FOR LAUNDRY

The workers at Ancon Laundry customarily ate their lunches in a space provided for them under the Laundry office. Due to construction work they were ousted from the area and had no place to eat their lunch. They brought their case to Organizer Small who negotiated an agreement with the Laundry Manager for the construction of a lunch shed for the employees.

houses, Post Offices, Schools, Rollkeepers' Office, Central Labor Office, Commissary Division, and Navy. Prudencio Cordero supervises the Latin members.

The Union Depends On You

—oOo—

Organize the Unorganized

Convention Quotes

THOMAS RICHARDSON.....

Our gains would have been 50% increased had we not indulged in the extravagance of fighting among ourselves.

ROBERT WEINSTEIN... Pick your enemy; keep your eye on him; fight him!

FRANCISCO ARAUZ.... We are here to battle in the interest of the oppressed worker.

THOMAS RICHARDSON . . . Our Union has to be instrumental in improving working conditions; in making concrete, in terms of law, the bills that have been submitted to the U. S. Congress; in seeing that educational facilities here are at least equal to the facilities for the "gold" employees; in seeing that we don't have to cram our children into these crowded quarters.

PASCUAL AMPUDIA... With the cooperation of every Union member we will be able to gain the respect that we did not have forty years ago.

BOB WEINSTEIN... I would like the leaders of the A. F. of L. to pack up and go back to the States to learn a little about democracy.

BENJAMIN SOLEY..... I will not be a puppet.

CESPEDES BURKE..... I rose a few minutes ago to speak. Possibly I was out of time — the new dance, you know — but eventually I will get in time.

MAURICIO DIAZ (Mayor of Panama City)... I hope you will do everything in your power to be a strong organization.

THOMAS RICHARDSON... Supervision without authority cannot be.

BROTHER BAYNE..I want you to realize that today is the day on which we must make history.

THOMAS RICHARDSON . . . Your Convention has the task of answering the deep aspirations of the average "silver" employee.

PASCUAL AMPUDIA (on being elected President) . . This all appears to me as a dream.

ELLIS FAWCETT... We have the God-given right to think for ourselves and not let anyone think for us.

BOB WEINSTEIN. . . If we work together with the International we can bring the bacon home.

THOMAS RICHARDSON . . . For the first time in the history of the Canal Zone a voice was raised in the United States Congress on behalf of the "silver" employees.

JOSEPH SACHS....The International is going to guarantee the protection of the rights of the workers.

MAX BRODSKY....Let's base our arguments on reasoning and not small Chapters against large Chapters.

GRAHAM LEWIS...The Chair asks for a compromise so that the splitting of hairs can be avoided.

CESPEDES BURKE... When you pay little through the front door you'll pay much through the back door (opposing reduction in officers' salary.)

FRANCISCO ARAUZ . . . I would like to continue always as an active part of this Union even if I am not re-elected as President.

THOMAS RICHARDSON . . . One thing that has always impressed me has been the great desire and willingness of the A. F. of L. to discredit the "silver"