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International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

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Comments
*Justice* was the official publication of the International Ladies’ Garment Workers’ Union ILGWU from 1919 to 1995. Editions of *Justice* were published in English, Italian, Spanish, and Yiddish. When compared side by side, the content of some of these different editions of *Justice* shows significant differences. This is the English-language edition of *Justice*.

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The Convention Bids:

"We Must Not Stand Still; The I. L. G. W. U. Must Reach Out To New Fields While Holding Fast To Its Gains."
11 Weeks of “Union Assembly” on the Air

by MORRIS S. NOVICK
Director of Programs, Station WEVD

"Not by bread alone do we live," was the keynote of President Dubinsky's address at the inauguration of "The Union Assembly," a series of broadcasts, the pride of the I.L.G.W.U., on the air, on April 4, 1934. President William Green, speaking on this same program in behalf of the American Federation of Labor, greeted the officers and membership and characterized New York as a gem in the land in keeping with the advanced educational steps taken by the international in the course of its existence.

The series had as its guest speakers and honorary sponsors: Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Frances Perkins, Mrs. Gifford Pinchot, Pauline Hure, Max Schneiderman, Governor Gifford Pinchot, Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia, Norman Thomas and William Green.

Our Chief Objective

Our objective was to reach our Eastern membership and their families, and, particularly, the newcomers in the Union, so that we could acquaint them with the aims of the organization, its struggles and accomplishments. Because of the complex composition and divergent interests of a membership of 250,000, the job of organization, known as the tide of the 20th century, was a difficult one.

We, therefore, arranged to include in each program an address by one of our speakers in behalf of the union, and 25 an essay by one of the ten foremost chamber music ensembles scheduled for the concert series, a special address by a member of the New York Executive Board touching upon various union problems, and entertainment by a prominent Broadway radio and concert artist. The chamber music ensembles included: Compagny Trio, Roth String Quartet, Kroll String Quartet, Perle String Quartet, Simius String Quartet, Gordon String Quartet, Solano Harry Trio and Astoria String Quartet. The Broadway and concert artists who appeared were: the Hall Johnson Choir, Blanche Yorka, Natasha, George Jessel, Morton Downey, Sam Kremen, Molly Picon, Tamara, Cellia Adler and Mary McDonald. We introduced something novel in presenting Natasha and Blanche Yorka in grandstandions on cold labor and the NRA.

Friendly Comment

The reaction of radio critics, generally, to our program is most interesting and significant. I am sure all of you are familiar with the great avalanche of opinion which characterizes the Day Book in which these critics list about half a dozen programs out of many programs (approximately 150) offered daily by the important stations. It is, therefore, most reassuring to note that the "New York Assembly" received six out of 11 programs broadcast; the New York Telegraph, 11; the New York Evening Post, 11; the Brooklyn Daily Eagle, New York American and the Daily News averaged 6 or 7 out of the 11. The papers in Philadelphia, Baltimore, Bridgeport and elsewhere featured these programs as frequently as did New York papers.

When the series opened, every newspaper in the East carried feature stories about it and all commented that it was the first time that a labor union had its membership via the radio. The editor of the Post said: "There is not an independent station audibl in the metropolitan area that has ever offered its public a series of such extraordinary distinction." The New York Times said:

"The union is sponsoring the program as an experiment in a new medium to keep its members close together, with its membership, of 250,000. The character of the entertainment is a departure from radio routine, too."

"A Rousing Point"

It is interesting to note the comment of Forbes Magazine, a leading industrial magazine, in its issue of April 15th. It said: "The series is significant not so much because a union is sponsoring a radio program but because a union is using radio for the same reason that an employer does, as a business-like method of meeting its business problems... It gives members a rallying point, keeps up the interest and builds up a definite picture of the union."

Extract from President Dubinsky’s Speech Closing Radio Program

We had a great convention in Chicago last September, and the key speaker was the president of the largest membership of our international ever had, the greatest in membership and the best, and the greatest progress ever made by our Union since we became an international organization.

The delegates at our convention were thrilled when they saw the picture, "Marching On," portraying the struggles and the progress of our Union. This is the first labor picture in the country and the convention viewed the first showing of our film. Arrangements are being made for to be shown everywhere throughout the country for our members and their friends.

The convention, by acclamation, approved the action of the General Office in using the radio as a medium for our education and propaganda, and has directed the General Executive Board to arrange for future programs on an even more elaborate and extensive scale. Originally, this series consisted of 10 programs, but in order to make possible this opportunity of addressing our membership, the series was extended to include tonight’s program. Our radio broadcasts will be resumed in the fall, and the interim will afford us the opportunity to make arrangements for our future programs, speakers and stations, so that we may reach even a larger majority of our members.

I want to take this means of expressing our appreciation to the guest speakers, artists, Station WEVD and the other broadcasting stations for their cooperation, and to Morris Novick, who worked so hard to make these programs a success, as well as to our members and all other listeners. It is my keen desire to get from our members an expression of opinion regarding the value of these radio programs. All suggestions, criticism and comment will be appreciated. They may be addressed to the General Office at 3 West 16th Street, New York.

MORRIS S. NOVICK
In Charge of “Union Assembly” Programmes

“Variety,” the most critical of theatrical and radio magazines, said in its issue of May 2nd: "For carrying out the thought, those half-hour sermons garner much credit for those concerned in the union, and we want to hail them.”

Of course, it is needless to report that the labor and radical press throughout the country announced and reviewed the programs very favorably. The series very appropriately originated from WEVD, (the Borough Orbits Memorial Station), and was relayed over an Eastern network which included WCC (Bridgeport and New Haven), WEAF and WACB (Philadelphia), WGN (Baltimore), and WOL (Washington).

On June 14th, when General Johnson spoke for us, his speech was also carried by the N. R. C. national network of 60 stations. The publicity, preceding and following his broadcast, put the LiL. W.U. on the front page in every newspaper in the country.

The delegates at the recent Chicago convention of the I.L.G.W.U. indicated their interest in this series when they unanimously adopted the report on it made by the General Executive Board and also adopted a resolution approving the series. They instructed the board to continue these radio programs in the fall.

New Method of Education

The growth of the International Union in the last year has brought in its wake new problems of education. No longer is it possible for the leaders of the union to address the hundreds and thousands of workers in localities in small cities. We, therefore, turned to a modern medium—the radio.

The "Union Assembly" series was started with the idea that only in such a medium can the message find a larger audience. The series has thus far on the air three times and at the last broadcast on May 31st it was a full success. It is our intention and hope that next year will find a "Union Assembly" series not only in the East, but also in New England, in the West, in the Midwest, and in the South. No report of the series will be complete without a word of thanks for the splendid cooperation of the many artists who participated, the whole-hearted support of President Dubinsky and the tireless interest of Max D. Danziger, editor of "Justice" and director of publicity.
Dress Locals Summoned to Act on Cotton Dress Issue

Up to that time, Washington, on June 26, after a week of hearings on the Union's demand-for the reopening of the Cotton Garment Code. President Dubinsky referred to all dress trades throughout the country a communication in which he said: "It's time the house drapes, cotton dress and wash dress workers under the working provisions of the regular Dress Code.

The letter, bestowing upon all dress unions to "mobilize their forces, to call meetings of the cotton and wash dress workers" in their respective localities and to "create public opinion everywhere favorable to the improvement of the work conditions of the workers," better follows:

To All Locals and Joint Boards of Dressmakers Affiliated with the I. L. G. W. U.

Brothers and Sisters:

The Cotton Garment Code, which provides for a 48-hour work week and a $11.5 minimum, and to which the International objected strenuously from the very beginning, was finally reached last overall, shirts, leather coats, etc. Our International Union, together with the Associated Clothing Workers of America and the United Garment Workers, presented a number of demands to the administration for revision of the present code. We demanded a 40-hour work week, an increase in wages, 24-hour rest periods, and the transfer of cotton and wash dressing to the code which governs the Dres.

Cotton Garment Code

The Cotton Garment Code represents a quarter of a million garments, including besides cotton and wash dressing, pants, overalls, shirts, leather coats, etc. Our International union, together with the Associated Clothing Workers of America and the United Garment Workers, presented a number of demands to the administration for revision of the present code. We demanded a 40-hour work week, an increase in wages, 24-hour rest periods, and the transfer of cotton and wash dressing to the code which governs the Dress Industry. The Cotton Garment Code was one of the very few under which locally the workers were debarred from an opportunity, under the NRA, to enjoy their work conditions. Because the clock stroke hourly, and the employees on the Dress Industry, the Cotton Garment Code and are in direct competition with the Dress Industry. The Cotton Garment Code was one of the very few under which locally the workers were debarred from an opportunity, under the NRA, to enjoy their work conditions. Because the clock stroke hourly, and the employees on the Dress Industry, the Cotton Garment Code and are in direct competition with the Dress Industry. The Cotton Garment Code was one of the very few under which locally the workers were debarred from an opportunity, under the NRA, to enjoy their work conditions. Because the clock stroke hourly, and the employees on the Dress Industry, the Cotton Garment Code and are in direct competition with the Dress Industry.

Demand Changes

At the recent hearing in Washington, the Cotton Garment Code introduced a system of minimum wages and a 40-hour work week. The employers warned that the existing system of minimum wages and a 40-hour work week would be destroyed, as the consumer would have to pay a higher price for the garment, and argued that the workers employed by them are unskilled and that in view of the fact that their factories are located in the West and in the South, the $11 minimum and the 40-hour work week were necessary. The Union maintained that all the workers in the Dress Industry, irrespective of locality, are entitled to the same protection under the NRA.

During the past several months, an intensive organization campaign has been waged in the city of Bridgeton and vicinity.

The difficulties which we encountered were many and I can only point out at this writing that there is a local there now and that it has come to stay. One of our problems was to convince the local that we meant to stay in the union there, and now they realize that we mean business. Several of the employees have already fallen in line and I am confident that the others will follow suit very shortly.

The Fight in Bridgeton

Another of the difficulties that we encountered in Bridgeton was that the employers had intimidated among some of the workers the idea that the only reason they were in business in Bridgeton was to give them work. For this reason the workers were forced to work for them for next to nothing.

The workers, however, are starting to realize that their only salvation from the sweating conditions under which they had, held a splendid dance and celebration to show that they had made the union their own. The affair was addressed by the President of the International, who was educational secretary of our International. It is interesting to note how that broad idea of self-help, that is almost the germ of the union representatives out of town for talking union to them.

We are now in the third year under the NRA, and Mill time, it seems as though they have had not had any celebration, seem to be very practical to the extent that they have made the union their only religion in the factory, and above all, they have learned that in unity there is strength, and they are acting accordingly.

Third Season Stalls

We are starting our third season under the NRA, and we have reason to believe that it would be proper to talk at this time of conditions as they are today. I do not know how many of you who are special New Jersey Code that we had to contend with during the Spring season under the NRA, that we had in holding the local meetings at the Capital and thanks to the Natural Code and the Board Code Authority and the results following the first of the month, we are able to put our opponents in their place.

Dealing With A-Mand Firm

I have the pleasure of having to deal with the firm of H. & J. Miller in Somial, Jersey, and it is no secret that it is making an absolute stand to work with that firm and meet the keen competition of their work. But, in some respects, it is trying to keep the wolf away from the door.

We have faced many acid tests and the workers have stood their ground by meeting our union obligations and they have seen to it that their dues books are paid up to date.

Executive Group, Local 76, Wash Goods and Cotton Dress Union, Chicago, Ill.
Conventions in the life of a labor movement, or in any other movement of our Union, especially, are not merely jubilating gatherings. True, we have abundant cause for congratulating ourselves and the labor movement of which we are a part, upon the remarkable progress we have made, and upon the foundation that convention marks the 15th anniversary of our existence as an autonomous and independent organization, the seed of the American Federation of Labor. But our conventions have a far greater significance to our organizations and our membership. We assemble every other year to take stock of our achievements or failures, to criticize our policies or to approve our tactics, to look ahead for the future, to strengthen our position in our industry and to remove obstacles in the way of our advancement. These purposes are the chief objectives of our conventions.

A Look Into the Past

A look into our own history reveals that the 15th anniversary of the founding of the United States Labor Union was also the 25th anniversary of the-construction of the sweatshops, in preparation for the health of the workers, is taking part in community activities, in helping various charitable activities, and in extending helpful part in the formation of the 1928 strike. This strike was responsible for the abolition of the sweatshops, for securing better wages for workers, and for having given the worker the right to his job so that he may realize his rights without being tried by a proper impartial tribunal.

Our Union enjoyed prestige and influence and was able to influence the situation that developed in 1928, due to an industrial conflict, and followed by the disastrous strike conducted by the United States Labor Union of the United States of America, which was founded by the organizers of our New York organization. That was the first defeat our Union suffered, and for a number of years, our Union was compelled to face the serious difficulties that could bedevil a labor movement resulting primarily from the depression caused by that industrial conflict, the tremendous deficit of the 1928 strike which saddled upon us debts amounting to more than two million dollars, and the subsequent general economic depression.

The Burden of Debt

Anxious to retain its good name with its creditors, and considering, especially, the fact that we owed close to a million dollars to employers who had deposited this money with the New York organization as security for faithful performance of their contracts, we were obliged to fully realize how difficult it would be for a labor organization to meet such an enormous debt, even if we were able to do so. The only way we were able to do so was through the organization of the United States Labor Union, which was founded in 1928, in the wake of the 1928 strike. It was organized to give assistance to the workers who had been laid off and to reorganize the industry. The United States Labor Union was able to secure the assistance of many workers in the industry, and to develop a strong organization that was able to negotiate for higher wages and better working conditions.

David Dubinsky, a key figure in the labor movement, worked on a few weeks during the season and was not able to meet their obligations to the organization. The employees, on the other hand, taking undue advantage of the reopened situation, kept on working under new working standards, many of whom moving their shops from the industrial centers to small suburban locations in order to escape union control and to obtain cheaper labor. This meant continual competition, created between the well-established and the small-town cheap labor markets, brought down the working conditions to the lowest possible levels. It reached a stage where in some of our trades wages were reduced to as low as $5 and even $2 a week. The sweatshop, in all its worst forms, reappeared and was causing havoc among our workers. Nevertheless, we were helpless in our efforts to combat this evil because we were short of funds needed for organizing campaigns, and we were, in addition to this, being harried on all sides by desperate creditors.

Loyalty Amidst Despair

At the beginning of 1929, we reached a point where we were unable to help some of our local unions with even a measly few dollars to enable them to maintain their headquarters. Some of our locals were practically wiped out of existence, while the morale of the members, in general, was at a very low ebb. Here and there attempts were made to do organizing work, but those attempts did not yield any material results. It was more in the nature of a desperate fight for existence and a show of resistance to the employers who continually were breaking down working standards by increasing hours and by actually creating beggars out of their employees and forcing them to rely in numerous cases on charity and relief for a sober livelihood.

Fortunately, we had in nearly all our organizations substantial numbers of loyal and devoted members, most of whom had been involved in many of the Union's glorious struggles in the past, and who remembered the great contribution the Union had made towards the welfare of the tens of thousands of workers in our industry. These loyal groups stuck to the organization, ready to fight to the last and not to give up the ship, inspired by a never-dying hope that the Union would come back to its former strength and influence in the near future. The leaders of our locals and the members of the executive committee, being aware of the situation, decided to put their shoulders to the wheel and to work tirelessly to achieve this goal.

Justice

And it was because of this that when President Roosevelt inaugurated the New Deal, and Congress enacted the NLRA, our organization rose to the occasion. It was an excellent crew of people who were ready to be placed immediately in the present labor-management situation as it is today, possible, and night, to take advantage of the great opportunity which was presented itself as an opportunity to rebuild and strengthen our Union.

The moment the NLRA went into effect, we immediately reported to Washington for consultation and met with an astounding response. Though unemployed for many months, and in need of funds to support their families, our active men and women, nevertheless, plunged into the work assigned to them and made good in nearly every respect. The first two months of our activities, during that period may be described as "the two months that shocked the Ladies' Garment Industry." The General Office immediately prepared hundreds of thousands of circulars for distribution in every market throughout the country. People with experience were assigned to important positions to start intensive organizing campaigns. The message was made plain to our officers: "Prepare for immediate strikes." We aroused a sentiment for organizing campaigns in every part of the country. As a result, strikes were being made, in places where were completely isolated from union influence. The strikes were reported to the General Office, and they spread them into the General Office from dozens of places. People who had been away from the labor movement outside of our own organization. A concerted drive started simultaneously in practically every market, and the results were used in picking the most potent points as the arguments of the battle-field. A successful strike was carried out in Philadelphia, in 1929, in the Garment industry in Philadelphi a, which had been the stronghold of non-union employers for two decades. So strong was this strike that they defeated our Union 1922 after a costly strike lasting 26 weeks. This victory in Philadelphia was hailed as a great victory for our officers and members everywhere.

We followed it up in July, 1933, in the Garment industry in New York City. This was the longest and most solid block of our organization, which was better equipped than any other market when it came to the question of strikes. We were able to obtain the support of the employers a good code, the first which established a 7-day week in any industry in the country. Our next field was the dress industry of New York, which has become the most important in the needle trades, employing over 120,000 workers throughout the country. We organized the branch that was lost by about 10,000, and we knew that the employers would not be able to withstand the shutdown that would be necessary to strike down this branch. We therefore was able to strike and the workers in the industry and, as a whole, as we had only about 15 per cent of them in the ranks. We Strike

Quick and Hard

We strike quickly and hard. There was so much exploitation and misery among the tens of thousands of workers in New York City, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania and Connecticut towns surrounding the metropolitan district, that we had reason to hope for widespread response to our call. We also felt that the publicity given in the public press to the shameful conditions which prevailed in the thousands of dress sweatshops was a powerful factor for defeating those degrading conditions of labor.

A Magnificent Growth

Immediately following these strikes, strikes were also declared in other dress industries in New York. The strikes that had been neglected for years and years and had had no growth to substantial proportions. Nearly all these strikes, conducted simultaneously in New York in about 12 industries and in 15 other markets throughout the country, resulted in the establishment of the 7-day work, minimum wage rates, and conditions similar to those gained by the struck workers during the previous campaign.

As a direct result of these strikes, our Union grew extensively in numbers; from a membership of 40,000, we have now reached a membership of 150,000. The dress industry throughout the country is today organized 95 per cent; the shirt industry is organized 90 per cent. In New Jersey, Connecticut and Pennsylvania, which used to be the main sweatshop centers, where our Union could not make headway despite strenuous efforts in the past, things have changed today. Today it is totally organized and decent working conditions were established for the workers who were formerly subject to the same sort of exploitation as other industries under our jurisdiction are substantially unionized, and there is hope that we shall completely organize the balance of these trades in the near future. Thousands of workers who were
compelled to bear our trades during the past three years, we now turned to the discovery of new markets, we now turned to the sale of our goods and services to countries which have not previously been interested in our products. The result was that our trade increased, and we became prosperous. We were able to invest more in new machinery, to improve our products, and to expand our business. We now have a larger share of the market, and we are able to pay better wages to our workers.

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July, 1934

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NRA and the Future

I wish to touch upon the question frequently brought up in our midst and to point to the obvious results of the extraordinary revival of our organization and the possible effects of the evolution of the NRA. I think there is one thing that we should like to see in the revival of the NRA. A part of the so-called New Deal, it has had a long life and has been successful. It should be noted that we have maintained our drive during the first three months immediately following the enactment of the NRA. This period can be described as a "moon" of the NRA, and such unions as were equipped to meet the situation, like United Mine Workers, United Textile Workers, and the National, International, obtained satisfactory results.

The administration in Washington in the early stages of the NRA appeared to be ready to give the existing "breaks" in the textile industry a second chance in this country at that time. Perhaps that was so-called Captains of Industry who, when the dust had cleared, turned it over to the working men. In some cases, the working men agreed to improve their wages, but in other cases, the workers remained employed and wages were raised.

A month or two later, there were small improvements in the industry, and the NRA did not seem to have made much headway. However, in the winter of 1934, the NRA did make some progress. There were small gains in wages, and the NRA did not seem to have made much headway. However, in the winter of 1934, the NRA did make some progress. There were small gains in wages, and the industry was beginning to stabilize. The NRA was not going to be easily defeated, and the workers were not going to give up without a fight. The NRA was going to fight to protect the living standards of the workers, and the workers were going to fight to achieve those standards.
A Song of Men

We sing the songs that we make,
Naked, stark and true;
Songs that are red with our blood,
Stained with our tears right thru.

We sing of the men who gather
In factory, shop and mill,
And warm their hands at the fire
In the cold, gray morning chill.

Warming their hands for a little
While they are reposing.
Strong hands at the Fire of Life;
Living and working and hoping.
'Midst the din, the stress and the strife.

We sing of the cold and dark,
The fog and the damp and the gloom;
Of the road that the worker journeys
That ends for him, ever in doom.

And whatever the road we travel,
In our search for life and bread;
We see the sun in the evening
As it dyed the sky blue-ed.

And over the hill in the morning
We see the golden glow,
Giving us hope and courage
To strive, for the things we know.

Out of the dark to the sunlight,
From the slum to the glee;
We are the Sons of the Future,
Men and the Children of Men.

Forward! We press, ever forward!
Over the ground we pass;
We are the men who matter,
We are the Working Class.

R. M. FOX.
Convention Spurs Cause of Workers’ Education

By FELIX M. COHN
Secretary, Educational Department
Internationals Ladies’ Garment Workers’ Union

Long live our memories to those who laid down their lives in the celebration of the thirty-fifth anniversary of the birth of our International. It was one of those moments that saw to which they contributed all that they had. Eighty thousand have lived through the trials and tribulations, the victories and defeats, the joys and sorrows of the organization and of the labor movement.

The delegates to our convention were men and women—sons and daughters of the many nationalities and races which have made America great. Those who have recently joined our ranks sat side by side with the pioneers of our Union, all of them moved with pride of working-class solidarity. But we are all united in the conviction that the labor movement and its mission in our turbulent world. Their own achievements as members of the International and the labor movement grew as the convention proceeded.

Legislators, Judges and Jurists—

The influence of our educational work was felt throughout the convention. The various pamphlets which the delegates found each morning on their tables, the imposing mural, eleven by six feet, mirroring the social and educational activities of our International, the statues representing the various activities of our Educational Department, the symbolic posters—all of these bore witness to the interest in our Union’s work in the development of our members intellectually and physically. Our new members were told that the International is striving toward a more perfect world, that it is working with a sense of mission, having a sense of mission.

That the highest authorities in the Union—the President, the General Secretary, Presidents of the various locals and the Executive Board—were to report on their activities. It is they who have to make our educational work hold in the hearts and in the imagination of our membership. One heard our new members repeatedly saying that they needed the assistance of our Educational Department to learn more about the labor movement. It is a most encouraging and helpful attitude.

Women—A Great Factor

The composition of the convention reflected economic and social changes and the influence of working women. Our previous conventions were visited by many wives of our delegates. At the convention this year there were many families, and the blue badges of guests. Those were husbands, whose duties, mostly occupied in committee rooms, were the red badges of delegates. These opportunities opened to the women members in our Union eventually lead to the development of the local membership between husband and wife and I think in understanding between parents and children.

A Stirring Moment

It was an interesting moment when two women delegates nominated, two other women to the General Executive Board of the convention. There is no different part of the country, with different backgrounds and environments, with different interests and personalities, with the same emotions and convictions, with the same emotions and convictions, that they said. We speak about the same language of our sisters, we speak the same language of our sisters, we speak the same language.

Our men and women increasingly recognize the fact that not only do they have to work side by side in their organizations for the immediate achievement of economic improvement and to strive for our ultimate goals—goals of freedom from poverty, misery and exploitation.

TICKET, and practically all the managers of the New York and local and of neighboring town were heavily represented by large groups.

Summary of Talents

The actors who took part in the entertainment and concerts were: Louis Kronberg, Billy Joe Hanks, Abe Berg, Gaye Pryor and J. A. Heights. They performed in the Pine Grove and at the Great House on Sunday morning at the Pine Grove Theatre.

Unity House Opens 1934 Season

THE PINE GROVE
Open Air Theatre

Unity House ushered in its sixteenth season on Friday, June 25, 1934, on a larger scale than ever before in its history.

Nearly 1,000 guests came to the opening—delegates from local and large groups. The entertainment consisted of a variety program presented by Unity House, nearly the entire leadership of the I.L.G.W.U. They were followed by a banquet and for a while, it seemed that even the resources of Unity House would improve unusual to handle the great institution. After a few hours, however, everything right itself and the grand thing was accomplished in the most manner possible.

A Memorable Week-End

It was a week-end of continuous entertainment, fun and hilarity. There were outdoor concerts in the Pine Grove Theatre, indoor dancing galore, free boating and canoeing on the lake, and hiking. Above all, there were the stories of the Unity panorama, the hills, the lake, the enchanting walks and last, but not least, the excellent and generous catering.

Among those who came to the opening were: President and Mrs. David Luria, Mrs. Louis Levy, Mrs. Louis Kalmanovitz, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Ebert, Mrs. Louis Levy, Mrs. Louis Kalmanovitz, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Ebert, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Ebert, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Ebert. At the close of the week-end, no one could resist the temptation to run off the I.L.G.W.U. film, "Marching On!"}

Jacob Halpern continues as manager of the Educational Department as his assistant in charge of all activities in addition to the special social work of the institution.

POINTER YOUTH CAMP
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The 22nd Convention Passes in Review

By MAX D. DANISH

When opening day meeting, in Chicago Boulevard Auditorium, metings to the new.

An ideal morning for Chicago. A stiff breeze from "Old Man Lake" had swept the hot mist that enveloped the big city the night before, and the air felt cool and invigorating. It was a glorious morning for marching, and the parade which the Chicago organization of the I.L.G.W.U. staged as a curtain raiser for the convention, indeed, turned out to be the most colorful affair ever carried out by the women's garment workers of that city. About nine thousand dressmakers and clothmakers, divided into three sections, each preceded by a band of music, assembled at Canal and Van Buren Streets at nine in the morning, and marched up in picturesque formation, with hundreds of flags waving and a multitude of pennants flying in the breeze, to Carmen's Hall, where thousands lined the sidewalks and cheered the parade.

Every man in the line wore a blue "overseas" cap with the initials, "I.L.G.W.U.," inscribed on it, while the women, dressed in white and marching four abreast, wore similar white caps. The convention delegates and the hundreds of visiting guests joined the marchers in a fleet of busses from the then convention headquarters—the Medinah Michigan Avenue Club—and both groups arrived at the Auditorium simultaneously. Within five minutes the big hall, which has a seating capacity of 4,000, was filled to overflowing, leaving several hundred people, crowding the sidewalks and filling the adjacent streets.

Speeches, ovations, flowers.

Morris Blitts, cleancut, clean-shaven, fighting young leader of the Chicago forces of the I.L.G.W.U., mounts the platform as chairman of the Arrangements Committee, and welcomes, under a roar of applause, the delegates and the guests of the convention, to Chicago. It is, he states, in a voice that quivers with emotion, the happiest moment of his life, and he pleads for the name of the Chicago organization, to "make the stay of the delegates in our city as pleasant as possible." He reminds the audience that the last convention which the International held in Chicago occurred fourteen years ago, in 1909, at a time when the I.L.G.W.U. was at a high peak of prosperity. That period was followed by difficult years of struggle, with enemies on every front, external as well as internal, but the Union survived the dangers times and has now again emerged on top. And Chicago is once more privileged to receive an international convention in its midst, at a happy moment in the life of its own greatly increased membership and at a time of marvelous advance of the organization as a whole.

Illinois Labor's Welcome

Vice-President Blitts introduces Victor A. Glender, secretary of the Illinois Federation of Labor, who greets the convention in the name of the organized workers of Illinois. Glender is followed by Abraham Oscar P. Nelson, a vice-president of the Chicago Federation of Labor, who is deputized by Mayor Edward J. Kelly of Chicago to greet the delegates on behalf of the city administration. Both receive vociferous ovations. Nelson, especially, is rewarded with loud applause as he recounts his own participation with the Chicago dressmakers on the picket lines during their recent strike and as he emphasizes that be knows of no better trade unionists than "those who compose the sight I.L.G.W.U. locals in the City of Chicago."

The temporary chairman then turns over the gavel, after a warm introduction, to President David Dubinsky, who reminds the delegates that a little over two years ago, at the Philadelphia convention, they elected to the post of head- ship of the I.L.G.W.U., a man who had proved himself in every office that he occupied. In the two years since then, the Union has grown to its present size, and membership has increased by millions of members.

The Keynote Speech

In a keynote speech lasting forty-five minutes, President Dubinsky then proceeds to outline the history of the Union for the past few years, the perils period through which it passed on its way toward eventual recovery, the effect of the NRA on the Union's activity in the past year, the great strikes which followed it, and the immediate effects of the settlement of those strikes. Proudly, he refers to the fact that "the morale of our work- ers is today at a higher point than ever before in the history of our Union; the organization has grown to unprecedented proportions, and it has come to this twentieth convention with 147 charted locals and 15 joint boards, located in 71 cities and 51 states, and represented by 759 officers and 1,215 union officials."

President Dubinsky concludes his address under a storm of applause by saying: "Even at times when our efforts are not successful, even at times when we are defeated, let us not lose hope, let us not lose courage. Our cause is just and our purpose is noble. Our de- feats are only temporary setbacks. We are bound to win. We are already beginning to enjoy the fruits of our labor. United as never before, shoulder to shoulder, let us go marching on to our future battles and greater victories.

With the festive opening ceremonies over, the convention began to settle down to business on Tuesday morning, May 26. in the main hall of the Medinah Club. Vice-President Ida Neugle, chair- woman of the committee of nine, reported that his committee had found, upon examination, 160 regular delegates and 4 fractional delegates. He recommended seated as delegates. Several contentions and objections were heard by his committee during their stay in New York and while in session in Chicago. These objections, however, were largely brushed aside, as the committee was approved and the questions settled, to the surprise of the delegates, under a legal basis.

A dramatic incident occurred at that moment. Vice-President Hals of the Illinois Federation of Labor, who was present to report on the success of his committee, was called upon to speak to the assembled delegates. He thanked the delegates to rise in silent tribute to the memory of the late President of the United States. He then proceeded to carry the message of President Dubinsky, who had been abroad, and to present it to the assembled delegates.

The Divisional Administrator Speaks

During the same morning session, the convention heard an interesting address by Mr. Sol A. Rosenblatt, NRA Divisional Administrator in the furniture industry, who had been invited to come to Chicago to speak to the I.L.G.W.U. delegates. Mr. Rosenblatt, in a witty and impromptu speech, spoke of his task as administrator of various codes and widely complained of the I.L.G.W.U. for its realistic and widespread attitude in evading all of the possibilities of the NRA. In referring to complaints that Labor has not gotten enough of the NRA in many instances and that em- ployers had benefited through organization, Mr. Rosenblatt pointed out that Labor is itself to blame for not having done what the employers have done, or not having extended its field of activity in order to have an equal balance to its credit.

Concluding, Mr. Rosenblatt declared that if you will be constructive with us and realize the problems which we are
standing with the farmers. No victories you seek be, no ways unless you seem to establish, can be sure oases we are able to organize this country, and the world, on the basis of the accomplishment of a work, which meant that we own the things for which our experts pay for our use and for our enjoyment. What I am talking about is the federation of cooperative combinable in a nation, and, unless present, we say on the highroad to this goal, we shall be swept into the abyss of Fascism and war.

That same afternoon heard an address by President Dubinsky on the financial status of the LLGWU, which he illustrated by some striking paragraphs from the regular report submitted by him to the convention, the high point of which was that the Union had liquidated, during the two years, nearly half a million dollars of old debts and has reached the convention with more than a half million dollars in its treasury. The convention hall rocked with applause as President Dubinsky cited one figure after another, bearing testimony to the remarkable financial comeback of the organization and the growth of its material prestige and stability.

The remaining part of the session was given to a debate over discrimination, held by Vice-President Isador Nagler, General Manager of the New York Clock Joint Board, on the entire clock and watch situation in the New York market. Vice-President Nagler's report came to an end with a personal address to President Dubinsky, which he characterized as an utterance of "the voice of the pioneer organization of the I.L.G.W.U., the New York Watchmakers' Joint Board.

He stated that he was delegated by the Joint Board to perform a delicate mission, a mission that he was ready to execute in a spirit of loyalty, respect and gratitude.

Nagler Reviews Clock Field

"They," Vice-President Nagler said, "the New York clockmakers, gave you to the International, to the countless thousands in our allied crafts, to whom we owe the greatest dignity and a larger measure of security than they have ever known. Despite your rise to great heights, through a leadership that commands the respect of the nation, you have remained one of our own. In every phase of your growth you have re-tained your simplicity and humanity. Keep to approach, forbear in your relations, you, our brother, have won our love and our friendship."

"Brother President, we bring you a gift. It is no ordinary gift, for you, for your accomplishments in our behalf are immense. Our gift is a token of the appreciation and love and respect we hold for you. You will, therefore, look upon this portrait as a small sign of our appreciation. But the cars, the loving art and the craftsmanship by which we have gone into this goal, are symbols of our enduring love and esteem."

From the balcony of the convention hall, at that moment, descended a group of officers of the New York Clock Joint Board, headed by Secretary Louis H. Langer, President Robert McPherson Stockman, and Treasurer Morris J. Ashby, carrying a life-size painting of President Dubinsky. As soon as the convention caught sight of this, it rose and, in a frenzy of enthusiasm, began to parade with the portrait through the aisles, singing the anthem of the I.L.G.W.U. and other labor songs. The outburst of cheers and ovations lasted almost a half hour.

President Dubinsky was so touched that for several minutes he could hardly speak. After the cheers died down, the painting was mounted on the platform. All he said was the following few words:

"You have given me something that I really believe does not belong to me because, after all, I have only done what anyone of us should do. This movement does not owe me anything. I owe everything to it. The more work I do, the more joy I find, the greater is my reward."

III

Ingeroll Speaks for La Guardia

It became evident that the convention could not get down to serious business until the beginning of the second week as the various committees to which the resolutions were referred were not ready with their reports for several days. President Dubinsky, therefore, organized the work of the sessions so as to give the guest speakers, invited to the convention, an opportunity to address the delegates during the first week.

There was another matter to consider. The Chicago Arrangements Committee had laid out a generous program of festivities for the delegates, including dinner, sight-seeing trips and dances, and that could not be delayed.

On the morning of the third day, the convention heard an interesting talk by Mr. Raymond J. Ingeroll, president of the Broach of Brooklyn, who came to Chicago to represent Mayor La Guardia of New York at the I.L.G.W.U. gathering. The delegate gave Mr. Ingeroll, who for seven years had been the impartial New York newspaper, a rousing reception as he declared that: "on behalf of Mayor La Guardia, and in my own behalf, I congratulate you upon the position which you have attained. You have a good organization and an able leadership. You can do much to help your own membership, to make it a stable and important industry and much to promote the general welfare."

The convention voted to send a telegraph of thanks to Mayor La Guardia for his thoughtfulness in sending Borough President Ingeroll to represent him. An interesting demonstration, lasting fifteen minutes, broke out at this session when delegates Jean Block, representing Local 197 of Long Island City, presented to President Dubinsky a wreath of roses on behalf of the delegates of the Eastern Out-of-town districts, for "true news and with gratitude for the remarkable opening speech" which she wished to have read on the floor of the house in that territory could have heard.

"25,000 Strong"

After a representative of the Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society (HIS), Mr. Ben Weisbrod, spoke for several minutes, expressing the thanks of his organization for the loyal support given by LLGWU locals in New York and other cities to the work which the "HIS" was carrying on in the Jewish returns from persecution and the Jews all over the World. President Dubinsky called upon Vice-President Hochman, general manager of the Dress Joint Board of New York, to give the delegates a review of the life and activities of the organization entrusted to his management for the past two years. Brother Hochman responded with a talk lasting over a half hour, covering the main events of the last two years, the organization and strike movement of the New York dressmakers, and winding up with a presentation of the LLGWU. At the close of the convention, a splendid Journal named "25,000 Strong," containing an illustrated story of the rise of the dressmakers from...
a lowly state to organisation heights during the past year. Vice-President Hochman's address was rewarded by the convention with a unanimous demonstration which President Dubinsky followed by a warm tribute to the membership of the locals affiliated with the Joint Board of theDreamerLocals. Unusual due to their efforts many of the dress industry recovery—a reality—in addition to General Manager Hochman, Brother Ashbunt, Johanna Persson, Mrs. Persson, Mrs. Cohen and many others "too numerous to mention."

In the afternoon of that day the delegates, their friends and hundreds of Chicago members of the I.L.G.W.U. were guests of the Chicago Joint Board on a sight-seeing trip, which ended up with a $10 dinner at Navy Pier on Lake Michigan.

The fourth day also began with ad

notations as none of the committee was ready with reports. Brother Morris Feldstein, secretary of the United Garbage Workers of New York, a guest of the convention, delivered a talk to the delegates. He dwelt largely on the doings of the L.G.W.U. which had acquired membership and the vast material of yet unorganized men and women who came to the organization in its "great drive" in the second half of 1933. "If you will, said Brother Feldstein, at this moment it is highly important for the International to absorb all of its new membership into its old tradition, for strength lies as much in spiritual unity as in physical unity. In the unknown situation which the future holds for you, it will be impossible to cope, responsibility is not so great as it once was. To be a member of the L.G.W.U. is to be a member of a great trade association. To be a member of the L.G.W.U. is to be a member of the L.G.W.U.

The Furriers Are Grateful

Feldstein was followed by Brother Maurice Davis, secretary of the Furriers' International Union, who expressed the gratitude of his organization to the committee of the convention for the International and its New York locals and joint boards in supporting the furriers' fight in New York in this country for survival. In spite of all bitterness, in spite of all the inhuman attacks of the Communist gauge upon our members, we are forging ahead. The fur workers, who have made up their minds to belong to the American Federation of Labor, are making great strides. The biggest shop is in the industry today under the control of the International Fur Workers' Union, and no one is responsible for that but the L.G.W.U., with President Dubinsky and his associates.

Immediately thereafter, President Dubinsky called upon Mrs. Schmierdiner, who had been a guest at the convention from the first day it opened, to address the delegates. Mrs. Schmierdiner, member of the National Women's Trade Union League and the only woman member of the Labor Front, delivered a masterful address, the gist of which centered on the great historic contribution of women to the cause of organization of women workers in America. She sketched briefly the early struggles of the Union, in which she, herself, had taken a leading part, and dwelt at length on the recent enrollment by the L. I. G. W. U. of nearly a hundred thousand women workers in every branch of the garment industry all over the land. "My organization," Mrs. Schmierdiner said, "is happy and rejoices with you in your new-born strength. But I want to say to you, President Dubinsky, that you can triple your membership if you are determined upon it. There are still hundreds of thousands of women who do sewing and who rightfully belong in your ranks and who are not there, and it seems to me that you owe the possibility of coming into the L.G.W.U. because they have no other place to which to turn. I believe the women in your organization have proved to you their loyalty and their devotion and that at all times they, when called upon, have just as ably and as devotedly served the Union as any of the male members of your organization."

President Dubinsky warmly thanked Mrs. Schmierdiner for her genuine and consistent interest in the welfare of the members of the L.G.W.U. and expressed the hope that for many more years she would be of continuous service to the labor movement.

The Capsmakers' Salute

He then introduced, amidst the applause of the entire convention, Mr. Zartinsky, the leader of the Cap and Millinery Workers, an organization which he characterized as "one of the very few progressive labor organizations in this country that can boast of obtaining marvellous results for their members."

In a stirring address, President Zartinsky brought the greetings of the cap and millinery workers, now united into one international union with the hatters, to the L.G.W.U. "To me, these meetings of the two fronts of two very fine organizations is more significant than some people may think. We have been together 14 years ago in this city and 10 years ago here in our General Executive Board."

The fifth day of the convention opened with an extensive report on the Eastern District, delivered by Harry Wender. In a terse, concise address, Delegate Wender spoke in the name of the 58,000 newly-organized workers located in the section covering a string of small, industrial towns in New Jersey, Connecticut, Long Island, Westchester County and up-state New York. He emphasized the point that less than a year ago these masses of workers were nothing, today they are powerful organizations of many workers working hand in hand. Your leaders and your unions as a whole, need help and work to strengthen them. We have, physically, two organizations, but, spiritually, we are one. We speak the same language, the language of labor."

"We frankly admit, and we are ready to admit that the NRA has opened up many opportunities to carry the gospel of labor to the millions of unorganized workers. But the NRA is not an organizer. It is in the struggles which your organization and ours have conducted that the key to our successes lies. And so I say to you, let us not depend upon the things given to us, upon rights granted to us, let us rely entirely and only upon our own forces, upon the strength of the organization of labor."

President Zartinsky received a tumultuous ovation when he ended his address.

Before the session ended, a large box of nurses was brought in. The platform was formed by a delegation of local 12, consisting of colored workers, Mrs. Editha Riddle, a delegate of Local 12, presented this offering in the name of the 4,500 Negro dreamers of the local, and a soon that the Union has brought to them a sense of economic security, has raised their wages to a living standard and has shortened their hours of labor. More than that, Mrs. Riddle said, the Union has turned the noble phrase of solidarity and fraternity of all labor into a reality. It has championed complete equality of workers, of all races in the shop, and has fought against discrimination and race prejudice in all fields of social life.

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to build the International and who held the foundation for its present greatness.

"But my father left behind a fearless, able, conscientious hierarch, who, when the time came, took the reins of leadership and, in his own right, brought the great mass of needle trades workers into the Promised Land. I am happy to say that nothing gives me greater satisfaction, nor would have given my father greater satisfaction, than to know that it was David Dubinsky, who was the man destined to complete the job he began many years ago."

Emil Schlessinger was given a rising vote of thanks when he concluded his address.

That same morning, Vice-President Julius Hochman, chairman of the Committee on Resolutions, delivered a partial report of the committee, after which President Dubinsky called upon Thomas Evans, a delegate from the Allentown local, No. 122, one of the recently organized units of the L.G.W.U. in the South, to tell the delegates of some of his experiences in bringing together the dress workers of his city into a trade union.

Brother Evans' address was heard with keen interest by the delegates and he was generously applauded when he concluded by saying that "with proper effort on the part of the International, by the end of this year Allentown will be, for the first time in the history of the labor movement, a closed union town as far as the garment industry is concerned." He also mentioned the fact that in the vicinity of Allentown there are a number of dress plants which have run away from the Union to "beat" labor. He expressed the hope, however, that the L.G.W.U. will soon be able to reach even these runaway plants, some of them in Georgia, and others in the Carolinas and in Mississippi.

Next came a talk by Sister Sadie Hanchey, a member of the executive board of the Women's Trade Union League and an active organizer in the recent out-of-town campaign of the L.O.U.W.U. Miss Hanchey, who has been a member of the New York dressmakers' union for the past twenty years, related some of her experiences as organizer in Connecticut, of the dismal beginnings which at times appeared hopeless, and of the glorious triumph in the end. She impressed the women delegates present to bear in mind, after coming back to their localities, that only by dint of hard labor and application to their duties may they hope to retain the gains achieved during the past year.

Miss Hanchey was given a vote of thanks by the convention for the fine work she did in Connecticut for the Out-of-Town Department, as well as for the loyal services rendered by her in Toronto in the dressmakers' strike in 1911.

The Kielgads Settlement

At that moment, President Dubinsky read to the delegates a chapter from the report of the General Executive Board on "the Knitted Garment Workers of New York, Local 236," discussing the jurisdictional trouble between the I.L.G.W.U. and the United Textile Workers in that industry, and expressing the hope that the American Federation of Labor would find a way of straightening out this wrangling between two International unions, thereby assuring the knit garment workers humane labor conditions in their shops.

After reading, this section, President Dubinsky stated that he was as sorry for this controversy as anyone and that he is happy to announce that this matter was finally settled. He, therefore, upon displayed to the delegates an agreement between and signed by the I.L.G.W.U. and the United Textile Workers only a few days before the convention opened. He stressed the point that both organizations have defined a mode of procedure for controlling the unionized shops and for further activity by organizing Joint Councils to apply to every market where knit garment are being manufactured. Both Internationals are to have supervision over work conditions, the United Textile Workers to control the workers making the materials from which the garments are manufactured, while the I.L.G.W.U. is to control the workers actually making the garments. At the garment workers constitute a majority of the workers in the industry, the greatest burden of control will naturally devolve upon the I.L.G.W.U.

To demonstrate the unity between the two International unions, President Dubinsky continued, he had invited President Thomas F. McMahon of the United Textile Workers to address the convention. He had accepted the invitation but unfortunately, was unable to reach Chicago owing to the threatened strike in the textile industry.

President William Green of the American Federation of Labor arrived at the hall at that moment and was escorted to the platform amidst a demonstration of applause and shouting. Before the speakers for President Green had started, Delegates Edward Molinari, on behalf of Local 48, the Italian Knitmakers' Union of New York, rose at the head of his delegation and announced that his local had dedicated a plaque to President Dubinsky and wished to present it to him. A band of music came down the center aisle, followed by the delegation of Local 48 singing labor songs.

The Local 48 Plaque

The entire convention was thrown into fervent excitement when Vice-President Niino came up on the platform, unfolded a beautifully bound parchment scroll, and began reading from it a dedication to President Dubinsky. Right alongside of him there stood, on an easel, a marvelous bronze plaque with the figure of the president of the I.L.G.W.U. in its relief. The demonstration which broke out after Brother Niino concluded his dedication lasted for more than fifteen minutes.

Overwhelmed by this display of genuine devotion and loyalty, President Dubinsky was barely able to respond to this presentation. In a voice filled with emotion he told the committee of Local 48 that he was not surprised at the result; no price—will be dearer to him than the memory of the gift that comes to me from my members of the Local 48.

Following that, Vice-President Dunn presented a replica of the plaque to President Green, who responded with a few appreciative remarks. Printed copies of the replicas were also distributed to all the various joint boards.

The a.m. session concluded by an address by Samuel Levin, manager of the American Textile Co., in Chicago, who was in the hall and they were escorted to the platform. Simultaneously, it also became known that Major Horace H. Gilchrist, chairman of the Port Code Authority, had arrived, and was at once seated to the platform.

President Dubinsky then called upon William D. Logan, the representative of the organized workers of Puerto Rico, to address the delegations. Brother Logan had reached Chicago the previous day and was to speak to the convention on the arrival of President Green.

Puerto Rico's Voice

Brother Logan, in a comprehensive and carefully prepared address, declared that the delegates and the workers of his country's native island, the growth of the evolution of those trades and the T.U. to organize the local garment workers, including his own general labor. He also talked of the general labor condition in Puerto Rico, of the political movement of the workers and of their successes in getting considerable political power on the island. At present, he declared, there are only a few of the old trades or the other 40,000 are being organized. The entire labor movement is beyond belief by the employers and their agents. "I assure you," he said, "that the attitude of the employers of labor on both sides of these trades, as the other 40,000 are being organized, is beyond belief by the employers and their agents. I assure you," he said, "that the attitude of the employers of labor on both sides of these trades, as the other 40,000 are being organized, is beyond belief by the employers and their agents.

President Dunn addressed the convention on the matter of the convention adjournment, and stated that the Executive Board had determined to bring to a conclusion all matters of business at the present adjournment.

Following the adjournment, the convention adjourned to the evening session, and the speakers were left to continue their addresses.
who had passed away since the last convention in Philadelphia—Benj. Richlan
ger and Morris Hilles, and the great serv
ice they had rendered to the workers
and to the industry. He spoke in the
same terms of high praise of President
Dobbs, Manager Nagler of the
Cloakmakers' Joint Board, of New
York, and proceeded to describe the
situations as he saw it. "In the
year in which the NRA came into exis
tence," Mr. Alper said, "the Union has not only
regained its lost ground but by courage
and able negotiation has consolidated
all its gains. It has won new power and
respect from every legitimate factor in
the industry. Common necessity has
proved an effective schoolmaster not only
in the industry but out of it."

"But," he added, "in this year of ex
perimentation under the Recovery Ad
ministration, it has been demonstrated
beyond any shadow of a doubt that a
strong union is the basis, the back-ground for a
good code. In those branches of in
dustry where the Union has strength of
members and integrity of leadership
and enforcement of the Code becomes effective.
He declared that the NRA, as an
instrument for code enforcement, is of
immensurate value and has already
proved exceedingly effective in main
taining industrial standards as far as
law and hours are concerned. He cited con
crete examples to prove it."

He concluded his speech by saying that
he realizes that there are defects in the
Recovery Act and that he is not an
impartial observer of its operations, but
is trying to make it succeed so far as our
industry is concerned."

Chairman Alper was given a prolonged
ovation when he concluded his address.

President Dobbs next called on Sid
ney Hillman, chief of the Amalgamated
Clothing Workers, to speak. By way of
introduction, Bro. Dobbs first read the
letter sent by him to President Hill
man immediately after the Code and Bunt
Code was signed on August 7, 1934,
thanksing him in the name of the
LLG. W.U. for his helpfulness in attaining
the work terms in the Code. When
Bro. Hillman got up to speak, the con
vention rose and applauded him to the
school."

President Hillman spoke for nearly an
hour, dwelling at great length on his
personal impressions and experiences as
a member of the NRA Labor Advisory
Board, in code formation and code en
forcement. He said that he considered it
a privilege to have been called in by
the leaders of the LLG.W.U. for advice
during the code hearings in Washington and
that he was happy to have contrib
uted to the success of the code, as he
believed in the National Industrial Re
covery Act," he said, "though far be it
from me to state that it is a perfect in
strumentality or that the National Re
covery Administration has administered
the Act in every case according to the
purpose of those who have put that Act
into effect and made it the law of the
land.""

Hillman Gets Ovation

"I have just read a part of the report
of your General Executive Board where,
as I understand it, you are coming out
for the 35-hour week. I would not at all
promise you that when you meet again
in convention, within two years, thirty
hours would be sufficient to reemploy all
your life workers. It is up to us to in
crease our membership. We must
convince the employers that we want
work for all men. We must improve
our industry. We must have the same
conditions as the other industries. We are
not going to let the other industries
work at a price that we cannot.

"I am happy to be with you," Presi
dent Hillman said, "and I am happy to
be with you, for because yours is the kind of an
organization that will make the NRA what we
want it to be. With organizations like yours, we shall need very few amend
ments to the law. Let us dedicate our
selves to the task of bringing about the organiz
ation within each and every industry in the
country."

The audience rose again and applauded.
The presentation of a wreath of flow
ers by the delegation of Local 1, the
Cloak Operators of New York, served as
a demonstration for a demonstration, followed
by short talks by several delegates on
the present healthy and vigorous condi
tion of the local which only a few years ago suffered from confusion and
factional strife."

President Dobbs then introduced
Major Byers H. Gibb, chairman of the
Keene Code Authority, who spoke of his
experiences in the Keene Code since the
winter of 1934, his experiences in settling in
stitutional disputes during and after the War,
and his strong allegiance to the principle of labor representation on all code au
thorities. "I am glad," he concluded his
speech, "that President Alper has made
me the position where I now find myself,
and as long as I can serve the industry by
resisting in that position, I am glad to
continue to do so."

The beginning of the second week,
Monday, June 4, found the LLG.W.U.
convention meeting at the Medalist
Michigan Avenue Club, in the Morri
son Hotel. Let President Dobbsky's re
marks at the start of the morning session
on that day serve as an explanation for
that change of place."

"I was President Dobbsky."

"When the Medalist Club was rented
by us for this convention some two
months ago, we were promised all re
asonable accommodations. The manage
ment was anxious to have us in that
place; they solicited our patronage.
We advised them that we had representa
tives of all nationalities at our conven
ion and that we were a labor union and
did not share in racial prejudices and
wanted all our delegates to be treated
on an equal footing. They promised
us that there would be no discrimination.

"From the first moment, however,
the hotel stepped into that total, it ap
peared that they didn't intend to live up
to their promises. We were able to
ensure their failure to live up to promises
as far as housing all our delegates and
making us proper service, were concerned,
but there was another thing we could not
swallow—discrimination against some
of our delegates."

We Move to the Morrison

"Such discrimination was reported
to us on several occasions during the con
vention. We took up the matter with the
management and received assurances
that they would be corrected. We gave
them a chance to correct them, but fin
ally we saw that even their final
assurances were not being lived up to,
and last Saturday, before adjourning the
convention, I asked the General Execu
tive Board to meet with me on Sunday
moring. We invited a representative of
Local 22 to be present, and the General
Executives Board decided that, regardless
of additional expense of our organization,
which is committed to the spirit of equa
lity, of justice, of the rights of oppor
tunity, and labor, we must resist that
discrimination, and we de
cided to move our convention out of that
building.

"This should serve as an excuse to
those who suffer from race persecution ev
everywhere. That the LLG.W.U., by
its one, two, or three members, can
offer no protection, is by no means
true, with words, but by supporting
words with proper action."

This statement was met with
enthusiastic approval.

Following this, Mr. Samuel Marks
ey, attorney for the New York
Cloak Joint Board, invited by President Dob
sky to come to the convention, addressed
the delegates, expressing the hope that
"the organized workers will carry on the
fight until some day they will get the
maximum fruits of their labor."

Udorman, Chaun. Giovanni Speik

Markewich was followed by Elise
Lieberman, attorney for the Internation
al, who made his address to the
smaller trades affiliated with the LLG.
W.U. and for the necessity of greater
preparation of such a board as we have
"Our industry has two great trades, coats
and dresses. These are capably taken
over by the unions, as the LLG.W.U.
affiliated to the LLG.W.U. The work
for the small man and the small
trade is necessary for the International to
crush such machinery so that the whole
number of small firms in the miscellaneous
trades shall be given required assistance.
I want to tell you delegates that I feel like
a soldier who has now come from the
front, and I shall obey."

Commissioner of Labor Joseph
M. Tomes of Connecticut, another guest, was
then called upon, and in a short talk, he
announced the LLG.W.U. upon its
splendid work in helping to exterminate
the sweatshops of its own state, Con
necticut, adding the hope that "since
your organization has reached the posi
tion that you are in now, you must
conduct your affairs as to retain that
position and not only retain but go for
ward."

Nathan Chanin, secretary at the Jev
ish Socialist Bund, was the next
speaker, and in his speech, he "burst of applause as he declared: There
were times not so long ago when, all those allies with the varying tongues and manners, were desiring for its future and your International was among those who were affected. The work of this committee, in every way, and other committees, is being done to that end, and bring you closer to your friends and admirers rejoice with you in the permanent and evergrowing nature.

Arturo Giovanni, whom President Dubinsky introduced as a “great post, crete, and philosopher,” and thought of the Italian workers,” next spoke and opened the entire convention to a high pitch of enthusiasm.

A representative of the Jewish labor organizations in Poland-the Bund, the Jewish Workers’ Organization, and the Jewish National Home-grasping the nationalities of that country of the I.L.O.W., S. was given an address. He was followed by a lengthy address by Isaac T. Lowenthal, a former Vice-President of the I.L.O.W., in June. 1930. Lowenthal was given a warm reception and his hope that when we celebrate the 50th anniversary, I shall be among you. I shall do all I can to keep it up.

At the event but also the complete involvement of all men and women who did for a living in this area.

The afternoon session of that day, the Committee on Education—of which Vice-President Breslaw was chairman—was opened by a great address by a speaker from the I.L.O.W. General Secretary, who was followed by a succession of speakers, including the famous editor of the "Jewish Daily Forward," Aldo, and the chief editor of that publication, Abraham Cohen, who spoke on the conditions of life of the Jews in the United States and the part of the country and showed the international for the generous assistance given to the workers by their efforts to organize them properly.

CITIZENSHIP

The eighth day of the convention was dedicated to the topic of "The Right of the People to Labor and Socialism," which was discussed by the Chairman. The convention was opened by a speech by Edward L. Hagerman, NRA Compliance Director for the State of Maryland, who spoke on the condition of the workers in Baltimore garment shops and his determination to follow through on the organization of the workers in the garment industry.

The flood of addresses continued.

A talk by Joseph Spratling, representing the American Federation of Labor, received with loud applause by the delegates, was followed by a letter from Mrs. Annabelle Glenn, editor of the "Junior Union Section of the American Federationist," which was read by the chairman of the committee on child labor in the garment industry, to the committee on child labor in the garment industry.

Before the morning session came to a close, Mr. Richard Rainman, one of the key speakers, read a letter from his colleague at the press conference indicating appreciation to President Dubinsky for his courtesy in the treatment of the members of the Fourth Congress, and presented it to the press, a clear case with "our administration." He also congratulated the workers on their success in "living as you keep it, and yours generous heart will beat against it.

The afternoon session of the eighth day was taken up by reports of the Committee on Organization and the Committee on Labor Legislation. A delegation of workers, taken up by an address delivered by the Governor of Illinois, Henry H. Horner, expressed the desire of the I.L.O.W. to "grow stronger and broader in its influence."

The morning of the ninth day was devoted to a discussion of resolutions presented by the Committee on Resolution.

Before the session closed, however, the convention heard an address delivered by Matthew Woll, Vice-President of the I.L.O.W., in which he expressed the desire of the convention to "widen the inquiring capitalist system."

CITIZENSHIP

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The afternoon session of the ninth day was consumed largely by a report of the Committee on Law, of which Vice-President Salvatore Nitti was chairman. Before the session came to a close, the delegates were treated to an interesting address delivered by Jay Lovestone, in which he said: "Our work is not yet done. We have but begun the advance."

The keynote speaker to address the convention was R. C. Vladeck, general counsel of the "Labor Leader," whom President Dubinsky introduced in glowing terms as a man "who is not only a leader of our Union, but a part of the country, and is vitally concerned with everything we do."

Vladeck spoke to the convention, and the I.L.O.W. was in agreement, that "we are the fighters inside the trade unions, which we consider the most all-inclusive, the organization of the working class, which includes people, taking in people of all sorts, all colors and all political opinions." He also said that "we are the fighters inside the trade unions, which we consider the most all-inclusive, the organization of the working class, which includes people, taking in people of all sorts, all colors and all political opinions."

Jay Lovestone spoke for nearly half an hour and outlined in detail the stand of the political group which he represents in regard to the trade union movement in the United States. He maintained that "it is the duty of Com."
Locate Sweatshop in Conn. Barnn

BY BERNARD SHUB
Connecticut State Organizer I.L.G.W.U.

Upon my return from Chicago, I found several complaints to the effect that somewhere, outside of Bridgeport, there was a small farm barn which called for immediate attention.

I immediately proceeded to investigate and before long found a "shop," under the name of Morris Novelty Co., located on a farm in Monroe, Conn., operated by two men, Abraham Mahler and one Mojetzki.

I found this sweat nest in a small barn where eight sewing machines were cramped within a narrow space, making children's dresses and full-line dresses for the following New York jobbers.

The last day of the convention began with the completion of the report of the Committee on Resolutions, which was announced about an hour.

At 10:30, the convention was ready for its last business, the nomination and election of a president, a general secretary-treasurer and of a complete General Executive Board and delegates to the American Federation of Labor convention.

First Vice-President, Salvador Nino

First Vice-President Salvador Nino, by a letter, announced that the challenge for the presidency was open to nominations. Vice-President, Isaac Lifschitz, in a short and eloquent address, nominated President Dubinsky, saying, "I am pleased to announce that the entire membership of the Local have endorsed him as the worthy successor of Local 10," as president. In a moment, the motion to make the nomination was carried by a vote of one vote carried amidst cheers and applause, and David Dubinsky was re-elected unanimously as president of the I.L.G.W.U.

Dubinsky Becomes President and Secretary-Treasurer

At that point, as the nominations for general secretary-treasurer of this section, Max D. Daniels, editor of JUSTICE, read, by permission of the chair, a resolution introduced by the delegations of Locals 1, 9, 30, 39, 48, 49 and 19, the resolution read as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Convention, in full convention, and of these facts and being the supreme legislature and executive of the International Ladies' Garment Work- ers' Union, hereby vote for the next two years the classes in our minority (A) of the recommendation and the majority report and the discussion on the subject will be dropped for the next five years, the petitioners or those interested. The Committee on Officers' Report concluded its report by taking action on the nomination of Morris Blais, Elias Reibel, Earl Hoffman, Phyllis Kramer, George Fromm, Charles Kreindler, Abraham W. Katsisky, and Rose Pesotta.

The candidates were nominated for the 10 places on the list of the New York members of the General Executive Board, a ballot was required and the teller committee was appointed, which consisted of Mears, Hoffman, Fiehr, Lifshitz, Lippol, Morgenspan, Rohman, Gerster, Veneziani, Fainstein, and the choice of the people being announced by the I.L.G.W.U.

1st Vice-President

It was resolved that the special action by this Convention be tendered to our President-Dubinsky, as an expression of the highest esteem and admiration felt towards him and his perseverance leadership by the entire membership of our International Union represented at this Convention.

Brother Daniel, in the name of the members, the motion was voted upon and carried and the question of the nomination of a general secretary-treasurer was in this manner disposed of.

The next business was the nomination and election of a first vice-president and treasurer, which was both nominated, that their names were the appointment of the committee.

After some discussion, Brother Daniel moved a motion which was seconded and carried, motion which was strengthened by Brother Leist. The president was unanimously elected to the post of first vice-president, and Brother Daniel moved a motion, which was strenuously supported by President David Dubinsky, Brother Schatzke Nitto was nominated and elected vice-president by acclamation.

One after another, then followed the nominations for delegates to the 20th and 21st conventions of the American Federation of Labor, all of which were accepted and elected:

-American Garment, Local Lander and Henry Finkel, the election of a delegate, the Board of Education, and Abraham Solyder, Robert Beckerman and Nathan Margolisa, for the representation of the American Federation of Labor.

For the out-of-town vice-presidents, the following eight were nominated and elected:


I believe this is one of the last unsavory relics of the sweatshop in Connecticut, the kind that thrived on the scores more before the I.L.G.W.U. came into this State and organized the women's garment workers. This story of a "barn sweatshop" created quite a storm in the local press and The Bridgeport Herald carried it, several days on the front page with photographs of the "factory" and of the charge, it was left for the workers, who worked for 30 cents.

HELEN WAGNER
School Child Shop Worker

Barney Davis, 80th-810th Avenue; Universal Dress, 500-510 Avenue; Magie Frocks, 315 W. 11th Street, and Boulevard, 310-312 11th Avenue; Children's Department; 10-14 Years Old—Employed

It was unbelievable to end that this "factory" was employing, in June, 1934, children between the ages of 12 and 14.

I personally interviewed one of the children, 12 years old, who is the daughter of a Monroe farmer and attends the Otes-

Any other children, about 15 and 14

were employed in that shop, all women and children. Other amazing facts that I discovered were that a girl of 13, a sister of Ethel Wagner, Helen, had worked as many as 74 hours in one week, including Saturday and Sunday, for which she received the grand sum of $4 and some change. It is needless to say that we were not interested in unmasking or organizing this "shop." My primary interest was to eliminate this sweating nest and, if possible, to collect some back pay due to the girls, which, in my estimation would about 10 to 12.

I took this matter up with the State Department of Labor, a result of which both proprietors were placed under arrest. They were tried for violation of the State labor laws for working women excessive hours and for employing minors.

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Our Regular Feature—"N.Y. Dressmakers' Section" Will Be Resumed in the Next Issue of "Justice"

Page Fourteen
July 25, 1934

JUSTICE

Cutter's News and Events

by SAMUEL PERLMUTTER
Manager of Local 10

In view of the fact that last month's issue of JUSTICE was chiefly an "Anniversary Number," containing greetings from various organizations, labor movement, and historical reviews and sketches of our organization since its inception, we feel it appropriate for us to report in that number the routine work of our local, and instead of that we have a brief history of Local 10 from its birth under the caption "Cutter's Union, Sixty-five Years Old." It is important, however, as a matter of record, that the members of Local 10 get the report of our election of delegates to the 21st Incentive Conven-

tion. It will be given to you in the next issue. This natural-
laying power of the "rational" in our membership.

Our nominations were held on April 21 and the election campaign was rather tense. The voting took place on the same day as the stockholders' meeting of the company. Some members participated in it, the largest delegation we had at a convention. This, naturally, is one of the tremendous losses in our membership.

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The Spirit of the Convention

Brother Louis Stutberg was elected as chairman of the convention to take care of the details of the convention, especially the one that involved Local 10.

Three days before leaving for Chicago, a "stand-off" lunchbox was given in honor of the delegates at the Central Plaza Hall, at which over 500 members were present. The spirit which prevailed at that lunchbox was, beyond a doubt, the most fraternal witnessed in the convention in 10 years. It was regrettable that this lunchbox was arranged in a hurry and that a large hall could not be made available, but the spirit of the delegates anxious to attend were unable to procure tickets. Among the speakers at the lunchbox were L. Jay Bullock, Julius Romach, Phillip Kapp, Ildorse Nagler, Sam Greenberg, Manager Perlmutter, Ben Shapiro, a member of the convention, and Joe Abramowitz. Louis Stutberg was toastmaster.

Immediately after the lunchbox, the delegation, accompanied by hundreds of cutters, left for Grand Central Station, where two trains, reserved for the L.L.G.O.W. were waiting. The delegation consisted of: greetings, handshaking, cheering and song, left for Chicago.

Convention Most Harmonious in History of Internationals

Since 1925, this Convention was the best attended in the history of the L.L.G.O.W.

The spirit which prevailed among the delegates from the different parts of the United States and Canada was most friendly and cooperative. Even resolutions which involved sharp differences of opinion on matters of jurisdiction and policy were decided upon in the most friendly spirit. The bitterness and the sharp feelings of the past were all but forgotten. Our organization intends to extend its activities in other fields as ways in which the International can make itself known to the public.

Boycott Garments Made in Germania

Acting on a communication received from our President, Mr. J. M. May, President of the Labor Council, referring to the resolution, calling for the boycott of Germania-made garments, it was decided to express thanks and appreciation for this splendid action taken by the local body.

ATTENTION

All cutters and their friends are invited to the celebration of the 21st Incentive Convention to be held on July 25, 1934, at 7:00 p.m., at 155 West 34th Street. The exercises will start at 7:15 and will be continued until 10:00 p.m. All cutters and their friends are invited to attend. The program will include a special address by L. Jay Bullock, a member of the convention, and a speech by J. M. May, President of the Labor Council.

ATTENTION, CUTTERS!

MEMBERS OF LOCAL 10

ATTENTION, CUTTERS! MEMBERS OF LOCAL 10

The convention for the election of officers for the year

will take place in the order as here

arranged.

E. F. Membership Meeting

Monday, July 15, 1934

R. E. Membership Meeting

Monday, July 15, 1934

The above meetings will be held in the offices of

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new their working cards begin-

ning July 14, 1934, for the next season.

All cutters must be in good standing when obtaining a new job.

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THE GREAT CONVENTION the I.L.G.W.U., has ever held is over, as was the fill, the greatest in number of union members, who represented, by far, the largest membership this Union ever had on its rolls. As a pageant, recording the spectacular rise of the I.L.G.W.U., it was a rate of success in the position of commanding influence in one of America's greatest consumer industries, it exceeded in glamour anything attempted by a labor union heretofore. Its greatest triumph, perhaps, consisted in the conviction it brought to the leadership of the organization that the huge gains it made in the preceding year by enlisting nearly 150,000 new members were not bookkeeping gains but that they represent substantial, dependable divisions of workers fast maturing into seasoned and militant trade unionists.

There was glory, pathos and drama galore at every session, at every hour of this memorable gathering. There were speeches without end—and it seemed every organization and institution on the map of the land was eager to have its words heard by the throngs of fedoras, parades, outings, dinners, and parties to fill in every vacant hour along the two-week stretch of the meeting. Yet, there was much more than joy-taking and Simon-pure celebrating at Chicago. As once, during its twenty-one sessions, the convention failed to lay emphasis on the fact that in chief duty was to consolidate and to hold fast to the acquisitions the International has made and that the surest way of holding on to gains is to proceed to spread out activity and to conquer fields as yet unconquered.

The far-flung network of new organizing enterprises which the convention has mapped out for the incoming General Executive Board is unchallenged testimony to the activist and militant spirit which prevailed at Chicago. It has bequeathed to the leadership of the I.L.G.W.U. an immense task for the next two years. There is reason for hope that, barring unforeseen at this hour circumstances, the new General Executive Board, under the tireless direction of President Dubinsky, will come to the n.o. convention with this task realized—a ladies' garment industry one hundred per cent unionized.

THE CHICAGO CONVENTION reflected the entire General Executive Board for another administrative term. It added six additional members to its personnel—four from New York and two from markets outside New York.

There was, of course, nothing unexpected in the re-election of the G.E.B. The leadership of the I.L.G.W.U., "came through" in 1933-1934 in the creative body of the I.L.G.W.U.

The finest—and unique—tribute paid by the convention to a leader unquestionably, nevertheless, was its decision, without a dissenting voice, to vote in President Dubinsky for the next two years the powers of general secretary-treasurer in addition to his duties as president of the organization. In this decision the convention was act at all prompted by jingoistic considerations but by the urgent necessity of retaining in one heart and soul a leader who, through the years, had given the union steady and determined leadership.

The American Federation of Labor, to President William Green and to Vice-President Matlack Wall—who presided over the jurisdiction hearings. Peace in the knitting garment industry, certainly has come near this också under the leadership of the employers' groups on the eve of the renewal of agreements which expire on July 15. Already, several of these knitting garment manufacturers have seen fit to rush into the press with statements that they "would resist the efforts of the Union to improve its improved work conditions and that they, anyway, would not deal with a "red-y-to-wear" union such as ours. This statement, as President Dubinsky distinctly pointed out in his reply to these belligerent employers, means a declaration of war. It forecasts a fight in the knitting garment industry, and while the I.L.G.W.U. would prefer to settle the question of agreement renewal without a recourse to warfare, if the employers court a fight, the Union will be ready to accommodate them—this time with a solid line of all the workers in the shops.

WE CAN NOT RECALL A MORE DRAMATIC MOMENT—in two weeks replete with tense excitement and endless animation—than the incident which prompted Acts That Fit Words the General Executive Board to move the convention from the Medinah Avenue Club to the Morrison Hotel because the former hotel discriminated against our Negro delegates.

Moving a convention of 420 delegates and several hundred guests on short notice is not an easy matter aside from the added expense such a transfer inevitably involves. But the General Executive Board did not hesitate for a moment. Within two hours, the entire machinery of the convention was moved to the new headquarters and by the next morning the sessions proceeded undisturbed at the Morrison Hotel.

To our best recollection, this is the first instance on record of a big labor organization in the United States actively and demonstratively taking sides on behalf of racial equality in the labor movement.

The convention went far beyond paying mere lip service to the principle of fair play to all races and nationalities. It struck a blow for this principle in three tough and important undertakings: (1) the evictions by the local in Chicago of the "Jew Crew" Medinah Club for the more liberal atmosphere of the Morrison Hotel. (2) The adoption of the following resolution: "We are a labor union and we do not share in racial prejudices. We are committed to the principle of equality, of justice and of resistance to oppression. It was natural for us actively to resist this discrimination against workers, our members, of our Union, on the basis of their race, color or nationality. It was just a case of supporting words by proper action."

THE ADJUSTMENT OF THE JURISDICTIOMAL controversy between the I.L.G.W.U. and the United Textile Workers of America with regard to the Knitted Garment Workers Getting Ready for Action industry, which developed during the past months was creating a disturbance and hindering materially the organizing activity in that large trade, has met with widespread approval among the workers in the knit garment shops and in the Labor movement as a whole.

The settlement, which recognizes the respective rights of the knitters and the garment makers in that industry, offers a workable machinery, through joint councils, to both unions and it also lays the groundwork for unhampered and successful organizing work. Credit for this achievement, besides

FOR A FULL WEEK, in the latter part of June, the center of interest in the I.L.G.W.U. shifted to Washington, to the hearings on the reopening of the Cotton Garment Code.

The Cotton Garment Code Hearings were ordered by the NRA at the request of our Union, the Amalgamated Clothing Workers and the United Garment Workers.

It is estimated that over 60,000 workers employed in the cotton and wash dress factories in every part of the country. These factories operate under the Cotton Garment Code on a 40-hour schedule and under a $13 weekly wage minimum. Quotas are frequently and wash dress factories belong under the Dress Code. At the hearings we, therefore, demanded a 35-hour week, an increase in wages, a definite wage scale for cutters, and the transfer of the garment industry and its trade to the regular code for the Dress Industry.

Our representatives pointed out at these hearings that the longer hours of the Cotton Garment Code hindered the re-employment of the idle in that industry and that their low conditions and down the purchasing power of these workers; that the so-called cotton shops were manufacturing rayon, silk and wool dresses in unfair competition to the regular dress shops and to the detriment of workers in all dress shops. The employers' association in the cotton garment industry stubbornly resisted the Union's demands by raising sectional and racial issues, and by predicting disaster and dire consequences to the industry in the event the condition of their workers is improved. They also invoked the aid of a half a dozen members of Congress who came to these hearings to plead the cause of low wages and long work-hours at the behest of the cotton garment factory owners.

Dubinsky's statement at this moment. Conferences for a time will continue. The actual vital dispute is decided upon by the NRA Administration. It is, nevertheless, quite evident that we are confronting in this situation with powerful opposition. The administration must utilize these resources to win improved work conditions for these tens of thousands of workers and eventually curb exploitation of labor in the cotton and wash dress industry.