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International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)
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International Ladies’ Garment Workers’ Union, ILGWU, labor unions, clothing workers, textile workers, garment workers, garment industry, New York, United States

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.
“Strikes Cannot Be Settled by Legislative Decree”—Truman

President Truman’s veto of the Case bill was not unexpected. Since he had opposed the bill from the start, his veto was logical. It will be stated that this veto of a bill which was definitely irresistible to labor is a sound victory for labor. There can be no doubt of that. We claim, nevertheless, that it was a victory for the entire country, including industry. Even more than the Smith-Connally Act, the Case measure would have been a potential breeder of strikes and strikes and an incubator of limitless court litigation.

It will be asserted, of course, that the Case bill veto is a political move. This may substantially be true; few legislative or major administrative moves are devoid of political motivation and background. Nevertheless, it is safe to assume that the President and his advisers “heard from the country” and concluded that America does not want vengeful anti-labor laws at this hour even if the most unrepresentative Congress within memory is ready to scalp labor out of sheer vindictiveness.

Here is the final paragraph of President Truman’s veto message: “Equality for both (employers and employees) and vigilance for the public welfare; these should be the watchwords of future legislation. The bill which I am returning to you does not meet those standards.”

Coast to Coast

Los Angeles: ILG Kirk-Weideman Concord
Impresses Whole West Coast

Kingston: ILG Signing Up Shops
Despite ACWA Raiders

New York: Neckwear Campaign Nets
1,000 New ILG Members

San Antonio: Health Fund Created
As Ass’n Renewes Pact

Canada: Cloak Firms’ Scheme Balked
By Montreal, Toronto Unions

Birmingham: Department Stores Yield
To ILG Alteration Workers

Cleveland: Cloak Weekly Earnings
To Par with Piecrates

Newark: Roselle Frocks Pact
Won After 12-Yr. Fight

Philadelphia: ILG Solidarity Assures
Elevator Men’s Strike

Boston: ILG Laundered for Role in
Passing Mass. FEP Law

“The Face of a Nation”
Cleveland Report

Cloak Week-end Workings
Lagging Behind Piecereaters

In the Cleveland cloak industry, the earnings of the week-workers and pressers and finishers are lagging behind the earnings enjoyed by the piece-workers and the union is seeking to bring them into line, according to Nathan Solomon, secretary-treasurer of Local 40, I.L.G.U. of Cleveland.

Even though they are piece-workers, the pressers and finishers were informed by their union officials that they have won a 10 per cent wage increase. This increase will start July 1 and will bring up the rate set rates derived from the "body" department of the industry only.

However, other piece-rate crafts were not included because it was stated that the various departmental committees have been able to keep pace with rising labor costs and the rising needs of the workers they represent.

The formula promulgated by the War Labor Board in 1943 when the cloak industry was in negotiations for a wage increase last January, is still in effect.

Negotiations are now in progress, with several silk dress manufacturers, within the industry, for a new contract with the I.L.G.U.W. Among those present, the president of the Guild, has been renewed with a 10 per cent increase for piece-workers, a 15 per cent increase for pressers, and a 10 per cent increase for finishers. These increases are in addition to the 10 per cent increase made last January.

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Local 40 Endorses 1/2 Day Relief Fund

Acting wholeheartedly to endorse a recommendation of their executive board, the members of Local 40, Biltmakers, at a meeting June 3 voted to contribute a half-day's pay to the I.L.G.U.W. Relief Fund during the month of June. Among the first to act on the recommendation of the I.L.G.U.W. General Executive Board that a relief fund be raised through voluntary contributions of a half-day's pay.

Local 40 member heard a stirring report by manager Henry Scharf, presenting a detailed picture of the families that now are added areas of the world.

The enthusiastic response that greeted Manager Scharf's appeal to the workers of the American industry to cooperate in helping the hungry was indicated by the enthusiastic response to the conclusion of his report. In moving for the adoption of the resolution, the speaker, an energetic campaigner, the carrying out of this program was seconded by another worker, Mrs. Summan of the Vale Belt Co.

Items of Interest

A strike which threatened to interfere with the gathering of the order of the I.O.O.F. was settled out of court Wednesday night by the members. It was learned here that the strike, which had been called by the members, was called by the members.

The official declaration of the Philadelphia Dress Joint Board was made by Miss Mary E. W. at the meeting on June 7. It was determined to the week-end of June 28, because of the recent spell of unfavorable weather. Another factor causing the delay was the shortage of labor. Members of Local 40, I.L.G.U.W. are responsible to have the cottage ready for occupancy on the date set.

According to the Health Insurance Fund - Vacation Committees present indications are that the workers will be able to complete their vacation requirements. A delegation from the Philadelphia Dress Joint Board will be set up to discuss the matter with the fund. The Health Insurance Fund at the week-end the opening of the Philadelphia cottage vacations on July 1.

The week beginning June 18 will mark the distribution of vacation checks to the approximate 15,000 members of the Philadelphia Dress Joint Board. The amount of each check will range from a minimum of 90 to a maximum of $500. All vacation checks will be handed out at the local headquarters.

A schedule is being prepared to cover the week-end and to provide distribution of the vacation checks by means of a staggered system for each shop. Workers will be advised in advance to come in advance for the early fall.

"Zimmy"s Last Assignment

Hundrels of I.O.O.F. members and officers paid their last respects to the late local Zimmerman, Scranton district manager, who died on May 30, at his home in Hazleton, on June 2.

The official declaration of the Philadelphia Dress Joint Board at Unity House, originally scheduled for June 7, has been postponed to the week-end of June 28 because of the recent spell of unfavorable weather. Another factor causing the delay was the shortage of labor. Members of Local 40, I.L.G.U.W. are responsible to have the cottage ready for occupancy on the date set.

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The Republic of Italy

For among the millions of Americans of Italian descent will shed a tear over the demise of the Italian monarchy. Americans, in general, will derive satisfaction from the fact that this Italian people, which has been the House of ‘Lombardy’ since 1815, has been a republic in its place—and not by a violent upheaval but by a torrent of republican ballots. The Italian election returns have also revealed that 22 years ofnasal rule have struck deep roots among the masses of her people and that Italy is truly ready for a democratic republic. Italy was the first of the Axis powers to overthrow a totalitarian dictatorship, and to cast her lot as an active co-belligerent on the side of the Allies. The Italian people have since(array)

An Editorial

proven that they should not be confused with their fascist betayers. The Italian Republic, however, still has a hard road to travel before it reaches the high status of American leadership. But there is a measure of popular prosperity for the long-suffering Italian people. It still has to win a just and generous peace; it still has to attain domestic tranquility; it still has to assure bread and a higher standard of living for her impoverished masses. In this rebirth of democracy in Italy, the industrial populations of North and Central Italy, where labor organization is strongest, played the leading and most responsible role. The organized workers of America will not overlook this revealing fact as they greet the newly born Republic of Italy.

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Anti-Labor Onslaught Proves 3rd Party Needed—Dubinsky

Following are some excerpts from address delivered by President David Dubinsky on June 4, 1946, at the convention of the United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers' Union at the Hotel New Yorker.

"...Even the police at the other end, I came across a recommendation made by the late President Max Zarfisky, in favor of a sitting at a hearing for the purpose of constituting to keep throughout the reconstruction period. I felt that he was saying something good in spite of this proposal with regard to your own union and that it is something that might have been justified in making a real revolution in the industrial Union. You undoubtedly know that we have had practically no strikes in the past 14 years, gaining all our work improvements through the cooperation and labor relations program."

"...I am not ready to concede that the steel workers or even the miners could have won their demands without strikes. In our case, as well as in your case, it took 26 or 60 years of toil and suffering, and for our employers to become aware of the situation and the challenges as they did old years ago. It is obvious that the idea of progress which has brought stability and an approach of equality in our industries."

"Organized labor took the offensive. It had the strength that was necessary. It had the sound forecussion that became a vehicle for the most effective offensive against labor. Labor therefrom, it could use the power of the state with the result that its position now has been immensely strengthened and has become the status of the different alliances, that is, the one we have been fighting the 'Wages War.'"

"When the war broke out in December, 1941, we were asked not to strike during the period of non-belligerent nations. We were not responsive to that call by this time."

"...but when the same call was addressed to the steel industry, the call to industry and management with that specific request that they not limit their profits individually to a net of $50,000, a torrent of complaints came from every corner of industry, from West to East, from North to South."

"...unbelievably 'patriotic' during the war, we are today condemning labor because of its meager earnings, its wages, and improved working conditions."

"...organized labor in America, every war the right to strike is not something to be jousted with. In our judgment, the fact that the America..."

"...we as free men, this is the all-important principle. Thank God that the CIO is there to see that we can strike for better conditions..."

Leaders of American Liberalism

Joe Shaplen Death Grieves U.S. Labor; Long on N.Y. Times

Joseph Shaplen, veteran member of the New York Times staff and a long-time editor of the paper, died in his apartment on June 4. He had been ill since last September.

A native of Russia, Shaplen entered journalism while in his teens as a junior reporter for the Yiddish Daily "Frume." He later transferred to the "Public Ledger," where he worked until sent to Russia by the ILGWU in 1931. Shaplen's knowledge of Russian people and his politics came first to the US labor movement when he was called to represent the revolution of 1937 for the United Front. The bitterness of his hostility led him to take an active part in Russian politics after the outbreak of the war. Later, he became editor of the "International" and advanced labor world affairs for that paper from Rome, Geneva and other capitals. He joined the staff of the New York Times" in 1929.

As labor experts, Joe Shaplen had a vast scope in this country, and in recent years covered national labor relations of the AFL, the CIO and of many international unions, including the ILGWU. He had numerous friends in the labor movement who admired his great resilience and skill, and were impressed with his integrity and genuine sympathy and understanding of the workers' movement."

"...for we are at a crossroads and in the course of negotiations. This was the case with the employers and the negotiations should be completed within a month or two.

"...during the course of negotiations, it was obvious that no agreement could be reached between the AFL and the CIO, and the union extended the deadline to May 31. Now, after more than four months of unsuccess- ful negotiations, it is obvious that the Montreal Dress Manufacturers Guild is prosaicating.

"...we have notified the Montreal Dress Manufacturing Guild that Jerry Nadler, president, that beginning with June 1, 1946, the union will not be bound by any verbal un- derstanding, which has given them an agreement for that period. The union reserves the right to strike on that point, if the contract terms do not meet the workers' demands."

Deliberate stalling by the Montreal Dress Manufacturing Guild was charged last week by Bernard Shaine, ILGWU General Organizer in Montreal. Branding the employer group's tactics as "excessively protracted," he indicated the union's de- cision to bring their workers to a "demand for a renewal agreement on June 14."

The contract expires on June 14, and the workers are demanding improvements in provisions for the same wages, hours of work, and the establishment of a retirement plan."

Dress Organizing Drive (A vigorous drive to organize as estimated 150 non-union dress plants has been launched in Toronto. The campaign will include a series of weekly media and public program that will feature a series of regular weekly broadcasts over radio station CJOY every Thursday at 8:30 PM. These broadcasts will start on June 14, presenting Madeleine Corbin, local 269, and also the "most promising" of the area's most prominent radio hostesses.

NEW YORK TIMES REDUCE DRESS HOURS

After several weeks of negoti- ations between the Dress Manufacturers of Toronto, Canada, have signed an agreement granting their workers a shorter work week and a vacation and vacation fund to which employ- ees will contribute to help reduce payroll, it is reported by Man- ray R. D. Leper.

Charges the agreement, unanimously approved by the dress- makers at a meeting on June 6, provide for time and one-half rates for work after 1 P.M. for three legal holidays; and a joint em- ployee-worker petition to the government to make home work in the dress industry.

Clack Ass's Foiled

An abusive maneuver by the dress employers of Montreal and Toronto has led to separate negoti- ations by the clack unions in these two markets but also on the basis of Montreal demands and Toronto agreements.

Both groups of employers had originally put forth a demand that the negotiations be held in a joint manner, but the employers declined to negotiate. They appeared to be unwilling to accept the fact that they would be able to play off one market against the other. The employers claimed that this was a necessary step for a future hope.

According to the employers, the un- derwriting of a change of heart, seemed to be the only way to go. But the union has helped itself into this more by drawing an identical past pattern.
As ILGWU Veterans Make Mory

More than 100 members and guests attended the installation dinner of the ILGWU Veterans' Organiz-

A Flying Fortress, a copy of the "Readers Digest," a letter to Vice Pres. Julius Hochman from Athens, Greece, and the New York telephone directory were some of the unusual items that led up to a heart-warming little drama enacted late

The conference adjourned to a banquet at the hotel tendered by the local, ILGWU Dress Workers, local 22, educational director. Their remarks were concluded in singing of favorite labor songs, the conference adjourned with a brief talk on the mounting issues of peaceful labor-management relations.

Murray Orent, assistant to General Manager Julius Hochman, chairman of the installation dinner, before closing the floor opened with a discussion on the great traditions they inherit. We must develop a deeper appreciation of what is involved in the union's activity in functioning as a constructive, progressive institution in the community. We hope that out of this conference will arise the new ones on your part to acquire the information and ideas which are necessary for active leadership in the union.

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On the floor of the New York Dress Joint Board, while it was at session on Dec. 14, 1943, when a Flying Fortress out of Italy was shot down, a letter written by Captain Jose Naro of the New York Dress Joint Board, as witnessed in the New York Times, said: "We have received your message from Captain Naro. We want to express our appreciation to you for your kindness in helping us, and look forward to the day when we can return the favor. We are confident that the day will come soon, and we will be there to greet you."

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**New Italy Must Be Free Of Internal Tyrannies**

A new Italy is arising from these ruins—a democratic, republican, humanistic and Christian Italy. The new Italy must be an Italy free from internal tyrannies and foreign influence; it is an Italy that would correspond to the ideals and the interests not only of the Italian-Americans but of all those who live in the United States and in America's policy in the world.


**Struggling Italy Facing New Problems**

Though unable to be present at the Madison Square Garden rally, my feelings are with the Italian-American Labor Council for a just peace for Italy. Being a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, I urge the Italian-Americans to be united in the support of the anti-war movement, by sending the Red Cross to all war zones.

—Senator Marchetti, U.S. Senator for Italy.

**Italy's Long Hope Finally Come True**

The following resolution was adopted at the Italian-American Labor Council meeting on June 19 at Madison Square Garden under the chairmanship of the Italian-American Labor Council. First Vice Pres. Luigi Antonini, as president of the Council, chaired the meeting.

A representing of American members of the Italian delegation and their friends filled the auditorium to give support to the leaders in politics and labor demand justice for the Italian-Americans. Many of the speakers expressed their desire to see Italy free and untroubled. Governor Dewey, addressing the assembly by telephone from Albany, called upon the United States and its allies to meet their obligations to the Italian-Americans by making that country a fully-fledged partner and to bring about full recognition of our country as well as Italy on the road toward the fulfillment of peace-loving nations.

The Governor also expressed the hope that the United States would continue to resist the "crushing demands of the Soviet Union for $500,000,000,000 of our gold and the control of Tripolitania." The Ambassador to the United States was well received by the audience.

—Senator Marchetti, U.S. Senator for Italy.

**As Thousands Laud New Italian Republic and Urge Prompt Peace**

The New Italian Republic was roundly lauded by thousands of people present at the Madison Square Garden rally today. The Italian-Americans, along with other nations, are supporting the cause of peace and justice.

—Senator Marchetti, U.S. Senator for Italy.

**Justice and Tomorrow**

The hand of friendship and support has been extended by Americans of all creeds and national origins to the people of Italy, the only republic to have emerged from the ashes of the last war. In their hour of greatest need, the Italian people were the first to offer help to the American people, and the bond of friendship forged through their sacrifices shall be strengthened.

—Senator Marchetti, U.S. Senator for Italy.
A Quick Strike—and a Good One

The EOT Cloak Division is striking some new contusions as we write this week. A number of new plants have been opened up in recent weeks. These include the new plant at Johnson City, New York, which is reported to have over 500 workers and is expected to employ over 1,000 within the next year. The division has also signed contracts with several other plants in the area, including those in Johnson City, New York, and Binghamton, New York. The combined workforce of these plants will be over 2,000, with an additional 500 workers expected to be hired in the coming months.

Between-Season Lull

Many of our shops have not been too busy during the last few weeks. This is partly due to the high unemployment rate in the area, which has fallen to 10%. The division has been very active, however, with over 500 workers employed at the Johnson City plant alone. They have been working long hours, often for more than 12 hours a day, in order to meet the demands of the high customer base. The division is planning to open a new plant in the area in the near future, which will create over 500 new jobs.

EOT Forges On in Kingston

Despite Rival Union Raids

A serious attempt is being made by the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America to organize the garment shops in Kingston, N.Y., area, launched several months ago by the Eastern Out-of-Town Department. The division has already brought more than 100 workers into the fold, and the membership continues to grow.

The EOT division has made significant gains in the area, with over 500 workers now employed. It is hoped that this will continue, and that the division will be able to increase its membership in the coming months.

EOT Vacations, Speeding Along

Are Swelled by Extra $250,000

More than $250,000 will be added to the total amount of vacation benefits to be distributed this year to workers employed in shops under the jurisdiction of the Eastern Out-of-Town Department, according to preliminary estimates made by the Welfare Division of the EOT.

The Welfare Division is now engaged in drawing up the thousands of checks which will soon be sent out to workers on their way to vacation-bound ILGWU members. The team of coordinators is working with almost perfect speed in an effort to make the benefits available to the workers before the vacation season begins. It is expected that the dreamlike

Fuld & Hatch Frolic Marks ILGWU Election Victory

Local 168, Cohoes, N.Y., enthusiastically celebrated its recent NLGB triumph over CIO rivals with party attended by right to left Louis Shulberg, ILGWU director of organization; Edward C. Schnering, John Hodge and James F. Cobert of the United Tailors Workers; James Hayes, Edith Clermont, Stephanie Ullela, local president, and Edward Blunt, Charles Benette, Thomas Grogen and Manager Edward Spriter.

Roselle Frock Signs After 12-Year Effort

More than 12 years after the first efforts by the Eastern Out-of-Town Department to organize the firm known as Roselle Frock, an agreement has been signed bringing union conditions and wage increases for the 450 workers employed in the firm, according to an announcement by Vice President Ray Van Houten.

Roselle Frock, located in Roselle, N.J., and established in 1910, has been a leader in the production of women's dresses. The firm was one of the first in the industry to introduce the use of synthetic fibers, which revolutionized the fashion industry. The company has a long history of innovation and excellence, and its products are still highly sought after today.

The agreement, which was reached last week at ILGWU headquarters in New York, brings a 85% increase in the wages of the workers employed in the Roselle plant and shortens their work-week to 37½ hours. The agreement covering the workers in the two Pennsylvania shops provides for a 28% increase in wages and a further contribution of 1½ cents per dollar of pay to a health and vacation fund. The agreement becomes effective in the Pennsylvania shops on Sept. 1.

The first EOT organization drive against this firm, which manufactures women's hosiery, was made in 1914 as part of a general campaign to organize garment workers in New York. The drive was marked by a bitter 10-week strike during which

Crochet, with 30 workers; Castelli Closet Co., with 25 workers; and Cucillio Fashions, New York, with 45 workers; and Roselle Frock, Roselle, N.J., with 40 workers. All these firms have joined the division's ranks and are expected to receive substantial benefits. Their working hours are cut from 9 to 8, their wages have been raised, and a number of other union advantages have been gained.

Vacation Checks Near

With vacation time drawing near, everybody’s mind is upon the matter. It is likely to be one of the chief features of the holidays, and one that will be welcome. It is true that the vacation check will be distributed or about July 15. It is true that the vacation check will be distributed, but the delay cannot be avoided. We had been hoping to make the vacation payments at an earlier date. Much to our regret, however, the matter cannot be settled at this time. The amount of personal benefits given to employees, however, is still not decided. It will be sometime before the vacation is paid, and the employees have been paid.

During the entire period, for virtually all the time, the EOT was laying the groundwork for complete organization of garment workers in the area, and even after the drive began to bear its first fruits with the organization of six plants, no Amalgamated employees were on the scene. Just before this month, this situation appeared in Kingston. However, instead of tackling the short plants, such as the Huller and Presedo, which are in great need of unionization and its jurisdiction, the Amalgamated organized turned to the shops already on the verge of organizing the EOT.

While there is no question that the work is difficult, the division has shown that it can be done. The work has been carried out in a systematic and organized manner, with the result that the division has been able to make significant gains in the area. It is expected that the division will continue to make progress, and that the gains it has made will continue to increase in the coming months.

Case Bill Menace

The Case bill represents one of the most vicious pieces of anti-labor legislation hatched by U.S. Senator during the last Congress. The bill has been introduced in several states throughout the country and has been passed in several states. The bill is designed to weaken the rights of organized labor in the state. It is a highly unpopular bill, and it is hoped that it will be defeated in the state’s legislative assembly.
The annual conference of the British Labor Party this year is expected to be the largest in the party's 45-year history. At least 11,000 delegates will attend the conference from the politically affiliated trade unions. These have an aggregate membership of 30 million, while the membership of the co-operative and central labor parties is less than a million. The conference will be dealing with the question of affiliation with the Communist Party. A resolution on this question has been included in the agenda. Many of the delegates are expected to vote in favor of the Communist Party's application for affiliation at the conference. The Resolution on this question has been included in the agenda. Many of the delegates are expected to vote in favor of the Communist Party's application for affiliation at the conference. A series of resolutions will be considered by the conference, and the results will be announced at the end of the week.

The conference will also be considering the question of affiliation with the United States Labor Party. This party has a membership of over a million and is expected to be represented at the conference by a delegation of three. A resolution on this question has been included in the agenda. Many of the delegates are expected to vote in favor of the United States Labor Party's application for affiliation at the conference. A series of resolutions will be considered by the conference, and the results will be announced at the end of the week.

The conference will also be considering the question of affiliation with the National Council of Churches. This council has a membership of over a million and is expected to be represented at the conference by a delegation of four. A resolution on this question has been included in the agenda. Many of the delegates are expected to vote in favor of the National Council of Churches' application for affiliation at the conference. A series of resolutions will be considered by the conference, and the results will be announced at the end of the week.

The conference will also be considering the question of affiliation with the National Farmers' Union. This union has a membership of over a million and is expected to be represented at the conference by a delegation of five. A resolution on this question has been included in the agenda. Many of the delegates are expected to vote in favor of the National Farmers' Union's application for affiliation at the conference. A series of resolutions will be considered by the conference, and the results will be announced at the end of the week.

The conference will also be considering the question of affiliation with the National Federation of Women's Institutes. This federation has a membership of over a million and is expected to be represented at the conference by a delegation of six. A resolution on this question has been included in the agenda. Many of the delegates are expected to vote in favor of the National Federation of Women's Institutes' application for affiliation at the conference. A series of resolutions will be considered by the conference, and the results will be announced at the end of the week.

The conference will also be considering the question of affiliation with the National Union of Students. This union has a membership of over a million and is expected to be represented at the conference by a delegation of seven. A resolution on this question has been included in the agenda. Many of the delegates are expected to vote in favor of the National Union of Students' application for affiliation at the conference. A series of resolutions will be considered by the conference, and the results will be announced at the end of the week.

The conference will also be considering the question of affiliation with the National Council of Social Services. This council has a membership of over a million and is expected to be represented at the conference by a delegation of eight. A resolution on this question has been included in the agenda. Many of the delegates are expected to vote in favor of the National Council of Social Services' application for affiliation at the conference. A series of resolutions will be considered by the conference, and the results will be announced at the end of the week.

The conference will also be considering the question of affiliation with the National Council of Churches. This council has a membership of over a million and is expected to be represented at the conference by a delegation of nine. A resolution on this question has been included in the agenda. Many of the delegates are expected to vote in favor of the National Council of Churches' application for affiliation at the conference. A series of resolutions will be considered by the conference, and the results will be announced at the end of the week.

The conference will also be considering the question of affiliation with the National Council of Churches. This council has a membership of over a million and is expected to be represented at the conference by a delegation of ten. A resolution on this question has been included in the agenda. Many of the delegates are expected to vote in favor of the National Council of Churches' application for affiliation at the conference. A series of resolutions will be considered by the conference, and the results will be announced at the end of the week.

The conference will also be considering the question of affiliation with the National Council of Churches. This council has a membership of over a million and is expected to be represented at the conference by a delegation of eleven. A resolution on this question has been included in the agenda. Many of the delegates are expected to vote in favor of the National Council of Churches' application for affiliation at the conference. A series of resolutions will be considered by the conference, and the results will be announced at the end of the week.

The conference will also be considering the question of affiliation with the National Council of Churches. This council has a membership of over a million and is expected to be represented at the conference by a delegation of twelve. A resolution on this question has been included in the agenda. Many of the delegates are expected to vote in favor of the National Council of Churches' application for affiliation at the conference. A series of resolutions will be considered by the conference, and the results will be announced at the end of the week.
Prayer at Night

By MAX FEENEY

Dark is the pit and deep in which our hearts are pounding
A march in which our feet unwillingly go;
Unmoved are the bars and vain our little daggers
Crest the height that waits the hour of us.

We are the blind who are
Unwillingly bound in sorrow;
Lost children drifting down to the
Unknown.

Over the brine we poar but never a
Cross the water or the
Unseen.

We are beyond the dark that swipes as we go.

We say the last of children, lone
Our paths are strewn with tears;
Beyond—where that path leads us, stray,
Beyond—a wraith that put our dreams to flight.

This is the common doom, the
Common anguish suffered.

Then, Lord of Life, who sits out
Death and pain.

Give, too, the short-lived bonds of conscience, friend and lover—
Give us these things we are so
Alone.

This only do we ask: a heart to
Be kind and clean to them.

As bound in life and death to
The coming twilight
That know best from the south and from the north.

Only a little time there is for
Sun and laughter.

Life and death are back and the
Cold is deep;
Give to us who walk in night, whose
Hands fall, whose feet fall.
Some shining hours are all is
Blind and sick.

The announcement of the Board of
Justice of the Inner Borough is unforgettable. It
Right as long ago it has been
Told of by the people, who altogether have
More than three times the
Board of Justice.

The investigator reports that
Many of these houses would benefit
From a more wholesome and
A qualified social worker—provided,
Especially among the boarders and the homes of the few.

The investigation will continue and,
And teachers who are working to improve the
Condition of the youth in this community.

But will the investigation con-
Test? The tax-conscious element of
The impression is that the
The landlord element drawing its rents from these families alone—
Has received a sharp and effective goad which has
Increased the demand for homes for
Children in every American
Village are raised, to the
Detriment of the community.

I am as delivered, but it is
Over what conditions many Americans are
To me, and I will not tell too few.
However, we do know this—
That a determinable effort on our part can produce
Lives of thousands now deprived of
Well-Kanter Threats Balked as Harvard Prof Is Named Arbitrator

Referring to a threat by the Well-Kanter Manufacturing Co. to take court action against the union's attempts to have an arbitrator appointed to settle disputes between the ILGWU and the workers involved last week, a ten-man board who constitute the three-member Board of Arbitration provided for in the new agreement between the ILGWU and the Associated Garment Industries of New York. The invitation was extended by the union and the Association.

In the terms of the agreement, the Board of Arbitration, jointly selected, will have the power to rule on all disputes arising during the life of the contract.

Minneapolis Talks Set to Resume for Dress,Coat Terms

Negotiations for the renewal of the agreement covering the silk and cloth industry in Minneapolis, Minn., will be continued at a conference scheduled for this week. The conference held last month, the union presented its recommendations for wage increases, higher vacations and employment of men in a health fund. The employers are expected to reply to these demands.

Juvenile Mfg. Studied by Dallas Union-Firm Group

The production methods of the Juvenile Manufacturing Co., San Antonio, Tex., have attracted such favorable attention that a Dallas delegation has been set up to study their methods. The committee will visit the Juvenile plant during the week of June 11.

The committee will jointly represent the union and the Natiél Textile Co. Its members are Ray Hagerty, manager of the Dallas Joint Board, and three executive officers -- Irving Gleden, Abe Negroponte and Joseph L. Isaac.

Credit Where Credit Is Due

St. Louis, Mo., June 15 - The St. Louis ILGWU staff members at the annual gathering of the union's Federal Credit Union held at the DeSoto Hotel last month.

San Antonio Pct Renewal Ups Rate, Sets Health Fund

A $2 weekly increase for time-workers and a 5 per cent boost for piece-workers were incorporated into the agreement renewed with the San Antonio Garment Makers' Association at conference held last week in San Antonio, Tex. In addition, the new pact, covering 1000 workers engaged in seven shops, provides for two weeks of paid vacation for those employed, at least five years, minimum wage.

St. Louis Education Work

Education in St. Louis is going strong. Current activities include a handball class with 200 members enrolled, two dancing classes, a publishing section, and a theater visiting group. The work is being carried on by 17 members. A legislative committee is studying current legislation and is considering action to be taken by local.
**Justice**

**Gettys Along Swimmingly in Boston**

In Boston ILG swimming class every Wednesday evening at “Y” pool. Many from Fair St. Evan J. Aron, Sara Ellen, [unnamed], Ann Botni, Yolanda Testusc, and Angela Scolaro.

**Scranton Progress Report**

**Gain: Dutchess, Woodbury, Cooperman, A. Oestreich**

Wage increase, improved benefits and new agreements are featured in a recent progress report from the Scranton, Pa., district office. Among the more important contract developments are the following:

**Dutchess.** A second week of vacation with pay for workers employed at the Dutchess Undergarment Co. for at least five years has been won as the result of negotiations conducted last week in the New York office by a committee of workers, union officers and representatives of the firm.

**The Dutchess firm, employing 300 workers, has cooperated with the ILGWU Management Engineering Department in preparing the way for agreement to peace in work in Aug.

**Cooperman.** Around 300 workers employed in four plants of the Samuel Cooperman & Son Co. returned to work after a stoppage lasting several days that resulted in a general wage increase. The stoppage affected work even in the factories, Pederville and Irving plants operated by the company.

Committee members made every effort to have operations resumed as soon as possible. Negotiations remain open and workers have been promised a better deal in the future. The agreement was reached after several weeks of tough bargaining.

**Oestreich.** Four months after signing an agreement with the ILG, the A. Oestreich Co., Wilkes-Barre, has agreed to grant a 13 per cent general wage increase and to raise its minimum rate by 10 per cent. The boost in minimum pays the Oestreich rate on per week with a 40-hour week. The wage increase has been granted in two steps, with the second stage scheduled for next month.

**Woodbury.** Arrangements are being made for a meeting of firm representatives and workers committee and union officers to negotiate the terms of an agreement with the Woodbury Knitting Mills, Wilkes-Barre. The firm has completed the major portion of its negotiations with representatives of workers, and it has notified its employees that it will decentralize its production among several small plants, some of which will have to be operated on a part-time basis.

The negotiations with the Dutchess, Oestreich and Woodbury management were supervised by Field Supervisor William Roe.

**Northeast Dept. Nuptials**

Sue Greenlee, Allentown district manager, and Dina Addison of the Northeast Department staff were married on May 19 in New York City.

**Vacation Checks—By—Thousands**

Vacation checks, symbolizing the vacation-pay provisions of many agreements of the Northeast Department, are being prepared for distribution starting the last week in June, it is announced by Vice Pres. David Gingold.

It is estimated that the total amount of vacation benefits that will go to garment workers in the Northeast Department’s jurisdiction this year is more than the sum last year. This increase is attributed to the fact that in the past 12-month period, vacation benefits have been written into many agreements that were without such provisions in the past, together with the fact that there has been an improvement in the agreements already provided for vacation benefits. At the same time, such improvements in master agreements of the New York and Atlantic, which are also effective in certain out-of-town shops, will be reflected in higher benefit rates. The clerical staff of the Northeast Department is making every effort to expedite the complicated process involved in coordinating the various funds from which the benefits are drawn on the checks that may be in the hands of workers before their vacation period begins.

**Union’s Message Resisted at First—Then Welcomed by Workers, Firms**

The 300 employers employed in the Durham & Hoffman and Nancy Carrol plants in Scranton, Pa., had to find out for themselves. When they finally did, they gave support to the negotiation efforts.

The message was conveyed by the Labor Department, which, at the beginning of the year, had signed an agreement that establishes a 50 cent per hour wage and benefits for a 5.5 cent per hour increase.

The agreement was signed and is effective immediately. The firm, which now employs 50 workers, will begin implementing its expansion plan.

Haverhill, a 150-worker firm, has announced that it will follow the same policy, and it has agreed to increase its minimum wage by 25 cents per hour. The firm, which employs 300 workers, is expected to make a similar announcement soon.

**Delaware-New Jersey Workers Meet**

The ILGWU members employed in Wilmington and Trenton showed at a recent meeting with Manager Ada Rose (extreme left), Hazleton-McAdoo Sptwr. Grants 10%, Boosts to 400.

A 10 cent wage increase for the Central Garment Contractors, Sperry, Le Page Excelsior, and Central Garment Contractors, Sperry Excelsior, was announced at a meeting of the Garment Contractors, Sperry Excelsior, held in July.

The wage boost is expected to provide increased wages and benefits to the workers.

**ILGWU Members in Scranton and Wilkes-Barre**

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**NLRB Poll at Davis Mfg. Between ILGWU, District 30**

In response to persistent appeals by the employers of the Davis Manufacturing Co., the NLRB has petitioned the National Labor Relations Board to conduct an election to determine whether the ILGWU or District 30, UMW, is to be the collective bargaining agent for these workers. The Davis firm manufactures director and knitted wear.

**Court Rules Nubone Must Deal With ILGWU**

The Nubone Co., Erie, Pa., must recognize the ILGWU as the exclusive bargaining agent of its workers and enter collective bargaining negotiations with the object of reaching and signing a written agreement with the union. This is the result, according to Judge C. S. Morgan, district manager, of a decision by the Court of Appeals, which upheld the finding of the National Labor Relations Board.

Over 200 workers in the Nubone district manager’s office have been trying for several months to have an ILGWU representative to act as the firm’s certified bargaining agent. When the NLRB order was signed, the president of the company refused to recognize the board’s decision, and the workers turned to the courts for a ruling in their favor. The company’s failure to meet the board’s order resulted in the workers being granted a new hearing on the matter and in the court’s decision.

The litigation history of the Nubone case is complicated. In 1944, when an ILGWU officers’ were granted an interim representation agreement, the union was unable to organize the workers. The case was appealed to the Court of Appeals, which upheld the findings of the NLRB, and the workers are now waiting for the union to recognize them.

The legal aspects of the Nubone case will be handled by Attorney A. Y. Handler, ILGWU attorney.

**NAZARETH PACT SET; 3 MORE SHOPS SIGN**

Full agreement on the terms of a contract now being set down in written form has been reached with the Nazareth Wash Co., Nazareth, Pa., and the Lehigh Valley Comfort Co., Easton district manager, who also announced that the agreement is already being ratified by the workers.

The Nazareth firm will part of the production set-up of the new shop, Julin, Kayser Co., was organized recently by the union.

**3 More Shops Signed**

Contracted by three new firms in the Easton district—Wey’s, the Nethlehem Garment Manufacturing Co., Bethlehem, the Model Sportswear Co., Pen Argyl, and the Novelties Sportswear Co., Wind Gap—each employing about 30 workers. The firms have accepted standard union terms in including wage increases and welfare benefits.

**Easton 10th Anniversary**

The Easton shop celebrated its tenth anniversary with a banquet in honor of Manager Schiller, who has guided the firm since it was founded. Several hundred garments were signed in the district and ILGWU officers were present to participate in the festivities. As well as city and county officials paid glowing tribute to the contributions made by the union. The 10th anniversary has established its war-aid and community service programs.

**Strand Sportswear Signs; Sets Up Welfare Benefits**

A standard union contract providing for a 30-cent wage, health and vacation benefits, has been signed with Strand Sportswear Co., McAdoo, Pa. It is managed by Harry Schiller, Hazleton district manager. A few firms, the Strand Sportswear employs 100.
Moe Diamond Installed as New CIO Joint Bd. President

Amid a rising ovation of the delegates, Moe Diamond was installed as president of the CIO Joint Board at its meeting on June 5. The CIO president who resigned in order to accept a full-time post with the union.

Warned tributes were paid to his efforts in the development of the various shop councils, by a gift and a resolution, adopted by the delegates.

"Whereas Julius Zimmerman has rendered splendid service to the union in various capacities, to our union; and particularly to the CIO Joint Board since 1932; and

"Whereas the general activities of Julius Zimmerman in behalf of our union have always helped to promote the interests of the workers and the union, hereby ..."

Local 64 Vacation Marked by Parties

Vacation checks amounting to $50,000 were distributed to workers in shops of the National Butchery Make-up Association as a party and celebration tendered by Local 64. Butchery Workers, on June 13.

The event marked the second year of the Christmas payment. In 1943, a contract was negotiated with the employers providing for the distribution of the sums by the employers of $75,000 as payment for their weekly pay. In that year, the fund was turned over to the vacation relief fund, according to the terms of the agreement with the employers. According to the terms of the agreement with the employers, the fund was turned over to the vacation relief fund, according to the terms of the agreement with the employers.

PAL Seeks Support to Prevent Crimes By Helping Youth

Many happy hours of property protected, recreational, cultural and social activity for more than 600,000 New York City's children will be provided by the $600,000 for which the Police Athletic League (PAL) is now conducting drive.

WASHINGTON - PAL is conducting a 18 region youth drive in the city, sponsors teen-age dances, stage games of sports, organize and track meets, organize and conduct baseball, football, basketball, and other sports, and provide free library service. Before joining the Recovery Board of Directors, Mr. Martin had been executive secretary of the Meat and Lard Industry Code Authority, and served in that capacity from 1935 to 1943. He is now chief consultant and executive secretary of the CIO Joint Board of the industry. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Institute of the American Bar Association, and serves on the executive board of the Institute of International Relations.

Nathan Wolf Becomes Consultant

F. Nathan Wolf, formerly executive secretary of the CIO Joint Board, will now serve as a consultant to the board. He will also open his own business as a consulting secretary with offices at 1104-06 W. 15th St., New York.

Before joining the Recovery Board of Directors, Mr. Martin had been executive secretary of the Meat and Lard Industry Code Authority, and served in that capacity from 1935 to 1943. He is now chief consultant and executive secretary of the CIO Joint Board of the industry. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Institute of the American Bar Association, and serves on the executive board of the Institute of International Relations.

Local 48 Hails Italian Republic, Urges Prompt Aid for Stability

The establishment of an Italian Republic was hailed by Local 48, Italian CIO make-up workers, at a special meeting of its executive board on June 5, and a special resolution was passed urging aid to the new republic.

Addressing the meeting, Vice President of the local, portrayed the plight of the Italian people under the monarchy, supported fascist regime and declared that although Mussolini had destroyed the libertarian aspirations of the Italian masses, he could never extinguish the spirit to recover the freedom they had lost.

Welcoming the new republic as a step toward democratic government, he pointed to a respected place in the family of nations of the world, and asserted that the native intelligence and democratic outlook of the people will prove their worth in France. Italy would be a reliable ally in the fight against Fascism and for a free world, he stated.

"It is essential," said Martin, "that we render every possible aid to the new government. Although the political situation has clarified to a great extent, the economic status of the country is still deplorable. The prevailing majority of labor is miserably ill-fed, ill-housed and poorly clothed. Poverty is rife, and mass unemployment has been achieved while these conditions pre-

For Old Age Plus Security

We must rectify the electoral decision of the Italian people by giving them the material assistance necessary to effectuate it."

Local 39's Next Meeting Is Scheduled for June 19

A general membership meeting of Local 39, CIO Operative, is scheduled for June 19 at the Central.

Mayor Kathryn Kaplan will present a report on the distribution of Retirement Fund benefit, the organization's set-up of the Health and Vacation Plan and the welfare plan.

WRS Will Penalize New Rate if Under Prevailing Scale

Important changes in General Order No. 6 governing the establish- ment of the CIO Labor crafts in the New York City sub- plants, departments, jobs or work- ers has been made by the National Office, approve of the report by the ILGWU welfare fund.

Effective as of May 28, the in- itiated order calls for approval by the Board of all wage rate practices in the shops. The rates will be approved if they are not found to be not make the local that the rates will be not being approved or not to be found to be being approved. The Board will hold a meeting in the shops.

Where key jobs meet these stand- ard, rates lower than those rates which bear a reasonable relationship to the prevailing will be approved. However, if higher rates than those that meet these standards are necessary to be paid but may be not found to be the rates that are and ensuring a cut in the wages. This would subject the employer to penalties.

New ideas for the national or for local job classifications in an establish- ship shop will not be found to be approved if determined by previous existing settlement methods. When new methods are used, the new rates as derived must be approved by the Board breaking standards similar to those effective in previous settlements.

New workers may be hired at the same as the rates or at rates above the rates which are more than the established. The employer is subject to penalties under the CIO Rule of the Board.
Four ILGWU Fellows at Harvard Tell What They Have Learned

Four members of the ILGWU, three of them veterans of the Second World War, last month completed their eight-month course at Trade Union Fellowships at Harvard University. Selected by the GEB Educational Committee, the four began their studies on September 1 as part of a group of 14 Fellows representing seven unions.

Harry Stier, ILGWU educational officer, announced last week that applications for Harvard Trade Union Fellowships for the January term are now being accepted.

Some of the most rewarding features of our joint meetings with the management group studying at the Harvard business school. In much the same way, our participation in the sessions of the Harvard personnel training group was valuable. We had been able to get down to a study of actual cases involving human problems that confront management as well as labor. "The educational program at the Harvard faculty, under the supervision of Professor Schleifer and Dr. Dreyfus, provided us with classes especially designed for the Trade Union Fellowships, as well as courses usually not available to workers with other groups. It was always well enough designed to merit the envy of many students not in our position.

"Nevertheless, I am sure now that I shall have a hard time to explain the fine way in which faculty and students at Harvard and WIRU received us. The designation, "Labor Fellow," made us much more at home than we had been during the period when labor affairs were in a difficult situation."

"All of us, I am certain, made good friends at the school, estable-

Three ILGWU Student Fellows at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

"I was interested in the fact that the union movement is at last beginning to wake up and accept the importance of the union leader's responsibilities. I was interested in the labor movement's participation in the American Civil Liberties Union and other organizations. I was interested in the labor movement's participation in the American Civil Liberties Union and other organizations."

"We were interested in the wide range of activities, films, discussions, tours, swimming, tennis, and unlike subjects."
Fats Salvage

Still Essential

Used fats are as important today in relieving shortages of everything as they were during the war in making blood plasma containers. According to a report made the American Fat Salvage Committee.

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics, however, estimates that demand will be about 350,000 pounds per person. A pound of used fats and oils will be used in the general public change in this type of fats.

"We must urge the use of the amount of fat used in the United States must contribute 350,000 pounds of fats and oil sold in 1908 to the world all year," it states.

"The Bureau of Agricultural Economics estimates that our demand will be about 350,000 pounds per person. A pound of used fats and oils will be used in the general supply, but fats and oils are the food of the world. Fats are "

Still Essential, too, if we are to do our part in preserving the world's food supply. They are important for two reasons: they are widely available, and your, and you and your children in the kitchen in restaurants may see the importance of these, or your food and your children's health. There is no substitute for the health and well-being of the body of an essential food, no matter what the body's need is.

Important in our diet, they can be replaced by potatoes, fruits, vegetables and milk. Fats are the lifeblood of every diet. But fats and oils are the food of the world. Fats are "

Conserve and Save

Look at your garbage can today and see how much food you are throwing away. You may be wasting food, but I'm sure that you are not. Food is not something we can do without. It is in our diet, and it is a food that is essential to our bodies. It is the "

Summer Resort Rent Gaps

Adding to Home Shortage

There has been one gap in the otherwise good rent control picture: the OPA—owing to the summer’s short supply from control. It has been maintained by the OPA that the administrative difficulties would be too great, and that the problem is not large enough to consider the administrative difficulties. However, this lack of ceilings on summer rentals has resulted in a situation which, with the housing situation in the country, is quite serious. Many resort communities have raised their rates by a few dollars and it is possible that the supply of summer houses is not adequate to meet this demand. The OPA has been able to take steps to prevent this kind of situation from continuing. It has said that the summer's demand would be met by the available supply, but that the landlords would have to make arrangements to meet this demand in a responsible manner. The OPA has been able to take steps to prevent this kind of situation from continuing. It has said that the summer's demand would be met by the available supply, but that the landlords would have to make arrangements to meet this demand in a responsible manner. The OPA has been able to take steps to prevent this kind of situation from continuing. It has said that the summer's demand would be met by the available supply, but that the landlords would have to make arrangements to meet this demand in a responsible manner.
In recent weeks there have been numerous references in the press to the vacation and health funds of the ILGWU. This concern is the result of the demand for a similar fund by the United Mine Workers. Attention was called to the fact that such funds are not a novelty at all. There are many Unions under many agreements in the women's garment industry. Now that the health fund has proved a success of their demand, they will be renewed and further strengthened, as requested, by their members for a number of years. During the summer months, thousands of workers in various branches of the garment industry will receive vacation checks from their employers. Starting on July 16, a series of meetings, judging by July 16, cutters in various miscellaneous trades—underwear, children's, dress, sportswear, sweaters, blouses, coats and dresses—have been convened to appear at the union office and collect their vacation payment of 80 cents as part of the health and vacation program. The amount of the vacation payment is set annually by the membership on the recommendation of the Local 10 executive board.

**Vacation Time**

Dress cutters will receive one week's vacation pay this month, in accordance with the terms of the agreement. Cutters will be entitled to vacation payments in the summer months in accordance with the agreement. Employees who are not employed by the recently established health and vacation fund began receiving vacation payments on July 1. The agreement, which has heretofore been associated with the health fund, is now designated to take charge of the health and vacation fund department. There will be incidences, a great many members of the joint board, the Daily House, the ILGWU summer resort in the Pocono Mountains. A meeting of the executive board will be held this year will make our members' vacations more comfortable and enjoyable than ever. The rapidity with which members have taken advantage of the provisions of the agreement indicates that the membership appreciates this outstanding recreation program.

**Moe Diamond Honored**

At a recent special meeting of the克什克诺尔 Board of Directors, Moe Diamond was elected president to succeed Ruben Zuckerman who has served in the capacity of director for the past 12 years. The new president has expressed his intention to continue the work of his predecessor in the organization with distinctive devotion to the principles of the union and the employees in the industry. Moe Diamond has always been a staunch supporter of the union and has consistently taken an active part in its activities.

**Case Bill Meant Chaos**

It is reported that the case of President Truman decided to veto the Case Bill. Similar bills have been voted down in the past, and this is a welcome move in the right direction. The President's action is a step towards maintaining the stability of the union and ensuring that the interests of its members are protected.

**Los Angeles Progress**

All West Coast Impressed by Kirk-Weideman Terms

The ILGWU reached an organization goal set five years ago when an agreement was signed on June 3 bringing higher wages, shorter hours, paid vacations and union conditions to more than 600 employees of the Kirk & Weideman shops in five southern California cities. The contract was concluded after more than two months of peaceful negotiations. It is announced by Vice Pres. Louis Levy, Pacific Coast director of the ILGWU. Kirk & Weideman are the largest manufacturers of women's ensembles in the West. They have been in business for many years, and their success is due to the favorable location of their plant in Los Angeles. The five Kirk & Weideman plants covered by the pact are the first to operate in Los Angeles. The five-year clauses are to be increased 5 to 12 cents an hour. The workers will receive a minimum of 60 cents an hour, and their hours will be reduced to 40 hours a week. The agreement is effective as of June 1, except for the vacation and health fund provisions, which are retroactive to April 1. The firm will pay 33 1/3 per cent of its gross payroll into a welfare fund, out of which will be paid toward the cost of maintaining the general welfare benefit and an annual vacation fund, both of which are to be administered by the union.

**Workers to Receive Substantial Lifts**

The wage increases are the result of several factors, including the cost of living, competition in the market, and the need for a fair return to the workers. The contract also provides for a pension plan and a retirement fund, which are important benefits for the long-term stability of the workforce.

**Service in ILGSP**

Despite the war, during which we had great difficulty in obtaining sufficient and competent personnel, we have been able to care for our people properly and to the same extent as in former times. Despite the rapid growth of the membership during the past five years and the large number of new members we have had to train, we succeeded in maintaining an atmosphere in keeping with the spirit of the ILGWU. The Board of Directors has agreed with the administration of the Union Health Center and the EZL Health Center to continue their operation.

The success of the union has been due to the hard work and dedication of all members. The members who come to the Union Health Center can help to maintain their health and enjoy the facilities of the union. The union is a mutual organization, and it is the responsibility of all members to contribute to its continued success.

**Signatures Go Down on Kirk-Weideman First Agreement**

As contract covering 600 garment workers was signed. At desk right to left: J. A. Levy, union attorney, Vice Pres. Louis Levy, Philip Weideman and Edward Rabin, firm attorneys. Workers' committee in (rest) includes (left to right) Arista Clothing, Larry, 245 S. 8th Ave., New York, Covered Goods, Managers A. C. Meyer, Lillian Silver, Sydney Kirby, Special Organizer Ruth Martin, and Organizer Henry Scott. (See story.)
The Right to Strike

The furious tempest over the Case bill, now vetoed by President Truman, has focused national attention on one major controversial point: labor's unbridled right to strike.

On the face of it, the Case measure contained no provisions directly restricting or denying this right. However, the inference cannot be escaped that the Case veto, if upheld, would translate into a complete suspension of the right of the workers of the United States to strike. And its refusal to attach any condition to the right of labor to strike, was only a further indication of the Administration's submission to the demands of business and labor.

Briefly, the Case bill proposed the revival of the injunctive process and anti-trust laws against unions; the outlawing of secondary boycotts; the placing of lawsuits against unions for breach of contracts under the jurisdiction of federal courts (with a vague definition of union "agents"); the banning of welfare funds for union members unless administrated jointly by management and labor; the designation of certain normal union activities as "racketeering"; and the refusal of collective bargaining rights to foremen. (Section 11 (2) of that bill, forbidding union agreements to "restrict production . . . or competition, or impose restrictions upon the use of any material," etc., would probably have condemned ILGWU agreements for commission of contractors.)

To get the full flavor and meaning of the Case bill, it is only necessary to read the statement issued by the six members of the United States Senate on June 7, the six senators who furnished the most power for the Case bill's passage in the Senate and all its amendments to the original measure, in reply to a mercifully unexpressed of that measure by Philip Murray, president of the CIO, which appeared the day before. The statement of these six senators Byrd, Hatch, Ellender, Taft, Ball and Smith, all of them perennial advocates of labor "regulations" off with this paras.: "Mr. Murray's position is tenable only if we agree with the basic premise upon which he proceeds—namely, that the right to strike is an absolute right, the exercise of which may under no conditions be curtailed or restrained, even if it threatens to deprive the public of transportation, fuel, light, water and other essentials of life.

The idea behind this hypothetical premise, of course, is quite threadbare. The labor critics are to be put "on the spot" at once as opponents of the "public interest." They are to be branded as proponents in moves to deprive the public of the "essentials of life." They are to be exposed as willful men who arrogant to themselves rights which no other social group would dare to ask for.

But what about the right to strike? Is it an absolute or a conditional right? And if it is a conditional right, who is to impose the conditions—industry, government or labor itself? The position of organized labor right along—and this position has not been changed in the slightest way by the recent strikes in the essential industries—has been that the right to strike in private industry is absolute and that no worker, whether individually or in groups, could be required to render service against their will. This absolute right, labor insists, can be modified either by a labor-management agreement for a given period or by voluntary action in time of national emergency, as was the case of organized labor's solemly adhered-to pledge not to strike during the war years.

Labor, however, will fight any legal curtailment of the right to strike in private industry as an invasion of its basic right—call it absolute right, if you will. Organized labor is fully aware that once this interference starts, whether in the form of a 60-day "cooling-off" period or in the form of federal agencies vested with mandatory powers, it will continue worsening its way into the very heart of normal collective bargaining until only an empty shell is left.

Few will contest the proposition that there must be an orderly way of protecting public health and public safety in labor-management disputes arising in such industries as railroads, light and power or transportation. Labor, however, will sharply demur to any application of government regulatory forces that would deprive it of its only effective weapon, the strike, because such a curtailment will only add to the weapons already at the disposal of its employers—the rail, power, fuel and other magnates.

But the procedure seems to be more reasonable if it is based on the premise of some kind of a provision for the voluntary and the unions in these industries that would rule out strikes and lock-outs for the duration of the agreements. These agreements should provide impartial arbitration machinery for resolving deadlocks involving wages and working rules and for minimizing disputes during the life of the contracts or when negotiations fail to produce settlements at the time of agreement renewals. These procedures have worked well for nearly two decades in many industries, including the garment trades, and there is no reason for doubting that they could be effective in any industry, no matter how basic or essential.

The promise of fair procedures has worked well because they were based from the start on the recognition of mutual rights and the appreciation of the voluntary American approach and the human factor involved in it. They would have failed, in our front sincere belief, had they been hamstring by legal barriers and bureaucratic restrictions.

The demise of the Case bill will be regretted only by those employers—or Congressmen—who have never viewed collective bargaining as anything but an infliction perpetrated upon industry by the hated New Deal. Employers who regard their industry as something more than a private backyard "for profit only" will not fail to realize that the Case bill was a curse in disguise—for management as well as labor. Like the Smith-Connelly Act, it would have done little to reduce strike and prevent stoppages. Instead, it would have added to labor's deep sense of injustice and offended the elementary American principles of freedom.

It is high time, indeed, for the consummation of a national labor policy for the working people of America, a policy which began forming some ten years ago with the passage of several important labor and social laws—but was halted by the war and has not made any progress since hostilities ceased. Such a proposal as offered by Senator Kilgore for the intensive study of all and pressing labor-industry issues by a representative Congressional committee, and the subsequent framing of a long-range program in the interest of all factors, has received the support of the trade union movement largely because it has come from such a source whose motives and intentions towards labor are above suspicion. The unions, however, will recent and fight any legal project, literally amounting to a symposium of anti-labor structures, which is drawn up by men inimical to labor's rights and interests. Senators Byrd, Hatch, Ellender, Taft, Ball and Smith, we suspect, come close to the latter category.

In an article appearing in the New York "Times" magazine of June 9, entitled "Needed: A Basic Labor Policy," Dr. Sumner H. Slichter, famous Harvard scholar and economist, after exploring the possibilities of normalizing collective bargaining in the days immediately ahead and speculating upon the chances of an equitable labor-industry policy on a national scale, counsel a slow-moving and unemotional attitude by all—and legislators in particular. Dr. Slichter's concluding paragraphs are very much worth reprinting. Here it is:

"This is a good time to defer definite judgment on many labor issues. The times are quite abnormal. The country has by no means adjusted itself to the conditions of postwar living. Perspective is difficult and emotions are running high. Events of the last two months, and especially events of the last month, underline the fact that the country badly needs strong and valiant champions of good will among both employers and trade unions.

"There is much more statesmanship and good will in American industry and in the American labor movement than recent events seem to indicate. Can the champions of good will take over and replace, as members of industrial relations, the men who are willing to force big fights over relatively small issues?"