

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOUR  
 ORGANIZE YOUR  
 NEIGHBOURS  
 CIRCULACION  
 10.000

# ACCION

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF  
 THE CANAL ZONE  
 WORKERS UNION. WITH  
 NO POLITICAL CON-  
 NECTIONS.

VOL. I—NO. 5

PANAMA, 5 AUGUST 1946

5 Cents

## CIO CHARTER PRESENTED

### Graham Lewis' Message to U.P.W-CIO



**GRAHAM LEWIS**  
 President, P.C.W. E. A.

Fellow workers of the Canal Zone:—

For many years we have raised our voices in protest over our poor wages. For as many years we have suffered under working and living conditions of the lowest nature amongst all workers of the great United States of America.

For all this time our cries and appeals have failed to raise our condition to a decent standard of living. Now that the C I O, the greatest labor organization in the Democratic world, has by the grace of God undertaken to shoulder our burden and represent our cause at our own request, let us prove ourselves men in the fullest sense of the word, by giving the C I O our solid support all the way. Let us say to ourselves "We, the rank and file of the United Public Workers of America C I O will try this as a new experiment. We will give this experiment every thing it requires, regardless. We will pay up our dues every month without fail, and we will carry out all Union Rules and Orders as good union members should, and watch for re-

sults." Then and only then shall we contribute our full share in the fight, to increase our wages, and improve our general standard of living. Then the action of the C I O, backed by our solid support, the support of every man and woman employed on the Canal Zone, will secure for us a fair day's pay for a fair day's work, security in the jobs we have; regulation of the "Reduction of Force" bug-bear that strikes fear in the hearts of the so-called Silver worker, and to bury into oblivion the "Gold" and "Silver" Roll, that symbol of shame that has hurt the United States as much as it has hurt us.

I now call upon each and every worker of the Canal Zone—to those non-members on the outside to join up now—to those who are already in, to support the Union faithfully by placing it before your Lodge, before the Lottery whilst in sound health and able to work, so that your Union will be healthy and strong always to fight your battles and for you all you need in your God-given right to the pursuit of happiness.

GIVE THE FULL NAME OF THE FOLLOWING TRADE UNIONS

- 1—C.Z.W.U.
- 2—F.S.T.P.
- 3—C.I.O.
- 4—U.P.W.A.
- 5—W.F.T.U.
- 6—N.M.U.
- 7—U.A.W.
- 8—C.T.A.L.
- 9—Name the president of the F.S.T.P.
- 10—Name the president of the C.I.O.
- 11—Name the president of the U.P.W.A.
- 12—Name the president of C.T.A.L.
- 13—Which 2 largest Unions have recently amalgamated?

### NOTICE

I. Dues paid for the months of May and June will not be considered in the payments for AUGUST.

II. No dues will be collected for JULY.

III. Dues already paid for JULY will be credited to the AUGUST dues.

IV. If John Jones had paid 25 cents for the month of June, he would have to pay \$1.00 for the month of AUGUST.

V. If Mary Jones had paid 25 cents for the month of July she would pay only 75 cents for the month of AUGUST.

VI. If Harry Smith should become a member now he should pay \$1.00 for the month of AUGUST.

### ACCION FOR SALE AT:

- Robinson's Place
- Sugar Bowl
- Morrison's Book Store
- Kiosco Santa Ana
- Stones Book Store
- Lindsay's Place
- Club Palmira
- Kiosco Catedral
- Lavanderia Don Bosco
- Barberia Dunn
- Barberia Jennings
- Botica Istmeña

Tune in on  
**'RADIO MIRAMAR'**  
 from 7:45 p. m. to 8:00 p. m.

**TULIA AMINTA CAJAR**  
 Announcing

More than 12,000 workers gathered at the National Stadium on Sunday night to witness the presentation of the CIO Charter to the newly formed United Public Workers C. I. O.

The Panama Fire Brigade Band accompanied Miss. Alda Brossard in the singing of the Panamanian National Anthem after which she was frantically applauded by the audience who refused to be satisfied until she sang two other songs. (sorry, was unable to obtain titles).

Little Hugh Adams, eleven years of age, surprised the audience when he spoke just as freely as any experienced orator without as much as one error. He told of his interest in the outcome of the Union and impressed the audience as to the urgent necessity of a Union on the Canal Zone.

He also mentioned the fact that he was instrumental in having his family 12 in all, join the Union. "The only one who gave me any trouble" he said, "was my Uncle. But I went to work on him. Now he is a member."

Following are the talks and addresses offered on that memorable night.

### GASKIN'S ADDRESS

Tonight, July 29, 1946, shall remain long in the memory of

the so-called "silver" worker on the Canal Zone. This truly is a banner night for a number of underprivileged and oppressed peoples who have joined wholeheartedly with an American organization to cry out to the privileged group on the Canal Zone to return to a world of decency, justice, and brotherhood. We are not asking to be allowed to dine and sleep with supervisors or other administrators, and their families. We are merely asking for a human being's chance to the pursuit of happiness—a chance for ourselves and our children to a decent and humane standard of living—a chance to lift our eyes up from the gloom of slums, to look up at the sky, and take heart in the fact that have an opportunity to help work out own destiny.

Brother workers: Our struggle is an integral part of the greater struggle all over the entire world of oppressed peoples rising up to help free themselves from economic slavery and exploitation. Whenever freedom is threatened, man has always united under

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### Ladies Unite to Fight Inflation

The all-woman conference which took place at the Arcos Club in Panama City last Tuesday night, marks another milestone in the growth and development of our Union. This unprecedented meeting was a classic example of how "second rate" citizens understand and practice democracy. The few men (who lurked self-consciously) in the back of the hall got a good lesson in how to conduct a well-organized meeting.

Although the meeting was scheduled to begin at 7:30, by 6:45 hordes of women gathered eager for the meeting to begin—by the time the meeting started, the hall was filled. Women came from such out-lying districts as Paraiso and Rio Abajo to discuss their problems, the union and its work.

The keynote of the evening's discussion was the need for UNITY with all other Zone Workers. The lively discussion (actively participated in by those assembled) was carried

on in Spanish as well as English. West Indian and Panamanian women rose to tell of their experiences as 'jim-crowed' women, receiving as little as 20c/ an hour and the need for organized effort. One speaker warned that no one should allow themselves to be intimidated by the affidavits that we are required to sign, since everyone, even members of the Metal Trades Council had to sign them. She went on to quote from the constitution of the United Public Workers, C. I. O. which clearly states that "...we do NOT assert the right to strike against the government, and we will not strike..."

It was truly inspiring to witness women of all ages, nationalities, religions and races, rising to speak (many for the first time in public), urging their fellow workers to support the Union, pay dues regularly and take an active part in the work. One veteran of the "battle of the Zone" warned that

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## PICTURES OF SUNDAY'S MEETING IN OUR NEXT ISSUE