This is your UNION PAPER

SUPPORT IT!

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Panama, R. P. Wednesday Oct. 30, 1946

5 Cents

## WE CAN MAKE THIS A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE IN... BOB WEINSTEIN

From the same source, we

in the Zone costs \$4 per month

It its therefore clear from

the statistics that the condi-

30,000 employees of the Govern

ment of the United States are

deplorably sub-standard. From

the accounts of our members

in the Zone and our represen-

tatives who have visited there,

these conditions are such as

would in fact not be tolerated

in this country. Slum housing,

for example, with five people

in a single room without run-

ning water and with commun-

ity toilets. Or the excessive

These conditions arise di-

rectly out of the incredibly low

wage scales. They cast discre-

dit upon our government, not

only in Panama, but through-

cut Latin America. President

Taft's statement that Amer-

disease and mortality rates.

## Rport of Hearing Before Budget Bureau

a Connection with the Hear- | is 25 percent higher than that ies. of the Budget On the Budgest States, since the "gold" work- find that housing costs in Pan. October 9, 1946.

statement on behalf of the year. many thousands of employees we are not now in position per child, and at high school

ings Before the U.S. Bureau in the Continental United for the Panama Canal Zone. ers are paid 25 percent more ama run from \$80 to \$150 per than prevailing federal salary month for an unfurnished The United Public Workers scales. Thus the average pay apartment, We find that at\_ of America, CIO, presents this for the latter is \$3900 per tendance at grammar school

of the United States Govern- to submit actual figures on \$8 per month.

ment employed in the Panama the cost of living in the Zone Caral Zone who are memors proper. However, the data giv of our organization. The rea- en below in Table II depict the tions of existence of almost

TABLE I AVERAGE WAGES PAID IN THE PANAMA CANAL ZONE BY THE WAR DEPARTMENT Based on the Budget of the United States Estimates for Fiscal Year 1947

11-	Number Employees	Total Annal Wage	A. A. W.	A. M. W.	A. W. W.
Maintenance					
& Operation	12,144 \$	8,928,682	\$ 735	\$ 61	\$ 14
Sanitation	1,817	1,107,500	610	51	12
Civil Government	302	243,177	805	67	15
Clubhouses	1,989	886,749	446	37	9
TOTAL	16,252 \$	11,166,108	\$ 687	\$ 57	\$ 13

\*N.E.—Number Employees; T.A.W.—Total Annual Wage; A.A.W.—Average Annual Wage.

NOTE-There are 5,965 permanent employees of the War Department whose total annual wage is \$23,296,022, an average wage of \$3,900, or an average weekly wage of \$75...

stantial increases in the wages | Panama, where many thousands | mirror of our policy in Latin "silver" workers are submitted are some what higher than ten. as equally valid with respect those in the Zone commissarto the budgets for the War Department and the Panama Railroad Company, both of which are currently under consideration.

We urge upon the President of the United States and the Bureau of the Budget the adop tion of a budget which would provide a minimum rate of pay of 40 cents an hour — the same as that called for by the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act. This minimum (which is so low that it is to be found cnly rarely within the continental United States) is higher than the average rate for all "silver" workers in the Zone is about \$13 a week-\$57 a month. This figure is based on the budget estimates for 1947, as indicated in Table I above

On the basis of this table, the average hourly wage is 30 cents, or 10 cents below the legally specified minimum in the United States.

It cannot be argued that these wage scales are justified by a low cost of living. In fact, it may be inferred that the cost of living in the Zone Panama City.

sons offered for effecting sub-cituation in the Republic of and salaries of the so-called of workers live. These prices America has not been forgot-

## TABLE II

RETAIL FOOD PRICES IN PANAMA Sources: U. S. Department of Commerce, Office of International Trade, "International Reference Series, Vol. III, No. 24, July 1946" A

Item	Unit	Price
Bacon	Pound	\$ 70
Bread	22	.10
Butter	7.7	55
Coffee	2.2	40
Eggs	Dozen	1.00
Fish, fresh	Pound	.30
Cream Beans, fresh	"	.15
Lamb Chops	,,	65
Lard	7.7	35
Milk	Quart	221/2
Flour	Pound	.071/2
Jam	* *	1.20
Evaporated Milk	14—oz. can	.17
Soap, powdered	3.3	45
Cheese, American	Pound	.80
Chickens, dressed	9.7	.70
Pork Chops	3 3	.70
Fotatoes	11	121/2
Rice	,,	.10
l'ea	11	2.25
Dried Beans	9.51	121/2

A Based on reports from the United States Embassy in strangest forms, but I have

The meeting was scheduled same as a white man does." for 7:30 but from 6:00 people started drifting in by twos and fours. By 7:15, there were hardly any seats left, and those were away over to the right or left of the Stadium. the Canal Zone?" Even as far The playing of the national anthems of Panama and the same. And we will give them United States was the signal that the meeting was under way. Selected as MC for hte night, Luis A. Victor kept the crowd laughing at his wisecracks. After Brothers Atherton, Arauz, Nolan, and Burke spoke, Eddie Cheresh introduced Jack Strobel.

Strobel, speaking for the International body of the CIO promised that the CIO won't let us down. As proof that the CIO means business, he said that he had been sent to stay in Panama for at least six months, or as long as necessary, to help us. And, said he, that was not all. They were quite ready to initiate legislation in Congress, or any other support necessary for our success. Above everything, he im., plored us to stick together ... regardless. The long standing problems, the problems of 20, 30, & 40 years, cannot be solved overnight. They will take time and our patience.

ican policy in Panama is the discussed with him a grierhim while he worked with us. Weinstein, came in like a heavyweight boxer of the Joe Louis class. He pointed out that most people in the U. S. think of the Panama Canali as a place where ships go thru one end and come out at the other while a couple of people push a few buttons. They don't realize so many people live gown here. And that such a large number of people employ ed by the U. S. govt, were afforded such an un-American standard of living. Said he, "Discrimination takes

Panama, October 25 .- | person who did not eat the

Before the CIO started its drive here, hardly anybody in the U. S. knew about the PC, but now, everybody wants to know-"What is happening in as Hawaii, the question is the the answer-with this new instrument of ours-the union.

"But if you never got a

raise," he continued, "if you never got shorter hours, you would still have the satisfaction of walking with your head up, like a man!" He pointed out how much our children's future was tied up on a \$13\_ per-week salary. How they lacked the proper education, proper food, the proper clothes. That was the purpose of the CIO: to put meat in the icebox carpets on the floor, bread on the table, and pictures on the wall. He, too, implored us to he patient. He feared not for the enemies from outside. He feared of what might happen withn. "Don't let them split you-Panamanians on one side, and West Indians on the other," he said. In his interview with General Newcomer, he asked for higher wages for us and pointed out that even if we got it, we have al-He knows why we joined up | ready spent it since prices had with the CIO. We want better gone sky high, They also diswages, we want better hous- cussed a pension system, a ing, and above all, we want to grievance procedure, and asked end this undesirable racial dis- that someone from our group crimination. He knew all these sit in on the Wage Board things and he has gotten down While in Washington, he visitto work. He has already con- ed the Budget Bureau and ferred with the executive of- asked for improvements for fice at Balboa Heights. Gen- "silver" workers on the Canal neral Newcomer and Col. Wang Zone. When he returns, he will go to the National Convention ance procedure, wage increases, of CIO, make his recommendaoffice space, & a pension sys- tions. They and the PAC will tem. He was not surprised if | initiate or introduce legislation progress was very slow. He in Congress. He will even prowould have been surprised if rose that someone from here it had not. He closed his talk go up to testify in Congress. asking us all to work with He closed by asking us all to support our union officers and The next speaker, Bob stand behind the union program. Said he, "We can make this a better place to live in."

> The next speaker, personal re presentative of His Excellency President Enrique A. Jimenez, Don Antonio Moscoso B. was warmly applauded when he pointed out that he was once of the laboring class, just another guy with his working tools down at Albrook Field, and around Corundu. Forcefully he contrasted the attitude of certain unfriendly Americans here and in the U.S. with the other friendly, fairminded

(TURNA TO PAGE 30)

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