



Union Asks Mehaffey For 40¢ Minimum Wage

La Boca, Dec. 2.—Shortly after Governor Mehaffey returned from the United States, officers of the United Public Workers, C.I.O., Local 713 made contact with the Governor and arranged a meeting for November 20th. The purpose of the meeting was to present the Union's program on wage increases and improvement of working conditions.

Union headquarters today issued a full and detailed report on exactly what went on during the conference with Governor Mehaffey on the 20th. The full report is presented below.

Report on Meeting with Governor J. C. Mehaffey November 20th, 1946 at the Executive Office.

(NOTE: The matters contained in this communication apply only to members of Local 713 employed by the Panama Canal, and have no bearing on U. S. Army employees or Navy employees).

The meeting was attended by Governor Mehaffey and Colonel Frank H. Wang, for the Panama Canal; and for the Union by J. L. Strobel,

International Vice-President; Edward Cheresch, Regional Director; Cespedes Burke, Secretary of Local 713; Pascual Ampudio, Vice-Chairman, Cristobal Chapter Local 713; and Clarence Small, Local 713 organizer.

The matters discussed were the following:

1 Grievance Procedure: Governor Mehaffey stated that the grievance procedure for the Panama Canal was now in effect and could be used by the Union. It was emphasized that at the first two stages in the grievance procedure, the aggrieved employee can be accompanied and represented only by a fellow employee (such as the Union Steward on the job). The Union organizer cannot enter the case at the first two stages, but may represent the employees at the third and fourth stages.

2 Wage Increases: There was a considerable discussion on wages. The Union presented its program on wage increases, which includes:

- (a) Establishment of a 40-cent per hour minimum wage.
- (b) Granting of equal wage

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FIRST CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION A SUCCESS

Cristobal Chapter Settles Canal Seamen Grievances

Cristobal, Nov. 25. — Headquarters for the Cristobal Chapter, UPW-CIO., today announced the settlement of a number of on-the-job grievances affecting canal seamen. The grievances were taken up with Port Captain S. L. Brown by Chief Steward Roland A. Dean and his committee consisting of Stewards Alfred S. Minott, Herbert Henry, Joseph Thorne and T. A. Anhtony, on November 13, 1946.

The union wishes to express to Captain Brown its sincere appreciation for his willingness to take action on justifiable complaints and for the impartial manner in which he dealt with the Union Committee. The matters settled were the following:

1. The present unfavorable conditions of the canal seamen's Camp at La Boca will be improved.
2. The Union pointed out that sometime canal seamen are checked to transit Naval vessels but that such seamen are refused by the pilots. The Union requested before checking the seamen Captain Brown find out from the pilots whether they require seamen. Captain Brown stated that he would have the dispatchers check with the pilots upon such occasions.
3. The Union complained against the practice of ship's stewards giving stale and improper food to Canal seamen. Captain Brown stated that such was contrary to the regulations and advised that in such cases the matter be called to the attention of the Pilot, who will correct the matter.
4. The Union complained of the inconvenience of Canal men eating their meals when ships are in locks, mooring and unmooring at piers, etc. Captain Brown replied that he will make it imperative that the ships are in locks, mooring and hold the meals for Canal seamen even if they must pay overtime in order to do so.
5. The Union complained about the present difficulty

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La Boca, Nov. — The Constitutional Convention of UPW-CIO, Local 713 was held on Saturday, November 30th in the La Boca Clubhouse. The weather was the real CIO weather, bright and sunny. The hall was specially arranged with flags and flowers. The delegates were met at the door and escorted to their seats according to a pre-arranged seating plan.

The meeting was opened by the Chairman Teodoro M. Nolan who, after his brief opening remarks, introduced the Local President, Francisco Arauz. Mr. Arauz called a moment of silence for our departed comrades. He then cited two of

the most ardent members of the organization for special mention. They were Mr. Edward Cheresch and Mr. Aston Parchment, who were warmly applauded by the delegates. Mr. Arauz touched on the subjects of a benevolent society for workers, the sympathetic attitude of the Panamanian government to our union.

The next act of the Chairman was to read the appointments for a Credentials Committee and excused them from the hall to re-convene at the conference table of the main office. This done, the Chairman read the list of appointments for the Constitution Committee.

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Report of the International V-P

La Boca, Nov. 30. — At the Convention held here today, Mr. J. L. Strobel, International Vice-President of UPW-CIO submitted a report to the First Constitutional Convention, UPW Local 713.

Mr. Strobel divided his report into five parts:

1. Organization
2. Local Union Operation
3. Negotiations
4. International Union's Responsibilities
5. This Convention

On organization, Mr. Strobel reported that the exact figure of the membership was not available but according to dues collection covering a 1½ month period, we could safely assume that the membership was somewhere around 16,400.

Eight chapters have been established namely, Balboa, Cristobal, Gamboa, Gatun, Red Tank, Paraiso, Chorrera and the Teachers' Chapter. Mr. Strobel feels that although a very good start had been made the goal should always be 100% organization. There are still some non-members who need to be brought into the Union. On the question of membership, Mr. Strobel reported favorably on the general attitudes of members he has met. He feels that the Panamanian-West Indian issue has not created a split in the ranks and factionalism grown considerably less.

On operation, it was reported that three headquarters

have been established, one at La Boca, one at Cristobal, and the other at Gamboa. The Cristobal and Gamboa offices will be moved into larger quarters as soon as they are available. Telephones have been installed in La Boca and Gamboa and it is expected that Cristobal will soon have one installed. Office furniture including desks, tables, chairs, have been purchased. More furniture will be obtained to meet the demands. The Local owns several typewriters, adding machines, and files. The Local will own a mimeograph machine and an addressograph machine. The Local will own an automobile. The Union has three clerks and six organizers on the local payroll. There are about 250 stewards listed in the office files. On the question of the newspaper ACCION, Mr. Strobel pointed out that the paper needs great improvement. He asked the stewards and organizers to submit more news to the paper. Sales could be increased actively on the part of the stewards. On the question of negotiations, it was reported that the Union has been recognized and grievance procedures instituted that have begun to benefit members already. A 40-hour work week was instituted in some USO's. Leaves of absence for Union employees

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Three Union Members Win Jobs Back After Union Acts

La Boca, Nov. 25.—Although the UPW-CIO, Local 713. has only recently begun the systematic processing of grievances of individual members, it can already report that three discharged members of the Union have won reinstatement to their jobs through Union action, Local 713 announced today.

The three members reinstated to their jobs are the following:

- F. H. Reid, Marine Division, Balboa.
- Ceferino Cebalio, Tivoli USO.
- Myrtle Smith, Balboa Gold Commissary.

F. H. Reid was reinstated after Balboa Chapter Steward Herman Moore took up the case. Brother Cebalio's case was settled by Steward Maud Johnson. Myrtle Smith's case was successfully handled by Brother Monroe, Steward.

The Union wishes to express its appreciation to those foremen and supervisors who took

action on the Union's presentation of these cases. We believe this shows that man error, PROVIDED the grievance is a proper one.

Local 713 makes no claim of being able to settle any grievance. The Union can be of assistance only when the grievance is a justified grievance and when the grievance is a justified grievance and when the case can be proved.

Stewards are encouraged to take up proper grievances with foremen and supervisors, in accordance with established grievance and when the case can be approved.

The above cases show that stewards can successfully handle many grievances without coming to the full-time organizer. If stewards run into trouble in taking up grievances, then they should certainly come to the Union office and consult the Union organizers about the case.

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