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EDITORIAL—

The Constitutional Convention of C.I.O. Local 713 is ended and the job about completed. The major part of the constitution as been approved and the new Executive Board elected. The finishing touches to the constitution will be done by the new Board.

The most remarkable feature of the whole convention, as seen from the side lines, was the marked orderliness in which the convention was conducted. The delegates should be commended on the fine spirit displayed throughout the day.

Of course, it was expected that with so many vital questions coming up for discussion and debate; that with such a variety of representatives from the different sections of the Isthmus, the discussions might have been more affected by flare-up of tempers, and over-zealous arguments. Rumors did their part to build up that expectation. The talk hinted at caucuses and cliques and politics and whatnot. Nothing seemed farther from the truth.

The representatives knew what they wanted. They used the power of the ballot to get it. This is the democratic way.

It is interesting to note that all the key-position officers were re-elected. If these men did not have the confidence of the majority, they certainly would not have been re-elected. This leads to the question: Why were there so many rumors, so many "nerve" battles? Someone must have "planted" the seed among the members. Someone must have hoped to create a split in our ranks. The conduct of the delegates at the convention established beyond a doubt that the Union has a solid membership.

Although Thanksgiving is but a few days past, it is not too late to give thanks for having come this far and successfully.

UNION ASKS.....

increase for all employees earning more than the present minimum and for all monthly salaried employees.

The Union called the Governor's attention to the following facts:

a) The cost of living for Canal Zone employees is rapidly rising.

b) Canal Zone employees are unable to live properly and support their families adequately on wages which average about 40 cents per hour and about \$70.00 per month. The Union stated that it felt the U. S. Government was obliged to at least provide a standard of living for its employees on which they can live adequately, regardless of whether they are U. S. citizens or not.

(c) The Union intends to introduce legislation in the United States Congress in Washington calling for wage increases, but hoped that the matter could be satisfactorily adjusted by direct negotia-

tions with the Panama Canal Executive Office.

(d) The Union will appear before the special committee studying wages of silver employees and will present a brief containing facts, figures and arguments supporting its requests on wages. This brief will also contain a budget based on prevailing prices paid by the Canal Zone employees showing that they cannot properly support themselves on their present wages.

In reply to the Union's question as to the Governor's intentions on the subject of wage increases, Governor Meffey stated that he could give no definite promise of a wage increase. However, he stated that the matter of wages was being seriously studied by the Panama Canal. He stressed that he has a sympathetic attitude toward the needs of the employees, but added that these matters will take time and no one should expect...

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Junior CIO

Again Francine Everett, Negro actress, has been given a chance to act in a motion picture. She was given this chance because the picture "Tall, Tan and Terrific" has an all-Negro cast. Francine and all the other Negro actresses have a hard time getting jobs. Approximately five-eighths of the people in the movie industry are...

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A Word to the Wise

I hereby feel it my duty to remind you to be serious about the decision you have made in becoming Union members; what I mean by being serious is: to consider it as an act of determination — to do or die.

Be honest to your fellow workers and your union; be earnest in your dealings with them. Having realized your decision in this matter, you will attend your meetings; you will pay your dues; you will buy your ACCION; you will support your stewards and not expose them to defeat by any careless or wilful act of yours.

Another work: say less of that which may cause or bring discredit to yourself or the union; I am sure that if this seriousness of decision is maintained, not all the fiends of Hell can retard or stop the progress for any good this union shall be able to accomplish for us as long downtrodden workers of the Panama Canal.

Try to convince a fellow employee who is non a member of his duty to himself and his community. Have him learn the dangers of being a parasite.

There is a common idea among our aged and seasoned employees that they need not join the Union. There is no possible benefits to be derived because retirement faces them. Will organizers, stewards, and members please inform these older employees of the great opportunity that the Union offers to them? Tell them that THEY are the ones need as examples for the emancipation of their kin and offspring from the financial bondage under which they have worked for the past forty years or more only through the providential guidance of the Creator. Tell them that every effort on their part helps more in the legal demands on the program planned by the Union. Tell them that the Union's policy is not to discard nor to forsake them when they receive "reduction in force" or "retirement" certificates. The Union will have them remain as members under the conditions the Union has outlined.

The joy shall be theirs to know that they have also taken part or have contributed to the progress or prosperity of the CIO.

There are also some of our young and youthful employees who have decided to have a "free ride" in the Union. It is not a good practice and although it seems to carry its advantages, nevertheless, it has its sure disadvantages.

On the Constitutional Convention

By Militant

Although it is likely that a complete report on the convention will be given elsewhere in this paper, your uncle Militant feels that he is obligated to you, dear readers, and should give you, in his own words, a summary of what took place on November 30.

But, before going into detail, let me tell you this. Considering the fact that it was first time such a large number of delegates, representing 17,000 workers, convened for the purpose of deciding the policy to be followed by the new local union in achieving its objectives the entire affair was, in a way, successfully handled. Now for the convention itself.

Brother Nolan, chairman, called the convention to order at about 9:25 a. m. The floor was then given to brother Arauz, president of Local 713, who welcomed the delegates from the various chapters, then asked that a minutes silence be observed in memory of all fallen brothers who fell in the cause of labor Spaking at length, he told of the splendid work done by bros. Cherish and Parchment; of the struggle to bring and keep together the various nationalities of the so-called "silver" roll; and a plan he had in mind which would be beneficial to our members — a sick and death benefit plan for members and their families. Concluding, he asked that the

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new executive board to be elected work harmoniously together. This we suppose, could be construed as hinting that internal dissention played an active part on the past executive board — as if we hadn't guessed this before.

Next, the chairman named two committees, Credential and Constitution. They were instructed to retire to the union office, make a study of the work assigned to them, and report back at a given time with their findings. Here, brothers and sisters, I might as well tell you that only a few of the delegates present, if any, knew where, when, and by whom these committees were appointed.

While these committees were about their assigned tasks, Bros. Strobel and Nolan gave detailed reports on the activities and financial standing of the local union, respectively. These, I will say nothing about, as it is expected that members will be furnished this information, either through the union's newspaper, "ACCION" or from their respective stewards. The convention then recessed for lunch.

Reconvening at 1:30., we heard the reports of the two committees mentioned above. With very little debate, the report from the credential committee was accepted and adopted. The same cannot be said

Organizers Meet Gov. Velasquez

Panama, November 26, — Upon the invitation of the Governor of the Province of Panama, a committee from the United Public Workers, CIO., Local 713 visited Governor Vasquez today. The CIO representatives were Brothers Arauz, Cordero, Small and Sister Josephs.

Mr. Vasquez was a most cordial host to his visitors and showed deep interest in the progress of the new labor organization.

When the governor was told that the union did not intend to get into politics, he heartily agreed and warned them that that was a mistake of labor to mix in politics. Labor, he said, should stick to labor and labor problems. Incidentally, he said that he would be glad to help at any time. They were free to come in and talk with him anytime.

On the question of cedulas, the governor pointed out that foreigners who have been residing in Panama for a long time, and who are married to Panamanian citizens, and who want to become Panamanian citizens, should submit a request or petition in writing. These petitions would get im-

mediate attention.

The committee asked about office space for the Local. The governor said that he had spoken to the President about the subject. He advised them to look around the government buildings for a vacant office space and request in writing their desire to occupy same.

The committee discussed the project of sending IIO representatives from Panama to the United States to attend Conventions there. These men could be taken care of. The Local was to prepare a list of the representatives, get the necessary pictures, the necessary stamps and present their petition to the Panamanian government.

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