



UPW Resolution Supports "Silver" Workers

TO RUSH LEGISLATION FOR 40c. WAGE MINIMUM

Atlantic City, N. J., Nov. 20th—600 delegates to the National CIO Convention, representing 6,000,000 people in 42 national and international CIO Unions, today heard from the lips of Robert Weinstein, International Director or Organization of the United Public Workers of America, CIO, the story of the unbelievably poor conditions of labor of over 20,000 so-called "silver" employees of the United States Government in the Canal Zone. This was the opening gun in the campaign of the Union to bring these conditions to the attention of the American people and to focus on them the searching light of public opinion as a means of correcting them.

After Director Weinstein's

speech, the CIO Convention adopted a resolution pledging full support to the Union's campaign to better these conditions.

Weinstein's speech before the Convention was as follows:

"President Murray: I rise to support the resolution introduced by our organization concerning the so-called 'silver' workers in the Panama Canal Zone. Several months ago our office received a communication from President Murray requesting that we investigate the possibilities of organization in the Panama Canal Zone. Subsequently we sent one of our staff into the Zone and discovered that an organization had already been started which now has grown to over 17,000 mem-

(Turn to page 3)

American Ashamed of Government Discrimination

Hotel Central
Panama City, Panama
December 15, 1946.

Representatives Engel, Case Mahon, Tibbott

Honorable Sirs: I read in the papers that you were making an inspection of the Canal Zone. I hope that some of the following things I have observed since I have been here will not be missed by your committee because as an American citizen I was horrified and ashamed when I know such things existed in a place controlled by the United States government. I thought that only Great Britain maintained such policies and that the United States was too

democratic to treat any of her people in such a way.

In passing thru the Canal Zone was nothings more to me than the place where boats passed through from the Atlantic to the Pacific, but as I arrived at the airport (International airport in Balboa, Canal Zone) I noticed a sign above the drinking fountains. On one of them the words "Gold" and the other "Silver". On inquiring I found that the gold one was for whites and the silver for colored. From there on my discoveries became worse and worse and now after three days I have only scratched the surface. In find that in the Canal Zone they have two government payrolls — one gold one silver; gold and silver cafeterias; gold and silver towns; gold and silver schools; and even gold and silver windows at the U.S. postoffices. But even worse I have found that the term gold and silver does not only mean segregation but it also means an inferior quality in anything marked silver. On the payroll it means less pay for the same work, in the cafeterias and the commissaries it means inferior goods for the same money. In housing it means not only segregation but also inferior housing for the

(Turn to page 3)



EDWARD GREEN
Representative

Brother Green, popular chairman of the Gatun Chapter, is the Chapter's delegate on the Board. The brother is a veteran employee of the Commissary Division.



G. M. OGLE
Trustee

Brother Ogle was elected Trustee of the Local at the 1st Isthmian Convention of the UPW-CIO. This oldtimer is also Secretary of the Cristobal Chapter. An ardent and progressive worker during his 21 years of service with the U.S. Government, the Trustee has distinguished himself in community service as he did in sports during his early youth.



FOSTER G. BOURNES
Representative

Brother Bournes, Chapter Trustee in the Cristobal area and its representative on the Board, is generally known as the "lawyer" in the Panama Canal Press where he has been in steady employment during the past 19 years.

UNION MEMBER WINS FOR PANAMA

Josefina Lewis, Union member employed at the Balboa Commissary, brought glory to Panama at the Fifth Central American Olympics by winning the 80-meter hurdles and placing fourth in the high jump.

Jo is one of the best softball players of the country and enjoys great popularity in social circles.

UPW-CIO THANKS JIMENEZ 93 DELEGATES PRESENT IN UNANIMOUS ACTION

December 10, 1946.

Sr. Don Enrique A. Jimenez, President of the Republic of Panama, Panama City, R. de P. Your Excellency:

On November 30, 1946, the first annual Isthmian Convention of this Union was held at La Boca, Canal Zone, and while in session, the Convention was the highest instrument of authority of the Local Union, excepting the International Union.

The Convention noted with interest and satisfaction the reports of the valuable cooperation of His Excellency during the difficult, formative days of the Union, and of the Executive Power's renewed assurances from time to time to assist in the great work that lies ahead.

In recognition of the great moral contribution and service of such transcendent importance which, Mr. President you have so whole-heartedly given to this cause of labor, the Convention went on record as expressing its deep and abiding feeling of appreciation and gratitude, and I am directed to communicate to His Excellency, the thanks of the Union.

The motion to send this letter of gratitude was unanimously received by the ninety-two (92) delegates to the Convention, who represented thousands of workers of the Federal Government of the United States on the Canal Zone, and was indicative of a special tone of sincerity, respect and gratefulness not frequently demonstrated in gatherings of this nature.

As a consequence, for days I have been revolving this delicate assignment in my mind to find adequate words that would speak forth the thoughts of the delegates to the Convention, but my meager vocabulary coupled with other limitations, have deprived me of the satisfaction which this otherwise pleasant duty should bring.

Accept therefore, Mr. President, the sincere appreciation and gratitude of this Local union, for your every consideration and assistance. Please be assured of our most sincere regards for your health and continued success.

Very respectfully yours,
CESPEDES BURKE,
Recording & Corresponding Secretary.

INTERNATIONAL OFFICE SCORES DE TOLEDANO

La Boca, December 4. — J. L. Strobel, International Vice-President of the UPW-CIO, today issued the following statement from Local 713 Headquarters in La Boca:

"I have been authorized by the top officials of our Union, Abram Flaxer, International President, Robert Weinstein, International Director of Organization, and Eleanor Nelson, International Secretary-Treasurer, in Washington, D. C., to make the following statements regarding Ralph de Toledano's article in the Panama American accusing our organization of being under Communist domination.

"In the first place, Ralph de Toledano's article states that our Union on its own initiative undertook to organize the Canal Zone workers. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

Actually, the workers themselves formed union organizations with large memberships and later on applied to the CIO for affiliation. These request

(Turn to page 4)



VERNON N. HARPER
Trustee

Brother Harper from the Gatun Chapter, an ardent and emphatic of the equal pay for equal work maxim, is a veteran employee of the Atlantic Locks.

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