

# ACCION

# CIO Wins First Wage Increase

## President Arauz Issues Proclamation

### Program of Local 713

1. Minimum wages of 40 cents per hour.
2. A general across-the-board wage increase of a similar amount for all employees.
3. Union recognition and full collective bargaining.
4. Grievance procedure.
5. Establishment of proper procedure to select employees for reductions in force.
6. Establishment of proper procedure to select employees for promotions and merit increases within grade.
7. Removal of all forms of discrimination and segregation.
8. A contributory retirement system on a sound actuarial basis.
9. Granting of sick leave on working-day basis, not on calendar-day basis.
10. Establishment of a 40-hour week for all employees still working more than 40 hours per week, without loss of pay.
11. Time and one-half pay for overtime after 8 hours per day and after 40 hours per week, and on holidays.
12. Restoration of free transportation to job locations.
13. Decent housing, education, health and recreation facilities.

SUPPORT YOUR UNION!! HELP WIN THIS PROGRAM BY BEING A UNION MEMBER!!

Issues Permission to Non-Members and Relatives of all Workers to Join UNITY PARADE Demonstration



Francisco "Pancho" Arauz

Brother Francisco "Pancho" Arauz, President of Local 713, UPW-CIO, today issued a proclamation declaring January 19 the Union's UNITY DAY and ordering all Union Stewards to round up all members in the Local for participation in the day's activities. The proclamation addressed to the chapter and steward council officers reads as follows:

Comrades: January 19 has been set aside as the day on which we shall hold our UNITY PARADE demonstration as concrete proof to the officials of the American Government here and to the world in general that in the Republic of Panama, as well as in every spot in the world, the common worker is no longer disposed to be guided in his relations with others on the basis of his nationality; that whatever he does and feels and thinks is no longer done or felt or thought in singular loneliness, nor in the individual defeat that blooms collectively without producing collective awakening.

Whatever happens to one worker in Saipan happens to every worker everywhere; whatever is felt by one laborer in Chile is felt by every worker in every climate, Panamanians and West Indians have the right to live everywhere; and it is our duty to safeguard this right with all the might our unity can muster. The "Iron Curtain" of nationalism which is so dangerously prevalent among the big nations of the

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### 400 HOTEL EMPLOYEES RECEIVE 20% INCREASE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1ST

La Boca, C. Z., January 8.—J. L. Strobel, International Vice-President of the UPW-CIO, today announced that Local 713, although still an infant only six months old, has chalked up its first victory in winning a wage increase affecting some 400 employees at the Hotels Washington and Tivoli, to take effect on January 1st.

This case arose out of the fact that the hotel employees on December 1, 1946 were cut from a 7-day, 56-hour week to a 6-day, 48-hour week. At the same time their pay was cut as a result of losing one day's work, resulting in a reduction of one-seventh of their take-home pay.

The Negotiating Committee of Local 713, headed by Strobel, took up this matter with Governor Mehaffey. The Union pointed out that when the hours of most Canal employees were reduced in April 1946, at that time those other employees received increases in hourly and daily pay to make up for the loss of hours, so that the weekly take-home pay would be the same. On these grounds, the Union pointed out to Governor Mehaffey that the hotel employees were likewise entitled to the same treatment, if justice were to be done.

Governor Mehaffey informed the Union that according to the information he had been given, these hotel employees did receive an increase last April but did not suffer any cut in hours at that time. Therefore, they could not now ask for an increase.

However, when the Union called job location meetings of the Tivoli and Washington Hotel employees, it was learned that Governor Mehaffey had been given wrong information; they received no increase whatsoever in April 1946.

Learning this, Vice-President Strobel wrote to Governor Mehaffey stating what had been learned and asking that proper corrective action

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## CIO WINS SUBSISTENCE PAY

La Boca, C. Z., Jan. 8.—Edward Cheresch, Regional Director of the UPW-CIO, today announced a significant victory which the CIO has won for Panama Canal hotel employees employed at the Tivoli and Washington Hotels. As a result of meetings which Cheresch has held with Colonel Wang and the hotel management, a new policy will take effect as of the first of the year 1947 which will be of benefit to the employees.

Hotel employees eat their meals at the hotels, and in consequence \$8 per month is taken out of their pay to meet the cost of this subsistence. The Union of course had no objection to this. The "fly in the ointment" was that when the employees took their vacation leave and did not eat any meals at the hotel, the \$8 was still taken out, which was unfair.

Brother Cheresch took up this matter with Colonel Wang, Assistant to the Governor of the Panama Canal, along with International Vice-President J. L. Strobel. Colonel Wang

stated that existing regulations provide that in such cases, the employees should receive the extra pay in their paychecks. He suggested that if the Union would take up the matter with the hotel management he was sure the matter would be easily straightened out.

Cheresch therefore met with hotel management, and it was agreed that the \$8 subsistence would be given to employees when they are on leave, at both the Tivoli Hotel in Ancon and the Washington Hotel in Colon.

Union members at these hotels were greatly pleased at the Union's assistance in the matter.

It is of course understood that hotel employees who receive the \$8 in pay while on leave cannot eat meals at the hotel during the leave period.

A total of 400 employees are effected. At \$8 per year per employee, this means a total of \$3,200.00 per year which the Union has won for these employees as an indirect wage increase.

## BOX SCORE ON GRIEVANCES

11 MORE CASES SETTLED-TOTAL NOW 40

ACCION is pleased to report the satisfactory settlement of eleven grievances in addition to the 29 listed in the last issue of our paper. This makes a total of 40 in our Box Score, which will be a regular feature of ACCION from now on.

All stewards who settle grievances are requested to report them to the Union through J. L. Strobel.

The eleven cases are: CHARLES A. BARRETT, Atlantic side employee. Retired and is to be repatriated. No boat is available, yet he was told to vacate his quarters Dec. 31st. Case was taken up by Atlantic and Pacific organizers, and extension to stay in quarters was granted.

JOSEPH BENNAN, receiving disability relief of \$12 monthly. Case taken up by Regional Director Edward Cheresch, and pension was increased to \$15 on Jan. 2.

ILENE BROWN, Silver City Commissary, was discharged. The case was taken up by Organizer Evering and Ilene Brown, was reinstated to a lower job at 20 cents per hour. Her former job paid 25 cents per hour. It is hoped that perhaps later on Ilene Brown may be able to get her old job back. This grievance was a partial victory.

DAVID B. CLARK, IC 213105, Gorgas Hospital. Brother Clark was discharged for insubordination. Case was taken up by Organizer. Investigation proved Clark to be in the wrong. However, the organizers succeeded in getting Mr. Ohlson, Chief Clerk, to promise to rehire Clark if he does not obtain work elsewhere in 30 days. Partial gain.

MRS. HORACE COOPER, Gamboa. Mrs. Cooper and fam-

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