

OFFICERS, UPW-CIO-LOCAL 713

- Francisco Arauz . . . . . President
  - Graham A. Lewis . . . . . 1st Vice\_President
  - Alfonso Alexis . . . . . 2nd Vice\_Pres.
  - Teodoro M. Nolan . . . . . Secretary\_Treasurer
  - Cespedes Burke . . . . . Recdg. & Corresp. Secy.
- INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES**
- J. L. Strobel . . . . . International Vice\_Pres.
  - Edward Cheresh . . . . . Regional Director

ACCION

Published every week by Local 713, United Public Workers of America, CIO

Teodoro M. Nolah . . . . . Acting Editor  
Frank Thompson . . . . . Circulation  
Aptdo. 1769, Panama, R. P. — Drawer "R", Balboa, C. Z.  
Vol 2 PANAMA, R. P. No. 2

EDITORIAL

The Sanctity of the Home—a term used quite often in circles where people have learnt to regard their hovels or penthouses as the one place where each may enjoy a decent measure of privacy in this busy and busybody world, is somehow rather foreign to several persons in the employ of the U. S. Government in these parts. Some of these persons are in responsible positions and have been known to be guilty of violating certain of "silver" workers' rights in the matter of housing.

Particular reference is now made to the male and female bachelor quarters on the Canal Zone. Generally, the system employed in the assignment of quarters to unmarried workers provides a wide avenue for dissatisfaction by its abnormal contribution to the maladjustment of so many of the workers. An applicant is unaware of the life he or she may be forced to lead since he invariably shares a small room with someone whom he does not know. If there is any indication that much unpleasantness will be experienced with that person he has the alternative of refusing acceptance of the quarters, regardless of his immediate needs. Worst still is the fact that, after having lived in any of these rooms for a long period of time, one must be subjected to similar anxiety over the possible acquisition of new roommates under the assignment system. In this he has no voice. Long experience has taught us that. However, it appears that this problem and others arising out of this condition are not enough. The inconveniences suffered in this direction have been rising in so strange and sudden and a crescendo that certain colored female bachelors are definitely ill at ease since they have reason to fear the avenues from which protection should be forthcoming.

It has been reported that the female occupants of House 920, La Boca are enjoying the minimum of privacy ever since they were herded in from other emergency quarters. This house is jugged in between the La Boca Commissary and a long line of male bachelor quarters. The windows open either into the wonderfully crowded thoroughfare or to the inspection of the male bachelor. So it is that the girls find it impossible to aid the poor ventilation by using their windows. This is a serious matter and provides no end of embarrassment.

For several days these women have had to use the bath facilities on one floor while those on the other were being repaired. The stairs are all on the outside of the building and in full view of the public. All this in a recently reconstructed building.

The walls in each room are used by the District Quartermaster as bulletin boards on which large "NO COOKING" signs are placed, while the locks on the doors can be opened by all the keys on the building with little effort. One girl complained that the District Quartermaster or one of his agents removed a special padlock she had installed on her door, while another com-

UPW-CIO INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD HEARS PANAMA REPORT

"BOB" WEINSTEIN, INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR OF ORGANIZATION PRESENTS STROBEL'S REPORT

NEW YORK, N. Y., January 13.—The UPW-CIO's highest legislative and authoritative body, the International Executive Board, today heard a comprehensive report on its Panama Canal affiliate, Local 713, written and forwarded by International Vice-President J. L. Strobel.

The report was presented by Robert Weinstein, International Director of Organization of the UPW-CIO, as one of the most important problems to receive the attention of the 29-man Executive Board which is composed of the Union's top-leaders throughout the United States.

The Executive Board is expected to order full steam ahead on Canal Zone problems and to instruct the officers to place their major concentration on the solution of the miserably low wages and intolerable working and living conditions of the UPW's brother members in the Panama Canal.

Bob Weinstein, who is coming to Panama in person January 16th to speak at the Atlantic and Pacific side mass meetings, will give a full report on this matter to the membership of Local 713.

Let's give Director Weinstein a real welcome by turning out 100% at the parades and mass meetings in the Canal Zone on January 19th!

STRANGE INTERLUDE

The Christian custom of observing the birth of Christ has spread so far and so wide that most of the world's population have entered into the spirit of the occasion and generally look forward to that time for the purpose of greeting each other affectionately and presenting gifts to those they esteem.

But in these modern times strange things do happen. In many sections of the country many business houses enter into the spirit of the occasion and we know of one such store where the employee gets \$5.00 for each year of service in addition to anyone of the many articles on sale. There is no doubt as to the effects produced on the worker by such humane treatment. Interviews held with the management there revealed that no labor trouble has ever been experienced there and no complaints has ever been registered by any customer against any of the workers. On the other hand, the Panama Canal has never been known to extend a word of greeting to the thousands vitally tied up with the operation of this zone.

In several C. Z. units the foremen have been in the habit of making some attempt at sharing the Xmas spirit with the "Silver" workers. For instance, the "gold" supervisors and foremen of the Panama Canal Storehouses on the Pacific Side contributed from their private funds towards holding a "spree" for the storehouse "Silver" employees. It is said that there was much merriment at the affair and that those attending did succeed in appreciating the gesture. This appreciation was voiced in a written note to the supervisors by one of the "silver" representatives in which it was hoped that the gesture of friendliness would continue.

When the note was placed on the bulletin board it bore additional notes from the Superintendent and one of the Supervisors, which read as follows: Superintendent:

We are proud of our employees for the good work they been doing and hope they continue. Happy New Year to Supervisors:

The sentiments expressed by the Supt. is generally reflected

JUNIOR CIO

By HUGH ADAMS

In the November issue of the NEGRO DIGEST Orson Welles give his impression of American discrimination. He stated that the American people have been making trouble right through their entire history in the field of social justice.

They deliberately took away the Negro from his native land and placed him in bondage. They also have the Chinese and American Indians on their conscience. One of the gravest forms of this discrimination is the lynching of Negroes in the South.

In the Canal Zone the discriminating system is desired for the purpose of "ensuring" what is called "white supremacy"; however, this must be stopped. In two letters appearing in the Open Forum of the Panama Tribune, Jan. 5, one writer stated she was ashamed to be an American citizen while another denounced the theory of superiority. In this last the statement was made that such nonsense would be easily seen through when equal education is provided for all.

As one of the many instances in which this theory is blasted, we cite the case of "Sugar Child" Robinson, 8 year old Negro boogie-woogie pianist, whose salary is now \$7,500 per week.

by all of our foremen and myself.

But, as a follow-up to this expression of pride in the good work produced by the "silver" workers, only 44 of approximately 317 of them were recommended for wage increases; that is, less than 15% of them were deemed eligible for additional pay.

Is this not a strange interlude indeed?

What To Do With Your ACCION

1. First you buy it: that is the only way in which you can support it; and, incidentally, that is the only way in which you can own it honestly.
2. Then you read it for if you don't, you wouldn't know what's going on in the Union.
3. Then you pass it on to friends who are not union members; those who are members already have theirs. The foremen on the job are some of the people you can pass your ACCION to. He needs to know about you just as much as you need to know about him.
4. Then you let your editor know you feel about your ACCION. He wants to know what you like about it and improvement.

BUY YOUR COPY OF ACCION WEEKLY