

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 Cheresch Regional Director

ACCION

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

- Teodoro M. Nolan Acting Editor
- Frank Thompson Circulation
- Aptdo. 1789, Panama, R. P. — Drawer "R", Balboa, C. Z.
- Vol. 2 PANAMA, R. P. No. 3

EDITORIAL

Of special interest to our membership should be the address given at the mass meeting in the Colon Arena to the vast throng that marched in the Atlantic Side Unity Parade. The address was given by Brother Graham A. Lewis, 1st Vice-President of the Union, and reads as follows:

"Today is the real day of Emancipation for the "silver" employee. In the Past we have associated Emancipation Day with chattel slavery, that blot upon the banner of Christendom; but today we are faced with a different problem; we are faced with economic slavery, a condition we have been enduring for long years.

"Now, with the coming of the CIO, our status has been undergoing vast changes; changes which are being achieved, not by an accidental act of Congress decreeing individual freedom, but by negotiation and legislative procedure. In the latter event the dissimilarity between the legislative action of the nature which conferred individual freedom upon slaves held in thralldom in the United States of America and the legislative action of today is that, on this occasion, it will be action initiated by representatives of the oppressed peoples themselves, who will present their own bill before Congress on behalf of men already free.

"Today we have marched to celebrate the unprecedented achievement of our surviving UNITY for six solid months. We have marched thousands strong and have demonstrated without the shadow of a doubt that we, as a group—"silver" employees on the "silver" roll they say—can move together by our thousands in solid ranks, stepping in line in perfect unison; Panamanian, West Indian, Chilian, Peruvian, Salva-

MY! WHAT CURIOSITY!

In the "Crossroads" section of the Jan. 21st issue of the NATION, Brodie Burnham rambled on, as men sometimes will, about the parade. He, like others, has conceded that the parade has been successful and that the entire affair was orderly. But he, like many others here, there and everywhere, is somewhat concerned about the salary we pay our organizers. We have a similar concern about employing more organizers such as we now have. So, it might be worthwhile for us to get together for the purpose of satisfying our interests. On this side of the line we pay \$850 per month to each organizer, \$50 less to an underling, and all this in addition to rent, travel, laundry and other expenses. At no time do we allow them to mend their socks and, to ensure their public appearance with clean faces, we furnish soap and water. In the matter of food, we exercise similar care. We provide enough yams, which are just as good as potatoes and need less butter to make palatable. Come up and see us sometime, Broodie.

JUNIOR CIO



Hugh Adams

For the last few days I have been receiving letters from children expressing different opinions about the CIO. They are looking for a better life, and they are looking to the January 6, 1947. CIO for it. Here is a copy of one of the letters which I received:

Dear Sir:

Congratulations to the officers and members of the UPW_CIO, Local 713. Keep up your good work. We the children are satisfied with what you have done up to the present moment.

You, the older heads, march as one, wipe out the foe (discrimination, slavery, and poor living). As for us, the younger ones, the men and women of tomorrow, we are also preparing to wipe the enemy off the face of the earth. "Give us liberty or give us death."

Keep in mind part of the speech of our true American Negro ideal sportsman and champion, Joe Louis, "We shall win because we are on God's side". Is he right? Yes, then we must support the CIO with courage, patience, and unity. And through God we shall have victory.

To Hugh Adams and other supporters of our respected Union I send my appreciation. "What a man can do, men can do".

Roy S. Brice

After reading this letter it is clear that the colored children are putting full hope into the CIO.

PHOTO WALLACE DESIRES TO ANNOUNCE THAT A SUPPLY OF UPW-CIO UNITY PARADE PICTURES ARE NOW ON SALE AT REASONABLE PRICES.

DON'T FORGET YOUR COPY OF ACCION

PRESIDENT FLAXER GREETES LOCAL 713 IN UNITY PARADE FELICITATIONS

Washington, D. C.

Francisco Arauz, Drawer R, Balboa.

On this happy occasion of the six months' anniversary of the founding of Local 713 UPW-CIO I wish to extend warmest fraternal greetings in my most sincere congratulations to your officers and the entire membership for your unprecedented achievement in building a powerful Union in such a short space of time; I am confident that this great Union will continue to grow and bring substantial benefits to its members through the united and harmonious activities of the entire rank and file. The International Office of the Union is aware of the many grave problems faced by the members of the Local 713; the low wage scales, the poor living quarters and problems of discrimination. These problems will be solved by patient and united efforts along intelligence and constructive lines. On its part the International Union is drafting legislation to establish minimum wages, a better retirement system, and to abolish discrimination practices. You have my unqualified assurance that the International Union will apply all of its facilities in helping to solve the many problems you face today.

ABRAM FLAXER International President, United Public Workers of America, CIO

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE CIO

By C. E. Harewood

By C. E. Harewood

The CIO was formed on November 9, 1935 and in a little more than ten years it has secured six million members, substantially raised levels of living and employment conditions, strengthened democratic patterns throughout the nation, and forged the weapons that defeated world fascism.

The CIO has the same ideals as when it started. It uses the same methods. It is opposed by the same kind of enemies and it must overcome similar difficulties. The way ahead will therefore be clearer if we pause to look back over the hard road we have travelled.

The CIO fights for all. The broad basis of CIO has shaped its principles. It is therefore no accident that industrial unions are concerned with social purposes. From the start, the CIO was convinced that all wage earners must be organized regardless of skill, sex,

race, or nationality. The interests of all groups are inseparable and all are entitled to earn a decent living.

When workers are divided, employers play off one group against the other. Thus, the CIO does not seek special privilege for a limited group. Its interests parallel the community's since wage earner's families largely make up the community.

The CIO continues to fight unemployment, layoffs, wage cuts, and the speed up as it did originally. It continues to insist on the democratic rights of workers to bargain about the conditions under which they work. It continues to fight for health legislation, adequate unemployment insurance, a 40c. minimum wage in the Canal Zone, the fair employment practices act, and for better housing, is directed towards the goals for which the CIO was formed.

GOOD READING

The February issue of EBONY carries a 5-page article on colored labor leaders in the CIO and AFL; depicts some of them as presiding over mixed unions. Of special interest is the statement contained therein that over 100 colored leaders are found in the CIO and

over 50 in the AFL; hardly a union convention is held anywhere in which Negro delegates do not appear.

This article is of educational value and is recommended to the membership as one of our musts in reading material this week.