



CIO Greet Civil Service Rule

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Francisco Araúz

President, Local 713, UPW-CIO. Chairman, Balboa Chapter

Local 713 takes pleasure in joining the host of relatives and friends in congratulating brother Francisco "Pancho" Arauz on the occasion of his Birthday.

Disability Award Increased For Old-Timer

Elisha Greenidge, IC-35219, retired from the service of the Building Division last January, entered the office of Local 713 requesting that action be taken to increase the award of \$16.00 granted him by the Disability Relief Board.

Organizer Hay immediately took action on the matter. Latest news on the case informed that the award had been increased to \$19.00 per month, based on the records of his service.

PRESS CORRECTION

In the March 7 issue of ACCION appeared an article under caption DOUBLE JEOPARDY in which reference is made to justice received by Negroes in the Canal Zone courts.

ACCION desires to announce that the references made therein are incorrect and that there was no intention on the part of the UPW to cast any reflection on the Canal Zone Courts.

FOLLIES OF DISCRIMINATION

Though the matter in itself is serious, we cannot help having a laugh on the obvious simple-mindedness of people who, for one reason or another, insist on finding asses to bear their burdens. Here is one instance in which a District Physician in charge of one of the Canal Zone Dispensaries displays his illogical reasoning in trying to pin down the loss of an item of government property on a colored family.

The incident revolved around the loss of 1 hand towel which was purchased at the cost of 34c. When the towel was mis-

sed the following report was made by the District Physician: "Left in residence of some colored family where a physician was attending to an obstetrical case. Each one of the three new physicians disclaim any knowledge of the loss of the towel. Loss of one towel from the Obstetrical Bag discovered today." Now, how did the District Physician become aware of the loss having occurred in the home of some colored family when neither he nor the 3 new physicians recall losing it? Please don't laugh too loud.

Local President And International Vice-President Issue Joint Statement On New Ruling

"The recent announcement in the public press that the Civil Service Commission has ruled that citizens of the Republic of Panama are eligible to take civil service examinations for civil service jobs in the employ of the United States Government is an extremely welcome announcement to the CIO.

"We believe this announcement indicates that the United States Government is beginning to do something to grant in practice the rights that Panamanian citizens are entitled to under the Treaty of 1936.

"More than half of our members, perhaps 75% of our members, are citizens of the Republic of Panama. We are extremely glad that these members are now eligible for civil service positions, and a great many of them possess the requisite ability and qualifications to pass these civil service examinations and thus obtain jobs that will give them a decent living and remove the discrimination that has been visited upon them.

"Of course this action does not solve all of the problems of the so-called silver employees, nor does it assist in any way whatsoever those members of our Union who are

neither Panamanian citizens nor U.S. However, as far as it goes, it is unquestionably a great step forward and a portent of better things to come.

"We very sincerely wish to congratulate the United States Government on this step which we believe will do so much to improve relations between the two republics and futher the Good Neighbor Policy.

"There is no question but that the publicity and pressure exerted by the CIO in the United States, exposing the intolerable conditions of Panamanians and other non-U.S. citizens employed in the Canal Zone by the U.S. Government, was largely responsible for the issuance of this important ruling.

"The CIO intends to make a careful study of the civil service set-up here, so that it may properly keep its members informed of those civil service positions for which they may apply, the qualifications required, the dates of the examinations, nature of the content of the examinations, and any other information or instruction which assist them in taking advantage of the new regulation.

"We regret extremely that

the American Federation of Labor, true to form, is bitterly denouncing this liberal action of the United States Government of which its own members are citizens. The AFL is again trying to stir up ill-feeling between two friendly peoples, by insinuating that the placement of Panamanian citizens in civil service jobs will endanger the security and safety of the Canal and of the United States. They forget that no Panamanian citizen, nor any so-called silver employee for that matter, has ever been engaged in any act of sabotage against the Canal or United States interest here. As a matter of fact, the granting of equal rights to Panamanian citizens and so-called silver employees will create respect and good will on the part of our membership toward the United States Government.

"The AFL refuses to see the handwriting on the wall. Conditions have begun to change here in the Canal, and more changes are coming. The AFL had better wake up, and go along with the times."

Francisco Arauz,
President, Local 713,
UPW-CIO.
J. L. Strobel,
International Vicepresident,
UPW-CIO.

CANAL ZONE POLICE CAPTURES BURGIAR

Work has just been received that the Canal Zone Police have recovered one of the machines stolen from the central office of the UPW-CIO and that one man has been held in connection with the burglary. It is believed that there is a fair possibility that the other machines will be recovered.

This is certainly good news. Favorable action like this on the part of the police give rise to confidence and a feeling of security in the community. In commending the C.Z. Police for their success in this matter we desire to make the humble suggestion that at least one other policeman be assigned to the community of La Boca during the night shifts. The single policeman on duty should not be expected to patrol such a sizeable community with a fair degree of efficiency.

NOTABLE VICTORY SCORED BY LOCAL 713

After a long, winding series of negotiations, Mrs. Arthur A. Smith (on behalf of her husband) received her first check of \$25.00 from C. Schecker, Secretary of the Disability Relief Board at Cristobal, on March 1, 1947.

Mr. Smith spent thirty-seven years of continuous service with the Panama Canal Health Department, but when he was retired four years ago, a series of misunderstandings arose which prevented disability relief being authorized. Mrs. Smith approached the Union with her problem in June, 1946. She was asked to hold this grievance for a few months since the Union was swamped with grievances at the time. Graciously accepting the situation, she returned September, 1946 and then the Union took up the case. All misunderstandings were ironed out bit by bit and a very patient lady and her husband obtained justice finally, on March 1, 1947.

Mr. Schecker congratulated Mrs. Smith on presentation of the check. The Smith family will receive a life pension of \$25.00 per month.