

TODAY'S TRENDS

In a recent comprehensive study of the commissary price index it was determined that between the years 1940 and 1947 the: "Total prices of the food items have gone up 77.9% Total prices of the dry goods items have gone up 42.8% Total prices of all items have gone up 64.3%" and that during the same period (1940-1947) average monthly wages have been increased only 31% — a difference of 33.3% between the rise of commodity prices and the rise in wages. Rent excluded. It is any wonder "silver" employees have that hungry look?

From present indications it seems that Congress expects Governor Mehauffey to run The Panama Canal on a shoe string and a prayer. History is being repeated. The sacrifices of the little people and the promises of a better world are being forgotten. What price Victory?

Rumor hath it that immediately after the Hartley-Talft Bill became law certain individuals began the intimidation of "silver" employees under their supervision. This, unfortunately, is a repercussion, though not a provision of the Bill.

Is this, or is it not a statutory offense?

Congressional budget slashing has already started a depression in this area. Every time Congress says "No" to an appropriation a few hundred more "silver" families become eligible for starvation row. "Reduction of Force" figures are piling up so rapidly that

it is now a matter of conjecture as to when the breadlines and soupkitchens will become a must. Your answer is to join the Union NOW. This Union is your only hope for a better understanding of your problems; your only hope for a better tomorrow.

Your slogan is: ONE HUNDRED PERCENT ORGANIZATION BY CONVENTION!!

Governor Mehauffey has given you a clean bill of health-politically. He has expressed fully his confidence in your unswerving loyalty to the democratic way of life. This might, to some extent, mitigate the added cross of a spirited witch hunt throughout the membership of Local 713. Remember this, however:

"If your lips would keep from slips
Five things observe with care.
Of whom you speak; to whom you speak
And how and when and where."

Today the "silver" employee's cup-of-woe-runneeth over. Yea, he is caught in a vise the jaws of which represent low wages on the one hand and high prices on the other. Lo and behold the soaring flight of prices while wages remain earthbound.

And the promised wage increase hangs tantalizing, like a mirage before his burning eyes. Surely, his cup runneeth over as he walks through the valley of despair. What can he do? ORGANIZE! Give his Union "ONE HUNDRED PERCENT ORGANIZATION BY CONVENTION."

A PLACE IN THE SUN

F. CROSSDALE

Look well into the present for there is where the future is being molded. Crystal gazing may be of some comfort to the lazy individual who spends most of his life in wishful thinking, but it is pure unadulterated "bunkum" to the man who really or fully realizes that the future of his children and grandchildren is going to be just about what he himself makes it. The thinking individual knows what it takes to succeed. He chooses a goal, makes a plan and works it to the finish. That's what we have started a year ago to do. To assure the success of our Local 713 of UPW-CIO, your important moves are to help organize the unorganized, pay your dues regularly, attend your chapter meetings and other special meetings, help in the membership drive, help to stay organized 100% in order to maye for yourself "A place in the sun." Only a few moments a day of reflection and recollection of 40 years of "Jim-crowism" and viciousness are required to give you a most fascinating and stimulating effect on your attitude. Most of us wasted valuable time by not joining the Local or by not paying dues steadily as we should.

Realizing time's relationship to success, one year's activities and accomplishments could have been much easier, only if all the "Uncle Toms"

and "Scabbers" would recognize that their position is ut-mostly detrimental to both management and labor, which continuously causes so much hurt and very little gain.

We cannot succeed unless we organize. Our needs, such as wage increases (40 cents minimum), better retirement facilities, equality of opportunity etc., can only be acquired if we are well organized.

Time is too valuable to waste in staying divided. The recognition of the use of time is a vitally important factor for our Union, which is very, very young indeed. All anticipations and expectations of all our desires with 100% support and sacrifice to make our struggle less hard each year until that time comes.

We are not wasting time because we've just started. Let's not lose our heads now, by staying up-organized, because we would surely lose our only chance for better education, better living condition, better opportunities and our inalienable rights.

Do not forget that you must evaluate the time you are willing to spend on self-improvement and to destroy all the barriers we would encounter in our struggle for total liberation.

Use all your patience, efforts, determination and time, and fight for a healthy stimulant to your ambitions.

Confuscious say

Rich man join N A M (National Association of Manufacturers)
Poor man join church
Wise man join Union

Fool man join nothin'
Boss man say "Fire"
Wise man go Union
Fool man go home
Union man talk
Boss man say "mistake"

"Re-instate" Allee samee
Wise man go back job
Fool man stay "Fire"
Confuscious say:
All Union man go Heaven
Allee samee C I O.

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE HOLDS INAUGURAL MEETING

This Committee held its inaugural Meeting at the Office of the UPW-CIO Cristobal on Thursday evening July 3rd, 1947.

Present: Bros. G. M. Ogle, Chairman, J. N. Jones, Asst. Chapter Stewart, Adolpho Lowman, Chapter Translator, Harold Clark, Santiago Agnew, and Sister Catalina DaCosta, Cristobal Representative, Executive Board, Local 713. Also in attendance in compliance with Circular issued was Sister Layne, who found it impossible to stay for the Meeting which was called to order long after scheduled time, also Bro. Wm. Arthur.

The following motions were adopted after due deliberation. The Overall plan of opera-

tions for the Committee. (10 points forming separate document).

Formation of the various Sub-Committees to work with the Standing Publicity Committee of the Atlantic District. These were broken down into 7 groups as follows:

Group 1. "Accion" News Gathering Committee. — Bro. Maurice McLean, Chairman.

Group 2. "Accion" Censorship Committee. — Bro. Harold Clarke.

Group 3. Technical Advisory Committee on Propaganda and its Mechanics. — Bro. W. N. Arthur Chairman. Sound Equipment Section. Bro: Chas. Gordon, Chairman, Motion Picture Section.

Group 4. Broadcasting and Announcing Committee. — Bro. Adolpho Lowman, Chairman.

Group 5. Membership Drive Committee. — Bro. Santiago Agnew, Chairman.

Group 6. Women's Auxiliary Committee; — Sister Catalina DaCosta, Chairman.

Group 7. Lady Health Visitors and Interior Decorating Committee. — Sister Layne, Chairman.

CO-ORDINATOR:

Nicasio Gar
(Organizer).

OVERALL OBJECTIVES—

1. To publish "Accion" and to furnish news for same, also preparing it for the Press.
2. To distribute "Accion" on the Atlantic side.
3. To prepare propaganda about the Union and to see that it reached all members and "Silver" Employees in general.
4. To push the Membership Drive to the fullest extent. Spanish speaking members needed.
5. To plan advertising of Meetings and decorating of Meeting Halls.
6. To co-operate with the Education and Recreation Committee and assist it to spread its doctrine to the people.
7. To keep in touch with sick members and to give them the word, in Hospitals and Homes.
8. To use the Schools and Churches in reaching the people. (Salvation Army)
9. To be prepared to campaign for the Union by making use of Placards, posters, banners, flags, radio broadcasts, sound system, motion picture, etc.
10. To draft our female members to help the cause by giving them more responsible positions.

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE PERSONNEL

Bro. G. M. Ogle, Chairman
Bro. Carlyle D. Clark, Vice Chairman
Bro. Nathan A. Reid, Secretary
Bro. A. Morrison, representative, Gamboa Chapter
Bro. F. P. Crossdale, Representative, Red Tank Chapter
Bro. H. E. Drew, Representative, Paraiso Chapter
Bro. Maurice McLean, Representative, Cristobal Chapter
Bro. Eustace O. Williams, Editor, "Accion".
Bro. Gittens, representative, Gatun Chapter

PERSONNEL, PUBLICITY SUB-COMMITTEE, ATLANTIC SECTOR

Bro. G. M. Ogle, Chairman
Bro. Adolpho Lowman
Bro. J. N. Jones
Bro. Maurice McLean
Bro. Harold Clarke
Bro. Santiago Agnew
Bro. W. N. Arthur
Bro. Charles Gordon
Bro. Gittens
Sister Catalina DaCosta
Sister Layne.

On The Education of Stewards

By Herman R. Moore

Chairman, Sub-Committee on Stewards' Education

A year ago, we understood the task of forming our local union — Local 713, UPW-CIO. we can look back with pride at our accomplishments — accomplishments which, let no one be fooled, would not have materialized without the establishment of Local 713. Although it is not my intention to dwell on our past achievements, this article would not be complete if you were not reminded of our gains.

Our local gained recognition at the very start; slight wage increases were won; individual and group grievances were settled; a grievance procedure, overtime and holiday compensation, liberalized sick and rest leave, maternity leave for our working women, and many other regulations of major importance to job security were established. All within the period of one year!

But, without your help, dear brothers and sisters, these gains would not have been possible. Yes, it was your determination to live better and more decently that made these gains a reality. And it will be your determination to continue the age-old struggle of workingmen and women that will make our ultimate goal come true — a more abundant life for the silver workers of the Panama Canal Zone.

In this connection, it is well to state here that many workers join labor unions without being aware fully of their importance and the necessity of maintaining a strong union. They are simply members because other workers are, and they see in organization a chance to get better wages. They are not interested in other benefits such as job security, old-age pension, better education, adequate housing, shorter working hours, recrea-

tion, etc. For this reason, therefore, we of the Educational and Recreational Committee, on this our anniversary, take great pride in telling you how we intend to educate the members along the lines of trade-unionism.

Our first and most important task will be the education of our stewards. Stewards, as you know, are the contact men between the members and the union officials. They are the ones that represent the workers at the first two stages of the grievance procedure. They are, technically, organizers. In short, they are the ones with whom rests the responsibility of maintaining the union. If they fail in the performance of their duties, the union fails also. You can see, therefore, the relative importance of having the rank and file union leader adequately trained.

The stewards training program consists of furnishing him with a steward's handbook which is now in preparation and which will be ready for issuance within the next few weeks, the dissemination of educational material regularly, the occasional showing of film strips, the use of posters, and weekly classes.

In this manner we hope to make our organization strong, efficient, and democratic. It is by this method, too, that we intend to educate the members. A trained steward helps considerably with the training of members.

Therefore, let us all put our shoulders to the wheel of success and work hard to make our ambitions come true. Let us be able at our next anniversary to take our place in the hall of labor fame, and be able to say: a job well done!