

# THIS IS A GREAT DAY

This is a Great Day! Yes, such a Great Day in the lives of Workers on the "Silver" Roll of the Canal Zone Government that the song entitled, word for word to the opening sentence of our message, can fittingly be adopted as the theme song of Local 713. Brothers and sisters, today ushers in the first anniversary of Local 713, UPW-CIO, and to cap the climax, the announcement is presented to you through the medium of "Accion", your own official organ for the dissemination of news concerning yourselves in a significant way. Can anyone truthfully say, that we the members of this Union do not have much to be thankful for? No not one — hence it is in order that the Executive Board should have recently gone on record to hold Thanksgiving Services on both sides of the Big Ditch on July 27th, service on the Pacific side to be conducted at the Olympic Stadium, and on the Atlantic side at the Colon Arena. This arrangement will enable not only each individual member of the Union to give thanks, but every worker on the "Silver" Roll, even the non-member on the outside can join in giving thanks to the Giver of all things, in keeping with his sharing equally in benefits gained by the organization, free, gratis and for nothing.

Just to recount a few of the blessings bestowed on us — First and foremost comes — the fact of our being able to organize at all — Second, the privilege of affiliation with the

United Public Workers of America, and through this connection securing association with the Congress of Industrial Organizations, that liberal Champion of the Workers' cause; next in order comes the Me-haffey Grievance Procedure, the December epoch-making Parade, the visits of Director of Organizations Weinstein, International Vice President Thomas Richardson, the concerts by Paul Robeson, the renaissance of "Accion" — "ad infinitum" — Yea verily, we do have things to be thankful for, and we should show our gratitude by humbly taking part as Christians in the Union's Mass Thanksgiving ceremonies on Sunday 27th, thus marking in appropriate manner, the arrival of Local 713 at its first milestone. Yet let us not, in singing praises to the Creator, forget, in very devoutness of spirit, to appeal to Him for strength — not the strength of the body, but strength of organization, which strength leads on to power. So Brothers and Sisters, whilst singing paens of praise to the Almighty, remember to ask His blessing upon the coming Drive for 100% membership by the coming Convention.

"Back the Attack" with everything you have, for the power that will flow from your Union consisting of a membership of 100% "Silver" Roll employees will make your past achievements appear as nothing. You will receive as your reward everything you now lack, and that's a plenty.

## CRISTOBAL COMMISSARY HOLDS JOB-LOCATION MEETING

The Cristobal Commissary Division held their first Job-Location Meeting since the Convention on Wednesday evening July 9th at the International Club, Colon. All the various sections or divisions were represented. The Chair was occupied by Bro. J. A. Hassocks, Chief Steward of the Mount Hope area, and the Hall was crowded to standing room, there being several hundred employees, present. Organizer Nicasio Garcia, who was responsible for the arranging of the meeting, acted as Translator. The International Union was represented by International Vice-President J. L. Strobel and Bro. Max Brodsky, our new Regional Director.

Elections were held for the positions of Chairman of Meetings and Secretary. Bro. Harold Clarke was elected to the former position while Bro. Arthur Beatty was the successful candidate for Secretary. The membership decided to hold Meetings once a month, fixing the second Wednesday until further orders.

Many problems peculiar to employees of the Commissaries were deliberated at more or less length, and grievances of a similar nature dealt with in the same way. Brother Brodsky outlined the procedure to be followed in each case.

An item on the Agenda that lent color to the night's proceedings was a presentation to Vice-President Strobel prior to his departure. This took the

nature of a gift, and in the words of Chairman Hassocks and Sister Idalia Layne who made the presentation, it was a small token of the high regard held for him on the part of Commissary employee members. Bro. Strobel replied feelingly in suitable terms. After both Bros. Strobel and Brodsky had addressed the meeting, Pictures were shown — one of the innovations introduced by Local 713 for the education and recreation of its members.

## A MESSAGE

The United Public Workers of America CIO will forever remain firm to continue the fight for better working and living conditions for the worker in general. Our Union has just completed 12 months of existence and with the aid of Divine Providence has obtained several victories. We will accomplish much more if we remain united.

It is the duty of all civilian workers of the Army, Navy, the Panama Canal to affiliate so that we may be treated as human beings and not as sub-humans.

It is time that we do away with individual struggle forever. We must fight as brothers regardless of nationality, language, or color. After all we are fighting for a common cause and this is our only chance. The money you pay

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## Cristobal Chapter...

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Committee Bros. A. J. McKenzie and J. J. Jimenez were duly elected unopposed.

Publicity Committee Correspondent, Bro. McLean was declared elected in proper form.

### Introduction of Regional Director Br. Brodsky.

Bro. Strobel introduced the new Regional Director giving a brief talk on the qualification of Bro. Brodsky, among them his service in the Pacific with the armed forces of his country, adding his War Veteran's experience to his Trade Union technique.

Bro. Brodsky was given an ovation on facing the "mike." He opened his remarks by presenting the greetings of the International Office, from the thousands of UPW members and the tens of thousands of the CIO members in the States. He extended congratulations also on their behalf for organizing on the Canal Zone and for achieving what they had within such a short period. They had made and still were making Trade Union history. He made reference to the introduction on their behalf of Legislation before Congress, to the Taft-Hartley Bill against Labor, to the fact that the CIO intended to fight tooth and nail for its repeal, to the selfish policy of the other Labor Organizations on the Canal Zone, to their opposition to the inclusion of Panamanian citizens in taking the Civil Service Examinations, to the lack of discrimination in living up to take these examinations (a subject which is a most important plank in the platform of the CIO), to grievances in general, to unreasoning complaints of some individuals about progress made. He stressed the fact that everything cannot be measured by dollars and pennies and that Trade Unionism posed a much broader view.

### Drive for 100% membership by next Convention.

"You can't buy equality, peace and contentment of mind, dignity nor respect. You can only get these things when all the "Silver" Employees join the Union" he said. Sacrifices were necessary and the responsibility of Local 713 was a heavy one. "Your responsibilities though great are minor ones compared to those borne by Unionists 50 years ago. They sacrificed life and limb those days. You are called upon to make sacrifices of small sums of money." He concluded his address by declaring that hopeful eyes were turned in their direction by the colored people of the United States and of the world; it was the responsibility of Local 713 not to let them down.

The next speaker was Bro. Romero of Puerto Rico, a member of the National Maritime Union. He spoke in his usual fiery and impressive style referring to the fact that two of his sons had given their lives for Democracy and he had lived to see the Congress of the United States make laws to hurt Labor which had fought for Democracy. Brother Pascual Ampudia followed and addressing himself to non-members told them to go home and think of the CIO.

"Americans join Unions," he said, so "silver" employees should likewise join in the fight for what they want. He mentioned also that school children are already interested in the CIO and are asking intelligent questions about it. Their parents should all show their interest by joining up until every "silver" employee is in 100%. President Arauz in his greeting said that Rome was not built in a day. Roman history says that on Holidays they killed slaves for fun. We should join the fight to repeal the Law just past by supporting the CIO. He called upon delinquent members to return and new members to come in.

The Chairman remarked that representation will be made to the Executive Board to support President Phillip Murray, offering the support of Local 713 in fighting for the repeal of the Taft-Hartley Bill. He then introduced International Vice - President Strobel as the principal speaker of the evening, remarking before doing so that his duty in saying good-bye was an unpleasant one, but it could not be avoided.

Brother Strobel, in the course of his remarks, stated that he had made many friends here. That he had learnt much on this strategic spot of the world. He had met here the great Paul Robeson, and was proud of this meeting. He had had the opportunity of discussing over a period of 10 days the problem of the West Indian and of the Panamanian and of Local 713 in general. Had he not come here he would not have had this great experience. He had become a better organizer and would be more valuable to headquarters. Congress was squeezing Labor. Referring again to the benefits he had derived from his stay here, Bro. Strobel stressed the fact that he was of more service to the International Office today than he had been before. He is yet another official of the International who has first-hand information of Panama. Brother Weinstein had been here twice. As a result he could now represent them far better before Congress than he could have done before. Now he was in a position to advise on matters concerning Local 713.

### ADVICE:

The coming year would be a difficult one for the Organization. In comparison he could not refer to his year as difficult. Through the enthusiasm of the membership at that time organizational work was easy. Brother Brodsky's job was more hard. Enthusiasm was waning — complaints were being made. Congress was destroying gains made by Labor for the past ten years. It was trying to destroy Labor itself. They were not to lie back and take it, but fight back. That was the way to answer Congress' cutting the Canal Zone appropriation. It was a difficult job they had to face. "For God's sake don't let go this instrument for your very lives. It is the only organization you have." They had received some benefits but needed many more — their problem here is impatience. The payment of dues was a real sacrifice considering the average wage was

\$57.00 per month. But it had to be made. The Trade Union Movement was no joy-ride, he said. Lives were lost for it 50 years ago. Meetings such as the very one they were privileged to attend were then illegal. A 100% membership would make the job easier. 25,000 would give much better results than 17,000. "Hold it, have no misunderstanding what will happen to you if it goes smash. You can't picture the consequences." Brother Strobel then called upon them to support Brother Brodsky in the same manner he had been supported, for a man from the States would be helpless without their wholehearted support. He will return some time in the future he hoped, but since they had to send delegates to the International Convention he would meet them there and have the pleasure of shaking hands, and of introducing them to other Americans which would prove to them that there are real men, white men who are altogether different to those they have been dealing with on the Canal Zone.

After Bro. Strobel had spoken, the following Resolution was presented by Bro. G. M. Ogle, Chapter Secretary.

The Resolution was adopted unanimously by standing vote. Pictures were taken and the meeting adjourned.

### RESOLUTION

INASMUCH AS we, the officers and rank and file members of the Cristobal Chapter of Local 713 UPW-CIO in meeting assembled experience a deep sense of confidence and appreciation towards International Vice President J. L. Strobel, and

WHEREAS he by his ability and personality has

(a) Successfully re-opened negotiations on behalf of Local 713 with the Canal Zone Government resulting among other things in the establishment of an effective Grievance Procedure and divers other gains and benefits:

(b) Compiled a scholarly BRIEF outlining by statistical data a true picture of the Silver Worker's economic plight plainly before Congress, the American people and others in a position to ameliorate said condition

### BE IT RESOLVED

THAT a standing vote of CONFIDENCE AND APPRECIATION be tendered the said International Vice - President Strobel for MERITORIOUS and OUTSTANDING SERVICE whilst covering his difficult assignment to "Operations Panama". AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

THAT a copy of this RESOLUTION be forwarded to the International Office at Washington D. C., together with a covering letter expressive of appreciation for the high standard of Representatives chosen to cover this field of operations.

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