

# ACCION

EDITORIAL  
PAPER  
The outcry against  
Director of Local No.  
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THE CROSSROADS  
to have been identified with Communist activities  
at one time and as a consequence perennates  
to — at least according to his instructor — to  
the left of center

Vol. 3 — No. 3

PANAMA, R. P., SEPTEMBER, 1947

## \$200,000 GIVEN IN WAGES SINCE JULY

Over 4800 employees received nearly \$200,000.00 additional, on annual basis, from the merit and promotional raises which were granted by the Canal Zone last July.

Colonel Wang, Executive Secretary of the Canal Zone, informed Regional Director Max Brodsky of the specific figures relating to the wage action. He said that 4808 employees of the Zone received a yearly pay boost totalling \$199,511.00. A large number of these raises occurred as a result of advances above maximum existing rates as authorized by Circular G-368 issued on June 16, 1947. The others were within-grade merit increases.

This is the largest number of such raises to have occurred in

recent years. Unquestionably the \$200,000 addition to the payroll was in a great measure due to the pressure exerted by the UPW-CIO for a basic wage increase to affect ALL the so-called "silver" employees.

These raises are the second given this year. In January, 1947, merit wage increases were given to 4,635 employees amounting to \$198,252 per year and affecting 22% of the total number of employees.

Regional Director Brodsky stated, "We regard these raises as merely a down payment on a general basic wage increase desperately needed by ALL the employees. We shall continue to campaign for raises until every single worker has received a substantial increase in pay."

## New Pay Roll Procedure May Be Adopted

Colonel Wang, Executive Secretary advised the Union on Sept. 11th that "it may be possible through extensive mechanization of present manual procedures to furnish each employee with somewhat detailed information as to the manner in which his pay has been computed."

Colonel Wang's letter was in reply to a request made by the Union that a procedure be adopted which will give all employees, with their pay checks, an itemized account of all deductions made from their salaries, so that the employees can have a quick and easy check of their net pay and know exactly what deductions have been made.

Colonel Wang indicated that extensive study of the payroll procedure is being made by experts from the General Accounting Office and the Treasury Department and indicated that because of the "delay which is expected to be experienced in obtaining the necessary machine equipment, it does not appear likely that the new procedures referred to above can be put into practice in less than six or eight months."

## Wage Adjustment Anticipated

The Union is now awaiting a reply on its request for the adjustment of pay rates for hotel workers who suffered a cut in take-home pay when they were put on the 40-hour work week. These employees were originally on the 56-hour work week and were used in the service 48 hours per week when the 40-hour schedule went into effect. The recent shift to the 40-hour work week for hotel employees did not bring them the corresponding wage adjustments. It is expected that a favorable reply will be received within the near future.

## LOCAL LAD GETS HIGH POST IN NEW YORK

Bro. Ewart Guinier was appointed to the post of Regional Director for Region 2, New York — (one of the largest under the jurisdiction of UPW-CIO.) — at the last International Executive Board Meeting.

Bro. Guinier succeeded Bro. Jim King, resigned. Bro. Guinier was born on the Canal Zone. Paraiso is mentioned, but it is definitely somewhere "up the lines". He left the Isthmus quite young and hardly remembers Panama. He is 37 years of age, attended Harvard University, received a Bachelor of Social Science degree from City College and Master of Arts degree in personnel administration from Columbia University. In 1939 he was awarded the LaGuardia fellowship in the New

**NOTICE**

"Any unit not receiving Commissary Books by mid-day Wednesday should report same to the Union Office."

## MEET JOE SACHS



Born in a small Southern town in the "States" during the year following the end of World War I, Joe Sachs struggled to early manhood among the verdant fields and magnolia-scented daisies of eastern Maryland. He still carries with him the nostalgic memories of the early carefree days, fishing in the Chesapeake bay and gathering ripe strawberries under the warm Maryland sun.

## Leslie Hurdle hurdles Reduction Order

Leslie A. Hurdle, IC-35763, Dredging Division employee, found himself helpless, despite his name, to stop an approaching reduction of force on October 10, 1947.

Organizer Joseph Millwood was assigned to the case. With the help of Joe, on one side, and Management, on the other, Brother Hurdle successfully hurdled the reduction order.

He will continue to hold his present job thanks to union representation.

## Auditor's Report Received

The firm of Young and Young, Certified Public Accountants and Auditors, have recently completed a comprehensive analysis and audit of the financial operations of Local No. 713 for the period August 1946 through May 31, 1947.

The report was discussed at a meeting of the Executive Officers held Saturday night September 27th and by the Local Executive Board on Sunday September 28th.

The audit covers the period during which Mr. T. M. Nolan was Financial Secretary-Treasurer.

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York University School of Public Administration.

He is a veteran of four years service in the United States Army where he rose in the ranks of the 372nd Infantry Division to the post of Warrant Officer. He saw service in the Pacific.

## President Flaxer May Visit Local

President Flaxer of the United Federal Workers of America is expected to visit Local 713 in Panama, R. P., during his tour of the Canal Zone.

Flaxer is expected to arrive in Panama on September 14, 1947, and will be in the Canal Zone for approximately two weeks.

He will be accompanied by his wife and several children. Flaxer is a well-known labor leader and has served as President of the United Federal Workers of America for several years.

His visit to Local 713 is being arranged by the Executive Board at its last meeting.

Having a mathematical bent, he entered the University of Illinois in 1937 and commenced feverishly to explore Pythagorean and Euclidean unknowns. He became so wrapped up in infinite parabolics and quadratic equations that the outside world faded into remote oblivion. He decided in his junior year that his cloistered mathematical existence was becoming an unreal one so he tried out for the college debating team. He made a rapid transition from the mathematical unknown to political perplexities and was soon feverishly arguing such diverse subjects as the feasibility of unicameral legislatures, world government, socio-economic regulation, and birth control. Joe claims that his early tanglings on the debating platform benefited him in his later mix-ups with the bosses. In June 1941, Joe received a diploma from the University certifying that he had graduated with honors with majors in mathematics and economics.

He became interested in unionism in 1943 and joined the United Federal Workers of America, the predecessor organization to United Public Workers. Joe says that it took him about two years to dissolve all the false concepts about unions and unions that he had picked up in college. He finally realized that the basic problems of the federal employee were no different from the problems of workers in private industry. Since the proper solution to those problems lay in unionism, he promptly joined up and plunged into furious activity. As a rank and file member of United Federal Workers he was at various times, Chairman of the Education Committee, Chairman of the Grievance Committee, Chairman of the Veteran Committee and Vice-President of his local.

One of the biggest thrills he can recall was attending the first international convention of UPW-CIO in 1946 and participating in the merger of United Federal Workers with State, County, and Municipal Workers to form one mighty organization representing the thousands of public employees in the United States and the Canal Zone.

## ITCH FOR ACTION

UPW-CIO seemed to have such a bright and promising future that Joe itched to become a part of that future and have a role in bringing it about. He chafed in his seat behind a desk in Washington as a senior economist and finally gave up his career as a bureaucrat to accept a position as International Representative with UPW-CIO.

His first assignment was in Alabama to help in the Southern Organizing Drive. His experiences in Alabama, which is in the deep south, were both

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