

## CHARTING A NEW COURSE

(EDITORIAL)

It is only a matter of days before the Second Annual Convention of Local 713, UPW-CIO, will begin its deliberations. We would be remiss in our duty, and false to our purpose, if we did not take cognizance of this important event or hid behind our neutrality to evade the deserving commentary.

To the great George Washington is credited the advice that, "We ought not to look back unless it is to derive useful lessons from past errors and for the purpose of profiting by dear-bought experience." We deem it salutary to examine the records of the past year before they are filed away in the bosom of history.

By and large, the year has been truly a successful one. In conceding this, however, we must frankly admit that the successes could have been greater if the cankers of faction and graft had not partially undermined our efforts; or if a positive vigilance had been maintained. Too wide a latitude permitted the cunning and unscrupulous to operate; too much opportunity enabled others to combine and dominate. Shocked now into a rude awakening there are emotional outbursts on every hand, and an insistent clamor is heard in certain quarters for action that parallels a political "purge."

We are neither the priest nor the prophet of this current doctrine. We have no personal cause to promote. We serve all of the membership, and the will of the majority we shall cheerfully accept. Our analysis of the situation does not leave us free to absolve or to condemn. We hold that the responsibility for the unsavory situation can be attributed in a measure to the apathy displayed by a majority of the rank and file towards the affairs of the union; and that we have been paid, so to speak, in deflated dividends from the counterfeit investments (influenced by prejudice and politics) that we had made a year ago. This lackadaisical way of doing things will, in any organization, permit a small and ambitious minority to secure control and manipulate affairs to the detriment of the body politic.

There is urgent necessity, however, to put our house in order. It is imperative that we chart a new course to safeguard our union against the reefs of degradation and the shoals of avarice and selfishness.

We call upon the delegates to the convention to acquit themselves like men of vision and stature. In the delicate task that confronts them of restoring calm and confidence to those whom they represent, and prestige to the organization, we recommend intelligent thought and deliberate action. Haste, anger and all the other states of mind which excite the emotions have a tendency to distract from the task at hand and lead to a multitude of errors.

We need to chart a new course! Let us THINK and ACT prudently in the continued interest of Local 713. Let us seriously concentrate on how we can mobilize our resources behind the efforts of the International Union to secure passage of its legislative program in Washington. Let us dedicate ourselves to the task of putting over its economic and social programs on the Canal Zone. By conceding primacy to these objectives, we will justify our existence as an organization toiling in behalf of the common worker.

Remember, time frittered away in jockeying for positions, and indulging in unnecessary arguments is but another blow struck at the heart of unionism among us.

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### "Handbook very helpful".....Col. Wang

The Stewards' Manual compiled recently by Herman Moore, Chapter Steward of the Balboa Chapter, came in for favorable comment from Colonel Wang, Executive Secretary, last week.

In a letter to Max Brodsky, Regional Director, bearing date of October 6, 1947, the Colonel had this to say:

"I have read the Handbook with interest. I consider that the success of the grievance procedure is to a large extent dependent upon the good judgement of stewards and their understanding of the regulation, and that this Handbook should be very helpful in assuring a better un-

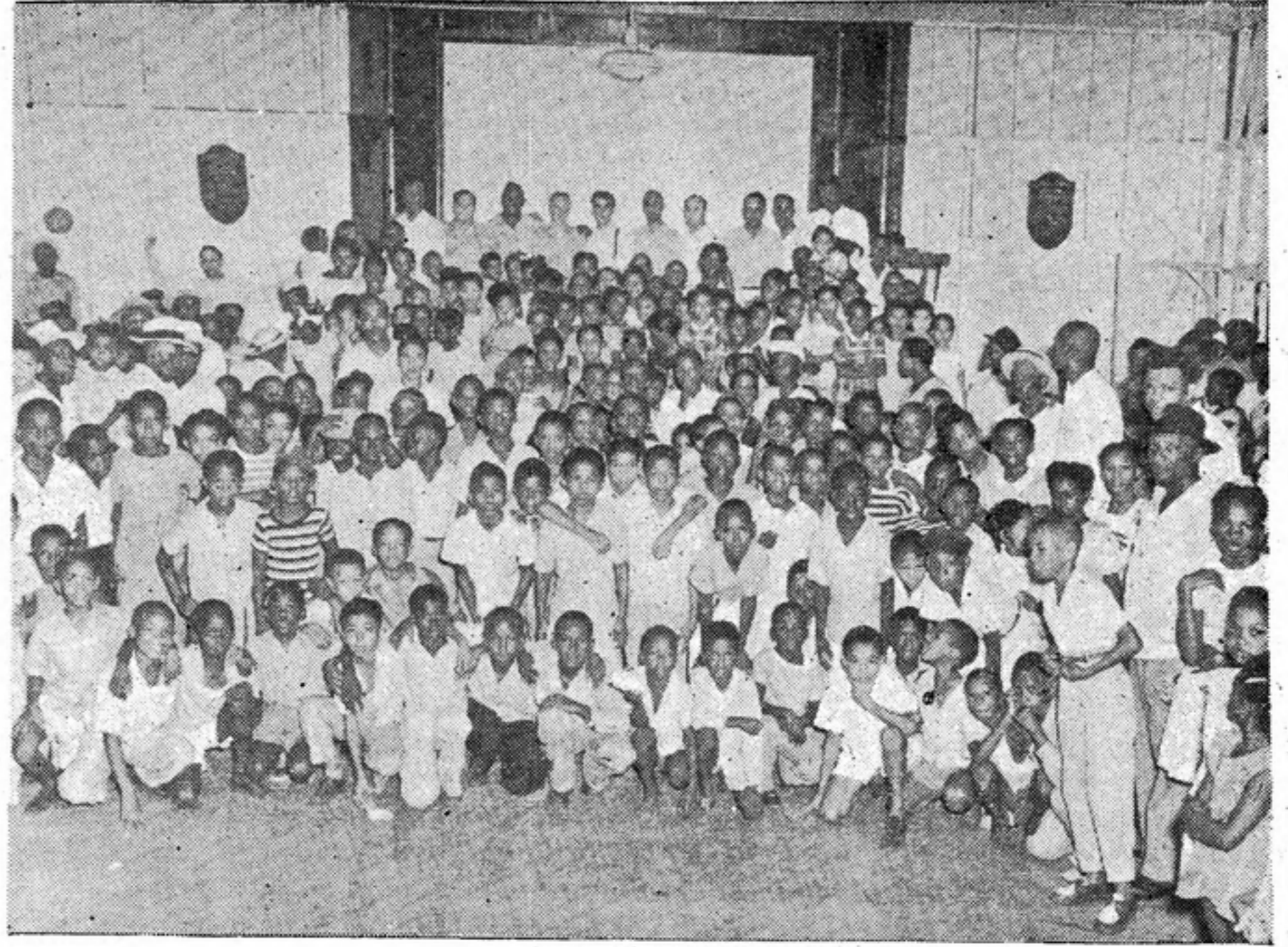
derstanding of the grievance procedure among stewards."

Stewards not in possession of this Manual, should obtain a copy and all are urged to make a thorough study of its contents.

#### CALUMNY

"The calumniator inflicts wrong by slandering the absent; and he who gives credit to calumny before he knows it is true, is equally guilty.— The person traduced is doubly injured; by him who propagates, and by him who credits the slander."  
—HERODOTUS.

## HAPPY GUESTS AT SEAMEN'S PARTY



## DOCK EMPLOYEES ON PSEUDO-STRIKE HOLD MEETING

TO WORK, OR NOT TO WORK, — That was the \$64 question disturbing the minds of approximately 600 dock workers gathered in the Club International, Colon, last Tuesday night. Whether, (to continue with the paraphrase) it is sane and sensible to seek alleviation of the multiple ills that obsess us through intelligent union representation or, by this harum-scarum method end them — Thus are princes (like Hamlet) and paupers (like "silver" workers) wracked at times by indecision.

#### Origin Uncertain

How the trouble started, nobody seems to know. Certain it is that Local 713, UPW — CIO had nothing to do with it. Rumor has it that a recent wage increase given by private shipping concerns planted the idea, and that the desire to equalize the disparity, abetted by the agitation of certain rabid elements germinated it.

Developments At The Meeting Standing room was at a premium, and the atmosphere vibrated with conflicting emo-

### Vice-President Pays 2nd Visit To Local

Thomas Richardson, International Vice-President of UPW-CIO arrived from Washington, D. C., early on Sunday morning, October 19.

Despite the inclement weather and a delay in the schedule of the flight, a group of Local and International officers from both sides of the "ditch" was on hand to greet him.

Bro. Richardson, who comes on official business of the International, is a UPW leader of many years standing, and is the Chairman of many of its important committees.

This is his second visit to Local 713 in the past five months, and his stay will be of several weeks duration.

"ACCION" extends a cordial "bienvenida" to the distinguished visitor.

tions as Thomas Richardson, International Vice-President, and other union officials harangued the complaining longshoremen for more than three hours. Every argument was employed by these mediators to drive home the futility of the move and the abortive results that would inevitably ensue.

#### "Tommy" Speaks His Mind

Bro. Richardson's talk was without varnish or appesauce; blunt and to the point. He had been through the mill himself, he said, and could appreciate their problems and sympathize with their aspirations. He would be popular if he were to tell them the things they seemingly wanted to hear, but as a responsible official of UPW — CIO speaking to men who should be aware of their responsibilities he could not but denounce the approach to the present problem as being entirely wrong. As one of their leaders he could not and would not encourage them to stick their necks out to be chopped off.

#### The Factors Of The Problem

Warming up to the task, the International Vice-President proceeded to elucidate on the factors of the problem. The constitution of the UPW he told them was emphatic in its language on strikes against the Federal Government. It was a serious act to take organized strike action against the government of the United States and the Union could not condone and support any such in-  
teption.

In forceful language, he outlined to them the consequences in probable loss of life, loss of privileges and loss of everything that the union in its brief existence had obtained for them. "Who would want to stick out his chin for a punch like that," he asked. Counselling them to act as disciplined CIO members, he exhorted them against any action that could be distorted and utilized by the enemy.

#### Conditional Pledge Made

The pledge of an all-out effort by himself and the other

International Representatives in obtaining an acceptable solution was given. This, however, was contingent on an immediate return to work as no negotiations could be initiated, until that had been done.

#### Brodsky Takes Over

Max Brodsky, Regional Director, followed immediately in a similar vein. Max admitted an awareness of discontent over the wages and working conditions in general at the docks, and told of a conversation he had had with Mr. McSparren relative to the rotation plan, and other improvements that could be advantageously made.

He had repeatedly told them that better conditions could only be obtained through negotiation and legislation; and criticized them for not having acquainted the union of their contemplated action. He was positive that if they had attended their meetings regularly, and aired their grievances, this situation would never have developed.

After citing instances where intelligent representation had brought unusual results, he told of a proposed interview with Colonel Wang next day, and invited them to select two delegates to accompany the union officials.

Sachs And Lewis Summarize International Representative Joe Sachs and Vice-President Graham Lewis summarized with eloquent pleas for the restoration of reason and union discipline.

After the decision to return to work was made, the two delegates were selected.

Organizer Nicosia Garcia served as translator, and made a splendid contribution of his own to the Union's effort.

EVERY DELEGATE  
IS EXPECTED  
TO DO HIS DUTY