

## Grievances Here and There

JOSEPH DAWKINS, employed by the Motor Transportation Division was involved in an accident with his vehicle while transporting men from work. Dawkins was discharged from his job with objections to reemployment in the MTD and in addition his pay receipt and rest leave accumulated was help up as payment for damages to the truck. The case was processed by Organizer Evering who was able to secure for Dawkins his pay and rest leave amounting to \$71.80.

After intervention by the Union thru Organizer Evering the objections to re-employment in the Commissary Div. placed against David G. Herton, in the year 1941, were removed from the Brother's Record.

Upon complaint from members in Gatun that the lack of ice delivery on Thursdays, Sundays and holidays was a severe inconvenience to the people since there were no facilities for ice storage for two days and thus resulted in food spoilage, Organizer Dean took this matter up with the Commissary Officials and it was agreed that in the future ice deliveries will be made daily including Sundays.

A recent investigation by Organizer Dean of complaints from members that they had been overcharged in the hospitals resulted in the following adjustments:

Brother Reyes Es Colona was refunded \$64.72.  
Brother Nabal Archibald was refunded \$10.00.  
Brother John Jennings was refunded \$15.00.

Brother Joseph Jordan was reduced in force from the Building Division. After 7 years of faithful service he was given a mediocre clearance. The foreman and supervisor were stubborn—they would not change the clearance. Finally Organizer Moore took the case to the third stage and succeeded in having the "mediocre" erased and "good" inserted. We hope that Brother Jordan will now find it easier to obtain another job.

Dorothy Ward, employed by the Camp Bierd Commissary, asked the manager for a transfer to

### ACTIVITIES OF THE RED TANK CHAPTER

by Chris. E. Harewood.

Perhaps this representative may be too optimistic, but developments in the Red Tank Chapter reflect considerable improvement after a diligent canvassing of all the houses in the community in the Local union organization drive for a 100% membership.

Two momentous and record breaking chapter meetings last month, have produced results which bid fair toward a way of achieving a 100% membership in this chapter; both of these meetings have met with unexpected success in laying the foundation upon which an important instrument was founded.

The instrument referred to is the "Informer," a news organ of the Chapter, prepared and printed by the Publicity Committee with a staff of yours truly as editor, Benjamin Soley, assistant editor, Servicio T. Rueda, translator, Hubert Thompson, direct-

any of the Pacific side commissaries. After waiting one month for an answer she was told to go to the other side and seek the job herself. Sister Ward reported this to Organizer Garcia, who took the case in hand and in less than 24 hours she was on the train to take a job at the Curundu Commissary.

As an employee of the R. F. & A. Brother Vernal C. Williams was discharged for continual absence from the job during working hours. He was then handed a "poor" clearance. Organizer Garcia protested the clearance, and won an adjustment. Brothers Williams was then able to land another job elsewhere.

Brother Guillermo Benn, an employee of the Atlantic Bakery, asked for a day's leave to attend to important personal matters. He was denied the leave, but the personal business couldn't wait so he took the day off anyway. On his return, he was given a five-day suspension. The steward, Daniel Foster, went to bat, showed the injustice involved, and the suspension was listed.

William Johnson never got to be a member of Local 713—you see he was put on Disability Relief in 1937. But that doesn't mean that the union can't help out the old timers. Johnson complained that he was receiving \$15.00 monthly but had 22 years service with the Canal. Organizer Millwood got on the ball and today William Johnson is receiving \$22.00 monthly instead of \$15.00—still far from enough.

or education committee, Charles Russell, director education committee, and Allan Spencer and Alphonso Alexis, typists.

The purpose of this paper it is understood, is embraced in its title, and is adapted to all classes, and will serve to keep the members of the Chapter informed as to the work the union is doing, while the union's newspaper "Acción" is on the press.

From recent talks with members of the Chapter, it seems that the general feeling is, that it is their duty to see that the basic human needs, economic, spiritual, and physical are met, and to make possible some of the good things of life through continued support of the union, and also, that the indifference of a few individuals will not interfere with the future of the organization when it is entrusted to our posterity.

Because of the collision of the chapter meeting of this chapter and that of Gatun, it was decided by agreement with the membership, that hereafter, the regular chapter meeting of this chapter, will be on the FOURTH TUESDAY nights of every month.

This chapter has a far way to go in achieving its goal and to maintain its present position in the present organizational campaign, and it is hoped that each individual of the community will make himself or herself an organizer, and make the non-member a member.

## WE PRESENT



BRO. LOUIS A. MOJICA

Brother Louis A. Mojica, steward on the Cristobal Docks takes the Organizing honors for February. Single-handedly he signed up 40 new and re-instated members.

On March 6th, Brother Mojica called together a meeting of 45 full-blooded San Blas Indians who are also full-blooded CIO members on the docks. A spirited discussion was held of grievances and the organizing drive. It was virtually a United Nations meeting with translations in English, Spanish, and San Blas.

### ACTIVITIES OF THE CRISTOBAL CHAPTER

by LeRoy Inniss

Approximately 1500 persons attended a special meeting of the Cristobal Chapter held on February 25, 1948 at the Club Tropical, called primarily to welcome Bro. Max Brodsky who recently returned from the United States after a stay of about eight weeks, and to hear his report in connection with his activities in the interest of the so-called "silver" employees and especially members of Local 713. This report was very interesting and lengthy and contains a wealth of valuable information to all members of the Local. Of much interest was the hearing which he had with the Senate Committee on wages for federal employees. In this instance the poor position of the silver federal workers on the Canal Zone was thoroughly explained. The committee was told in an emphatic manner about the shameful inequality in wages being paid in the Canal Zone, and of the high prices which the underpaid workers have to pay in the government owned commissaries for limited necessities of life, on which they are barely able to exist.

As usual the program was enlivened with musical renditions by Mr. Emanuel Dowden who played two numbers on the clarinet accompanied by Mr. Charles Wareham on the piano. Mr. Wareham also rendered two piano selections and accompanied Mr. Granville Barrows, a baritone in a most difficult and beautiful number. The musical treat was very much appreciated by the members present.

### The Union Depends On You

Organize the Unorganized

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## TODAY'S TRENDS

by Foster Bournes

The decision of the "silver" employees to organize is without doubt the most revolutionary event to hit the Canal Zone, so much so that a peculiar phenomenon is evolving, right before our very eyes. Strong men who once fought—with everything—to grind those workers faces into the mud are today making strange statements and peculiar overtures. Can it be that "per capita interest" in the "silver" worker is so widespread—hence the honeyed inuendos and sugar-coated "approach"?

Paradoxically, strong men who once fought for, and with, the "silver" workers would seem to have turned their coats. They have jumped unto the other fellows band-wagon and have galloped off like Aldous Hurley's moronic coachman, in every direction. There can be no denial of the fact that these unseemly happenings of the past few weeks will bear watching so as to determine what their ultimate goals are. It has been wisely said that where there is smoke there is fire.

If, we say IF some of our shrewdest minds have allowed themselves to be used as tools, nay as pawns, in a nefarious scheme to wreck the "silver" workers' Union we say PITIFUL. Amen

Should these things be blamed on gamma rays, the moon, or fear? The situation is freighted with mystery and speculation.

Fear destroys morale. Fear gnaws at the senses lie a rat gnaws in a drain. Fear perverts the soul of strong men. Fear reduces to the irreducible nadir. Fear moves men to destroy that which they cannot control. Then again there is that complex human weakness: Lust for power. This one martyr all sense of group consciousness, and places the individual above the majority.

Every man has the right, to think for himself, but no man has the right to think that what he thinks MUST BE RIGHT FOR HIS FELLOWMEN. We have not yet emerged from the aftermath of history's greatest war which was fought for no other reason than to make the world safe for democracy. Yet today we have our demagogues asserting the right to think for the majority, under the guise of thinking for themselves. We are unalterably against any mandate, but that given by the majority. What seems to be the paramount weakness of our "thinkers" is their inability to realize that only abstract thinking that is absolutely devoid of personal norms is of any real value to progress.

### BASIC CHANGES SOUGHT.... (Continued from page 1)

mulated before an employee is entitled to rest leave. This means that he must work fifteen months before he earns a two-weeks vacation. It was requested that the 240 hour requirement be eliminated or drastically reduced.

Officials also proposed that rest leave be earned at the rate of 17 days per year and sick leave at the rate of 9 days per year, a total of 26 days per year. This proposal would allow the employee to use his sick leave without having to use his rest leave and only in the event of prolonged sickness, where his leave was entirely consumed, would his rest leave be used for this purpose.

### Quotable Quote

"The House Committee on Un-American activities once more has been indulging in its favorite pastime of playing ducks and drakes with the constitutional rights of citizens that it pretends to reverse. Its latest selection for one of its smears is Dr. Edward U. Condon, head of the Federal Bureau of Standards. The charges in this case have a particularly sinister appearance but the reflex result has been again to tear the mask of hypocrisy from the faces of Representative Parnell Thomas and his fellow witch-hunters."

—Harold L. Ickes.

### A Plea To The Slackers

Co-workers, we can help our Officers achieve their goal by becoming a one man and one woman organizer; start now while the drive is on, go out and organize the unorganized so that we can obtain our goal of membership of 20,000.

Co-workers this Union is yours, lets make it 100% strong, for by doing so our Union will be respected by all. I am appealing to all so that they will join in this great struggle for liberation from economic oppression.

I am directing this appeal especially to the younger ones, let's join in this great fight, now is the time for us to show how brave we are and join shoulder to shoulder with the older ones and carry this struggle to victory. Let's look out for our future and also our children's future, lets make the working conditions on the Canal Zone such that when we are gone from this scene of operation our children can proudly say that our parents have made this place a paradise for all.

A. S. Wilmont, Chairman—

Are you a member?