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UNION PAPER

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ACCION

Official Organ
of
Local 713

UPW-CIO

Non-political

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PANAMA, R. P. DECEMBER 21, 1948.

FREE

Local's Mightiest Convention Adopts Strong Program

Nine Out Of Ten Favor Semi-Monthly Pay On Employee Poll

ADMINISTRATION URGED AGAIN TO PUT SYSTEM INTO EFFECT

The overwhelming number of Panama Canal-Railroad employees have voted on the Union's poll in favor of two pay periods per month together with discontinuance of commissary book deductions. The poll conducted by the Union, indicated that 88.2% of all the employees surveyed, nearly nine out of every ten, were in favor of the proposed change. Over 10,000 of the Canal - Railroad employees were covered by the poll. Every division and virtually every area on the Canal Zone

were included in the the results. Diligent action by the Local's more than 500 hundred stewards made the huge project a successful operation. The Union has already conveyed the results to the Administration and pressed again for the institution of semi-monthly pay. A number of the employees who objected to the proposed change did so in the fear the they would have to spend too much time waiting in line at commissaries for books, if the

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Joaquin Franco, Jr., Private Secretary to President Domingo Diaz Arosemena of the Republic of Panama, delivering the President's message to the delegates.

"Unity" and "Full Steam Ahead" Keynotes Third Convention

Amidst an atmosphere of grim determination to continue waging an all-out battle for the improvement of conditions for the under-privileged employees in the Canal Zone, Local 713, UPW-CIO, held its Third Annual Isthmian Convention at the assembly hall of the La Boca Clubhouse on Saturday and Sunday, November 20 and 21.

The two-day Convention opened with the playing of the national anthems of the Republic of Panama and the United States, after which Rev. Lemuel Shirley delivered the Invocation.

Many Messages Received through the visit of his Private Secretary, Joaquin Franco Jr., sent words of greetings to the Convention. Personal messages were delivered by the Hon. Jorge Illue Don Domingo Diaz Arosemena,

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Union Protests Delay In Civil Service Appointments

LETTER FROM BRODSKY TO RICHARDSON CALLS FOR ACTION WITH CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

Max Brodsky, Regional Director, has called upon Thomas Richardson, UPW Anti-Discrimination Commission Chairman, to protest immediately to the Civil Service Commission in Washington the latest postponement of Civil Service appointments.

Brodsky pointed out in his letter that many Union members took and passed the examination. He stated that the many postponements are leading people to think that the right of Panamanian citizens to hold Civil Service positions is being evaded.

The full text of the letter follows:

Mr. Thomas Richardson, Chairman
Anti-Discrimination Commission
UPW-CIO
930 F CT. N. W.
Washington 4, D.C.

Dear Brother Richardson:

After months of postponement, the Civil Service Commission in Washington has apparently again postponed the probational appointment of eligibles on the Civil Service registers to positions in the Panama Canal and Panama Railroad held by temporary and War Service appointees.

As you know many of our members took Civil Service examinations during 1947 and qualified in large numbers on the typist, stenographer, and clerk, registers. Since that time many postponements have occurred in the appointment of these qualified eligibles to positions held by non-permanent employees. Because of these delays, it is being regarded by many that last year's Civil Service Commission ruling that Panamanian citizens be permitted to take Civil Service examinations and fill such positions is being evaded.

Therefore, I am requesting that you lodge an immediate protest with the Civil Service Commission against any further postponement of the appointment of eligible applicants to positions held by non-qualified employees.

Fraternally yours,

MAX BRODSKY, Director
Panama Region, UPW-CIO.

UPW PINS TO BE HERE SOON

Handsome looking Union pins appropriate for wear on suit or dress will be available for members of Local 713 soon.

The new pins contain the emblem of UPW-CIO and come in two styles one for men and one for women. They can be purchased for 50¢.

A shipment of several hundred should be received by the Union around the first of January. Those who come first will be served first.

Union Asks Raise for Street Cleaners and Relief Employees

Union appeals last week asked that Panama Canal Street Cleaners and employees assigned to relief duty be increased from the present grades.

The Union pointed out that Street Cleaners perform most of their work in streets and gutters and thus are constantly exposed to injury from passing vehicles. Also these employees have to work in moderate rains and can take to shelter only if the rain is heavy and prolonged. In addition, it was pointed out that since they are required to handle dirt, filth, refuse and garbage, the Street Cleaners

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Richardson Sends Protest To Civil Service Commission

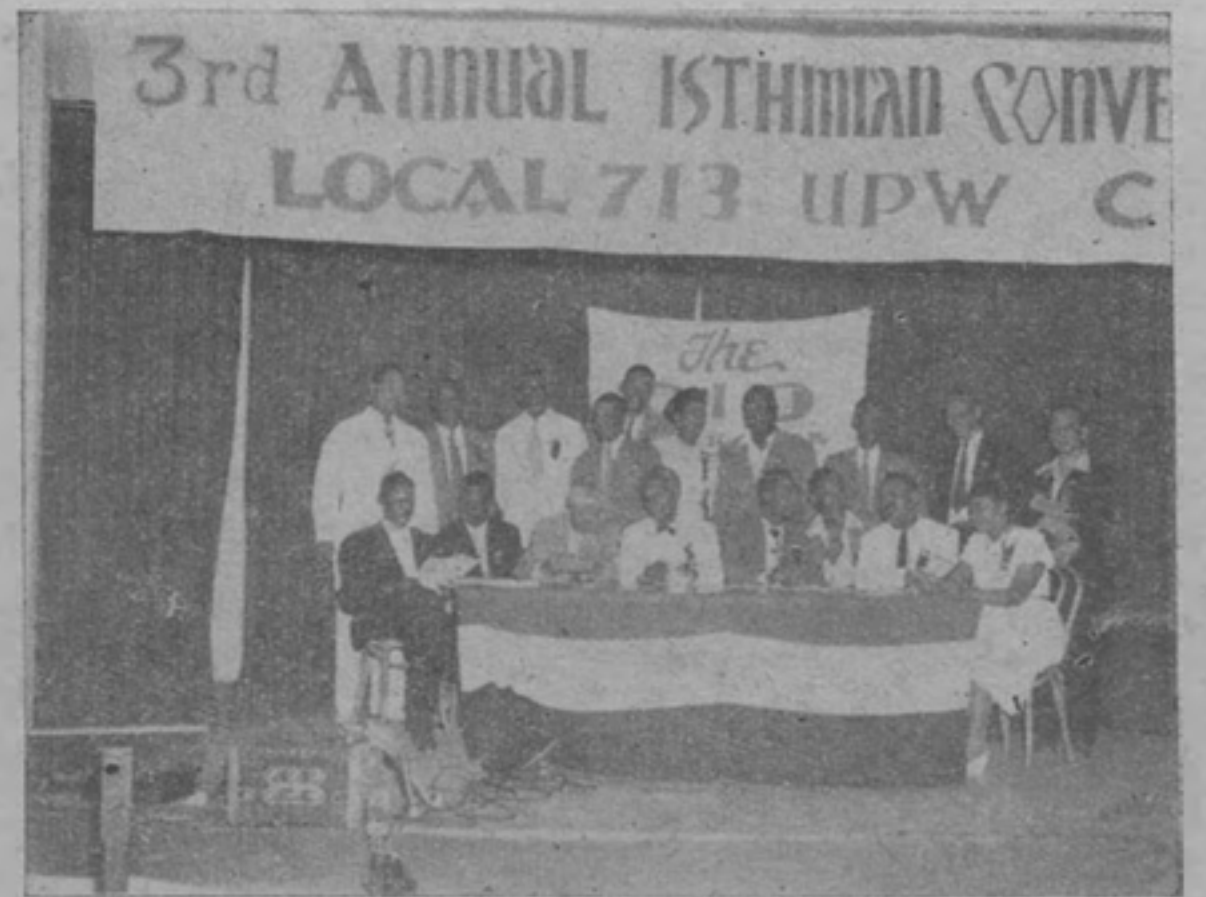
ACCION presents the text of the letter sent by Thomas Richardson to the Civil Service Commission in response to the request of Region 14, UPW-CIO:

Honorable Harry B. Mitchell
President
U. S. Civil Service
Commission
Washington 25, D.C.
Dear Mr. Mitchell:

In the Spring of 1947 examinations for civil service jobs

in The Panama Canal Zone were opened to citizens of the Republic of Panama. As you know, this action was taken in compliance with (1) the Treaty of 1936 between the United States and the Republic of Pa-

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The newly elected Local Executive Board for the 1948-1949 term. Seated, left to right, are: Foster Bournes, Recording & Corresponding Secretary; Alfonso Alexis, Trustee; Graham Lewis, First Vice-President; Pascual Ampudia, President; David Alexis, Second Vice-President; Vernon Harper, Trustee; Cecil Hall, Financial Secretary-Treasurer; Medora Sangster, Trustee.

The Chapter Representatives are, standing, left to right: Charles Davis, Paraiso; Chris Harewood, Red Tank; Barnabas York, Gamboa; Jose Tuñon, Balboa; Edward Green, Gatun; Edith Harper, Balboa, Harold Joseph, Teachers; Erald Durant, LeRoy Inniss, and Santiago Agnew of Cristobal.

Season's Greetings

"ACCION" extends, to Local 713 members and their families, best wishes for a Merry Xmas and a New Year with a fuller and more abundant life for all.