

Murray Praises UPW Gains For Membership

CIO PRESIDENT LAUDS UNION'S FIGHT AGAINST DISCRIMINATION

ACCION presents the following statement made by Philip Murray, President of the CIO, concerning UPW in his report given on the first day of the annual CIO Convention:

GOVERNMENT WORKERS

"The United Public Workers of America has held its own despite many adverse circumstances, including large reductions in the staff of the federal government, intimidation as a result of government loyalty programs and such restrictive measures as the Keefe Rider to various appropriation bills, and the attack upon the union by the District Attorney of the Panama Canal Zone. This official, an appointee of the Department of Justice, brought actions of "libel" that resulted in the convictions in sentencing of a UPWA organizer, Joe Sachs, to nine months at hard labor and a series of civil suits against the local and international union amounting to \$125,000. The union plans to resist this attack on its status in the Panama Canal Zone with all resources at its command.

Despite these attacks, gains made for the membership have been most substantial, with an average increase of \$522 per year gained for all public employees as a result of the

union's work at every level. In addition, nearly 70 percent of UPWA employees are working a five-day, forty-hour week. Over three-quarters of them receive time and one-half for overtime; although this is normal in private industry, it has been unknown in the public service up until this time. The union has made an outstanding contribution to the fight against discrimination through helping gain an executive order concerning Fair Employment Practices in the federal service. This has been the objective of a three-year campaign on part of the union and was integrated into the report of President Truman's Committee on Civil Rights.

The union is now seeking to overcome weaknesses in the Executive Order to carry on the fight against the hated practice of discrimination against native workers in the Panama Canal Zone. The UPWA has made some progress in that respect and looks forward to additional gain in the year ahead."

"Blank" Period Coupon Book Buying Extended to First Ten Days of Pay Period

The Executive Office announced that employees will be permitted to purchase commissary books from authority cards during the so-called "blank" period for the first ten calendar days of the pay period.

Previously employees could purchase commissary books during the first six days only of the pay period with cash. This means that employees will be able to buy books with cash from the first Monday of the pay period through the second Tuesday. Formerly, books could be purchased under this system from the first Monday until only the first Saturday.

This change in policy should not be confused with the change effected by Circular G-437 which permits employees to purchase commissary books from authority cards all through the pay period provided they do not wish to have them deducted from their salaries.



The Honorable Jorge E. Illueca, Deputy to the Panama National Assembly, presided over the delivery of his message to the 1948 Convention.

Gatun Credit Union Announces New Business Hours

The Gatun Federal Credit Union, whose office is located in the basement of the Chagres Clubhouse (Formerly Gatun Clubhouse), announces that the official hours of business are from 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M., on both Tuesdays and Thursdays.

All residents are urged to register as early as possible.

Balboa Chapter Plans for Membership Increase

Extensive recommendations have been adopted by the Balboa Chapter Executive Board designed to boost its membership to the 100% mark.

The hard-driving chapter Executive Board has drawn up an 81-point plan and all submit to the Local Executive Board points which will necessitate its acceptance or rejection.

The finishing touches will be applied to the plan at the next meeting of the Balboa Executive Board, after which time the full details of the plan will be publicly announced.



The Panama Chapter delegation listens with keen interest to the Financial Report being delivered by Cecil Hall, Financial Secretary-Treasurer.

Marine Division Stewards Lead In Balboa Contest

Maner and Hogan Stand First and Second at Beginning of Third Month

Two hard-hitting dues-collecting stewards from the Marine Division led the Balboa Stewards Council in its stewards contest at the end of November.

Cuthbert Maner, first with 48 points, and Oswald Hogan, second with 46 points, were out in front of the Balboa Stewards as the contest headed into its third month. Third with 40 points was Cleveland Green from Corozal Hospital.

Other high-ranking stewards are: Aura Stanford (36), Edith Harper (35), Leonard Pennycook (31), McKin B. Alcide (29), Alejandro Rambo (28), Ken Sealey (27),

Jose Tuñon (26), Norman Conliffe (25), Arthur Cozier (24), Kenneth Brown (23), Guillermo Lael (22), and Ezekiel Bennet (22).

The number of points scored by the stewards depends upon the organizing done in their areas, attendance at steward council meetings, and upon marks scored in progress tests.

The stewards are contributing regularly to accumulate sufficient funds to throw a party at the end of the three month period. The three winning stewards will have their names engraved on an honor roll plaque which hangs in the Union's Balboa Office.

Resolutions Adopted At Third Annual Convention Of Local 713

RESOLUTION ON HOUSING

Whereas: Local 713 has established a Housing Committee which is at present conducting a housing survey, and

Whereas: The purpose of this survey is to prepare statistics and information to be transmitted to the Governor of the Panama Canal and to the Congress of the United States pointing out the urgent necessity for decent, improved housing for the so-called "silver" employees; and

Whereas: The intended proposals, if adopted would eliminate the substandard conditions which are contrary to the concepts of morality, injurious to health and happy family life, be it therefore

Resolved: That at the completion of this survey this Convention calls upon the Governor of the Panama Canal to incorporate in his housing program the recommendations of the Housing Committee of Local 713 and be it further

Resolved: That the International Union urges immediate legislation by Congress at its next session to provide better housing in accordance with the proposals of Local 713.

—:o:—

RESOLUTION ON MAX BRODSKY

Whereas: In the summer of 1947 the International Union sent to the Isthmus of Panama one of their best officials as subsequent events proved to continue UPW's program of a better way of life for "silver" employees of the

United States government, and

Whereas: Local 713 considers it a privilege to have with this International Representative, and

Whereas: The International Union is highly commended on the selection of an official who is not only qualified but one who has exercised the utmost patience and superb judgment under extremely adverse and trying conditions, and

Whereas: This International official, Max Brodsky, has entirely won the hearts of the membership with his sincere concern regarding the problems of the "silver" worker and his deep interest in trying to solve them, and

Whereas: Max Brodsky has undeniably, in a great measure cemented the bonds of fellowship between UPW-CIO and the "silver" employees of the Canal Zone; therefore be it

Resolved: That Local suitably recognize the genuine and unselfish services rendered by Max Brodsky, and be it further.

Resolved: That the International Union be advised of our unqualified appreciation.

—:o:—

RESOLUTION ON JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Whereas: Unfavorable economic and social conditions have had an inevitable consequence in the degree of juvenile delinquency in the Canal Zone, and

Whereas: The existing court system is wholly inadequate

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