

EDITORIAL

THE UNION FIGHTS ON!

Thousands of union members will miss Max Brodsky. There is hardly a "silver" worker who will not swear that Brother Brodsky fought sincerely and courageously to promote the welfare of the Canal Zone employees. Through his leadership and the support of the membership, historic gains were won for the "silver" employees. There is not a "silver" worker employed on the Canal Zone today who has not benefitted in some form or manner from the labors of Max Brodsky.

While he gave sterling leadership to Local 713, he was an object of bitter hatred of the press. During his year and nine months' stay, reams and reams of paper were devoted to vituperative and slanderous attacks upon him. Far from being a disturbing factor, however, it was most reassuring to the "silver" employees. They were well aware of the role of the local press. Never had it raised its voice on behalf of the downtrodden workers. Always it catered to the interests of the "gold" employees. That these newspapers would be opposed to a militant, fighting union which would reap telling gains for its members was a foregone conclusion. When the members of Local 713 saw the newspapers vent their spleen on Brodsky through their vicious editorials and slanted reports, they were calm and satisfied in the knowledge that anyone fighting on their behalf would earn the enmity of the press. They often stated that the time for alarm would come when these newspapers started praising our leaders. Then would be the time to be on the alert for double-crossers.

Brodsky has left, but the Union fights on. Although Brother Brodsky was a peerless leader, no democratic organization is built upon one man. The strength of Local 713 is derived from its thousands of fighting members. During the nearly three years of its existence the Union has developed capable, qualified leadership which can stand on its own feet. Men like Foster Bournes, recently appointed International Representative, have become experienced and resolute leaders in the cauldron of struggle over the past few years. When men like this can assist in the leadership of the Union, it means that we have really come of age.

The Administration informed Regional Director Brodsky before his departure that they will continue to deal with the Union as they have in the past. They stated that none of the occurrences during the week preceding his leaving would interfere in any way with their relations with the Union.

If anything, we think that the Union is stronger than ever in the minds of its membership. The campaign that was waged, the mighty military display that the Union's campaign forced out, the desire of strong groups in the Rep. of Panama to fight at our side and the courage of the membership in resisting the unprecedented intimidation should convince all that Local 713 UPW-CIO is firmly embedded in its foundation and will continue to fight effectively and courageously for the "silver" employees.

Erald Durant Succeeds Bournes As Recording And Corresponding Secretary

To fill the vacancy created by Foster Bournes on his appointment by UPW as International Representative, the Local Executive Board elected Erald S. Durant as Recording and Corresponding Secretary.

Durant is the Secretary of the Cristobal Chapter and is also one of the Cristobal representatives to the Local Executive Board.

He is another of the devoted union workers, and like his predecessor, has acquired considerable experience, since the advent of our union, as an able leader.

ACCION, in its next issue,

UNCLE DUDLEY SAYS:

Some people seem to think that the A. F. of L. is trying to bury the hatchet with "silver" employees. It seems to me as though they're trying to bury it in their backs.

Heard a funny incident the other day about housing and thought I'd pass it along to you readers:

The District Quartermaster called up a "silver" employee by the name of Archie Watson with a wife and seven kids and asked him if he'd be interested in large family quarters.

"I sure would," said Watson.

"Well, here are the keys. Go over and take a look at the apartment and let me know what you think of it," said the DQM.

Watson looked over the apartment and found it had four rooms with two bath-rooms and two kitchens.

"I like it fine," he said to the DQM. "How much is the rent?"

"It's only \$16.50 a month," said the DQM.

"Oh that's too much for me. I guess I'll have to get along with my two tooms," said Watson.

"But the apartment has two kitchens," said the DQM.

"What do I need two kitchens for," said Watson, "I haven't got enough food to cook in one!"

We took a little poke at the Commissary Division in the last issue for cutting out the free supper given employees once a year during annual inventory. In order to balance the ledger, we want to point out this time, that employees who worked overtime in several commissaries (taking inventory rechecks during March received a free supper. And the sandwiches this time contained two slices of minced ham—not one!

I'm sure all the readers remember A.F.G.E. President Lovelady saying publicly a few months ago that there was no discrimination on the Canal Zone. Well, it looks like he had to eat his words. He found discrimination alright, but guess where! Yup you guessed it, the gold employees are being discriminated against.

The following is quoted from a circular letter sent to 'gold' employees by Lovelady and dated March 3rd:

"As I see it all United States citizens employed in the Civilian service of the Government are entitled to equal treatment regardless of their civil service status. The law (Act of 1912) in its present form is discriminatory in that it favors one group against another."

Well, waddya know!

much as Brodsky has already left the country it would be out of place to revoke the order of the Foreign Minister.

All five judges of the Court were in agreement in declaring the Foreign Minister's order illegal although one judge filed a dissenting opinion in another matter.

The appeal was made by Eloy Benedetti a noted attorney in Panama.

RICHARDSON BLASTS 'SILVER' PAY BEFORE CONGRESS

UPW OFFICIAL CALLS FOR \$8 MILLION MORE FOR WAGES AND HOUSING

Thomas Richardson, UPW —Anti-Discrimination Chairman, gave a hard-hitting report to Congress on pay scales and housing conditions of the "Silver" employees when he testified on March 10th before the House Appropriations Committee.

Following are excerpts from Richardson's testimony (Union Stewards have been furnished with complete copies of the testimony):

"...I would like to state clearly that this large group of Federal employees represents a convenient medium through which our country can demonstrate to the peoples of Latin America our sincerity with the regard to the right of human beings for a decent and secure existence. This group of workers, until recently referred to as the "Silver" employees and now designated in the personnel records of the Government as "local-rate" employees, has a record of sacrifice, loyalty, and service to the United States Government that is without parallel on the Canal Zone. Their impeccable record has been repeatedly attested to by the various Governors of the Canal Zone. They have a record of service to the United States Government that indicates the existence of a reservoir of goodwill that the United States Government cannot discard or ignore..

"...The "native" employees must pay the same prices for food and other commodities purchased in the Canal Zone that are paid by the United States citizens who make two and three times as much wages. The ideal standard of living on the Canal Zone is comparable to the standard of living here in the United States. By refusing to pay the "native" workers the wages necessary to allow them to meet this standard of living, the United States Government is placed in the position of withholding from these workers the attainment of a standard of living which the United States Government itself has revealed to them as being desirable and necessary for human happiness.

"While considerable misery has been the lot of the "native" employees because of the United States Government's refusal to grant them adequate wages, this situation is sharpened by the fact that these employees are engaged efficiently in almost every occupation that is found here in the United States. They are employed by our Government as teachers, policemen, clerks, typists, office helpers, managers, medical attendants, sales ladies, longshoremen, seamen, carpenters, painters, mechanics, railway employees, stewards, cooks, waitresses, hotel employees, truck drivers, etc. The rates of pay for all of these jobs have been absolutely sub-standard and are still so despite one or two small increases during the past year. In fact the minimum wage in the Canal Zone is only 26¢ per hour. U. S. citizens performing the same or comparable jobs receive from three to four times the highest wages paid to the "native"

employees....

"...This Committee of Congress is entitled to know the facts with regard to a matter which has great bearing upon the morals and efficiency of the "native" employees. It has long been an established American tradition that each working man or woman should be able to expect that at the end of his working life he would be entitled to sufficient funds with which to enjoy the twilight of his life. Insofar as the employees of the United States Government are concerned, they have enjoyed for many years a retirement system which relieves them of worry concerning the time when they will no longer be able to work. The "native" employees of our Government on the Panama Canal Zone are not covered by the Civil Service Retirement System or any retirement system for that matter. The best that our Government has seen fit to grant them is a pension system which allows them to receive a maximum disability pension of \$25 a month regardless of their length of employment. Gentlemen, this \$25 is the maximum and many of these employees no longer able to work receive even less.

UPW Publishes Hard-Hitting Booklet On C. Z. Discrimination

To be distributed among U.S. Congressmen and other leading figures in U.S.

A dramatic slick-paper booklet has been published by the international office of UPW on the discriminatory conditions in the Canal Zone.

100,000 copies of this 12 page booklet have been published and are presently being distributed to every Congressman of the U.S. Congress and to thousands of influential persons in the United States.

The facts are presented in a truly vivid manner. The pamphlet is liberally illustrated with photographs illustrating the discriminatory conditions.

In most instances, photographs of the Jim-Crow practices in the Canal Zone are shown to corroborate the written facts.

Description of discrimination in housing, salary, schooling, and retirement, comprise an approximate half of the booklet.

The other half tells about the birth of our Local and the gains won so far, the bitter opposition waged against the Union by the newspapers, and the vicious treachery of the AFL against the "silver" workers.

A limited quantity of these booklets has been received by the Local. These are being distributed to the stewards in every chapter.

Supreme Court . . .

(Continued from page 1)

established that 'the states can by reasons of order or public security, expel a resident foreigner or simply one passing through the territory', in this manner is recognizing the characteristics of the sovereignty that in international law means a right recognized by the other states, but in the internal law this authority is subjected to the limitations imposed by the Constitution and the laws of the country.

Although the Supreme Court declared the Foreign Minister's order illegal, it said that inas-

will feature a biographical sketch of our newly elected Recording and Corresponding Secretary.