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FREE

UNION CONDUCTS IMPORTANT NEGOTIATION WITH ADMINISTRATION

RE-EMPLOYMENT POLICY, EFFICIENCY RATING SYSTEM, AND INCREASED MEAL ALLOWANCE DISCUSSED

Extensive negotiations have been conducted by the Union with the Panama Canal Administration over the past three weeks. The negotiations dealt with the rate of pay for personnel reemployed in the same division, and submitted recommendations for the improvement of the current efficiency rating system, as well as recommendations that would increase the meal allowance for "silver" employees.

Urges Favorable Change in Re-employment Policy

The delegation, consisting of International Representative Foster Bournes; Cecil Hall, Financial Secretary, and organizer Roland Dean in speaking on the re-employment of personnel in the same Division, recommended that such re-employment be made at the last in-grade step of the employee provided that the classification is the same and the re-employment occurs within a reasonable period of time from the date of separation.

The Union cited an example wherein an employee of a Panama Canal Division had been employed since April 1946 as Luggerman, Grade 3-C, 38¢ per hour and after having been given a reduction in force, effective March 5th, he was subsequently re-employed as Luggerman, but at Grade 3-A, thereby suffering a 4¢ per hour cut in wages.

This, the Union pointed out, was an injustice, and contended that there was no justifiable reason for a wage cut.

Increase In Meal Allowance Sought

The meal allowance of \$1.20 per day established for employees transferred from their official stations was also the subject of considerable discussion.

The Union, in its argument, maintained that this allowance was not sufficient to cover the cost of adequate meals. As a result of this insufficiency the employees are forced to augment their allowances with their own funds.

It was recommended that this allowance be increased to \$1.95, enough to cover the cost of three meals that are of the minimum caloric value.

As a justification for its request for increased meal allowances, the Union submitted data on illustrated sample meals taken from the menus of the Panama Canal Clubhouses that totaled \$1.95.

These sample meals represented the minimum amount and variety of food required for the diet of a worker.

Union Seeks Changes in Rating System

Three recommendations were submitted to the Administra-

tion for incorporation into the rating system to be ultimately adopted. The Union took the position that the acceptance of these proposals would reduce to a minimum the probability of error, misunderstanding and arbitrary rating.

The following are the pro-

(Continued on page 4)

EDITORIAL

TIME FOR A GENERAL WAGE INCREASE

Few cheers from the "silver" employees greeted the announcement of the Administration that within-grade increases would be granted on June 26th of this year. From past experience only about 25% of the employees will receive these raises. For the most part they will consist of two or three cents per hour. A comparatively small number of the employees in grade eleven and above will receive four cents or more for their within-grade raise.

Thus the within-grade raises will not ease to any effective extent the pressing economic problems confronting the "silver" employees. Those employees in step E of their classification have no opportunity to obtain a within-grade increase. The most distressing situation is faced by the "frozen" workers.

The "frozen" employee did not receive any increase when the classification program was inaugurated during February, 1948, although hundreds of other workers received raises ranging from 2 to more than 10¢ per hour. When the general 4¢ per hour raise was granted in July, 1948 the "frozen" employee was again left out. The within-grade increases granted in January, 1949, brought not one cent to the "frozen" employees, and the "within-grade" increases announced for

(Continued on page 3)

Balboa Education Committee Lights the way with Labor History

The Balboa Chapter Education and Recreation Committee has gotten off to a fast start and is providing real educational and entertainment programs for the Chapter's membership.

The Chairman of the Committee is Cleveland Green. Other committee members are: C. A. Edgehill, Secretary, L. L. Pringle, A. Hinds, O. Hogan, A. S. Wilmot, H. A. Bellizaire, and R. C. Wellington, columnist.

The main objective of the committee is to provide educational programs to awaken the

Advice to Brodie Burnham on how to Defeat Communism!

The following is from an advertisement recently printed in the New York Times:

"When the people of our great country lose confidence in our American way of life and stop buying shares of stock in American corporations, then Communism has won an important victory and Democracy has suffered a disastrous defeat.

Keep America strong! Defeat Communism! Enlist NOW in the Army of American shareholders by buying stocks today!

SENATE RESTORES McCARRAN AMENDMENT DUE TO A. F. OF L. PRESSURE

UPW WORKING WITH CONFERENCE COMMITTEE TO REMOVE DISCRIMINATORY MEASURE

The undemocratic McCarran Amendment has been inserted in the Senate Appropriations Bill for the Panama Canal as a result of the testimony of Walter Jones, legislative representative of the Metal Trades Council — A. F. of L.

The Appropriations Bill contains the amendment in even a more vicious form than previously. This year the provision giving the President authority to suspend the amendment because of a housing shortage for "gold" employees is omitted. This means that the amendment can be suspended only because of war or national emergency.

"Races of Mankind" Author Blasts "Silver" Discrimination

Dr. Gene Weltfish, co-author of the famous pamphlet, "The Races of Mankind," and professor of Anthropology of Columbia University, attacked discrimination against Panama Canal "silver" employees at the Cultural and Scientific Conference for World Peace held recently in New York City.

Dr. Weltfish described in vivid terms the economic and social discrimination practiced against the "silver" employees and compared wage scales between "silver" and "gold" workers performing the same jobs.

The professor cited the role of the A.F. of L. in the maintenance of sub-standard conditions for "silver" workers and read from testimony they gave before Congress in which Panamanians and "silver" employees were vilified and slandered. He cited the loyalty record of the employees and asked if the A.F. of L. could equal that record.

Richardson Testifies Against Measure

Thomas Richardson, UPW Anti-Discrimination Chairman, strongly urged the Senate Committee to omit the discriminatory McCarran provision and adopt the same policy as the House Committee. He told the Appropriations Committee:

"I would like to stress the human factors involved in the continuation of the McCarran amendment insofar as Panama Canal appropriations are concerned. It would be an inhuman action to retain that amendment which would bring about the firing of these old and faithful employees who are not citizens of either the United States or the Republic of Panama who braved malaria, yellow fever, and rock slides to help build the Panama Canal.

"If these workers had not been available for the rigorous duties during construction days, it would have been necessary for American workers to perform these jobs and be exposed to these dangers. So in actuality, the very workers who would be affected by the

(Cont. on Page 4)

BURNHAM QUOTES WITCH'S BREW TO PROVE HIS POINT

There's a wild report that Brodie Burnham's running loose again quoting "official" sounding reports about UPW and threatening Admirals and Generals with dire retaliation unless they submit to his dictates.

ACCION owes it to its readers to point out that the awesome sounding Congressional report that he is quoting so liberally in his column to prove his allegations against UPW-CIO is nothing but a product of the most discredited Committee in the United States—the House Un-American Activities Committee—issued over four years ago!

What Burnham quotes in his column with such official sounding terms is merely the witch's brew of this nightmarish committee that has been branded as foul and irresponsible by almost every democratic American leader.

Let us see what outstanding American citizens and organizations think about this Committee which Brodie Burnham quotes to prove his point.

The late President Franklin D. Roosevelt branded it as "sordid, flagrantly unfair and un-American."

The Greater New York Federation of Churches (Protestant) said: "We have viewed with alarm the continuous interference by this committee with the freedom of our citizens... and by the irresponsible and un-American utterances of its most vocal spokesman, Representative Rankin."

This is what New World, the official newspaper of the Catholic Church in Chicago, said of the un-Americans:

"Perhaps Mr. Dies (former Chairman of the Committee) looks on the results of the recent election as a mandate for him to become the fascist dictator of the United States. Clearer and

(Cont. on Page 2)