

UNION PAYS HONOR TO MRS. LENA BRODSKY

The good deeds of Max Brodsky, former Regional Director of Local 713, will forever ring in the ears of the silver employees in the Canal Zone.

This feeling, unanimous among our members, was demonstrated in a sincere manner when our Local, through Sister Medora Sangster, wrote Mrs. Lena Brodsky, mother of Max, a letter of appreciation and also gave her a lovely gift on occasion of "Mother's Day."

ACCION reprints, below, both letters, that of Sis. Medora Sangster and the reply of Mrs. Brodsky:

2 May 1949

My Dear Mrs. Brodsky:

For almost two years your son Max has worked with us in our Local, during which time he has been instrumental in securing several gains for our members, and placing our union on a firm footing. For himself, he has gained the undying admiration and respect of our hundreds of members, and his departure from these shores has left a gap that we think no other man can ever fill.

We feel indebted to you, his mother, for having molded him into the kind of man he is, one who commands respect wherever he goes, and desire at this time to commend you for the splendid work you have done.

We could think of no more suitable time than Mothers' Day, on which to express our gratitude and ask that you accept the accompanying gift with the prayer that God may spare your life to witness your son's rise on the ladder of fame,

and to enjoy the sunshine of his smile for many more years to come.

On behalf of Local 713, UPW-CIO,

I beg to remain,

Respectfully yours

Medora Sangster

Trustee.

Dear Miss Sangster:

I received your lovely letter on behalf of the members of Local 713, UPW CIO, for which please accept my most sincere thanks.

Words cannot express what a mother feels when such tribute is paid her because of her son. Nothing I have ever done could do in the future, will give me as much pleasure and satisfaction.

All parents raise their children to do even better things than they have done in their lifetime. I, as a parent, tried to guide Max in the right direction and hoped that my wishes would be fulfilled. And when a parent sees her wishes fulfilled, as mine have been, no material things can give one more happiness.

Your letter has given me something I will carry with me always and the best present I could ever hope for. I have one regret however, that my husband did not live long enough, so that he could be here now to share this glorious moment with me.

I was deeply touched when I received your lovely gift this Mother's Day. This is something I will always treasure not only for its loveliness, but because of the thought that goes with it.

You, kind people, have given

Truman Asked to End Discrimination

Late in April members of the crew of the M. V. Polaris, belonging to the National Maritime Union, CIO, visited Local 713 while their ship transited the Panama Canal. After hearing and seeing the discriminatory conditions under which the "silver" workers are forced to live they resolved to do something to help in ridding these ills.

On returning aboard ship they held a meeting to discuss a plan of action. On May 5th a telegram was sent to President Truman urging action to eliminate Jim Crowism existing on the Canal Zone.

Telegrams were also sent to Congressmen Franck Havenner and Richard Welch requesting that they work for the passage of Bill HR 277 to provide a 50¢ hourly minimum wage for Canal Zone workers.

The Committee stated that they too are in the fight against all types of discrimination, and are greatly interested in the drive the United Public Workers are conducting to eliminate Jim Crow conditions, and the establishment of a decent minimum wage. "Individually," they said, "we all pledge to do all we can to help to eliminate the undesirable condition that exists along one of the greatest canals in the world."

me something really beautiful that will always grace my dinner table when I entertain. I have always had a desire for just such a dinner set but never hoped to be the proud owner of one as they are so very expensive. You have satisfied this desire with one of the most beautiful sets I have ever seen.

When my friends and family admire this set, as one must when they see it, I will tell them about my son's wonderful friends in Panama.

I am deeply sorry that all of you are so far from here but I hope that sometime you will come to the U.S.A. so I will have the pleasure of making your acquaintance.

To you Medora Sangster, and all your grand members, I again say thanks from the bottom and beautiful gift, and for tom of my heart for grand letting-making this the grandest Mother's Day of my life.

God bless you one and all for being so good to me.

The best of luck with our Union.

Sincerely,

Lena Brodsky.

Balboa Education . .

(Continued from page 1)

dream of several years but under the hard-working committee it is coming to life. The Annex to the La Boca office is now being crammed full of books and equipment. Every afternoon some member of the committee is swabbing a fresh coat of green paint over the gloomy surfaces. Soon, the committee reports, the library will be in the business of making labor and entertaining literature available to the members.

The stewards who attend council meetings in La Boca are well aware of the committee's work. Every Monday night some member of the committee gives a refreshing and enlivening talk on the heritage and

HOW ONE CIO UNION GUARDS ITS INDEPENDENCE

ACCION publishes the following article from the NEW REPUBLIC of April 11, 1949 for the interest of its readers:

PHIL MURRAY'S PROBLEM

A challenging problem faces CIO President Philip Murray and the CIO executive board as a result of the defiant refusal of the United Farm Equipment and Metal Workers to dissolve and merge with the rival United Auto Workers.

At issue is what powers the CIO board can invoke to enforce its decisions on those international unions which fail to see eye to eye with it on matters of policy as well as autonomy.

The liquidation order to the left-wing Farm Equipment Union was issued November 27, at the close of the CIO convention in Portland, Oregon, on a request from anti-Communist Walter P. Reuther, UAW president. It demanded compliance by January 26, but top FE officers ignored the order, pending the FE convention's official decision.

Now, delegates to the fourth constitutional convention of the FE have given Murray and his board a unanimous "No" on the directive, declaring it constitutes a "shotgun merger."

The FE opened its three-day convention in an embattled mood in the armory of the Memorial Coliseum in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on March 25. In attendance were 400-odd delegates and alternates, representing a claimed nation membership of 55,000 in nearly 100 locals.

In a telegram to the FE convention, Murray renewed his plea that the union relinquish its charter, which the CIO granted it November 16, 1938, "upon the basis of voluntary agreement." He added that if the convention acted favorably on the merger proposal, the national board at its next meeting would be "required to take proper action — which of course will be in conformity with provisions of our CIO constitution."

And there's the rub: for the CIO constitution as originally drafted calls for a two-thirds vote by delegates to a CIO convention before the charter of an affiliated international union can be lifted. Thus, the CIO board may find it difficult to implement its ultimatum.

Grant W. Oakes, 43-year-old FE President, who was the Progressive Party's candidate for Governor of Illinois last year, set the convention pace in his keynote address.

Oakes labeled the board's order "a foul decree" and "a piece of Skulduggery without precedent in the American labor movement."

"Our union is being attacked because of the character of the times," he said. "The attack only seems to come from another union. But, in truth, it is part of the national hysteria, part of the Roman holiday of Redbaiting..."

He said the FE would "remain in the CIO and continue to fight for the policies on which CIO was founded." He called for the establishment of "one big union" of farm-equipment workers. He vilified Reuther and the UAW for "cannibalistic raids" on FE jurisdiction. (Since January, UAW organizers have been vigorously campaigning to persuade workers in FE plants to join the UAW. In some plants, the UAW has petitioned for representation elections by the National Labor Relations Board.)

By a rising vote, the convention gave unanimous assent to these views in approving the first resolution to come before it, on the merger order.

To repel UAW raids, the FE voted a fund of more than \$100,000 a year by assessing members \$2 each in 1949 and 1950. In reopening its present contracts, the union also served notice that it will seek a fourth-round wage increase of 30 cents an hour and improved pension benefits.

tradition of the labor movement.

Education of union members has been an important part of the workers' struggle for many years. When the Great Railway Strike occurred in 1877 one of the reasons for the great solidarity of the workers was their understanding of labor's role through education. The first great industrial union was formed as a result of this struggle.

Not much was known about real unionism before the beginning of the 19th century. But between 1830 and 1877 unions grew up like mushrooms in all the industrial centers in the United States. The reason for their growth was the suffering and oppression of the workers and the cruel and inhuman treatment they received at the hands of their employers. These unions fought heroic struggles to win many of the rights we so casually enjoy today.

Throughout their struggle they were slandered and abused with the most vile-sounding names. A few of the terms selected from the literature and

newspapers of the day are: ruffians, malcontents, loud mouth crators, agitators, communists, anarchists, syndicalists, etc., to cite just a few.

Labor just shrugged its shoulders at this abuse and went on fighting for its rights. It knew then, just as it knows today, that, as long as there is hunger, suffering, and want on the part of the laboring people, they will join together in unions and fight for a better way of life. And as long as they continue their struggle they will be abused and attacked by the press and other anti-labor organs for daring to ask for more bread.

ACCION

Published once a month by

UPW-CIO LOCAL 713

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A. F. of L. Continues Opposition To Occupational Schools

Walter Jones, A.F. of L. legislative representative, continued his bitter opposition to the occupational high schools which have been constructed in Silver City and La Boca in recent years. If CIO members wonder why it took over twenty years of struggle to obtain these schools, Jones' testimony given recently before the Senate Appropriations Committee should shed some light on it. Jones said to the committee last month:

"As you know, there is appropriated each year funds to carry on a vocational school program to teach aliens to become skilled mechanics. Three years ago I was before this committee and asked that these funds be stopped but it was not done. At that time I stated that not only are we facing competition for work because of the difference in wage scales but we find that the War Department through the establishment of occupation high schools in the Canal Zone is creating a pool of skilled workers which will increase the competition for available work."

The following is a discussion between Senator Cordon and Jones after he finished his formal statement to the committee:

Senator Cordon: You agree that this vocational training is a good thing down there and should be continued?

Jones: No sir, not if it is going to replace American citizens.

Senator Cordon: You do not want to give those people a chance to raise their level of living?

Jones: I have told you earlier this afternoon our first obligation is to the American citizens, and when I see them denied a chance of employment, I still am against anything that stops that possibility of an American being employed.

Senator Cordon: You feel that in order to guarantee that American citizens will come down there and take the jobs, that we should close our educational campaign down there?

Jones: Senator, you have a very difficult problem before you, and it is a serious thing.

Senator Cordon: What would you do about it?

Jones: I cannot give you the answer. On the one hand, you have a group of American citizens asking for the right of employment, and on the other hand you have another group of employees asking to be continued in employment. There was a mistake made in 1915 when the Canal was completed. Why were these employees not returned back to the islands? But they have stayed there, and now they are the obligation of the United States Government.