

# The United Automobile Worker

INTERNATIONAL UNION, UNITED AUTOMOBILE, AIRCRAFT AND AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS OF AMERICA — U.A.W.-C.I.O.

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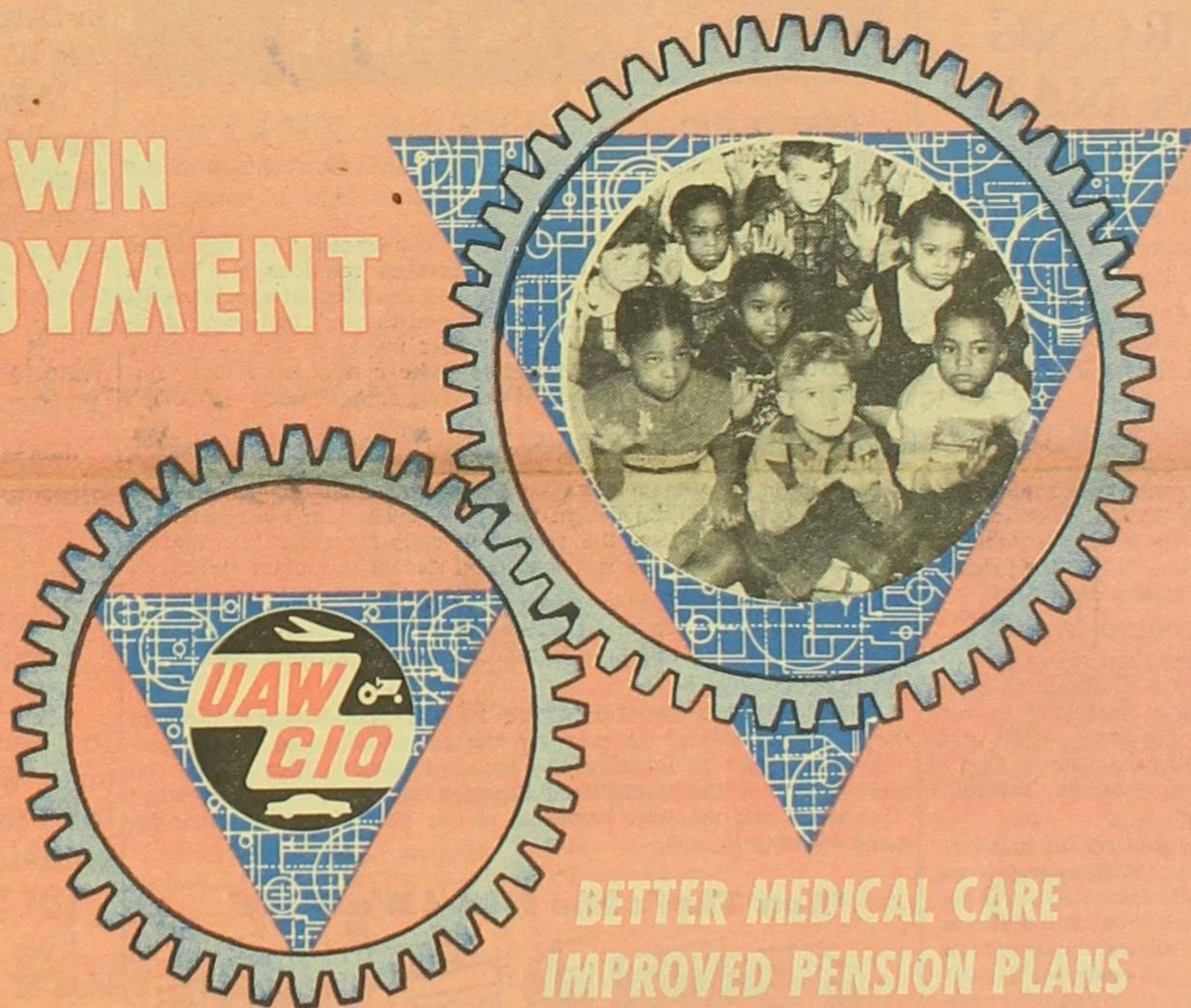
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## UAW in High Gear for Drive To Make Your Future Secure

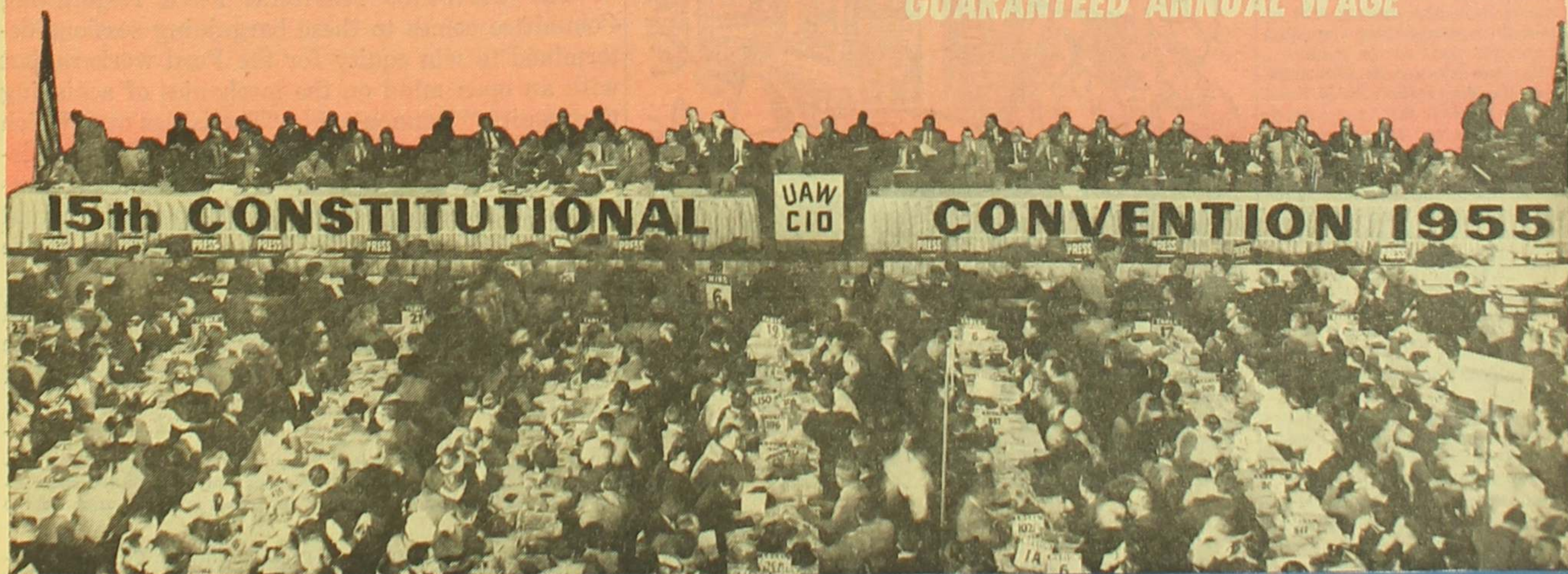
See Pages Two and Three

UNITED TO WIN  
FULL EMPLOYMENT

Key to ABUNDANCE  
FREEDOM  
JUSTICE  
PEACE



BETTER MEDICAL CARE  
IMPROVED PENSION PLANS  
INCREASED PURCHASING POWER  
GUARANTEED ANNUAL WAGE



### Biggest Convention Launches Great Crusade

See Picture on Page Seven



THE START OF NEGOTIATIONS between the UAW-CIO National Ford Committee and Ford Motor Company representatives found the two parties lined up on opposite sides of this long table at the Detroit Leland Hotel. The Union negotiating team, facing the camera, is headed by Ken Bannon, National Ford Department director (in the center with glasses).



THE NATIONAL GM COMMITTEE looks over the headlines just before the first formal bargaining meeting with General Motors. Vice-President John W. Livingston, director of the UAW's GM Department, is seated at the far right. To his right, Pat Patterson, assistant director of the Department.

# Guaranteed Annual Wage Negotiations Underway With General Motors, Ford, American Motors

## \$30 Million Barrage RITER WRONG ON NAM

Henry Riter III, president of the National Association of Manufacturers, couldn't have been wrong. Riter claimed, in a public statement, that UAW President Walter P. Reuther was not telling the truth when he revealed the NAM's plan to raise a \$30 million war chest to combat the Guaranteed Annual Wage.

Reuther, who aired the NAM plot at the UAW Convention, immediately fired back photostatic copies of an NAM fund-raising letter and pledge card.

### WHO'S KIDDING WHOM?

The pledge card shows that the NAM's United Business Committee is asking employers to contribute on the basis of "50 cents for \$1,000 of gross annual payroll or \$1.50 per employe, including executives."

Reuther pointed out in a letter to Riter: With manufacturing payrolls currently running at a rate of about \$64 billion a year, the amount solicited on that basis (50 cents per \$1,000) is \$32 million . . . (and the) appeal is not limited to manufacturers, but includes all 'business leadership.'

The NAM letter claimed the money it is now raising will be used "in a hard-hitting campaign to get the facts to the public."

Reuther charged, in Cleveland, that the \$30 million NAM fund is to be used "to lay down a propaganda tear gas barrage so that the American people cannot intelligently examine the proposal for a Guaranteed Annual Wage and evaluate this issue based upon its moral and economic merits."

### ALWAYS OPPOSING

He also pointed out that NAM has opposed practically every change that met the needs of the great majority of people.

The NAM opposed Social Security. It was wrong.

The NAM opposed Unemployment Compensation. It was wrong.

The NAM opposed the Minimum Wage Law. It was wrong.

The NAM opposed the New Deal measures which helped pull both workers and business out of the big depression. It was wrong.

Riter III apparently thought he could keep the NAM big money opposition to the Guaranteed Wage a secret. He was wrong, too.

## The UAW-CIO Takes Its Stand

CLEVELAND—Following is a summary of key resolutions passed at the Fifteenth Constitutional Convention of the UAW-CIO:

**TAFT-HARTLEY:** The Convention denounced "the continued subversion of the federal labor-management relations law into a tool for anti-labor employers" through bad Presidential appointments to the National Labor Relations Board and through bad board decisions. It called for cooperation with other unions in efforts to have the Taft-Hartley Act repealed and to write a new labor law "embodying the sound fundamentals of the Wagner Act."

**UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION:** The delegates called on Congress to set up a national system of unemployment insurance, which would provide benefits "sufficient to enable jobless workers to continue to maintain decent living standards." In the absence of such a national system, the resolution calls for federal legislation which would require the states to meet decent minimum standards.

**SPEED-UP:** The Convention re-affirmed its opposition to all forms of speed-ups, and supported strike votes in speed-up disputes. It repeated its opposition to the introduction of incentive or piece-work plans.

**GUARANTEED EMPLOYMENT PLAN:** The delegates directed the Executive Board "to intensify the educational and public relations campaign" to mobilize the broadest possible support for the achievement of the Guaranteed Employment Plan, and to mobilize "the moral and material resources of our Union" to make this demand a reality in 1955.

### 'Now That's The Model We Want'



**AUTOMATION:** The Convention recommended that the Union continue to study developments in automation, agreed that short-term contracts are now a necessity, and endorsed the shorter work week as the Union's next bargaining goal, after the Guaranteed Annual Wage has been achieved. "We will not stand idly by," the delegates declared, "while the era of automation produces the destructive, involuntary leisure of mass unemployment instead of higher living standards and creative voluntary leisure."

**LABOR UNITY:** The Convention "wholeheartedly" endorsed and supported the CIO-AFL merger agreement, and "enthusiastically"

Formal negotiations on 1955 contract proposals with two of the Big Three—General Motors and Ford—and with American Motors got under way in Detroit just as this issue of *The United Automobile Worker* went to press.

Negotiations with GM began April 7, with Ford, April 12, and with American Motors, April 13. The negotiating teams were headed by Vice-President John W. Livingston, director of the National UAW-CIO GM Department, at GM; Ken Bannon, director of the National UAW-CIO Ford Department, with Ford, and newly-elected Vice-President Leonard Woodcock, director of the National UAW-CIO American Motors Department, with that Company.

Union negotiators approached the bargaining table with optimism and determination.

"This marks the beginning of the most important series of negotiations the parties have ever participated in," Livingston said at the beginning of GM talks.

"Both parties approached the bargaining table in a serious manner and discussions were harmonious. We hope negotiations will continue on that basis to the end that we can reach a fair, just and equitable settlement."

GM Vice-President Harry Anderson said:

"We are approaching these negotiations with the idea of doing the best we can to reach a settlement on all issues, and I expect the Union boys are doing the same."

"The UAW-CIO National Ford Negotiating Committee comes to these bargaining sessions determined to win equity for the Ford workers, but with an open mind on the mechanics of achieving that equity," Bannon said. "The issues over which we will bargain are principled ones. They are issues that will help not only the Ford Motor Company and its employes, but, as with our contractual gains in the past, they will also benefit the entire community and the people in it."

John S. Bugas, Ford vice-president, industrial relations, said his Company "wants to achieve the closest to an ideal contract, in the interest of all concerned, that is humanly possible."

hailed the nearness of a united labor movement. It agreed to contribute one dollar per UAW-CIO member toward a United Organizing Fund, to be established by all American labor, to organize the unorganized.

**FULL EMPLOYMENT:** The delegates called on Congress to enact measures designed to wipe out the national economic deficit and to get us back to full production and full employment. Specifically, they called for federal aid for school construction and highway construction; a new federal public housing program; public power projects; tax legislation to expand mass purchasing power by shifting the tax burden to excess profits and surplus savings; extended and improved Social Security benefits; and a \$1.25 minimum wage. They again called on the President to call a full employment conference.

# Biggest Convention in UAW History Launches Union's Greatest Crusade

CLEVELAND—The UAW-CIO launched here the greatest crusade in its history—for the Guaranteed Annual Employment Plan—at its biggest, most constructive and most enthusiastic convention.

Delegates voted unanimously to approve the Guaranteed Annual Employment Plan and the rest of the Union's collective bargaining program for the 1955 negotiations. The program had already been approved last November by the UAW-CIO National Economic and Collective Bargaining Conference and, subsequently, by the various Union corporation councils.

Preliminary negotiations with both General Motors and Ford started the week before the Convention. Formal negotiations with these two Companies have begun in the meantime. (See story on Page 2.)

Other major actions taken by the Convention were:

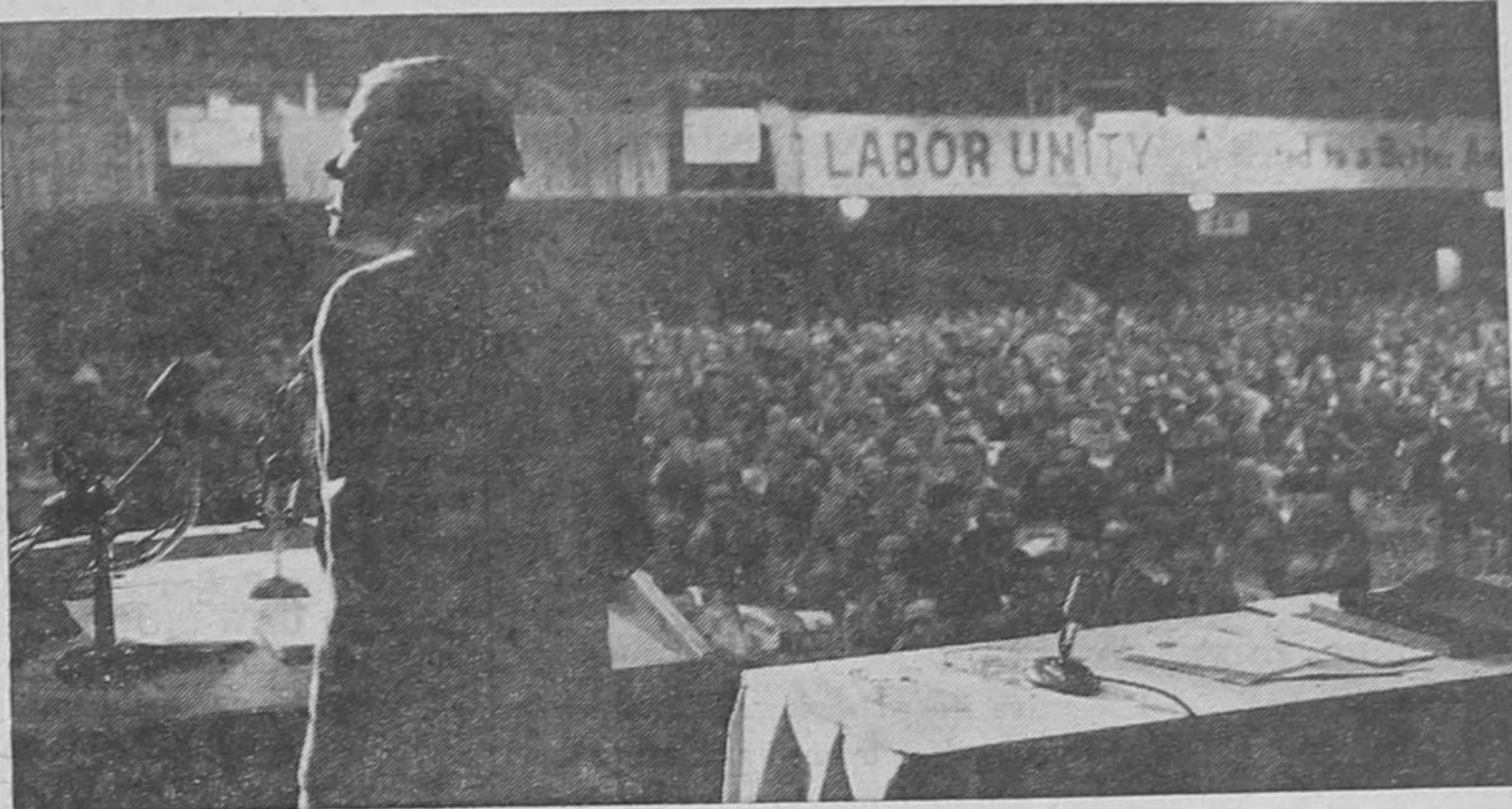
**Expansion of leadership responsibilities in the International Union by the creation of two new vice-presidencies;**

Providing the tools to do the job of winning the Guaranteed Annual Employment Plan by voting a temporary dues increase to establish a \$25,000,000 strike fund, to be available if needed.

Providing for the calling of a special convention within the next six months by the International Executive Board, if one is necessary to back up our collective bargaining program for 1955.

In addition to conducting the regular business of the Convention, the delegates heard addresses by George Meany, president of the American Federation of Labor (see page 5); Senator Matthew Neely (page 10); Fidel Velazquez, secretary-general of the Confederation of Mexican Workers (page 11); Senator Patrick V. McNamara (page 12); Thurgood Marshall, chief legal counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (page 8); and Aaron R. Mosher, president of the Canadian Congress of Labour (page 5).

The Convention received more television coverage than any previous labor union meeting. Millions saw portions of it on daily TV programs. This edition attempts to bring rank-and-file UAW members as complete a report as space permits.



UAW-CIO PRESIDENT WALTER P. REUTHER gives his presidential report as approximately 3,000 delegates listen during the opening session of the 15th Constitutional Convention of the UAW-CIO in Cleveland's Public Auditorium.

## We Fight for Shared Abundance, Reuther Asserts in Keynote Speech

CLEVELAND—The UAW-CIO is going to the bargaining table in 1955, not in the spirit of another routine negotiating session, but in the spirit of a great "crusade to gear economic abundance to human needs," President Walter P. Reuther told delegates to the Fifteenth UAW-CIO Constitutional Convention in his keynote speech.

"We want to give management a little bit of the vision we have," he said. "We would like to show them that great, new world that can be built if free labor and free management and free government and free people can cooperate together in harnessing the powers of America and in gearing that power to the basic needs of people."

The UAW-CIO President outlined the Union's 1955 collective bargaining program, which was enthusiastically approved by the delegates, and related the program to the whole cause of peace and progress and the well-being of people.

### RESPONSIBLE DEMANDS

"We have tried to formulate our economic demands in the light of three essential conditions:

"First, we say our demands must be economically sound.

They can't be based on wishful thinking. They have to be based on solid and sound economic facts.

"Second, they have to be morally right. We have to be fighting for righteousness and justice.

"Third, they can't be selfish demands that made progress for us at the expense of our neighbors. They have to be socially responsible. They have to reflect the basic needs of all the people.

"Our demands in 1955 meet those conditions."

Collective bargaining is a phase of the problem of preserving peace and freedom, Reuther said.

"The struggle for peace, for freedom, is inseparably tied together with the struggle for social justice," he declared. "The labor movement of the world is in the vanguard of the cause of preserving freedom because free labor understands the relationship between peace, freedom and social justice."

### PEACE AND ABUNDANCE

Reuther described the latest reports on the potency of nuclear weapons — how the radioactive fall-out from the new H-bomb, if dropped in Cleveland, can destroy Pittsburgh or Detroit or Cincinnati or even Chicago.

"What good is a higher wage if our great cities are in ashes?" he asked. "What is the future of our children if mankind does not find a way to prevent the use of these terrible weapons of destruction?"

"The only way we can live in peace is to fight for a world that can live in peace. It is in that spirit that we have planned what we are going to do at the bargaining table.

"We are going to be working at the practical day-to-day aspects of building the foundations of economic and social justice upon which we at least have a fighting chance to build a framework for world peace," he declared. "We must put into that positive effort of waging the

peace the courage and the loyalty and devotion and willingness to sacrifice that we have demonstrated to win the negative objectives of war.

### ABUNDANCE AVAILABLE

"For the first time in the history of civilization, we have the tools with which to conquer poverty and hunger and disease and ignorance.

"This is the first time it is no longer necessary for people to be hungry or naked or to be denied the essentials of life. Our great task and great challenge is to find a way to harness the power of science and technology, not to make H-bombs, not to destroy human life, but to gear the blessings of science and technology to the advancement of the well-being of the human family."

The opportunity and challenge of the new revolutionary force in the world makes the Communists "arch reactionaries," Reuther said.

"That is the revolutionary power of economic abundance," he declared. "We now have the opportunity of working together with free people everywhere in creating and sharing economic abundance. Nobody has to go hungry so that the other fellow can have enough to eat. Nobody needs to be denied his measure of economic and social justice in order for others to have their share. Everybody can have his share if we harness the power of this new economic and social revolution, and that is what we are trying to do in America."

## KEY DEMANDS FOR 1955

Here are the UAW-CIO's key demands for 1955:

● **GUARANTEED EMPLOYMENT PLAN** — This plan would provide workers with two or more years of seniority guaranteed work or guaranteed pay for a full year. Workers with less seniority would be guaranteed one week's pay for every two weeks of service. Workers would also be paid 40 hours' pay any week they are called in.

● **WAGE INCREASE**—Wages should be brought up to the level they would have reached if the 1948 wage formula had been implemented properly. The size of the improvement factor should be increased; cost-of-living floats should be incorporated into the base rates. The escalator should be adjusted.

● **RETIREMENT SECURITY**—Normal retirement at 65 should be based on \$2.50 a month per year of service. The ceiling on accumulating credits should be removed. Disability pensions should be based on \$5 a month per year of service. Workers should have a vested right to pensions after five or more years of service.

● **HEALTH SECURITY**—Corporations should pay the full cost of plans with comprehensive in-hospital services and emergency care and the full cost of surgical-medical in-hospital services. Coverage must be extended over periods of layoff covered by the Guaranteed Annual Wage and periods of other interruptions beyond workers' control. Disability protection must be improved.

● **OVERTIME**—Time and a half for Saturday work as such; double time for work on Sunday as such; triple time for work on holidays.

● **CONTRACT DURATION**—Contracts not to run over two years if they include escalator and annual improvement factor clauses; not to exceed one year if they do not.

● **PREFERENTIAL HIRING** — Multi-plant corporations, when hiring in any plant, must give preference, in order of seniority, to workers laid off from other plants. All corporations under UAW-CIO contracts should give preference to laid-off workers in the same area and industry when hiring.

### All-American

Here's a little labor history to remember. In 1886, the American Federation of Labor was organized by Samuel Gompers, an immigrant Jewish cigarmaker; Peter J. McGuire, an Irish Catholic carpenter; and Adolph Strasser, a German Protestant cigarmaker. And the name—American Federation of Labor—sprang from a motion by Brother Grandison, a Negro delegate from Pittsburgh. What a team of All-Americans!

# UAW Convention Forges 'Tools to Do the Job'; Demands Backed by \$25 Million Strike Fund OK

CLEVELAND—UAW Ford and General Motors negotiators have a powerful ally beside them at the bargaining table—the certainty that the Union is building a \$25 million strike fund.

Delegates to the Fifteenth Constitutional Convention spent most of two days talking it over. Dozens of viewpoints were expressed. There was a lot of earnest debate over the details. Once they were ironed out by vote, the basic issue was put to the Convention. The result was a stirring demonstration of solidarity.

President Reuther checked the hands and said, "I declare the dues increase has passed by 98 per cent."

### TAILORED TO FIT SITUATION

The International Executive Board reviewed the dues increase proposal before the Convention opened and made some revisions in it. The changes are designed to raise the strike fund as quickly as possible without working hardship on members with low incomes and to spread out the burden of maintaining the strike fund at the \$25 million level.

The Board recommendations, adopted by the Convention, provide:

A \$5 monthly dues increase, starting with May, until a \$25 million strike fund has been achieved. The entire \$5 will go into the strike fund.

Should the strike fund drop below \$20 million, dues be increased by one dollar until the fund has been built up to \$25 million again. (The previous suggestion was to increase dues by \$5 when the strike fund reached the \$15 million level.)

During the period of the \$5 increase, workers whose earnings, before deductions, are less than \$200 a month, can get a refund of \$2.50 by presenting proof of their earnings to their local union financial secretary.

The 5 cents a month which local unions now place in their strike funds will go into their general funds instead.

### PLACES LIMIT ON \$5 INCREASE

This means that once the \$25 million strike fund has been raised, dues cannot be increased by more than a dollar a month beyond the basic \$2.50 now in effect.

Delegates explained, from the floor, that this is like setting up an insurance fund. Once the basic amount has been raised, the Union will have the necessary protection against strike emergencies.

Secretary-Treasurer Emil Mazey explained that \$5 increase figures out to a little less than three cents an hour for a 40-hour week. "We are asking for the cost of a package of cigarettes a day, the price of a magazine, the price of a bottle of beer."

This is an insignificant amount when you consider all the benefits we can gain, he observed. No other investment could pay off in finer dividends.

### "RIGHT" VERSUS "NEED" DEBATE

There was little opposition to the dues increase. Nearly all the debate centered around whether a set amount of strike assistance should be paid each striker as a matter of "right" or whether the fund should be expended on a basis of "need."

Delegate after delegate stressed the point that everyone present would prefer to pay assistance as a matter of right, but the cold economic facts are that \$25 million is not nearly enough to finance such a program in a major strike.

A key point was that if the 140,000 Ford workers strike it would take \$1,400,000 a week just to pay each one \$10; if the amount were \$25 it would take \$3½ million a week. If the 325,000 General Motors workers struck, it would take \$3¼ million a week to pay them \$10; at the \$25 level, it would take \$8,125,000 a week.

A strike fund six or eight times as large as the one proposed would be required to assure each striker \$25 a week.

### WHEN GM AND FORD SETTLE

Secretary-Treasurer Mazey explained the change in the proposal for maintaining the strike fund at the \$25 million level. "We believe," he said, "that once we establish a strike fund of \$25 million, that we will have our negotiations at General Motors and Ford behind us, and at that time the need to rebuild our strike fund as rapidly is not there—as it would be if we had a major strike on."

"Therefore, we can take a little more time in rebuilding our strike fund from \$19 million to \$25 million. We believe that we still will have enough money in our treasury to complete our negotiations."

## Emergency Convention Authorized

CLEVELAND — Possible need for an emergency convention within the next six months was raised by President Walter P. Reuther at the Fifteenth UAW-CIO Convention, and action was taken by the delegates in unanimously approving a constitutional amendment to provide for such a contingency.

Discussing the possibility that managements with whom the Union has contractual relations might create special problems, Reuther pointed out that "we are proposing . . . a special provision so that we can call an emergency convention."

Reuther declared that such a convention "would probably last one day," and "would be a convention to which the delegates at this Convention would be the delegates" in order to avoid the cost and delay necessary to elect new ones.

"We could then take action to overcome the obstacles that management might put in our way," the UAW president asserted, "if they attempt to block our legitimate progress forward."



"I believe I can get ahead faster in this firm if I DON'T join the union!—Isn't that right, Father?"



SECRETARY-TREASURER EMIL MAZEY outlines strike fund program to UAW Convention delegates at the Monday session.

## Temporary Dues Boost Best Chance for Peace

CLEVELAND—It is only fair that everybody share the burden of establishing a pattern, Secretary-Treasurer Emil Mazey told the UAW-CIO Convention here. "Everybody benefits."

Mazey pointed out that "when Chrysler workers hit the bricks for 104 days in order to establish some basic principles in our pension fight, the entire membership of our Union benefited. Once that strike was won, our negotiating team was able to go back to GM and improve upon that Chrysler settlement."

"We were able to go back to Ford, and we were able to work out the basic collective bargaining problems in 1950 with the bulk of the corporations we have under contract."

He observed that when Chrysler workers struck for 17 days in 1948, "we worked out a contract with General Motors and with Chrysler that gave us basically a 13-cent pattern, and we didn't have too much difficulty in applying that pattern throughout the entire Union."

"When, in 1945 and '46, the

General Motors workers hit the bricks for 113 days—when that victory of 18½ cents an hour in an improved contract was nailed down—we had no difficulty at Ford and Chrysler and the bulk of the plants that we had under contract."

He added, "We believe that in this struggle the entire membership realizes that we are involved in every strike situation, and that every strike situation, big or small, can benefit the entire membership. Therefore, we ought to share the sacrifices that people must make when a strike takes place."

### CHANCE FOR PEACE

And the best chance of setting a pattern, without people being forced to strike, is to establish a strike fund big enough that managements will know that the sacrifice will not have to be too great, he said.

"The purpose of the Strike Fund is to be able to make certain that the kids and our wives and the strikers will have sufficient money to buy milk and food and all the other things that we need in strike situations."

Mazey pointed out that \$25 million will not solve all the strike assistance problems, will not supply all that the Union would like to supply, but that it will protect strikers and their families against undue hardship.

With the present strike fund, and the May dues, and by borrowing from local union strike funds and the International Union general fund, the Union can have "roughly \$22 or \$23 million available to use to aid our members by the middle of June of this year."

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**History-Making Speech:**

# Meany Discusses Unity Terms Before Cheering Convention

CLEVELAND—The job of building up the living standards of American workers has by no means been finished, there is still a long way to go, AFL President George Meany told the Fifteenth UAW-CIO Constitutional Convention.

"We can look at the past to see what we can gain from our experience in order to turn our eyes forward to the future," he said.

President Meany, described by UAW and CIO President Walter P. Reuther as, "the man who will head the new united labor movement," received an enthusiastic ovation from the Convention delegates. It was the first time, since the founding of the CIO, that a president of the AFL had addressed a convention of a CIO International Union.

Meany laid down a number of basic principles which he believes have to form the foundation of a new, united labor movement.

**WANTS UNIONS OPEN TO EVERYONE**

"We want a trade union movement that is open to all Americans who believe in the Bill of Rights, and open to them on an equal basis regardless of race, creed or color," he declared.

"We want a trade union movement where all of those charged with the responsibility of speaking for their fellow workers can do so along the lines of a code of ethics that proves that their first service is to their union and not to their own personal aggrandizement.

"Then we want a movement that will recognize that those who would lead us to some form of dictatorial government are traitors to the movement who do not believe in improving the conditions of the workers, who make hay and progress on the basis of misery and degradation of those who toil.

"We want a movement," he continued, "that has the practical common sense to solve the internal problems which crop up in our daily lives, so that we can devote all of our energies to the purpose for which we are organized. In fact, this was the basis for the merger agreement signed last month. We have to have within this movement a system by which we can resolve these internal disputes and not waste our energy and our substance in trying to beat down one another, but rather to give all our

energy and our talents to advancing the cause of those whom we represent.

"That is the kind of movement we've got to have to meet the challenge that we face."

**UNITED FOR GOOD CITIZENSHIP**

The threat to labor on the part of those in America who would destroy it through repressive legislation, such as the Taft-Hartley Act and the so-called "right-to-work" laws, must be met on the field of political action, Meany said.

"Fears have been expressed," he said, "that there will be too much power, too much concentration of power, that it might be used politically. Well, in my book it will be used politically. Not with the idea in mind of running the country, not with the idea of seeking public office for trade unionists—although there is nothing wrong with that; we have some pretty good ones—but with the idea of continuing the forward march of labor, of getting for American labor the fair share of that which we produce. And let those who worry about labor's political power remember this:

"We didn't choose the battleground, this political battleground. If they can pass laws that can hamstring, weaken and destroy the trade union movement, then our place to defend ourselves is in the same halls where they passed those laws."

Meany said that he sees ahead of us "a trade union movement that believes in job security, in a better and ever better standard of living, in welfare funds and pensions for the guy in overalls as well as others, a trade union movement that's willing to accept the miracle of modern science in the way of mechanization, provided that the benefits go to all the people and not just a few, and a movement dedicated to free labor, dedicated to those of our brothers and sisters across the seas who love liberty just as well as we do, but who are held back either by archaic methods or by being over-run by a dictatorial philosophy."



**HISTORIC MOMENT**—CIO President Walter P. Reuther, left, presents AFL President George Meany to the UAW-CIO Convention. This is the first appearance of a president of the American Federation of Labor at a CIO union convention.

## Labor Unity Canada's Goal, CCL Prexy Mosher Avers

CLEVELAND—Aaron R. Mosher, president of the Canadian Congress of Labour and one of the featured speakers at the Fifteenth Constitutional Convention of the UAW-CIO, told delegates that he was "endorsing wholeheartedly" the UAW-CIO's demand for a

Guaranteed Employment Plan.

The CCL chief, discussing organic labor unity in the United States, also pointed out that labor in Canada is "moving along similar lines," and he praised Canadian locals of the UAW for their role in strengthening the CCL, which is the CIO's counterpart north of the border.

Speaking of the UAW-CIO's major goal for 1955, the guaranteed wage, Mosher said:

"I have no hesitation in endorsing wholeheartedly the crusade which you have undertaken, to bring about a balance between the productive power of the nation and the purchasing power of the people.

"I am fully in accord with the view that the purpose of industry is the meeting of human needs, and that it has no other justification. Since life itself depends upon food, clothing and shelter, and these in turn must be purchased every day of the year, it is wholly unjust and unfair that a large proportion of the workers of the nation are paid on an hourly basis and are required, because of a lack of planning of industry, to spend a part of each year in idleness.

"No one would suggest that the problem of planning production on such an enormous scale is an easy one, but if the basic principle is accepted, that every worker capable of contributing toward the productive process is entitled to employment on a yearly basis, all the factors involved—industry, government and labor—will be



**AARON R. MOSHER**

able to find means of working together to achieve this objective."

Discussing moves toward AFL-CIO unity in the United States, Mosher pointed out that the CCL and the Trades and Labour Congress (TLC), the Canadian version of the AFL, "are moving along similar lines." He said that Canadian Regional Director George Burt of the UAW's Region 7 was a member of the CCL-TLC Unity Committee. Burt is a CCL vice-president.

"We are convinced that the proposals which have been adopted in the United States, and those which are under consideration in Canada, will lead to a close integration of the various elements which make up the labor movement in each country, and greatly extend its scope and influence," Mosher told the delegates.

**Warm Support for Annual Wage**

CLEVELAND—AFL President George Meany gave wholehearted endorsement at the UAW Convention here to the Union's demand for a Guaranteed Annual Wage.

"In its proposals for a Guaranteed Annual Wage, the UAW-CIO is blazing a trail in the true tradition of the American labor movement," he told newsmen at a press conference shortly after his address to the Convention.

He was confident, Meany said, that the UAW would get support for its collective bargaining program from AFL unions.

The AFL president likened the UAW proposal to other beneficial social and economic innovations, on both the legislative and collective bargaining fronts, that the labor movement has espoused and made into reality in past years.

"I'm rootin' for 'em," he said with emphasis.



**EMIL MAZEY, WHO HAD** just been renominated for International Secretary-Treasurer, is being serenaded by his friends on the Convention platform. Left to right: Edward J. Blake of Cleveland Local 1050; Sophia Wesolowski of Chrysler Local 212; Mrs. Mazey; Arnold Shenofsky of Toledo Local 12, providing the music; Mazey; Mike Duffy, a Chrysler Local 7 retiree; UAW-CIO President Walter P. Reuther, and a visitor with his identity hidden behind clown makeup.

# Convention Rallies Union's Full Support Behind Drive for Guaranteed Annual Wage

The delegate came from a small local. It was his first UAW-CIO Convention. Obviously he was impressed. A great hall—a full city block long—was crammed with delegates, so many that they spilled beyond its floor capacity and some had to be seated on the stage.

Overhead, klieg lights blazed as television cameras played over the gigantic backdrop and came to rest on the speakers. The banners stood out boldly.

**It was the second day of the biggest free trade union Convention of all time. The subject matter was so important that scores of reporters stood by waiting to rush any pertinent word to the nation's newspapers and radio stations.**

The delegate leaned across a table to speak to his neighbor, and he summed up the whole thing.

"You know," he said, "this may be a funny time to confess it, but I just lost my house . . . six years of work and hopes and dreams gone, just like that.

"It only took six months to lose it . . . six months in which my plant was shut down. And I'll never forget the look in my wife's and little girl's eyes when we faced up to the fact that we just couldn't keep up the payments.

### WHOLE UNION WITH HIM

"And yet a waiter in a restaurant asked me, 'Just how earnest are you guys about wanting a Guaranteed Annual Wage?'"

"Brother, who could be more dedicated to that than me?"



PRESIDENT WALTER REUTHER, left, and Secretary-Treasurer Emil Mazey watch Convention delegates unanimously reaffirm decision to win a Guaranteed Annual Wage this year.

"Seeing this Convention I know the whole Union's with me."

**The Convention showed the Union is with him, and with millions like him whose chief hope for security in the years ahead lies in the success of the 1955 demands.**

Delegates showed their determination by voting 98 per cent in favor of the dues increase—to build the strike fund if needed to do the job. And they voted unanimously in support of the '55 collective bargaining program.

The delegate smiled seeing this firm demonstration of the support of 3,000 fellow delegates and hundreds of thousands of brothers and sisters back home.

"With automation coming on and a lot of layoffs here now in what they call 'prosperity' I'm glad to know we are really doing something about the future," he said.

### PROGRAM FOR GOOD OF ALL

UAW President Walter P. Reuther expanded that view in his talk supporting the Collective Bargaining Resolution. He said, "We are going into those bargaining sessions fully aware of the fact that we are not only fighting for justice for our people, but we are fighting for the kind of realistic economic policies that affect the welfare, the well-being and the future of all people.

"When we fight for the Guaranteed Wage, we are not just fighting for economic justice for the workers and the families whom we represent. We are fighting to try to find the answer as to how we can gear the greater and greater economic abundance that science and technology now make possible . . . and translate that great technological progress into human progress, into a

better, richer and happier life for all the people of our country.

**"We go to the bargaining table knowing that what we do, how well we carry out our responsibilities and how effectively we realize our opportunities will affect not only Ford workers, not only GM workers, not only the people who belong to our great Union, but they will affect the welfare of every family in our great country and every family in Canada."**

Vice-President John W. Livingston, now in negotiations with General Motors, pointed out to the Convention that the 1955 demands are economically feasible.



THESE RETIRED WORKERS, part of a group of senior citizens who watched the Convention from the platform, urged delegates to "win this one just like we won pensions in 1949." They called the successful fight for the "impossible" pension demand.



THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE, pictured above, spent hours putting the UAW's position on key matters down in words. Delegates cheered, clapped, stomped their feet when the resolution on the 1955 collective bargaining program was presented.



IT WAS A WORKING CONVENTION. Dozens of delegates expressing their views to those of the brothers and sisters who elected them.

# Length Wage

# ON OUR WAY STEADY WORK STEADY PAY

be arrived, "As we go to the bar-  
General Motors and Ford,  
to a pile of things to keep in mind.  
of money there. There is plenty  
there is no question about it.

**PRESENT THERE**  
General Motors Corporation made, after all taxes were paid, \$806  
of all The Ford figures are not available, but they don't need to  
of the Ford workers and Ford committee to know that the Ford  
financially has been doing just as well as the General Motors

nodded. "Funny thing about our layoff," he said. "I  
official in my company, and he got paid by the year. They  
They paid the overhead. They paid the stockholders.  
not pay for everything but the workers.

just like Reuther said. We have a choice of two roads, one  
personally downhill, and the other heads up. Me, I'll take

what I've been telling the guys. Check me to see if I got it

Guaranteed Annual Wage means you're guaranteed pay 52

His companion nodded.

"And any week you're called in, you're  
guaranteed 40 hours' pay no matter how  
little you actually work . . . and this  
doesn't count against your basic guaran-  
tee."

"That's it," his companion said.

"And you build up one week's guaran-  
tee for each two weeks you work up to the  
maximum of 52?"

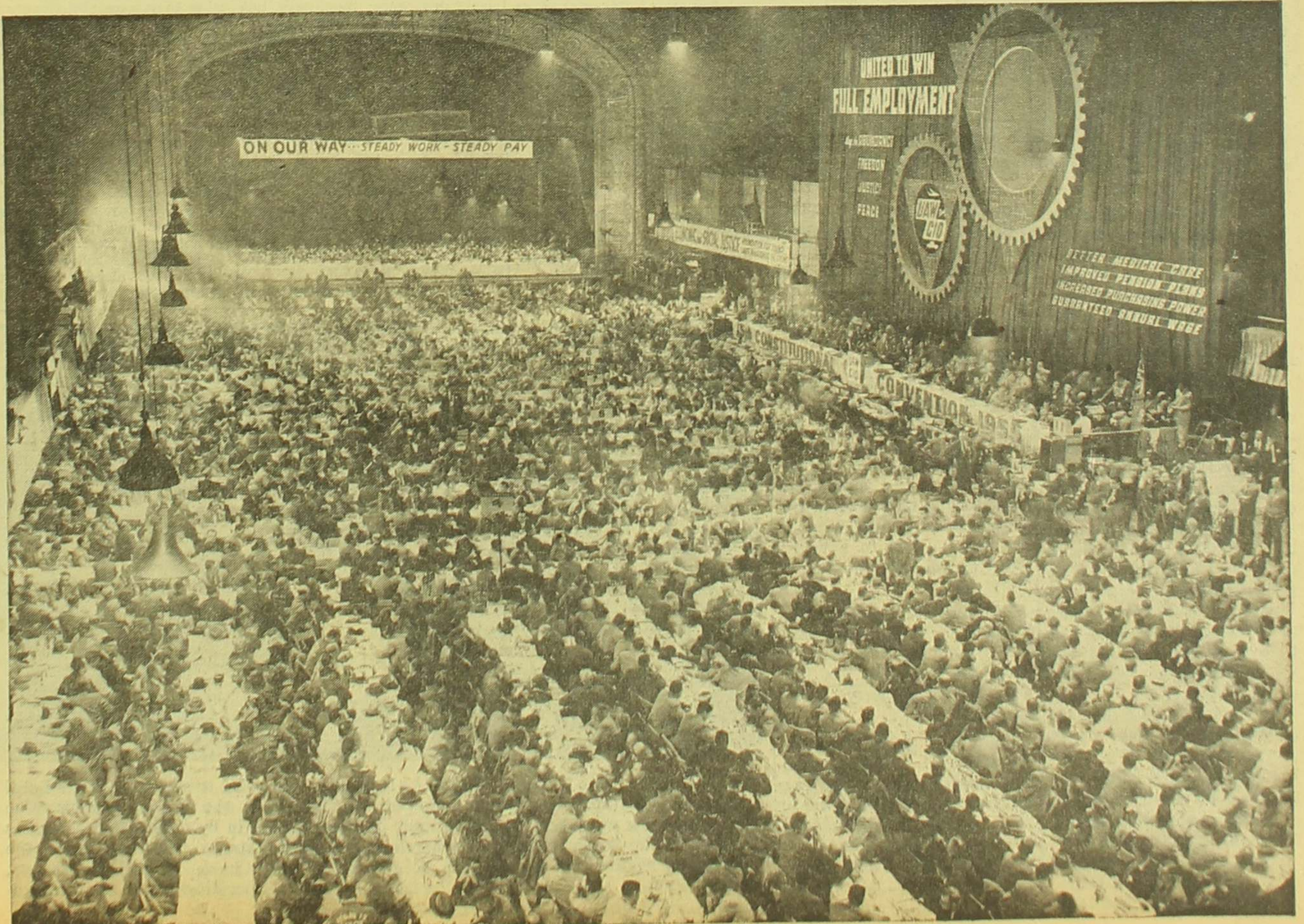
"Right."

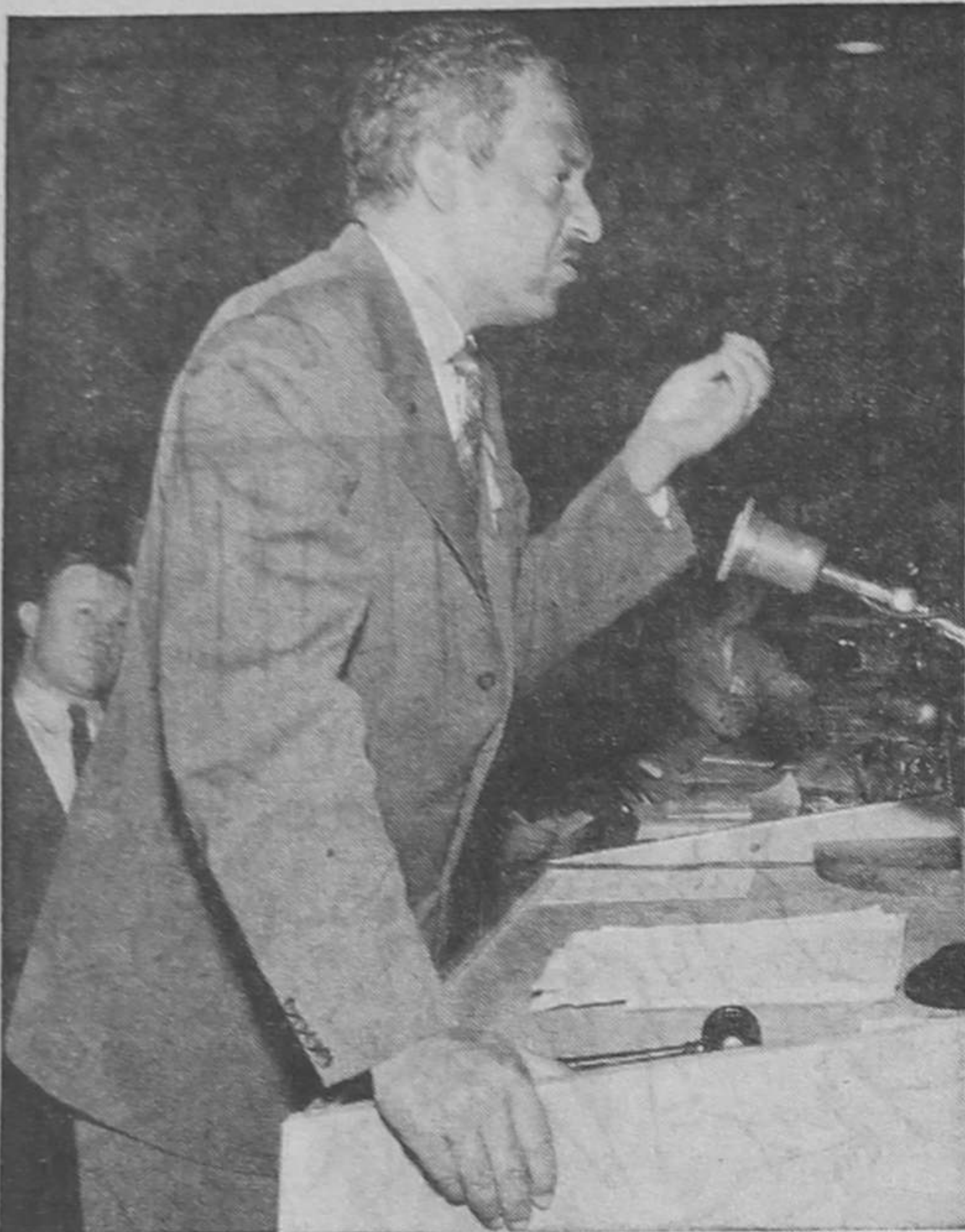
"Brother, in my Company, we're going to  
pin down that ever lastin' Guaranteed Wage  
because that way we can all get those worry  
wrinkles out of our foreheads and really plan  
for our futures."

*If you've lost your copy of "60 Questions and  
Answers on the Guaranteed Annual Wage," you  
can get another by writing to the: UAW-CIO  
Education Department, 8000 E. Jefferson Avenue,  
Detroit 14, Michigan.*



**THE BIGGEST CONVENTION** in the history of the American labor  
movement gets down to work on ways of supporting one of the most impor-  
tant demands working people anywhere could make of an employer—the  
Guaranteed Annual Wage. Nearly 3,000 delegates are pictured below in Cleve-  
land's huge, city-block-long Public Auditorium.





THURGOOD MARSHALL, legal counsel for the NAACP, urges delegates to step up the pace of the battle against prejudice.

## Jim Crow Must Go Now, Marshall Tells Delegates

CLEVELAND — Perhaps the most important Supreme Court ruling of this generation is the one making segregation in schools illegal. Thurgood Marshall, the lawyer who, in President Walter Reuther's words, "was perhaps more responsible than any other for that historic decision," urged Convention delegates to follow up the Court's mandate with a drive to end discrimination "in all its ugly forms."

Marshall, chief legal counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said the UAW's battle against discrimination within the plant and on the production line helped lay the foundation for the Supreme Court case.

### KIDS ARE KIDS

The Court's decision is laying a base for a better educated America, Marshall said. He pointed out that a Ford Foundation report released last year stated:

"Where de-segregation has been tried, the typical outcome has been its eventual acceptance. A generation from now the American people may be able with some pride to look back on this period as a time of successful transition accomplished in a characteristically American way."

"Those of you who have had any experience at all in the deep South know that colored and white children, especially in rural areas, play together in the morning. Sometimes they have breakfast together. They play in the road. They play in the street. They play on the farm. The only time they are segregated is when they go to school and go to church.

"That just simply does not make sense. If they can go every other time together, they can go to school together," Marshall observed.

Scoring those who believe that the fight against discrimination is an educational rather than a legislative problem, the NAACP

spokesman said, "To have a process of educating people to treat other people right, it is necessary that the government make its position clear as to the boundary limits in this field of education, which is: 'We will give you time to be educated. At the end of that period of education you will have to begin to be law abiding.'

"Every day we try to convince people not to rob banks, but I'm not too sure that that education stops men from robbing banks. I think there is another deterrent factor—that if you rob a bank and get caught, you go to jail," Marshall continued.

### HOUSING KEY BATTLE

Praising the UAW's work against discrimination, he added, "We need to go one step further. We need to have organized labor take upon itself the duty and responsibility of seeing to it that no Negro member of any local is required to live in a segregated ghetto solely because of his race."

"To do this," he continued, "you must first convince yourselves, your families and your neighbors that the lies told about Negro property owners are not true.

"As long as Negroes are restricted to certain segregated neighborhoods, as long as Negroes are ostracized in other neighborhoods, we will continue to have Jim Crow living conditions, resulting in segregated public schools and a feeling of separateness."

# 17,000 FE Workers Join UAW-CIO Ranks

More than 17,000 rank-and-file members of the Farm Equipment Workers division of the independent United Electrical Workers Union, who work in six International Harvester plants, mostly in the Midwest, voted unanimously last month to disaffiliate from FE-UE and to affiliate with the UAW-CIO.

These workers constitute the total membership of 12 FE locals. Their secession move, prompted by a desire to join the majority of International Harvester workers who are organized by the UAW, has put the UE's Farm Equipment division out of existence.

### UNITY ACHIEVED

The new UAW-CIO members are employed at I-H plants in Canton and Rock Falls, Illinois, Louisville, Kentucky, and at the McCormick, Pullman and Tractor Works in Chicago.

The action taken by these 12 locals followed by a few weeks a string of six election victories won by UAW over FE in I-H plants in the Quad-Cities and in Richmond, Indiana.

The affiliation of these last 12 FE locals with UAW thus bears out a statement made last January by Pat Greathouse, director of Region 4,

UAW-CIO, that "Harvester workers want unity in UAW-CIO and will not stop until they achieve it."

### BARGAINING FRONT

"The International Harvester management is strictly anti-union," Greathouse said recently, "and with negotiations about to begin, a solidly united work force, under one union banner, became the most important issue to I-H workers. The local leadership of these 12 FE locals thus carried out the mandate of their rank-and-file and joined hands with their brothers in UAW-CIO.

"It certainly will give

### "Union" Rat Exterminated

SAN FRANCISCO — "We get too many calls," explained an official who had his attorney petition to change the firm name, "from people explaining that if you're a good union man, you can't be a rat." The name of the firm which they want changed: Union Rat Extermination Company.

management something to think about when we sit down and talk contract with them," Greathouse said.

The UE was one of eleven unions expelled from the CIO in 1949 on charges that it was Communist-dominated. It later took in the FE, which had been a separate international union, and which then became a division of UE.

## MESC Referee Reverses Michigan Stove's Relapse

The Detroit-Michigan Stove Company had a temporary relapse. Once a notorious gangster hangout, it promised to reform when the UAW-CIO braved threats to organize its workers four years ago.

Last summer it laid off its 258 employes for two weeks and claimed that it was a "paid vacation." A fair-minded Michigan Employment Security Commission referee has just ruled that they were entitled to unemployment compensation despite the vacation ruse.

When the laid-off workers first attempted to collect unemployment insurance, they were told that the Company had informed the MESC that its employes were "on vacation" rather than on lay-off, and that they were being paid vacation pay ranging from 40 hours' pay after one year seniority to 120 hours' pay for those with more than 15 years' seniority. Such pay would make them ineligible for unemployment insurance benefits.

The workers complained to their Union, Local 1166, which processed their claim, resulting in a favorable finding by MESC Referee Charles Rubinoff.

The Union maintained that

the contract provides for a payment in lieu of vacations, which is more in the nature of a bonus, and that therefore the mass layoff and the bonus payments do not affect the workers' rights to unemployment benefits.

The Company even claimed that workers with no seniority—who received no bonus payments at all—were also not entitled to unemployment compensation because they were "voluntarily unemployed" or on "a leave of absence" during the "vacation" period.

Referee Rubinoff found there was no agreement between the Local and the Company calling for vacations or a closing of the plant, but that the contract clearly provided for payment "in lieu of vacation with pay" in the nature of a bonus.

The Company, confronted with a clear-cut and decisive finding, did not appeal Referee Rubinoff's ruling, and the 258 workers involved have already collected their money.

## Ike's Had GAW

WASHINGTON — General and now President Eisenhower has not stated his views on the Guaranteed Annual Wage, but at least he has enjoyed one.

UAW President Walter Reuther was asked at a Press Club talk here if he favored a Guaranteed Annual Wage for President Eisenhower beyond 1956.

Replied Reuther, "I would say that President Eisenhower is one of the few Americans who has had a Guaranteed Annual Wage most of his adult life."



A SALES TAX STAMP WINDFALL brought big grins to sponsors of the Local 12 Summer Camp. The state of Ohio redeems the stamps at a fraction of their value for charitable purposes. The thousands of them turned in by Convention delegates will go to the Summer Camp. Gathered at one of the stamp collection tins in the Cleveland Auditorium are, L. to R., Region 2B Director Charles Ballard, Joe Mooney, administrative assistant to Vice-President Richard Gosser, Gosser and his other administrative assistant, Walter Madrzykowski.



# Delegates Vote Bigger Leadership Team; Re-Elect Four; Add Matthews, Woodcock

CLEVELAND—The UAW-CIO has expanded its leadership to keep pace with the Union's growing services. Delegates to the Fifteenth Constitutional Convention enthusiastically passed a constitutional amendment increasing the number of top officers from four to six.

They elected Walter P. Reuther to his sixth term as president and Emil Mazey to his fifth term as secretary-treasurer by acclamation.

Vice-Presidents Richard T. Gosser and John W. Livingston were re-elected. Delegates chose two additional vice-presidents, Norman Matthews, director of Region 1 and of the Chrysler Department, and Leonard Woodcock, director of Region 1D, the American Motors and Continental Motors Departments.

## ROLL CALL ON VICE-PRESIDENTS

Other candidates for the vice-presidencies were Carl Stellato, president of Local 600, and Nat Turner, committeeman from Local 599.

Nominations and demonstrations for the six top officers and the two defeated candidates took up much of the Wednesday morning session. The roll-call vote for vice-president lasted more than five hours. The final tally:

**John W. Livingston, 11,478.132; Richard T. Gosser, 10,672.938; Norman Matthews, 9,953.937; Leonard Woodcock, 9,933.838; Carl Stellato, 4,007.329; and Nat Turner, 1,037.428.**

(The UAW-CIO Constitution provides that all contests for office be decided by roll-call votes. A delegation has one vote for each 100 members or major fraction thereof.)

## FIVE NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Five new members were elected to the International Executive Board as most regional directors were returned without opposition.

George Merrelli, administrative assistant to the late Michael Lacey, and Ken Morris, president of Local 212 (Chrysler Automotive Body), were elected co-directors of Region 1, filling the vacancies created by Matthews' elevation to vice-president and Lacey's death. Kenneth Robinson, assistant regional director of Region 1D, succeeded Woodcock as director of Region 1D.

Charles Bioletti, International representative, formerly president of Local 406, was elected director of Region 6. C. V. O'Halloran, director of the West Coast region for many years, did not run. Norman H. Seaton, president of Local 678, was named director of Region 8 replacing P. J. Ciampa, who declined the nomination for re-election.

Other candidates in Regions 6 and 8 withdrew before the regional roll calls were completed.

Board members re-elected are: Joseph McCusker and Edward Cote, co-directors of Region 1A; William McAulay, director of Region 1B; Robert Carter, director of Region 1C; Patrick J. O'Malley, director of Region 2; Ray Ross, director of Region 2A; Charles Ballard, director of Region 2B; Ray Berndt, director of Region 3; Pat Greathouse, director of Region 4; Russell Letner, director of Region 5; George Burt, director of Region 7; Martin Gerber, director of Region 9; Charles Kerrigan, director of Region 9A, and Harvey Kitzman, director of Region 10.

## REUTHER ASKS EXPANDED TEAM

President Reuther called for expanding the leadership team in his report to the membership. He pointed out the rising responsibilities of top officers and the growing complexity of bargaining made the move essential to the best interests of the rank-and-file membership.

Both new vice-presidents have been associated with the trade union movement all their lives.

Woodcock was once an organizer for the CIO Oil Workers and the Retail Clerks in Detroit. He joined the UAW's staff in 1940 to organize the General Motors Fisher Body plant in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and later became assistant regional director of Region 1D. In 1946 he became administrative assistant to President Walter P. Reuther. In 1933 he went to work at the Detroit Gear Company, where he joined an AFL Federal Labor Union which later became a UAW-CIO local.

Matthews has been a member of the UAW-CIO Executive Board since 1944. He is also director of the Union's National Chrysler Department. Matthews is a member of Packard Local 190 and a journeyman electrician. A native of England, he came to Detroit in 1920. In his capacity as National Chrysler Director, he has either headed or participated as a member of the top bargaining team in negotiating with the Chrysler Corporation and winning gains which have helped to establish patterns for the entire automotive industry.



NEW VICE-PRESIDENTS, Leonard Woodcock, left, and Norman Matthews, discuss plans the day after their election.



FIRST PICTURE OF NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS—Left to right: Ken Morris and George Merrelli, co-directors of Region 1; Kenneth Robinson, director of Region 1D; Charles Bioletti, director of Region 6, and Norman Seaton, director of Region 8.

## Douglas Workers Gain Giant Back Pay Jackpot

Over three-quarters of a million dollars in back pay has been distributed to Douglas Aircraft workers in Long Beach, California; Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Tucson, Arizona, as a result of contract negotiations recently completed by UAW-CIO.

The wage increase of from five to seven cents, plus inequity adjustments of from five cents to 23 cents were made retroactive to December 13, 1954, in the contract which was signed recently and extends for one year to March 15, 1956. Approximately 1,500 workers were involved in the inequity wage boosts.

In Long Beach, members of Local 148 said they were reminded of that day three years ago when the company cut up a \$4 million back pay melon with the workers there after the 47-day strike and lengthy case before the National Wage Stabilization Board.

Negotiations were coordinated through National Aircraft Staff Representatives John Allard, who handled the Tucson-Long

Beach negotiations, and Carl Stevens at the Oklahoma sessions.

Vice-President Livingston, director of the National Aircraft Department, credited the teamwork between the local committees and both regional and national staff representatives for the manner in which the negotiations were successfully extended and the retroactivity obtained.

The Tucson Plant is the newest Douglas facility and was organized by UAW-CIO late in November of last year. This marks their first full contract there at Local 1291. The Tulsa workers are members of Local 1093.

In addition to the wage gains in the contract, there were other improvements in the seniority and upgrading provisions as well as changes in the insurance plan.

## FTC Charges 2 More Insurance Firms with Misleading Appeals

Two more insurance companies face charges of false and misleading advertising, the Federal Trade Commission has announced.

The U. S. Government agency has issued complaints against the National Casualty Company of Detroit and the Federal Life and Casualty Company of Battle Creek, Michigan, charging both firms with advertising "broad coverage" policies, but actually writing them with many limiting qualifications.

Typical, according to the FTC, are provisos that no benefits will be paid for sickness traceable to any contributing cause existing prior to the issuance of the policy or developing within a specified period thereafter. The FTC says the companies can cancel the policies at any renewal date.

The two Michigan firms bring to 28 the total of health and accident insurance companies facing charges since the FTC began its investigation of their advertising methods.

# Neely Lambastes Ike For General Failures

CLEVELAND—In a speech which made national headlines, U. S. Senator Matthew M. Neely (D., W. Va.) delivered a slashing attack on the Eisenhower Administration and on the President himself before 3,000 cheering delegates at the UAW-CIO Convention.

"I don't want any more of Eisenhower. I have had too much of him already," he declared. Senator Neely asserted that generals without prior civilian and governmental experience ought never to be nominated in the first place, and went on to classify Eisenhower along with Generals Ulysses S. Grant and Zachary Taylor as complete failures in office.

### GENERAL CONFUSION

Like Taylor and Grant, Eisenhower had a hard time making up his mind whether he was a Republican or a Democrat, and, once in office, is unable to run the government, Neely said.

"Mr. Eisenhower wasn't qualified for President when he was nominated. He wasn't qualified when he was elected, and he demonstrates every day that he doesn't know where he is going, how he is going to get there or what he will do when he reaches his destination," the fiery old Senator declared.

He said the Administration was utterly confused, especially on such problems as the Far Eastern situation, with Secretary of State Dulles saying one thing, Defense Secretary Wilson saying something else, and Eisenhower in the middle.

The Administration is the greatest monument to confusion since the Tower of Babel, Neely told the delegates.

### NO SET POLICY

"There have been statements about our relations with the Chinese and about the hydrogen bomb, confusion worse confounded. No one knows when he goes to bed at night what the President's attitude toward Red China is going to be tomorrow. His Cabinet apparently doesn't know what he is going to decide to do in the event that Formosa is attacked," Neely said.

"Eisenhower may have been first in war, and I shall not try to rob him of any of his military glamour, but he has always been first in confusion of a presidential administration. I think I would concede him the honor or the distinction, if it be such, of being the first of all presidents on the golf course and the last to leave it. I would also concede him as being the first in having too much Republican politics in the fishing camps of the country. I think I would also give him the distinction of being the first in repudiation of presidential campaign promises."

Listing the President's broken campaign promises, Neely mentioned Eisenhower's pat-on-the-back for TVA; his support of 100 per cent parity for farmers; his support of a fair labor law and a balanced budget.

His stand on all these matters changed when he got into office, Neely declared. He denounced TVA as "socialism" and backed the Dixon-Yates deal; he supported Agriculture Secretary Benson's lower parity figures; he did not balance the budget, giving corporations fat tax cuts, and he appointed anti-labor management

### Eat Books, Maybe?

FRANKFORT, Kentucky—Sweepers make more than public school teachers here in Kentucky. A survey just completed showed that school salaries are at an all-time high and still average only \$2,600 a year. That is less than sweepers make in plants organized by the CIO in recent years.

spokesmen to the National Labor Relations Board, while at the same time failing to liberalize the Taft-Hartley Act.

### 'ALICE IN WONDERLAND'

"I don't think Mr. Eisenhower wants to hurt the majority of the American people. I don't believe that he is that kind of a man. I just don't think he knows what it is all about and he doesn't know what these peddlers of special favor and privilege come in to talk to him about. They take him. He is just like Alice in Wonderland. He gets to seeing dreams. He believes what he hears around there," Neely added.

Blaming the recent recession on the Eisenhower Administration, Neely described conditions in his native West Virginia, where the families of union coal miners, textile, glass and railroad workers subsist on government surplus food and local welfare, their unemployment compensation benefits having run out long ago.

He said conditions in his state and in Kentucky are almost as bad as during the Hoover Depression.



SENATOR MATTHEW M. NEELY (D., W. Va.) lashes out at President Eisenhower for his failure to make good on his campaign promise to take labor-busting provisions out of the Taft-Hartley Act.

## Bad Word Leads to Worse Act And Then \$3,400 Back Pay Award

WEST ALLIS, Wisconsin—Don't be surprised if you hear Louis De Laura going around bragging about his Local Union. He has good reason to.

His Union, Local 248, UAW-CIO, made the Allis-Chalmers Company give De Laura his job back with seven months' back pay amounting to more than \$3,400. And the referee even held profanity could be provoked.

De Laura, a first shift milling machine operator in the Hawley plant here, was fired by A-C for speaking up to a foreman. Local 248 battled the Company through all four steps of the grievance procedure, finally winning its point when Professor Elmer E. Hilpert, an impartial referee, ruled that De Laura had been discharged unjustly.

Last summer, De Laura, provoked by a foreman who accused him of "gold bricking," replied by calling the foreman "a damn liar." Following this exchange, De Laura called in his shop steward. It was during the discussion of this "first step" grievance that the foreman sent De Laura to the Company's "discipline control board," a move which re-



MRS. WALTER REUTHER, right, pours at a tea for wives and women delegates at the Convention. Nearly 600 women met wives of top officers at the tea, got better acquainted with each other.

## Budd Red Lion Workers Join UAW-CIO Team

PHILADELPHIA—Workers at the huge Red Lion plant of the Budd Wheel Company last month ousted a long-entrenched company union by voting for the UAW-CIO by a margin of nearly 3 to 1.

Budd workers in two other plants are already members of the UAW-CIO.

The vote at Red Lion was 2,803 for the UAW, 1,046 for the independent group and 35 for no union, according to Vice-President Richard Gosser, director of the UAW's Competitive Shop Department, which conducted the drive jointly with Region 9 staffers.

The Company's expansion plans will mean an eventual work force of about 17,000. The firm makes auto chassis and railroad equipment.

The plant had been a target of UAW organizers for nearly ten years. The independent group,

with Company help, had won several previous NLRB elections.

Other Budd plants under UAW contracts include the nearby Huntington Road plant here in Philadelphia, which is represented by Local 813, and the Detroit plant, represented by Local 306.

## UAW Local Wins \$12,000 in Back Pay for 258

Twelve thousand dollars in back pay has been won by 258 Plymouth workers by UAW-CIO Local 51 in Detroit.

The pay award resolved a grievance dating back to February, 1954, involving the demotion of six foremen to hourly rates and the Corporation's attempt to give them full seniority and protection from layoffs, to the detriment of regular Plymouth workers.

The Local held that these foremen had no right to exercise seniority in the Plymouth plant because they had never been employed there as hourly-rated workers.

When the plant was subsequently hit by layoffs, the six ex-foremen continued to work while high-seniority hourly-rated workers were laid off.

The grievance was settled last November at the Appeal Board stage, when the Company agreed to back pay awards to those workers affected by the layoffs and by the retention of the ex-foremen out of line of seniority.

However, it took nearly four months to determine who was entitled to back pay, so that awards were not made until last month.

## Special Activities For Delegates' Wives A Convention Feature

CLEVELAND — For the first time in the Union's history, a special program of activities for wives of delegates was conducted during the UAW-CIO's Fifteenth Constitutional Convention.

Highlight of this program, as far as most of the wives were concerned, was the welcoming tea held at the Hollenden Hotel during the afternoon of the Convention's first day.

Wives of UAW officers and Board members served as hostesses. Emil Mazey, International secretary-treasurer, welcomed the ladies on behalf of the Union and emphasized the importance of wives in winning the UAW's economic demands in 1955. May Reuther, wife of President Walter P. Reuther, also addressed the delegates' wives.

The program for the wives also included a tour of the "automated" Ford plant.

## Local 506 Early Birds Find 7½-Cent Boost

SAN DIEGO, California—A 7½-cent wage increase plus insurance improvements and inequity adjustments has special meaning to workers at Ryan Aircraft here because of the effective date which provides them a two-month benefit bonus.

The workers, members of Local 506, ratified the contract this month. The old contract was not

due to expire until June 5. Alert negotiating provided an early effective date which actually gives two extra months of the new benefits.

The economic improvements bring the Ryan workers to an average straight-time rate of \$2.12½ per hour . . . one of the highest averages in west coast aircraft.

Mexican Union Head Asserts:

Guaranteed Wage OK in Mexico; Logical Demand for United States

CLEVELAND—As a matter of law, workers in Mexico already have something approaching closely the principle of UAW-CIO's Guaranteed Annual Wage goal, Fidel Velazquez, head of the Mexican Confederation of Labor, told amazed newsmen at a press conference preceding his talk to the delegates at the Fifteenth Constitutional Convention.

Velazquez, who headed a fraternal delegation of Mexican trade union officials to the Convention, said that a Mexican worker is paid for seven days, no matter how many days he actually works during the week. He also revealed that it is made extremely difficult for Mexican employers to discharge their workers. The big trouble is, he said, the Mexican people never have had an adequate standard of living.

RETURNS CIO VISIT

The Mexican labor leader, who was returning a visit to Mexico made last December by UAW and CIO President Walter P. Reuther and other CIO leaders, told the delegates:

"The mission that brings us here certainly is the same which brought Brother Reuther to Mexico; to unite and strengthen the ranks of international labor without being stopped by national frontiers nor limiting our action to the practices of diplomats. The movement we belong to is inseparable. Nothing and no one has the right to stand in the way of its fraternity and solidarity everywhere.

"Our major goal is to fulfill this aim, for we believe firmly that as long as workers are kept apart from what is going on in the rest of the world, so long will they remain unable to solve their own problems and effectively to serve the cause of liberty. In that case, there always will be forces somewhere which are strong enough to prevent social betterment and to subject labor to humiliating oppression." Velazquez continued.

UNITY AIDS EVERYONE

"We sincerely believe the most important task now is bringing about the unity of labor because it is right for society, because it means greater economic justice for working people, because people everywhere want it, because it will stimulate their struggles for liberation from oppression. Without those basic elements, nothing, or very little, ever will be achieved," he declared.

Velazquez, considered Mexico's top labor leader, said news of the pending CIO-AFL merger "makes us extremely happy."

"I want to express our appreciation for the valuable con-

tribution Walter Reuther and AFL President George Meany have made to the cause of labor," he continued, "for it is they more than anyone who have influenced the achievement of this new and large step forward on the road to liberty and democracy."

Velazquez addressed the delegates in Spanish. Victor Reuther, assistant to the CIO President, gave a running translation.

Asked by newsmen to comment on the UAW-CIO's Guaranteed Wage demand, Velazquez replied:

"A man has to eat, whether or not he works. And a man who does not have the money to eat, has a habit of dying."

Local 300 Prexy Named

Thomas Lazzio, president of UAW-CIO Local 300, Paterson, New Jersey, has been appointed by President Eisenhower to the Committee for the White House Conference on Education.

CIO Officers Lament Walter White's Death; Praise His Leadership

WASHINGTON, D. C. — In a joint telegram to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), CIO President Walter P. Reuther, Secretary-Treasurer James B. Carey and Executive Vice-President John V. Riffe expressed their sorrow and condolences at the "untimely death of our very good friend, Walter White," NAACP executive secretary.

The CIO officers termed White "a courageous and gallant fighter" in the cause dear to "all who truly believe in the democratic principle of equality among men."

Paying tribute to the inspiration given by the NAACP secretary, the CIO trio regretted that he "did not live to see . . . the end of segregation in our public schools. . . ." They pledged the CIO to continue the fight to end "segregation and discrimination in our land," and concluded by stating that such a fight "would be the best monument a grateful America could erect to a great American."



FIDEL VELAZQUEZ, secretary-general of the Mexican Confederation of Labor, left, congratulates Walter P. Reuther on his re-election, by acclamation, as president of the UAW-CIO. Mrs. Reuther, center, smiles approval.

Kohler Workers Beat Vigilantes—at Polls

SHEBOYGAN, Wisconsin—Kohler workers observed the first anniversary of their strike by defeating the vigilantes—at the polls.

The same community elements which formed a "Law and Order League" 20 years ago, tried to dictate the outcome.

Instead on April 5, 365 days after they walked out of Kohler Co., Kohler workers helped elect the first labor-backed mayor and labor-backed Board of Alderman, majority in this city's history.

KOHLER CANDIDATE LOSES

With the strike the key issue, 89 per cent of all registered voters turned out. For the first time in history, the mayoralty candidate backed by Kohler Co. was defeated.

Rudolph J. Ploetz, who ran after being urged to do so by farm and labor groups, retired four-time mayor Edward Schmidt by a decisive margin.

Candidates backed by the recently-revived Sheboygan County Farm-Labor Political League captured five of eight alderman positions.

The new Third Ward alderman is Victor Becker, a member of striking UAW-CIO Local 833. The Fifth Ward alderman is Karl Mohar, secretary of the AFL Carpenters local in Sheboygan.

STRIKERS IN OFFICE

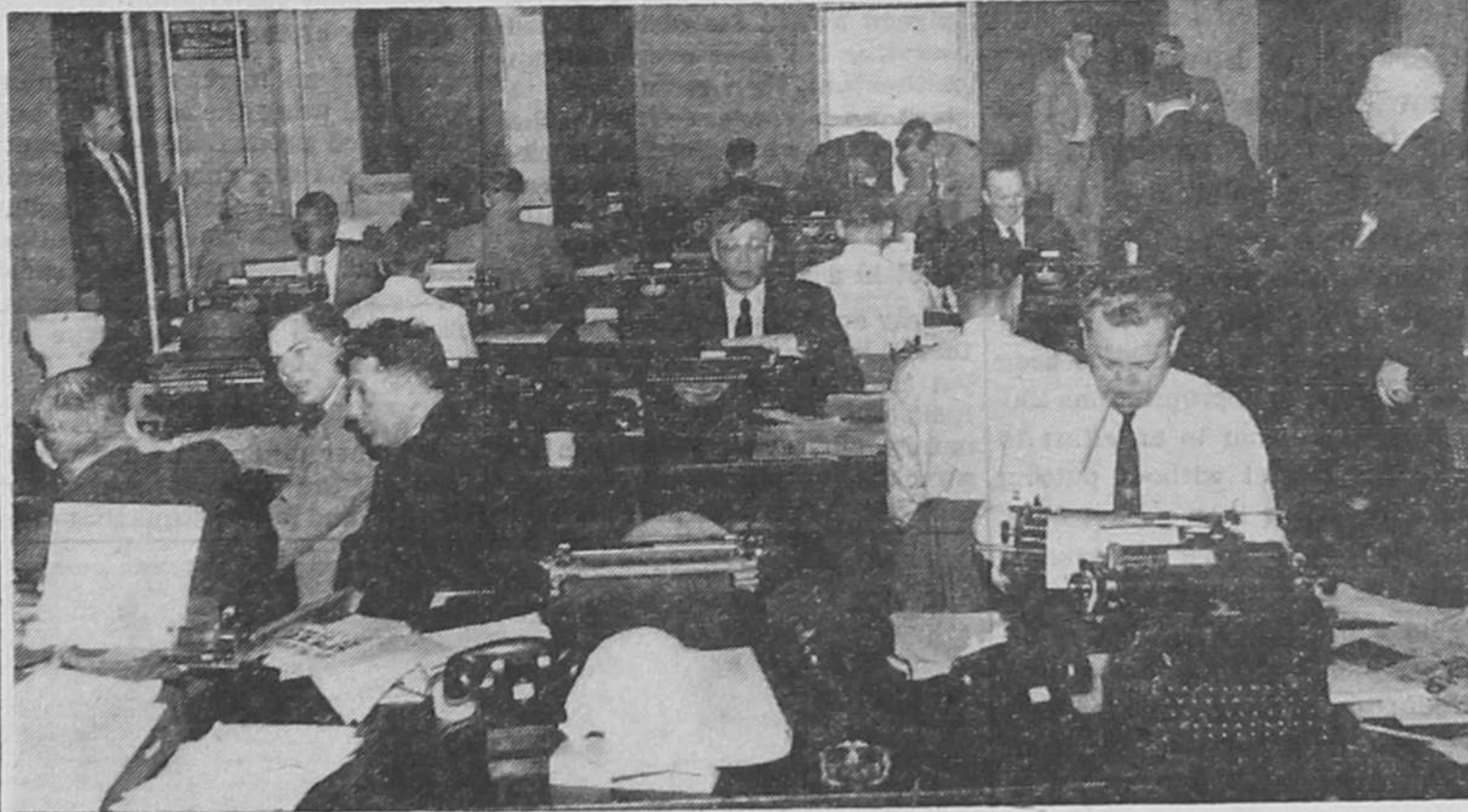
Vernon Opgenorth, another member of Local 833, was elected chairman of the town of Sheboygan (the metropolitan area outside the city limits). Labor groups had charged the incumbent with hiring constables prejudiced against trade unions.

Labor-backed candidates won eight of the 10 town races, and lost only one elective administrative post in the City.

UAW-CIO Region 10 Director Harvey Kitzman pointed out, "Twenty years ago elements in Sheboygan County generally controlled by Kohler Co. formed a Law and Order League. They played an unfortunate role in that 1934 strike in which two men were killed and 47 people wounded by gunshots fired from Kohler Co. and adjoining Kohler Village. The same groups which helped break the strike 20 years ago formed the so-called 'People's League' for this election.

"They put up a vicious campaign with a lot of scare talk against unions. The volume of their newspaper advertising and radio announcements showed they had a lot of money behind them. They had the full support of the Sheboygan Press.

"But this time the people of Sheboygan were not fooled."



THE PRESS ROOM—Nearly 100 reporters, magazine writers, radio and television workers kept these typewriters humming every day. They filed a total of 162,000 words to newspapers over Cleveland's Western Union facilities, phoned in countless thousands more. Millions saw key Convention speeches on television.

NAM Will Have to Check on This: Worker Fired for Overproduction

WILMINGTON, Ohio—The management of Wilmington Casting Company here may get kicked out of the NAM for conduct unbecoming a manufacturer.

They just fired Ray Adams for "producing too much."

After the millions of dollars the NAM has spent in trying to popularize "productivity," a slick word to describe a speed-up, here comes Wilmington Casting to tear down the entire program.

A story, of course, goes with it.

Adams was an active organizer when the UAW-CIO won an election at the plant on January 14, by a vote of 67 to 46. The Company fought viciously, but the workers wanted the Union.

The Company is still fighting. It has protested the election, and certification is being held up in Washington.

Meanwhile, the Get Adams campaign was on. Adams, with 10 years in the Company as a machinist, has been on piece work for years. The machines he runs have three speeds, low, medium and high. Medium is for use on cast iron fittings, and that's the speed the job is timed for.

But when he got some galvanized fittings to work on the other night, he slipped her into high, and began to make a day's pay. Not too much. About \$2.25 an hour. But better than the \$1.90 normal for his job.

A foreman spotted Adams making a living, and ordered him to slow down. "You're turning out too much," he said. Adams didn't think so. So the next morning they handed him his checks and a discharge slip. The Union, of course, expects to get his job back.

When the UAW-CIO negotiates the first contract, they'll probably set a special rate for HIGH gear.



"We'd better examine Simpson's books . . . I hear he's been living on what we pay him!"



"Get another stick and prop up that left knee. Gregory had a big night, last night!"

# CIO Launches National Campaign For \$1.25 Minimum Wage Law Now

## Pity the Poor Models

LONDON, England—So, you think you have troubles? Here's what English art models are faced with: Only one raise in last 24 years . . . denied closed shop for keeping out the "immoral call girls" . . . and said one gal, "Working conditions are so draughty you can always tell a model in winter by her constant cold."

WASHINGTON—Branding the present minimum wage "a national scandal," the CIO and all its affiliates is in the midst of an all-out drive to increase the minimum wage to \$1.25 an hour and to broaden the law's coverage.

Currently, the minimum is pegged at the 75-cent subsistence level. Congress appears likely to act on minimum wage legislation within a few weeks.

"Every moral and economic consideration—whether it be compassion for the neediest, protection for honest employers against sweatshop competitors, or stimulation of production and employment—cries out for an immediate and substantial upward revision of the federal minimum wage and a broad extension of its coverage," the CIO declared in a statement issued early this month.

### 20 MILLION EXCLUDED

The present 75-cent minimum, in the light of 1955 living costs, cannot maintain decent living standards, the CIO charged.

To make matters worse, six million workers in interstate commerce are specifically excluded from the law's coverage, and another 14 million are automatically excluded because they don't work in interstate commerce.

"The human needs of America's lowest-paid families alone should move Congress to action," the CIO declared. "Substandard wages produce substandard citizens. They undermine the very security of the nation."

Foes of an increased minimum wage are using the same "old and unfounded predictions—bankruptcy, price rises, increased unemployment and economic stagnation," the CIO warned, pointing out that these were the same baseless arguments which were used to stall minimum wage increases in previous years.

### BOOST BUYING POWER

A higher minimum wage would reduce "the cost to society of poverty and its consequences—the

price the community now pays for dependency, for disease, for delinquency," the CIO asserted in its statement.

But even more important, "a higher minimum for several millions of our lowest paid workers will increase national purchasing power and stimulate consumer demand immediately. This increased spending directly benefits the economy and advances the well-being of us all," the CIO declared.

One of the present law's greater cruelties lies in the fact that a worker with a large family to support must often choose between total unemployment and no income at all and a job paying the starvation wage of 75 cents an hour.

### 90 CENTS TOO LITTLE

The Eisenhower Administration and Labor Secretary James Mitchell favor an increase to only 90 cents, a boost which is regarded as totally inadequate by CIO and AFL leaders. However, several Democratic members of the House and Senate have introduced bills calling for a hike to \$1.25. These are the measures which will get all-out labor support.

The National CIO is urging all CIO local union leaders and rank-and-file members to get in touch with their congressmen and senators to acquaint them with the facts and to ask their support for a \$1.25 minimum wage.

## Pat McNamara Always a Unionist



CLEVELAND — Senator Patrick V. McNamara of Michigan greeted delegates to the Fifteenth Constitutional Convention of the UAW-CIO in his own behalf and on behalf of Michigan's Governor G. Mennen Williams when he was introduced by President Walter P. Reuther.

He thanked the Union for the support he received from the UAW and CIO-PAC in Michigan without which, he said, he could not have won last fall.

"I want to assure you that I am always going to be a trade unionist whether I am in the United States Senate or in the Pipefitters," McNamara declared.

Later, Senator McNamara took time out to address a delegation of Japanese trade unionists who were attending the Convention as honored guests of the UAW-CIO.

## Automation Conference Hears Talk by Reuther

UAW and CIO President Walter P. Reuther and Jack Conway, his administrative assistant, were slated to participate in a National Conference on Automation being held in Washington as *The United Automobile Worker* went to press.

The all-day conference, sponsored by the CIO Committee on Economic Policy, was to discuss the implications of the new technology.

## 2A Bowlers Vie

SPRINGFIELD, Ohio—The Second Annual Region 2A Bowling Tournament will be held April 23 and 24 at the Hillcrest Bowling Lanes in Columbus, Regional Director Ray Ross has announced.

There will be a men's and women's division, with singles, doubles and team events scheduled in both. Cash prizes and trophies will be awarded.

## WINS DUCK PIN TOURNNEY

TORRINGTON, Connecticut—Frank Baccheschi of UAW-CIO Local 507 is the winner of the recent UAW State of Connecticut duck pin tourney. His score: 436.



Jolly Cholly Wilson, the GOP's answer to Russian scientists, attended a news conference not too long ago, where he was asked what could be done about civil defense problems in the event of atomic attack.

Cholly smiled benignly and allowed as how he didn't know, but he "guessed that the best thing would be for the U. S. to be so strong that no enemy dare attack."

This was a remarkable statement considering the fact that Cholly and his cohorts have been slicing defense appropriations like a berserk butcher in an effort to trim the budget without putting the bite on the high pocket boys. It was even more remarkable that the Secretary of Defense could stand there exuding confidence like a slightly overweight production prodigy, knowing that we're getting heel dust from Russia in the arms race.

### BUSY WITH DOGS

Mebbe Mister Wilson is too busy sorting dogs to keep up with the news, but I ain't.

I read a recent report, for instance, which stated flatly that the Kremlin had 20,000 fighting planes to our 12,000; 375 submarines to our 100; 24 cruisers to our 20 and 175 field army divisions to our 19. Not to mention the blooming fact that the Administration (of which Cholly is a large part) is planning to reduce our ground forces by 350,000 men by 1956.

The beamish boy said further that he did not believe the Russians were nearly as far along as the U. S. in the atomic weapons field and that "as far as we know, they have produced no test hydrogen explosions of the magnitude of ours."

If I liked Cholly, I'd tell him that you can get just as dead from colliding with a measley 'll 'ol atom bomb as you can from one of the magnitude he's bragging about.

### TAKES BIG BOOM

If it takes big, technicolored booms to impress our defense chief, somebody oughtta tell him that Molotov brags that Russia has developed the H-bomb with

such success that the U. S. could appear backward.

'Course, Cholly doesn't have to worry about defending our foreign policy. There isn't enough of it in any one place to be valuable.

As a matter of fact, Cousin John Foster Dulles is the only man I know of to win a carrier pigeon award for distinguished service. He flaps over with an ultimatum, then zooms back to pick up a concession with the regularity of a Serutan cocktail. And with the wind of these flights ruffling his hair, Cholly rears back and whistles like an idiot in a graveyard.

Only one thing worries me. Neither side has developed a missile yet that can distinguish between fools and suckers. That, unfortunately, puts Cholly and us in the same danger in the event of a Russian-American wrestling match.



THEY MAY BE SMILING HERE, but the Grievance Committee had many serious hours of work both ahead and behind them when this shot was snapped early in the Convention. It's their job to see that all members who appeal to the Convention for redress of their wrongs, legitimate or otherwise, get the kind of justice and square deal which makes the UAW both strong and democratic.



JUST ONE HARD-WORKING COMMITTEE at the UAW Convention in Cleveland—the Constitution Committee. While all Convention committees are hard-working ones, this Committee is strictly a work-horse group. They're the brothers who have the task of amending and rewriting the Constitution, putting it in language easily understood and easily interpreted, and presenting it for the delegates' approval or rejection.