

# ILGWU NEWS-HISTORY

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION ISSUE

CHAPTER 10

1937-1940

## ILGWU COMES OF AGE

# Garment Strikes Sweeping Nation

(From Memphis Press Scimitar)

**MEMPHIS, Mar. 24, 1937—**Feminine clothing flew in disorders which this morning marked the opening of a strike against the Nona-Lee Dress Co. The disorders, in which 11 were arrested, occurred as non-union workers attempted to enter the plant.

All 11 union members arrested were released on \$15 bond each during the noon hour. Charges of threatened breach of the peace were lifted.

Several women were disrobed in the all-feminine affrays, which proved too much for a force of

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(From St. Louis Star-Times)

**ST. LOUIS, Mar. 24, 1937—**The number of major strikes and lockouts current in St. Louis reached eight today when the ILGWU told its members not to report for work at the Solomon Manufacturing Co.

Union officials, who threw a heavy picket line about the plant at the opening hour today, said about 125 workers answered the strike call. Company officers said the picket line was made up of outsiders and maintained that only a few of the firm's employees were participating in the strike.

Several arguments and face-slappings occurred when girls, confused by the

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(From Christian Science Monitor)

**BOSTON, Sept. 2, 1938—**Picketing in downtown Boston in front of a large dress factory, trying to induce three determined open-shop manufacturers to sign a union agreement, is serious business, whether the air is chilly, as it was this morning, or warm, as it was last week.

The seriousness can be heard in the voices of the police, at times almost as numerous as the pickets; it can be seen in their clubs, their prowl cars, their patrol wagons; and, above all, it is in the courts that back the police

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(From San Antonio Light)

**SAN ANTONIO, July 8, 1937—**Efforts by members of the ILGWU to picket the Shirlee Frocks plant Thursday afternoon were blocked by police, who hauled the pickets away to the police station as rapidly as they arrived at the building.

Three groups of four pickets each went to the building, bearing banners on which were the words: "The workers of Shirlee Frocks are on strike for living wages, shorter hours and reinstatement of fired union members."

Officers Mike Casanova, F. D. Palmer, B. F. Jackson and C. A. Haynie met the first group of four pickets and took

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## ALP Waging Stiff Campaign to Elect LaGuardia, Nagler

**NEW YORK, Oct. 1, 1937—**The campaign of the American Labor Party in New York City to re-elect Mayor LaGuardia and to elect its entire slate of nominees and endorsees in every borough is in full swing.

The labor unions in the Greater City — and we are glad to observe that the AFL unions are also joining in the campaign on the side of LaGuardia though not as a part of the American Labor Party — are definitely set to make political history in New York.

From every borough the news comes that ALP clubs are opening up in clusters in the various assembly districts; that all Labor Party headquarters are humming like beehives with volunteer campaigners and workers, and that an organization for managing the political canvass and the practical business of election is being perfected in every nook and corner of the metropolitan area.

In the Bronx, in particular, the ALP is waging a whale of a campaign to put over Isidore Nagler as president of that great borough. In Manhattan and Brooklyn, where hundreds of thousands of trade union voters reside, similar unprecedented activity is stirring up interest and hope in the election of B. Charney Vladeck.

As far as the bulk of the ILGWU membership is concerned, the central point of interest in this campaign, aside from the election of Mayor LaGuardia, undoubtedly lies

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## Mayor to Back WPA Sewing Project to Cut Unemployment

**NEW YORK, Apr. 15, 1938—**The ILGWU organizations in New York City have received from Mayor LaGuardia promises of support and cooperation in obtaining approval of an additional WPA sewing project.

The plan, as outlined tentatively, would open 5,000 needle-worker jobs in the metropolitan area. While it would not absorb all the idle workers in the garment industry, the project would, doubtless, offer some relief in the admittedly very bad employment situation in New York, a situation which is growing worse.

—JUSTICE

## GEB Urges Chief To Press for Unity Between AFL-CIO

By JOSEPH SHAPLEN

**NEW YORK, Nov. 29, 1937—**Attacks being made against organized labor, and the dangerous situation of the trade unions as a result of the business recession require the speedy conclusion

of peace by the American Federation of Labor and the Committee for Industrial Organization, the General Executive Board of the ILGWU, a CIO affiliate, declared in a resolution made public yesterday by David Dubinsky, president of the organization. Mr. Dubinsky made known his union's stand shortly before leaving for Washington to attend another conference of AFL and CIO spokesmen today.

The conference will mark the resumption of peace parleys begun several weeks ago by the two warring factions of organized labor. Mr. Dubinsky had taken a leading part in efforts to bring about peace in the labor movement.

Urging speedy conclusion of peace as of "vital importance at this hour," the resolution of the ILGWU executive board, speaking for 260,000 members of the union, commended Mr. Dubinsky for his consistent efforts in behalf of labor unity. The resolution recited, among other things, the fact that the ILGWU always advocated restoration of peace between the AFL and CIO on the recognition of the basic principle of industrial unionism for the mass-production industries. After this fundamental is conceded

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### "In the Picture"



# Phoney Donnelly Union Dissolved By NLRB Action

In 1937, the Kansas City ILGWU Joint Board launched a publicity campaign intended to acquaint retailers and the buying public with the tactics employed by the Donnelly Garment Co. in checking legitimate union activities, and also to point out the inferior work conditions prevailing in its factory.

The firm retaliated by obtaining from Judge Otis of the Federal Court in Kansas City a temporary injunction which became a permanent writ on July 5, 1937. The injunction forbade the ILGWU from "carrying on any activity aimed at converting the workers in the Donnelly plant to trade unionism."

The union, thereupon, appealed on the ground that the restraining writ was in violation of the Norris-LaGuardia Anti-Injunction Act. Through its counsel, the late Frank P. Walsh, the union asked for a three-judge court, inasmuch as the constitutionality of an act of Congress was involved in this case. Such a court met early in January, 1938, and upheld the injunction on the ground that the case involved no "labor dispute" and was therefore not within the ramification of the Norris LaGuardia Act.

## Collet Dissolves Injunction

The ILGWU appealed to the United States Supreme Court. In May, 1938, the Supreme Court denied the appeal on the ground that the constitutionality of the Norris-LaGuardia Act was not involved.

Early in July, 1938, the union's appeal once more came up before Federal Judge Collet in Kansas City, who dissolved the injunction and found that a "labor dispute did exist" in the broad sense of the term.

The union thereupon resumed its publicity campaign against the Donnelly firm. In November of that year, on the appeal of the firm, the Federal Court at St. Paul referred the case back to the Kansas City Federal District Court. Meanwhile, the ILGWU filed a request with the NLRB for certification of its complaint against the Donnelly company, alleging use of intimidation and other coercive means to enroll its employees into an organization called the Donnelly Garment Workers' Union, thereby interfering with the right of these workers to form a union of their own.

Later, Judge Collet in a modified order clarified the viewpoint that the ILGWU's publicity campaign was never intended to hurt the Donnelly firm but was aimed at winning public sympathy by presenting its factual side of the case.

## Trial Starts

The union once more sought to have the issue in the Donnelly case reviewed by the U. S. Supreme Court, but the high court turned the matter over to the Federal District Court for Western Missouri. The trial got under way with Judge Andrew Miller presiding. Pres. Dubinsky, Meyer Perlstein and a score of active union workers testified.

Judge Miller granted the Donnelly firm a sweeping injunction, from which the union promptly appealed to the Circuit Court of Appeals. Shortly after the trial, Frank P.

Walsh died and the ILGWU engaged Dean Acheson, prominent attorney and former assistant secretary of the U. S. Treasury, to represent it in the appeal proceedings. Associated with Acheson were Joseph A. Padway, chief counsel of the AFL, and Emil Schlesinger, attorney for the ILGWU.

On Mar. 6, 1940, the NLRB announced a decision requiring the Donnelly Garment Co. to "disestablish" the Donnelly Garment Workers' Union as collective bargaining representative for any of its employees. The order also directed the firm to discontinue its contract of May 27, 1937 with the Donnelly Garment Workers' Union and its supplementary wage agreement of June 2, 1937, or any renewals with the Donnelly Garment Workers' Union.

In addition, the company was ordered to stop the check-off arrangement with the plant union and to reimburse all employees for dues it had deducted from their wages on behalf of the Donnelly Workers' Union. The order also called for reinstatement of May Fike, found to have been discharged through discrimination.

—ILGWU CONVENTION  
REPORT, 1940

## Cross-Country Picket Line



New York dressmakers picket Broadway office of firm being struck by their Michigan union brothers and sisters.

## URGE NEEDLE MFRS. UNITE ON PROGRAM TO REGULATE TRADE

NEW YORK, Jan. 15, 1937—David Dubinsky, president of the ILGWU, warned today that unless the major factors in the coat and dress industry agreed among themselves on a program of Federal legislation for the industry acceptable to the union, the ILGWU would be forced to disregard the apparel manufacturers and join forces with other international unions in pressing Congress for general labor legislation.

The ILGWU president made his declaration following the union's conference last night with representatives of the eight major coat and dress associations at the Hotel Governor Clinton. Mr. Dubinsky said the program submitted by the coat men contained no specific proposals while the dress men were divided among themselves as to a program.

"The union prefers to see specific fair practices and fair wage legislation for the needle trades," Mr. Dubinsky declared, "but the associations will have to do better than they have done till now in drawing up a program. They took 10 days to make a study of whether such legislation was necessary, and the character it should take, but the result last night was disappointing."

While all factors favored legislation, those representing the coat and suit industry insisted last night on a code that would include the standards of hours and wages of their industry and its fair trade practices. The dress trade interests were inclined to oppose this. Dress association spokesmen were told to report their position before next Friday. If no agreement is reached by then, it is understood the parties plan to proceed with the coat and suit plan.

—WOMEN'S WEAR DAILY

## Nor Iron Bars a Cage



These garment strikers in San Antonio know that because their cause is just neither the stone walls nor the iron bars can dampen their spirits.

# 55 Bolters From Montreal Guild Settle With ILG

MONTREAL, Apr. 21, 1937—With 55 manufacturers affixing their signatures to a contract with the ILGWU, the local strike of dressmakers was partially over today. Of the 5,000 dress workers who left their benches on Thursday, more than 2,000

will return to work tomorrow.

The balance, employed by members of the Montreal Dress Manufacturers' Guild which refused to recognize the ILGWU, will remain out of the plants until the association comes to terms, according to union officials.

The agreement followed three days of conferences in the Mount Royal Hotel between union officials and representatives of the bolters from the Guild. Forty manufacturers signed the pact last night, while another 15 are scheduled to follow suit this afternoon.

Under the agreement, immediate salary increases were awarded to the employees affected by the pact. An impartial arbitration board will later fix permanent wage schedules.

In addition to the wage clause, the new pact provides: recognition of the union; a 44-hour week, with eight hours of overtime allowed each employee, the first four of which are to be paid at regular rates and the second four at time and one-half, no overtime to be permitted when there are unemployed in the industry; arbitration machinery with an impartial chairman to settle all disputes between the union and employers.

—MONTREAL HERALD

## NEW UNIDIE CONTRACT LIMITS JOBBERS TO UNION CONTRACTORS

NEW YORK, Nov. 1, 1937—The agreements reached in the undergarment industry recently mark a decided step in the evolution of industry-labor relations affecting 13,000 workers in the third largest women's wear manufacturing trade in New York.

The union's emphasis, in negotiations for the renewal of the agreements which expired in September, was on legislating into the undergarment industry a system of contractor control which has been sadly lacking.

The practice by underwear manufacturers and jobbers of farming out their production, in whole or in part, to outside shops has grown with alarming rapidity, playing havoc with work conditions and undermining stability in the entire trade. The leadership of Local 62 determined to attack the core of this evil by demanding, first and foremost, definite provisions in the new agreement that would place responsibility for work hours, wages and other labor standards in the contracting shops on the real employers, the manufacturers who are supplying these contractors with work orders.

This objective, Local 62 has now achieved in full. The new contract specifically provides that no work be given out to non-union contract-

ors; it calls for limitation of contractors to a number each firm may actually supply with work.

Another important provision in the contract is one forbidding an employer, during the life of the contract, to move his factory from its present location to any place beyond the 10-cent public carrier zone.

—JUSTICE

# On the line

Under the guarantees provided by the Wagner Act, America's working men and women are using picket lines to call public attention to their campaigns for improved work and wage standards. With characteristic originality, striking members of the ILGWU, in markets across the nation, are giving novel twists to the lines they set up in front of non-union shops and factories. In place of the impassioned picket line battles of only a few years ago there is now a carefully planned effort to attract attention, win community good will and explain with utmost clarity what the issues in the labor conflict are.



In Hartford, these girls say, it's as bad as working in jail.



When bosses began dropping weights out of windows, Boston pickets donned helmets.



They lost their shirts, and much more, working in Knoxville undergarment mills.



Telling it to the carriage trade.



Weary and footsore.



Bathing suits help beat the heat on Cleveland line.



It's a tight wage squeeze for Detroit corset workers.



West Coast college students learn about labor relations on picket line.

# ILGWU Moves to Heal AFL-CIO Breach

NEW YORK, Jan. 10, 1938—Front-paged by the august New York "Times" one day last week was a story about an editorial in "Justice," house organ of David Dubinsky's ILGWU. The "Justice" editorial was in dead earnest. Profoundly regretting the breakdown of the AFL-CIO peace negotiations, the editorial declared:

"The disappointment over this failure will be felt more keenly in view of the fact that a practical approach to peace was deemed to have been in sight only a short while ago. . . . Given the will and an unbiased handling, these problems, it seemed, could be settled by diligent application within a reasonable time. . . ."

Pointing out that the AFL was ready to compromise on the question of industrial unionism for mass production industries, and had even agreed tentatively to a curb on the powers of its executive committee, the editorial went on to say that the "amazing thing" was that the "logical and workable solution" of the remaining difficulties was "completely tossed out of the window."

## Jurisdictional Proposal

This proposal was to set up joint subcommittees to settle the jurisdictional claims of rival CIO and AFL unions. "Such an approach, it seems to us, could not have been stigmatized by any right-thinking person as 'treason' or 'desertion' by either side." In other words the garment workers placed responsibility for the breakdown of the peace negotiations squarely on the head of John L. Lewis.

Such sentiments coming, officially sanctioned, from one of the original CIO unions were of prime labor significance. With John L. Lewis's United Mine Workers and Sidney Hillman's Amalgamated Clothing Workers, the Garment Workers' Union was one of the CIO's principal pillars. Its cash support alone has run to some \$300,000.

Just as significant to CIO as its financial support has been the garment union's contributions in manpower. Under the New Deal, membership has jumped from 40,000 to 260,000.

The union owns a \$500,000 non-profit vacation resort in Pennsylvania's Pocono Hills. Some 25,000 members are enrolled in union classes, learning everything from trade union tactics to ballroom dancing. The union goes in for sports, clubs, pageants, dramatics, music — and politics. For the ILGWU is one of the twin pillars of the American Labor Party, which holds the balance of power in New York State politics. Labor Party chairman is Luigi Antonini, president of the Italian Dressmakers' Union, one of the world's biggest locals.

## ALP Suffers

The American Labor Party has also suffered lately from the CIO dissension. For its other party pillar is Sidney Hillman's Amalgamated Clothing Workers. And between Sidney Hillman and David Dubinsky there is no lost love, although at the CIO convention last October the two leaders of the needle trades made a brave effort to demonstrate harmony.

No strong man like Sidney Hillman or John Lewis, but considered by many a better trade unionist than either, David Dubinsky wants no CIO dictatorship. Whether Dubinsky will go so far as to withdraw from the CIO remains to be seen. But the conclusion of the "Justice" editorial left little doubt that the garment workers were prepared for drastic action.

—TIME

## UNION BACKS STATE LEGISLATION TO BAN EVILS OF HOMEWORK

NEW YORK, Feb. 4, 1937—Union officials yesterday launched a frontal attack on proposed attempts by juvenile apparel manufacturers to fight legislation pending in several states which would abolish homework in these trades. ILGWU Pres. David Dubinsky declared that his organization would support the bills now pending in New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey and would oppose all efforts to "regulate" homework instead.

Both Mr. Dubinsky and Julius Hochman, general manager of the Dress Joint Board, yesterday declared that to talk of regulating homework is "fatuous." Homework cannot be regulated, it must be abolished, they declared. Mr. Dubinsky said homework competes directly with the factory product and tends to undermine price levels, wages and working standards. Assuming it could be regulated, it would require a huge police force.

According to Mr. Hochman, homework invariably means child labor, unregulated hours of work, unhygienic surroundings and pittance wages. It is, he added, an attempt, "through the back door," to vitiate union standards which can be enforced in the factories.

Both Mr. Dubinsky and Mr. Hochman indicated that juvenile wear manufacturers, seeking to modify the prohibition of homework in New

## Dubinsky Declares Pulling ILG From CIO Wouldn't Help

NEW YORK, Jan. 24, 1938—Garment workers cheered loudly last week when David Dubinsky told them: "We do not believe that our withdrawal from the CIO would benefit the cause of unity and peace. . . . But it is our definite conviction that peace will ultimately have to be established in the labor movement. . . . The CIO has passed its honeymoon period."

Since the AFL would like nothing better than to split the powerful garment workers off from the CIO, William Green and Co. were discreetly jubilant.

John L. Lewis, emerging from a conference in Washington with U.S. Steel officials, was asked if he had anything to say. Said he: "Nothing in particular except that Mr. Dubinsky, whom I esteem highly, seems to be giving an imitation of Eliza crossing the ice looking backward like Lot's wife. I think he ought to decide whether he is fish or fowl or good red herring."

Back came Mr. Dubinsky: "Eliza crossing the ice may not have had a very pleasant journey, but, as I recall, she had to make that trip getting away from a none-too-kind overseer."

—TIME

York, Pennsylvania and Connecticut, will have "tough sledding" because the unions are entrenched in these states. The ILGWU, through Labor's Non-Partisan League and the American Labor Party, contributed to the election of the present administrations in these states.

—WOMEN'S WEAR DAILY

## LABOR PARTY WAGES STIFF CAMPAIGN FOR LA GUARDIA, NAGLER

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in the election of Isidore Nagler to the Bronx borough presidency. The ILGWU Campaign Committee will concentrate its efforts on the Nagler canvass and will leave nothing undone to insure the success of his candidacy.

This is a big job. The Democratic machine in the Bronx will put up a desperate fight to retain its hold on that borough now that Tammany's chances of defeating LaGuardia for the mayoralty are growing slimmer with each passing week.

## Wigwam Sages Gloomy

Four years ago Tammany was trumpeting far and wide and with equal arrogance that it could not be beaten and that its age-old mortgage on New York could not be lifted. Then LaGuardia, practically without an organization, swept the Tiger out of his lair and proceeded to thrash him to such an extent that even optimists in the Wigwam are gloomy about Tammany's chances in the current campaign.

With a powerful, well-knit organization, the American Labor Party, backed by all the progressive and fusion forces, will turn the same trick this year in the Bronx. Tammany can be beaten in the Bronx in 1937 just as it was beaten in 1933 in the Greater City.

—JUSTICE

NEW YORK, Jan. 12, 1938—Differences of opinion between David Dubinsky, president of the ILGWU, and the leadership of the Committee for Industrial Organization were brought out into the open following an address by Mr. Dubinsky before

more than 1,000 executive committee members of ILGWU locals at the Manhattan Opera House last night.

Dubinsky held that peace between the CIO and the AFL was absolutely necessary and blamed the CIO spokesmen in the Washington peace parley last month for the breakdown of negotiations. Efforts looking to an amicable adjustment of the differences between these two big labor groups must be started again, he declared. He said that while his union, the third largest affiliate of the CIO claiming a membership of more than 250,000, would continue in the industrial organization fold, he would not cease in his efforts to bring about an accord.

Mr. Dubinsky struck out sharply at the policies and strategy of the CIO leadership, without mentioning the name of John L. Lewis, head of that body.

"No man," he declared, "has a mortgage on the labor movement. The labor movement is not the property of any individual or group."

## Commies Try for Foothold

It was obvious from what Mr. Dubinsky said that he saw the Communist Party as attempting to gain a footing in the CIO. Members of his union, he said, refused to accept the "Daily Worker" Communist organ, as the spokesman for the CIO. He charged that the Communists were giving "lip service" to the idea of peace in the labor movement and were secretly happy that no peace has been arranged.

"We have not forgotten the destructive role of the Communists in the past," he continued. "More recently we have been told they have adopted a new line. The new line seems to be the old line. The Communists and their official organs have been among those who have ventured to criticize us for our position."

## Minority of One

"The Communists speak much of the rank and file.

"I claim to be a real representative of the rank and file, which apparently has no say in the Committee for Industrial Organization councils, where I have been a minority of one," he continued. "However, I am used to that. I was a minority of one in the Executive Council of the AFL before I resigned."

"The position I defend is the position of my union as expressed in its convention in Atlantic City last summer. The resolution adopted by that convention provided for our continued affiliation with the CIO and support of its campaigns while continuing to work consistently for peace with the AFL."

Mr. Dubinsky for the first time cast doubt on CIO statements of its numerical strength. He said a careful analysis had disclosed that the 10 or 12 original CIO unions represented 75 per cent of its membership. This would bring CIO membership rolls below the 4,000,000 claimed.

Denying that he was for "any-price" peace, Dubinsky advocated taking advantage of every opportunity to arrive at an honorable understanding with the AFL and thus end the warfare in labor's ranks.

—CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

## Holding the Line Against Runaways



To noontime Seventh Ave. crowds, garment union placards proclaim ILGWU determination to make union standards universally effective.

# Court Finds Contractor Subject to NLRB Rule

SOMERVILLE, N. J., May 1, 1939—A far-reaching decision which affects the welfare of countless thousands of ILGWU members working for contractors was handed down Apr. 16 when the U. S. Supreme Court, the country's highest judicial body,

## Ministers Report Undie Strikers in St. Louis Paid \$7

ST. LOUIS, Apr. 15, 1937—A report by a committee of three ministers who investigated the strike at the National Underwear Corp. yesterday confirmed employees' complaints of low wages and unsatisfactory working conditions. The clergymen found that "the employer, by his refusal to negotiate with his employees, has placed the burden of proof and responsibility upon himself for this unfortunate situation."

The strike was called Feb. 2 by the 135 employees, who were then unorganized, following an announcement by the company that piece-work rates would be reduced. Subsequently, the ILGWU took charge of the strike and has paid the strikers regular weekly benefits.

The ministers' committee reported that examination of the social security slips of 35 employees showed that the average weekly wage for the period from Jan. 1 until the strike was called was \$6.96. Wages in some instances were as low as \$2.86 a week, the ministers found. The average period of employment at the firm was between one and two years, because as soon as the workers became experienced they sought jobs with other concerns at higher wages. Two girls, who were under 16 years old when employed, told the committee no questions were asked about their age.

"In our opinion the most impor-

decided, in the case of NLRB vs. Fainblatt, that the Somerset Manufacturing Co. of Somerville, N. J., sportswear manufacturers, is engaged in interstate commerce and therefore is subject to the jurisdiction of the National Labor Relations Board.

This particular case has achieved national prominence because it was selected by the labor board, upon request from the ILGWU, as a test case to determine whether contractors who receive cut material from jobbers, manufacture dresses and ship them back to the same jobbers without taking any part in their sale, are to be considered as engaged in intrastate or interstate business.

The Somerset Manufacturing Co., backed by a decision of the U. S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals, held that it was not engaged in interstate commerce and was, therefore, outside the jurisdiction of the NLRB. The board and the ILGWU held, of course, the opposite view.

### Momentous Decision

The U. S. Supreme Court decision, written by Justice Stone and approved by a five to two vote, in affirming the jurisdiction of the labor board over the Somerset concern, has definitely and beyond any other possible interpretation established that thousands of contractors in the ladies' garment industry are subject to the labor board's jurisdiction.

—JUSTICE

tant issue involved is the refusal of the employer to negotiate with his employees, and by his refusal to negotiate he has placed the burden of proof and responsibility upon himself," the report declared.

—ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

## Two-Year Chicago Pact Ups Minimum, Boosts Incentives

CHICAGO, Apr. 12, 1939 — The Chicago Dress Manufacturers' Assn. at a meeting last night ratified the new agreement with the Chicago Joint Board of the ILGWU which was approved by the workers at a mass meeting last Wednesday afternoon.

The agreement, to be signed within a day or two, will be for two years. The minimum wage has been increased for five crafts, but each of these crafts comprises few workers and most of them had been getting above the minimum.

Probably the chief change deals with the procedure for settling operation prices in the dress factories. Vice Pres. Morris Bialis of the union says that the old method of settlement was unsatisfactory.

—WOMEN'S WEAR DAILY

## GEB URGES CHIEF TO STEP UP DRIVE FOR LABOR UNITY

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ed, all other obstacles "will be ironed out in a spirit of good will and equity," the resolution declared.

It emphasized that the enemies of the trade union movement were using the rift between AFL and CIO to create a general atmosphere of distrust and antagonism toward organized labor and to depress wage and work standards.

"The sooner labor's forces form a bulwark against the concentrated attacks being leveled against it, accentuated by the current business recession and industrial slump, the better it will be for the organized forces of workers and for the ultimate welfare of the entire economic body of the country," the resolution concluded.

Regarding the prospect for an early peace, Mr. Dubinsky gave the opinion that "negotiations thus far have laid down substantially a base for an understanding on which a structure of permanent relations, conceived in reason and carried out in good will, could be built."

—NEW YORK TIMES

## Reserved for Mothers



Jailors in Dallas, during recent garment strike, showed remarkable consideration when they allowed these arrested pickets, who happened also to be mothers, to bring their children into jail at feeding time.

## Montreal Girls on Picket Line 8 Wks. In Worst Weather

MONTREAL, Feb. 1, 1938—The story of the fight which the dress-makers of the Ideal Dress Co. of Montreal have been waging for the past eight weeks, on zero-weather picket lines, belongs to the finest pages of the battle record of the ILGWU.

The arrogant employer who would deny his 400 workers the right to a decent existence has so far tried every trick and method to break the spirit of the strikers.

Despite all this, hardly a striker has broken faith with her fellow workers. These French-speaking Montreal girls, who until recently had been pictured as very docile, spiritless folk who would not dare to raise a voice against exploitation, are covering themselves with glory as the youngest members of the ILGWU.

—JUSTICE

## K.C. House, Last Big Cloak Holdout, Signs Union Pact

KANSAS CITY, Feb. 15, 1937—The announcement that the Stern-Slegman-Prins Co. of Kansas City, Mo., largest coat manufacturing firm in the Midwest, has signed an agreement with the ILGWU, is "front page" news for the members of the union and for the coat and suit industry in general.

The Stern-Slegman-Prins firm was the only important producer of coats in the country which until now remained non-union. For three years, the Kansas City Joint Board made one effort after another to win standard union conditions in this factory which employs 300 people.

The agreement now concluded is not merely a victory for unionism; it is decidedly a victory for the rule of reason and common sense.

—JUSTICE

# Garment Strikes Sweep Nation

## Clothes Fly in Memphis

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15 policemen on the scene. The major clashes occurred at 8:30 A.M. when a battalion of girl workers attempted to march through the picket lines maintained by nearly 100 union members. About 40 girls finally got into the factory. The firm normally employs more than 100 operators.

As the workers moved from Adams to Jefferson St., union workers rushed to Jefferson and met the girls at the intersection. Girls rolled on the pavement among hats, blouses, skirts and undergarments.

As police quelled the disorder, the workers moved on around the Crane Co. to the front door of the factory. There a reserve squadron of unionists, apparently left to prevent girls from moving into the plant from an opposite direction while attention was diverted to the Jefferson corner, rushed the group from across the street.

For two or three minutes clothing flew again. Workers tugged them away from the door, and police tugged to maintain order.

Both the firm and the union claimed that a majority of the workers were with them.

—MEMPHIS PRESS SCIMITAR

## 8 St. Louis Strikes

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heavy picketing, appeared to be hesitating between entering the plant to work and joining the strikers.

After several hours of such conduct, a police detail led by Assistant Chief John H. Glasscoe arrested 13 women pickets and ordered the line reduced in size.

Non-striking workers who attempted to enter the plant found the doorway blocked by pickets. About six girls pushed their way through, aided by the police, while a group of about 50 women waited across the street, apparently unable to decide whether to attempt to push their way in or to join the strike forces.

During the scuffle when the six girls entered, several striking women were pushed to the floor of the doorway, where three of them continued to lie prone in an effort to block entrance. After a few minutes patrolmen lifted the women to their feet, the non-striking workers entered and the brief scuffle was ended.

—ST. LOUIS STAR-TIMES

## Boston Line Sings

(Continued from Page 1)

up with possible fines or prison terms for the super-enthusiastic.

Yet the girls who marched up and down on the broad sidewalk this morning in front of the Traders' Building at 35 Kneeland St., in the heart of the garment district, were gay, as if on a holiday outing.

They sang, they laughed, they kidded the policemen, they chatted with reporters as they walked briskly — their hands in their coat pockets — in front of the nine-story factory that looked more like an office building, waiting for non-striking girls to enter.

It is the rush season for the manufacturers, who are turning out garments for fall purchases, and the Boston Joint Board of the ILGWU has seized this strategical time to try to force a minority of non-union manufacturers to observe a 35-hour week.

In the sidewalk parade, throughout the morning, were 25 or more union members. Leading them in singing parodies on popular ditties was Mrs. Winifred Pineo, twice arrested during the nine-day strike for "obstructing free foot passage."

Bending the picket line around non-strikers, she would lead the pickets in an unusually emphatic rendition of a parody in which the word "scabs" was especially stressed; the pickets would glower darkly at the hustling girls and then leave them. The union members were not calling anyone a "scab," of course, merely singing a song; but the fleeting non-strikers understood.

—CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

## Rearrest S. A. Pickets

(Continued from Page 1)

hem to the police station. A second and third group, each carrying a banner, followed in rapid succession.

As fast as the pickets were hauled to the police station and released on bond, they returned to the plant and were again taken to the police station, about a half mile away, where new bonds were made. This process continued until 5 P.M.

—SAN ANTONIO LIGHT

JULY 12, 1937—After the police had arrested nine pickets in front of the Shirlee Frocks garment plant this morning, including Miss Rebecca Taylor, the garment workers' organizer, and two other union workers, Miss Natalie Maldonado and Mrs. A. D. Fierro, the three went to the Mayor's office for a conference.

They took with them the social security cards of 18 women to prove that they were bona fide employees of the factory on strike, thus meeting the ruling set up by Mayor Quin and Commissioner Wright last week, which stated that peaceful picketing would be tolerated only when done by striking workers.

However, pickets have been arrested and re-arrested as fast as they picketed the plant. Miss Taylor claimed that as bona fide employees on strike they had met the city's requirements.

—SAN ANTONIO EVENING NEWS

# 1,500 to Vote on Alpena Co. Terms; 4-Mo. Strike Over

DETROIT, Jan. 11, 1940—The 16-week-old Alpena Garment Co. strike which had affected approximately 1,500 workers was settled Wednesday night in a conference at the Hotel Book-Cadillac. The settlement was conditional upon acceptance by the

## Urge Roosevelt to Protest Atrocities Committed by Nazi

WASHINGTON, Nov. 11, 1938—President Roosevelt was urged today by the General Executive Board of the ILGWU to protest against the terrorizing of the Jewish population of Germany by the Nazis "in terms so unmistakable that even the perpetrators of these atrocities will realize that their barbarities are beyond the pale of civilization."

A similar appeal was cabled to the International Federation of Trade Unions in Paris, urging that the unionists bring pressure upon their various governments to join in condemnation of the Nazi persecutions.

The garment workers' telegram to the President, which was signed by David Dubinsky, head of the union, read in part:

"Civilized society must lift its voice in thundering protest against these barbaric orgies and disassociate itself from the Nazi torturers and oppressors. Throughout its long and humane history America has never failed fearlessly and courageously to take its stand on behalf of the downtrodden and persecuted. It has broken off relations and failed to recognize governments for much lesser crimes against human-

rank and file of the union. Spokesmen for both the company and the ILGWU expressed satisfaction with the settlement and gave a large share of the credit for the agreement to the State Labor Mediation Board and the conciliation service of the U. S. Department of Labor.

Central issue of the controversy was the union shop, which was settled with a compromise check-off clause. The clause provides that the company will deduct union dues from wages and turn the money over to the union in the case of all employees who make assignment to cover dues.

The contract also provides for a five-day, 40-hour week, compared with the six-day, 44-hour week which formerly existed in the plants. Also provided was the establishment of grievance machinery which will include shop stewards, arbitration and machinery for determining the wages to be paid on a piece-work basis.

Workers in the four plants involved—at Alpena, Onaway, Cheboygan and Rogers City—will vote on the settlement Saturday morning.

—DETROIT FREE PRESS

ity than the systematic and cold-blooded destruction of the already broken-down Jewish communities in Germany."

—HERALD TRIBUNE

## UNION USES WARRANT TO BRING STUBBORN JOBBER TO JUSTICE

NEW YORK, Sept. 1, 1938—Again the ILGWU has set a precedent, this time in the realm of contract enforcement.

The subpoena which brought a recalcitrant cloak jobber, under custody of a New York County deputy sheriff, before Impartial Chairman Rosenblatt two weeks ago to explain charges of having dealt with non-union and undesignated contractors, was as resounding a blow as had ever been dealt for stability and democracy in employer-employee relations in American industry.

There was nothing exceptional about the set of facts which made the New York Cloak Joint Board "turn on the heat" on the offending jobber. The firm had resigned its membership from the coat and suit jobbers' association in total disregard of the industry's collective agreement, which provides that member firms included in a collective pact cannot escape their obligations by a mere act of withdrawal.

When summoned before the impartial chairman to account for its misdeeds, the firm for weeks ignored the call until the union finally decided to swing the axe and swore out, under the section of the Civil Practice Act which endows an impartial chairman with the power to subpoena witnesses, a warrant for the jobber's arrest.

The events which followed—the hauling of the offending employer before the impartial chairman, the firm's admission of guilt, and subsequent readmission to membership in the jobbers' association—is a sequence of details that should leave a definite mark in the chronicles of the coat and suit industry. Justice Pecora's quick response to the union's demand for drastic relief in behalf of agreement enforcement has been an important factor in establishing this astonishing precedent.

—JUSTICE

## Sign N. Y. Pact Before Old Agreement Expires

NEW YORK, Jan. 15, 1939—Another collective dress industry agreement, the 13th since the Revolt of the Waistmakers in the winter of 1909, was signed the other day at New York's City Hall.

As Pres. Dubinsky remarked after the signatures had been affixed to it, the new pact was unorthodox in more than one sense.

## Injunction Granted Ideal Co. Restrains Exercise of Rights

MONTREAL, Jan. 17, 1939—Members of the ILGWU have entered a petition for leave to appeal the interlocutory injunction granted by Mr. Justice Surveyer at the request of the Ideal Dress Co. to prevent picketing of their premises on St. Lawrence Blvd.

The ILGWU petition alleges that the injunction seeks to restrain workers from exercising their rights.

The strike was called, says the petition, because the Women's Minimum Wage Act and the Collective Labor Agreements Act were being violated, and because the company had entered into an illegal agreement with other manufacturers to prevent workers from becoming members of the union.

—MONTREAL GAZETTE

## Local 91 Pioneers Vacation Benefits Paid by Employer

NEW YORK, July 15, 1939—It's vacation time in the children's dressmakers' organization, Local 91—vacation time with a vengeance, if we may say so.

Under the unique vacation clause which Local 91 has wrested from the employers in this truly "miscellaneous" industry, a percentage of weekly payrolls is built up into a vacation fund which is administered by the union. From this fund all members get a sizable amount whether employed or unemployed. It's a stirring sight to see mem-

bers of Local 91 lined up these afternoons at the union windows to collect real cash for vacations. Somehow, one cannot escape the feeling that it might be a swell target for other locals to shoot at.

Without intending to magnify the innovations in the new contract, it is patent that they were worth fighting for, and that they are a genuine contribution to the principle of democracy in industry.

## Increased Democracy

Among these additions are: an employment bureau to supervise labor placements; extension of the piece-work system to all parts of the industry, to equalize as far as possible labor costs; widening the scope of the clause requiring union accessories on dresses; strengthening the impartial chairman's prerogatives; prohibiting contractors from owning more than one shop—all measures that go to the core of work control and agreement enforcement.

—JUSTICE

It's a stirring sight to see mem-

—JUSTICE



By HEYWOOD BROWN

NEW YORK, Aug. 9, 1938—The drama critics of New York got the surprise of their lives at the first night of "Pins and Needles." Indeed, some of the first-string men had to wait to be surprised because they didn't attend until after the opening.

The general lack of preliminary enthusiasm did not rest on any snobbish feeling. It was built on experience rather than economic theory. In New York, at any rate, the labor stage began in somewhat feeble fashion. And when it did break through with something interesting the theme was nearly always of a serious nature.

The thing which seemed so forbidding about "Pins and Needles," before the event, was the announcement that here would be a revue put on entirely by members of the ILGWU, and those initials stand for International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. The men and women of the organization make many

clothes which first nighters wear, but a young lady may be highly competent in the sewing of a gown and yet not precisely the type to wear it to best advantage.

To put it bluntly, the reviewers believed that the girls who came from the machines might be less pulchritudinous than those whom Ziegfeld chose or even the dancers now selected by the Shuberts. In a sense the critics were right. Mr. Dubinsky and the men he nominated to put on the show were not wholly intent upon glorifying the American girl and finding the particular misses who would go on to

## New York's Garment Workers Stage Smash Hit on Broadway — Acclaimed by Public and Press

a career of marrying rich men or advertising toothpaste, or both.

The chorus girls in "Pins and Needles" came from the work benches and have every intention of going back to the job. Each person in the cast, whether cutter, stitcher, finisher or machine operator received precisely the same pay in the theatre as in the garment factories. But each and every one brought an enormous zest and enthusiasm and spirit of fun. This is truly a cooperative show. The actors have a good time, and so it has turned out to be the most amusing revue of this or any other season within the recent memory of men.

Some of the performers are highly talented, but in the judgment of the critic there is not a real star in the crowd. Team work has been the motto. Although the various numbers depend upon no central plot, there is a coherent idea which holds the entertainment together. The object is mockery. The smug and conservative are held up to ridicule as persons blind to the nature of the world in which they live.

Although the raillery is sharp and

pointed, the wounds inflicted are not painful since the weapons are anaesthetized with humor. Indeed, much of the patronage of "Pins and Needles" has been of the carriage trade variety. This is a virtue or a vice, as you choose to look at it. The piece is not revolutionary in its temper, and while stout ladies in ermine must realize that they are being kidded, few if any have rushed screaming into the night. No dowager has been observed standing on a street corner waiting for a tumbrel.

"Pins and Needles" was not a show created overnight. Under the leadership of David Dubinsky, the ILGWU, in addition to its trade union functions concerning hours and wages, has conducted throughout the years all kinds of cultural activities, and it would not surprise me at all to learn that the union now stands as a finer educational institution than Yale or Harvard, Vassar or Barnard.

At any rate its students have learned to perfection the useful art of jabbing, and naturally I refer to the left jab.

—PIC

## ILG Revue Puts New Quirk Into Union Education

NEW YORK, Nov. 23, 1937—The grim face of the labor struggle broke into engaging smiles Saturday evening at the ILGWU show "Pins and Needles," given at Labor Stage on West 39th St.

This union through its educational department has free classes for its members in music, dancing and dramatics.

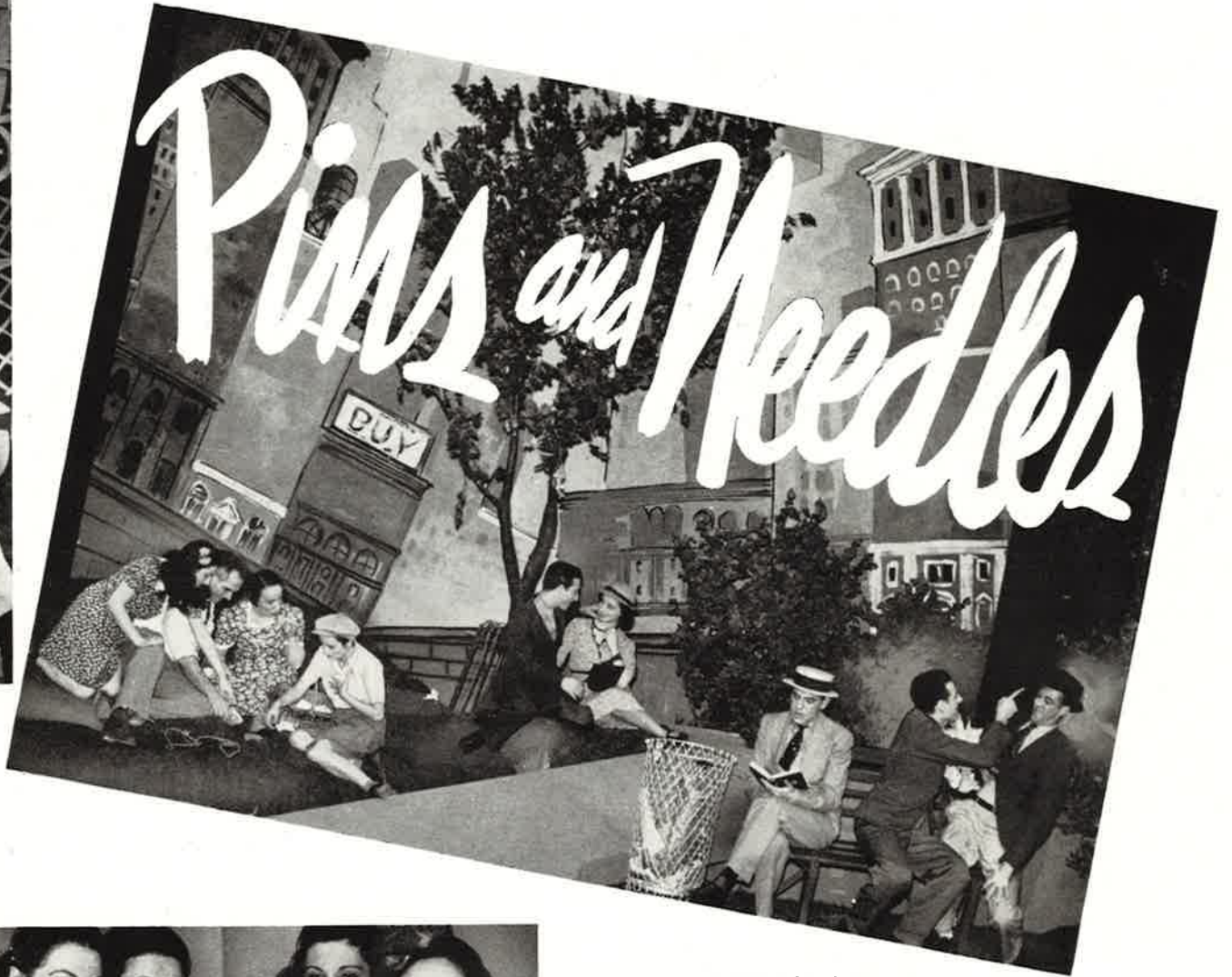
The show is a musical revue. It is fun. It is gay. It is entertainment for anybody's evening. Those who insist on viewing every index with alarm may have to come out into the healthy sunlight after seeing it. The show is to be given only on Friday and Saturday nights and Saturday matinee, for the actors work all week as dressmakers, cutters and pressers, but on show days it is one of Broadway's bright attractions.

Life on the Labor Stage is presented from the labor viewpoint. That is different from the bosses' viewpoint. But the laughs come at the expense of labor as well as of the boss. And laughs are plentiful.

—WORLD-TELEGRAM



These "Angels of Peace" bring the house down at every performance in songs and dances that mingle forebodings of coming world events with acrid gags of the gory "peacemongers."



Members of the Cast of "Pins and Needles" gather around Pres. Roosevelt after their recent "command performance" of the show at the White House.

The whole country is singing the lilted music and lyrics of "Sunday in the Park."



Audiences from Park Ave., East Side and all around the town are keeping the SRO sign out every night.



Chain Store Daisy proves she's no dummy in the first act of the show.



The show's humor is all inclusive: The rift in organized labor gets its share of the barbs.



This Rube Goldberg cartoon in action is called "Economics in One Lesson."

# ILG Votes to Re-enter AFL; Joins Fight on Racketeers

NEW YORK, June 6, 1940—The ILGWU, with 250,000 members in the United States and Canada, voted yesterday to reaffiliate with the American Federation of Labor and to press a drive within the federation for the ouster of racketeering officials and for unity in the labor movement.

The union's decision to abandon the independent status it has maintained since quitting the CIO in November, 1938, was authorized by a vote of 640 to 12 at the organization's 40th anniversary convention in Carnegie Hall. A letter from William Green, AFL president, promising concessions on two points demanded by the garment workers and apparently opening the way for early reinstatement in the federation of the 80,000 members of the International Typographical Union, preceded the vote.

Mr. Green informed the convention that the Executive Council of the federation had decided at a secret meeting in Washington on May 13 to recommend abolition of the special assessment of 1 cent a member each month, which the garment workers and the ITU characterized as a "war chest" to fight the CIO, and which both had refused to pay. The suspension of the ITU was a direct result of this refusal.

Equally important, in the view of the ILGWU, was Mr. Green's disclosure that the Executive Council would also ask the New Orleans convention of the AFL next November to strip the council of power to suspend affiliated unions and vest this right exclusively in the federation's annual conventions.

## Resolution to AFL

Mr. Green was silent on the third point raised by Mr. Dubinsky in setting forth the obstacles to reaffiliation with the AFL—the necessity for purging AFL unions of corrupt leaders. To permit effective action on this question, the convention delegates formulated a resolution for presentation at New Orleans under which the federation's Executive Council would have summary power to remove the union officials found guilty of offenses involving moral turpitude or of using their labor posts for personal gain.

By its vote yesterday, the ILGWU became the first major organization to enter the AFL since the split with the CIO in 1935. Mr. Dubinsky told the convention delegates that the influence of the garment workers inside the federation would be in the direction of support for the New Deal, "progressivism" and ultimate unity in the ranks of labor.

—NEW YORK TIMES

## Jimmie Walker Is New Cloak Industry 'Czar'

NEW YORK, Sept. 6, 1940—Former Mayor James J. Walker was designated by Mayor LaGuardia yesterday to serve as "czar" of industrial and labor relations in the women's coat and suit industry at an annual salary of \$20,000. The Mayor made his selection at the request of officers of the ILGWU and the four employer associations, after independent efforts to agree on the choice of an impartial chairman for the \$260,000,000-a-year industry had failed.

—NEW YORK TIMES

## Out-of-Town Enters Drive on Cheap-End Firms Cutting Wage

NEW YORK, Apr. 1, 1938—The double-flank move on the \$1.37 dress jobbers and contractors, carried out concurrently in New York and in several New Jersey and Long Island towns, has been due for some time.

In New York, the Dress Joint Board struck out two weeks ago against a half-dozen jobbers and 35 contractors. The strike was followed up with a demonstration in the garment district protesting against underhanded price manipulations which knocked the very bottom out of earnings in many of the cheap-end shops. Simultaneously, the Eastern Out-of-Town Department launched a campaign against this element in its own territory, stopping off shops where abuses were most flagrant and calling the employers to account.

Repeated investigation had brought out the fact that conditions in this bottom-price line were going from bad to worse. Garments, during the past season, were becoming more complicated daily. More work was being added on the garment while the workers were not getting any extra pay for this work, and cut-throat competition was becoming more and more rampant.

Side by side with the unprecedented slump in the dress industry, this development has registered an appalling drop of price and quality standards, playing havoc with the earnings of tens of thousands of workers.

—JUSTICE

## DRAMATIC STRIKE AT KNEELAND ST. SHOPS WINS 35-HOUR WEEK

BOSTON, Sept. 9, 1938—An agreement described as "satisfactory" by both sides ended the two-week-old Kneeland St. garment strike against three shops yesterday.

With formal termination of the dispute, employers' representatives deposited a memorandum specifying the terms of the agreement with Harry Bergson, State St. attorney and permanent impartial chairman of the cloak and dress industry.

The memorandum provided for: establishment of a 35-hour week with time-and-a-half for overtime work; wage increases for certain employees; establishment of price and grievance committees; no discrimination against striking employees and rehiring of such employees; agreement on holidays; equal distribution of work among all employees.

—BOSTON MORNING GLOBE

## St. Louis Union to Train Members in Plant Management

ST. LOUIS, Sept. 21, 1939—The ILGWU does unionism a distinct service with its plan to train members in plant management in an effort to reduce waste in shops and to increase generally the efficiency of employees. As announced by the regional director of the union, the proposal is to conduct a six-month course in St. Louis for 100 employees. Those who make the best records will be sent to model plants to observe and study efficient methods. The union will bear all costs.

This is not to say that the ILGWU does not intend to turn this train-

## Back Home



Jubilant scene at ILGWU Convention as AFL Pres. William Green on June 5, 1940 returns garment workers' charter to Pres. Dubinsky.

# Big Ad Campaign to Sell N. Y. Dresses Proposed

NEW YORK, Dec. 20, 1940—Probably one of the most unique advertising promotion campaigns ever contemplated, and the only one to which a labor union ever contributed, is that now under advisement for the \$350,000,000 dress industry in New

York City. Definite plans have not been adopted, but an industry committee of 10 was formed recently at a conference between representatives of the Dress Joint Board, ILGWU, and the five employer associations. It is reported the proposed campaign will approximate \$1,700,000. The committee consists of Julius Hochman, general manager of the Dress Joint Board, and three members each to be appointed by the associations of manufacturers and jobbers, the Affiliated Dress Manufacturers, Inc., the National Dress Manufacturers, Inc., and the Popular Priced Manufacturers Group, Inc.

Formation of the committee followed the suggestion of Mr. Hochman, who presented to the employers the union's recommendation for expanding employment and production in "New York's first and largest industry."

The industry-wide conference, attended by more than 40 representatives of 2,100 employers and 85,000 organized dressmakers, was the second to be held in negotiations for a new collective agreement to supplant the employer-employee pact which expires Jan. 31, 1941.

ing of its members to good account. Just the contrary. Its aim is to demonstrate by skilled workers, trained in efficient methods, that unionism shares its benefits with employers. This is enlightened self-interest, but it is also getting things in the right order. As hitched up by this progressive union, the horse stands where he should stand—in front of the cart.

—ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Promotion Comes First  
"Industry planning through collective bargaining must include modern promotion methods as well as more efficient production methods," Mr. Hochman said. "In fact, promotion is the Number One item on the industrial program which the union is proposing to the manufacturers. We know that the time is gone when every buyer in America beats a trail to the New York showrooms. Today, in Chicago, St. Louis and elsewhere, manufacturers have joined together for joint promotional efforts, and New York must do the same."

—EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

## The ILGWU Goes to the Fair



The attendance record at the World's Fair was shattered on ILGWU Day as delegates to the 1940 Convention adjourned sessions for an outdoor day that began with this assembly in the Court of Peace.



# Attack Dubinsky For His Proposal To Oust Rackets

NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 21, 1940—A triple fist-fight punctuated the American Federation of Labor's annual convention today and thrust to the forefront the issue of anti-racketeering action by the convention.

David Dubinsky, author of an anti-racketeering resolution, said he was attacked thrice because of the measure.

The Dubinsky resolution would enable the AFL to take into its own hands the power—now lacking—to drive racketeers and labor gangsters from the unions. Mr. Dubinsky is president of the ILGWU.

Dubinsky said that twice in the Roosevelt Hotel and once in the lobby he was attacked by an "unknown red-headed man" and Joseph Fay of Newark, vice president of the Operating Engineers' Union, who denounced his anti-racketeering resolution as "lousy."

The unknown man and Fred Umhey, ILGWU executive secretary, were both knocked to the floor, Dubinsky said.

"I'm more determined than ever to fight for the measure," Mr. Dubinsky declared, adding that he would take his battle to the convention floor if there seemed danger the resolution would not be approved.

The Dubinsky resolution charged that "instances of racketeering in a few labor organizations by individuals in high places, who exploited the labor movement for personal gain and aggrandizement, have cast a reflection on the good name of the entire labor movement."

Mr. Dubinsky requested police protection "not for myself but for my family." A uniformed officer was stationed outside his hotel room.

It was disclosed that Mr. Dubinsky had received an inquiry about his "condition" from Philip Murray, mentioned as next CIO president.

The fight followed by only a few hours a statement by an AFL official, a member of the Executive Council and the resolutions committee, that Mr. Dubinsky's measure seemed assured of approval "in some form."

"I believe that (the fight) is the answer to John L. Lewis (CIO president), who said I picked the easiest way," Mr. Dubinsky said. "This demonstrates how easy it was."

Refusing to give a detailed account of the fight because "I don't want to involve myself with a statement and counter-statements," Dubinsky added:

"Fay made insulting remarks and my daughter was with me. He was sore about the resolution against racketeering. I must have been hit because I gave it back."

After the scuffle, Mr. Fay telephoned him in the room, Mr. Dubinsky said and added: "I don't know whether it was to have a drink with him or more war."

—HERALD TRIBUNE

## FDR Visits "Grand Canyon"



The Presidential parade moves through New York's garment town to receive a rousing reception during the 1940 election campaign.

## Parade of American History



Climax of pageant staged by ILGWU in Madison Square Garden in campaign to re-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt.

## 1,000 PERFORM IN ILG'S MONUMENTAL PAGEANT AT GARDEN

NEW YORK, Oct. 6, 1940—The ILGWU, which first came to theatrical fame as a producer of an intimate review, yesterday filled Madison Square Garden with an enormous show which was part concert, part dance recital, part musical comedy, part pageant and, in its enthusiasm for Franklin D. Roosevelt, part political rally.

The show, which had 1,000 performers and lasted two and a half hours, was described as "the most ambitious cultural achievement of any trade union at any time," by Julius Hochman, chairman of the union's educational committee, who spoke during an intermission. Its box-office returns were to be included in the union's contribution to the Greater New York Fund, he announced.

The show was staged at the west end of the garden, on a bare, monumental stage of three levels, with ramps and flights of steps between each one. Behind the stage there was a 65-foot screen on which slides were projected to provide backdrops. Across this stage, aided only by the screen and spotlights, the union presented a pageant of the nation's growth entitled, "I Hear America Singing."

—NEW YORK TIMES

## Labor Party Acts To Have Commies Erased from Rolls

NEW YORK, Jan. 15, 1940—The regular organization of the American Labor Party, headed by Luigi Antonini, state chairman, and Alex Rose, state secretary, is continuing its effort to purge the party of Communists, it became known yesterday.

The latest effort is being made by Harry Greenberg, hold-over New York County chairman, who on Saturday obtained an order from Supreme Court Justice Charles B. McLaughlin requiring the Board of Elections and 99 defendants to show cause why the individuals named should not be stricken from the enrollment lists of the Labor Party on the ground of disloyalty to the party. The order is returnable Friday.

In his complaint Mr. Greenberg alleged that each of the 99 defendants signed a petition nominating

## Montreal Dressmakers Back On Job With 10% Wage Boost

MONTREAL, Apr. 30, 1940—Settlement of the strike of 4,300 members of the Montreal Dressmakers' Union was announced at a meeting of the strikers held at St. James Market yesterday afternoon. Agreement between the union and the

Montreal Dress Manufacturers' Guild was reached after an all-night conference which ended early Monday morning.

Under the agreement, the workers receive a 10 per cent wage increase, 5 per cent beginning June 3, and an additional 5 per cent as soon as the contract is juridically extended.

Under the terms of the settlement, application will be made to the Minister of Labor for a collective labor agreement to cover the whole dress industry.

A clause was inserted stating that if the union finds the employers are not cooperating in obtaining extension of the collective labor agreement, charges may be brought by the union before the impartial chairman of the Joint Committee set up by the act. If the Guild is found at fault, the second 5 per cent increase becomes effective immediately.

—MONTREAL GAZETTE

## Albany Conference Ends Cloak Tie-Up; Contract to Follow

ALBANY, July 12, 1940 — New York City's coat and suit stoppage came to an abrupt end today. Gov. Herbert H. Lehman announced at noontime that trouble in the industry had been averted.

The Governor said that all the disputed issues had been adjusted and that a constructive program calculated to stabilize the industry was reached.

The parties to the collective labor agreements who came here yesterday at the behest of the Governor left rather abruptly for New York, where they will meet to complete the program agreed upon before the state's chief executive.

All the disputed points, namely dual system of production, inequality of labor costs, contractor-jobber relationship, will be placed before a board of control for adjudication. Its findings will be tantamount to the new collective agreement which will govern the coat and suit industry.

—DAILY NEWS RECORD

## JOBBER'S EFFORT TO 'KICK OVER TRACES' MEETS STIFF REBUKE

NEW YORK, Feb. 13, 1940—A twelfth-hour "appeal to reason" yesterday by David Dubinsky, president of the ILGWU, temporarily suspended promulgation of a self-conceived jobber-contractor system of price settlement that, if successfully carried out, would have cancelled the dress industry's collective agreement.

What shaped up as a determination on the part of the jobbers to flout openly their pact with the union, in an effort to put into practice their own version of relief from unfair competition, was shelved pending the outcome of conferences to be held within the next few days.

Last night, about 200 officers of the Dress Joint Board and the out-of-town departments met in the council room of the union, prepared, in the words of General Manager Julius Hochman, "to take action on whatever the jobbers and contractors decided to do."

Earlier in the day, Mr. Hochman affirmed that "the abolition of the price settlement system, which the employers in the cheaper lines are now attempting, would mean a complete breakdown of our entire wage structure. It would return us to the old jungle law under which the jobber squeezed the contractor, who in turn squeezed the worker, upon the threat of withholding work. Low hourly and weekly earnings were the result of this sweatshop method."

—WOMEN'S WEAR DAILY

Israel Amter as the Communist candidate for City Councilman at the last election. Mr. Greenberg also alleged that 12 of the defendants circulated, witnessed and obtained signatures on the Amter petitions and that 10 had been enrolled members of the Communist Party in 1936 and prior years.

—NEW YORK TIMES

# NEWS-HISTORY

## Editorials

### Hurdling the "Little Crisis"

Mid-summer of 1937 greeted the ILGWU with a rash of strikes—stretching from Montreal to San Antonio and running diagonally from San Francisco to the Eastern Atlantic littoral, impelled largely by employers maneuvering to take advantage of the "Little Crisis" which hit all American industry and to hurl back our union on all fronts.

Within a few months, however, this attack was repulsed and in many sectors the ILGWU even made gains. Only at the Nell Donnelly Garment Co.'s plant in Kansas City, Mo., did early attempts to unionize the plant under standard work conditions meet steely resistance. The firm rushed into courts seeking an injunction against ILGWU efforts to expose Nell Donnelly's domination of its "company union."

One of the important gains scored by the ILGWU was the unionization of the big Montreal dress market where French-speaking workers were employed.

\* \* \*

The ILGWU over the past four years splashed colorfully over the front pages of the national press as it plowed through the heavy seas of political labor experimentation, and experienced for about two years the taste of being an "independent union" without any central affiliation.

It fought tooth and nail Communist intrigue in the New York American Labor Party which aimed at capturing the ALP for Kremlin accommodations. And it made a handsome contribution to the third-term election of FDR by a hard-driven campaign which culminated, in October, 1940, in a great pageant-meeting in Madison Square Garden for the New Deal.

The ILGWU, however, did not stay out of the AFL more than a year and a half. When in the fall of 1938 the Committee for Industrial Organization voted to become a rival to the AFL, the ILGWU withdrew from it, and in June, 1940; at its magnificent Carnegie Hall convention, it rejoined the AFL as Pres. William Green dramatically returned the old ILGWU charter to Pres. David Dubinsky to the deafening applause of the delegates.

### "Needles and Pins"



—Herblock in Fall River Herald News

### Union Backing N. Y. as World Fashion Center

NEW YORK, Aug. 15, 1940—Organized labor's support of the move to establish New York City as the fashion capital of the world, succeeding Nazi-dominated Paris, was pledged today by David Dubinsky, president of the ILGWU, powerful and tightly-knit labor organization which numbers more than 250,000 cutters, operators, finishers and so on in the United States and Canada.

"The union will be ready to cooperate to the fullest extent, and even to modify wage-and-hour regulations to encourage the creative side of the garment industry," Mr. Dubinsky said in his office at 3 West 16th St. "Our organization is built on the mass production methods of this country, but we realize, as fully as anyone, that the work and hours required to drape and design a costume are entirely different from running a machine in volume manufacturing.

"We shall guard against chisellers who attempt to return to the sweatshop tactics," Mr. Dubinsky continued. "But genuine efforts to provide authoritative style guidance will find us in entire accord, and our rules and regulations will be elastic enough to give every aid to experimental creative work."

Mr. Dubinsky pointed out that the garment industry in all its ramifications is dependent upon style.

#### FASHION CREATES WORK

"Consumer demand in dresses which wholesale at \$1.37 each is inseparably interwoven with style change and fashion cycles," he said. "Creation of new fashions means business in our trades, it determines the amount of work in our workrooms and the amount of money in our members' pay envelopes."

Mr. Dubinsky indicated that he did not doubt the resourcefulness and talent of the American stylist, but he showed that he was concerned that no specific plan had been offered to offset the bewilderment caused in the entire women's wear market by the collapse of the Paris fashion center. Confidence in ourselves and our abilities has been expressed on all sides, but real, concerted action has not been forthcoming.

—NEW YORK SUN

### Cooperation Lessens a Dress Arbiters Burden

NEW YORK, Aug. 26, 1938—Harry Uviller, impartial chairman and administrator of the dress industry, as a prelude to the recommendation for "peace" that he made at a luncheon conference of leaders at the Hotel Astor yesterday, gave an account of his "stewardship" from Mar. 17, 1936, to July, 1938.

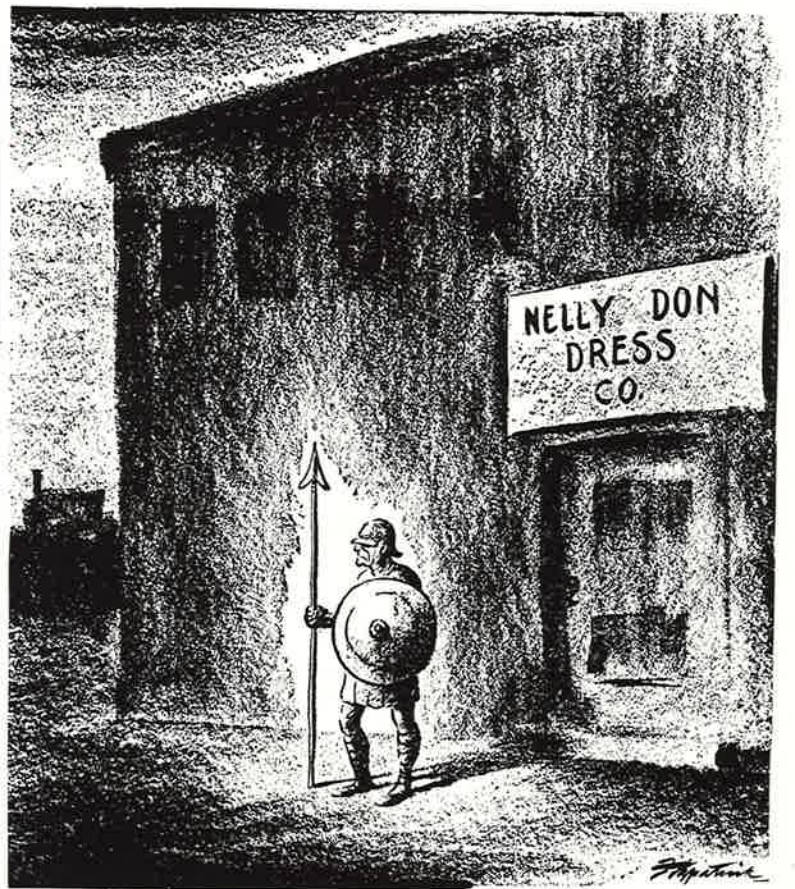
He reported that 5,268 cases were scheduled for hearing before the impartial chairman, of which 5,113 were disposed of, leaving 155 pending, as of the latter date.

"All the 5,113 cases were not tried," Mr. Uviller continued, "thanks to the cooperation of the executive directors of the associations and the general manager of the union and their staffs. Only 1,425 cases resulted in decisions; the others were settled by the parties before, at or after trial.

"A sore spot in the industry has always been the fixing of fair piece rates. To that end the Price Adjustment Bureau was established in the industry. From March, 1936 to June 30, 1938, 359,343 individual styles were recorded and settled."

—WOMEN'S WEAR DAILY

### "Watchman, What of the Night?"



—Fitzpatrick in St. Louis Post-Dispatch

### It Pays to Advertise!

NEW YORK, Dec. 19, 1940—Advertising occupied the center of the stage this week in the inauguration of this new wage contract discussions between the Dress Joint Board of the ILGWU, an AFL affiliate, and the manufacturers who turn out \$350,000,000 worth of dresses here every year.

The meetings at which plans were discussed for an aggressive national campaign—involving a promotion budget that may reach \$1,500,000 a year—were laden with "firsts." It was the first time that a labor union had assumed the initiative in laying before management the need for streamlined merchandising techniques. It was the first time that participation in a cooperative advertising campaign had been made a prime consideration in labor negotiations. And it was the first time that advertising had been asked to aid in revolutionizing the basic sales job of so important an industry.

Behind the far-sighted proposal to stamp out inefficiency in production and expand markets for the dress trade stands Julius Hochman, general manager of the Dress Joint Board, who is now adding new laurels to an established reputation for sound and progressive labor leadership. Convinced that New York's largest industry, with 2,100 employers and 85,000 organized dressmakers, must step out of its rut, dramatize its bid for recognition as the world's style center, increase unit consumption and cultivate untapped export opportunities, Mr. Hochman enlisted the services of J. Walter Thompson Co. to survey the situation and make recommendations.

On the basis of the Thompson findings, a committee of 10, consisting of Mr. Hochman and three representatives from each of three manufacturers' associations, was appointed to outline a financial plan and push ahead with five unanimously adopted objectives:

1. To make New York the world's style center.
2. To maintain New York's leadership in the dress field.
3. To obtain a greater percent-

NEW YORK, Dec. 28, 1940—When employers and unions agree on a plan for the benefit of their industry and of the community which it serves, before proceeding to discuss a new contract governing hours, wages and working conditions, the public may well pay respectful attention. This has actually happened in the case of the ILGWU and the employers with whom they deal.

First, there will be a promotion campaign to study and stimulate the distribution of women's dresses produced in the New York area. Advertising, publicity, education work with retailers, research into costs and prices, and, it is hoped, two big fashion shows a year in New York City will be among the means used.

Second, the union has suggested for the employers' consideration proposals for eliminating waste and increasing efficiency in manufacturing.

The outlook is bright, not only for a widely beneficial progress in the industry, but for increasingly harmonious relationships between employers and employed. If, as has been stated, this is the first time in American labor history in which a program of this nature has been proposed by a union, it is a precedent full of promise.

—NEW YORK TIMES

age of the nation's business for New York.

4. To increase total dress sales.
5. To foster a desire for better dresses.

Informal discussion of the scope of the program by members of the dress industry was marked by frequent mention of a levy of one-half of 1 per cent on total wholesale volume. On the basis of last year's \$350,000,000 business, this would mean a promotion budget of more than \$1,500,000. A per-unit levy of 2 cents a garment was also suggested. New York produced 78,000,000 dresses last year, which would point to an initial budget in the neighborhood of \$1,500,000.

—ADVERTISING AGE