

ILGWU NEWS-HISTORY

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION ISSUE

CHAPTER 12

1945 - 1950

AT MID-CENTURY

HAIL 50 YEARS OF ILGWU!

NEW YORK, May 15, 1950—This week, wherever women's garments are made in the United States and Canada, workers felt the thrill and excitement of the ILGWU Golden Jubilee Convention which will open next week in Atlantic City, N. J.

When the convention will be called to order by Pres. David Dubinsky at 10:30 A.M. on the morning of May 23, 1950, there will be approximately 1,100 delegates present. This will be the twenty-seventh time since the founding of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union in 1900 that the gavel will ring out to call an ILGWU convention into session.

It will be fifty years since the historic meeting of a handful of cloakmakers on New York's East Side on June 3, 1900 when it was decided to try once again to establish a permanent union of the garment workers.

Eleven delegates attended that first meeting where the ILGWU was founded. Next week, streaming by train and plane to the Eastern ocean resort, eleven hundred garment workers will converge on Convention Hall.

They will meet to consider the problems of an industry which, in the half-century of ILGWU history, has left the sweatshop behind, rid itself of cut-throat competition, abolished the auction block system of allocating work, wiped out unsanitary shop conditions and in general raised a multi-billion dollar industry to a commanding position in the nation's economy.

They will, however, confront a host of new problems, undreamt of by the pioneer founders of the organization and peculiar to an era which has cancelled out in large part the obstacles of space and time and

which lives in the shadow of the world's most destructive weapons.

The first business of the convention will be to certify its own delegates, then to set up its committee machinery. Thereafter it will start a careful consideration of the hundreds of resolutions which have been received.

And even though fifty years have gone by, and the temper and tempo of the world have changed, for the period between May 23 and June 2 in Atlantic City, that which is most timeless in the life of the garment workers—their devotion to the ways of freedom and democracy—will again come to the fore as they tackle each of the myriad problems which they must face even as their predecessors did fifty years ago in an obscure hall in the slums of New York.

—JUSTICE



Union Seeks Licenses For FM Radio Outlets

WASHINGTON, Oct. 9, 1945—Organized labor, worried by its failure to obtain time to tell its story over existing broadcasting stations, is apparently ready to take the all-out plunge into the ether biz itself.

Latest indication of this came yesterday when the ILGWU filed an application with the Federal Communications Commission to set up commercial FM stations.

The ILGWU applications filed today are something novel in broadcasting, it was explained by Frederick F. Umhey, executive secretary of ILGWU.

ILGWU will create four Unity Broadcasting Corps., one for each station. Each would have 100 shares of stock authorized, of which only three would be issued immediately.

Each station would operate independently under its own officers. ILGWU would advance \$100,000 to the New York outlet and \$50,000 apiece to the other stations for a building fund to get them started. On top of that, David Dubinsky, president of ILGWU, and Umhey have agreed that equal amounts will be held in the background ready to be advanced to the stations for operating expenses if needed.

However, the major plan is to sell stock in each station to local unions and civic groups in each community. ILGWU is willing to sell at least 51 per cent of the stock to local community interests. Thus the stations would go under local control. Meantime, in order to assure local control, two of the initial three shares issued will go to the local units of ILGWU in the cities where the stations operate, with the national union holding the third share.

Discussing programming with newsmen, Umhey said that no station will sell more than 50 per cent of the time for commercial sponsorship. At least half and probably more of the time will be allocated for cultural sustaining programs, which is more than any radio station in the United States gives for that purpose today, he said.

—VARIETY

LOAN TO HOLLAND'S RAILROAD WORKERS GRANTED BY ILGWU

NEW YORK, Mar. 18, 1947—Dr. Alexander Loudon, the Netherlands Ambassador to the United States, called yesterday for a new approach to international law. It should be based, he said, on "the rights of man."

The Ambassador spoke at a luncheon in the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel at which David Dubinsky, president of the ILGWU-AFL, presented a check for \$100,000 to him.

The sum is being lent by the ILGWU to the Netherlands Trolley and Railway Workers' Union for the purchase of overalls, shoes and other work clothes.

Immediately after accepting the check, Dr. Loudon handed it to Willy Dorchain, the American representative of the International Federation of Transport Workers, with which the Dutch union is affiliated. Mr. Dorchain will spend the money here and arrange for shipment of his purchases.

In making the presentation, Mr. Dubinsky observed that the assistance was being given to Netherlands railway workers on ideological grounds as well as for humanitarian reasons.

The IFTW, he explained, "believes as we do that the World Federation of Trade Unions, as constituted today, is not the solution to the question of world trade union unity." AFL unions have voiced strenuous objection to the WFTU as a vehicle for international labor cooperation because Soviet unions, which are "not free," are represented.

—NEW YORK TIMES

By FREDERICK F. UMHEY

In seeking to obtain licenses to operate radio stations, the ILGWU bases its request on the principle that the airwaves, the channels for broadcasting operation, belong to the people. This claim it bases on the law itself, the Communications Act of 1934, which seeks to prevent the growth of a vested interest in broadcasting by any single group of the community, stipulates that existing stations may have no advantage over others seeking to enter the field, and declares that the door must be kept open for new applicants better able to serve the public interest.

It must be kept in mind that more than two-thirds of all stations, including substantially all the powerful stations, are affiliated with one or more of the four national networks, further concentrating control. Control of the networks themselves is exercised by a few big advertisers and advertising agencies.

Town-Meeting Hall

The program planning for the ILGWU stations is predicated on the thought that each of them should become the most articulate town-meeting hall, the outstanding music hall, the most attractive cultural center in its locality.

With the parent body's moral and financial support, especially in the early stages, it is intended to give these stations an opportunity to serve their communities in the development of public health education, in community industry-labor relationships, in consumer-farmer understandings—in a popular and flexible manner for adults and juveniles alike.

The principal idea behind this plan, however, is to build a closer tie-up between union membership, all other public-minded elements in the community, and the interests and problems which stir the nation at large. Through these stations, the ILGWU will strive to spur among members a wider interest in their home towns, to make their communities a better place to live in and to encourage among these wage earners a deeper and more sustained appreciation of cultural and educational values and advantages and, incidentally, a deeper attachment to the labor movement of which they are a part.

—AMERICAN FEDERATIONIST, December, 1945

International Rights Bill Presented UN By AFL Consultants

NEW YORK, Aug. 11, 1947—An international bill of rights setting forth guarantees for the maintenance of basic human rights and freedoms in the United Nations was submitted to the Economic and Social Council yesterday by the AFL.

The program was forwarded to Trygve Lie, Secretary General of the United Nations, under the signatures of Matthew Woll and David Dubinsky, consultants to the United Nations representing the AFL. Messrs. Woll and Dubinsky requested the Secretary General to grant them the opportunity to consult the committee that would consider the proposal.

—NEW YORK TIMES

Winner of Stork Derby



With General Manager Julius Hochman holding the bambino, First Vice Pres. Luigi Antonini hands Mrs. Jennie Varriale the first maternity benefit of Dressmakers' Union.

Real Estate, Net Assets Dub ILG As Big Business

NEW YORK, Oct. 15, 1945—Sitting behind a quartered-oak desk that once belonged to Henry Ford, David Dubinsky looked pleased last week. The 360,000 members of his ILGWU were all employed. The women's garment industry—tenth biggest in the nation and New York City's first—was booming as it had never boomed before. It expected to turn out \$1,250,000,000 worth of goods by the year's end.

Dubinsky's treasury was full: \$16,803,554 was received last year; liquid assets were a cool \$10,000,000. His members were happy, many of them just back from their usual summer vacations at Unity House, the 1,000-acre resort which ILGWU owns in the Pocono Hills of Pennsylvania. They were healthy—the union hires 90 doctors and rents two floors of an office building to keep them that way, free of charge. They were prosperous—the union scale was \$71 a week; many were earning \$80 or more; and their hours were but 35 a week.

Harry Hopkins, the late President Roosevelt's alter ego, liked the new job that his good friend Dubinsky helped him get as impartial chairman of the cloak and suit industry. The work was light; the pay (\$25,000) was good.

Russian War Relief liked Dubinsky's offer of \$250,000 to build a clubhouse for Soviet garment workers.

The investment of \$350,000 to start the CIO had paid for itself in the organizing of 5,000,000 workers, even though Dubinsky had long since taken his own stray sheep back into the AFL fold. The \$519,000 he had put into the American Labor Party had perhaps turned sour. The Communists had captured the party. At least Dubinsky thought they had, and had turned his back on it to form his Liberal Party, which he hoped to build, in alliance with middle class progressives, into a national force similar to the British Labor Party.

Outside his window, he could see the huge initials ILGWU towering above the six-story limestone facade of what had been the Ford Motor

Co.'s New York headquarters and showroom at Broadway and 54th St. He chuckled as he remembered the mystification of Ford officials in 1943 at the unknown individual, Fred Umhey, who had bought it. They didn't know Umhey was Dubinsky's general secretary.

Last week Dubinsky, a \$12,500-a-year executive, bent over his desk, listened thoughtfully to the bells of the ship's clock presented to him by admiring members, and scratched his signature to the check that made his union the owner of a second major piece of Manhattan real estate—the \$2,750,000 26-floor Lefcourt Building at Seventh Ave. and 25th St. There the Union Health Center would soon add three more floors to the two it already occupies. Dubinsky would rent out the rest.

The transaction highlighted a major fact of life in the United States which has escaped general notice; that the unions, which a decade ago were fighting for their existence, are now Big Business.

Labor's New Status

As a business, none is bigger or better organized than Dubinsky's ILGWU. His headquarters is like that of a large corporation—from top to bottom it is departmentalized and managed along corporate lines.

Dubinsky himself summed up labor's new status pretty well at a farewell luncheon for ex-Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins. Nodding toward her old friend Rose Schneiderman, a veteran of the Women's Trade Union League wars, Miss Perkins said: "When Rose picketed she took along a property owner to bail her out." Dubinsky responded: "The unions are property owners these days."

—NEWSWEEK

The Start of a New Radio Station



While radio consultant Morris Novik looks on, Pres. Dubinsky turns first spadeful of dirt on the site of the ILGWU's FM station in California.

Dress Strike Averted; Pension, Raise Granted

By A. H. RASKIN

NEW YORK, Mar. 5, 1947—The 14-year record of labor peace in the city's largest industry was kept intact yesterday when representatives of 80,000 unionized dressmakers and three employer associations reached agreement on a contract calling for a 7 per cent wage increase and an employer-financed retirement fund.

The accord was announced at City Hall on the eve of a strike that had been threatened for this morning by the Dress Joint Board of the ILGWU. Mayor O'Dwyer praised both sides and voiced the city's pride in their ability to settle their differences through orderly collective bargaining without interruptions of production.

On the basis of the current volume of production, the new contract will add about \$14,000,000 a year to the earnings of 65,000 workers paid on a piece-work basis and 15,000 paid on a weekly basis. In addition, the employers will contribute about \$2,000,000 a year to the retirement fund through a 1 per cent levy on their payrolls.

No Strike Since '33

Spokesmen for both sides agreed that the industry had been closer to a strike than at any time since 1933, when the dressmakers stopped work for a week.

The employers, caught between the rising cost of rayon fabrics and consumer resistance to high dress prices, contended that they could not undertake an increase of more than 5 per cent in payroll costs without imperiling the competitive position of the New York market. The union replied that the 7½ per cent wage increase won by its members last year had been offset twice

over by the rise in the cost of living and threatened to strike.

When an impasse was reached in negotiations, local leaders called in Mr. Dubinsky to meet with the employers and convince them that the union, while anxious to avoid a strike, was nevertheless determined to tie up the industry if agreement could not be reached on an acceptable contract.

12-Hour Parley

The deadlock was broken in a conference that began at 3:15 P.M. Monday at the Park Central Hotel and ended more than 12 hours later. In reporting the accord to the Mayor at City Hall at 2:30 P.M. yesterday, Mr. Dubinsky said the new contract served as additional proof of "the maturity of labor-management relations in our industry and the ability of both sides to avert dislocation in industry through frank and fair collective bargaining."

Terms of the settlement were applauded by more than 5,000 union shop leaders at an overflow meeting at Manhattan Center later in the afternoon. The meeting, originally called to make final plans for the walkout this morning, was turned into a ratification meeting.

—NEW YORK TIMES

Beauty and Grace in St. Louis



ILGWU educational programs fill the hours away from the machine with interesting pastimes. These two garment makers in St. Louis are rehearsing a number for a musical their local will present.

UNITY HOUSE GIVES YOUTHS CHANCE TO ENJOY COUNTRY LIFE

By ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

HYDE PARK, June 21, 1945—I want to speak of two things today which especially impressed me at the ILGWU's vacation camp. It seemed to me worthy of comment that the bond drive rally was started by calling for contributions from individuals. As I sat there and saw young women and young men, fathers of families, older men and women, all get up one after the other and pledge to buy anything from a \$100 bond up to a \$1,000 bond, I could not help thinking, "Thank God for the United States."

The membership of this union is 75 per cent women, and therefore many of those at the rally had their interests centered in the fighting forces. By this contribution they could share, not only through their daily work but through their savings, in the daily lives of their men fighting in distant lands. Their ability to make this investment must have been a great satisfaction to them.

The second thing which I thought worthy of note was the number of children getting their chance at country life. Provision is made for them at Unity House. They have a playground of their own and trained people to guide them in work and in play. No matter how much of this world's goods you have, you could not put children in a more favorable environment; and that is something for us as a nation to be proud of.

—WORLD-TELEGRAM

Labor's Admiration For Dubinsky Told At Chicago Dinner

The profound admiration which the American trade union movement feels for David Dubinsky, dynamic president of the ILGWU, was expressed by 1,000 leaders of labor at a testimonial dinner in his honor on Sept. 9.

The dinner was held in Chicago's renowned Palmer House. It was sponsored jointly by the Chicago Federation of Labor and the Jewish Labor Committee of Chicago.

William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, and his colleagues of the AFL Executive Council were present to honor their friend and co-worker. Mr. Green, Secretary-Treasurer George Meany and Second Vice Pres. Matthew Woll delivered the main addresses. They described Mr. Dubinsky's warm, human character and his remarkable achievement as a labor statesman.

President Truman, in a message to the dinner, said:

"David Dubinsky has been a tower of strength in the labor movement. . . . As one who has always stood four-square for true Americanism, he deserves the thanks and appreciation of good citizens everywhere."

President Green in his address said there is "no better, abler or more loyal man" among the millions in the AFL than David Dubinsky and warmly praised him as a veteran fighter against communism.

—AMERICAN FEDERATIONIST, October, 1947

OPA Tactic to Halt Clothing Price Rise

By CHESTER BOWLES

In planning our original attack on wartime apparel shortages and rising prices, we did not do a good job. By failing to take vigorous action early in the war, we allowed unnecessary shortages of essential low-priced clothes to develop, and failed to prevent an unnecessary rise in prices.

A vigorous clothing program has been launched by OPA, together with WPB, within the past year and is gradually becoming more fully effective. Although shortages mean continued pressure toward higher prices, the rise in clothing prices which has been in progress throughout the war is being brought to a stop.

Urgently needed clothing is gradually coming back into the low and medium-priced fields, much of it marked with fixed OPA dollar-and-cent ceiling prices just as groceries are, and representing sounder values for the money than have been available for the past two years. Moreover, enforcement against black marketeers and price violators has been greatly strengthened.

\$1.98 Dress Gone

Before the war, manufacturers made a wide variety of price lines. For example, rayon dresses were made to sell from \$1.98 to \$198 and up. But the big volume of business was in low and medium-priced dress fields. In 1942, 75 per cent of all women's rayon dresses retailed for under \$7.95; 65 per cent of all women's blouses sold for under \$2.50; and 75 per cent of all women's wool suits for less than \$25.

When the war came late in 1941, the whole apparel pricing situation began to change. More and

more items moved into the high-priced, high-profit lines. Such items as \$1.98 rayon dresses disappeared entirely.

The demands of all-out war inevitably created a shortage of civilian textiles and clothing. The textile mills had great difficulty in holding the workmen necessary to keep production at a high level, because of the industry's generally low rate of pay. In consequence, production has been falling off for the past two years.

Wartime purchasing power was far above that of prewar years. People who had been unable to afford decent clothing came into the market with billions of new dollars to spend. Women and girls, with wartime pay envelopes, filled out their meager wardrobes.

As a result of the tremendous gap between supply and demand, the industry in general found itself in a sellers' market. It was no longer necessary to manufacture low-priced goods; nearly everything that could be produced found a ready market at high prices. So many garment manufacturers quit making inexpensive house dresses and street clothing. They shifted rapidly into the higher-priced, more profitable fields.

By the spring of 1945, 75 per cent of all women's rayon dresses were made to sell for more than \$7.95—

not for less, as in 1942; 80 per cent of women's blouses were selling for over \$2.50; and 75 per cent of all women's woolen suits retailed at above \$25—the direct opposite of prewar practice.

From the beginning WPB and OPA divided the responsibility for the production and pricing of textiles. From the beginning the WPB considered itself solely an agency for war; it concentrated on the production of war equipment. The top men of WPB were not civilian-minded; perhaps they didn't have time to be.

And OPA certainly must carry its full share of blame. In 1942 and 1943 and through much of 1944, OPA failed to take sufficient vigorous action to prevent the shift of manufacturers to high-priced, high-profit lines. In fact, some of our early price measures very naively preserved high-profit margins and thus actually encouraged the disastrous shift to luxury goods. In addition, OPA was slow in getting out simple enforceable dollar-and-cent prices for clothes as it had done for foods.

Profits Enormous

Profits have been enormous throughout the war. From 1936 to 1939, the profits of the textile industry, before taxes, amounted to approximately \$94,000,000. In 1944 the profits of this same industry, before taxes, totaled \$675,000,000, about 600 per cent above the prewar level. After taxes, they amounted to \$210,000,000. During the war the profits of the apparel manufacturers increased from less than \$35,000,000 to more than

\$335,000,000, both before taxes. After taxes, these manufacturers still made over four times their prewar earnings. Retail profits also rose to record heights. For 1944, the operating profits of the department stores showed an increase over prewar profits of around 1,000 per cent.

The apparel problem is and has been in many ways America's Number One civilian headache. All of us concerned admit we have made our share of mistakes. We all should carry our share of responsibility for errors that have been made. But it is time now to forget past difficulties and differences and to pull together — industry and government—in a united effort to solve the apparel problem.

—COLLIERS, Jan. 19, 1946

PENSION CHECKS GO TO INITIAL BATCH OF RETIRING CLOAKMEN

NEW YORK, July 12, 1946—The first distribution of payments by the Retirement Fund of the Coat and Suit Industry in the New York metropolitan area, made yesterday to workers in ceremonies at the Central High School of Needle Trades, was hailed by outstanding public figures and by representatives of labor and management. A total of 900 workers are now qualified for the old-age payments of \$50 per month.

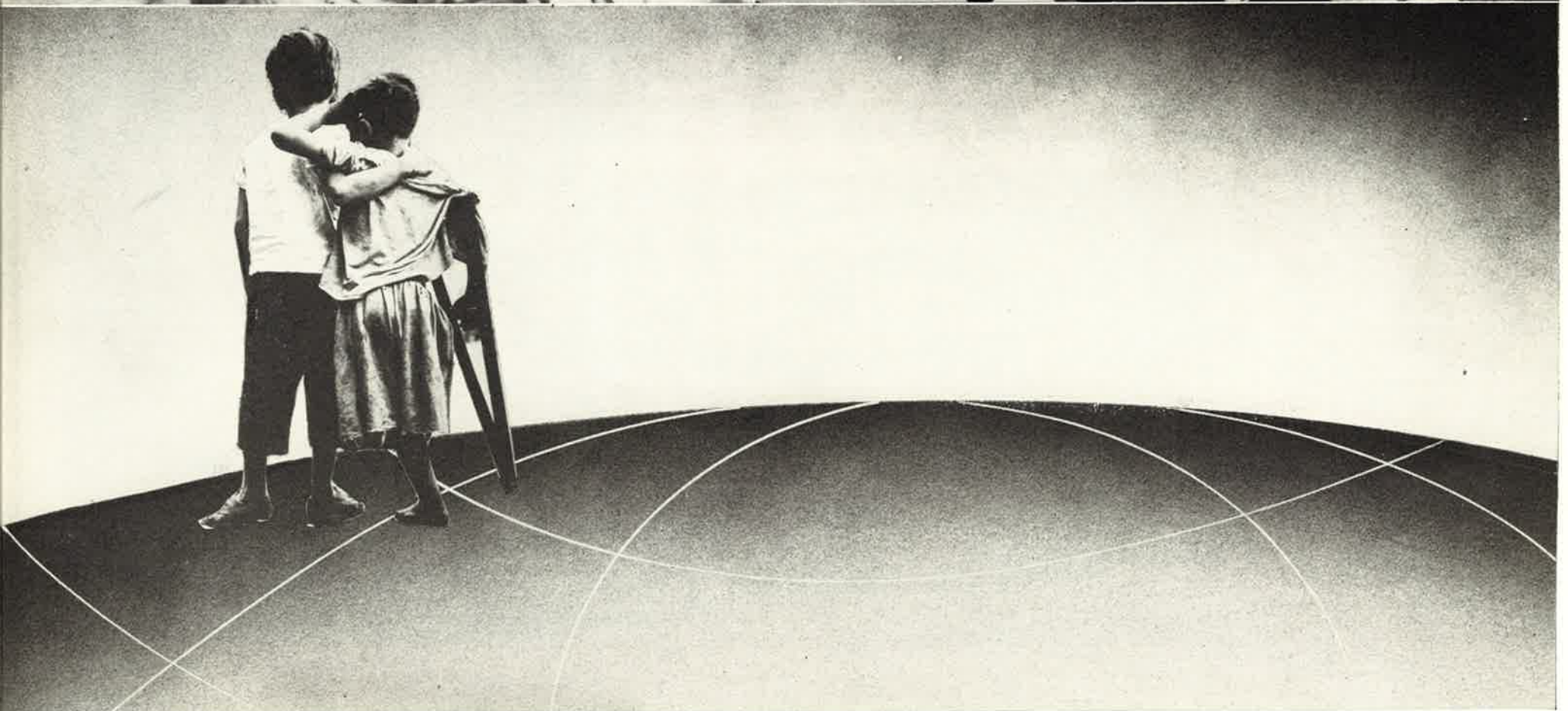
—WOMEN'S WEAR DAILY



The bite of poverty, the taste of hunger, the grip of fear is not easily forgotten by those who have ever in their lives known these scourges of a self-centered world. Burned deep in the lives of the garment workers are memories of years in the sweatshops and the slums where these evils were their constant companions. Today, the garment workers enjoy the benefits of a powerful organization which they themselves built to rid their industry of sub-human conditions. But in a world just over its worst war there is a large heritage of need, of fear, of homelessness bequeathed to the children who are war's sorriest victims. Whenever they see need, the garment workers bestir themselves. And never in the 50 years of their history have they been more generous than in the aid they have sent overseas to save the children who suffered most in the war. Above are pictured only some of the institutions built and supported by ILGWU funds. These lives, salvaged from the chaos of war, the garment workers count as among their most precious gifts to freedom.

(Left to right): TOP ROW: the Sigman home for children was built and is maintained by Local 25; Pres. Dubinsky and AFL Vice Pres. Matthew Woll visit the ORT school near Paris; future draftsmen attending the Haifa Technical Institute; the ORT school near Paris. SECOND ROW: the Carlo Tresca home for children at Monte Compatri near Rome; Vice Pres. Kaplan observes classwork at Haifa school; entrance to the school named for the ILGWU president at

Chungking, China; entrance to the Mendelsohn home for children near Paris supported by Local 117. THIRD ROW: Vice Pres. Charles S. Zimmerman brings greetings from America to students at International School in Israel; youngsters enjoying free play at Franklin D. Roosevelt Institute in Palermo, Italy; Vice Pres. Morris Bialis illustrates American sewing methods in Israel school; the day starts at Boystown in Pozzouli, near Naples.



Hoodlums Attack Leaders of Dress Drive in Jt. Board

NEW YORK, Sept. 21, 1948—Five thugs stalked into the offices of the city's biggest union late yesterday afternoon and beat three organizers, injuring one so badly that he required seven stitches in his scalp and hospital attention.

A half-hour later, pickets representing the same union—the ILGWU, AFL—were assaulted in the heart of the garment district. Three pickets were rushed to the hospital and four others were treated at the union office for cuts and bruises. The attacks brought from Julius Hochman, manager of the Dress Joint Board of the union, a charge that racketeering elements were again forcing their way into New York's multi-million dollar garment industry.

He announced that he would seek to meet with Mayor O'Dwyer today to assure full mobilization of the city's law-enforcement machinery against a return of the type of gang terrorism that prevailed in the industry during the heyday of Louis (Lepke) Buchalter and Jacob (Gurrah) Shapiro 15 years ago.

The first assault came at 4:30 P.M. in the offices of the organizing department of the Dress Joint Board on the second floor at 218 West 40th St., between Seventh and Eighth Aves.

Five men entered the room oc-

cupied by William Ross, newly appointed manager of the organizing department. Mr. Ross, who had been brought here from Fall River, Mass., to undertake a drive against non-union manufacturers in the metropolitan area, was seated with two assistants, Charles Tischler and Joseph Greenberg.

One of the intruders asked: "Are you Bill Ross?"

When Mr. Ross nodded, the man lifted a chair and brought it down on the organizer's head. At the same time the man's companions attacked the other organizers with their feet and fists, leaving all three union officials bleeding on the floor.

While detectives from West 30th St. station were at the union office and physicians from the ILGWU Health Center were treating the men's wounds, a group of assailants fell upon pickets Mr. Ross had dispatched earlier in the day to two non-union concerns five blocks away.

—NEW YORK TIMES

Dubinsky in Final Try To Block T-H Passage

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25, 1947—David Dubinsky, president of the ILGWU, today unfolded the modern record of industrial peace and progress in the garment industry as an answer to Congressional demands for sweeping curbs on unions.

The ILGWU president went before the Senate Labor Committee in a last-ditch attempt to halt the drive for restrictive legislation.

Dubinsky declared that the closed shop, industry-wide bargaining, organizational strikes and union welfare funds have "played an important part in the development of a sound employer-employee relationship, aided in the stabilization of industry, and promoted the welfare of the general community."

All these procedures, he pointed out, are under attack in bills pending before the Senate group.

Denouncing the current onslaught against unions, Dubinsky charged that "few words of condemnation were leveled against industry when it conducted sit-down strikes to swell profits, or when big business refused to accept defense contracts until Congress passed the tax amortization law."

Dubinsky recited highlights in the ILGWU life story that began in the sweatshop era. Noting that there has been no major strike in the ladies' garment industry since 1933, he said:

"So far as the employers in our industry are concerned, they consider the closed or union shop provision a stabilizing influence. They agree that it makes for peace in the shop.

"Let me suggest that if the legislation now proposed was in existence in 1910, our union would

not have grown and our industry's labor-management relations would have been blighted with strikes and controversies."

—NEW YORK POST

ISRAELI GOVERNMENT REPAYS \$1,000,000 ON LOAN FROM ILGWU

NEW YORK, Dec. 1, 1948 — The State of Israel has repaid \$1,000,000 loaned to it five months ago by the ILGWU, according to David Dubinsky, union president.

Mr. Dubinsky pointed out that at the time the \$1,000,000 loan was made, the union had also made outright donations of \$220,000 voluntarily contributed by the membership to Histadrut, the Israeli labor and cooperative organization, and \$150,000 to the United Jewish Appeal.

—CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

OVER 500 EUROPEAN ORPHANS 'ADOPTED' BY ILG AFFILIATES

NEW YORK, July 15, 1948 — A grass-roots humanitarian movement, which burst forth among several ILGWU affiliates in the middle of 1947 and spread "unrehearsed and unprepared" at an increased tempo through the current year, has already resulted in the "adoption" of more than 500 children who lost one or both parents in the concentration camps during the Fascist and Nazi reigns in Europe.

The child "adoption" plan, which was originally launched by the American Jewish Labor Committee two years ago in Chicago, calls for the voluntary assumption of responsibility by individuals or groups—trade unions, factory groups, shop committees, employers, fraternal organizations, women's units — of \$300 for a year's care of a young victim of World War II.

Since this plan was put into operation, over 900 children, orphans of partisans and labor victims of totalitarian regimes, have been placed in private homes or in institutions maintained by the AJLC in Poland, France, Belgium, Italy, Rumania and Sweden.

More than half of this number, namely 535, were adopted by ILGWU shops, locals and groups. The ILGWU General Office staff undertook, on the basis of voluntary contributions, to maintain five "adoptees" on the minimum annual basis of \$300 per child.

—JUSTICE

Working Out a Cure



Executive Secretary Frederick F. Umhey watches ex-G.I. operate one of a number of sewing machines donated by ILGWU to veterans' hospital.

Union-Run Benefits Are Best, ILG Proves

By ELINORE M. HERRICK

NEW YORK, Aug. 19, 1948—The ILGWU is self-insured and administers its welfare funds through union channels. However, their funds are controlled jointly by representatives of employers and workers, though actual operation of the funds is in the hands of workers exclusively.

It is understood in the agreement that the day-to-day operation of the fund is in the hands of the unions, subject to review, subject to criticism and subject to change.

Adolph Held, manager of the ILGWU welfare and health benefits program says: "This is very essential. It took a good deal of argument to bring it about. But the relations with our employers have been so good for the last 10 years that we were finally able to convince them that this was the best way to administer the plan. And now, after two years of successful operation, they are very happy that we did take the job of running it."

The General Executive Board of the ILGWU has set up the basic policies for protection of the welfare funds. Within each local union a workers' health committee operates as a court of appeals for any claim that may be made by a worker who thinks himself mistreated in regard to benefit payments.

The ILGWU has pioneered in prepaid medical care, operating its own diagnostic clinics, notably in New York City, Philadelphia and Fall River. The clinical aspect of the program is being rapidly expanded. In localities where there are an insufficient number of members for a health center, the union organizes and trains teams of technicians who work under the direction of a local physician visiting factories to give examinations. Reports are sent to the individual's personal physician.

No other union has followed this pattern, but anyone visiting the six floors occupied by the New York Union Health Center will be impressed by the modern equipment, the thoroughness of the service rendered and its value to the community as a whole because of the care it gives to the 165,000 who used it in a single year.

In the ILGWU program it seems to me one finds the essence of sound welfare planning, safeguarded by employer participation in the trusteeship of the funds to which they contribute, but with a wise and mature union leadership doing the actual administration. It must be recognized that not all unions or employers are ready to assume such responsibilities, but the arguments against union administration must be viewed in the light of what some unions have achieved and the soundness of the policies they have developed.

—HERALD TRIBUNE

Protest Resurgence of Hoodlums



Thousands of New York garment workers rally in mass protest after strong-arm goons invaded the Dress Joint Board office and beat several union officers.

AFL-CIO Team Urges European Unions to Back Marshall Plan

LONDON, Aug. 9, 1948—American union officials have been trying to rouse trade unionists of Great Britain and Western Europe to dynamic enthusiasm for the Marshall Plan.

Picked delegations have been working on this side of the Atlantic to stir their European labor brethren to seize leadership in developing closer economic collaboration and pooling of resources among European Recovery countries.

So far they have only partially succeeded. They are going to keep trying.

At a recent two-day London conference, American labor leaders urged trade unionists from 13 of the Marshall Plan countries to establish powerful international labor headquarters at Paris to cooperate with the ERP administration.

American labor sent a remarkable group to Europe to stir enthusiasm for top production under the Marshall Plan. Seldom are representatives of the CIO, AFL, and John L. Lewis' United Mine Workers seen working harmoniously on the same panel. The fact that this group, including Victor Reuther, CIO, David Dubinsky, AFL, and John T. Jones, UMW, is campaigning effectively together shows the importance American labor has attached to the Marshall Plan.

Lukewarm Response

These representatives have been quietly emphasizing in London and Paris that United States opinion, particularly at the next Congress, will judge ERP largely by the production showing which Europe makes. They have been commenting that Americans so far are somewhat disappointed at what they feel to be the lukewarm response of Europe to economic cooperation and pooling of resources.

They well may underestimate problems of economic cooperation. They perhaps should ask themselves whether Britain, whose production is well above prewar figures and whose economy is rational and law abiding, should wish to tie itself to the shaky financial structure of, say, France.

But Americans feel that they must battle indifference and un-

awareness which in many instances are retarding European trade unionism in its support to the Marshall Plan. Thus Mr. Dubinsky in addressing the recent conference declared:

"I demand machinery to combat forces trying to sabotage ERP. We came to this conference to prove our interest and concern for the recovery of Europe, and we want your support in getting future ERP appropriations through Congress.

"We have come to realize that all these billions will be wasted unless labor gets behind the program."

Labor leaders from across the Atlantic hold there is still need to impress the mass of British labor that in the long run more can be gained in the way of better livelihood by improving production techniques than by resorting to legislation and trying to level down everybody's income.

—CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

DONNELLY COMPANY UNION GETS COURT ORDER TO DISBAND

KANSAS CITY, Feb. 15, 1948—Disbandment of the company union of Donnelly Garment Co. employees has been ordered by the Eighth U. S. Court of Appeals. The decision, which closes the latest chapter in the nine-year fight between the large dress manufacturing firm and the ILGWU, specifically upholds an order against the company which was issued in 1943 by the NLRB as a result of action brought by the ILGWU in 1938.

Disestablishment of a company union, cancellation of the firm's contract with the group, and return of all dues collected by deduction from employees' pay to the workers were included in the court's decision.

The charge was first filed by the ILGWU in 1938 and alleged the union was company dominated. The NLRB failed to act on this petition. Later an amended charge was filed by the national union and the board issued a complaint in 1939. An intermediate report recommending essentially the action taken by the court in a recent decision was rendered by an examiner in 1940.

—WOMEN'S WEAR DAILY

Presidential Handshake



Pres. Dubinsky greets Pres. Truman at huge Madison Square Garden rally during 1948 campaign.

\$500,000 Chest to Aid Truman And Bounce T-H Congressmen

NEW YORK, Sept. 1, 1948—David Dubinsky, president of the ILGWU, issued a call last night to the Dress Joint Board, an affiliate of the union, to raise a \$100,000 political fund to help elect President Truman and defeat members of Congress who

voted for the Taft-Hartley Act.

Formation of the ILGWU Political Campaign Committee of 1948, to circumvent that legislation which specifically prohibits expenditure of any union's funds for a political campaign, was announced by Mr. Dubinsky.

At a special meeting of 200 board executives and officials in the New Yorker Hotel, he urged that each of the board's 80,000 workers be asked to donate \$2. The goal for ILGWU's members was set at \$500,000, of which about \$150,000 has been pledged, he reported.

Earlier, the union's General Executive Board, meeting at 1710 Broadway, voted to endorse the candidacies of Mr. Truman and his running mate, Sen. Alben W. Barkley. It pledged support also of all liberal candidates for Congress and "to undo the harm to the national welfare committed by the Republican-ruled 80th Congress, particularly the passage of the Taft-Hartley Act."

Rejects Wallace

The board rejected the candidacy of Henry A. Wallace, "an irresponsible adventure controlled by the Communist Party," as a maneuver to split the liberal and independent vote, and to help elect thereby a "reactionary national administration."

"We've got to go into this campaign to win," Mr. Dubinsky declared. "Elections are never certain; we don't concede victory for the Republicans."

He attacked Gov. Dewey's endorsement of the record of the 80th Congress and asserted the Republican Presidential candidate "can't expect to get our support." He assailed also the "failure" of the Congress to meet the problems of rising costs and housing.

Holding that labor must do everything in its power to bring about Mr. Truman's election, Mr. Dubinsky reported that the union would sponsor four nation-wide radio broadcasts in October and print six leaflets of 500,000 copies each.

—NEW YORK TIMES

Tobin, Ewing Dedicate Newly Expanded ILG Health Center

NEW YORK, Feb. 20, 1949—Leading figures in government, labor, medicine and public life joined yesterday to dedicate the renovated Union Health Center of the ILGWU, expanded at a cost of \$3,500,000.

They toured the six modern, equipment-packed floors of the center, which is housed in the 26-story union-owned building at 275 Seventh Ave. and hailed the program as one of the "finest demonstrations of union-management cooperation in the country." The occasion also marked the 35th anniversary of the founding of the first center, which operated in one room with one doctor.

Oscar R. Ewing, Federal Security Administrator, took the occasion at a luncheon later at the Statler Hotel to assail Gov. Dewey and the American Medical Assn. for their opposition to President Truman's nation-wide system of prepaid medical care. He asserted that charges that the plan was socialistic were "unadulterated poppycock" and "sheer nonsense."

Secretary of Labor Maurice Tobin called the center an outstanding illustration of what labor and management could accomplish by working together, and declared that "under our free enterprise system the more sound insurance policies we buy, the greater guarantee there is that free industry will continue and bring its benefits to the rest of the country and to the world."

William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, traced the history of labor's fight for health and welfare plans and went on record in support of the Administration's program.

Dr. Leo Price, son of Dr. George Price, founder of the program, said the center "is especially significant at this moment because future methods of distributing medical care probably must change as have other social and economic fields in the world today."

Where the program began 35 years ago with one physician carrying his medicines and apparatus in a doctor's satchel, today the center boasts 148 physicians, 33 nurses, 27 technicians, 45 registrars, five pharmacists and 150 clerical and maintenance employees.

The center last year provided free to its members more than 110,000 medical services through 23 clinics, seven diagnostic and therapeutic services and five special departments.

—NEW YORK TIMES

VACATION BENEFITS PAY WORKERS' WAY AT PENN. PLAYLAND

By VICTOR RIESEL

One hot Friday afternoon last July, Pearl Halpern, a dress operator in New York's noisy, crowded garment district, threw the switch on her sewing machine and headed for a two-week vacation at her country club.

This was made possible by her receipt of a check for \$45 vacation money from the ILGWU, one of some 314,000 similar checks totaling \$10,000,000 sent annually to members. It was made possible, also, by the existence of Unity House, the \$4,000,000 resort hotel maintained by the union in the beautiful Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania.

For their vacation stay at Unity House—which is operated on a non-profit basis—union members who share a room with three others pay \$38 a week. A double room is \$46 each. For families with children there are bungalows set deep in cool woodlands above the lake; they have enclosed sleeping porches, baths, fireplaces, knotty-pine paneling and complete hotel service.

During a summer season Unity House entertains 10,000 working people and has a staff of 300 to take care of 31 cabins, 450 rooms and several huge buildings. Among its recreational facilities are basketball and tennis courts, television, puppet shows for children, a well-stocked library, a model farm.

Receipts for the season amount to more than \$500,000. If at the end of the year the resort shows a profit, prices are cut the following year.

Unity House is the forerunner of workers' vacation playlands everywhere. And it marks the slow passing of an era which started with the archaic philosophy that only by violent revolution could the workers win the good things in life.

—READER'S DIGEST, Oct., 1948

Hot Time on the Picket Line



Upstate New York garment workers take time out to warm up during a morning of sub-zero picketing.

Wm. Lurye Dies Fighting Open Shops

By BRUCE BLIVEN

Number 224 West 35th St., New York City, is in the heart of the garment district, where huge, square-shouldered trucks line both curbs all day long. As you enter the tiny lobby, the cigar stand is on the left, and to the right are two telephone booths.

On the sunny afternoon of May 9, 1949, a short, slender young man walked quickly into this lobby. His blond hair curled slightly; the military look of his close-clipped mustache was belied by his friendly, sensitive poet's face. With a smile and a word for the cigar clerk lounging behind his stacks of newspapers, he entered the first telephone booth, fishing in his pocket for a nickel as he did so.

But the call was never completed. A moment later three tough-looking characters came in together from the street. While two of them stood watch, the third jerked open the door of the booth, and when its occupant turned to see what was happening, snatched out a long-bladed knife and struck it deep into his chest. As he slumped to the floor, half in and half out of the booth, bright arterial blood spilling upon the stone floor, the three ran out again.

A few hours later, the victim died in the emergency ward at St. Vincent's Hospital, 24 blocks down Seventh Ave.

Who killed this young man, and why? **Active in Drive on Runaways**

There are plenty of potential workers in towns and small cities within a couple of hundred miles of New York who are forced by poverty to take open-shop jobs at open-shop wages. Accordingly, New York employers began setting up operations in these towns.

The ILGWU, of course, fought the runaway firms, but it was hampered by the fact that these operations are hard to trace.

There was plenty of evidence that certain firms were engaged in runaway open-shop operations. The ILGWU therefore called strikes of its own members in the New York headquarters of these shops—in the cutting rooms, for example—and put picket lines out in the street.

So now we come back to William Lurye, the handsome young man who left his work as a presser to help in the organizing job. He was in charge of the pickets for the union; he called strikes when the union decided it was necessary.

Who killed him? I don't know. I do know, however, that nobody had any interest in his death except an open-shop manufacturer or a scab truckman working with such a manufacturer. The man who wielded the knife might have been any hoodlum out of any gang mob, paid \$200 and given a few referees before he did the job. There was nothing high-minded about this murder, you may be sure; no politics; no personal motivation. Somebody just cared more for some stinking money than he did for a man's life, and so they murdered him.

—NEW REPUBLIC, June 20, 1949



The funeral cortege moves down Eighth Avenue.

Thousands Mourn Slain Organizer; Union Promises to Avenge Martyr

By IRVING LIEBERMAN and ROBERT WILLIAMS

NEW YORK, May 12, 1949—A pall of grief settled over the world's largest clothing center today as 100,000 persons paid an unprecedented martyr's tribute to William Lurye, slain union organizer.

Sixty-five thousand garment workers left their tasks and joined 35,000 others in the vicinity of black-draped Manhattan Center, where Cantor Moishe Oysher intoned the hymn of the Hebrew funeral ritual.

Four thousand mourners filled every available seat in Manhattan's largest auditorium. A sea of upturned faces hid West 35th St. behind the center, where loudspeakers broadcast the sounds of the service.

Unseen in the multitudes were 50 crack Manhattan detectives assigned to track down the three thugs who trapped Lurye in a phone booth at 224 West 35th St. Monday afternoon and took his life at knife point.

The slender, pallid little dress presser went to his rest a symbol of freedom and security for his fellow workers.

David Dubinsky, president of the ILGWU, which has offered a \$25,000 reward for the arrest of the slayers, vested Lurye with the mantle of a martyr.

"He wasn't a leader," said Dubinsky, "but though he was not a leader, we recognize that his contribution to the cause of labor is greater than any union leader has ever made. He paid his life for our union."

Promising every effort to bring the perpetrators of the crime to justice, Dubinsky said: "Mr. Dress Manufacturer on West 35th St., our efforts will never cease! This union will not permit innocent people to be killed no matter what the Police Dept. and the District Attorney do or don't do." Dubinsky said the murderers were in "hiding" and added: "Someone is keeping them out of the city."

Then he turned to Lurye's sob-wracked widow, Beatrice, seated in a front row, where her four sons—Richard, 6; Leonard, 14; Bernard, 16, and Edward, 12—tried to comfort her. He promised her that the union would assume full responsibility for the future of her children.

"We will do everything in our power," he said, "to assure you, if not complete, at least a measure of comfort."

'Sacrifice Won't Be in Vain'

Charles Zimmerman, a vice president of the ILGWU and direct supervisor of Lurye in his organizing endeavors, declared: "Willie Lurye died in the cause of our union. I shall not fail Willie. If it is the last thing I do we will get the perpetrators of this crime. We will get those who hired them and we shall bring them to justice. The sacrifice he made will not be in vain."

Matthew Woll, AFL vice president, and Julius Hochman, general manager of the ILGWU's Dress Joint Board, also delivered eulogies.

Lurye Put Ideals Above Dollars

By JOHN McKEON

If you're one of the good ones, like Willie Lurye, you always keep remembering that you never would have had that \$180 job if it hadn't been for other good ones before you (remember the Chartists, the Knights of Labor, the Molly Maguires, Homestead, Gastonia, Tom Mooney) and then you just go forward, doing what you have to do, what you believe in.

Then maybe, like Willie Lurye, you look up out of a stuffy telephone booth in the crowded lobby of a loft building to see what's suddenly blocking the light. Looking up you know that now there will never be any turning back, not even if you wanted to, and your kids will be someone else's problem from here on in. So you make the best fight possible, bare hands against knives, but a phone booth is merely an upended coffin in size to a man fighting for his life; you can't maneuver, and the end is certain.

And in dying, Willie Lurye does a job bigger than the one he started out to do. He shows that exploiting human labor inevitably leads to violence. In a crisis the system puts material values above human lives: a man's life is held less valuable than a favorable balance sheet.

—CATHOLIC WORKER, June, 1949

Behind Lurye's coffin on the platform of the huge auditorium lay dozens of huge floral pieces, tributes from various ILGWU locals and of several other unions. On the floor at the base of the coffin was a floral tribute of red roses from Local 60, of which the slain man had been an executive board member.

The blue curtain backdrop of the stage bore a large photograph of Lurye and the words: "We Mourn Our Loss."

The four-hour work stoppage ordered by the union in tribute to Lurye brought the machines of the multi-million dollar industry to a standstill at 10 A.M. Within half an hour Manhattan Center was filled and the doors closed. Overflow throngs, guided by signs, went to West 35th St., where police had blocked off the thoroughfare. In a few minutes, almost the entire block was filled.

100,000 Hear Eulogies

At 11:15 Chief Inspector August W. Flath estimated that 100,000 persons were present.

Police cleared a path for the widow as she entered the semi-darkened hall with her sons and approached the bier. She stood silently, head bowed, and then swayed close to collapse until she was assisted to her seat. Her sobs were the only clear sounds in the soft hum of whispers that filled the great room.

Twenty thousand garment workers marched 50 abreast from curb to curb as the cortege proceeded from Manhattan Center to Eighth Ave., north to 40th St. and east to Broadway. Five open automobiles laden with flowers preceded the hearse, alongside which marched members of the ILGWU's executive board, a delegation from the Hebrew Trades Council and a representative of the AFL Central Trades and Labor Council.

—NEW YORK POST

Free Unions Launch World Federation

Delegates of 53 Nations Attend Founding of New Non-Communist Body

In London's County Hall last week, 261 delegates from 53 countries, representing some 48,000,000 members, met to form a new international non-Communist labor organization. Provisional title: the Free World Labor Congress.

On hand to help launch the new organization was a platoon of top U.S. labor leaders, including aging William Green and dynamic David Dubinsky of the AFL, straight-talking Walter Reuther and diplomatic Allan Haywood of the CIO. Outstanding among the Continental union leaders was The Netherlands' pudgy J. H. Oldenbroek, general secretary of the powerful International Transport Workers' Federation, which has 4,000,000 members in some 45 countries.

The British resentment of their fraternal brothers from the U.S.—which was part of the attitude, familiar in postwar Britain, of the new poor toward the new rich, the new weak toward the new strong—expressed itself in petty ways. David Dubinsky wanted Mrs. Dubinsky to attend the London meetings. The TUC leaders, acting as hosts, said that there were only 40 tickets for visitors and that none could be spared for delegates' wives. "Okay," said Dubinsky, "but the American delegation is entitled to a couple of advisers. Make her an adviser." The British quickly gave Mrs. Dubinsky a visitors' ticket. "We won the strike, didn't we?" crowed Dubinsky. "The British can't push us around."

In a sense, Dubinsky had come close to the spirit of the new labor group: in the long run, nobody would push anybody around. The congress was a free association of unions led by workers from the world's greatest, richest industrial nations. Its members knew that with communism the workers of the world had nothing to gain but their chains.

—TIME, Dec. 12, 1949



America's labor leaders at the historic founding meeting of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions in London.

New Alignment Seen Strengthening Liberal Hand in Fight at Home

By NELSON FRANK

Provocative as always, David Dubinsky, AFL vice president and president of the ILGWU, returned yesterday from the founding convention of Free Trade Unions in London with comments different from those of other American delegates.

Everyone had been cheery about the future of the new body. Mr. Dubinsky, perhaps more realistic, said, "The immediate future of the confederation will not exactly be a rosy one."

He elaborated: "There are going to be fights in various countries between the Communist and anti-Communist unions and even within each of these unions over the new group."

"Naturally, the Communists will try to weaken the ICFTU and will bore from within wherever they can. All these things make for trouble and will add to the difficulties of member unions."

Then he added: "But, of course, we are hopeful that the alignment of all free trade unions will help these unions and their fights in their own countries and will strengthen their hand."

With Matthew Woll, AFL vice president, Mr. Dubinsky returned on the Queen Elizabeth after more than a month's absence. Both have spearheaded the move to have the AFL and CIO join together in the new body and since this has been accomplished, both considered their work a success.

The establishment of the new free world labor body marks the end of any attempt by legitimate American unions to work with Communists. "Today no democratic trade unionist in America believes in or is working with Communists," Dubinsky declared.

All this has borne out the ILGWU contention that "you can fight with Communists but can't work with them," he added.

—WORLD-TELEGRAM, Dec. 27, 1949

AFL Insists World Labor Body Take Hand in Political Issues

By DAVID DUBINSKY

A new and most significant factor in the international labor movement is the vastly expanded participation by the AFL in world labor affairs. This is not a temporary manifestation of passing interest, but something which has been gaining momentum in the last three years and providing new hope and encouragement to democratic trade unionists everywhere. The refusal of the AFL in 1945 to join the World Federation of Trade Unions was accompanied by activities in the sphere of international labor on an unprecedented scale.

The constructive approach of the AFL toward international labor cooperation has not been limited to counter-propaganda against communism and other aspects of totalitarianism. The San Francisco Convention of 1947 adopted a resolution, presented by the ILGWU, which first put forward the idea of an international conference of free trade unions to mobilize labor for the Marshall Plan. It is the AFL which has been most consistent in emphasizing that the free trade unions must not be on the defensive, but must exercise vigorous initiative and coordinate their activities for democracy, reconstruction and peace on an international scale.

The avowedly non-Socialist AFL has also insisted that aid to European countries must not interfere with the fundamental democratic right of the people of each country to decide freely the forms of economic organization and ownership of their basic industries and public utilities. This is the only way to meet and defeat internationally-directed assaults on human liberty.

* * *

American labor has been learning many things, and has been reorienting itself, quietly, steadily and profoundly. After World War I, foreign relations really seemed "foreign" to the American trade union movement. Today, the situation is completely reversed. American labor's complete break with isolationism first revealed itself after the destruction of the free trade-union movement in Germany and Austria, and the common struggle against nazism and fascism ushered in a new era for American labor. The change of mood of course

reflected the changing attitude of the United States Government and of the American people as a whole.

In 1934, the resolution of the AFL considered the resolution of the ILGWU delegation "to instruct the Executive Council to take steps for affiliation with the International Federation of Trade Unions"; after some hesitation, the AFL reaffiliated with the IFTU. It was associated with the IFTU for only four years during the period 1919-1939, however, for the AFL feared that the preoccupation of the IFTU with political problems would open the door to the preoccupation. United labor did not yet realize how fundamentally antagonistic democratic socialism is to totalitarian communism; the CIO and the British TUC believed until quite recently that they could cooperate with Communist-dominated unions.

Today, the AFL, the CIO and American labor organizations outside both national federations share with Socialist-minded European unions and all other free trade unions a common hostility to Communist despotism, and to its tools and agencies. The AFL, which foreign labor once considered a conservative organization, is firmest of all in its insistence that the international trade union movement shall continuously and energetically concern itself with such general "political" issues as human rights, political discrimination, genocide, the crisis in China, the national freedom and territorial integrity of weaker peoples, and the rising menace of forced labor.

How far the wheel has turned is illustrated by the fact that today it is precisely the AFL which is most insistent that organized labor occupy itself with such problems. It does so because it has learned that only thus can the door be shut to communism. More and more the forces of free labor throughout the world are facing the complex problems of our difficult era in an undogmatic way; more and more they are freeing themselves from rubber-stamp phrases and absolutist philosophies, to seek practical, realistic solutions for present-day problems.

—FOREIGN AFFAIRS, Jan. 1949; Apr., 1950

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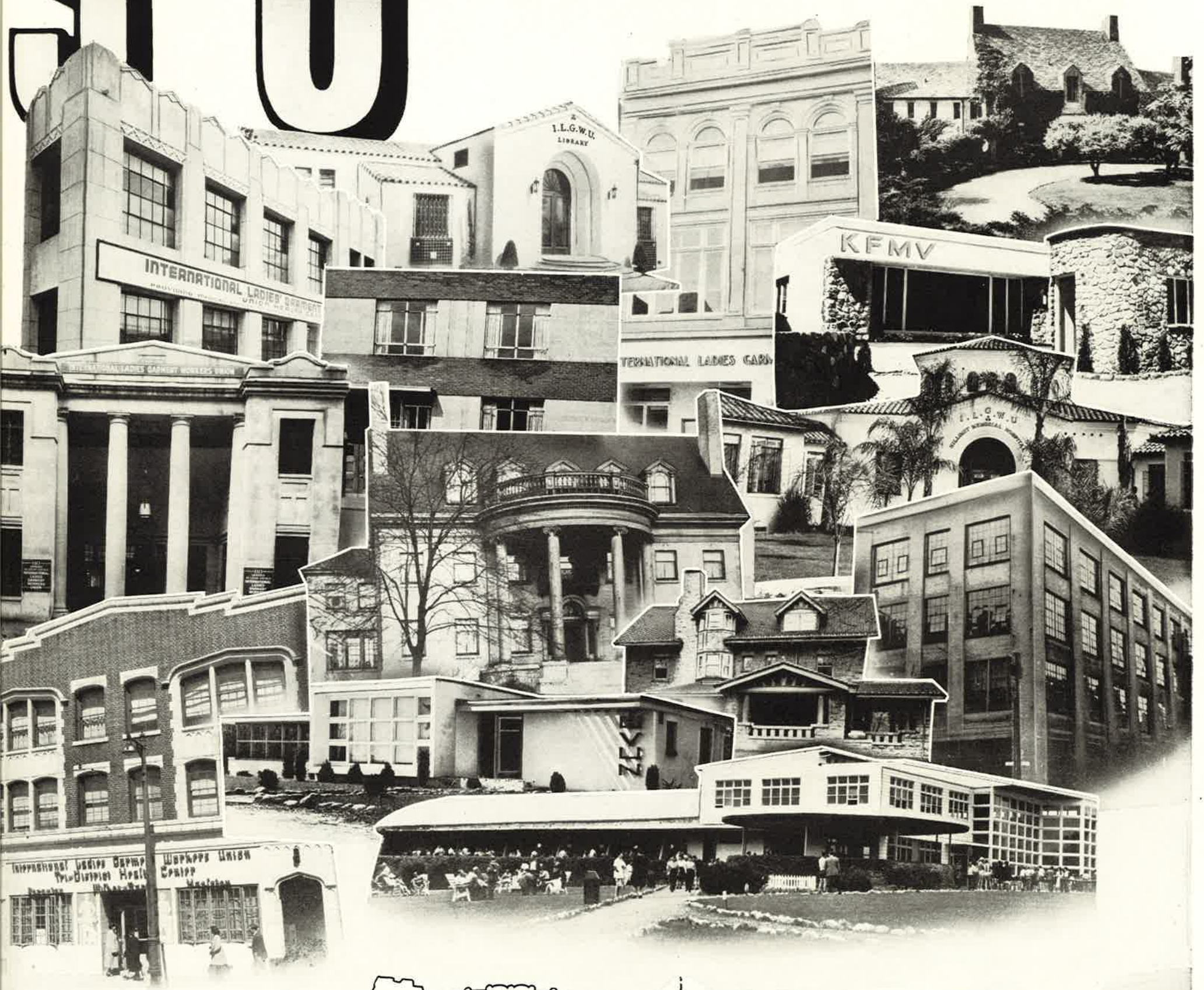


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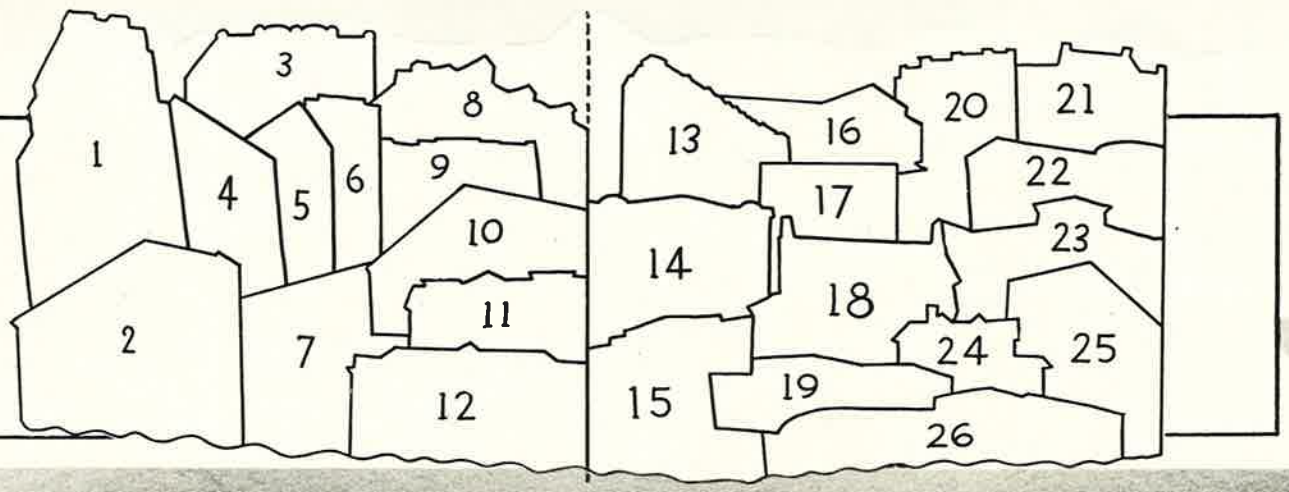


THE ILGWU AT HOME
 1. Union Health Center, N.Y.C. 2. ILGWU General Office, N.Y.C. 3. Chicago Joint Board, 4. Boston Joint Board, Northeast Dept. Office, Boston Health Center, 5. Cloak Joint Board, N.Y.C. 6. Local 4, N.Y.C. 7. Los Angeles Joint Board, 8. Philadelphia Joint Board Health Center, 9. South Jersey Joint Board, 10. Newark ILGWU offices and health center, 11. St. Louis Health Center, 12. Local 91, N.Y.C.

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13. Los Angeles Health Center, 14. St. Louis Regional Office, 15. Wilkes-Barre Health Center and offices, 16. Library, City of Hope, Duarte, Calif., 17. Local 190, Philadelphia, 18. Cleveland Health Center and offices, 19. WVUN, Chattanooga, 20. Allentown Health Center, 21. Local 91's Hudson View Lodge, Croton-on-Hudson, 22. KFMV, Mt. Wilson, Calif., 23. Hillquit Memorial Hospital, City of Hope, Duarte, Calif., 24. Kansas City Health Center, 25. Philadelphia Joint Board, 26. Administration Building, Unity House, Forest Park, Pa.
At left, first office of the ILGWU.



Maturity Can't Be Legislated, Senators Told

Restrict the right to strike, render organized labor impotent by curtailing the means it may employ to make its strikes effective, outlaw its necessary objectives and you must find a substitute either through paternalism of industry or paternalism of government.

We know only too well what paternalism of industry has meant and what, in the long run, it may come to imply. For example, not until 1937 did Congress enact a minimum wage law, and then it provided for a minimum of only 25 cents an hour, later increased to 40 cents an hour. Although these minimums were totally inadequate when the law was passed and have become increasingly unrealistic in the light of the rising cost of living, efforts to increase the minimum to even 65 cents an hour have proved futile thus far.

Tampering with the essential rights of free workingmen, organized in free American trade unions, or attempts to weaken or destroy their influence, is a serious—yes, a grave matter for

a society that wishes to preserve its democratic substance as well as form, a society that is eager to preserve a system of free enterprise.

If some of you are annoyed or impatient with some manifestations of the labor movement, if some elements in our midst are disturbed by the growth of labor's influence, prestige and power, let me remind you that in totalitarian countries they have no free unions, they have no strikes. But they are also free from democracy, free from the concepts of free citizenship and, most certainly, free from free enterprise.

The true answer to our problem, the labor problem, is twofold.

First, Congressional action to make the lives of the American people economically secure.

Second, real collective bargaining such as the ILGWU has achieved in the ladies' garment industries. It wasn't easy; it didn't happen overnight. It required maturity.

Gentlemen, you can't legislate maturity!

Organized Labor Asks for Veto



Pres. Dubinsky was one of many labor leaders who voiced workers' stand in asking veto of Taft-Hartley bill.

Excerpts from Pres. Dubinsky's statement before Senate Labor Committee, Feb. 26, 1947 (at left) and before League for Industrial Democracy, Apr. 23, 1949 (right).

'Put Quarantine Around Communism'--Dubinsky

To maintain our health and freedom, we must put communism in quarantine. And that means more than just placing geographic limits on the expansion of Russia's empire. We must deny the Communists in our midst the cloak of respectability and the stamp of approval. We must take positive steps to defend and to strengthen democracy. We must give democracy economic strength. That is the meaning of the ECA. We must give democracy spiritual strength. That is the meaning of our aid, financial and moral,

to the free trade unions of Europe; and that is why we must permit the free growth of democratic socialism where the people of Europe so desire.

We must give democracy material and military strength to defend itself against a Soviet offensive or to discourage such an offensive from ever being undertaken. And that is the meaning of the Atlantic Pact. Finally, we must strengthen world democracy by setting a worthy example. We must get rid of our own black sheep.

The General Executive Board of the ILGWU—1947-1950



Clockwise from left: Benjamin Kaplan, Israel Feinberg, Julius Hochman, George Rubin, Jennie Matyas, Charles S. Zimmerman, Hannah Haskel, secretary to Pres. Dubinsky, Executive Secretary Frederick F. Umhey, Pres. Dubinsky, First Vice Pres. Luigi Antonini, Max D. Danish, editor of "Justice," Joseph Breslaw, Salvatore Ninfo, Isidore Nagler, Max Cohen, Harry Wander, John S. Martin. Center, front: Philip Kramer, Samuel Otto, Charles Kreindler, Louis Stulberg. Back row: Edward Molisani, David Gingold, Meyer Perlstein, Harry Greenberg, Louis Levy.

ILGWU FUNDS SPARK NON-COMMIE UNIONS

By SAMUEL LUBELL

Dubinsky's admirers often cite the Ehrlich-Alter protest as evidence not alone of his courage but of the fact that he never was fooled on the nature of the Soviet dictatorship. The new international federation of democratic trade unions, now being formed, is further testimonial to this foresight.

Dubinsky estimates the ILGWU has spent about \$3,000,000 abroad since V-J Day. The anti-Communist Force Ouvriere and Leon Blum Socialists in France have received \$150,000. More than \$1,250,000 in cash and relief have gone to Israel and a like amount to Italy. Without the ILGWU there would be no democratic labor federation today fighting the Communists for the allegiance of Italy's workers. Not only is Dubinsky financing the new movement, as promised in May, but last year, in an audience with the Pope, he helped lay the basis for Catholic and Socialist unions joining in one federation. When Dubinsky went to the Vatican, he was sufficiently awed to keep a cigar out of his mouth. But his bubbling spirit cannot be contained for long. "Father," he greeted His Holiness, "that was a grand job you did in the Italian elections."

—SATURDAY EVENING POST, Nov. 19, 1949.

ILGWU Training Institute Breaks Old Tradition

NEW YORK, May 3, 1950—In opening the Training Institute just established by the ILGWU, Pres. David Dubinsky emphasized the need of the union for well trained officers. The 37 students, accepted from among the 1,000 applicants, will be offered employment by the ILGWU on completion of their year of training.

While the science of management and new production methods have been developing rapidly, Mr. Dubinsky points out that the old radical, Socialist and idealistic movements which formerly were the source of union leaders have been drying up. It is to attract new blood that the institute has been started. With characteristic foresight Mr. Dubinsky recognizes that who will guide the trade union movement of the future is of prime importance to employers and to the community no less than to union members.

Only 10 of the first institute class are members of the ILGWU; five are women. They will study and work for one year without compensation, although there is no charge for tuition. But in other respects the plan is based upon the concept of the new trade union officer being as willing to sacrifice for training as are those who intend to be doctors or lawyers.

The institute is a modern version of the workers' education movement fostered by unions 30 years or more ago. It is the first time in the trade union movement that such training and opportunity for future union employment have been offered to persons not already members of the union. Herein lies the break with tradition, for in the past it was almost necessary to have been "born into the trade union movement" to be accepted for posts of responsibility. The contribution that the institute makes to better trained leadership will be watched with interest in the communities where its graduates go.

—HERALD TRIBUNE



Arthur Elder, director of the ILGWU Training Institute, meets with a committee of students to discuss their studies and assignments for field work.

SCHOOL CURRICULUM PREPARES STUDENTS FOR ALL SITUATIONS

By MURRAY KEMPTON

David Dubinsky's Institute of Advanced Study is in its second week of operations in the notably non-ivied cloisters of the ILGWU's upper Broadway national headquarters.

One of its students, according to the speech with which Dubinsky welcomed them, "may be the future president of the union." In any case, along with 37 others at the first ILGWU training institute, he will start the upward climb as a full-time ILGWU organizer about a year from now.

Before he puts his foot on that rung, he will pass through a preliminary training period that Frank Leahy might think was asking a trifle too much of the boys.

* * *

Dubinsky says the training institute is closer to his heart than almost any other of the ILGWU's multifarious projects, but the union hasn't spent much for the academic group. The decor is severe; the pictures on the wall were painted by ILGWU members; there is a blackboard and no symbolism except a dress form off in one corner.

For three months the students will sit at a long horseshoe table in what used to be a studio for the ILGWU's radio station WFDR from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M. five days a week. After that they'll spend another three months as internes in union offices and for the ensuing six months they'll alternate between education and field work.

Most of them are New Yorkers, but there's a smattering from out of town. Those visitors are currently living in YM and YWCAs, and, to assure the utmost expenditure of their time for worthy enterprises, Arthur Elder, headmaster of the academy, says he expects them to spend their evenings in community or union work.

* * *

Very obviously, no one is going to confuse campus life at old ILGWU with the going on at the University of Virginia.

And, because the ILGWU is one union that has never been scornful of the intellectual, you'll find outside reading that's just side of esoteric. Elder has stocked copies

of Burns' weighty "Decline of Competition" and mimeographed excerpts from Dewey on human nature and Berle and Means on the corporation.

All this is part of what the ILGWU thinks is necessary equipment for the modern organizer.

—NEW YORK POST, May 10, 1950

ILG Movie History to Be Unveiled at Convention



Sam Levine and Joe Wiseman shown being "shot" in re-enactment of picketing of lower Manhattan sweatshop three decades ago.

In 1950, the General Executive Board undertook, upon the initiative of Pres. David Dubinsky and in anticipation of the "Golden Jubilee" convention, an ambitious plan of producing a history-film of the ILGWU on a much grander scale than ever before attempted. Enlisting the aid of Morton Wishengrad, a prominent radio script writer who once served as educational director of several of our big locals in New York City and who is, therefore, familiar with the ILGWU's past and present, the GEB proceeded to carry out this project.

The film, entitled "With These Hands," centers on three main characters who symbolize the saga of the union from the early days

of the century to the immediate present. It will be first publicly presented to the delegates at the convention in Atlantic City, after which it will be distributed to the general membership the country over and perhaps also to general motion-picture audiences.

Three well known screen actors—Sam Levine, Joseph Wiseman and Arlene Francis—interpret the three symbolic types in this screen story based on ILGWU history. Those who had an opportunity to see "With These Hands" at previews were lavish in praise of both the story as told by Morton Wishengrad and as acted by the stellar cast.

—ILGWU CONVENTION REPORT, 1950

Both Partners Held Liable Though Only One Ratified Pact

Parisknit Sportswear Co., a New York partnership which had ratified the collective agreement between the employers' association and Local 155, Knitgoods Workers, decided to dissolve its partnership. Thereafter, the co-partner, who had not personally signed the ratification of the collective pact, opened a non-union shop.

The union brought the partner before the impartial chairman and received an award in its favor. A judgment in the New York Supreme Court was also obtained by the union after a jury trial, thus confirming the award. The judgment, overruling the employer's argument, affirming the union's position that the action of one partner in signing the pact was sufficient to bind the other partner to arbitrate.

—ILGWU CONVENTION REPORT, 1950

Pre-Paid Medical Care for Workers Tops In St. Louis

ST. LOUIS, Aug. 19, 1949—Pre-paid medical care of industrial employees is better established in St. Louis than in Chicago, Pittsburgh, Cleveland or Minneapolis and St. Paul. This is one of the showings made by a midwest survey of employee benefit plans, conducted by the Research Council for Economic Security, with offices at 111 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago.

The St. Louis survey showed the highest percentage of coverage under prepaid medical plans. This can be explained by the activity in that city of the ILGWU, Labor Health Institute and other labor unions. Outside of this promotion by groups of workers, the dominant role is held by insurance companies and business firms themselves.

—ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Record Liberal Vote Thrusts Party Into Pivotal Position in N. Y. State

NEW YORK, Nov. 9, 1949—The Liberal Party, which has steadily grown in political influence since its formation five years ago, emerged today as the balance of power in New York State politics and a factor for the Democrats to reckon with in next year's gubernatorial election.

At the same time the American Labor Party, suffering from its almost complete capture by the Communists, appeared to be on the downgrade despite intensive campaigning by Rep. Vito Marcantonio.

The Liberal Party delivered to Newbold Morris even more votes than David Dubinsky and Alex Rose, its principal strategists, promised. It was the Republicans who failed the Fusion cause.

And without Liberal Party support former Gov. Lehman probably would not be the Senator-elect from this state.

In the city, the Liberal Party piled up an impressive 396,735. In the state its vote totaled 416,023 for an all-time high.

—NEW YORK POST



Midway in the ILGWU Century

It's 50 years now!

A mere strand of sand stacked up against the ageless run of time. A long, interminably long stretch for those who have lived all or a major part of this half-century in the ring-side, unable to escape the harder brushes with reality.

The ILGWU has long since come of age. Beset by infantile disorders in its early days, even its warmest well-wishers wouldn't predict for it a lusty, vigorous, least of all spectacular life. But instead of withering on the vine, the ILGWU proceeded to confound them all, prospering with each blow and rebounding with each attempt on its life.

* * *

And now for a hasty recapitulation of our journey since we stepped into the Year One of the current century.

We began literally with a zero record, dropped to below zero during the first decade and then zoomed upward to become a factor in the world of garment making. Still, for nearly 25 years afterward we were compelled to pay a heavy toll for recognition in good faith, and for every minor improvement in the working and living conditions of our members.

There followed some 10 years of debilitating internal strife, which all but destroyed the union. On top of this came the Hoover Depression, a scourge which laid low American industry and convulsed ours. Never did the ILGWU, and for that matter all American unions, drop to lower depths than in the 1930-1933 period.

The past 15 years, however, proved our union's mettle and recuperative powers. From some 40,000 members in 1932, its rolls rose to 423,000 by the end of 1949, making it the sixth largest in the AFL, with work-hours among the lowest in organized labor, its earnings right up in the front rank of American industry—truly a pioneer union in every field of social and community endeavor.

* * *

Since the end of the war, in 1945, the ILGWU has continued its forward march, swerving from the

strict wage-and-hour pattern to what is generally described as the "welfare" program. We had no important strikes of a general character during these past five years—for that matter, the general strike has not been employed by our union since the middle 30's. We have gone places, however, in the realm of vacations-with-pay, in medical help for our members, in retirement pensions, in educational activity—at a truly marathon pace.

Not the least among the high attainments of the ILGWU in the past half-dozen years has been our contribution to the ever-widening campaign of free world labor to build ramparts against the onrushing Red tide from the East, which is seeking to entrap, enslave and finally destroy the trade unions of Europe even as the Nazis did before them.

And the part which the ILGWU is taking in the rapidly growing movement for independent labor political activity, a prime interest for our union and our members for a great many years past, is something which we feel proud about and which, we believe, will leave a lasting mark on the political history of our country. Add to this the unceasing activity—on a large scale as ever—by our International Union and by its affiliates in behalf of relief, support for worthy labor causes, of communal and institutional causes, and you get a pretty good picture of the ILGWU stature today.

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We are 50 years old—already.

As we get off on the second half of this century—which incidentally will be the second half of the ILGWU Century—may we wish you, delegates to the "Golden Jubilee" Convention, many bright, shiny days beneath the ever-expanding roof of this hospitable trade union home of ours. Putting history aside for the nonce, let us hope that future association with the ILGWU will rest as lightly on your shoulders as the scintillating years of the past served to brighten the path of our great and growing family—in good times or bad.

