

ILGWU NEWS-HISTORY

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION ISSUE

CHAPTER 11

1941 - 1945

THE WAR YEARS

Mobilize for Victory: ILGWU Locals Organize Civil Defense, Aid Corps

NEW YORK, Dec. 15, 1941—The far-flung garment workers' union from coast to coast moved into the front lines of America's civil defense the day the United States declared war. Pres. David Dubinsky has taken the lead by addressing an urgent call to all union officers, shop chairmen and active members throughout the country, instructing them to take immediate steps to enlist in Civilian Defense units and

Red Cross groups in their localities.

ILGWU organizations on the Pacific Coast and along the Atlantic seaboard, which he terms "vulnerable" or "defense" areas, have been instructed by Pres. Dubinsky to enlist at once in air-raid warden corps and in Red Cross auxiliary work. "There is no time to be lost, nor is there any excuse in leaving to others the work which the national interest calls upon every one of us to do at this hour of stress and danger to our country," the message states.

In New York City, Pres. Dubinsky pointed out, the garment district, running from 23rd to 42nd Streets and bounded by Madison Ave. on the East Side and Eighth Ave. on the West Side, should receive special attention. The building union chairmen, who are familiar with every aspect of that congested locality, could be of special value in civilian defense, and in air-raid detection.

"Meetings of these groups will soon be called under union auspices," Pres. Dubinsky declared, "to organize their services and to place them at once at the disposal of the proper authorities. We expect to mobilize several thousand volunteers for this activity in New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Boston and other Atlantic seaboard cities. We have also wired our unions on the Pacific Coast to place themselves at the disposal of the authorities for whatever form of civilian defense the local situations may require"

—JUSTICE

"The Job!"



Willkie Will Defend Cloak Recovery Board

NEW YORK, Oct. 30, 1941—Wendell L. Willkie announced today that he would defend the National Coat and Suit Industry Recovery Board when that organization is called upon to answer a Federal Trade Commission complaint charging restraint of trade.

—WOMEN'S WEAR DAILY

2,600 Kentucky Undie Strikers Hear Dubinsky

By EVELYN SMITH

When 2,600 mill hands in Knoxville, Tenn., went out on strike last May at the huge Standard Knitting Mills, largest manufacturer of knitted underwear in the country, they were taking part in a struggle in which something more important was at stake than the prestige of the

ILGWU. Victory for these Tennessee mountaineers will be the first noteworthy break in the dam guarding the "scab reservoir" in which cheap and docile labor has been so carefully hoarded by Southern manufacturers.

The first problem before the ILGWU was to restore confidence to workers discouraged by previous organization failures. Three organizers were sent in by District Manager John S. Martin, and attractive headquarters were opened on Knoxville's main street. The organizers called at workers' homes every evening, planned suppers and dances, and held constant meetings.

And, equally important, the union established its place in the community as an intelligent and constructive influence through cooperation with such civic projects as the municipal Recreation Department and the Adult Educational Council.

Win at Appalachian

With the groundwork laid, the organizers increased their efforts. In six months they had enrolled as members a majority of the workers in the Appalachian Mills and won a four-day strike. The Appalachian victory was the spark which touched off the fuse at Standard Knitting Mills; a few days after it was won, dyers, knitters, and cutters at Standard walked out, followed by a majority of the girls in the finishing room.

The company, working closely with the open-shop commercial elements which dominate Knoxville's civic life, has tried all the standard tricks of strikebreaking.

Unemployment compensation for the striking workers was delayed for more than two weeks, until the ILGWU forced payment. Financial pressure was exerted by calling in small loans of strikers and tightening up installment payments. Sixty-two policemen, a considerable proportion of Knoxville's force, were assigned to patrol the mills and made more than 70 arrests in the first few weeks. When a 54-year-old picket, Hooper Sprouse, tried to

\$300,000 for War Victims in Europe Donated by ILGers

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 16, 1941—The General Executive Board of the ILGWU, in session at the Hotel Adelphia here, today voted to donate \$52,000 toward relief of British war victims in bombed areas in Great Britain. David Dubinsky, president, said the union recently had sent a contribution of \$10,000 to the USO.

The donation for the British civilian war victims is the largest single contribution made by any American labor union for this cause, it was reported.

Mr. Dubinsky further announced that union members had contributed more than \$300,000 in a voluntary drive for war sufferers in all European countries. Allocation of this fund, without prejudice to race, faith or nationality, will be made by the board at the end of the current meeting.

—WOMEN'S WEAR DAILY

PIN-PACKING PICKET PRICKS POLICEMAN IN PITCHED BATTLE

DETROIT, Jan. 18, 1941—Comparative quiet hung over "no man's land" today in the vicinity of the American Lady Corset Co., where police and approximately 300 girl pickets battled it out shortly before 5 P.M. Friday in a riotous free-for-all that sent passersby scurrying for cover.

Shouting, pushing and kicking policemen on the shins, the pickets charged as a detail of 20 patrolmen from Trumbull Station, augmented by detectives from the special investigation squad, attempted to escort workers from the plant to waiting automobiles.

No handy weapon was spared by the pickets as the disturbance flared into a pitched battle, the girls using, among other feminine accoutrements, handbags and hatpins. A pert picket with a hatpin sabotaged Detective-Lieut. Roy Pendergrass from the rear. Another thumped a handbag into Detective Hess Wilson's face, injuring him slightly.

The melee raged for 15 minutes, during which six women pickets and two men were seized and trundled into a patrol wagon. Failing to capture the plant workers, the pickets tore the canvas from one side of the patrol wagon in a futile effort to rescue the eight arrested.

—DETROIT NEWS

talk to a police captain, he was set upon and badly beaten, suffering two broken ribs and a lacerated scalp.

In reply, the ILGWU brought about an investigation into police intimidation by Assistant U. S. District Attorney William Badgett. But its most effective action was to call the largest labor mass meeting in Knoxville's history, at which more than 3,000 persons gathered in the Winona Stadium and were addressed by ILGWU Pres. David Dubinsky.

Attempts by the company to start a "back-to-work" movement by hiring green hands have failed to demoralize the strikers, and other gains by the ILGWU have renewed their confidence in eventual victory. The union won another strike of 750 workers in the Signal Mills at Chattanooga and has consolidated its position at the Appalachian Mills by establishing a closed shop.

—THE NATION, Oct. 25, 1941

Gift for Medical Aid to Russians Given Red Cross

NEW YORK, Nov. 29, 1941—Among labor unions, none is more progressive than the ILGWU, and certainly none is more charitable. During the first six months of the year, the garment workers, by donating half days of labor and working overtime, generously contributed more than \$300,000 to relieve the suffering peoples of Europe. Now they are engaged in an effort to raise \$100,000 to provide medical aid for the victims of war in Russia.

From its wide experience in works of charity, the ILGWU knows that scheming individuals—Communists, for example—sometimes lurk behind the imposing facade of relief organizations and pervert them to their own most uncharitable purposes.

For this reason, in making its initial donation of \$25,000 for medical assistance to the Russians, the ILGWU ignored Russian War Relief, Inc. and handed the money to the Red Cross. Among the union's officials persists the belief that some of the top administrative officers of Russian War Relief

1,300 Returning to Work in L.A.; Pact Signed by 22 Firms

LOS ANGELES, July 29, 1941—At a mass meeting last night 1,300 striking members of the ILGWU (AFL) unanimously voted to return to work today, ending the strike begun last Thursday when 1,500 employees walked out of 25 union shops of the Dress Association members.

The back-to-work move does not apply to three concerns employing 200 persons, union officials said. These employees will remain on strike. Union spokesmen said the three shops "have not shown sufficient disposition to settle."

—LOS ANGELES TIMES

look like old followers of the Communist Party line. Hence, listening to the voice of prudence, they directed their generous alms to the Red Cross, which offered, in the words of Mr. Dubinsky, "the best assurance that the full amount will reach the designated purpose. . . ."

Would that more people would temper their charity with similar prudence.

—AMERICA

Service Through Sewing



ILGWU's thousands of skilled craftsmen are giving extra hours to volunteer work for the American Red Cross.

Strike at Chattanooga Mill Marked by Violent Clashes

By J. B. COLLINS

CHATTANOOGA, June 26, 1941—The clash this morning at the Signal Mountain Knitting Mills between approximately 350 pickets and as many non-unionists was as dramatic as any mob scenes boasted by Hollywood.

Tension was at a fever pitch as the time slowly approached the zero hour. A blast of the mill's whistle echoed through the crowded grounds. Fists clinched and a score of city and county police moved forward in a silent warning.

The front ranks of the picket line stood firm, bristling as the crowd of would-be workers slowly approached. All that broke the silence was the frenzied chant of women pickets holding down the back lines, but "inspiring" those in the most strategic positions with parodies on "Hold That Line," "We Shall Not Be Moved," and "The Old Gray Mare."

Suddenly the two lines came together and pandemonium broke loose. Police were ignored as women as well as men struck promiscuously with any weapon they could find.

Women screamed as more belligerent females assailed them without mercy. Men cursed as they struck out with their fists and even with large formidable sticks.

Every officer clutched two or three prisoners who, despite efforts of the police to hold them, fought furiously at anyone of the "opposite party" they could reach.

Several men and women fell before the attack.

Hit by Crosstie

One woman, holding her husband in an effort to protect him, stood screaming as her spouse became the victim of a hard blow on the head with a piece of crosstie and fell unconscious on the railroad track on which most of the fighting took place.

After about 20 chaotic minutes, police finally subdued the riot, making a score of arrests. An undercurrent of threatening movement and talk continued, however, with intermittent fights breaking out over the wide area of the scene.

Police kept shifting to various points of the scene as rows developed between charging would-be workers and determined pickets.

One woman who was "too religious" to fight was preaching to those attempting to pass the picket line. "If you loved your Lord, you would not attempt to cross this line," she shouted. "Read the Bible and tell me if it says it is a sin to strike."

Nursing Wounds

Many victims of well-aimed blows could be seen sitting quietly on the sidelines nursing their wounds which ranged from black eyes to deep cuts. Several officers were covered with blood which they acquired while separating fighters.

At 10 o'clock this morning the battle stood at a tight deadlock. Both sides glared viciously at each other, but neither was making a move to strike. Police, increasing in number with each hour, stood ready for any development.

—CHATTANOOGA NEWS-FREE PRESS

Knitting and Purling for the Red Cross



ILGWU knitters in Kansas City have turned out hundreds of sweaters and mittens for the boys overseas.

Make Every Pay Day
BOND DAY

Buy U. S. War Bonds

Novel Dress Pact Aims to Increase Sales, Efficiency

NEW YORK, Feb. 19, 1941—A collective bargaining agreement characterized as novel in the history of American industry was signed at City Hall yesterday by the Dress Joint Board of the ILGWU and four employer associations in the presence of Mayor LaGuardia.

The unique three-year contract for the city's largest industry, with an annual trade volume of \$350,000,000, provides:

That workers, through their union, have a right to secure efficient shop management from their employers;

That during the term of the agreement, industry and labor will cooperate in raising from \$3,000,000 to \$4,500,000 to promote the industry and establish New York City as the fashion center of the world;

That an "efficiency department" will be set up in the office of the industry's impartial chairman to assist employers in improving the efficiency of their shops.

Present at the signing at City Hall, in addition to the Mayor and Julius Hochman, manager of the Dress Joint Board and author of the agreement's unique provisions, were Mrs. Anna M. Rosenberg, head of the New York office of the Social Security Board, who acted as "official observer" for the Mayor during the negotiations, and representatives of the four employer associations.

Mayor LaGuardia congratulated all parties concerned and expressed the hope that the novel contract "will bring a new era in the dress industry in this city."

—NEW YORK TIMES

Cloak Production In N. Y. Switches To Piece System

NEW YORK, May 9, 1941—The New York Cloak Joint Board has informed manufacturers' associations with which it is in contractual relations that it is eliminating all week work in the industry, starting with the approaching fall season.

The union letter, signed by Israel Feinberg, general manager of the joint board, states:

"Please be advised that for the coming fall season, the union will insist upon piece-work settlements for all manufacturers producing infants', children's, juniors', misses', and women's coats and suits.

"The union will furthermore not permit any firm now working by the week to begin its fall line until prices are settled on a piece-work basis."

Past experience has shown that workers who have shifted from week to piece work have increased their wages. The amount of increase, however, has varied with the individual shop.

Union spokesmen also pointed out that elimination of week work would facilitate control and therefore maintenance of fair standards in the industry. Week work, it was said, cannot be controlled as well as piece work.

—WOMEN'S WEAR DAILY

Strike at American Lady Scores Closed Shop, 9% Increase

DETROIT, Feb. 11, 1941 — Approximately 240 employees of the American Lady Corset Co. returned to work today, ending a five-week strike under an agreement reached Monday between the company and Local 318, ILGWU.

The agreement calls for a closed shop, a 9 per cent wage increase and a 2 per cent bonus in lieu of vacation, based on 12 months' earnings. The average base rate of pay is 53½ cents an hour, according to the union.

The agreement was signed by Eugene Siegel, company president, and Abraham Plotkin, Midwest ILGWU representative. Announcement of the settlement was made by L. F. Rye, Federal conciliator, who participated in several of the conferences.

—DETROIT NEWS

Philly Negotiates Worker Vacations, Health Insurance

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 22, 1941—Another milestone of progress in collective labor relations between employer and needle worker was reached yesterday when the Philadelphia apparel market agreed to establish a fund to provide workers' health insurance.

David Dubinsky, president of the ILGWU, who personally took a hand in the negotiations, said the plan would cover some 10,000 workers in the children's dress, blouse and cotton dress industries. In addition, workers will receive vaca-

First Lady Visits Service Brigade



Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt shown with Pres. David Dubinsky and defense officers at recent Service Brigades held at the new General Office of the union, 1710 Broadway, N. Y. C.

England's Youngest Victims of Total War



British child evacuees with their nurses at Pembury, Kent, pass "Liberty Hall," a shelter provided by New York's Dressmakers' Union.

Majority at Signal Mills Sign Cards; Pact Ends Walkout

CHATTANOOGA, Aug. 29, 1941—A 14-week strike at the Signal Knitting Mills, involving 600 workers, was ended today following an announcement by C. H. Williams of the U. S. Conciliation Service that a majority of the workers are members of the ILGWU. The mill management had agreed to reopen the plant under a contract signed yesterday by the mill and the union, pending a check of union cards against the payroll.

Attorney John T. Mahoney, who represented the ILGWU in the dispute, said the contract negotiated between the union and the mill calls for a union shop, a 10 per cent wage increase to all workers and a check-off system. He classes the contract as "one of the most progressive that has ever been negotiated in Chattanooga."

—CHATTANOOGA NEWS-FREE PRESS

tions with pay, the joint plan going into effect next July.

—WOMEN'S WEAR DAILY

FTC Claps Conspiracy Charge On Coat Recovery Bd., ILGWU

NEW YORK, Oct. 3, 1941—The Federal Trade Commission unexpectedly started action against the ILGWU and the National Coat and Suit Industry Recovery Board Wednesday on charges of "entering into agreements and conspiracies to monopolize the business of selling and distributing women's and children's clothing."

DRESS ORDERS PILE UP; MRS. AMERICA'S BUYING POWER RISES

NEW YORK, May 6, 1941—It is trade tradition that when one season closes strong the next one opens stronger. The dress trade, at least in the medium inexpensive brackets, is now experiencing its best season in six years, and it begins to look as though the picture will continue bright in the fall. Right now the low and medium priced resources—\$4.75 up to \$10.75—are having a great run with orders running far ahead of shipments and with volume anywhere from 10 to 15 per cent ahead of a year ago.

In discussing the reason for this upturn with those in the trade the answer seems to be simple. The dress trade is beginning to cash in on the rise in earning power and the employment gains caused by defense work all over the nation. Yes, sir! Mrs. Jones is going from the basement department to the upstairs section for her new print dresses now. And her daughter Jane can now pay \$7.98 for a dress instead of \$5 because Jane has a job sewing nurses' uniforms and her work is steady.

Defense work has raised some havoc with the supply of labor in the dress industry. Market reports say that out-of-town sources have been operating on a 25 per cent shortage in skilled help, that New York has a 10 per cent shortage because of workers shifting to defense industries. No doubt this pace will continue in the fall and some retailers have expressed fear that the market may not be in a position to deliver next season or that prices may spiral upward.

—WOMEN'S WEAR DAILY

The action is remarkable, not only because it accuses a powerful labor union as well as an organization of manufacturers; it would also seek to upset one of the oldest and most successful employer-union relationships in the country.

The National Coat and Suit Industry Recovery Board includes 14 of the largest associations of coat and suit manufacturers in the country, taking in all sections. In its membership are 1,500 firms employing more than 50,000 workers and producing 90 per cent of the country's total output of women's and misses' coats and suits.

The ILGWU, of which David Dubinsky is president, is one of the largest affiliates of the American Federation of Labor. The union is charged with "having been engaged with the other respondents in using unfair acts, practices and methods which hinder, lessen and restrain competition in interstate commerce." And the heinous offense chalked up to "the other respondents" is that of the promulgating and enforcing certain so-called uniform standards of fair commercial practice!

Through a lengthy process of evolution, the organizations now accused by the FTC worked out an agreement which, although not perfect, marked an enormous advance forward.

But here comes the FTC and accuses the manufacturers and the union of "a tendency to monopolize the business of selling and distributing merchandise manufactured in most of the trade areas of the United States, to monopolize the opportunity to secure skilled labor and to establish, fix and maintain prices, discounts and various terms attending the sale of women's coats and suits."

Since when did an agreement between a union and an association of employers become a conspiracy? —PRINTERS' INK

Bevin Christens London Navy Club Built by ILG

LONDON, July 23, 1942—The Merchant Navy Club of London, which was founded on a gift of \$75,000 by the ILGWU, was opened in the West End today by Ernest Bevin, British Minister of Labor and National Service, and John G. Winant, American Ambassador to the Court of St. James.

A. V. Alexander, First Lord of the Admiralty, and Sir Arthur Salter, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of War Transport, attended the dedication. David Dubinsky, ILGWU president, broadcast from New York a message of greeting which was heard by a large gathering of officials and mercantile marine men.

Bevin said the institution, which will be open to officers and men of the British Merchant Marine, originated as a spontaneous gesture by American workers "to pay tribute to the courage and sacrifice of our seamen at war." The donation of \$75,000, which was made before the United States entered the war, was transmitted by Mr. Dubinsky to found the club "as a permanent monument to symbolize the labor movement's support and sympathy for Britain."

Ambassador Winant, praising the donors of the gift, said: "I wish some of those great-handsome work-ers could see these handsome premises in the heart of London and the delight and comfort they will provide for merchant navy men on leave.

'Unity of U.S., England'

"This club is a striking manifestation of the eagerness we all feel to care for seamen ashore, and no seaman coming here can have any doubt that his service in the war ranks among the highest in the hearts of the people."

Dubinsky in his broadcast expressed the spirit of the garment workers' gesture and raised a round of applause when he referred to the Merchant Navy Club as "another symbol of the unity of the United States and Great Britain." This was reiterated by Alexander, who praised the heroism of the merchant seamen.

The club, which is situated in Rupert St., a block from Piccadilly Circus, was formerly a fashionable Florence restaurant. It has spacious rooms on two floors. Brightly decorated, it has been arranged so as to provide all home comforts to its visitors. It will be run as a company, controlled by a council, the chairman of which will be Ambassador Winant. Members of the council will include Parliamentary and shipping officials.

—HERALD TRIBUNE

Govt. Procurement Policy Is Criticized As Slighting N. Y.

NEW YORK, Mar. 20, 1942—Warning that "unemployment of enormous proportions" faces the women's garment industry in this city as a result of the war, the ILGWU urged yesterday that Federal procurement policies be revised to guarantee "a fair and adequate share of defense production" for New York factories.

A 15-page report submitted to Mayor LaGuardia by David Dubinsky, president of the union, criticized Federal authorities for fostering the establishment of new garment shops in other sections of the country, with untrained workers and equipment purchased by the government, when New York factories could get nothing to do.

—NEW YORK TIMES

ILG MAY QUIT ALP; TIRED OF PROVIDING CLOAK FOR COMMIES

NEW YORK, Nov. 16, 1941—The ILGWU, the city's largest union, is considering withdrawing from the American Labor Party because it does not wish to provide a "cloak of respectability" for Communist elements in the party, it was learned last night. The party polled 434,297 votes for Mayor LaGuardia in the recent municipal election.

The ILGWU, under the leadership of David Dubinsky, has been fighting Communist encroachment in the Labor Party from the outset. Suggestions that it abandon its fight after the Nazi invasion of Russia had changed the left-wingers from foes of President Roosevelt's foreign policy to outspoken advocates were spurned by the garment organization.

In the opinion of the ILGWU leaders, there have been two principal obstacles to dislodging the Communists from the party. One is the refusal of politicians who wish to obtain the maximum vote under the Labor Party emblem to give effective support to the right wing, and the other is the success of the left-wingers in getting their "disciplined voters" to the polls on primary day.

"We know we have enough votes to swamp the Communists if we could get our people to come out in the primaries," one ILGWU official said, "but our people don't feel they have to bestir themselves until election day. The Communists are more control-conscious. They manage to get control of the party machinery by getting a full vote of their people in the primaries, and then right-wing candidates are obliged to run without the official party designation."

—NEW YORK TIMES

Dress Institute of N. Y. Launched with City Hall Ceremony

NEW YORK, July 7, 1941—"Ready, set, sew," called Mayor LaGuardia.

With lightning strokes labels were sewn on the collars of 20 dresses' models in the usually austere Councilmanic Chamber in City Hall. Mayor LaGuardia beamed; Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt beamed.

So today did the recently formed New York Dress Institute inaugurate the campaign to have New York recognized as the fashion center of the world. The labels were attached by 20 girl members of the ILGWU on dresses ranging from a \$1.95 frock to a \$295 evening gown, representing the scope of 800 dress manufacturers.

The Mayor, proclaiming that "New York is the fashion center of the world from now on," said that there are "more women in our country wearing pretty clothes than in any other pretty in the world. New York assumes the leadership in fashions because it is rightfully ours."

—NEW YORK POST

The Mayor in a New Role: Auctioneer



The "auction block" comes back to the garment trades as Mayor LaGuardia, in the presence of Pres. Dubinsky, Manager Zimmerman and Frederick H. Wood of China War Relief auctions paintings done by members of the dress union. Proceeds went to the relief agency.

GIGANTIC WAR BOND DRIVE APPROVED BY ILGWU'S EXECUTIVE

NEW YORK, Jan. 1, 1942 — The largest single loan to the Federal Government by any labor organization in American history — this was the gigantic war bonds purchase project launched by the ILGWU General Executive Board at its meeting Dec. 23.

The union's 300,000 members will join together in making a loan of \$25,000,000 to Uncle Sam during the next six months. Special arrangements have been made with the Treasury Department for the issuance of special savings books for ILGWU members.

According to the plan, each member of the union will lend to the government at least two weeks' earnings. Members who are unable to purchase bonds outright will buy their bonds on a weekly installment plan, spending 5 per cent of their wages every week for this purpose.

In its call to all local unions and joint boards, the GEB declared that "it is our sacred duty to do our share toward the support of the national war effort.

"The United States at this moment needs, most of all, money to implement its fighting forces. It needs funds for munitions, for the raising of a great army, for tanks, airplanes and fighting ships. Our government calls upon us to make our contribution and our union is ready to do its share."

—JUSTICE



"THE BIG PUSH"

LaGuardia Auctions Paintings at Local 22 Exhibit for China Aid

NEW YORK, Oct. 21, 1942—Mayor LaGuardia, whose talents are as numerous as they are sometimes surprising, turned auctioneer yesterday afternoon for the benefit of United China Relief. And he was a good one.

ILG Canteen Draws Scores of Service Men for Fun, Food

NEW YORK, Mar. 1, 1943—Capacity audiences of servicemen filled the Labor Stage Canteen on Feb. 13 and 20 indicating that men in the forces have been doing an excellent job of passing the word around about Saturday nights at the ILGWU Canteen.

On Feb. 13 tenesses from the Women's Service Brigade, dressed in white, starched organdie aprons, inaugurated table service for the men in an effort to break the bottleneck in the vestibule leading from the auditorium to the bar. Hamburgers, beer, milk and coffee now come to the men instead of vice versa — and the boys like it.

At the bar, a staff of male volunteers from the local union is manning the beer-barrel pumps.

To set the boys' toes tapping, their hands clapping and their hearts thumping there's a sparkling stage show.

—JUSTICE

Presiding at the opening of a sale of paintings by members of the Dressmakers' Union, Local 22, of the ILGWU at the Ferargil Galleries, 63 East 57th St., he enticed an opening bid of \$25 from Mrs. William Heath of Amityville, L. I., for a painting of a pier by Miss Helen Saltzman.

Before he was finished, and with the assistance of considerable partee with the group present, he pulled the bidding up to \$75, at which price the painting was "knocked down" to Miss Jean Dubinsky, daughter of David Dubinsky, ILGWU president.

All proceeds from the sale of the 100 pictures, which will be on exhibition for three weeks, will be donated by the union to the United China Relief Fund.

Frederick H. Wood, chairman of China Relief for Greater New York, introduced Mayor LaGuardia, Mr. Dubinsky and Charles Zimmerman, manager of Local 22.

All the paintings on exhibition are the work of amateur artists—cutters, pressers, pinkers, sample-makers, operators, finishers and cleaners.

—NEW YORK TIMES

Tammany Lodge to Be Local 91 Hdq.

NEW YORK, Sept. 6, 1943—The cold, business-like, pink brick building with the pseudo-Federalist facade fronting on Union Square in New York looked lonelier than ever last week. The home of the Society of Tammany was in its last days as headquarters for the celebrated New York Democratic political machine; it had been peddled for a sum around \$250,000. Soon it would house Local 91, the children's dressmakers' division of the ILGWU. By an odd quirk of fate, it was thus indirectly to lend aid and comfort to Tammany's implacable nemesis, the strongly ILGWU-supported Labor Party.

—NEWSWEEK

President Bestows Kiss On ILG Gold Star Mother

DETROIT, Mar. 24, 1944—This is the story of a great American. Her name is Mrs. Paul Szymanski. She is a member of the ILGWU and she is employed by the American Lady Corset Co. at Detroit, making parachutes.

Mrs. Szymanski had two sons. Two have died for their country, one in India, another in Africa. Four others are serving in the armed forces. Her youngest boy, Harold, has a few months to go before he joins the Army Air Corps.

We are indebted to "Justice," official organ of the ILGWU, for the story of this frail, grey-haired war mother who is a little bewildered at the attention that has been showered upon her. She feels she has done no more than should be expected of an American citizen. Let us see.

She was born in Detroit, and until she was placed aboard a train bound for Washington recently she had never been outside Wayne County. Her husband has been in a hospital for more than a year.

"I Keep Up All Right"

Her employers say she is one of the best of the sewing operators. She rises each morning at 5 o'clock and sees that Harold gets ready for school. She is at her machine at 7 o'clock and she works until 3. Then she returns to her home at 7685 Helen Ave. and does her housework, prepares the dinner and when the dishes are washed she sits down to write to her boys, the boys who are in Africa, Europe, California and one whose only address is "Overseas."

The letters done, she cooks things that can be sent to the boy in California—the cookies and cakes he loves so well. It is late when she finishes her tasks and that leaves few hours in which to sleep.

"I keep up all right," she said. "I'm just doing what anyone can do. I don't see why anyone should be interested."

"I have lost two boys and I pray each night that the war may end and the others come home."

"Raymond didn't die right away. Before he died he told his captain he knew he was going to die and he wished — he wished someone would kiss his mother for him. I guess that's why the President kissed me. He knew about it."

Kissed by the President

"I've never been away from Detroit before. I was so-so green about traveling. But the Red Cross looked after me. I was one of 57 Gold Star Mothers who saw the President—mothers from all over the United States. It was comforting to talk to him. I don't seem to be able to remember what he said—just that moment he kissed me—just a touch of the lips on my cheek. I can't ever forget that, of course."

"My oldest boy, Leonard, is in Africa. Robert, who's a sergeant, is a marine. Edward died almost two years ago in Africa. I have pictures of their graves. Their buddies sent them."

"When Harold goes I'll be all alone. But I'll keep things going so when they come home there will be a home to come to and . . . What? Bonds? Of course, I bought bonds in every drive, including this one. I couldn't let my boys down."

Mrs. Szymanski's name may be hard to spell and even harder to pronounce. But she is the kind of American we of the labor movement can be proud of. She is doing her job. She is doing her best to win the war regardless of sacrifices. She is not letting anyone down. May she be spared further suffering.

—RICHMOND LABOR HERALD

Mass Meeting Will Protest Execution Of Polish Socialists

NEW YORK, Mar. 15, 1943 — A committee of 250 leading trade union leaders, representing both AFL and CIO unions, and headed by David Dubinsky, president of the ILGWU, announced yesterday that a mass meeting to protest the execution in Soviet Russia last December of Henryk Ehrlich and Victor Alter, Polish labor and Socialist leaders, would be held at Mecca Temple on Mar. 30.

The committee declared that "appreciation of the valiant struggle of the Russian armed forces to drive the Hitler hordes from the Russian homeland will not lead us to condone acts of physical and moral assassination committed by the Communist dictators of Russia against ideological opponents."

—NEW YORK TIMES

Judge Refuses to Issue Injunction Asked by Donnelly

KANSAS CITY, Feb. 16, 1944—Judge Gunnar H. Nordbye of Minneapolis, in an opinion filed with the Federal clerk in Kansas City today, denied the injunction long sought by the Donnelly Garment Co. against David Dubinsky and a score of Dubinsky's associates in the ILGWU.

Ruling in what has been a seven-year legal tilt between the nationally known Kansas City women's wear plant and the AFL union, Judge Nordbye declared an injunction should not be granted merely because "no demonstrable harm would result to defendants by its issuance," or "to establish that past wrongs have occurred."

—KANSAS CITY STAR

**BUY BONDS
TODAY**

Four Up and Four Down



Class in artificial respiration is part of Fall River first aid program.

ILG LIBERTY SHIPS LAUNCHED; NAMED FOR UNION LEADERS

BALTIMORE, Jan. 25, 1944 — Two Liberty Ships named in memory of two former leaders of the ILGWU were launched here this afternoon from the Bethlehem-Fairfield shipyards while several hundred spectators looked on.

The Benjamin Schlesinger and the Meyer London slid off the rails following a brief ceremony that saw the new ships christened by daughters of the former labor leaders. The ship donors were the New York Dress Joint Board, ILGWU, whose members purchased over \$8,000,000 in war bonds during the last drive.

Two more ship launchings are scheduled for a later date. These will be named in memory of the late Morris Sigman and Morris Hillquit, who served the ILGWU as president and counsel, respectively, in the sweatshop era of the needle industries in New York City.

—WOMEN'S WEAR DAILY

\$100,000 ILG Gift To Build Home for Chinese Children

NEW YORK, Mar. 17, 1943—Mme. Chiang Kai-shek has received \$310,000 for war relief work in China since her arrival last November in the United States, according to a representative at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel where China's First Lady is now resting. Checks and cash are still pouring in daily.

The largest single donation to date, totaling \$100,000, came from the ILGWU through David Dubinsky, its president.

Mr. Dubinsky informed Mme. Chiang that the union would give the \$100,000 for the erection of a permanent building near Chungking to accommodate between 500 and 1,000 children.

—NEW YORK TIMES

Sugar and Spice and Everything Nice



New female members of Local 99, Clerks, ready boxes of cigarettes and candy for overseas shipment to members of the local in the services.

ILG Smokes 'Like Letter From Home,' Writer Says

(The following letter was written by Sgt. Perry Pavone, Jr., of Bridgeport, Conn., a Marine Corps combat correspondent.)

BOUGAINVILLE — (Delayed). Attention, ILGWU Local 167 of South Norwalk, Conn.

It is Christmas morning here, but there is no snow. Instead, there are dense jungles and swamps. It's not cold and crisp like it is on Long Island Sound this morning, but hot and muggy, with steam-like heat already rising everywhere.

There hasn't been even a letter from home lately, and so Fairfield County is far away in my mind and in the mind of Kerr Eby, noted artist and illustrator from Saugatuck, Westport, Conn., who is with me on a tour of the front lines — he seeking subjects for his drawing pencils and I, news copy.

The lines are comparatively quiet this morning, the hill being an especially peaceful one, not only in view of the Christmas holiday, but in contrast with the terrific artillery barrage which ripped and tore the skies most of last night.

There's a marine private sitting on the edge of the fox-hole. He's ragged, dirty and shaven. He's puffing a cigarette and the distinguished white-haired Eby and I approach him for a chat. He's from Iowa, an ex-farm boy. No, he hasn't seen a Jap all morning, in fact, he hasn't fired a shot yet.

It was at this point that the young marine offered us a cigarette, holding the package in the palm of his hand. We don't as a rule ever accept cigarettes, water or chow from men on the lines, because these items have to be hauled up back-breaking trails to them, while we can always get plenty at the rear.

But Mr. Eby reached forward quickly, took the package, and held it for closer examination.

Then with a smile, he passed it over, "Here's a Christmas card for you!"

The sticker on top of the package read: "Compliments of International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Local 167, Norwalk, Conn."

Home came very close to us then — Connecticut's forests under a mantle of snow, Christmas trees and their merry lights of yesterday, red-clad Santas on downtown streets of Norwalk and Bridgeport. Yes, we even talked of increased advertising in our favorite newspapers at Christmas time. We sat and chatted and swapped stories with the

boy from Iowa for half an hour, and even smoked his Norwalk cigarettes, though we had plenty of our own in our pockets.

It was like a letter from home. A selfish thanks from us, but a more generous one from the many boys on those far-flung battle fronts who are smoking your cigarettes and enjoying the many volunteer contributions of you and the American public.

Christmas was Christmas for us after all, even if only for a little while. Thanks again!

—JUSTICE, Feb. 15, 1944

Chicago Red Cross Teaches First Aid To 400 Activists

CHICAGO, Aug. 12, 1942 — In the performance of some 400 Chicago women and girls of the ILGWU there is a challenge for all of us who say we want to do all we can in the war effort.

These women, after a day's exacting and tiring work from 8:30 to 4:30 in the clothing factories, hurry to the union's Educational Department at 222 West Monroe St. to attend Red Cross classes in first-aid, food nutrition and home nursing. It is not easy for them, to sit down for two hours of hard study up to 7 P.M., after a confining day at a sewing machine, and, except for a snack, to postpone supper until they reach home after Red Cross classes. But these women are determined to do their part for the preservation of a system that makes possible garment workers' unions.

The Chicago chapter of the American Red Cross properly honored these women at a ceremony last week when certificates were presented to 60 of them who have completed at least one of the three required courses.

We might all honor them by asking ourselves, as we sit in the darkness of tonight's blackout, with its reminder that what couldn't but did happen in many parts of the world might also happen here, "Am I doing all I can for my country and my liberty?"

—CHICAGO SUN

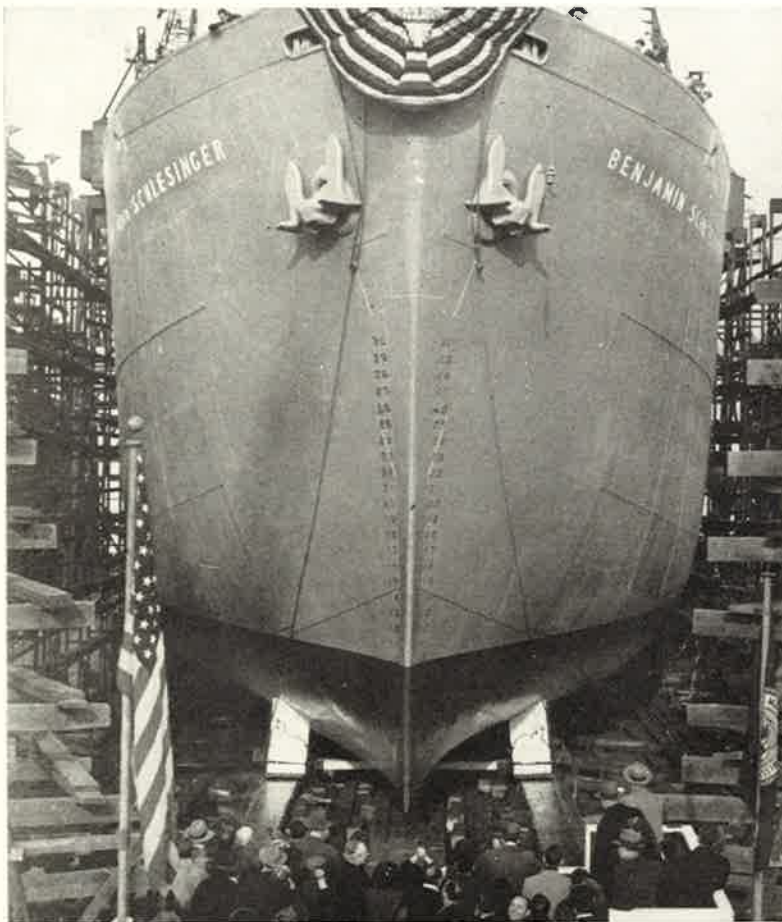
To Win the War -



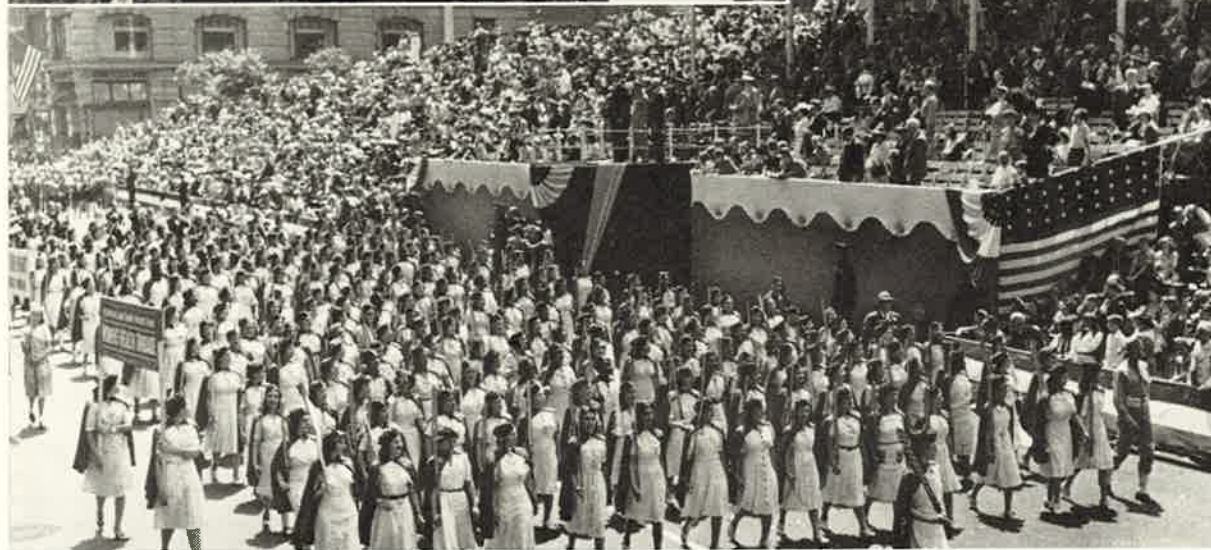
The ILGWU sends 100 field hospitals to the embattled Russians.



The Women's Brigade services the home front.



(At left) One of a half dozen Liberty Ships paid for by the ILGWU war bond purchases. (Above) ILGWU members meet the crew that will fly the plane their bonds paid for.



The ILGWU Women's Brigade marches in the "New York At War Parade."

A lesson in splints and traction at a local headquarters.

Since the 1940 Convention, the ILGWU carried out two fund-raising drives among its membership. The first, the War Victims' Aid Fund of 1941, raised on the basis of a half day's wages, netted about \$320,000. The War Relief Fund, in 1943, raised \$1,370,000 through a day's pay donated by each member. Neither of these funds was carried out as an assessment, but as a voluntary contribution.

In addition to these national funds, the union's locals and joint boards all over the country participated in local community drives and fund-raising enterprises. It is estimated that an additional \$500,000 was raised in this way by our members for various local chests. These campaigns brought in about \$2,200,000.

This sum does not include the regular \$1 tax known as the Institutions and Labor Causes Assessment, 25 per cent of which is retained by the locals for their respective community needs. It is estimated that \$900,000 was collected on this assessment, for a grand total of \$3,100,000 for war relief, charitable purposes and labor causes since the last convention.

But even the financial report could not be expected to present a full picture

of all individual contributions made by our affiliates to Russian relief, British aid, Red Cross, etc., many of these donations having been made upon local initiative or jointly with other groups. The sums given above include contributions of larger amounts which were specified for medicaments, field hospital tents, food, garments, ambulances, tanks, etc.

Outstanding among the contributions to British aid was the Merchant Navy Club, donated by the ILGWU to the sailors of the British Merchant Marine. The Navy Club was opened with impressive ceremonies on July 23, 1942.

Later, Local 22, Dressmakers, and Local 23, Skirtmakers, donated money for
(Continued on Page 10)



(Top, left) Labor Stage, the ILGWU's own theater and home of the renowned revue, "Pins and Needles," has been converted into one of New York's outstanding servicemen's canteens, featuring, in addition to dancing and refreshments, top Broadway entertainment every Saturday night. The Women's Brigade plays host to servicemen who stop at Labor Stage during their New York leaves. (Top, right) Pres. Dubinsky hands "Red" Barber, representing the American Red Cross, a sizable ILGWU contribution.

(At left) ILGWU members line up to give the most precious gift of all: blood. In England (right) bombed-out tots are cared for in shelters provided by New York dressmakers.



On D-Day, 1944 convention delegates adjourned for services on Boston Common.

Local memberships meet regularly to do essential Red Cross bandage rolling.

Cloak Contract First With ILGWU Retirement Benefit

NEW YORK, May 28, 1943—The first industry-wide agreement under which industry as such assumes responsibility for old-age pensions for its employees was announced yesterday by Israel Feinberg, general manager of the Cloakmakers' Union, an affiliate of the ILGWU. Thirty-five thousand workers are affected.

The agreement, which extends for five years the industry contract which expires May 31, was signed with the Industrial Council of Cloak and Suit Manufacturers, the Merchants Ladies' Garment Assn. and the Infants' and Children's Coat Assn. It was ratified yesterday by the union.

Under the old-age retirement plan, the manufacturers will contribute 3 per cent of their weekly payrolls to a fund to provide pensions for workers who have reached the age of 65 or over and want to retire. The total annual amount to be contributed by the employers will be about \$2,000,000. Mr. Feinberg explained that approximately 5,000 workers would be eligible for retirement within the next few years. Each will receive \$600 a year.

Equal Representation

The retirement fund will be administered by a commission to consist of an equal number of representatives of employers and employees, with three additional members representing the public, to be chosen by the employer associations and by the union.

The employers' contributions will begin on Jan. 1, 1944. The fund will begin functioning within three years, as soon as a specified reserve is accumulated.

Creation of the retirement fund marks the only major addition to the old agreement for the industry, which is to be renewed after May 31, with a clause providing for readjustment of wages in the event of further rises in the cost of living or a change in the War Labor Board's Little Steel wage ceiling formula.

—NEW YORK TIMES

Russians Executed Ehrlich, Alter Despite Pleas from U. S., Britain

By DAVID DUBINSKY

NEW YORK, Mar. 30, 1943—Henryk Ehrlich and Victor Alter were executed by the Russians in defiance of appeals for their release from Pres. William Green of the American Federation of Labor, Pres. Philip Murray of the Congress of Industrial Organizations, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, Wendell Willkie, Dr. Albert Einstein and many other outstanding representatives of democratic and labor opinion here and in England, including the British Labor Party and Sir Stafford Cripps. Both the U. S. State Department and the British Foreign Office, as well as the Polish Government-in-Exile, have taken a deep interest in the case.

These two were executed because they were democratic socialists, champions of trade unionism and opponents of all dictatorship, including Communist dictatorship. They were executed because the Comintern could not afford to permit them to remain alive and return to Poland after the war. They were condemned by political opponents, who squared old political accounts with them in secret chamber proceedings on trumped-up charges without a chance of a fair, honest trial.

But the Communist dictators were not satisfied with the mere taking of the lives of Ehrlich and Alter. The same hand that decreed their death also decreed the destruction of their characters.

These two lifelong fighters for liberty and democracy were to be

DUBINSKY DEFEATS KHARKOV

Think of it! Just when the Red Army was dying and bleeding at the gates of Kharkov, David Dubinsky was not ashamed to fling into the faces of decent people the dishonorable cause of Ehrlich and Alter.

Who is responsible for the fact that the Red Army, overwhelmed by a concentrated force of superior numbers in men, tanks and planes, had to evacuate the great city of Kharkov, only four weeks after it was recaptured from the Nazis?

Guilty are the Social-Democratic cliques and David Dubinsky.

—DAILY WORKER, Mar. 17, 1943

blackened forever as Hitler allies and as Nazi supporters. Communist stooges and Comintern quislings everywhere began to defame and besmirch their characters. Moreover, anyone who would dare to raise his voice in protest against the murder of Ehrlich and Alter was to be blackjacked into silence by the charge that he was destroying allied unity, that he was hindering the war effort.

We shall not forget nor forgive this black crime.

—CONGRESSIONAL RECORD
April 8, 1943

ILG CHIEF VISITS PRESIDENT TO TALK ABOUT WAGE BOOST

WASHINGTON, Mar. 19, 1943—David Dubinsky, president of the ILGWU, called on President Roosevelt today and said he discussed "the fact that the cost of living is going up and wages are frozen."

Dubinsky left with reporters the impression that there had been discussion of the "Little Steel" wage formula, a formula which he said had outlived its usefulness.

"A change is essential," he asserted. "I don't suppose the President's wife pesters him, but the wives of the workers are coming to the union and complaining that foods have gone up in some cases 200 per cent, not 23 per cent."

Asked whether he had obtained any assurances from the President, Dubinsky said he got a smile and added it was one of sympathy.

"They have frozen wages and not stopped price increases," the union chief said. "We want a complete stop as soon as possible and adjustment of wages to the cost of living."

—NEW YORK POST

In Any ILGWU Office in the Country



This is typical of what has happened to ILGWU local offices throughout the nation. Each has set aside a portion of its space as an "emergency canteen" for visiting servicemen.

WLB Urges N. Y. Dress Strikers Back to Work

NEW YORK, Jan. 28, 1943—The War Labor Board in Washington intervened yesterday in the dress stoppage in this city, as another 10,000 men and women joined the no-work movement designed to force a wage increase for the entire industry, and asked the workers to return to their jobs immediately as a condition of the board's assumption of jurisdiction in the dispute.

Soon after being informed of the War Labor Board's intervention last night, David Dubinsky, president of the ILGWU, announced that the union would advise the workers to comply with the board's request.

The total number of workers out yesterday was estimated at 30,000 by leaders of the Dressmakers' Union, an ILGWU affiliate and the organization directly involved in the stoppage. Some 400 of the industry's 2,000 shops are affected. There are 85,000 workers in the industry in New York and adjacent territory.

Union leaders had predicted that the entire industry would come to a standstill by the end of this week in what they termed the "spontaneous" stoppage begun on Tuesday.

The workers are seeking to enforce their demand for "wage equalization" to meet rising living costs. Officials of five employer associations in the industry have denounced the stoppage as inspired by the union in violation of the current collective agreement.

Stalling Caused Stoppage

Union officials charge that the stoppage was provoked by the "stalling" of the employers on the demand for wage equalization, first presented last September, and their refusal to give it serious consideration.

While admitting the justification of the employees' wage equalization demand, the employers contend that wage increases at this time are precluded by the terms of the OPA price order under which the industry is functioning and which has materially cut the margin of profits. The union holds that the industry is more prosperous than it has been in many years. The employers are now seeking modification of the OPA order.

Clashes between union officials and spokesmen for dress employer associations marked the hearing in

the office of the impartial chairman yesterday, before the intervention of the War Labor Board.

The employers appeared to press a complaint charging violation of the existing collective agreement by the union.

The proceedings were enlivened by an invasion of Mr. Uviller's offices by several hundred workers participating in the stoppage, who had come to support the union leaders in the debate with the employer representatives. The workers filled the corridors leading to Mr. Uviller's offices and jammed several adjoining rooms.

While the employers objected to the invasion of the impartial chairman's offices by a large crowd, Julius Hochman, manager of the Dress Joint Board, demanded that Mr. Uviller call a public hearing and asked him to hire a large hall. "Get the Waldorf-Astoria," he advised.

—NEW YORK TIMES

"War Restrictions Will Lead to New Styles," Dubinsky

NEW YORK, Mar. 9, 1942—Will style pass from the picture?

"Never," was the prompt answer of David Dubinsky, president of the ILGWU, who said the United States Government recognizes style as a most important factor in the women's wear business. When style passes out of the women's garment trades, women will be wearing overalls, and such a prospect is fantastic, the union leader observed.

"Why, the very restrictions which may descend on the industry are the instruments which make for the creation of new styles. This country always has been richly endowed with the qualities of inventiveness, and this is particularly true of the women's wear field, which should and will rise to this great challenge which now faces our business."

—WOMEN'S WEAR DAILY

Key to Victory



Pres. Dubinsky, with Vice Presidents Israel Feinberg and Joseph Breslaw looking on, hands key to war service truck to Matthew Woll, AFL vice president, for forwarding as part of organized labor's war-aid program. The vehicle is one of many purchased with funds raised by cloakmakers.

Liberals vs. Commies

NEW YORK, Apr. 10, 1944—As a force in New York City and state politics, the American Labor Party had justified its claims of great power through seven years and a half-dozen elections, five of them triumphs for the major candidates whom ALP supported. By last week, however, its bright prospects as the American labor party appeared to have been blown sky-high.

As a political party in New York State, the Communists were stricken from the ballot after their poor showing in 1938, but Communist activity did not abate. Opposed to United States participation in the war, the party officially changed its tune after Hitler attacked the Soviet Union in June, 1941. Last January it executed another flip-flop; it announced it was dropping the word "party" but without dissolving its organization.

The label was gone, but Earl Browder, general secretary of the organization, still was busy at work. The Communists had been infiltrating the ALP for years. It was evident that they thought now was the time to strike.

The issue was clear enough to "right-wingers" like David Dubinsky, George S. Counts, the party's state chairman, Alex Rose, its state secretary, and Morris Ernst, lawyer. Given half a chance, they knew, the Communists could seize power and turn the ready-at-hand ALP to their own purposes. Dubinsky was particularly incensed. Since 1936 his union—which has a New York membership of 162,338—had contributed about 60 per cent of the ALP's campaign and primary funds. Up to last January, ILGWU contributions were \$245,946 and members and individual unions had added \$287,000.

Early in February, Counts and Rose charged that four of the seven members of the ALP's vacancies committee (named on Hillman nominating petitions of left-wing candidates for members of the state committee) were "veteran followers of the Communist Party line." To the right-wingers this was "striking evidence of Mr. Hillman's coalition with New York Communists."

On primary day, the Communists and other left-wingers voted in force. When the count was completed, the left wing had captured 625 of the 750 state committee memberships.

Faced with this situation, the right-wingers acted swiftly. Meeting the day after election they resigned from the party. "The primary returns leave no doubt that Earl Browder has captured the American Labor Party," their statement said. "The ALP is through as an independent liberal force in our state."

—NEWSWEEK

Commies Ditch Own Party, Try Hard to Seize Labor Party

NEW YORK, Jan. 11, 1944—With a perfectly straight face it is announced that the Communists are going out of business as a political party.

Well, we see what they mean, because at the same time they are making a ruthless attempt to take over the American Labor Party, lock, stock and barrel.

It remains the instant, immediate, pressing duty of liberals in the ALP, such as David Dubinsky, Alex Rose, George Counts and other non-Communists to organize the fight against this invasion.

—Editorial, NEW YORK POST

FEAR SPLIT IN ALP WEAKENS ROOSEVELT CHANGE IN NEW YORK

By JAMES H. HAGERTY

NEW YORK, Mar. 3, 1944—Fearing that the contest between the right and left wings for control of the American Labor Party may lessen the chance of President Roosevelt's carrying New York State at the November election, close friends of the President have been trying to induce Sidney Hillman to withdraw his opposition to the present state leadership of the party and to end his alliance with the Communist left wing, it was learned yesterday.

Control of the party rests with the state committee, five members of which are to be elected from each Assembly district. Each faction has filed virtually a full slate of candidates and the time for filing declinations will expire tomorrow night. Efforts of friends of the President, who have come into the state, are reported to have failed.

David Dubinsky, president of the ILGWU and one of the right-wing leaders of the Labor Party, had a conference recently with President Roosevelt and assured him of the wholehearted support of the present party leadership.

A little later, Mr. Hillman, who is president of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers and chairman of the Political Action Committee of the CIO, also had a talk with the President. No reconciliation of the two Labor Party groups followed these conferences.

Friends of the President have told leaders of the right-wing group that they believe Mr. Hillman has made a political mistake by his alliance with the Communist left wing of the Labor Party, because even if this combination should win control of the state committee at the primary election on Mar. 28, such a victory would split the Labor Party and put the 47 electoral votes of New York in doubt.

—NEW YORK TIMES

ILGWU Canteen



Saturday night set-up for servicemen at headquarters of a Midwest ILGWU local.

Right Wing Spurns Latest Peace Offer On Eve of Primary

By DENIS TILDEN LYNCH
NEW YORK, Mar. 27, 1944—Sidney Hillman, who shares with Representative Vito Marcantonio the leadership of the left wing of the American Labor Party, was assailed yesterday by David Dubinsky and other right-wing chiefs as a political partner of Earl Browder, secretary of the Communist Party.

The right-wing leaders indignantly spurned Mr. Hillman's latest peace offer, charging that it was designed solely to fool the non-Communist members of the ALP so that they would remain away from tomorrow's primary and thereby enable the well-disciplined Communists to seize control of the party. Mr. Dubinsky said more than 25,000 Communists were enrolled as members of the ALP.

"These Communists," continued Mr. Dubinsky, "will vote in Tuesday's primary to the last man and woman, whether it rains, snows, hails or shines."

The right-wing leaders said the election would be close, while Mr. Hillman and his associates confidently predicted an overwhelming victory, and said their offer to confer with the right wing would still hold good after they had "swept them out of power" in tomorrow's primary.

—HERALD TRIBUNE

ILG Gives \$50,000 To Help AFL Revive Free Unions Abroad

BIRMINGHAM, May 19, 1945 — The ILGWU has contributed \$50,000 to the AFL's Free Trade Union Fund. This generous amount is the largest single sum received to date.

The Free Trade Union Committee, headed by Matthew Woll, has sent a congratulatory message to the union for its progressive action. The committee is raising \$1,000,000 or more to reorganize shattered labor movements abroad.

Appropriately enough, ILGWU Pres. David Dubinsky's announcement of the gift comes at the end of the war in Europe — when the need for reconstruction of free union movements everywhere stands out more clearly than ever before.

—BIRMINGHAM SOUTHERN LABOR REVIEW

Studying War's Impact on the Economy



The ILGWU is keeping its officers posted on complicated economic consequences of the war by inviting such experts as Prof. Sumner Slichter of Harvard (shown with Pres. Dubinsky) to participate in its staff service courses.

ALP's Right Wing Debates Leaving Party Or Continuing Commie Fight

By FREDERICK WOLTMAN

NEW YORK, Jan. 14, 1944—The eight-year-old American Labor Party faces its greatest crisis tonight when the state leadership will decide whether to take a walk and leave what remains of the party machinery in the hands of the pro-Communist wing and the State CIO, which are now rallying under Sidney Hillman.

The top leaders favor withdrawing. But, according to authoritative sources, they probably will agree to make one more try at beating the left wing whose strongholds are New York and Kings Counties.

In that event a knock-down, no-quarter fight over the issue of Communist control is expected to develop before the spring primary, which will elect a new state committee to pick the ALP Presidential candidate. And the lineup will be the state group under George S. Counts, Alex Rose and David Dubinsky versus a Hillman-Vito Marcantonio-CIO coalition.

Mr. Hillman bolted the ALP in the last election, but re-entered the field with a unity plan which the left wing had tried first to sell to the party's leaders and failed.

The Communist-controlled unions and New York CIO Council promptly supported him, and the "Daily Worker," which used to call Mr. Hillman a "strikebreaker," has been pushing his program in many columns of space. Last Monday and Tuesday the "Daily Worker," the Communists' official organ, carried Mr. Hillman's photograph each day on Page 1.

The Counts-Rose-Dubinsky state leaders contend it is "public deception" as well as suicidal in the long run to admit Communists under a labor party label which, they say, the Hillman plan would require.

In addition, one prominent right-wing ALP figure said: "No labor leader can beat the Communists in any political party, whether he be John L. Lewis, Sidney Hillman or David Dubinsky. They have union business to attend to, but with the Communists it's a 24-hour-a-day job."

Last year, he pointed out, the ALP got 180,000 enrolled members in New York City, but the left wing topped the right wing in the primaries by only 22,000 as against 20,000 votes.

"That 22,000 was their top

strength," he said, "for the Communists always vote full force in party contests. So, with 22,000 votes, they can control a party of 180,000. Our people just don't turn out for primaries in large numbers any more than do the Democrats or Republicans. It's the normal reaction against the fanatical reaction."

This expresses the view finally arrived at by many of the ALP leaders after years of scrapping with the Communist group in the party.

The decision to pull out now or try another fight will be made at tonight's conference in the Hotel Capitol. About 1,000 representatives and ALP Assembly district clubs have been invited by the state committee.

—WORLD-TELEGRAM

Commie Victory in ALP Compels New Liberal Grouping

By ARNOLD BEICHMAN

NEW YORK, Mar. 30, 1944—As the left wing's victory in the American Labor Party assumed landslide proportions, the ousted right-wing leadership today was seriously considering some new form of independent political action in New York State during the coming Presidential campaign.

Whether it will take the form of another party, led by Dr. George S. Counts, Alex Rose and David Dubinsky, defeated right-wing leaders, or a "Liberal-Labor Committee for the Election of Roosevelt" is now under discussion.

In any case, the right wing was prepared to withdraw, formally, at the next organization meeting of the State ALP Committee which must take place by Apr. 12.

Such action was foreshadowed yesterday when 200 right-wing leaders gathered at the Hotel McAlpin and, unsurprisingly enough, announced their secession from the ALP.

—PM

1st Health Fund Won in Pact With Four Dress Assns.

NEW YORK, Mar. 23, 1944—New three-year agreements providing for health insurance financed by the employers were signed yesterday by the Dressmakers' Union, an affiliate of the ILGWU, and four of the five employer associations in the industry.

The agreements covered 554 shops with 57,000 workers. While the union agreed to hold in abeyance its demand for a general wage increase, it obtained rises in the old minimum rates, paid vacations and establishment of a health insurance fund to be financed by the employers through contributions of 3½ per cent of weekly payrolls, beginning on May 1.

This marked the first adoption of such a plan through collective agreements in any major industry. Contributions to the health insurance fund will amount to \$3,500,000 annually.

Regarding general wage increases, it was agreed by the union and the four signatory employer associations that the question might be reopened if the government modified its wage stabilization policy or the War Labor Board altered the Little Steel wage ceiling formula. In such event the question of wages would be brought before the impartial chairman of the industry.

The increases on minimum rates included in the new agreements, Julius Hochman explained, did not require approval of the WLB, since most of the workers earned more than the new minimums. Nor would the new minimums add to the prices being paid by consumers, Mr. Hochman said.

"With the New York dress industry increasing its volume from \$344,505,000 in 1940 to \$527,000,000 in 1943, the union felt that its proposal for a general wage increase was moderate and entirely justified," Mr. Hochman commented. "In deference to national policy and desiring to maintain uninterrupted production in the New York market, the union made the concession of delaying its wage increase proposal."

—NEW YORK TIMES

Cheaper Line Is Lagging; Fabric In Short Supply

ATLANTIC CITY, Nov. 8, 1943—All branches of the apparel industry have been working under full-time schedules with overtime in many instances, except in the cheaper dress houses of New York and California. In this line both employers and workers are at present slightly apprehensive because of a slowing down of operations caused by shortages and an expanding market for higher-priced garments, David Dubinsky, president of the ILGWU, reported to the union's executive board at its opening meeting here.

"Consumers' acceptance of and demand for higher-priced garments," Mr. Dubinsky declared, "together with the converters' tendency to produce more of the higher-grade fabrics have combined to cut down production of cheaper dresses."

—WOMEN'S WEAR DAILY

ANTONINI IN ITALY TO AID REVIVAL OF FREE TRADE UNIONS

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 5, 1944 — One of the American labor leaders who was extremely active in maintaining contact and supplying help to the underground in Europe is Luigi Antonini, first vice president of the ILGWU and chairman of the Italian American Labor Council.

Mr. Antonini is now in Italy as a representative of the AFL to investigate the extent to which American labor can now give further help to the workers of Italy in organizing a free trade union which will serve as a buttress for democracy in that country during the postwar period.

For many years, while things looked darkest, Mr. Antonini directed efforts to smuggle aid to the anti-Fascist forces in Italy. When the time came these underground forces struck against Mussolini's regime, deposed the Italian dictator and made peace with the United States forces, thus making the task of invading Italy that much easier.

It can truthfully be said that the successful uprising of the Italian underground saved many American lives. American labor deserves a share of credit for that result.

—PHILADELPHIA LABOR WORLD

FDR's Reception of L.P. Leaders Seen As Hillman Brushoff

WASHINGTON, Oct. 26, 1944—Significance was read into President Roosevelt's reception of a group of Liberal Party leaders at the White House in some political quarters here today as an indication that the President quietly was giving a political brushoff to Sidney Hillman, or at least was subordinating the Hillman campaign activities.

The visit of Liberal Party men, headed by David Dubinsky and Alex Rose, would indicate to some observers that at this late stage White House favor is falling on right-wing labor elements backing the Administration ticket in an attempt to take the fire out of Republican assaults on Communist left-wing support of the ticket.

—WORLD-TELEGRAM

DRESSES SHIPPED TO COURT AS EVIDENCE IN DONNELLY APPEAL

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 23, 1944—The austere eighth circuit of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals is getting a holiday shipment of 50 dresses—wool, crepe and cotton—from Kansas City.

There is no Santa Claus tag, for the gay dresses are merely items of evidence being sent to the circuit clerk's office in St. Louis along with other records and exhibits in the much tried Donnelly Garment Co. litigation with the ILGWU.

The seven-year legal tilt is entering 1945 on an appeal to the circuit court from a decision Judge Gunnar H. Nordbye of Minneapolis rendered in Kansas City last February, denying an injunction against David Dubinsky and a score of his ILGWU associates.

Harry C. Spaulding, chief deputy clerk at the Federal Building, had thrilled helpers today in preparing the packing cases. The cotton dresses were mostly prints, in interesting designs. The business and "casual" dresses in wool and crepe were in solid colors.

The showing included "shirt front" dresses that button up the front. They were not assembled for late design, but, including both Nelly Don and competitive designs, were submitted both by the garment company and by the ILGWU attorneys, in making their points in court.

—KANSAS CITY STAR

Time Out for Lunch



First Vice Pres. Luigi Antonini, George Baldanzi of the CIO, Col. Junius Smith (back to camera) and Gen. Mark W. Clark, with the Fifth Army in the Bonzalla area of Italy, September, 1944, take time out for a bite of K rations.

The Garment Industry Does Its Part



ILGWU truckmen have done an excellent job of aiding other garment locals in the collection of clothing desperately needed by Europe's children.

ILGWU War Relief Hits \$3,000,000

(Continued from Page 7)

The Chicago and Philadelphia Joint Boards and the other larger ILGWU affiliates throughout the country have also done remarkably well in these bond selling drives by earmarking bond purchases for bombers, ambulance planes, flying fortresses and hospital trains and naming them, with the sanction of government authorities, after their own organizations or after outstanding union leaders.

—ILGWU CONVENTION REPORT, 1944

LABOR BOARD FAILS TO EQUALIZE WAGES WITH LIVING COSTS

It is estimated that all ILGWU sources have contributed no less than \$350,000 to the American Red Cross during this period, which attests to the deep affection in which our membership holds this major civilian agency on America's war fronts. During the last Red Cross drive in January, 1944, the ILGWU contribution of \$150,000 led off in the national campaign and was so acclaimed in the general press. At least 10,000 members donated blood to Red Cross blood banks in various communities. No less significant have been the contributions to the USO, which amounted to \$110,000 during this period.

The General Office has bought over \$4,000,000 worth of war bonds, including \$250,000 in Canadian victory bonds. The locals have purchased about \$7,000,000 worth of such bonds. It is estimated that, in addition to the \$10,000,000 worth bought outright from union treasuries, the membership of the ILGWU the country over has purchased between 70 and 75 million dollars' worth of bonds in the four war loan drives.

DJB Liberty Ships

Outstanding among these efforts to boost war bond purchases among the ILGWU membership was the spectacular campaign carried out by the Dress Joint Board which raised over \$8,000,000. This sum was earmarked by the Maritime Commission, at the joint board's request, for the construction of four Liberty Ships named after the late Benjamin Schlesinger and Morris Sigman, former ILGWU presidents, and Morris Hillquit and Meyer London, celebrated labor attorneys who played an important role in the history of the ILGWU.

The Cloak Joint Board of New York carried out a similar drive with a sales total of more than \$4,000,000 while the Dress Joint Board intends to follow through with another great campaign in the forthcoming war loan drive in June.

NEW YORK, May 17, 1943—The 85,000 dress workers in the New York metropolitan area who were finally awarded a 7 per cent wage increase by the War Labor Board are not heralding this award as a victory, says "Justice," official publication of the ILGWU, in its current issue yesterday.

Says "Justice":

"The Dressmakers' Union, in the first place, did not go out in this case to win a victory. Its demand for a raise in earnings had been correctly stated to be a request for a fair equalization of wages in order to keep the living conditions of its huge membership within sight of the fast spiraling cost of the things that make up a livelihood. To attain a degree of equalization between the cost of living and earnings, the union sought a raise of 15 per cent in wages. Under the award it obtained about half of that request.

Award Falls Short

"It is manifestly obvious that this award falls considerably below the rise in the cost of living since the last wage adjustment made in the New York dress industry. In its anxiety to hew strictly to the 'Little Steel' formula, the WLB panel also has brushed aside the union's contention that the 1941 wage award had been granted largely to offset the downward wage revisions made by the workers in 1937."

—WOMEN'S WEAR DAILY

Cheering Garment Throng Welcomes FDR to New York

NEW YORK, Oct. 22, 1944—New York's garment district reached record-breaking heights yesterday in its reception for President Roosevelt.

From the moment the President's car reached 41st St. and Seventh Ave. until it paused briefly on 23rd St. and Fifth Ave., where the President was presented with three dozen American beauty roses, the acclaim was of the ear-splitting variety—cheers, piercing whistles, a shower of tons of multicolored confetti.

Above the din was the frequent cry: "We need you." The membership of the ILGWU, headed by Pres. David Dubinsky, was out in full force. The cold, driving rain was of small consequence. Veteran police estimated the crowds at 3,500 to each block stretching from 42nd St. to 34th St.

Several thousand signs, held aloft by the rain-swept spectators, and thousands of signs in windows stood out in bold relief, all calling for the re-election of Mr. Roosevelt. The captions included: "Hail to Our Commander-in-Chief," "First in Our Hearts, Roosevelt," "It's a Date Till '48 with Roosevelt."

'Welcome FDR'

The ILGWU headquarters at 1710 Broadway was completely blanketed with American flags and pictures of the President, and stretched 100 feet across the face of the building was the sign: "Welcome FDR, the Hope of America."

Mr. Dubinsky and three members of his union carrying three dozen roses preceded the Presidential car by ten minutes to 23rd St. and Fifth Ave.

On this particular corner Mr. Dubinsky and the pretty girls alighted and awaited the Presidential car. The moment Mr. Roosevelt reached the corner the three girls and Mr. Dubinsky stepped forward and presented the President with the flowers, remarking:

"We wish you the best of luck and we all hope you are elected; we're all working for you very hard."

President Roosevelt replied: "Thank you, thank you. Glad to see you."

Mayor LaGuardia then added: "Dave, it was a swell, wonderful job." Mrs. Roosevelt remarked: "ILGWU as usual."

The ceremony was brief, lasting about four minutes. Mr. Dubinsky himself was the recipient of a rousing ovation when his automobile passed down Seventh Ave.

The three girls were "particularly proud" of their assignment.

—NEW YORK TIMES



ILGWU CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE FOR ROOSEVELT-TRUMAN

Sportswear Factors Ask WPB to Label Slacks 'Essential'

LOS ANGELES, Mar. 8, 1945—Employers and employees in the sportswear industry yesterday telegraphed the War Production Board protesting against the board's elimination of slacks and slack suits from essential items.

The protestants asserted that 25,000 persons are employed in the industry in Southern California and that a large amount of business is in those items under discussion.

Signatories to the protest were the California Sportswear and Dress Assn. and the ILGWU.

—LOS ANGELES TIMES

Umhey Says M-388 Mistakes Could Have Been Prevented

WASHINGTON, Mar. 14, 1945—While granting that the ILGWU approved the purpose of M-388, Frederick Umhey, executive secretary of the union, today declared that the International felt that many of its sins of commission and omission could have been avoided had there been consultation before it was issued.

N. Y. LOCALS PLEDGE TO BUY 20 BOMBERS IN 7TH LOAN DRIVE

NEW YORK, Apr. 15, 1945 — A pledge to purchase \$15,000,000 in E Series War Bonds in the current Seventh War Loan campaign was made on April 10 by the managers of all ILGWU locals in Greater New York at a special meeting in behalf of the 150,000 members of the union in the metropolitan district.

The money will be earmarked for the purchase of a squadron of 20 B-29 Superfortresses for the Army Air Forces, it was announced by Pres. Dubinsky, who presided at the meeting.

—JUSTICE

Roosevelt Thanks Union for Loyalty To Administration

NEW YORK, Dec. 15, 1944 — In a warm note to Pres. David Dubinsky, dated Nov. 15 at the White House, President Franklin D. Roosevelt expressed his appreciation to all the members of the ILGWU for their confidence in him and their loyalty to his administration as manifested during the recent national campaign.

President Roosevelt's letter read as follows:

Dear Dave:
I have been deeply moved by your letter of Nov. 8. I shall not soon forget that fine demonstration of loyalty on the stormy Saturday morning to which you refer so feelingly.

What pleases me most is that this assurance of confidence and loyalty, which you make in behalf of the ILGWU, comes from more than 300,000 members, comprising many national strains, beliefs and ancestral lineages, but united in the bond of American democracy and common citizenship in a free country.

Please tell each of your members that I appreciate it all more than I can say.

Very sincerely yours,
Franklin Roosevelt

—JUSTICE

Testifying before the Smith Committee today, Mr. Umhey said: "The fact is that the so-called consultations with industry and labor were just so much window-dressing. Behind this screen, the War Production Board made harmful and arbitrary decisions, while nothing was revealed which would permit labor and industry to inform these agencies of their views.

"If moderate but firm restrictions had been imposed earlier, industry and labor could have adjusted themselves to the controls and consumers would have been served. But to let the industry — a style industry which must plan at least six months in advance — gear itself to high production, and then, in one blow, as in the case of coats and suits, knock it down, confesses the error of the government's regulating bodies," Umhey stated.

"This error is the low production quota, one-fifth of 1943 output, for the corresponding quarter, permitted for women's woolen coats and suits produced with priority material. The women's coat and suit industry employs about 70,000 workers, of whom 35,000 are congregated in the New York area, and others are centered in a number of important markets. The production of the industry was worth approximately \$495,000,000 last year. The workers are among the most highly skilled in the women's apparel industry and, for a variety of causes, are the oldest of any large group.

"In the present case of the women's coat and suit makers the facts are exactly as stated, the numbers involved are large, and the workers form so important a part of the communities where they live, that very careful thought should be given to any government regulation which summarily divorces them from employment.

"In summary, I have testified that the workers in the women's garment industry approve the object of WPB and OPA to insure to the American people sufficient supply of necessary clothing, of satisfactory workmanship and materials, at prices which they can afford to pay. Solution of the problem, as represented in this new Order M-388, is faulty in several respects and nearly fatal in its consequences for women's coats and suits. Frank consultation with industry, labor and consumers, while the order was in preparation, would have avoided mistakes and saved time."

—WOMEN'S WEAR DAILY

Liberal Party Leaders and Candidate



Sen. Harry S. Truman, Liberal Party candidate for Vice President as running mate of Franklin D. Roosevelt, in recent New York campaign visit met with Dr. John L. Childs, Alex Rose and Pres. Dubinsky.

Garment Industry One of Toughest Fields to Regulate

By WILFRED CARSEL

The field of apparel price regulation was one of the most difficult areas for wartime governmental controls in the United States. For the apparel industry group—characterized by a huge number of small establishments, an infinite variety of products and permutations of styles, and jumbled cost-price relationships — was peculiarly insusceptible to governmental regulation even for limited objectives in a peacetime economy.

The first apparel price control mechanism, the General Maximum Price Regulation, which froze prices for all consumer goods, was obviously inappropriate for this seasonal and style industry. It was therefore followed during 1942 by a series of specific apparel regulations, mostly seasonal in character and all hastily drawn, designed as a temporary price control structure until a program more suitable to the peculiarities of the commodities could be devised.

Program Attacked

Such a program was developed in early 1943. It called for the simplification and standardization of garments, for controls over quality as part and parcel of price regulation, for ceilings in terms of dollars-and-cents prices known and understood by consumers, for encouragement of production of low-priced essential garments, and for rationing of clothing so that all could claim an equal share from inadequate stocks.

This program evoked a bitter attack from industry, which carried its case to the press and to Congress with decided effectiveness. Congress forbade OPA to carry out this "new program" and forced the ousting of the personnel responsible for it. Congress also legislated out of existence the "highest price line" limitation for retail sellers, among the most valued techniques developed during 1942.

Defeated in its basic program, the

OPA found itself virtually powerless to halt the waves of apparel price inflation.

Try Again

Under new leadership in the spring of 1945 another program was launched. This was the inter-agency program for low-cost clothing. Supported by Judge Fred E. Vinson, director of the Office of Economic Stabilization, this program aimed to roll clothing prices back to their starting point by the united action of the supply and price agencies of the government.

The War Production Board was to channel low-cost fabrics to manufacturers of low-priced clothing. The OPA in turn was to reduce average prices of fabrics and clothing to 1943 levels. This program, however, like the "new program" of 1943, proved too great an undertaking. Industry resisted; Congressional committees investigated; the WPB channels for fabrics to manufacturers became clogged; and the OPA modified and relaxed its requirements.

The textile and apparel crisis grew more intense with increasing demands for clothing on the part of returning veterans. Shortages of such items as men's white shirts became national scandals. The apparel "MAP" regulation, OPA's main reliance in this program, was singled out for particular attack by industry and Congressional groups as being the prime cause of shortages. As a result, the Price Control Extension Act of 1946 prohibited the use of this technique, and therewith ended the second apparel price control program.

—"APPAREL PRICE CONTROL"

