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**PHILADELPHIA GARMENT
WORKERS NEW CONTRACT
HAS BETTER HEALTH RULES**

Philadelphia — Samuel Otto, manager of the Philadelphia Dress Joint Board, ILGWU, announced new gains for garment workers in the Philadelphia area. An agreement setting new high standards in wages and working conditions of the belt and suspender industry was reached with the Pioneer Suspender Company, one of the country's largest manufacturers.

Chief gains for the 300 workers are a ten per cent general increase in wages, reduction of the work week from 40 hours to 37 1-2 and two additional paid holidays, bringing the total to six.

Otto pointed to the agreement as proof that "where employers and the workers' representatives are determined to arrive at just and amicable composition of demands arising out of the employer-employee relationship, no government interference or harmful legislative restriction on labor such as the Taft-Hartley Act are necessary or desirable."

In addition to the new contract, Otto announced major increases in sick benefits, ranging up to 87 1-2 per cent, in accordance with a provision of the union's Health Insurance Fund. The increases are effective on October 1.

Weekly sick benefit payments are increased 20 per cent from \$10 a week for 10 weeks to \$12 a week for the same period. Hospitalization benefits are increased 87 1-2 per cent from \$2 a day for twelve days to \$3 a day for 15 days.

In addition, a number of operations formerly not compensated for are added to the surgical benefit list. They cover cataracts, varicose veins, tonsils and hemorrhoids.

Otto pointed out that benefits have been increased steadily from the original schedule of \$8 a week for a maximum of 8 weeks since establishment of the fund in February, 1943. The union is sole administrator of the fund, maintained under terms of the agreement with the Philadelphia Waist & Dress Manufacturers Association by employers' contributions of 4 1-2 per cent of their payroll. A sum equivalent to 2 per cent of the payroll is set aside for vacation payments to the city's 12,000 workers covered by the fund.

**CONNECTICUT AFL TESTS
TAFT-HARTLEY LAW BAN**

Hartford, Conn.—The Connecticut Federation of Labor and a local AFL union joined in the movement to challenge the constitutionality of the Taft-Hartley law by running paid advertisements in a local newspaper urging the defeat of members of Congress who voted for the measure.

The advertisements are intended to test the validity of a section of the law restricting labor organizations from making expenditures in political campaigns.

Federation officials said the validity of the law was being challenged in the expectation that the case would be brought into the courts for eventual determination by the Supreme Court.

**ANOTHER NLRB LEGAL AIDE
QUITS IN PROTEST AT LAW**

New York City.—Alan F. Perl announced his resignation as regional attorney for the National Labor Relations Board, explaining that he was "not in sympathy" with the new Taft-Hartley Act.

This action followed similar steps taken soon after the law's enactment by Gerhard P. Van Arkel, general counsel of the NLRB, and Morris P. Glushien, associate general counsel, both of whom also had expressed doubt about the wisdom of the act.

**CONN. AFL CONVENTION
BEGINS SEPTEMBER 2**

Stamford, Conn.—The Connecticut State Federation of Labor announced its annual convention will be held here on September 2, 3, 4 and 5.

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