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EMPLOYERS FINANCE DRIVERS HEALTH PLAN

(Special Correspondence)
 CHICAGO.—A new contract, providing a wage increase and a noncontributory health and welfare program for 40,000 AFL over-the-road truck drivers in 11 Middlewestern states, was successfully negotiated with employers by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

Effective immediately, employers of the drivers will pay \$1 a week per driver into a health and welfare fund, to be administered jointly by the employers and the union.

Details of administration and amounts of benefits to be paid in case of sickness and disability were left open to further negotiation. But the principle of company-financed health and welfare benefits was established for the first time. No contributions to the fund will be made by the drivers themselves, out of wages.

The contract will run for 26 months. An increase of a quarter-cent per mile in the mileage rate paid, drivers goes into effect immediately, and another eighth of a cent will be added after 14 months.

During periods of pickup, delivery, loading, unloading, breakdown and other intervals between running periods, the drivers are paid an hourly rate. Under the new contract, they will receive an immediate raise of 8 cents an hour, and an additional 5 cents after 14 months.

The Central States Drivers Council of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters negotiated the new agreement for the drivers. Employers were represented by the Central States Area Employers Association; the Michigan Trucking and Labor Division, Midwest Operators Association; Missouri-Kansas Motor Carriers Conference; Santa Fe Trail Transportation Co.; Steel Truckers' Employers Association; Trans-America Freight Lines, and the Keshin-Hayes Freight Lines.

Negotiations were opened in Cleveland to bring Ohio truckers under the agreement, bringing the number of states covered to 12.

CLERKS WIN RAISE

Cleveland.—Almost 2,000 members of the AFL Retail Clerks Local 880 were due to get checks in time for Christmas for retroactive pay under a new wage agreement negotiated with 100 Atlantic & Pacific stores in northeastern Ohio. Increases ranged as high as \$6 per week. The new contract is the tenth signed with A. & P. in the Cleveland area. Since 1940 wages have been increased 150 per cent and the work-week reduced 15 hours.

TECHNICAL AID OF WIDE VARIETY

(Special Correspondence.)

Paris.—When Marshall Plan funds are spent for technical assistance and President Truman talks about technical assistance for undeveloped areas of the world, the terms seem vague. But this item may help to point up the meaning of the term.

The Paris office of the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the European Recovery Program has just compiled a short list of current and recent technical assistance projects under which representatives of Marshall Plan countries are receiving instruction in the United States.

Take a glance at the things on which the United States is furnishing information to other countries to help themselves and, indirectly, keep them our good customers:

West Germany—Thermal power, gas production.

France — Farm mechanization, hybrid seed corn study, gray iron foundry.

Greece—Government administrative training, reclamation work, fuel development and automotive

maintenance.

Italy—Hybrid seed corn production.

Netherlands—Agricultural program, ceramics.

Turkey—Statistical training, hydraulic engineers.

Great Britain—Wood seasoning; steel technologies, modern baking processes, industrial productivity,

manufacturing nitrogen and phosphate fertilizers, cotton textile, handling of materials, internal combustion engine, tailored clothing and electricity suppliers.

Season's Greetings



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