

THE GUILD REPORTER

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California Hot Spot—

Tiny Butte County Local Wages War on Two Fronts

Oroville—A cold war is being waged in this little Northern California town with the line of demarcation drawn sharply between those who believe in democracy and fair treatment, and those who believe in monopoly and special privilege.

On one side is the Butte County Newspaper Guild, supported by the CIO Woodworkers, strongest CIO union in Butte County, and by such AFL unions as the Bartenders and culinary workers, Cannery workers, and a majority of the Butte County Labor Council, by the independent Brotherhood of locomotive engineers and firemen, as well as many townsfolk and a number of advertisers in the monopolistic Mercury, owned by Dan Beebe.

On the other side, supporting Beebe, Charley Randolph (a minor partner) and the anti-labor policy of the Mercury, are Beebe, Randolph, some members of the chamber of commerce and a few advertisers.

The cold war started in October when Beebe and Randolph refused to boost the Guild contract top minimum from the present \$70 (or to raise anyone in the lower brackets, either) and wouldn't hear of a change from the present 6-day, 40-hour week.

Only concession offered since late August, when the present contract expired, was a "25 percent boost in severance pay." That amounted to tacking on two weeks more to the present top of eight weeks, at sub-standard rates.

Taking stock of its forces, the Oroville Guild unit, whittled down from eight to five members through terminations of one sort or another, decided, after a strike vote, to invoke economic sanctions by taking its case before the public.

Led by Wallace Kunkel, president, and Jim Dufur, secretary-treasurer, the unit sent out letters telling its story to local advertisers, all unions in Butte County and to Guild locals in California and Nevada.

A number of unions and advertisers, following receipt of the letters, informed Beebe-Randolph of their displeasure and several merchants without being asked, withdrew their advertising.

Somehow, word got to management that a strike date had been set and prior to the supposed date, strange characters wandered in and out of the back shop and Beebe's office—which led to rumors that Beebe was about to bring in scabs.

Meantime, Beebe canvassed back shop employees, and at a later meeting with them intimated that if they respected a picket line, they would lose their jobs and be replaced.

Dan Beebe, Oroville, Calif., publisher, has for years argued that his is "a small town and a small newspaper," in defending low wages and substandard working conditions.

He drives a "small" new Cadillac, owns a "small" new house and farm, and recently dabbled in a "small" local radio station.

The printers began to put alarmed pressure on their fellow employees of the Guild, but the Guildsmen refused to budge. They couldn't understand why their top minimum was \$70 for a six-day, 40-hour week while printers got \$82 for a 36½-hour, five-day week. Beebe never did make that plain.

Letters and telephone calls began to annoy Beebe. He had Randolph write a letter to all advertisers in which half-truths, untruths and typical anti-union propaganda took up 99.44 percent of the space.

Meanwhile, the woodworkers granted use of their offices as Guild headquarters, and Joe Clark, IWA district secretary; Emmet Lawson, district president, and Jack Azevedo, local business agent, have been giving Butte County Guildsmen a hand.

Several locals have adopted resolutions of support, others have written letters condemning Beebe and his pinch-penny practices.

At the California Nevada district council meeting, all CNDC locals pledged support to BCNG, the council advanced funds to help the local and all member locals adopted a program of support which included making contact with their home ITU locals to ask them to urge the back shop people in Oroville to straighten up and fly right.

Meanwhile, in Chico, 24 miles from Oroville, where the BCNC won an NLRB election late in September covering all non-mechanical employees, negotiations opened with Publisher A. W. Bramwell.

Bramwell, who is no stranger to union trouble, let it be known in his first session with the Guild that he had no intention of granting a Guild shop, the five-day week or numerous other points, although many are standard in the industry and taken for granted elsewhere.

Bramwell, Harold Schlotthauer for the industrial relations bureau of the California Newspaper Publishers Association, and W. N. Lee, currently managing editor, and long-time Guild antagonist in Chico, gave no logical reason for working white collar employees six days a week while back shop employees work a five-day, 37½-hour week.

Lee declared "you can't gather

Jersey Observer Newest Victim of Monopoly Trend

HOBOKEN DAILY FOLDS AFTER 59 YEARS. NEWHOUSE BUYS CIRCULATION, FEATURES

Jersey City—Hoboken's Jersey Observer closed its doors last week after 59 years of publication, making 229 employees jobless on less than 48 hours' notice.

At the same time, S. I. Newhouse, new sole owner of this city's Journal, and purchaser "at

a good price" of the features, circulation rights and good will of the Observer, announced plans for expanding Journal coverage and circulation, and employed half a dozen newsmen from the Observer staff.

The suspension leaves almost two-thirds of a million people in these two Hudson County communities with a single daily newspaper, and local advertisers with no choice as to their medium of reaching customers.

The end came for Observer employees with all the brutality and suddenness which have characterized many similar newspaper transactions in recent months and years.

The Observer co-publishers, Fred A. Seide and Mrs. Elizabeth Fagan, had been quoted in another newspaper, just a few hours before the sale became known, as denying their establishment was on the block.

One Observer executive explained to a Guild member: "We knew it was coming, but didn't say anything because there might be trouble getting union members to report for work."

The 46 editorial employees covered by Guild contract received an extra week's pay, and a promise that severance would

be forthcoming "as soon as an audit is completed."

Their contract calls for two weeks' dismissal notice, a maximum of 30 weeks severance payable in a lump sum on dismissal and accrued vacation credits on a pro-rata basis.

At two emergency sessions called by John Connolly, vice president of the Hudson County Guild local, the Guild voted to retain counsel and move for immediate contract compliance, through court action if necessary.

ANG Secretary-treasurer William J. Farson and Ellis T. Baker III, director of research and information, were present for the international, and Farson later called Seide on contract compliance, gaining from the co-publisher only verbal assurance that severance would be paid, some time.

Seide seemed surprised at the vacation and notice provisions in the Guild contract, said Guildsmen were being treated "just like everybody else." It was explained to him that the Guild expects its full contract terms to apply, regardless of other department practices.

Guildsmen have been under contract protection at the Observer since May, 1948.

(Continued on Page Two)

3,000 Hospitalized Veterans Get the Bird At Twin Cities—And Find It Toothsome

Minneapolis—A ruddy-faced Twin Cities Guildsman early this month gave 3,000 hospitalized Minnesota veterans the bird—and they loved it!

The occasion was the Veterans' Pheasant Dinner, annually the largest game feast on the North American continent and all-time favorite project of Ed Shave, Minneapolis Tribune outdoor editor, who launched the gigantic feed 10 years ago and has kept it growing since.

Better than 3,000 pheasants were shot and contributed by hunters from 125 Minnesota communities to provide the dinner's piece de resistance. Shells were supplied by Minnesota legionnaires, the birds were cleaned by Twin Cities grocery employees, and veterans at Minnesota Soldiers Home, Glen Lake Sanatorium, Minneapolis Veterans Hospital, and St. Cloud Veterans Hospital provided the appetites.

This year, the dinner was better than ever. Governor C. Elmer Anderson was on hand, and Tribune columnist George Grim, also a Guild member, regaled the veterans with anecdotes. Quite a few of the veterans managed to polish off a whole pheasant.

"Some of these boys have been here for all ten dinners," said Fern Nelson, chief dietitian at St. Cloud, "and they seem to enjoy it more every time around. Why, they've been talking about this dinner for a solid month."

That statement would thrill nobody more than Ed Shave, a fiercely intent lover of the outdoors and the good deed, who has supplied the spark to make the pheasant dinner a major event in Minnesota.

A chance remark by a friend gave him the idea back in 1941. He was visiting an old crony at

Veterans Hospital. Somewhat wistfully, the fellow mentioned he'd like to have a pheasant dinner—if Shave could scare one up.

Other hospitalized veterans were in on the bull session, and Ed thought a minute and then said, "By golly, I'll see that you all get a pheasant dinner."

He tirelessly covered the southwestern part of the state, telling local sportsmen about his idea. They were eager to cooperate. That first year, 500 invalid veterans were fed.

Now, each year, in the early fall, Ed goes to work—organizing, inspiring, cajoling—and each year, sportsmen around the state bring in the birds for another pheasant dinner.

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Ed was born on a farm at Hawley, Minnesota. He decided early that farm life wasn't for him, and set his sights on Minneapolis.

At 17 he enrolled at Central High here, and went on to the University of Minnesota, where his ability to give a good account of any game on paper became enough of a legend to land him as a sports writer on the St. Paul Daily News.



ALL WHITE-MEAT, BROTHER—That's Minnesota's governor, Elmer Anderson, making with the fork as Guildsman Ed Shave, of the Twin Cities local, watches a plateful of pheasant disappear. Shave annually promotes a game dinner for hospitalized veterans in the Twin Cities area. The arm-in-sling veteran is Jim Campbell, of St. Paul.

CIO Convention Hears Murray, Eubanks, In Plea for Support of Labor Daily

The national labor newspaper project sponsored by the Guild, to which former Executive Secretary Sam Eubanks is now devoting his full time, was presented by Eubanks to the national convention of the CIO at New York last week after Philip Murray, CIO president, had introduced the subject in warmest terms.

The following are excerpts from the report of the proceedings:

President Murray: "The vice presidents and members of our international executive board for some time have been giving consideration to the institution of a national labor paper. No doubt many of you have been following the Daily Reporter. It was brought into being following the Guild lockout in the city of Pittsburgh. During the period of that strike the metropolitan area of Pittsburgh was without daily newspapers, and the officers of the Newspaper Guild promptly organized a small corporation and they proceeded to publish the Pittsburgh Daily Reporter. They did an excellent job. As a matter of fact, they couldn't publish enough copies to meet the demand of the readers, the consumers."

The work of the Newspaper Guild during that period encouraged the people who had interested themselves in getting the newspaper out to the point they sought they might give consideration to the publication of a national daily. Since that time there have been sample copies of the National Daily Reporter published and circulated among delegates attending various conventions, including the convention of the American Federation of Labor and this convention.

"The undertaking is a tremendous one. It is a very costly one. It comprehends the expenditures of large sums of money. The people who are promoting the publication of the newspaper believe it would be impossible to make a success out of it unless they got enough voluntary subscriptions from all kinds of people throughout the United States to make it a financial success."

"Sam Eubanks, former executive vice president of the Newspaper Guild, has been interesting himself in the promotion of this enterprise. He has appeared before the members of the CIO executive board and has discussed the matter with our vice presidents as well as a number of the organizations affiliated with the CIO. I have asked him to discuss this project with you in the hope he might be able to encourage your support through the medium of voluntary subscriptions, in the institution of this new daily labor newspaper."

"I therefore call upon Sam Eubanks to briefly address you about this subject matter. And I should like to say before presenting him to you that Sam has really done a remarkable job in getting this work done."

Delegate Eubanks (Newspaper Guild): "President Murray, officers and delegates, I have told Mr. Murray that I can dispose of this matter before the convention in about three minutes, because I think that is about all the time that the convention needs to devote to it."

"The CIO has recognized the disappearance of free press in the countries controlled by the communists. It has called attention to the brutal treatment accorded our American newspaper men abroad, particularly in the case of William Oatis, imprisoned by the Czech communists. It has noted the disappearance of a free press by the suppression of the great newspapers of Argentina. And I think it appropriate we note at this time our concern over the condition of the free press in the United States of America."

"When a communist dictatorship seizes a country the free press and other free institutions disappear overnight. When a dictatorship such as Peron's seizes a government, the free institutions disappear by degrees; the free labor unions, the free schools, and the newspapers become government agencies."

"In a democracy, and in the United States of America, we must take positive steps to guarantee the continuance of a free press in the United States, and there is but one positive step that can be taken and that is to create a new press in the United States that is responsive to the needs of the people as a whole. And that is the job that must be undertaken by the American trade unions."

About a week ago when Senator Taft opened his campaign with a speech in Tennessee, Senator Taft said if the American people knew the facts about the CIO program and they knew the facts about the Republican program they would unhesitatingly choose the Republican program."

"Senator Taft is safe in making that statement only because he knows the facts about the American people will never get the facts about the CIO program. They will never get the facts about the Republican program because the Republicans have a program they don't want to tell what it is because the American people, if they know what it was, would reject it."

"And if you men want to check, I suggest when you go back to your home town that you see how much of the work that has been done here has been recorded in your daily newspapers. Now we have with us here hardworking newspaper men, competent men, the top of the profession who have been assigned to cover this convention. They have worked day and night faithfully, they have sent out thousands upon thousands of words about it. They have started from here direct, accurate and complete stories about what you have done."

"When you get back home find out how much of what has been done appeared in your daily papers."

"What we propose to do, in the blueprint of the plan we have offered to remedy this situation, is to have a daily newspaper published by the American trade unions. It is a newspaper project that is long overdue. It is a newspaper project that is not going to be decided here on the floor of the convention by a resolution. It is going to be decided back among your local unions, back in your home towns, because the only sound, healthy way to establish that paper is with the support of the local unions in your respective international."

Survivors are a son, two daughters and a sister.

"During the coming months I am going to call on many of you, talk with you individually, and let you in on detail, which we cannot do here."

"May I ask when you return you consider seriously the immediacy of the problem of protecting the free press in America by establishing a press that is under the ownership of the people of America, dedicated to their interest. That is the purpose of the National Reporter, the free press we have been discussing."

President Murray: "I might state for the information of the delegation that a sub-committee representing the executive board has been selected, with the approval of the board, to make a survey of the possibility of inaugurating a labor newspaper, and to encourage interest in the promotion of this work. Brother Eubanks has asked you to help him to get the necessary voluntary subscriptions from our membership who are working in and around the plants and offices and mines and factories over which the CIO assumes jurisdiction, also to encourage other people who may have an interest in the development of a labor newspaper, to subscribe to it."

"I know that Brother Eubanks has worked very hard at this thing. I know that you know how difficult it is under existing circumstances to get the point of view over as it has been expressed by labor in this convention to the American people. It is extremely difficult, and the reason for these difficulties must be quite obvious to you."

"Many of the large news enterprises throughout the country, newspaper and periodicals, are controlled by groups of people who have no particular interest in publishing the constructive work of organizations like the CIO. Hence, the necessity, the fundamental necessity of labor manifesting a keen interest in the development of a labor newspaper. Some day it must come along, inevitably so, and the sooner the better, the better it will be for the country."

"We are not thinking in terms of getting out a class-conscious piece of tripe. We are thinking about getting a good newspaper out that will provide people with the labor point of view on various aspects of our internal economy and also current trends and international events. It is tremendously important that our people, our people back home, begin to take an interest in the development of a labor newspaper."

"It will not be a Republican paper; it will not be a Democratic paper. It certainly will not be a Socialist paper, but it will be the kind of a paper that will spread and disseminate factual information about every known kind of topic in which the people, and particularly labor, have an interest."

"Hence, the importance of your now beginning to interest yourself in this work."

VETERAN REPORTER DIES AT NEW YORK
William J. Kane, AP police reporter at New York, died in hospital after a long illness. He was 62 and had been a newspaperman 45 years.

A partial check-up showed that about half of the Observer editorial staffers would rate maximum severance. Several have exceeded the 30-year mark in continuous employment in Hoboken.

Contract minimums were currently at \$102.75 for editors, \$81.75 for reporters and photographers, \$65 for society writers, and other job classifications in proportion.

Ironically, a negotiated wage increase of \$3 and \$2 was to have been effective next week, for Guild-covered jobs. Local counsel was to examine the effect of the two-weeks notice clause upon the severance pay rate. One week of the required two weeks period would have been paid at the higher rates, with resulting increase of severance bases, had employment continued without the suspension.

The Observer building and mechanical equipment will be sold at auction, the co-publishers said, "with preference given a buyer who would undertake to continue a publication" at the site.

Implicit warning that such a "publication" could not successfully be another daily paper is contained in the Observer publishers' own announcement of the sale and suspension.

"This and has been dictated by a crushing combination of irresistible economic factors," the statement read.

Fitting rather neatly the designation of an "irresistible economic factor" is Newhouse, now a monopoly publisher in the most populous area of Hudson County.

Only two months ago Newhouse moved into sole control of the Jersey Journal, a family-owned and locally-potent daily brought to a successful plane by Walter M. Dear and his late brother.

Newhouse acquired Walter's half-interest four years ago, and in the interim first blocked policies and corporation business administration by tie-voting directors' meetings, and then went into the State courts for dissolution action. The remaining Dear interests, held by J. Albert Dear, Walter's nephew, were sold to Newhouse only recently.

Walter Dear appears on the masthead of the Journal as its "publisher," while the names of S. L. Newhouse and Norman N. Newhouse are listed as president and treasurer, respectively.

On the same day the Observer announced its demise, Newhouse's Journal frontpaged a story which led off with the information that now Journal readers would be able to follow all the comic strips previously carried in the Hoboken daily.

Further down in the story came the statement that hereafter two editions, one for north Hudson and Bergen county communities, the other for south Hudson county, would be distributed. Advertisers could buy space in either or both.

The Journal, picked up both UP and INS wire services from the Observer, to add to its current AP service.

But it's equally true that everybody knows the Pittsburgh story. And the Guild victory in New York City didn't come from playing hard-to-get-along-with.

Yet the Guild has several Little Rocks. And the ITU has a fleet of Meridians. The little places, and some of the big places, continue to be tough and nasty, and battles are still lost.

Some of the reasons for inaction are easy to see. Old wounds tend to open, even from the thought of them. Somebody remembers smarting under an ancient insult. Bugaboos die hard.

And everybody has some pride, after all. What if we went to them and they told us to run along?

Still, the unions are thinking about it. More resolutions on union action among newspaper unions have been adopted, lately, I'll wager, than ever before.

Newspaper workers are restless about their poor showing when it comes to pensions, health and welfare benefits.

There's a thrill in hearing of bargain in good faith, as required by statute, and the other, discrimination in regard to employment for reasons of union membership.

Guild witnesses included the former local president, Jack Mitchell; former secretary, Mel Surfin; Ed Simon, now local president; Dent Hodgson of the CP Ottawa bureau, and Stephen Ripley, ANG international representative stationed here.

Management called no witnesses, and was represented by J. J. Robinson, counsel.

At the outset, Magistrate Thomas Elmore made the dismissal of the failure-to-bargain charge inevitable, by ruling that much of the Guild's evidence was not admissible.

Further indication of the court's unfamiliarity with labor disputes was given in the magistrate's ruling that the discrimination charge was not proven, because no Guild member had applied for an Ottawa press gallery job within the last six months!

Robinson expressed the view that the dominant labor law's purpose is "to provide a cooling-off period before a strike."

Says the Wire Service local's recent bulletin: "If Mr. Robinson's interpretation of the act is allowed to stand, neither the Guild nor any other trade union in Canada can hope to settle its difficulties with an intransigent employer without strike action. The Guild is confident that Canadian labor relations have progressed beyond that primitive stage."

Proposals for a new contract are being readied.

Sheboygan Renames Fox
Sheboygan—Vern H. Fox, Sheboygan Press ad solicitor, has been renamed president of the Sheboygan local for another term, by unanimous action of the membership.

Others elected at the annual meeting are: Vice president, Carl Fiedler and Victor Hoberg; treasurer, Beverly Ruppel; secretary, Frank Barnard.

By local action, the Guild dues schedule was amended at the top. Members who receive \$80 or more weekly will pay \$8.20 monthly dues. The old maximum was \$5.15.

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NEWS INDUSTRY STATUS SHARPENS NEED FOR UNION COOPERATION WRITER ASKS START IN SOLVING JIG-SAW PUZZLE

By CHARLES E. DAWSON

Portland, Maine, Guild

How close are we to labor unity in the newspaper industry? Our problems grow no simpler. But some of the answers are more obvious.

There's a revolution coming soon in the mechanical side of the business. And consolidation, along with the growth of chain enterprises, won't make life easier in the press rooms.

The International Typographical Union is hip-deep in problems right now. And once the bugs are worked out of some of these new production methods, the photo-engravers, the stereotypers, the telegraphers will come in for headaches too.

Not in life becoming a simple idyll for the Guild. Few publishers love us, though we've come of age. And the market for reporters is in a slump. Not to mention all the other jobs made insecure by the mechanization of news production and distribution.

None of the problems becomes simpler. But some of the answers are considerably more obvious. And here's where you get into the difference between knowing and doing.

Everybody knows what the ITU had to contend with when the Chicago publishers joined solid ranks.

But it's equally true that everybody knows the Pittsburgh story. And the Guild victory in New York City didn't come from playing hard-to-get-along-with.

Yet the Guild has several Little Rocks. And the ITU has a fleet of Meridians. The little places, and some of the big places, continue to be tough and nasty, and battles are still lost.

Some unions in the industry have reached some answers short of united action.

There's a thrill in hearing of bargain in good faith, as required by statute, and the other, discrimination in regard to employment for reasons of union membership.

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Robinson expressed the view that the dominant labor law's purpose is "to provide a cooling-off period before a strike."

Says the Wire Service local's recent bulletin: "If Mr. Robinson's interpretation of the act is allowed to stand, neither the Guild nor any other trade union in Canada can hope to settle its difficulties with an intransigent employer without strike action. The Guild is confident that Canadian labor relations have progressed beyond that primitive stage."

Charles E. Dawson is former secretary of the Portland, Maine, local, ex-unit chairman of the Press Herald-Express, onetime vice president of the Maine state CIO council and a delegate at the Pittsburgh convention. He is a rewriter on the Press Herald-Express.

The Guild fights job shrinkage by building a national labor daily.

The ITU fights job loss from mechanical change by learning how to use the new machinery. But put all the unions and all their answers together, and you still have 14 or 15 unions in the industry, going much and mostly their separate ways.

Here and there, you find a local understanding, an off-the-record agreement to do thus-and-so. Some places, it's even more than that. But the overall picture is still a jigsaw puzzle. And no one's putting the pieces together.

The point has been pretty well proven that the pieces will make a handsome picture, if they ever are put together.

Some of the reasons for inaction are easy to see. Old wounds tend to open, even from the thought of them. Somebody remembers smarting under an ancient insult. Bugaboos die hard.

And everybody has some pride, after all. What if we went to them and they told us to run along?

Still, the unions are thinking about it. More resolutions on union action among newspaper unions have been adopted, lately, I'll wager, than ever before.

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the gains made by mine workers, steelworkers, auto workers. But we get slightly hollow in the belly when we think of working up the muscle it would need to make the same gains down at the Daily Press.

And you don't grow muscles talking about them.

What will it take, then, to get everybody into the gym for some mass calisthenics? Rank-and-file enthusiasm! Leaders who aren't worried about losing face!

One thing that's obvious: It would help a lot if the unions would start talking to each other. You can name ten people in the Guild without even trying, probably, who could do a bang-up part-time job of keeping in touch with the ITU.

And the International Executive Board has six months to work out a plan to present to the Portland, Oregon, convention.

Somebody has to bend over and plant the acre before the oak starts growing.

There are enough local arrangements now to fill a fat dossier. They must add up to something. Has anybody added them?

It's a sure thing they won't add up to the United Newspaper Workers of America. But they're bound to add up to a pattern of associative unity.

If we go to the other unions with information, with suggestions, with an open mind, who's to say we're frittering away our good time and energies?

The television industry is about as young as industries come these days. But the wisdom of the unions in that field puts us to shame.

They've all kept their identities. And at the same time, their joint effort, the Television Authority, has done a slam-bang job, everything considered.

The main thing for the fellow who's making his first speech is to keep talking.

The main thing for the union that's in favor of united action is to keep trying.

Now, where's that agenda? Let's put this down for the next meeting...

INS-IMP Pay Award Grants \$3-\$6.50, Ups Minimum Rates

General wage increases of from \$3.50 to \$6.50 and increases in minimums ranging from \$2.50 to \$10 have been granted all employees of International News Service and International News Photos earning less than \$140 a week in an arbitration award.

Minimums for newsmen and photographers will now start at \$30, an increase of \$5, and are upped \$10 to a top of \$120 for Chicago, New York, San Francisco and Washington bureaus. The Los Angeles top was raised from \$105 to \$115. Minimums for classifications other than newsmen and photographers were elevated by from \$3 to \$5.

The general increase runs as follows:

INCREASE	WAGE BRACKET
\$3.50	Under \$60.00
4.00	60.00 to 74.50
4.50	75 to 89.50
5.50	90 to 119.50
6.50	120 to 139.50

The increases are retroactive to July 29, 1951.

The award disallowed any increase in night and overtime differentials sought by the Guild, but did increase the salary level for exemption from these differentials, from \$130 to \$140. By agreement—it was not in arbitration—the salary level for exemption from hours and overtime was also raised to the same amount.

The board consisted of Prof. Emanuel Stein of New York university, chairman; Edward M. Gundy and Louis Allwell for the managements, and David E. Teitelbaum, NY INS unit chairman and Joseph G. Colangelo, ANG wire services director, for the Guild.

Senator Moody To Be Speaker At Toledo Dinner
Toledo—The Toledo Guild's executive board has approved plans for a public relations program, the local's first such undertaking.

Similar to the successful project of the Twin Cities Guild, the program will begin Dec. 13 with an informal dinner, featuring as guest speaker Senator Blair Moody (D, Mich.), himself a former newspaperman.

Special guests will include journalism students of the university of Toledo and Bowling Green state university, and groups from Toledo area high schools. Invitations will also be sent to interested local groups, including the Northwestern Ohio editorial association.

Further details of the program will be completed by a committee, of which John McGowan is chairman. Other members are Jesse Long and Willis S. Harrison.

Batavia Unit Organized by Rochester Local

Rochester—The editorial staff of the Batavia Daily News has signed up 100 per cent for Guild representation. The new unit, numbering seven, is part of the Newspaper Guild of Rochester.

J. Roy Elliott, executive committee member and former president of the Rochester Guild, has been active in organization of the Batavia unit. Negotiations for a contract are in progress.

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Dale Kramer Tells Inside Story of Ross Biography Venture

"NEW YORKER" MAGAZINE GIVES STARCHY STAND-OFF TO REVEALING BOOK

By DALE KRAMER
Ex-Twin Cities Guild

"Use the rapier instead of the club," Harold W. Ross, editor of the New Yorker, has always preached to his writers. Shrewd mayhem advice, except that a sharp weapon should not be

used while in a state of over-excitement. Not long ago Ross's name appeared on the New Yorker (issue of Nov. 17) for the first time in a quarter century, except when listed in the statement of ownership. Only his



In New York, Carolyn Cogswell, devoting full time to independent writing after 17 years at the Herald-Trib. . . . George Torrie, Daily News fotog, named exhibit committee chairman, press photographers' picture contest in February. . . . Stan MacGovern dropped Silly Mitty cartoons in the Post for a successful gift shop.

James D. Moran, Journal-American, signed with Putnam's for a book, "Desperate Women." Reporter Ed O'Neill, N. Y. Daily News, was elected to Yonkers (N.Y.) city council in a Democratic landslide. A Guildsman since 1939, O'Neill has been unit chairman, RA and EB member. . . .

Frank Teskey, reporter-fotog for Toronto Star, father of a new son, his tenth child. That's right—tenth, five boys and five girls. . . .

John Barry, Nashua local president, married to Marguerite Roux, lawyer's sec. . . . A son, Michael, for Raymond Marquis, proof room, Nashua Telegraph. . . . Bertha Juskewicz, Telegraph switchboard and reception desk, new Mrs. James J. Monaghan. . . .

Ross Whalen and Russell Klug, Wilkes-Barre Times-Leader-News circulation, to wed. It's a boy for Walt Angstadt, Minneapolis Tribune copydesk. John Hertz, Akron Beacon Journal photographer, and wife had their second son Nov. 4. . . . Clyde "Bud" Morris of Houston, Tex., has joined the Beacon Journal's art department. . . .

Washburn R. Cady back on the San Diego Union editorial staff after 13 months active duty as Marine Corps Reserve master sergeant. . . .

Art Polster, Detroit Free Press editorial cartoonist, switched to News, replacing retiring Bud Thomas. . . . Frank Williams takes the Free Press job vacated by Chuck Thurst. . . . Bill Sharb takes over sports cartooning previously done by Williams. . . . At the Times, rewrite man James Ingalls, first Guildsman nominated for city council, opposing administration ticket. . . .

Aldo Valdano, Detroit local secretary, father of 6 1/2-lb. boy, Steven Alan. . . . Don Brydson, UP night manager, to head Milwaukee bureau, has been with UP in St. Louis, Chicago, Springfield, Ill. . . . Marjot Downing, News society dept., switched to Free Press, where Jayne Housman, formerly with Pontiac Press, is also new in the women's dept. . . . Bob Fox, former Detroit EB member, left Times commercial to run Florida Times. . . .

Herman Beck, from the copy desk of the Buffalo Evening News, to the Toledo Blade, as a copy editor. Albert B. Burchard, newly arrived copydesk man at the San Francisco Chronicle, passed around cigars to announce his new Nov. 16, for Don Mason, San Francisco Call-Bulletin ad salesman and son-in-law of Pat Frayne, Don is an RA member.

At the San Francisco News, the ad dept. gals held a bridal shower for Dorothy Anderson. . . . Frank White, member of the CIO Government and Civic Employees union here, has been named secretary-treasurer of the San Francisco CIO Council, succeeding Bill Mills, recently named associate editor of the CIO News. . . .

Editorial newcomers on the Sacramento Bee staff are Ed Dehan, formerly of United Press, and Charles Driscoll, who was the paper's correspondent in Redding, Calif. . . .

It's a boy, 7-lb. Thomas Harold, for Jean Weinstein Lerner, one-time ANG research director, now living in Palo Alto, Calif. . . .

Bill Bronstein, Elizabeth Journal's Linden reporter, permanent m.c. for WFOE's "Know Your Town" program. . . . Eddie Hoskins, likewise Eddie Hawkins, spare-time authors both, New Journal copy boys. . . . Mary Mulligan Orsino, business office, mother of baby boy. . . . Cy Shames, Journal dark-room, to wed Judy Dattilo at Elizabeth's Holy Cross church. . . .

Agnes Wilmet, Philadelphia Inquirer veteran, retired with \$2,100 severance check. . . . Washington Star's swing man Art Keone, upped to foreign editor. . . . Replacing him is James G. O'Keefe, formerly with Times-Herald and Baltimore Evening Sun. . . . Also at the Star, new copy deskmen are Frank Owen, Lynchburg News; James C. Parcell, Denver Post and Rocky Mountain News; and David Keone (not related to Art), Wilmington Morning Star. . . .

Also on the rim, Earl Voss, after six years as PIO in Japan. At the wire services in Washington, INP's Arthur Scott is the newest economy victim. . . . Jim Cannon, AP city wire editor, father of second girl, weight 6 pounds, 9 ounces. . . . UP's George McCarthy have a new son. . . . New at INS by transfer from Harrisburg bureau, Alvin Spivak. . . .

Washington Post's picture editor Joe Newman, back to Phila. Bulletin. . . . George Garner takes over picture spot. . . . Agnes McCarthy, society department addition at Washington Herald-Times, awarded four prizes in Ohio newspaper women's contest. She was formerly with Dayton News. . . .

Robert Schultz and Robert Weaver, on Chicago Daily News midnight rewrite shift, both from city news service. . . . Also at the News, editorial's Roy Fisher, father of a second girl. . . . Roy Sommerfeld, and Tony Czarski, back on staff after trips to hospitals, and library clerk John Olson, expecting final draft call. . . .

Roscoe Hase, credit department San Diego Union & Evening Tribune, named local secretary to serve until January's elections. . . . She succeeds Mrs. Rebecca Meale, who has left for Norfolk, Va., to be with her Navy reservist husband. . . .

last name was present, to be sure. This made a shambles of his celebrated copy query, "Who he?" This is understandable considering the excitement.

Ross's name was necessary as cover for the sword play. After refusing advertisements for my book, "Ross and the New Yorker," which Doubleday offered, the magazine printed, after listing the title, author and publisher, this note:

A book purporting to deal with the first quarter century of this magazine's existence, although Mr. Kramer's account says off after the first ten or twelve years of history, with the result that he has largely muffled the adolescence of the magazine, and has shipped over

many of the people who brought it to maturity. It is only fair to note that this is probably because Mr. Kramer got very little cooperation from members of the staff, who had no confidence in such an undertaking by an outsider. Whatever the cause, it is a conspicuously uninformed work, though a kindly thrusting with the "he-hasn't-got-the-story" was a fairly adroit maneuver.

The wild lunge at modern journalism can be ascribed only to an overheated state. No confidence in an outsider getting the story? Must the professional reporter get it? It is doubtful that in a cooler moment the New Yorker editors would argue that a personality piece must be done by the subject himself, or a relative, or a close friend.

Let me duck for just a moment behind a couple of old pros. Lewis Gannett wrote in his review:

"Mr. Kramer seems to have missed the fact that the New Yorker files but the memories of dozens of the extraordinarily articulate team of wild men who have helped Ross make the New Yorker a phenomenon in the history of American journalism. His facts, I believe, are palisadingly authentic." Marc Connelly wrote of the book as "informative, amusing and palisadingly correct."

Ross's attempt to head off the book was less surprising. Ross being Ross, than his belief that the stamp of approval of himself and current top-kicks was essential. He underestimated the integrity and caliber of the people who helped make the New Yorker.

The project—so carefully explained to Ross—was to handle the New Yorker as the center of a running story of the major trends and personalities in wit and sophistication during the last quarter century. Being at the center of the New Yorker, Ross would be the chief figure.

Other major people would be interviewed for themselves. The New Yorker files, plus those of the old Life, Judge, Vanity Fair, and the like would be searched for the trends. People who played smaller roles would be interviewed. Everybody knows that with any large figure, and especially a dynamo like Ross, the observations of those watching him are likely to be more objective than his own.

It was taken for granted that he would do a great deal of backing and filling. For my biography of his friend and

provided information were Corey Ford, Marquis James, Fillmore Hyde, Joseph Moncreux March, Philip Wylie, Morris Markay, Oliver Claxton, Howard Brubaker, James Kevin McGuinness, Lois Long, Helen Meers. . . .

Later workers included St. Clair McKelway, Clifton Fadiman, Ik Shuman, Gus Lobrano (fiction editor), and numerous other journalists and editorial people. . . .

Since I consider James Thurber the greatest of those who developed in the New Yorker's pages, I was happy that he gave me a good deal of valuable time. He is an example of a major individual interviewed chiefly for himself. Other large figures with whom I talked were Ben

Irvin, E. B. White, Katharine White, Wolcott Gibbs, Charles Addams, Ogden Nash, S. J. Perelman, Arthur Koehler, and Rosal Fleischmann, the publisher. . . .

I hope that Ross's stable of excellent journalists will not be embarrassed by his present view that only a subject or a relative or close associate is capable of dealing with himself. But if they run into such an attitude it will hardly be fatal. A better story may come out of it.

So I began the book. In conversation Ross can be as funny as any one alive. At a dinner interview he spoke freely and agreed to more conversation and to answer questions by mail.

He likes to work from paper. I began moving to the other sources, hoping to find him still in a good mood when I got back to him. He backed up hard when the time came. He hadn't expected, he said, to be the chief person in the book. Who else use at the center? He stated the magazine's policy of no cooperation, which he carried through to the end in the review.

It is my understanding that he did not forbid cooperation with me. When some put it up to him he left the decision to them. When his executive assistant tried to discourage the book with the publisher to whom I was under contract, Ross said the assistant was acting on his own.

The real story lay, of course, not with present staff members, but back in the early days when the New Yorker was reshaping American humor and sophistication. I talked with such of the present staff as were necessary. It is true that when William Shawn, the "fact" or non-fiction editor, asked me to get Ross's permission for him to see me, I said to hell with it. I had plenty of material from the writers.

Most of the people interviewed were professionals, and at least some of them granted interviews out of a sense of integrity. I never made any attempt to place their stamp of approval on my book. Yet I am grateful to the Guild Reporter, since the New Yorker basically attacked me as a journalist, for a chance to try to show that my sources were good.

I went back, for example, to John Held, Jr., who besides being a celebrated artist was a fellow high school student of Ross's. There were Roy Kirk, Ken Adams, Sig Bergh, Gene Cohn, and other journalists who knew Ross before World War I. There was John T. Winterlich, who was on the old Stars & Stripes with Ross and has known him well since.

Jane Grant was Ross's first wife. She was also an extremely able journalist and she helped me from that point of view. Others of the so-called Algonquin set, interviewed largely about themselves, were Marc Connelly, Franklin P. Adams, Frank Sullivan, and Herman Mankiewicz. . . .

Those of the workers around the early New Yorker who pro-

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Truman Security Fiat Arouses Justifiable Fear

WASHINGTON EDITOR SEES BASIC THREAT TO DEMOCRACY

REASONS which lie outside the text or intent of the President's security order of late September are cause for the alarm which newspaper men in Washington, particularly, feel over the order, declares James Russell Wiggins, managing editor of the Washington Post.

Wiggins has been in the center of the controversy stirred by the executive order, and has experienced through his own reporting staff some of the dangerous applications which the order has already prompted.

Writing in a recent Sunday Post, Wiggins said that plausible as may have been the President's desire to codify all governmental handling of security material, there is much wrong with the President's attempt to answer the question: How much secrecy in government can we have without destroying democracy from within? how little can we have without helping enemies destroy it from without?

The Post's m.e. says that the struggle for access to government news is as old as the country itself. From colonial times our people have looked with suspicion on secrecy in government. The Constitution made Congressional actions open to the public. State governments have followed suit, and local ordinances make councils meet in public. Public conduct of the public's business is an American tradition.

There is no law giving public access to the executive branch of our government, Wiggins continues, but custom and adherence to American tradition make it relatively easy for citizens to know their government's policies. The press conference has been a substitute in this country for the required periodic reports to the people in parliamentary governments like Britain's.

In recent years, cabinet members' press conferences have been less frequent and much less communicative, Wiggins observes. Many important executive agencies operate in secrecy more profound than any other served for reasons of military security. Recent fraud disclosures in the RFC have not furthered public faith in secret government operations.

ALL SOBER persons admit the need for certain areas of governmental secrecy, such as the atomic energy commission, the defense establishment and some State department matters, Wiggins declares, but all honest men fear the results of such secrecy.

To be compelled to rely on the judgment of government officials in areas where sound judgment

is the only safeguard of citizens' lives and the life of the nation itself, is a difficult thing for a people taught to be self-reliant, making its own decisions.

Knowledge of the use of governmental secrecy in totalitarian countries adds to the fear that Americans have of all secret operations of their own government, even though of necessity they submit to it in some degree. And Americans can understand the human tendency of public officials and employees who confuse their own desire for immunity from the embarrassment or harassment of publicity with the national security, Wiggins adds.

Some such employees with a high sense of their job's importance may honestly believe, says Wiggins, that public ignorance of government's mistakes may prevent interruption of a program or lead to greater public confidence in the government.

Since access of most Americans to their government is through the press, there must be governmental acknowledgment of the right of the press to get the news, and the right to print that news without fear of punishment, says the Post editor.

The right to get the news is fundamental, for it is the vulnerable point at which all modern dictators have begun their systems of oppression.

EVEN THOSE disappointed at the performance of today's press still concede its role as "inspector-general" of a great state, the article continues. Some administrators who would never learn from prudent subordinates have gleamed unpalatable truths from a press with access to facts. There was no dissenting voice, no press to serve as inspector-general, in the birth

of Nazi and fascist regimes in Europe. And outside the immediate urgency of war, which is "for the duration" only, American people will never cheerfully surrender their right to know what their government is doing. There is no reassuring limitation to the present security order, since whatever else the contest with Soviet Russia may become, it is unlikely, says Wiggins, to turn into a short war.

Under these circumstances, he concludes, it is difficult for Americans to reconcile themselves even to the degree of secrecy that security plainly requires, and with which Truman "is properly and sincerely concerned."

SPECIFICALLY, the order is objectionable, because the "national security" it is intended to safeguard is a catch-all word, broadly interpreted and just as broadly misinterpreted. The power to withhold information by labelling it top secret, secret, confidential or restricted—widely scattered among heads

of many agencies, and may be further delegated. Wiggins declared that in the light of the tendency among the military to "over-classify," such a sweeping delegation of power is to be feared.

The President's statement accompanying the order provides for "a continuing review" of classification activities, but, the Post editor says, such a review, however prompt, could not catch up with lost time, when quick public reaction is needed to affect a policy choice, influence an election, or settle an issue.

MOST OBJECTIONABLE of all, Wiggins finds, are the definitions attached to the classifications of "confidential" and "restricted." The definitions are so little particularized that conscientious persons might withhold information without any military or security significance whatever. The military establishment, with highly-trained personnel, has found it necessary to furnish closely itemized guides for its men.

It might be damaging to the "prestige of the Nation," says the writer, to disclose a gigantic government fraud; but most citizens would deem it a low enough price for cleaning up an administration.

And it is to the "advantage of a foreign nation" to know agricultural and commercial statistics of this country. Yet, Wiggins points out, we risk that danger because the published information is vital to us here.

Truman has indicated that he is willing to work out a compromise of the two needs for national protection and public knowledge, and to modify the order where it can be shown that the twin objectives are not sacrificed.

Says Wiggins, "If the problem is attacked in that spirit, we should be able to find . . . a national policy that will let Americans know as much as possible about their government, and their enemies to know as little as possible about vital military security matters."

Many city, county and state officials attended.

The gridiron type skits poked fun at, among others, city and state governing bodies. Gov. Earl Warren and beauty contests. . . . In the front row, incidentally, was a beauty contest winner, Sacramento's Patricia Lehman, Miss California of 1951. She was a special guest. . . .

Mrs. Frances Carrick of Sacramento Bee classified was general chairman. Others on the committee were Mary Davis, Florence Barton, Lillian Hickey, Patti June, Bill Glackin, Sam Archibald, Wayne Sargent, Paul Freye, Bill Mayer, Bob Johnson, Francis Franklin, Jack Odey, Dick Rodde, Art Wood, Charles Driscoll, Ed Dolan, Bert Vaughn, Gene Hill, Charles Mickelsen and Stan Wilson.

Gary—Editorial employees of the Post-Tribune will receive general increases of from \$2.50 to \$6 under a wage-reopening of the Gary local's contract, which has been approved by the local membership. . . .

The gains are within the limits of wage stabilization and hence will not require government review. The increases are to be applied to the minimum schedules in the contract and are payable retroactive to October 23. . . .

Minimum pay for reporters, photographers and desk men goes from \$93.50 to \$95.50, after five years of experience. Society reporters will have a new top minimum of \$68.50, an increase of \$5; while librarians and editorial clerks will get not less than \$57.50, after three years' experience. The former figure was \$55. . . .

Full-time use of employees' cars in the publisher's service will have a base guarantee of \$12, an increase of \$1 from the former weekly rate. . . .

Joseph Kutch, local president, headed the negotiations committee. . . .

The Guild is the sum total of all its members, including you

SACRAMENTO DRAWS CROWD AT LIVELY PAGE ONE BALL

Sacramento—Nearly 300 persons attended the annual Page One ball of the Sacramento Guild in the press-radio building on the California state fair grounds. . . .

It was a more ambitious affair

Riznik to Work on Propaganda Survey Berkeley, Calif.—Joseph Q. Riznik, charter member of the San Francisco-Oakland Guild, who has retired after twenty years of work for newspapers, magazines, radio, the movies, and the government's office of war information, has enrolled as a graduate student at the University of California's journalism school. . . .

His purpose is to do research on a project which will examine counter-propaganda, as it may be utilized in media of mass communication—the press, radio, television and the motion picture. Need is seen, Riznik points out, for not only correcting public misinformation resulting from alien propaganda, but for anticipating such lines of attack especially in times of national crisis. . . .

Riznik's son, Barnes, is his room-mate at the university, where the latter is a cadet lieutenant in the air force. ROTC unit and editor of its publication, "Air Bear." Riznik's wife, Charlotte Barnes Riznik, is Charlotte Barnes Riznik, Marin Magazine editor for the San Rafael Independent-Journal and news editor of the daily radio outlet, KTIM. . . .

GARY Wage Gains Net \$2.50 to \$6

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Confidential Sources Lose in Iowa Court

Sioux City — Newspaper reporters, unlike lawyers, doctors and ministers, have no law-given privilege to keep the names of news sources confidential, the Woodbury county district court ruled here.

The decision was handed down in a case involving Robert H. Dodelay, a member of the Sioux City Newspaper Guild, who had refused to answer 16 grand jury questions concerning a story he wrote on gambling.

County Attorney Wallace Huff, who filed contempt proceedings against the Sioux City Journal reporter-deskman, said the case was without precedent in Iowa. District Judge L. B. Forsling ruled that Dodelay must either

answer the questions or go to jail. . . .

He was subpoenaed after the publication of a local-angle story on the effects of the new federal gambling law, anonymously quoting the proprietors of three Sioux City bookies' establishments. The county attorney wished to learn the names of the proprietors and the establishments. . . .

On the advice of counsel furnished by The Journal, Dodelay answered the questions. . . .

There were no indictments brought on his testimony because by ruling that he need not answer questions which might incriminate himself, the judge eliminated Dodelay as a possible material witness. . . .

The balloting was on a three-

THE GUILD REPORTER

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TWO PUBLICATIONS of the Triangle racing chain have been ordered suspended—at Houston and at Cincinnati—and both uneasiness and uncertainty prevail at other points where the racing dailies are produced, all in the wake of the November 1 effective date of the new federal laws requiring bookmakers to register and make tax returns on their profits.

In spite of front-office denials, the bottom has dropped out of circulation in the field of tip sheets, and to a lesser extent the effects are felt at more pretentious publications like Triangle's daily racing forms.

At Houston, nine Guild-covered employees picked up some \$9,500 in severance pay and sought other jobs. The Cincinnati sheet is due to fold December 1, the 16 employees of the Racing Record there also being Guild-covered by severance provisions.

With tax department officials interesting themselves in every arrest for book-making, and offering registration forms to the abashed prisoners at the bar, the bookie has become the newest example of the vanishing American.

Bob Ruark's column for Scripps-Howard papers recently was devoted to a heart-rending picture of the desperation of the guy with a hot tip and no bookie to take his money.

The bookie in large numbers

—the estimate is that 30,000 of them operated in New York City alone—has gone underground more effectively than a communist leader.

Conversely, business at the tracks is booming more than ever, legalized betting taking the play away from the street-corner-and-telephone operators. Meantime, Guild units at Triangle shops across country are doing some breath-holding, and waiting.

Rochester Names New Officers

Rochester — The Rochester Guild has elected Thomas J. Murphy, assistant news editor of The Times-Union, president for the coming year.

He succeeds J. Roy Elliott of The Democrat and Chronicle. He has been active in the Guild since its inception. In 1948 he was delegate to the national convention in San Francisco.

Others elected include: Vice president, Larry Howe, D&C; treasurer, Alan Nash, T-U; recording secretary, Peter Stutz, D&C; corresponding secretary, Arthur Myers, T-U; delegate to the CIO Council of Rochester and vicinity, Joseph E. Whitcombe, D&C; alternate delegate, Leonard Lockwood, T-U; delegate to the Empire State district council, George Huber, D&C.

Our Daily Bread ...

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"Will you take an obituary notice, please?"

Cartoon by Chalmers, NY Guild

Washington ROUNDUP

By CHALMERS M. ROBERTS
Washington Guild

THIS town is on a sort of dead center at the moment. The big domestic problem, inflation, is strictly a clouded crystal ball matter. The foreign issue, peace or war (cold or hot), jumps from that Korean tent to the UN at Paris and back. The political issue awaits Ike's candidacy or lack of it.

Washington, according to the statistics, has more lawyers per square foot than any other town. It certainly must have twice as many economists with even less agreement amongst them. Take inflation.

Your last trip to the super-market made it clear the cost of living, especially food, is wacky. For the first time recently, the big chains quoted over-\$1-a-pound meat prices in big black type in the local papers. Up to now they've been avoiding putting it in print but apparently nobody is scared of \$1 hamburgers any more; it's just one of those things here to stay.

Yet the big inflation the administration was warning about last summer when it was trying vainly to get a reasonably decent price control law hasn't shown up yet. Rents are rising under the new "control" law and transportation costs—bus and railroad rides—also are on the upward trend. But overall the price index is moving slowly.

Remember it was the impact of defense spending that would really shoot off the rockets. Billions are being spent, all right, but schedules get ahead of potentialities, it appears. The businesses that were going to be put out of business still manage to keep on turning out civilian goods. Some areas have too much labor, others too little. On balance things still are pretty good.

Psychologically, the big date ahead is Jan. 1, by which time the steel workers should have a new contract and more dough in their pay envelopes. The industry has made it clear any extra pay will be passed on to the customers in higher prices and the facts of life, if not of economics, make it clear that higher steel price increases seldom fail to work their way through practically our whole economy.

Yet despite all this, economists here who can agree figure the consumer price index is not likely to go up more than another three percent in the next 12 months. This despite that defense spending "impact," which now has been postponed, as the economists see it, from this fall to late winter or maybe next spring.

I DON'T know who is saving money but the figures all show that Americans in toto are hanging on to something like 10 percent of their income after taxes. I'd bet my withholding tax

that Guild members aren't saving that kind of cash but as long as somebody is, it cuts down on the pressure to drive up prices.

We're the world's foremost ups-and-downs people. Once we get the idea in our heads that the farmer or the grocer is sticking us, or that the manufacturer is so overloaded with refrigerators or TV sets we can take our time, it takes a real stack of full page come-on advertisements to shake an extra buck loose. Of course, if there's a new war scare we doubtless will run the other way—right into the nearest store to buy something, just something that might later be missing from the counters.

FOOD is what hurts most in the pocketbook. Back in 1947 the Bureau of labor statistics figured that those in the \$1,000-\$2,000 yearly income bracket spent around 40-percent-plus of their income on food and it certainly is higher today. Even those in the \$6,000-\$7,000 bracket spent over 30 percent in '47. Seasonal dips in meat prices don't help much, as far as I can see, and the long range isn't very encouraging price-wise with so much cash money around.

Of course we're eating well, most of us, and we bitch more than necessary. But America wasn't built by people who said things were just dandy, even back in the "good old days" when they were less dandy than they are today.

WHICH leads me to sound off on an item I saw in the papers the other day. It seems that someone figured out that the average American (who ain't, anyway) is going to have to "give" the Government 29 weeks' more pay out of his working life as a result of the newest federal taxes. This average guy, they say, is 29, married with two kids and earning \$4,300 a year.

Of course the gents who figure out these things never seem to get the idea of where the money's going. They don't know how to figure out the value of six American divisions in Europe towards which that average gent "gave," they tell us, a couple extra bucks a week. Or the value of veterans hospitals for men who haven't gotten back to normal from the last war. Or name your own example: I guess we all like to squawk about paying an extra cent gas tax, and then yelp to the gas station attendant about how the city or state ought to get off its tail and spend a few billions more, to bust open this or that traffic bottleneck.

As to taxes, I mentioned in this space before my belief that the Internal revenue bureau scandal would likely do far more political harm to the Democrats than all the mink coats and deep freezes combined. Each day's new revelation of corruption reaffirms that belief. It could get bad enough to blow the top off this town.

Bob Brown Is Renamed SFONG Executive Secretary With Other Posts Contested

San Francisco — Bob Brown, executive secretary of the San Francisco-Oakland local since the spring of 1943, has been declared re-elected for a tenth term starting in January, 1952.

The SFONG elections committee, headed by former local president Eddie Murphy, announced that Brown is unopposed in the annual officer election scheduled for Dec. 11 and 13.

Brown, on leave from the Examiner Unit, has become nationally recognized in the Guild during his decade of service with SFONG. He has been active in ANG conventions, the Hearst Memorandum, the California-Nevada District

Council and the local CIO Council.

Murphy reported there are two SFONG Guildsmen in the running for local president to succeed Joe Rosenthal, Chronicle Unit, who is completing his initial term.

They are Ed Frisbie, Examiner Unit, and Harvey Wing, News Unit. Wing, chairman of the national Scripps-Howard Council last year, is a former SFONG vice-president and attended the last two ANG conventions.

Candidates for the three

SFONG vice-presidency posts are:

Frances Grubb, Call-Bulletin Unit; Andy Harris, People's World Unit; Hazel Holly, Examiner Unit; Doug Lovelace, Associated Press Unit; Ed O'Connor, Examiner Unit; Barney Peterson, Chronicle Unit, and Pierre Salinger, Chronicle Unit.

Two are running for recording-secretary. They are Marion Thredgill, Call-Bulletin Unit, and Ella Hutch, People's World Unit.

Candidates to succeed Tom Evans, Chronicle Unit, treasurer of SFONG since 1948, are Boey Blackmer, Examiner Unit, and Vera Chandler, Chronicle Unit.

Originally 57 names were entered for the seven SFONG officer posts, but only 14 have submitted written acceptances to be candidates. Murphy said.

The Guild Reporter

99 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.

POI Council At Cleveland

Cleveland — A mock negotiating session, devoted to pension plans, and a panel discussion of inter-union cooperation in the newspaper field, will mark the two-day meeting here this week-end of the Pennsylvania-Chio-Indiana district council.