

ITF NEWSLETTER

INFORMATIONS

INFORMATIONEN

INFORMATIONSBLAD

No. 20

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RAILWAYMEN

BELGIUM

Railwaymen seek better pay

The ITF-affiliated Railwaymen's Section of the Belgian Public Service Workers' Union is claiming an increase from 66,500 Fr. to 70,000 Fr. in the annual guaranteed wage (£475 or \$1,330 and £500 or \$1,400 respectively); it is also seeking the elimination of the present starting salary in each grade, so that the new starting rate will become that at present received after two or four years' service.

CANADA

Hotel must pay minimum wage

After a two-week dispute between Canadian National Railways and the ITF-affiliated Canadian Brotherhood of Railway, Transport and General Workers, it has been agreed that members employed by the railway's hotels will be paid a minimum of \$1.25 per hour, with effect from 1 July this year, the date on which the Canada Labour (Standards) Code came into effect. Canadian National had been maintaining that they were not obliged to observe the new federal minimum wage in their hotel operations, and employees of the Chateau Laurier hotel in Ottawa were planning to take strike action when the agreement was reached.

The new three-year contract provides a 5-cent an hour wage increase each year; a 50-cent a day bonus for split shifts (spreadover); one extra public holiday a year; two weeks' leave after one year's service; and other fringe benefits.

GREAT BRITAIN

NUR rejects pay and hours offer

The ITF-affiliated National Union of Railwaymen has rejected the Railways Board's offer covering pay, hours and holidays (see last issue of the Newsletter), and is putting the issue to arbitration by the Railways Staff National Tribunal.

ROAD AND PASSENGER TRANSPORT WORKERS

ITALY

Series of strikes in Milan passenger transport

Employees of Milan's public transport system - trams, buses, trolley-buses and underground - conducted a series of short strikes on 29 and 30 September and 1 October. This action has been taken in support of pay claims and in protest against proposals to reduce staff.

PORT WORKERS

AUSTRALIA

Act passed on dock labour recruitment

The Australian Parliament has passed an Act which removes from the Waterside Workers' Federation the right to recruit dock labour and hands it over to the Stevedoring Industry Authority, an independent body composed of representatives of employers and employees. The Act also provides for the de-registration of the union in certain circumstances, and its replacement by one or more other unions. (Some sections of the WWF are Communist-controlled.)

BELGIUM

Dockers decide on claims'

Dock workers belonging to the ITF-affiliated Belgian Transport

Workers' Union have agreed on the claims which will be put to the employers in the coming round of contract negotiations. These include: a 10% increase in basic pay, excluding compensation for rises in the cost of living; the establishment of a "social fund", financed by the employers at the rate of 2% of the salary bill (this would be used for sick pay, for instance); an increase in the end-of-year bonus, which should particularly benefit trade union members; and an increase of 10 Fr. in the guaranteed daily wage.

SEAFARERS

INTERNATIONAL

IMCO Assembly ends

The Fourth IMCO General Assembly ended on 28 September; we give below a resumé of the main decisions. Maritime Safety Committee - there has been no change in the composition of this Committee. The members are as before: Argentina, Canada, France, Germany (Fed. Rep.), Greece, Italy, Japan, Liberia, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, United Kingdom, United States and USSR.

The Assembly also agreed to amend Article 28 of the IMCO Convention which lays down the composition of the Maritime Safety Committee. The original version provided for a Committee of 14, of whom eight should represent the largest shipowning nations and the remainder should be elected to represent countries with large shipping interests and major geographical areas. The new clause reads as follows (changes underlined):

"The Maritime Safety Committee shall consist of sixteen members elected by the Assembly from members, Governments of those States having an important interest in maritime safety of which:

- (a) Eight members shall be elected from among the ten largest shipowning States.
- (b) Four members shall be elected from States not candidates for election under (a), in such manner as to ensure that, under this sub-paragraph, a State in each of the following areas is represented:

I. Africa

II. The Americas

III. Asia and Oceania

IV. Europe

- (c) The remaining four members shall be elected from among

States not otherwise represented on the Committee.

For the purposes of this Article, States having an important interest in maritime safety shall include, for example, States interested in the supply of large numbers of crews or in the carriage of large numbers of berthed or unberthed passengers.

Members shall be elected for a term of four years and shall be eligible for re-election."

The Assembly also adopted Maritime Safety Committee recommendations on: the calling of a Load Lines Conference in 1966; the urgent need to continue work on international standards for the stability of fishing vessels; adoption of the joint ILO-IMCO Committee report on seafarers' vocational training and training in the use of navigation and fire-fighting aids; urging governments which have not already done so to ratify the Conventions on Pollution of the Sea by Oil (1954, revised 1962) and on the Safety of Life at Sea (1960).

The Assembly also approved the revised International Code of Signals, the new International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code, and the Code of Safe Practice for Bulk Cargoes.

Elections: Mr. Neuberth Wie (Norway) has been elected President of the Maritime Safety Committee, and Mr. Queguiner (France) Vice President. Mr. Bertrand (Belgium) has been elected President of the IMCO Council and Mr. J.J. Schuld (Netherlands) Vice-President.

War risk bonuses

The following information supplements that given in circular No. 55/S.26 of 7 September 1965, and in the last issue of this Newsletter.

India/Pakistan

The Danish Seamen's Union has obtained the same agreement as that operative for Vietnam (see circular) except that the radius is extended from 10 to 60 miles. The agreement ceased to operate on 30 September following the ceasefire, but will come into force again should the fighting recommence.

GREAT BRITAIN

NUS submits wages and conditions claim

The ITF-affiliated National Union of Seamen has submitted a 12-point claim to the shipowners and has also sent details to the Trades Union Congress, following the latter's decision to look into all wage claims in an attempt to secure voluntary adherence to the government's incomes policy. The NUS negotiators are due to meet the shipowners on 4 November.

INDIA

Provident fund for seamen

The Lower House of the Indian Parliament on 20 September passed the Seamen's Provident Fund Bill which will extend the benefits of social security for the first time to about 500,000 Indian seamen on Indian and foreign ships. The Bill provides for the payment of gratuity and provident fund contributions at the rate of 6% of salary each by the employers and employees. This automatically rises to 8% after 2½ years.

UNITED STATES

Board awards automation premium

Licensed engineers on board automated vessels of eight US shipping companies will receive a bonus of 10% of their basic pay, under an award handed down by a special presidential panel, set up to settle unresolved issues in the dispute between the Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association and the companies. The ruling will apply retroactively to 16 June 1965; the bonus will be paid to all classes of engineers including relief engineers, and will be limited to automated vessels in which the parties have agreed to a lower engineer complement than on conventional vessels of a similar class.

CIVIL AVIATION WORKERS

UNITED STATES

Stewardesses can marry, rules arbitrator

An arbitrator has ruled that a Braniff Airways stewardess (belonging to the Air Line Pilots' Association), who was dismissed last year when the company discovered she had been married, must be reinstated. The arbitrator has invalidated the agreement to remain single which the company requires its stewardesses to sign. This decision was made a few days before the US Equal Employment Opportunities Commission ruled that an employer may not, under the Civil Rights Act, dismiss a woman employee who gets married, unless he imposes the same penalty on male employees.

GENERAL

BELGIUM

Joint claims to employers and government

The independent and Catholic national trade union centres (FGTB

and CSC) have agreed on a joint programme of demands to be placed before the employers' federation and the government. The main points are as follows:

To the employers

- Free working clothes;
- 10 guaranteed holidays a year;
- Study of the work load in certain industries;
- Double pay for the third week's annual leave;
- Equal pay for equal work;
- Free transport to place of employment;

To the government

- Higher pensions from 1 January 1966; holiday pay for old age pensioners;
- Third week's annual leave to become statutory;
- Family allowances and other social security benefits to be improved;
- More cheap housing;
- Improved inspection of labour standards.

DENMARK

Incomes statistics to cover all groups

A bill is to be presented to the Danish parliament which will make it possible for incomes statistics published by the government to include all incomes; at present it is only wage and salary earners who are included in the statistics. The new proposal would make it possible to take in self-employed persons, farmers and the professions..

ISRAEL

Trade union deductions from non-members

Employers in Israel are now entitled to deduct "trade union organization dues" from non-union employees. This is to ensure that persons who benefit from union services contribute to their upkeep. The exact amount of the deduction is to be determined by the Minister of Labour in consultation with the Jewish trade union movement, Histadrut, and with the approval of the Parliamentary Labour Committee.

TRADE UNION RIGHTS

JAPAN

Government does not regard ILO report binding

The Japanese government has announced that it does not intend

to be bound by the recommendations contained in the report of the ILO Fact-Finding and Conciliation Commission on Freedom of Association (see Newsletter No. 18 of 16 September. It regards the report as a proposal to improve the long-range management-labour relations in Japan, and says that it would be difficult to apply all the suggestions included in the report immediately. The government has also decided to postpone implementation of the recommendations until the unions have corrected their "political tendencies" criticized in the report. The ban on the right to strike of public employees is not to be lifted.

PERSONALIA

Frank Hall, Executive Assistant in Canada to the President of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, has resigned as chairman of the joint negotiating committee and of the general conference committee of the 14 Canadian non-operating unions. He will continue as associate chairman of these bodies.

G. Joustra, former President of the Netherlands Transport Workers' Union and a member of the ITF Executive Committee from 1946 to 1952, celebrates his eightieth birthday on 19 October.

R. Laan senior, who retired from his post as President of the Netherlands Transport Workers Union in 1951, celebrated his seventy-fifth birthday on 10 October.

Josef Matejcek: It is with very deep regret that we report the death on 4 October of Josef Matejcek, President of the Austrian Railwaymen's Union and member of the ITF Executive Board. He was 62. Matejcek had been active in the trade union movement all his working life, becoming National Secretary of the Railwaymen's Union in 1958 and its President in 1962. He joined the ITF Executive in 1958, and the following year became a Social Democrat member of the Austrian National Assembly.

Anton Peham has been appointed new National Secretary of the Austrian Transport and Commercial Workers' Union with effect from 1 October. He succeeds Leopold Brosch, who has now retired.

Andreas Thaler, former General Secretary of the Austrian Railwaymen's Union, and member of the ITF Executive Committee from 1954 until his retirement in 1958, celebrated his seventieth birthday on 24 September. He has been awarded the Johann-Böhm Medal for outstanding services to the trade union movement.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Argentina: it is report that marine engineers who have been

on strike returned to work on 30 September; our affiliate, the Union of Maritime Workers (SOMU) informs us that it acted in full solidarity with the engineers during their dispute, although its members were not directly involved.

The Finnish Seamen's Union plans to give notice to terminate its current agreements and to seek substantial wage increases. It also wishes to discuss the consequences of automation.

France: unions representing Paris bus workers are seeking improvements in working conditions; the rising number of commuters from the Paris suburbs is increasing the work load on bus crews, and they are anxious that recruitment should be stepped up.

The German Union of Transport and Public Service Workers is giving notice to terminate seafarers' and fishermen's contracts which are due to expire before the end of the year. The union will seek to close the gap which has developed between wages of these members and those in shore employment, and to remedy the shortage of skilled seafarers in German vessels.

Great Britain: busmen employed by local authorities outside London are to get a 40-hour week with effect from 31 December 1965. The parties have failed to agree, however, on a proposal for a bonus scheme based on length of service. Ministry of Labour conciliators are being asked to assist.

Great Britain: baggage porters, firemen and drivers at London Airport are in dispute with the Ministry of Aviation; under an agreement of 1957, they are claiming the same increase as that awarded to state-owned airline employees earlier this year.

Kenya railwaymen and other public service employees staged a three-day go-slow from 10 to 12 October to demand implementation of pay arbitration awards; this was in defiance of anti-strike legislation and the action is being investigated by the Attorney-General.

Spain: public transport workers in Madrid have been staging a series of strikes in a dispute with the management over the renewal of the collective agreement.

CORRECTION

In the item published in the last Newsletter about the British bread delivery-van drivers' dispute, strike action was taken over the refusal of the employers to negotiate, and not in support of the pay claim as such.

LATE ITEM

Peruvian railwaymen's agreement

The ITF-affiliated National Railwaymen's Federation of Peru

has recently assisted its largest branch to negotiate a collective agreement with the British-owned Central Railway of Peru.

The main provisions are as follow:

- With effect from 1 July 1965 the company will pay a monthly increase equivalent to approx. US \$15 (£5 7s.);
- A bonus of \$7.50 a month has been consolidated into all salaries;
- Four additional holidays with pay: 2 for Peruvian Independence and 2 and Christmas;
- The company has agreed to a union dues check-off system;
- Three days' leave with pay will be granted to each employee in the event of a death in the family;
- The company will provide full accommodation and board expenses for all employees travelling away from their own headquarters;
- The company will establish and pay for an adult school to teach reading and writing to interested employees.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

- | | |
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| Special Conference of the Road
Transport Workers' Section | - London, 20-21 October 1965 |
| Fair Practices Committee | - London, 11-13 November, 1965 |
| Management Committee | - London, 15 November, 1965 |
| Executive Board | - London, 16-18 November, 1965 |
| Asian Seamen's Committee | - London, 24-26 November, 1965. |

COST OF LIVING

We give below the latest cost-of-living figures published by the International Labour Office.

1958 - 100 unless otherwise stated

Country	Month	Index Figure
Argentina	July 1965	785
Australia	June 1965	115
Austria	July 1965	128*
Barbados	June 1965	112
Belgium	July 1965	116
Brazil	July 1965	2,094
British Guiana	May 1965	113
British Honduras	June 1965	105
Canada	July 1965	112
Chile	July 1965	520
Colombia	June 1965	201
Costa Rica	June 1965	115
Cyprus	July 1965	104
Denmark	April 1965	132
Dominican Republic	February 1965	111
Ecuador	May 1965	124
Finland	July 1965	136
France ¹	June 1965	112
Germany (Fed. Rep.)	July 1965	119
Greece ²	June 1965	110
Honduras	July 1965	114
Hong Kong	July 1965	107
Iceland	July 1965	172
India - All India	June 1965	140
- Bombay	June 1965	139
- Delhi ³	June 1965	132
Ireland	May 1965	123
Israel	July 1965	147
Italy	July 1965	130
Jamaica	May 1965	121
Japan	May 1965	142
Kenya - Africans ²	July 1965	112
- Europeans	July 1965	116
Luxembourg	July 1965	113
Malaya ²	June 1965	102
Singapore ⁴	July 1965	104
Malta	June 1965	118
Mexico	June 1965	119

Country	Month	Index Figure
Morocco	May 1965	128
Netherlands	June 1965	128
Netherlands Antilles	July 1965	107
New Zealand	June 1965	118
Nicaragua	July 1965	104
Nigeria ³	May 1965	119
Norway	July 1965	126
Pakistan - Karachi	July 1965	118
Philippines ⁵	March 1965	138
Rhodesia - Africans ⁴	June 1965	109
- Europeans	July 1965	117
Sierra Leone	March 1965	124
South Korea	June 1965	231
Sudan	May 1965	117
Sweden	July 1965	127
Switzerland	July 1965	118
Tanzania	July 1965	104
Trinidad & Tobago	July 1965	116
Tunisia ¹	July 1965	116
Uganda - Africans	July 1965	132
- Europeans	July 1965	121
United Arab Republic (Egypt)	April 1965	116*
United Kingdom	July 1965	121
United States of America	June 1965	109
Uruguay ⁶	April 1965	192
Venezuela	June 1965	109
Zambia - Africans	June 1965	115
- Europeans	June 1965	118

Key

* Provisional; ¹1962 - 100; ²1959 - 100; ³1960 - 100; ⁴1961 - 100;
⁵1960-62 - 100; ⁶1963 - 100.