

25 travelers working in territory. The work load is good and expects it to remain the same. Room and board \$7 per day, \$49 per week, all overtime double time. Mechanics rate per hour \$3.25 with 10 cents per hour Welfare Fund. This contract expires July 31, 1957.

Business Agent M. LeRoy Nicolls and Robert Kingsolver of Local No. 82 reported 77 members, 66 Mechanics, 11 Improvers, 59 working in home territory, 21 members on traveling cards, 3 travelers working in territory. The work load is good and is expected to be good in the future. Board and room \$42 per week, all overtime at double time. Mechanics rate per hour \$3.20 with 10 cents per hour for Welfare Fund. This contract ends July 31, 1957.

Business Agent A. E. Hartung of Local No. 101 reports 35 members, 31 Mechanics, 4 Improvers, 22 members working in home territory, 10 members on traveling cards. 3 travelers working in territory. The work load is good and will remain the same. Board and room \$42 per week, all overtime double time. Mechanics rate per hour \$3.15 with 10 cents per hour Welfare Fund. Their contract expires July 31, 1957.

After the reading of all the current Conference bills by Treasurer Ay, a motion was made, seconded and passed that the bills be paid.

The auditing committee, having completed their work, submitted their report. A motion was made and seconded that the auditing committee report be accepted. The motion passed and the committee was dismissed with a vote of thanks.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a. m. to have pictures taken and then for lunch.

At this time President Sickles asked the shipyard locals for a conference before the meeting reconvened at 2 p. m.

Chairman Hutchinson called the afternoon session to order at 2 p. m.

At this time Chairman Hutchinson introduced Mr. Larry Galt, Chairman of the Insulation Contractors of Southern California. Mr. Galt spoke to the Conference members for fifteen minutes and his remarks were well received.

Chairman Hutchinson presented Mr. Kenneth McCaffree the Executive Secretary of the Associated Insulation Contractors of the Western

States. Mr. McCaffree spoke on various subjects that he felt were of great importance to the Asbestos Workers, as well as the association he represents. Some of his ideas and some of the program he is sponsoring as Secretary of the Associated Insulation Contractors does not conform to the thinking of our International, the Conference or the Locals that make up the Conference. In part his speech covered many subjects, a few are listed as follows: The ratio of Improvers to Mechanics. Mr. McCaffree insists on the ratio being maintained. Instruction and supervision of the Improvers' tool requirements, submitted a list of tools. The Association is drawing up and recommending the acceptance of an amended form of International Joint Trade Agreement, to be used by all locals affiliated with our International.

Our General President Carl Sickles spoke in rebuttal to Mr. McCaffree saying that the speed of new materials coming on the market makes it next to impossible to school our Improvers as they should be because of these continuous changes. General President Sickles furthered his remarks by pointing out the fallacy of accepting such an agreement as recommended by Mr. McCaffree. President Sickles was very clear in his view of Mr. McCaffree's speech, summing up his rebuttal by leaving the Conference with this thought, "Ideology and practicability are two separate roads and we must pursue the latter at all times."

Conference President Hutchinson introduced Brother Joe Christian, a member of Asbestos Workers Local No. 5 and presently the Business Representative of the Los Angeles County Building Trades Council. Brother Christian spoke of the ever increasing problems confronting the Los Angeles Council, the size of the territory and the increasing population along with what could under these circumstances be expected to be the natural increase in volume of activities confronting the Los Angeles Building Trades Council.

The problems of Asbestosis and Silicosis were discussed at large, stemming from the report of Local No. 16, in which it was revealed that eleven members passed away this last year. A large number of the men had definite symptoms of the aforementioned hazards of our trade. Most of the locals in attend-

ance spoke on this vital subject. President Sickles speaking from an International point of view, said the International is compiling facts and figures on this matter.

President Sickles stated further that the regulation requiring the companies to furnish safety equipment still holds. The Navy Yard employees explained the safety precautions taken by the Navy Yards in regard to this matter. At this time a motion was made, seconded and passed that the International continue to investigate the causes of Asbestosis and allied lung ailments caused by fibrous materials, and to determine what measures can be found to combat and prevent these diseases.

General President Sickles explained in detail various problems and the solution of these problems which are confronting the territory of Local No. 7 and its adjoining Local No. 97. So many of the companies that work in one territory also work in the other and this has caused dispatch problems in regard to clearing men to the proper companies. A discussion was held on the travel time in excess of the 40-hour week. The laws pertaining to this matter are very clear. It is up to each local to work out its problems on this matter.

President Sickles explained that the agreement under date of July 12, 1956 between our International and the Sheet Metal Workers International has never been abrogated by our International. He further states that we should consider this International Agreement to be in full force until instructed differently by our International.

The Improver ratio was discussed and President Sickles explained that the shop ratio rather than job ratio was the system to be used in determining compliance with the agreement ratio.

A motion was made and seconded authorizing Conference President Hutchinson to call a special meeting of the Western States Conference during our International Convention which is to be held in the city of New Orleans and the elected delegates of the Conference Local Unions to the Convention will be the recorded delegates eligible to attend and vote at this special Conference meeting which meeting will have the final authority as vested in this Conference and performed at any regular scheduled meeting.