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TO GAIN
EQUALITY

UNION W.A.G.E.

FOR EQUAL
RIGHTS,
EQUAL PAY,
AND EQUAL
OPPORTUNITY

MAY-JUNE 1975

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Rank and File Victory!

By Denise D'Anne

While everyone else in America rushed to complete their Form 1040, members of San Francisco's Civil Service Local 400 (Service Employees International Union) went to their monthly meeting to reinstate two of San Francisco's outstanding union organizers, Maxine Jenkins and Louise Statzer.

The vote to reinstate was 2 to 1 with over 300 members attending. This was an historic precedent for Local 400 whose monthly meetings usually draw 50 members. Of greater significance was that these two organizers were able to force the union leadership to give them the same consideration other workers have come to expect as a right of union membership.

The firing of the two women caused much debate, especially in union circles. Statzer and Jenkins used unorthodox methods to resolve what was considered an internal dispute. They sought support outside their union. However, this occurred only after the women realized they had no other remedy. They wanted to have their case heard before the Executive Board and the full member-

Photo by Carmen Gutierrez



entire community. Similarly, Maxine and Louise felt that the denial of due process, a basic constitutional right, was in itself a matter of community concern.

In addition, there was a distinct parallel to the two women's stepped-

plan. Hipps wanted to ignore seniority in choosing who to lay off. The next day Maxine found all four of her tires slashed. Both women were subject to intimidation by having other staff members follow them around. Finally they were given puni-

been filed against them, but they would continue to provide taxis until the suit was settled. However, in some of their newer East Bay offices

charges against him were his "attitude" and his credit standing. He is taking his case to the NLRB. Bank employees have reacted angrily to these attempts to intimidate them, and

WAGE Campaign

Union W.A.G.E.'s Joyce Maupin and



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UNION W.A.G.E.

NEWSLETTER

UNION WOMEN'S ALLIANCE TO GAIN EQUALITY

vol.1 no.2

June 1971

Two Victories Won By Women Workers

Women workers scored two victories during May in the battle to improve the state's protective legislation and to extend such benefits to all workers, including men. On May 11, the state's Industrial Welfare Commission voted to reopen and review the 14 existing industry orders covering some 2½ million women workers and minors, and to set up a wage board for household workers.

The second victory occurred on May 26, when the Assembly Labor Relations Committee of the State Legislature voted favorably on AB 1547 (Sieroty, LA), which extends the authority of the IWC to men workers and calls for an annual review of the minimum wage, now set at \$1.65 an hour.

Union WAGE played a major role in both achievements, and its members were active in both these campaigns since the organization was initiated in early March. The organization's first public activity was a spirited picket line of over 100 women trade unionists and supporters from women liberation groups and the United Farm Workers at the IWC hearing on March 30 in San Francisco.

An impressive battery of speakers from Union WAGE blasted the Commission for its inaction and indifference to the needs of women workers. They denounced the IWC for "freezing" the minimum wage at \$1.65 for over three years, despite the sharply rising cost of living. They called for a minimum wage of \$3 an hour, a 35 hour workweek and double pay for overtime; and for an order to cover some 150,000 household workers.

A task force of Union WAGE members engaged in an intensive lobbying effort in Sacramento for several days prior to the hearing on AB 1547. They met with Assemblywomen Yvonne Brathwaite and March Fong and obtained their endorsement and support for this bill. Union WAGE Vice President Ann Draper testified on behalf of this bill, along with other labor spokesmen.

Favorable committee action was considered a signal victory, since a similar bill failed in committee two years ago. The state's protective laws now applicable to women only are in danger of being nullified because of alleged conflict with federal law prohibiting discrimination based on sex. A recent court decision annulled the state's hours and weight-lifting protections, hence the urgent need for such legislation. But it will take a major assault for AB 1547 to be passed by the State Legislature and enacted into law.

--Anne Draper

UNION W.A.G.E. holds open meetings on the third Thursday of each month, 8 pm.
At: S.F. Savings and Loan, University and Shattuck, Berkeley. Everyone welcome.
OFFICERS: President, Jean Maddox; Vice Pres., Anne Draper; Sec'y, Mary Jane Holmes

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