5-15-1945

Observer-May 15, 1945

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WAR MANPOWER COMMISSION HOLDS MEET

Absentee Theory Disproved by Urban League Study

NEW YORK—In its Industrial Relations News Letter, the first number of which was released last week, the National Urban League attacks the theory that Negro war workers are guilty of an excessive amount of absenteeism. The News Letter, based on data gathered in all parts of the country, and on over 500 industrial personnel reports, reveals that in a current study of 300 war plants "only 68 reports listed absenteeism as a special problem among these workers." The necessity of the worker, his insecurity on the job, and transportation problems were found to be important factors relating to absenteeism in these 68 reports.

"The failure of many companies to provide training and upgrading opportunities for Negroes is the most frequent cause of poor job attendance," said Julian A. Thomas, director of the Industrial Department of Industrial Relations. "We found that absenteeism is no great factor when Negro employees are given a chance to work at their highest skill." Numerous complaints about the work habits of Negro women faded into thin air when actual evidence was sought. One industry which employs 500 Negro women reports no difficulty. But analysis of working conditions in another plant in which 200 of the 500 women employees are Negroes showed that good personnel practices had not kept pace with the rise in job attendance.

Negro Specialists Serve With Navy

GREAT LAKES, Ill.—Negro bluejackets have been fully integrated into the technical training program here "regardless of race," the navy revealed this week.

Beginning in September, 1944, with Charles W. Redding of Los Angeles, nine Negro sailors have entered the Torpedoman's school. All of them are "well up in their classes" reports the commanding officer of the school.

Negroes have also been admitted and have successfully completed their courses in gunner's mate, radio technician, radioman, radio operator, electrician's mate, signalman, carpenter's mate, and fire control schools.

Serve with First

Many of these graduates are now on duty with the fleet and serve an integral part of their ship's activities. In the past, Negroes were confined to the navy service schools for cooks and bakers. Typical of the technological training these men receive in the navy service schools is the instruction given in the fire control schools.

The fire controlmen control the small target 10 or 20 miles away, fire of the big navy guns. To hit the fire controlmen must take into account the range, bearing and course of the target; pitch, roll, and speed of his own ship.

Utilization of Negro Workers Theme of Recent Portland Conference

Representatives from varying sections of Portland community life were on hand Monday at the YWCA attending the conference on the utilization of minority group workers in the post war era sponsored by the War Manpower Commission under the direction of L. C. Stull, head of the Portland office of WMC.

The meeting opened with Lawrence A. Otley, senior technician, Minority Groups Service, WMC, Washington, D.C., making a stirring address in which he clarified the role of the Negro worker in the post war economic structure, the part to be played by civic leaders, government agencies and other groups interested in these issues. This conference was one of four to be held on the Pacific Coast for the purpose of formulating programs for the utilizing of minority group workers in the post war industrial scheme. "E. B. McNaughton was chairman of the meeting.

The following speakers also brought interesting facts to the attention of those attending this conference:

Frank McCalin, of the Portland Chamber of Commerce, discussed employment possibilities for the post war era. He stated that the lumber industry would require a high employment level because of foreign and domestic demands; that the canneries employment will be increased because canneries are able to operate several months out of the year in this state. Improved machinery and equipment in the canneries will offer new job opportunities. Of the current wartime population, McCalin believes that 25 per cent will definitely leave the area. He said also that aluminum fabrication plants and the shipping industry will require a large number of workers.

J. T. Marr, executive secretary of the Oregon State Federation of Labor (AFL) explained the position of the AF of L towards Negro workers. He claimed that the policy of the AF of L is favorable to the Negro worker. He said that most discriminatory practices on the part of local lodges do not come under the jurisdiction of the AF of L.

Ed. Benedict, international secretary-treasurer of the International Woodworkers of America (CIO), expressed a positive deprecation of all types of discrimination. He condemned the Portland local No. 8 of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's union for its radical practices of racial discrimination. He supports a national FEPC and wants to see better housing, schools and extensive programs for retraining. He believes that full employment will dissolve many conflicts, racially and otherwise.

Edwin C. Berry, executive secretary of the National Urban League, said that Portland would have immense squaller, misery and crime if the city fathers continued to herd Negroes into the Williams Avenue district. He predicted that if this practice is not checked that such conditions will be rampant within the next ten years.

Ferd Cuthbert, of the National Housing agency, stated that the city of Portland need to have the privilege of buying and building homes the same as whites. He objects to the further concentration of Negroes.
Marine Relates Horrors of Iwo

(By Tech. Sgt. Larry Schleyen-berg, a Marine Corps combat cor­respondent, formerly of the St Louis Globe-Democrat.)

Iwo Jima—This company of Negro soldiers accomplished unbe­lievable things, but what they did that marines on lwo Jima will never forget, is to land artillery on D-Day, when the big guns were the difference between taking the island or getting off it.

Japanese on Mount Suribachi were taking the beaches and mov­ing their range inland, occasionally to plaster marine units trying to dig in before nightfall of D-Day. There was no Marine artillery ashore yet. Machine guns were no match for mortars and heavier Japanese guns. Men inching up the steep inclines of Iwo’s terraced beaches kept their heads down and wondered: when will our guns get in—when will we start to answer those barrages?

Early in the afternoon this Ne­gro amphibious truck company, a U. S. Army unit attached to the Fifth Amphibious Corps, started inland in 50 hobbling, wobbling “d u k s” (amphibious trucks), bringing with them 105mm ho­bites—the guns that have since swept the four miles of Iwo with atom bomb also after salvo.

When the Negro boys finished, 48 hours later, they had lost 29 out of their 5 ducks, but the guns were emplaced and doing full-time work. In the face of huge de­fense, they had licked.

Their story was told by their com­mander as he squatted in front of his sandbag-covered em­place­ment to provide as much close sup­port as possible. “Iwo Jima will be­lieve us,” the captain said.

“Two Jims is tenable only to those two guns which has artillery sup­port,” the captain said. “We knew days before the assault that progress of Marine striking forces would hinge in many ways on whether their own artillery could give them the support they needed—both near the airfields and on the slopes of Mount Suribachi. We told our men that the 105’s in that area were precious cargo—they could mean keeping or losing a foothold on the beach. They did the rest.”

Wire your Representatives to­day.

The observer

May 15, 1945

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PORTLAND, OREGON

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Red Cross Comforts GIs

WASHINGTON, D. C.—"V-E Day saw the American Red Cross working at top speed," said Chairman Basil O'Connor last week, "gearing its forces to the shifting responsibilities at home and abroad."

Global Red Cross overseas service clubs now serve a monthly average of more than 1,640,000 complete meals, 9,000,000 snacks, and provide 688,000 bed­ bungs at less than cost to U. S. troops, it was pointed out. The Red Cross policy of a slight charge to servicemen for meals, beddings and snacks was established at the outbreak of World War II in com­ plexure with desires of the War Department, and varies with the theater of operations.

Among the many comfort items purchased in the U. S. during the past nine months—for free distrib­ ution in all theaters—were, 736,336,000 cigarettes, 5,757,480 chocolate bars, and 5,335,986 packages of hard candies. Eighteen million pounds of flour went into the making of 500,000,000 doughnuts which, with 25,200,000 cups of coffee, were served to GI's free by Red Cross.

"The record figures will still re­ quire 45,000 pints of blood a week," Mr. O'Connor continued. These will be collected at blood donor centers in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Oakland, Portland, San Diego, Chicago, New York, Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia and Washington. Most of the do­ nated blood will be processed into plasma for wounded servicemen, but the Type "O" whole blood will continue to be flown im­ mediately to Army, Navy and Marine installations throughout the Pa­ cific.

More than 7,000 additional workers will be needed to carry on the world-wide activities of Red Cross, Mr. O'Connor said, and several thousand new volunteers will be recruited to aid veterans, their families and dependents.

May is Memorial Month—and the best memorial to the war dead is a living man! Not flowers for the dead, but blood for the wounded, that they may live! The dead have made the supreme sac­ rifice; it is for the people the­ pered to save them the supreme tribute—the gift of life for their comrades, who are fighting in the Pacific. Every man and woman who is able to donate blood has that duty and privilege—to de­ signate their blood, in honor of the dead, to the salvation of the wounded.

Fighting men count on blood donations by civilians, but if there isn't enough blood they are always ready to give it to each other. Men at overseas bases gave it—men on ships. There have been times when civilians who were able to walk stood in line to give it for the badly wounded. They shouldn't have to? Of course not. But if civilians fall? Here in Portland,

Naval Base Needs Explained by OPA

The General Baptist District Association of the Northwest, which will hold its 25th annual session with the Emmanuel Tab­ ernacle Baptist in McMinnville Heights, Vancouver, Wash. The Rev. C. C. Stevens, pastor; Rev. O. W. Powell, co­pastor. The church is located on Mill Plain road at Garson St. The Rev. Mr. R. L. Amos, D.D., noted Negro­ preacher and pulpit, pastor of the Second Baptist church, Redland, Calif., will be the guest speaker. The Rev. Mr. Amos will speak at the People's Community Baptist church, N. E. 74th Ave. and Glisan St., Sunday morning and night at 8 p. m., May 26th. Rev. R. L. Donaldson, moderator.

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May is Memorial Month—and the best memorial to the war dead is a living man! Not flowers for the dead, but blood for the wounded, that they may live! The dead have made the supreme sac­ rifice; it is for the people the­ pered to save them the supreme tribute—the gift of life for their comrades, who are fighting in the Pacific. Every man and woman who is able to donate blood has that duty and privilege—to de­ signate their blood, in honor of the dead, to the salvation of the wounded.

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ANOTHER SUGGESTED PLAN

One glaring truth blandly exposing itself for the benefit of those who care to observe is the indisputable fact that the Negro Community of Portland is gradually disintegrating. Acknowledging this program of decay is the blase and lackadaisical attitudes of the Negro people relative to all pertinent social issues. In practically every quarter of Negro activity the prominently functioning individuals are continuing to four-flushed, dream and carry on a foolish practice of gloss-generating. The fact that there is little courage and aggressiveness among this people is becoming more noticeable daily. The lack of unity on the part of those who feel they are fit to lead and their persisting in keeping alive personal antagonisms and time-worn grievances portends to steadily complete all progress that may be made by the members of this minority group.

Here of late the Negroes have shown a strong tendency to revel in deductions of grandeur which center around a few wild ideas about their non-existent but pretended self-sufficiency. On the other hand, these same persons are intentionally known to bow and scrape in the presence of petty white politicians and law enforcement authorities. The damage to result from such folly is obvious even to the mentally deranged. Many evils gain momentum while the main body of the Negro people and its leadership sit idly by. For instance, it is doubtful if there has been any case recorded in the last fifteen months where a Negro was charged with a crime and had a trial by jury that he was not convicted and sentenced. It is doubtful if a backlog of the records in the county clerk's office would ever show any marked extensions of leniency to any Negro. The same can be said of cases that have to be tried before most of the judges in this. In matter conditions have reached a point where a Negro must accept a criminal conviction if he is charged with a crime even if he is not proven guilty. One reason for this is that it is practically impossible to find an impartial and unprejudiced juror. When lawyers defending Negro clients conduct the usual intimation to determine if jurors harbor racial prejudices they are unable to get admissions on this score from those whom they question. Moreover, the division which now exist throughout the ranks of the Negro community prevents the concentration of an effective group program to alter such situations.

These factors, however, will have tremendous influence upon the employment of Negroes in the post war period. For example, it will not be long before character references will be far more necessary to gain job privileges than they have been during the war era.

At the present time, more than ten petty organizations embodying Negro functionaries who expect only subjective and inconsequent interests and futile ambitions are in existence. This does not include the many similar groups that are to be found in the war housing projects in this area. All of them claim to have programs designed to resist discrimination and segregation. It is needless to say that all of this overlapping on the same theme is disgusting and superfluous. Not one of those groups will ever be effective in a single endeavor because the persons whom they must influence know before hand that they have only factional backing and do not offer overall representation.

There are only two organizations with offices here that have the machinery to promote any basic changes in the race relations structure of this country and community as far as Negroes are concerned and involved. These are the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the National Urban League. National organizations are undoubtedly far more effective in the struggles to better the condition of oppressed peoples because they are capable of taking an objective position based upon a nation-wide analysis of conditions. Many students have occurred to show the Negro people how determined the "Prophets of Negro Loves" are to increase the division that already exist within the ranks of this minority. They have imported skillful Negro informers into this city many times to explain in detail the various situations that surround Negro activity in every field. These figures serve well the white persons who seek to capitalize upon the current efforts of minorities to gain recognition and opportunity by using these as groups as mediums to catapult themselves into dominant and authoritarian community posts. They find it very valuable and profligate to know what significance Negroes attach to petty meetings, tea sippings, conferences and other gatherings that carry a flimsy social import. With this knowledge at their disposal these persons frequently make arrangements for affairs of this sort where an interesting practice of acceptance and exclusion of various Negro personalities is carried on. This is usually done in a veiled, subtle manner. It would be the height of redundancy to say that such tactics create a condition of total disruption throughout the ranks of the Negro population.

This column has no chosen or picked Negro figure to indorse. With this knowledge at their disposal these persons frequently make arrangements for affairs of this sort where an interesting practice of acceptance and exclusion of various Negro personalities is carried on. This is usually done in a veiled, subtle manner. It would be the height of redundancy to say that such tactics create a condition of total disruption throughout the ranks of the Negro population.

There is an acid test for all of these profound well-wishers and self-appointed saviors. Firstly, the Negroes must dissolve all of their personal antagonisms and grievances. The ministers, professional people, interested workers, labor representatives and social work functionaries must assemble to determine how they can collectively assist the programs of the two national Negro organizations that have existed in this community. They must then devote themselves to carry forth, in every respect, a program that will develop an impenetrable front to the white supremacists and the economic and political reactionary groups. If this is done the Negro will witness the flight and evacuation of many pseudo-liberals from the actor of the Negro struggle. Only the honest and sincere individuals will remain to contribute to what, in all probability, will be a successful attempt to gain a greater measure of respect and justice for the Negroes living in this area.

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Social Notes...

Miss Virginia Hemphill of New York City was united in marriage to Seaman 1c Byron C. Headley by the Rev. Browning C. Allen, the Bethel parsonage April 22. Mrs. Beatrice Graves was maidservant of honor and Seaman Edward Benlow was best man. Medadines Untang Cloudy, Allen Morris and Graves were ushers. Until their recent departure, the happy couple resided with Mrs. Graves at her residence on N. Millian.

The house of Mrs. Mamie Scott was the scene of the Rosebud Study Club's traditional "Mother's Day" party to which each member brought as her guest a mother.

An inspiring program was presented beginning with appropriate quotations from everyone. Mrs. Mignon Cobell rendered Mother's day songs and interesting talks were given by Mrs. Isabel Gates of the Interracial club and Mrs. Allen of the YWCA. The program was followed by refreshments.

Mrs. Josie Flowers is president of the Rosebud, Mrs. Nora Minor, program chairman and Mrs. Mamie Scott hostess.

Mrs. Jack Martin has had as her guests Mrs. Alice Carter of Wichita, Kansas. Mrs. Martin and Mrs. Carter have been friends for many years. The visitor was here for one month. Her entire stay was filled with a constant round of social events highlighted by a trip to Seattle. Mrs. Carter was the guest of her cousins, Mrs. Terry Goodwin, who also entertained her elaborately. Upon leaving Portland, she went to Berkley, California, where she plans to make her home.

Mrs. Thelma Flowers was honored at luncheon for a bridge party and luncheon honoring Mrs. Alice Carter, resident house guest of the Martins. The luncheon was delicious. Bridge prizes were won as follows: First prize, Mrs. Mercedes Hardy; second prize, Mrs. Josie Flowers; and third prize, Mrs. Irene Briggs.

Mrs. Kitty Blackwell of 1712 N. E. Victoria had as her house guest recently Mrs. Margarette Hooker of Seattle. While here Mrs. Hooker was the recipient of many social courtesies from her hostess and friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Lester Catlett of Seattle were visitors in Portland the last of the month.

Honor "Rob" Williams entertained many of his friends and admirers Sunday night at "Kitty's" with his frantic torch songs and jive. Sammy Austin, Chick Cowles and others were hearty participants on this festive occasion.

The Portland chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority held a Reunon at "Kitty's" Wednesday, May 16.
YOUTH on Parade

By Gertrude Williams

(Continued from Last Issue)

ALSO GRADUATING is Gertrude Mae Williams, daughter of Mrs. Della Williams. She was born in Lodi, Missouri, Sarea, Canada, on April 13, 1928. Two years later, upon coming to the United States, she and her mother moved to Portland where they have resided ever since. In June, 1941, Gertrude Mae was graduated from Immaculate Heart of Mary Grade School. Jefferson was the High School of her choice, and she enrolled there the following September. This June, after completing preparatory course with Commercial electives she will graduate with a English, a Latin and a commercial major.

Gertrude is a member of “Tri-Y” Girls Reserve at Jefferson and is also a member of “G. S. O.” (junior hostesses of the U. S. O.) Reading and creative writing are the favorite pastimes of this seventeen-year-old graduate.

In the near future she hopes to attend University of Washington and take a course in Business Administration and Public Speaking.

BERSON GRADUATE

Arthur Lee Shepard, very popular son of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Shephard, was born in Portland on August 9, 1927. He was graduated from Falling elementary school in June, 1941. The following September he took his place in the ranks of Benson’s student body. Art, as his friends call him, plays baseball, basketball, football and tennis. Adorning his letterman sweater is not one, but four stripes. Art is president of the all-city “Hi-Y” (an office no other Negro youth has held), a member of the

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UTSEA Begins New Negotiations

CHICAGO—Headsd by Presid­ent Willard S. Townsend, the negotiating committee of the CIO United Transport Service Em­ployees of America this week completed a pact with pay negotia­tions with the Western Carriers Conference, the Pullman Company.

Other members of the UTSEA negotiating committee were: Secre­tary-Treasurer John L. Yancey and Research Director T. W. Winchester.

The new vacation agree­ments call for 6 days vacation with pay for those employees with less than five years of service and 12 days for those employees with more than five years of service and they are retroactive to January 1, 1945.

Similar agreements were signed recently by the CIO union with the Eastern Carriers Conference Committee representing 17 eastern railroad companies and the South­ern Railroad.

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Rhythm ROUND-UP

Joe Crane and his orchestra have been in the spotlight recently. They played for a war bond program in Vancouver last Monday evening. The program which lasted over an hour was broadcast over Station KVAN. The band made quite a name for itself in dishing out three numbers for the mighty 7th war loan.

Wednesday of the same week this musical ensemble, assisted by the nimble fingers of Don Anderson, celebrated local swing pianist, created a sensation, or should we say we say many sensations, when they began to lay down a fine array of jive for the workers at the Swan Island Shipyard. This occasion was sponsored by the Willamette Fever Club, Inc., which is planning a war bond rally on Saturday evening. The jive was made up of two bands and a small orchestra. Joe Crane says he will be waiting.

Poetry ...

Tides of Peace

The ebbing tide
Returns and leaves
The snow covered earth
I kneel beside
Ten million graves.
And the dull sound
Of the dead drums
In the long night.
The dove's heart breaks
The ocean soars
Through her white
Moon-lit breast she flies.
With slim, gray ships.
The Brave dead rest
In her embrace.
She means... her lips
Are red with pain.
War-wine. Her face
Reflects the sky—
Bewildered, black.
And wild with griefs.
Live hearts will try
To whisper back
The old beliefs.
Are red
Under the wave
This land will brave
The. 
Graves will
Earth will be brown
In to the sea
And turn the page
To whisper back
The old beliefs.
Are red
Under the wave
This land will brave
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Graves will
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also a boost to the mighty 7th. These proud AGWA card carrying hoofers, Red and Harold, also did their bit to make these programs a howling success. We remember Brownie Amador! Well—he wants out... If he can’t get out then he prays for Uncle Sam to throw a frasie frisbee in the cars of two mellow queens.

Sammy Austin tried to turn over the band one Sunday night in the Acme... Every other selection he was requesting a replay on Body and Soul so he could chiple his note writing jive into the ears of two mellow queens.

Harold Hooker pleaded with us not to lay the pen on his fine clarinet screens. He says wait until he is 30 and he will show all of us something. Joe Crane says he will be waiting.

Mary Stein sings some knocked out torch numbers for her listeners on the week-ends at the Fraternal Hall Lounge. Cigar is still asleep at the drum.

Walter Roberts is looking up new timber to dig his jive on "Cherry Red".

Baptists Hold

25th Session

The thousands of tons of supplies ranging from fuel oil to cigaretes that were used by Service Squadron 10, the "Floating Naval Base" which supplied fighting ships of the United States fifth fleet supporting the Okinawa landing were indicated today in figures released from the Portland OPA information division, illustrating the heavy demands of war on all available supplies.

Baptist’s are indicated today in figures released from the Portland OPA.

Even fuel to make a tank twice 282 miles long, with enough left to heat 10,000 homes for a year.

Even gasoline to run 30,000 American automobiles for a full year—enough to run one car for 300,000 miles.

Sufficient lubricating oil to allow for complete change of oil in 460,000 automobiles.

Enough explosives to blast Tokyo out of existence—the equivalent of 480 freight cars full.

Nine million gallons of water to ease the task of distilling plants carried by each ship for converting ocean water to fresh.

 Enough food to feed Portland for 30 days.

Enough spare clothing to completely clothe more than 1,500,000 persons.

Enough tooth powder, candy, stationery, shaving cream and razors blades to fully stock 6,000 drug stores.

Two hundred seventy thousand pounds of soap and 5,000,000 packs of cigarettes.

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• Auto Painting
• Motor Rebuilding

N. Weller St. at Williams Ave.
CURTIS MCCORD, Manager
The hospital’s board of managers will consist of 13 members. Seven to be selected by the labor organizations and six to be selected by the company. The six other employee representatives on the board will be chosen by the five non-operating brotherhoods and 10 of the non-operating brotherhoods. The seven employee members of the board will give the 80,000 employees of the Southern Pacific majority control in the operation of the hospital.

The unanimous decision of the arbitration board, in addition to giving the employees a majority voice in the hospital’s management, likewise ordered a substantial increase in company contributions for on-duty injuries and provided for an annual report of hospital finances.

The board of managers is delegated the power to manage business and financial affairs, including the authority to amend hospital rules, increase or reduce the scale of individual employee contributions and pass upon the appointment of the Chief Surgeons and his staff.

The far-reaching implication of the award springs from the unanimous acceptance of the arbitrators of the principal of “no taxation without representation”. And the showing that 93% of the hospital department income was derived from compulsory employee contributions, the board of arbitrators awarded majority control to the labor organizations.

Other CIO unions involved in the decision are the Inland Marine Men’s Union of the Pacific and the National Marine Engineers’ Beneficial Association.

The decision which went into effect this week, transferred control of the hospital’s board of managers from the company to employees.

The seven employee members of the board will give the 80,000 employees of the Southern Pacific majority control in the operation of the hospital.

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The hospital’s board of managers will consist of 13 members. Seven to be selected by the labor organizations and six to be selected by the company. The six other employee representatives on the board will be chosen by the five non-operating brotherhoods and 10 of the non-operating brotherhoods. The seven employee members of the board will give the 80,000 employees of the Southern Pacific majority control in the operation of the hospital.

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Red Caps to Have Representation on Hospital Board

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.—The CIO United Transport Service Employees of America, this week was designated as one of the 14 railway labor organizations which will select one employee representative to the Board of Managers of the Southern Pacific Company’s Hospital as the result of the unanimous decision of an arbitration board created to study employee participation in the policies of the hospital.

The decision which went into effect this week, transferred control of the hospital’s board of managers from the company to employee representatives. The hospital has been under rigid company direction since its inception in 1868.