

Trade unions are important because they unite all the workers from all the different factories in an industry. They represent workers in negotiations with the industry bosses, they solve the workers' problems and they organise benefit schemes such as Sick Pay, Medical Aid, Insurance and Training Funds.

But trade unions cannot be formed without basic organisation at a factory level. It is therefore the workers' responsibility to see that works committees are first formed in the factories. Once these committees are formed, they can come together to form trade unions. And once the workers are organised like this, the government will no longer be able to say that "the workers don't want trade unions."

ADVICE BUREAU

If workers need assistance in forming works committees or trade unions or if you have problems about your job, your pay, your working conditions and such things as Workmens' Compensation and Unemployment Insurance, then come to the Workers' Advice Bureau. (Room No.9, 1st Floor, Benbrow Building, Beverly Street, Athlone). The office is open during the week between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Copies of the memorandum on the Poverty Datum Line and the Effective Minimum Level are available at the Advice Office. Workers will find the memorandum useful when presenting their demands for higher wages to their employers.

Workers who wish to help with typing should also contact the Advice Office.

WHAT IS THE LESSON OF THIS WAGE BOARD?

Workers have at last spoken with a loud voice. They have gone to the Wage Board and told them they want higher wages. Workers who were there will tell you that the Wage Board listened very carefully to the workers.

Nobody knows whether the Wage Board will give the workers what they want. We will find that out in a few weeks time. But at least the Wage Board now knows what the workers need.

The workers who went to the Wage Board did their fellow workers a great service. They put a strong case for higher wages, and their spokesman was listened to by the Wage Board.

But next time there is a Wage Board, there must be more workers going along, so that the Wage Board knows that all the workers want higher wages.

The workers who went to the Wage Board found out that they are important to the Wage Board. It listens to their opinion. Now all workers must start to use their voices through the proper channels. This is the best way to get higher wages.

(The Wages Commission will tell workers next time there is a Wage Board.)

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