

LOCAL 88 NIXIES

THE STATE OF OUR UNION

F. F. Fehrenbach

The Clerks Party was again a huge success. Many thanks to a fine committee. We would welcome any individuals who would come forward to offer to serve on a committee for next year. This in the event we don't lose our finances. If you haven't already done so, you should still contact your Senators to encourage them to delete Section 7 of Senate Bill 2581.

Fargo is hosting the First Clerks Bi-Annual North Dakota State Convention of the American Postal Workers Union. It can only be a success if you, the members will take part in whatever activities you are able to attend. All activities are scheduled at the Holiday Inn, Fargo, April 26, 27, 28, 1974. I hope each of you will set aside their dates. There just are no activities more important to every clerk in the postal service than these meetings. Plan to attend and get your ideas considered. These meetings are where policies are made. If you want something changed in the National Agreement, write it up as a resolution, and bring it to a local meeting. Then it goes to the state convention and to the nation convention. When enough locals get behind one idea it becomes a mandate for the national negotiating team.

Next Union Meeting, Saturday March 2, 1974 at 9 AM at 310 10th Avenue South. Coffee and rolls served.

Get active in your union. Be sure to vote and bring your ballot to the swing room and deposit in the box there.

SPRING OF 1974

Pat Detwiller

With Valentine's Day out of the way and quite soon all the snow will be gone I believe it is about time for all good clerks to think "positive" for 1974. The unpredictable year of 1973 is now history and I believe it is time for all you members and non-members to stop and ponder a bit. With watergate, meat, gasoline, fuel and general expenses sky-rocketing---please stop and think for ten minutes just what you have in our contract that was signed, sealed and delivered. So many members will take it upon themselves to knock some of the benefits that our state and national leaders spend countless hours on getting into the contract. To me one of the greatest sections of the new contract was the section where we have a "Cost of Living" clause in it. Many private companies have had this for years and when the cost of living went up they noticed it in their next paycheck. Somehow it didn't hit the supper table quite so bad knowing that their paycheck absorbed those high food prices. Now brothers and sisters take two minutes of those ten minutes and read the January 23rd issue of the "American Postal Workers Union News Service", where it says that we can expect a cost living adjustment of at least 8¢ per hour. ---To some this is "petty cash". However, if every member would turn that entire amount over to their spouse, I am sure that the grocery prices would not look so bad.

Let's stay with this "positive" feeling a little longer---it is natural for members to knock something. It is always easier to find fault with some program than it is to pick out the benefits. With this energy crisis that we have, I am sure that each member must know someone that has been hurt by the reduction of employment in certain industries. Think of all the employees that have been laid off because of the fuel industry. Think of all the employees that have been laid off because of the automobile industry--yes, the fuel industry has a great effect on so many other businesses. The hotel business has had to cut back. Think how many employees it took both part-time and full time to run all these stations and hotels on week-ends. Brothers and sisters stop, one minute and think of your security, wage benefits, ect. and then I am sure that you will have a little more respect for your local and national officers that spend so much time to make conditions better for you.

Remember now---lets not stray from this "positive" feeling. The local convention committee is meeting regularly in planning a great convention in our city this year. However, this convention can only be a success with the cooperation of every clerk we have in our office. Fargo is looked upon as the "bully" of the state. Now don't get me wrong, that is natural for every state in the union. The largest city of that state is always the "bully". I want to change that reputation. This year it is the first year that we have planned a convention without the carriers. However, we will extend an open invitation to them to attend our banquet and dance. I hope that this year we can make the 1974 North Dakota State Convention a friendly "gab" session. We have invited a long list of excellent speakers for our banquet and I am pleading with you to reserve that Saturday night April 27th to bring your wife or girlfriend down to the Fargo Holiday Inn and "jam" with your brothers and sisters from North Dakota. Let's show our national officers, congressmen, state officers, Governor and local dignitaries that this American Postal Workers Union from North Dakota is not sitting on their laurels.

THINK POSITIVE

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER
F.F. Fehrenbach

When you read this there is no longer time to procrastinate. Action, immediate action, is required or you are going to miss the entire A.P.W.U. State Convention at the Holiday Inn.

I know there are many more members who can make the Saturday Night Banquet and Dance if they are not able to attend any more functions. The Union will pay your ticket if you buy a ticket for your wife.

You'll also have an opportunity to meet a few of the people who are running for National Office. The following will be there and the office for which they are running:

David Johnson ... Director of Organization
Pete Whitman ... Executive Aide Clerks Craft
Larry Jarvis ... Vice President, Mpls. Region
Jerry Fabian ... National Representative, Mpls. Region
Kay Brophy ... National Representative, Mpls. Region
Richard Wevodow ... Executive Vice President, Maintenance Craft
Phil Dooley will also attend Friday Night and Saturday Morning.
He has been nominated for the General Executive Vice President's position.

Come out and meet these people. It will give you a better chance of deciding who you want to vote for when you get your ballots the latter part of May or the first part of June. Get to know the people who will probably be setting some of the policy for our organization the next two years, should they be elected in June.

Have an enjoyable evening in the bargain. You can only lose if you don't come out and attend. Sign up on the board in the Swing Room. We must know by Thursday the approximate number for the banquet.

AUXILIARY CORNER
Pres. LaVonne Jensen

I sure hope all you ladies will insist on going along with your husbands to the convention. I know you will enjoy yourself and you will learn something about our auxiliary and what it does. We have worked hard to help put on a good convention. We have a lot of prizes to be given away during the course of the convention.

I would like to invite any of you ladies who are not a member to join our Auxiliary. Our dues are only five dollars for the entire year. We would be very happy to accept your five dollars for membership as you register for the convention. I'll be looking forward to meeting you there.

