

Pension (1950)



NEWS RELEASE

FROM UPHOLSTERERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION OF NORTH AMERICA

March 15, 1950

UIU LAUNCHES INDUSTRY-WIDE PENSION DRIVE

KROEHLER COMPANY
FIRST TO ACCEPT
PENSION PROGRAM

Acceptance of the first union-sponsored, employer-paid pension program in the furniture industry and the first to cover multiple industries, union-wide and national in scope, has been announced by the Upholsterers' International Union-AFL.

¹⁹⁵¹
~~1950~~ First acceptance of the UIU pension plan, to go into effect on January 1, has already been agreed to by the Kroehler Manufacturing Company, the largest single manufacturer in the upholstered furniture industry. The Kroehler Company employs over 3000 UIU members in eight plants throughout the country in Naperville, Illinois; Binghamton, New York; Kankakee, Illinois; Dallas, Texas; Inglewood, California; Cleveland, Ohio.

The Union plan establishes a single pension fund which will be national in scope and will pay a uniform rate of benefits for workers in the five major UIU industries consisting of the upholstered furniture, wood furniture, mattress and bedding, casket, and canvas and awning industries.

International President Sal B. Hoffmann stated that "the unique and outstanding feature of the UIU program is that it establishes for the first time the principle of a national pension plan paying a uniform rate of benefits to workers in all plants, including many small and scattered ones, in a major American industry. Our Union represents over 50,000 members employed in 3000 shops with the majority of the firms employing small numbers of workers ranging from between 1 and 50 in each shop. The UIU pension program provides for joint administration by a Board of Trustees composed of equal numbers of employers and union representatives, and selected by each group on a geographical basis."

UIU members employed by participating firms will be eligible for pension benefits at age 65 provided they have accumulated at least 25 years of service with participating employers in industries covered by the UIU. Eligible employees are not required to serve 25 years with the same employer: credit is given to workers for employment with former employers who are, or were or will be participating in the pension plan. Members eligible for pension may continue to work until age 68.

Pensions under the UIU program are exclusive of Federal or State pensions. The amount of pension, to be determined by the Trustees on a sound actuarial basis, will be the highest obtainable and, in no event, will be less than the present Federal Social Security benefits. The program will be financed solely by employers paying an amount equal to 2% of the gross earnings of covered employees.

n n #

#495 a