

TEAMSTERS PLAN BIG DRIVE IN EAST

Hoffa Says O'Rourke Victory Here Clears Way—City to Be Chief Target

By A. H. RASKIN.

A mass organizing drive by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters in the eastern half of the country, with New York as the principal target, was projected yesterday by James R. Hoffa, a dominant figure in the big truck union.

Reached by telephone in his Detroit headquarters, Mr. Hoffa said the designation of John J. O'Rourke as president of the Teamsters Joint Council in this city had cleared the way for a major recruiting campaign in the East, South and Midwest. Mr. O'Rourke, who was nominated without opposition at a meeting of the council Tuesday night, is Mr. Hoffa's chief local ally.

Joseph Konowe, regional director of the truck union in the metropolitan area, said that he already had undertaken a survey of the number of workers still outside the organization's ranks in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

He reported that the canvass indicated "a minimum of 250,000" non-union employes, with the great bulk in the merchandising field. He made it plain that the teamsters did not intend to draw any line between

store clerks and warehouse or trucking employes in their enrollment effort.

Sales and office workers fall within the jurisdiction of other unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations.

But the teamsters take the view that the merging of warehouse and store operations in many localities and the rulings of the National Labor Relations Board on bargaining units make it necessary for them to organize all mercantile employes without worrying about the specific claims of sister unions.

Mr. Hoffa announced that he would seek to arrange a joint meeting of the Eastern, Southern and Central States units of the truck union in mid-February to draw up detailed organizing plans. His will is usually the command of all three groups.

The Detroit union chief said he was "happy but not surprised" by Mr. O'Rourke's uncontested triumph after a year of bitter conflict within the New York council. The retiring council head, Martin T. Lacey, was an open critic of Mr. Hoffa's power in the parent union and his attempts to move into control of the organization here.

Mr. Hoffa reiterated his belief that six controversial "paper" locals should be seated in the New York council. The locals, originally set up by Johnny Dio, labor racketeer, were a storm center in the Lacey-O'Rourke fight. The six units are still outside the council, and it was believed unlikely that they would renew their pressure to get in until after Mr. O'Rourke takes office Feb. 19.

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