

PETER BOMMARITO

Peter Bommarito is International President of the United Rubber, Cork, Linoleum and Plastic Workers of America, a leader who, with foresight and determination, has inspired new and important health and safety research programs. Born in Detroit, Mr. Bommarito as a young man worked in manufacturing plants and studied administration and bookkeeping. After service in the U.S. Marine Corps in World War II, he returned to Detroit, and soon was named treasurer of his local union; in 1957 he was elected president of the local. In 1960 he was chosen Vice President of the International Union; he became President in 1966 and has since been reelected five times.

As President of the International Union, Mr. Bommarito in 1970 initiated discussions that brought together unions, rubber companies, and university professors in an innovative program of research in the area of occupational health. In this model program, unions and companies fund research projects for their mutual benefit. The first contracts for this research were with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Harvard University. More than 100 scientific reports generated at Chapel Hill have explored such important matters as the health status of workers, conditions of work within the industry, and the relationships between the two. The findings have been applied for the protection of workers in many industries throughout the world.

Mr. Bommarito holds other positions of importance in the AFL-CIO, including the chairmanship of its Health and Safety Committee. He has found time for involvement in community matters: he is a member of the Boards of Governors of the United Way, the American Red Cross, and the Salvation Army. He serves on the Visiting Committee of the Harvard University School of Public Health and on the Committee of 100 for National Health Insurance. The University, with this degree, commends Mr. Bommarito for his pioneering and responsible leadership in the public interest.