

Gov. Dewey's Phony Disability Act

The Local 301 membership meeting in April voted unanimously to press for the repeal of the phony disability act passed by the state legislature this year. The meeting also voted to work for enactment of a real disability benefit program.

Marshall Perlin, 301 attorney, called the bill signed by Governor Dewey "the biggest steal, fraud and phony ever perpetrated on the people of the State of New York." He predicted that insurance companies would make millions of dollars on it.

It provides for payments to workers who because of injury or sickness not arising from their work are unable to perform their work. Jobless workers who were in covered employment within a certain period also are eligible.

Most of the burden of financing the payments is placed on the workers themselves. Although disability benefits will not be paid until after June 30, 1950, workers have to start contributing Jan. 1, 1950, up to six cents a week, and after June 30, 1950, have to contribute at a higher rate, up to 30

cents a week.

Employers pay the same rate as workers for the first six months, but don't have to pay afterwards unless the fund needs replenishing. Insurance experts have figured that the program can be financed without calling on employers for extra contributions. The whole program could and should have been financed through the "merit rating" rebates allowed to big employers of the state on their unemployment insurance contributions.

Workers are to receive 50 per cent of their weekly wages from a minimum payment of \$10 to a maximum of \$26 a week, for a maximum of 13 weeks.

Disability benefits don't start until after the eighth day of disability. If a worker suffers another disability period after three months he has to undergo another week's waiting period.

Press Again Twists Facts to Hit UE

Misrepresentation continues to be the standard newspaper weapon against UE.

In a story about so-called "right wing" activities, the Gazette on Tuesday referred to a "right wingers' convention next weekend in Dayton, Ohio." It said that "two delegates will go to Dayton from Schenectady Local 301."

This is an outright falsehood. Local 301 has picked no delegates to any such meeting. If anyone goes from Schenectady he will not represent Local 301. His expenses will not be paid out of local union funds, for such funds are spent only for official union representation.

The story also said UE President Albert Fitzgerald "was once a member" of the big Lynn GE local. President Fitzgerald is a member of that local now, and its former president. The Lynn local has just designated him a delegate to the next UE Convention.

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Why Doesn't Somebody Put on a New Record?

Anyway, UE must still be doing a good job for American workers. The House Un-American Activities Committee recently announced that it is about to hold another "investigation" into the UE, with public hearings this month. Could it be timed for when wage and hour negotiations get down to brass tacks?

The Associated Press piece on the "probe" wound up with the statement that the Un-American committee "says it has solid proof of the Communist Party membership of at least two members of UE who are active in important plants." And here, we thought they were going to show that the Communists had just about taken over every major UE plant.

Free the Trenton Six

The Executive Board is circulating "Free the Trenton Six" petitions in the shops. The petitions urge Governor Driscoll of New Jersey to intervene in the case of the six Negroes sentenced to death at Trenton on a framed murder charge. This legal lynching was condemned in the recent resolution on civil liberties passed by the March membership meeting.

Welders' Grievance Back to Male Level

The issue of job requirements for the various welders' classifications went back to the Male level last week, when shop stewards representing welders rejected the proposal made by A. C. Stevens, assistant to the works manager.

The main dispute is over pressure welding, particularly on pipe work. The men contend that this has been recognized as receiving the "special" or \$1.62 rate in the past. Stevens said pressure welding in itself does not constitute a higher skill.

The men also claim that when required to do both arc and gas welding, the rate is \$1.62, while Stevens said \$1.665 is the proper bracket. The company proposal also defined the "preferential" or \$1.675 job in such terms as to bar virtually all men from that rate.

On Strike for More Pay

Workers at the Richardson Boat Company at North Tonawanda, members of UE Local 308, have been on strike since April 1. They walked out when the company turned down their demand for a wage increase. An overwhelming majority voted to reject the company's proposal to postpone wage negotiations until September.

More Awards Made in Accident Cases

The following workmen's compensation awards were made recently to members of Local 301 for accidents at the plant, in cases handled by the union attorney, Marshall Perlin.

\$2,380 to Dominick Eplite, porter in Building 66, for an injury to his hand last June 15 and \$544 for injury to a toe last Sept. 9.

\$1,561 to Frank Liberatore, welder in Bldg. 16, for an injury to his left hand August 26.

\$1,310 to John Carr, carpenter's helper at Campbell Avenue, for injury to his left leg June 12, 1947. No hearing had been held until a claim was filed through the union.

\$256 to Patsy Sipone, machinist helper in Bldg. 60, for a toe injury. \$175 to Louis Comanzo, dispatcher in 73-A, for a facial scar resulting from an accident July 16.

\$150 to Clifford Tibball, crane trolleyer in Bldg. 66, for a facial scar resulting from an accident April 8, 1948.

\$150 to George Vrooman, turbine test in Bldg. 60, for a facial scar incurred Sept. 9.

\$150 to Henry Mace, engine lather operator in Bldg. 18, for a facial scar incurred Dec. 14, 1940. No claim was filed until the union opened the case some months ago.

\$125 to William Sticht, machine operator in Bldg. 49, for a facial scar incurred August 27.

Pay Raise Obtained For 'Lab' Assistant

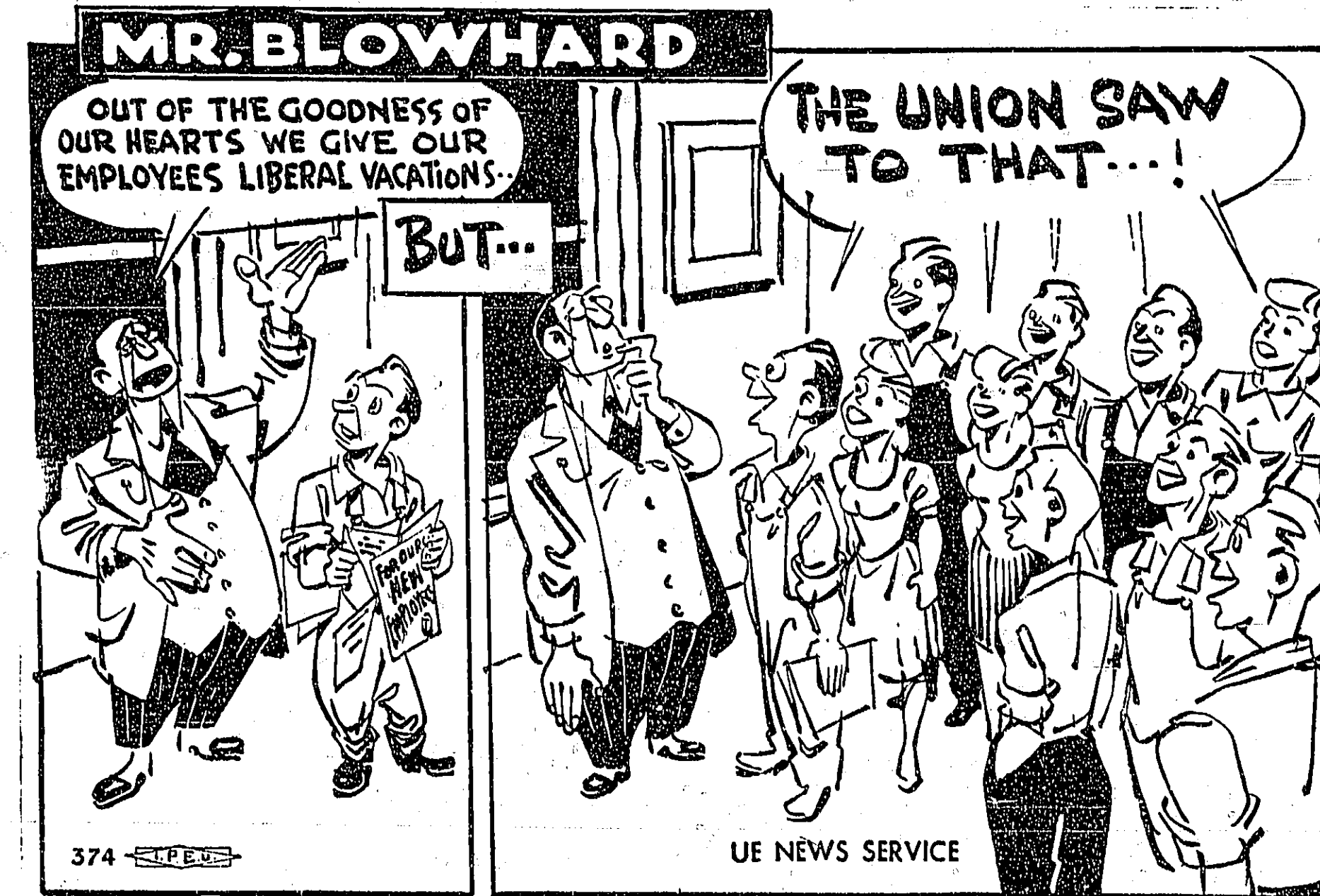
Through union negotiations Bernard Valachovic of Building 37 has received a change in classification which has brought him a raise of five cents an hour and assures him of automatic progression.

Valachovic, recently elected a shop steward, had been laboratory assistant, Class E, for two and a half years without having his classification changed or a rate increase. Board Member Anthony Villano and a union committee took up the matter with the management.

The company agreed to change Valachovic's classification as of April 18 to Class D, with a raise of five cents to \$1.23. This places him on a progression basis and he will automatically get to \$1.32 in two months.

ARTHUR GAETH - ABC
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301 Calls for Extension Of Veterans' Jobless Pay

The Local 301 membership meeting in April unanimously voted to demand that Congress extend the veterans' unemployment insurance benefits for two years, with increased benefits and longer eligibility periods. If not extended, the GI bill will run out June 1.

The resolution adopted pointed out that many of the approximately 5,000,000 unemployed workers in the United States are veterans, "men who never have had an opportunity to fully develop their skills before going into military service."

"With the new lay-offs that are taking place on a nation-wide basis, the veterans are particularly affected in that they usually have less seniority and have not been placed in highly skilled jobs, so that they are one of the first to feel the impact of this unemployment."

The resolution, recommended by the Executive Board, also called for an adequate federal bonus.

Craft Workers Protest At GE Syracuse Plant

About 200 UE skilled workers at the General Electric plant at Syracuse walked off their jobs Tuesday afternoon to attend a union meeting on grievances concerning craft rates. The same group, including tool room workers, electricians, carpenters and other crafts, left their jobs Thursday of last week for a similar meeting.

The rate disputes have dragged out for months and have gone to the top New York level.

To Laid-off Workers

Laid-off workers are warned again that when sent to the employment office they are usually subjected to pressure to accept openings on less desirable jobs, even though they may have seniority rights to jobs in their own line.

Building 1 company representatives frequently hint to a laid-off worker that the job offered to him is the best he can hope for and he had better take it to protect himself. Sometimes this is true. Often, however, Building 1 is concealing the fact that the laid-off worker may have bump rights in his own classification. If a worker once accepts a lower-rated job, it becomes very difficult to change the situation. If in doubt, consult your shop steward or the union office before accepting a lower-rated job.

Lynn Beats Raid By Splinter Group

An effort to break off a small unit of 170 workers from UE Local 201 at the Lynn, Mass., GE plant was recently beaten.

For over a year an outfit called the International Die Sinkers Conference has been trying to get a foothold in the plant where the 16,000 workers are represented by UE. The Taft-Hartley Board cooperated by ordering an election for die room workers. UE was not on the ballot, of course, as the union will not deal with the anti-labor board. The die room workers voted against the raiders.

Stewards Approve Statement on CIO

The shop stewards' meeting Tuesday night by a substantial majority voted approval of the statement adopted by the UE General Executive Board Apr. 24 criticizing national CIO officers for departing from the original CIO policies of "organizing the unorganized and advancing the interests of its members."

The statement, printed in part in last week's EU News, called for a united CIO campaign for jobs and a higher standard of living.

It asked that CIO officials back such a program instead of "using the funds and energies of the CIO for raiding and union-busting activities."

The statement went into detail about the disruptive activity of CIO officials in interfering with the rights of autonomous CIO unions and in attempting "to keep the people out of the fight for their own legislative program."

"All of this has made almost impossible a united fight of labor to organize the unorganized for wage increases and against layoffs," the UE Board said. "It has placed in jeopardy the entire legislative program the people voted for last Fall.

"It will, if permitted to continue, lead to the destruction of the CIO."

Report 2,539 Jobless

The Schenectady county office of the Unemployment Insurance Division reported that 2,539 jobless workers were registered with it as of Apr. 22. Apr. 15 figure was 2,318.