

Workmen's Compensation Protecting Your Rights To Benefits

The following is the first of a series of articles on workers' benefits written by the Union's lawyer, Leon Novak.

WHAT YOU MUST DO WHEN YOU ARE HURT IN THE PLANT

In a big plant with thousands of workers, there are bound to be accidents almost every day in the week. Some of these accidents are serious. Others are not so serious. It is important to report every accident to your foreman promptly, even if you feel that you do not need a doctor's care.

If you do not report an accident at once, you may find yourself in danger of losing your rights to Workmen's Compensation benefits. Without notice to your foreman you may lose these rights even if the injury, which may be small at first, later develops into something much more serious.

Take for example the following case which was handled by Local 301's lawyer. A worker was working in the yard. He caught his foot on a track and fell, striking his elbow against the ground. It hurt him only for a little while and then the pain disappeared. He did not think it important enough to report. Almost two years later a serious condition of arthritis began to show in his arm and finally his fingers became partially paralyzed.

Proving this worker's right to benefits after this, was not easy. It took many months. In the meantime, while he and the union's lawyer were working on the case, the worker could not draw compensation benefits until his rights were established. The difficulty with proving his case lay in the fact that while arthritis can come from an accident it can also come from many other reasons having nothing to do with an accident. Here the Company had no notice of an accident. Had the worker reported the accident promptly, a lot of time and trouble could have been saved.

The Workmen's Compensation Law requires that injured workers give notice of an accident to their employer within 30 days after an accident. The worker who gives notice promptly protects himself and his family.

Ice Age



"Now if only they don't suggest freezing profits."

Trial Committee Elected

The February Stewards-Membership Meeting elected a trial committee to hear any requests for application of membership to U.E. Local 301 by former members who were expelled from the Union.

The trial committee will also receive any charges made against members of Local 301.

The constitution of U.E. Local 301 provides in Article XII for a trial com-

mittee consisting of nine members.

The following members were elected to the Trial Committee:

John Maietta	Bldg. 60	2nd shift
Carol Tillotsen	Bldg. 285	2nd shift
Ernest Criscuolo	Bldg. 273	1st shift
Michael Rakvica	Bldg. 53	1st shift
Adam Glover	Bldg. 17	1st shift
Chas. Dougherty	Bldg. 52	1st shift
Hugh McMullen	Bldg. 85	1st shift
Robt. Armstrong	Bldg. 40	1st shift
Albert Davis	Bldg. 10	1st shift

Govt. Banker Calls For No Overtime Pay

Testifying before the Joint Congressional Committee on the Economic Report, banker Marriner S. Eccles, Federal Reserve Board member, called for a longer work-week of forty-four hours for workers with no overtime pay, a ceiling on wages and salaries, and higher taxes.

He also called for the curtailment of all "fringe" benefits like bonuses and pensions and the elimination of wage escalator clauses in labor contracts.

Saying that, "Labor should not object to wage ceilings," the banker also stated that, "over-all price control was unnecessary and should not be imposed."

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200 Outstanding Americans Protest

New York — On the eve of the opening of trials of some 17 men and women indicted for "contempt of Congress," more than 200 outstanding professors, clergymen, lawyers, writers, professional people and others have addressed a petition to U. S. Attorney General J. Howard McGrath urging him to "withdraw contempt proceedings."

In these "contempt" prosecutions, the statement asserts, the defendants have invoked their constitutional right not to testify on grounds of self-incrimination.

The statement, made public today, holds that "withdrawal of these contempt proceedings by you, Mr. Attorney General, would go a long way towards maintaining in these times of tension the priceless heritage guaranteed in the Bill of Rights — the right to one's personal views, no matter how unorthodox.

"The failure to dismiss these proceedings would be a disservice to a constitutional right which the Supreme Court has described as 'a safeguard against heedless, unfounded or tyrannical prosecutions'."

Among those signing the statement to Mr. McGrath are: Paul J. Kern, Attorney at Law, New York City; Robert W. Kenny, former Attorney General of California; Prof. Thomas I. Emerson, Yale University Law School; Dr. Stringfellow Barr, former President, St. John's College, Annapolis; Prof. Kirtley F. Mather, Harvard University; Angus Cameron, Exec. Vice President, Little, Brown & Co., Boston; Prof. A. J. Carlson, University of Chicago; and the Right Rev. Edward L. Parsons, Protestant Episcopal Bishop (Retired) of California; Rev. John Haynes Holmes, The Community Church, New York City; Dr. Artur Schnabel, pianist, New York City; Dr. Alice Hamilton, Emeritus Professor, Harvard University; Marc Blitzstein, composer and playwright, New York City; Prof. S. Ralph Harlow, Smith College, Northampton; Rev. John Paul Jones, Union Church, Brooklyn; Prof. Louise Pettibone Smith, Wellesley College; Algernon D. Black, leader, New York Ethical Society, New York City; Robert K. Burns, Carnegie Institution of Washington and Honorary Professor of Zoology, John Hopkins University, Baltimore.

Julius Emspak Refused Bail

Julius Emspak, member of Local 301 and a native of Schenectady, was adjudged guilty of contempt last Monday by Federal Judge F. Dickinson Letts.

Emspak was born in Schenectady and lived here all his life until he was elected General Secretary-Treasurer of the U.E.R. & M.W.A. in 1936. He is an apprentice graduate of the General Electric Machinist Apprentice Course and a graduate of Union College.

G.E. Dividends Not Frozen

The board of Directors of General Electric just voted to pay 75c dividend per share for the 1st quarter of 1951.

This dividend is at the rate of \$3.00 per year. This would be a 40% increase over 1948.

A. & O. S. Members Settle Grievances

Union members in Bldg. 46 held a meeting at lunch-time last week to discuss the downgrading of assemblers, who are presently requested to do higher skilled work.

Assemblers Class "A", who were downgraded to "B" some time ago because of lack of work, were given new work that was equal to Class "A". The foreman refused to upgrade any of these former Class "A" men. The shop meeting elected a committee headed by Executive Board member Serafin Pita. The members instructed the committee to take the grievance to Mr. Heckman, Manager of the A. & O. S. Department. Department management expressed ignorance of the facts affecting the specific complaints, but agreed to investigate. Some upgrading and change of classifications immediately followed. The committee pointed out that there are more grievances in Bldg. 46 that need cleaning up. They said, if the foreman can't do it, they will see the management again.

FLASH

The U.E. Local 301 Executive Board and officers will recommend to the Monday, March 5th, Membership Meeting that the charter be opened for the month of March to take in non-members without initiation.

This excludes those expelled and those who have resigned since January 1951.

The time to discuss this recommendation will be at the meeting, so be present and vote.

Emspak's guilt is because he refused to answer questions of the House Un-American Activities Committee, designed to frame him and other members and leaders of the Union.

The Judge in his decision said, "Apparently concern for his Union was uppermost in his mind". Therefore, the protection of the Fifth Amendment against being forced to testify against oneself, which Emspak had invoked, did not apply in this case. Immediately following Judge Letts' decision Judge Kirkland adjudged Tom Quinn of U.E. Local 601, Pittsburgh, guilty of contempt and sentenced him to 4 to 12 months in jail and fined him 1,000 dollars. In an unprecedented move, bail was delayed in both cases. The Union is fighting for bail pending appeal of both the cases.

Emspak and Quinn were committed to the District jail, 19th and C. Streets, S.E., Washington, D.C. At the time of going to press with this story (Tuesday) a decision was expected in the case of Tom Fitzpatrick, U.E. member from Local 601, Pittsburgh. James Matles, Organizational Director of the U.E., was scheduled for trial Wednesday. Other cases against U.E. leaders are being pushed.

Albert Fitzgerald, President of the U.E.R. & M.W.A., gave the following statement to the press Tuesday:

"The Un-American Committee hearings out of which the contempt charges grew resulted from a despicable plot of employers, politicians and the corrupt leadership of C.I.O. to frame and harass the leadership of U.E. because of this Union's refusal to join them in their drive against the best interest of the people."

Membership-Stewards Meeting

MONDAY, MARCH 5, 1951

2nd Shift — 1:30 p.m.

1st & 3rd — 7:30 p.m.

Shifts

Workmen's Compensation

Protecting Your Rights to Benefits

The following is the second in a series of articles on workers' benefits written by the Union's lawyer, Leon Novak.

How You May Report an Accident

In my article in the last issue of the Electrical Union News I pointed out that accidents should be reported as soon as possible to a foreman in order to protect an injured worker's rights to compensation benefits. A number of workers have asked me whether their rights are equally protected if they have reported the accident to the G. E. hospital. The answer to that question is that a report to the G. E. hospital is just as good as a report to a foreman.

Occupational Diseases

There are some illnesses which come from the kind of work that a worker is doing rather than from an accident. These are called occupational diseases. For instance, a man may be working with chemicals or paints and find that he is suffering from a skin disease. If the doctors agree that the skin disease comes from his work, the worker is entitled to medical treatment paid for by the Company. He is also entitled to compensation for lost time if he loses time from work from this condition. There are many types of illnesses which fall under this rule. Among them are hernias (ruptures), chemical poisonings, silicosis, back strains, swellings and others.

It is just as important to report an occupational disease as soon as you become aware of it as it is to report an accident.

WHETHER YOU ARE SUFFERING FROM AN ACCIDENT OR AN OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE, IF YOU ARE A UNION MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING, THE UNION'S LAWYER WILL REPRESENT YOU IN YOUR CASE WITHOUT ANY CHARGE TO YOU. THIS IS A SERVICE WHICH THE UNION HAS BEEN GIVING FOR SEVERAL YEARS. YOU CAN CONTACT THE LAWYER AT UNION HALL.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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SCHENECTADY GE LOCAL 301 UE

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KEEP YOUR BONE-



(Federated Pictures)

Truck Drivers Claim Discrimination

The truck drivers, members of U. E. Local 301, have been patiently waiting for a satisfactory answer to their grievance that was officially filed with the foreman on January 11, 1951. The case is presently scheduled for discussion Thursday, March 1, 1951, on the N. Y. level of the grievance procedure.

The grievance specifically affects the so-called inside the plant drivers, who receive a job rate of \$1.42 per hour. The outside the plant drivers receive \$1.46 per hour. When the rates were originally established, the plant was much smaller and did not cover an area north of River Road. The responsibilities of the inside men are equal to the outside men at the present time.

While the \$1.46 per hour rate is low enough when it is pitted against the cost of living today, local management claims it is a satisfactory rate for the job. To make the condition worse, drivers with outside rates are assigned inside the plant, resulting in a situation where two drivers are doing identical work, with one getting 4c per hour more than the other.

Last week the drivers complained

about an unequal distribution of over-time. The foreman gave a stock answer, stating that it was being divided equally among those doing the same work. In other words it was impossible to divide it equally because of the 4c differential. The truck drivers decided that this was too much and stopped work last Friday morning. The Union office was notified of the stoppage and President William Kelly went over to Bldg. 227 where the members had congregated. He advised the men to go back to work, pointing out that they had a very good case pending in New York, which would be settled one way or the other by the following Thursday. President Kelly said that the Business Agent was trying to get the case put on the N. Y. calendar sooner than Thursday inasmuch as it was an emergency case. He said that the overtime issue would be discussed with local management. Kelly pointed out that after Thursday the men were clear of the contract to take any necessary action.

The truck drivers took a vote by a show of hands and went back to work.

You Will Need A Raise

With the present provisions of the Defense Production Act, it serves as a basis for increasing prices. The loopholes and deficiencies in the act make it ineffective as a barrier to inflation. The act must be changed or there will not be any improvement in our anti-inflation program.

The Price Stabilization Program is a joke on the American people. A so-called freeze on prices was announced at a time when prices were higher than ever before in history.

PRICES TO GO HIGHER.—Although "frozen" prices are rising steadily, Economic Stabilizer Eric Johnston and Price Stabilizer Michael DiSalle have both announced that nothing they can or will do under the Defense Production Act will stop the cost of living from rising another 6 percent by next summer. We point out that from March 15, 1950, to December 15, 1950, living costs also rose 6 percent—without any freeze. Profit margins are being guaranteed. Every consideration possible is being given by Government price agencies to enhance the position of business and to protect fat profits. Flexibility, which has been denied in the wage-stabilization order, is being guaranteed by the price stabilization orders.

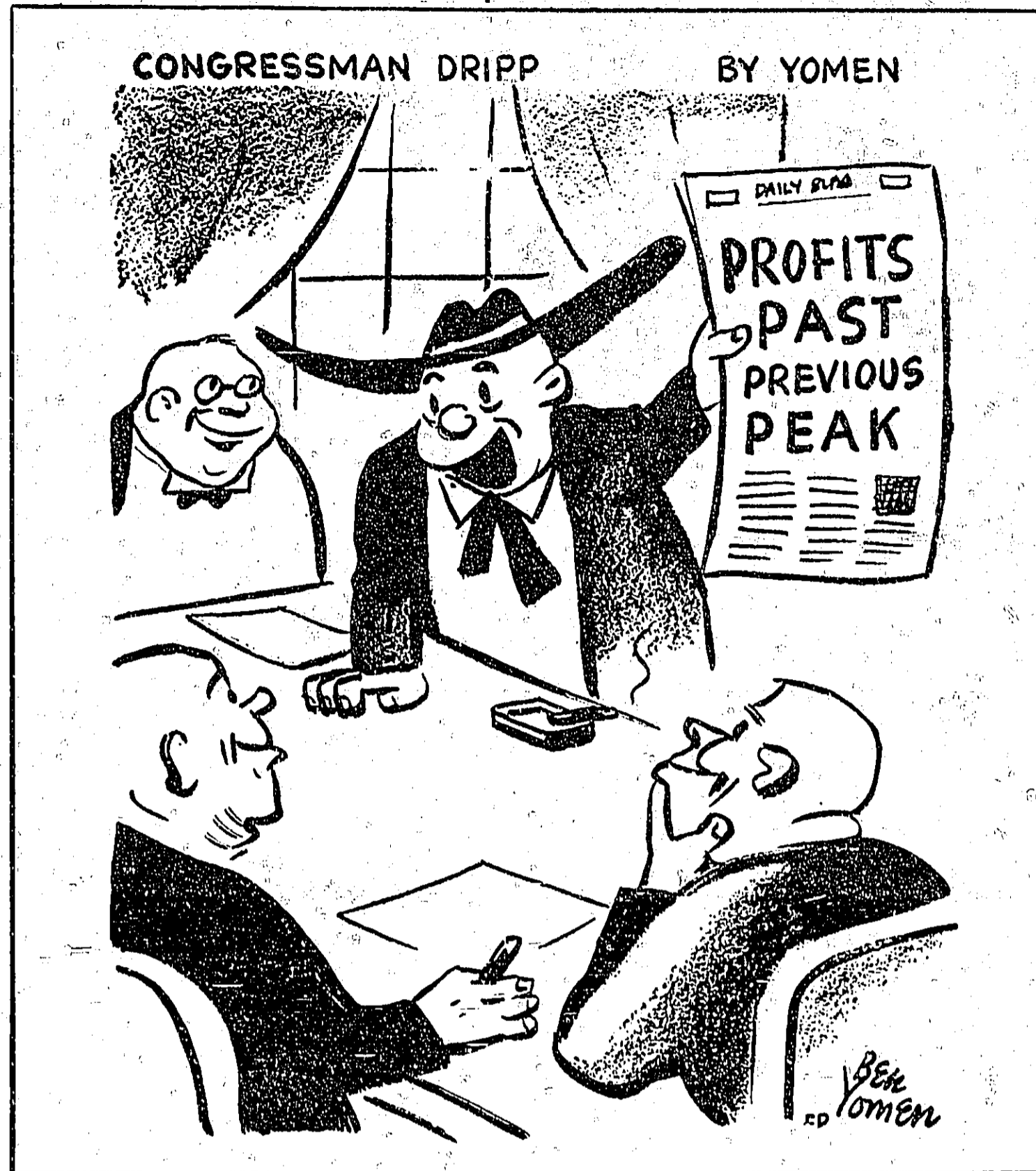
TAXES TO GO HIGHER.—Individuals already have received a stiff increase in their taxes. The Congress is now considering a program to raise all taxes in such a manner that people in the lower income brackets will be forced to bear a still heavier share of the tax burden.

In 1943, individuals and corporations paid an almost equal share of the expenses of Government. Today, individuals are asked to bear 68 percent of the expenses of rearmament. Among individuals, the Congress is considering raising income taxes another 20 percent on low income groups while the increase to families with incomes of \$25,000 a year would be only 14 percent.

This proposal would lift tax rates on low income families 45 percent over pre-Korean rates. The increase on the highest incomes would be almost nil. Many industries are escaping their taxation through special privilege loopholes in the law. No serious attempt is being made to plug these loopholes.

Donation to St. Clare's

The Union has been solicited for a donation towards the enlargement of the children's ward at St. Clare's Hospital. The Executive Board and officers donated 100.00 dollars in behalf of U.E. Local 301.



"If we can keep wages frozen, our glorious free enterprise system will look even more glorious at the next quarter."

Request for More Blood Donors

A request has been made by U. E. member, John Terry, Bldg. 109, Wire Dept., for blood donations. John's wife has been ill at the Ellis Hospital and required twelve transfusions. Seven have been paid for and five more are needed.

Giuseppe Niciforo, U. E. member in Bldg. 59, has been ill for the past four months. He must replace 13 pints of blood.

Both of the above are in dire need of help. Volunteers should contact their steward or the Union office. The Union will pay one hour of lost time to volunteers.

Activities Committee Want Suggestions

The Activities Committee is searching for ideas. They are calling upon any of the members who have suggestions to get in touch with Michael R. De Celli, Chairman, Bldg. 273, or O. B. Phillips, Secretary, Bldg. 285, 2nd shift.

Have you asked the fellow next to you if he is a Union Member? Tell him it pays to belong to the U.E.

Compensation Cases

There are 700 compensation cases now active in the compensation division.

Between January 11th and February 26th, we had 230 hearings in court. Most of these hearings involved persons who are getting compensation for disabilities arising out of accidents, to whom weekly payments are being made. Final awards for permanent injuries during this period were awarded to 28 workers, totalling the sum of \$13,538.79. These cases were closed. The remaining cases are still pending for continued compensation.