

Lining Up for Duty as Shop Stewards



These stewards, taking the oath of office Mar. 1, are, left to right, Anthony Funari, Building 50; Thomas Morrissey, Bldg. 40; Fred L. Sheehan, Bldg. 52; William Milner, Bldg. 107, and Paul Brown, Bldg. 61.

301 Resolution on Civil Liberties

The Local 301 membership meeting this week voted approval of a resolution on civil liberties recommended by the Executive Board.

The resolution condemned current attacks on liberties granted by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. It declared that "the deprivation of civil rights of any group in our nation directly affects the trade unions and their membership."

"We deem it essential for our own well-being to oppose the denial of democratic rights to anyone," the resolution stated, "regardless of the nature of his beliefs, social, political or religious."

Oppose Thought Control

"We oppose any attempt to limit freedom of thought, speech, or assembly," it stated, "whether it be by the means of the President's loyalty order, repressive legislation, judicial persecution of a minority political party, or by anti-labor Congressional committees, or denying the people the right to freely meet and assemble in public halls. We especially oppose the terror and discrimination that is taking place against the Negro people."

The resolution pointed out that the Taft-Hartley Law denies their constitutional rights to millions of union members. Moreover the House of Representatives "has recently passed a bill authorizing the government to place agents in the American trade unions who, under the guise of anti-Communism, will be free to spy in behalf of anti-labor elements."

In citing the terror and discrimination used against Negroes, the resolution declared that because of

the color of their skin "six innocent Negroes in Trenton have been convicted of a murder of which they are innocent."

The resolution also said:

"Federal employees are subjected to investigation for their beliefs and ideas under the federal 'loyalty program'. Government workers active in unions have been fired without being informed as to the cause, and denied a hearing. Just recently, the Veteran's Administration fired a legless war veteran because of his membership in a minority political party (the Socialist Workers Party).

"In the guise of anti-Communism the state legislature is trying to institute the same sort of repressive legislation. . . . Even here in Schenectady, the Board of Education has denied the use of a meeting hall, using the attorney general's list as a pretext." (The list of organizations he chooses to call 'subversive').

Right to Fair Jury

"Today, a minority political party, the Communist Party, and its leaders are placed on trial for believing in a particular political and economic philosophy and not for committing any alleged crime. The government obtained these indictments under the Smith Act, a law vetoed by our late President Franklin D. Roosevelt. These indictments were handed down by a 'silk stocking' grand jury.

"In the initial stages of the trial

Organizing Drive To Last All Year 20 More Stewards Make Honor Roll

The 301 membership meeting voted unanimously this week that the Organizing Committee should function on a year-around basis instead of for a limited period ending Apr. 15.

Although the membership drive will continue all year, the provision for awarding a dollar to any member signing up a new member will end Apr. 15, as originally planned.

The membership also voted that shop stewards should report quarterly to the union office the names of all the workers in their groups, to be checked with the union's membership records.

William Stewart, chairman of the Organizing Committee, reported that 363 membership applications have been received so far in the drive. Many stewards have not given the union office the list of the workers in their groups, however, and as a result many non-members have not been canvassed. Stewart urged that the lists be turned in at once.

Several stewards said that new members, transferred into their groups, often say, "Sure I belong to the union," but a check-up shows they don't.

"We must know who the non-members are," Stewart declared. "What's the sense of working along with people and letting them ride on our backs. Here we are breaking our necks to get everything we can and they are taking a free ride."

20 Cents and Up

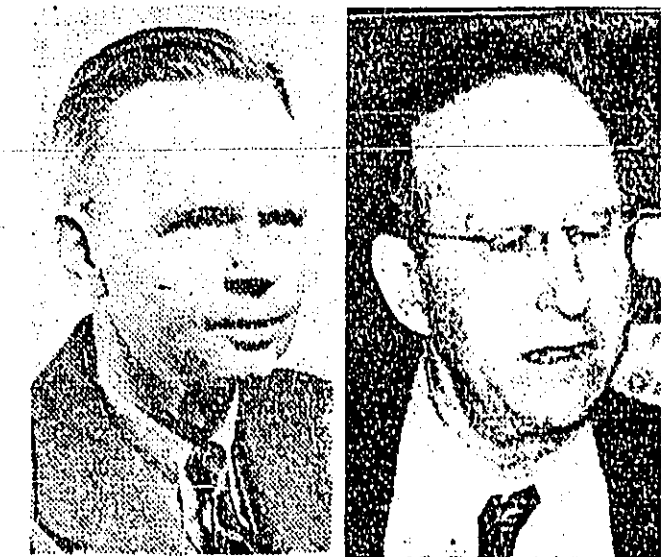
The first UE contract at the Allen Engineering Company, New York City, has just brought the workers wage increases ranging from 20 to 45 cents an hour.

It has been shown, and the senior jurist has also admitted, that the federal juries of New York are made up of the rich and well-to-do excluding, except for token representation, workers, Negroes, Jews, the foreign born and unemployed. A fundamental institution of American justice has been so distorted that a worker is no longer assured of a fair jury trial by his equals."

The resolution pointed out that in New Jersey some UE workers, arrested as a result of participating in a strike, were brought before a similarly constituted jury. UE has challenged the legality of this jury set-up. (See story on page 3).



Kaminski DeCelli



Flanagan Spears

Names of 20 more stewards have been added to the honor roll for 100 per cent UE membership in the groups they represent.

Above are pictures of three of them and of Henry Kaminski, Building 76, whose name was announced earlier.

The additions are:
Bldg. 10C—Raymond E. Stringer.
Bldg. 16—Joseph Belak.
Bldg. 49—Leland Bellinger, Raymond D. Flanagan, Arthur Shannon, M. T. Stote and Earl H. Groat.
Bldg. 52—Adolf Korkosz.
Bldg. 60—Michael DeCelli, Ray H. Frederick, Noel Test, Louis Pannone, Fred Matern and George Rifenburg.
Bldg. 69—Milton Danko and Anthony A. Viscosi.
Bldg. 97—Walter Balbarsus.
Bldg. 107—A. J. Spears.
Bldg. 285—Francis Behan and Texar L. Sible.

GE Questionnaires

The UE News tomorrow (Saturday) will run a story on the way GE President Charles E. Wilson and Vice-President Lemuel R. Boulware floundered when questioned by the GE House Labor Committee on the GE questionnaires on Taft-Hartley.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

THE VOICE OF LOCAL 301

U. E. R. & M. W. A.

C. I. O.

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SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

April 1, 1949

It Takes a General Wage Increase To Stop This GE Pay-Day Change Will Start Today



301 Demands City, County Officials Oppose Sales, Payroll Taxes and T-H

Local 301 has called on the Schenectady City Council and County Board of Supervisors to take a clear-cut public position on several major public issues of deep concern to the membership.

A resolution passed unanimously by last week's membership meeting demanded that those bodies:

Oppose local permissive taxes such as sales, payroll, utility or income taxes.

Do everything in their power to obtain the necessary state aid needed by the community.

Memorialize Congress and demand that Congressman Kearney and Senator Ives and Wagner work for outright repeal of the Taft-Hartley Law and restoration of the Wagner Act.

This action was taken after a committee named by the 301 Executive Board had unsatisfactory interviews with Mayor Owen Begley, Democrat, and Clarence Bradshaw, majority leader of the City Council and Schenectady County Republican chairman, on these issues.

The committee, consisting of President Frank Kriss, Vice-President (Continued on Page 4)

301 Bowling League Will Meet Next Week

Over 200 members of Local 301 have signed up for the union's bowling league which will be organized for next season. The first meeting of the league will be at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Apr. 6, at the union hall, to nominate officers, select a bowling night and decide other organization matters. There's still time for people to join and take part in the meeting. Second shift bowlers will meet at 1 p.m. Thursday, Apr. 7.

William Penn Film On Union Program

"Courageous Mr. Penn" will be the feature film tomorrow (Saturday night) at the free movie program for Local 301 members at the union hall. It is an English picture showing the life of William Penn, founder of Pennsylvania.

Also on the program will be "Indonesia Calling" and a Charlie Chaplin short comedy, "Behind the Screen."

Shows will start at 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

GE Pay-Day Change Will Start Today

The General Electric Company has notified Local 301 that a shift from the Monday pay-day back to the Friday pay-day will be put into effect today in seven departments, and that the change will be made in other departments next Friday and Apr. 15.

Works Manager Lewis J. Male informed Business Agent Leo Jandreau of the scheduled return to the Friday pay-day after EU News had gone to press last week.

According to Male, the Friday pay-day will be restored today in the following departments: Screw Machine, Punch Press, Cabinet and Box, Porcelain, Shipping, Wiring and Cable, and Industrial Heating. Workers in Industrial Control, Welded Products and Carbon Products will be put back on the Friday pay-day next Friday and Turbine Department will be changed back Apr. 15. Other departments had not been put on a Monday pay-day.

Restoration of the Friday pay-day comes as the result of pressure by the union since last September through grievance procedure, Police Court action and complaints to the State Labor Department.

The union last week, before receiving notice from Male about the plan for restoring the Friday pay-day, asked the State Labor Department to start legal action against GE for its violation of the state labor law in postponing pay-day to Monday last fall.

Conference Today On Craft Rates

Business Agent Leo Jandreau and Board Members William Templeton and Anthony Esposito were named by the Executive Board to attend a special meeting of representatives of large GE locals today in New York City on the subject of craft rates.

The meeting was called by Joseph Dermody, secretary of the GE Conference Board, in accordance with a Conference Board decision. It will take up job rates, progressions and conditions of the skilled trades and their helpers and apprentices.

WIN A WAGE INCREASE TO PROTECT YOUR JOB

GE and Atomic Energy Commission Try To Keep UE Suit from Going to Trial

The General Electric Company and the Atomic Energy Commission joined forces at a Federal District Court hearing in Washington, D. C. last week in asking that the court dismiss the \$1,000,000 damage suit filed against them by the national UE.

The union has charged GE and the AEC with conspiring to break the GE contract with UE and has applied for a court order restraining the AEC and GE from barring the union from representing workers on atomic projects.

In trying to have the suit dismissed, GE and the AEC are attempting to deprive UE of its day in court, to keep the union from presenting its evidence to prove its charges.

Judge F. Dickinson Letts heard arguments Thursday and Friday of last week on the motion of GE and the AEC to dismiss the union's suit. He reserved decision.

Former U. S. Attorney General O. John Rogge, representing UE, declared that GE and AEC have gotten together on a mission of "union-busting". He said they were using the words "atomic energy" as "the open sesame to destroy unions and the Constitution of the United States."

Atomic dust is being thrown into the eyes of the American people by GE and the AEC, he charged, to violate the First Amendment to the Constitution "which guarantees our freedoms", including the freedom of workers to organize and bargain collectively.

Government lawyers argued that the AEC has sweeping powers which even the courts cannot question.

Vottis Again

Both GE and AEC attorneys argued that "security" was at issue because UE officers had not been "cleared" by the AEC. In attempting to justify violating the GE-UE contract they quoted smearing remarks about national UE officers and past and present 301 officers made by Salvatore Vottis, former financial secretary of 301 who has been repudiated by the membership. The quotations were taken from testimony of Vottis before the Kersten committee in Schenectady last fall. But the AEC order, directing GE not to deal with UE as representative of atomic work-

ers, was published in newspapers the very day Vottis testified.

GE and AEC made the claim that UE officers, as union representatives, would have access to atomic materials. Rogge and UE attorney David Scribner produced evidence to disprove this. They also pointed out that every worker on an atomic project is screened by the government. The government has made no demand that GE officials, directors and stockholders file affidavits, the union attorneys added.

GE Defense

GE told the court that it was ordered by the AEC to break the contract and had simply obeyed instructions. The company attorney compared GE to soldiers on the firing line who fire when they are told to and question afterwards.

(The government hasn't found GE so obedient at other times, according to the record of indictments and convictions for anti-trust law violations, including the carbonyl cartel with the Nazi Krupp firm. And GE wasn't exactly prompt about obeying the War Labor Board during the war.)

The AEC claimed that all GE workers on "classified" work are government workers.

Charge Actions Illegal

UE attorneys charged that the AEC and GE had acted illegally and had deprived the union and GE workers of their constitutional rights without notice and without a chance to be heard. They denied that workers employed by GE can be classed as government workers.

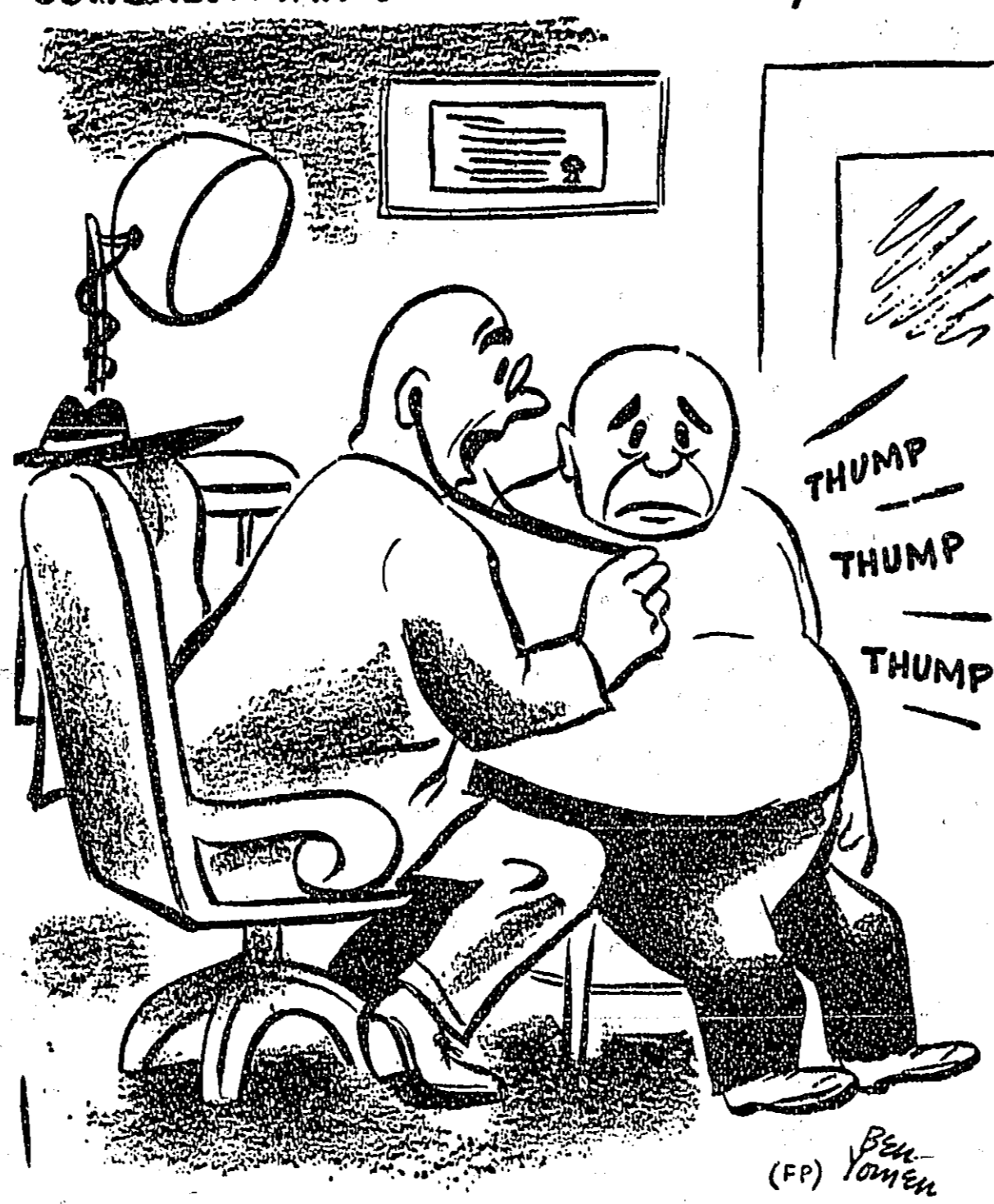
A highlight of the hearing was the government's claim that GE gets only \$1 a year profit from its atomic contracts with the government.

Even the Big Business magazine, Fortune, last year pointed out that the atomic contracts are of tremendous value to GE. They give the company a chance to have a corps of employees trained in this new work at government expense and give GE a lead over all possible competitors.

Rogge said GE is asking for complete monopoly in the atomic field. He likened the situation to developments in Nazi Germany and warned, "Look what they ended up with."

CONGRESSMAN DRIPP

By YOMEN



(Unfortunately, it looks as though Congressman Dripp's heart isn't going to undergo any strain after all. Latest reports from Washington show the efforts to repeal Taft-Hartley and restore the Wagner Act are still bogged down. Only a flood of protests from union members throughout the country can get action.)

Blood Donors Needed

The widow of a 301 member has asked the union to obtain blood donors to repay Ellis Hospital for eight pints of blood used in transfusions for her husband. Despite the transfusions, Paul Grass, a machinist in Bldg. 273 and a member of 301 since its formation, died Mar. 14 at the hospital. Volunteers to help reimburse the hospital blood bank should contact the union office.

Membership Cards

The union office this week mailed out membership cards for April, May and June. If you have not received your card, please give the office your name, address and check number.

Also, please provide the office with the same information if you aren't getting your national UE News.

400 New Members

The number of new members signed up in the Local 301 organizing drive reached the 400 mark this week. Many shop stewards have not yet turned into the union office the list of workers in their groups, to be checked against the union's membership rolls. This is an important part of the campaign machinery.

No Word from Heck

When this week's issue of EU News went to press the union was still waiting for an answer to the open letter it addressed to Assembly Speaker Oswald D. Heck last week in newspaper advertisements. The letter called on him to support and work for bills to improve the Unemployment Insurance and Workmen's Compensation laws.

THE ORGANIZING DRIVE IS EVERYBODY'S JOB
BUILD THE UNION

Facts for GE Workers

GE Trying To Sell Phony Theory About Prosperity Trickling Down

The General Electric Company believes in the "trickle down" theory. If there are no restraints on profits, somehow some of this prosperity might trickle down to the workers, according to GE.

Two Service Dates

Taking full advantage of the peculiar Taft-Hartley Board decision on the nine weeks' case, General Electric has set up two service dates for every worker under the contract. One date, crediting the worker with the strike period, is used for purposes of relative seniority in lay-offs. The other date, excluding the nine weeks for those involved in the strike, is used for other purposes, such as vacation credits.

In typical Taft-Hartley fashion, the board decision ruled that GE must restore the nine weeks, but took away most of the effect of the decision by saying that it need not apply to any money benefits, such as vacations and pensions.

And incidentally, in issuing Quarter Century buttons, the company is using the service date excluding the strike.

Stewards' Meetings

The third round of discussion meetings for shop stewards started Wednesday with Rudy Radosevich, Local 301 bookkeeper, speaking on union finances.

Of course GE doesn't put it so plainly. It says "in the long run labor can gain only as industry itself continues to prosper and extend." But don't forget what happened to overall wages, productivity and profits in the 1920's when this theory was generally accepted.

During the period 1923 to 1935, before UE organized the GE plants, GE had ample opportunity to put this theory into practice. During that time GE's profits every year were substantial, but GE workers at the end of that period were making \$16 a year less than they were at the beginning of the period.

It was not until UE began to organize that GE workers began to wrest wage increases from the company. And then the company fought against OPA so that it could take back in price hikes the increased wages won by working people.

Real Jobless Figure At Least 4,800,000

There are at least 4,800,000 jobless workers in the United States today, a survey made by UE reveals.

Examination of government figures on unemployment revealed serious understatements. These understatements play into the hands of those forces opposing the establishment of job programs.

According to the union's analysis, the U. S. Bureau of the Census figures on unemployment did not list approximately 1,500,000 jobless men and women who should have been included.

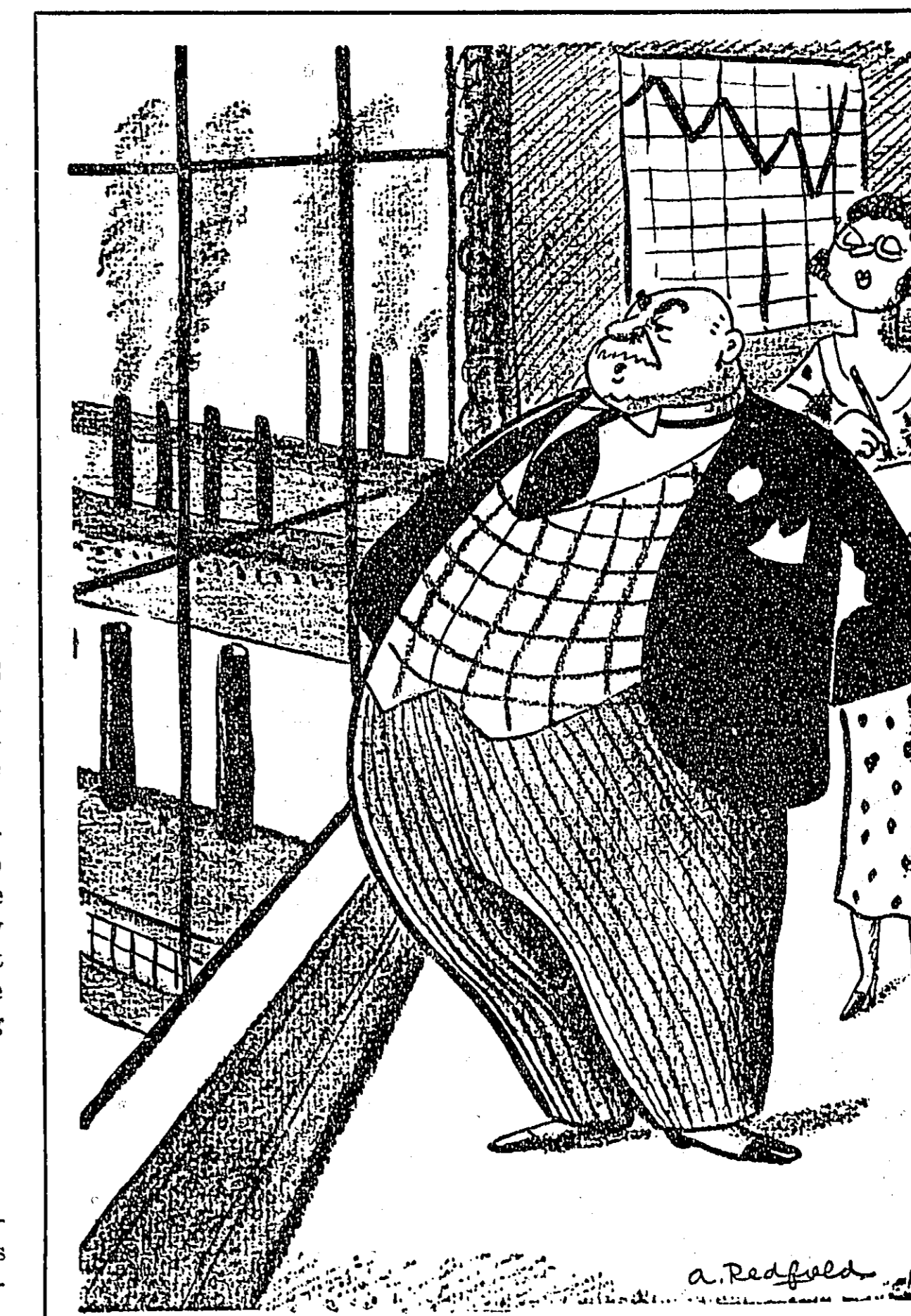
The federal figures did not cover 268,000 workers described as "temporary" lay-offs. They did not include 450,000 people working from one to 15 hours a week but willing and able to work a full week. They omitted about 800,000 others who wanted jobs but at the time of the government census saw no possibility of finding them.

Pensioners to Meet

The UE-301 Pension Organization will meet at 2 p.m. Wednesday at the union hall.

Don't Be a Free Rider —
Join the Union

Good— for Him



"And tell the union it's about time we all started to reduce our demands."

EU News Requested By Pawling School

High school students in Governor Dewey's home town of Pawling will study the EU News as part of their social studies course. Local 301 recently received a request from the Pawling High School principal for 50 copies of the union paper for that purpose. They were sent.

17½ Cent Package

Workers at the Fulton Engineering Company, Queens County, have won a 17½ cent wage package and other benefits in their first UE contract.

There is an immediate 10 cents an hour pay increase, with another five cents coming in six months. Extra vacation benefits add two and a half cents to the package.

Worker Wins Appeal By Split Decision

By a two to one decision, the Workmen's Compensation Appeals Board has ruled that Augustine Delfs, toolmaker, is entitled to a compensation award from the General Electric Company.

Delfs filed a claim in June 1947 for a hernia caused by heavy lifting over a long period on his job. A state referee dismissed the claim. Then Delfs' case was reopened through the union and new evidence presented.

The only member of the three-man Appeals Board to vote against the injured worker was Richard J. Carmichael, president of the Schenectady Trades Assembly, AFL. Carmichael said the referee was in a better position than the board to decide on the credibility of the witnesses. The witnesses were physicians, who testified for GE or for Delfs, and the injured man himself.