



OF COURSE YOU'RE ABLE TO WORK... SINCE WHEN DO YOU TIGHTEN SCREWS WITH YOUR HEAD?

## Plan 4 Stewards' Classes For All Shifts Next Week

UE Local 301's stewards' school will hold its last full schedule of classes next week with Buiding 273 committeemen from all 3 shifts participating. By the end of the week, only

2 groups of stewards will still be slated for sessions. These are the shop representatives under Board Members William Stewart and Anthony Villano. These sessions were originally slated to get together on Tuesday evening, but their classes were postponed until March 24 because of St. Patrick's Day.

This past week's sessions were marked by the same high level of attendance which has featured the entire school. They got underway Tuesday evening with the committeemen and women under Miles Moon and Vincent Di Lorenzo in attendance.

All 2nd shift stewards except those in Turbine got their opportunity to discuss the grievance machinery and other shop problems on Wednesday afternoon. Wednesday evening's class was for the representatives under Board Members Manuel Fernandez, Webster Bathrick and Paul Rosa. On Thursday, the stewards under Paul Landolfo, Albert Pepicelli, Adam Griffith, and Howard McLean attended the school.

The entire stewards' school has been under the supervision of Business Agent Leo Jandreau and of his assistants, Serafin Pita and Fred Sheehan.

## Board Proposes To Send Six To UE Women's Conference

A proposal to send a 6-member delegation to the UE national women's conference in New York on May 2 and 3 was approved by the Local 301 executive board Monday. In taking this action, the board emphasized the importance of the gathering in furthering the fight against the "pay the women less" racket which prevails in industry.

Local 301's delegation will go to the conference prepared to report fully on the progress made in Schenectady toward the union's goal of "equal pay for equal work regardless of sex." Starting with a big women's demonstration a year ago, 301 has been waging a fight to end all pay discrimination against women. This fight has been marked by many grievance victories. However, these victories have not solved the major problem of the company's basic policy of keeping women workers with high skills at rates below those for common labor.

The union's position has been that the problem will not be solved until the company is forced to abandon this practice. It is for this reason that a special wage increase for all women workers is one of the demands presented to GE in current wage reopener negotiations.

The idea of a women's conference grew out of a number of UE district conferences held throughout the country.

## Industry Men Scuttle T-H Change Committee

Corporation spokesmen last week dashed any hopes the Eisenhower administration may have had of getting a united labor-management program for changing the Taft-Hartley slave labor law.

A special "harmony" committee, made up of management, labor and public representatives, collapsed last week after only 3 meetings. Cause of the committee breakup was the refusal of management members to agree even on procedures to be followed by the group. While both labor and public members agreed that the whole committee should vote on recommendations to Congress, the industry representatives refused to even go on record on any law changes. They said point blank that they would not support any majority decisions of the committee.

In taking this position, the company representatives ended any possibility that a program amending Taft-Hartley might be drawn up. The committee, which was set up by Secretary of Labor Martin Durkin, was in this way relegated to the meaningless role of an "advisory body" on so-called non-controversial issues.

## Prize Drawing Slated Monday

Sheriff Harold Calkins will dip his hand into a big revolving basket at UE Local 301 hall next Monday, and 6 union members will be richer as a result.

Calkins won't be playing Santa Claus. He'll just be drawing the winning tickets in the union's big giveaway program which has brought a record sale of tickets in the shops. The drawing will take place at the evening session of the local's monthly membership meeting.

Tickets have been selling at 3 for 25c. Those who have bought them will be eligible for the following prizes:

1. A complete \$100 Easter outfit

### Class Schedule

Shop stewards under the following board members are slated for classes next week at these times:

Tuesday, March 17, 1:00 p.m.—Turbine 2nd shift stewards.

Wednesday, March 18, 7:30 p.m.—Bill Linka and Anders Christensen.

Thursday, March 19, 7:30 p.m.—Larry Geba.

### GM Profits Rise

General Motors Corp. profits rose to \$658,721,179 last year. This huge figure was calculated after taxes, but before C. E. Wilson, GM's "former" president, took over the Defense Department. Two-thirds of GM's record 1952 sales were defense orders.

## U.S. Gives Big Order To Army Chief's Firm

One of the largest peacetime orders ever given to a textile firm—\$14,586,907—was awarded by the armed services last week to J. P. Stevens Co. The award was noteworthy because the "former" head of the company is Secretary of the Army Robert T. Stevens.

In reporting the award, the New York Times admitted that "interest in the textile trade" because of Stevens' post. However, the Times quickly added that the awards were assigned strictly on the basis of "low bids."

Stevens was one of the big corporation executives who supposedly disposed of their stock holdings before being confirmed by the Senate for cabinet posts. However, apparently old ties are hard to break, especially when they are knotted with dollar signs.

# ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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SERVING WITH SMILE. Sheriff Harold Calkins is pictured drawing one of the winning tickets in UE Local 301's big giveaway program. Ralph Pipe of the activities committee looks on. The sale of giveaway chances netted the union's activity program more than \$2,000.

## Sheriff Hands Out 6 Tickets, But They're Good for Prizes

Sheriff Harold Calkins probably set a world's record on Monday night. He handed out 6 tickets and didn't get a single squawk. However, the tickets weren't the usual kind.

They were the winning numbers in UE Local 301's big giveaway program, and entitled the recipients to pick up \$300 worth of prizes.

Calkins performed his feat at the union's monthly membership meeting where he drew the winning numbers out of the big "wheel of fortune" basket into which close to 30,000 tickets had been placed.

When the sheriff dipped his hand into the basket for the 1st time, he came out with a stub bearing the name of B. Kazlauskas, Racetrack. This made Kazlauskas the lucky winner of 1st prize—a complete \$100 Easter outfit.

Then in succession, Calkins picked out tickets bought by R. Salley, 52 (winner of a \$75 3-piece luggage set); T. Nealon, 46 (a \$50 case of liquor); J. Rispoli, 73 (a \$37.50 electric roaster); K. Negrin, 40 (a \$25 machinist's tool box); and P. E. Chase, K-1 (a \$12.50 Shakespearean fishing reel).

Probably the neatest trick was pulled off by Rispoli. Not only did he buy a winning ticket, but he bought it from himself. As a result, he nailed down an extra \$5, the reward to each seller of a winner. Others to get the \$5 bounties were L. Passikoff, V. St. John, E. Hopkins, G. Hubert and J. Spooner.

A preliminary financial audit on the giveaway program indicated that the profit to the local would top the \$2,000 mark.

## GE 'Offers' Zero or Less In Reopener Negotiations

With the company making an arrogant proposal which, in effect, gives the union the choice of accepting either nothing or less than nothing, UE negotiators this week prepared for a hard fight to gain real wage increases for GE workers.

### IUE Local Endorses United Action Call

UE's call for united action to win higher wages for all electrical workers, regardless of union affiliation, achieved an important victory last week when one of the largest locals in the IUE-CIO voted unanimously to call on its national leaders to take a similar position.

The strong united action vote was taken at the monthly meeting of IUE Local 1581, which represents 4,500 workers at the big Westinghouse Cheektovaga plant near Buffalo.

This vote was just one of the many indications that the IUE rank and file is tired of Carey's disruptive policies and realizes the need for united action against the companies.

The company proposals supposedly gave the union 2 "alternatives"—to go along with a cost of living escalator based on March 15 BLS index, which is likely to mean an increase amounting to exactly nothing per hour, or to accept an annual improvement increase which would amount to "at least" 1.7% an hour.

In both cases management threw in a gimmick which showed that it had no intention of giving anything without a fight. If the union were to accept either proposal, it would have to give up the right to negotiate for wages when the contract opens up in September. It took union negotiators, including 301 Business Agent Leo Jandreau, just a few seconds to get over the arrogance of the proposal and then to turn it down flatly.

## Local Backs Cincy GE Strike

Recognizing that the outcome of the current strike at GE's Evendale plant near Cincinnati will have an important bearing on UE's contract reopener negotiations with the company, Local 301's membership unanimously went on record Monday in support of the 4,500 strikers and their pay demands. The Cincinnati jet engine workers are members of 2 unions, the AFL International Association of Machinists and the CIO United Auto Workers.

A number of Schenectady unionists took the floor to urge passage of the support resolution, which directs the executive board to take concrete measures to back the expression. These speakers pointed out that the company is trying to force the workers in Ohio to accept new contracts with pay scales almost exactly like those in our present pact. (UE day work rates run from \$1.50 for common labor to \$2.32 an hour for toolmakers; GE's offer to the IAM would provide wages ranging from \$1.50 to \$2.33, and the UAW with rates running from \$1.50 to \$2.31.)

In other words, if Cincinnati union demands for an additional 6c to 8c an hour are not won, General

Electric management will have succeeded in its plan to establish a pay ceiling for all GE workers. This ceiling would give UE no room for upward movement in the current wage reopener talks, and would make the job of winning a badly-needed substantial wage increase much more difficult.

The Cincinnati situation underlines the correctness of UE's call for united action among all GE workers, regardless of union affiliation. GE is now trying to pick off 2 of the smaller (as far as GE membership is concerned) unions with one attack. Only united support from the majority of GE workers can prevent the company from succeeding in its objective.

Local 301's resolution is in line with this policy of united action. The policy was adopted by the UE-GE conference board, which groups together union locals in the chain throughout the country, just before the opening of current negotiations. It calls for members of all unions to get together around a set of minimum demands. In this way, GE would be blocked from playing one union off against another, the policy followed by Boulware ever since he engineered the Carey-led split in 1949.

Even before this proposal was made public, UE Local 301's membership Monday forswore the fact that development of shop action would be the vital factor in winning a wage increase this year. The union's demands in the reopener include:

- A substantial wage increase.
- Payment in time or money for 2 Saturday holidays this year.
- Special wage increases for skilled workers, day workers and women, and to eliminate geographical differentials.

These demands are based on the urgent needs of GE workers now. They will be expanded to cover other contract issues at the general negotiations this summer and fall. It appears likely that the union's bargaining position will be greatly reinforced for these talks by the growing rank-and-file pressure for united action by all GE.

(Continued on page 2)

### Correction

Last week's issue of the EU News incorrectly reported that Adam Griffith, 10C, had been appointed to the executive board committee looking into the problem of decentralization as it affects maintenance workers. Actually, George Griffen, Bldg. 107, was the member named to the committee.

## 6 Women Receive P. W. Wage Boosts

Six workers in Building 81 have won wage increases of 6c to 12½c an hour in grievance victories which are likely to have far reaching effects in the fight against company discrimination against women throughout the plant.

Both victories were scored at the Male level, and were patterned after a case affecting about 10 women last summer. In the new cases, the women involved are piece workers. In one case, their job title is "cut and prepare wire." Their timing rate had stood at 54c, giving them an A.E.R. of only \$1.41. The union was able to show the similarity between this case and that of the women involved in the summer grievance, and management agreed to raise the rate. However, at first, the company insisted on an increase of only one step—a timing rate of 57c and an A.E.R. of \$1.44. The union turned this down and continued the fight until another step was won, bringing the timing rate to 60c and the A.E.R. to \$1.47.

The increases were won for Stella Petka, Wanda Dziedzic and Lillian Gleech. In the 2nd case, the company was forced to grant even bigger increases to 3 assemblers. Their timing rate was jumped from 60c to 70c, and their A.E.R. changed from \$1.47 to \$1.59½. These boosts went to Rose Rosalino, Sybil Rutana and Irene Bartkowski.

Executive Board Member Helen Quirini helped process both cases.

## Negotiations

(Continued from page 1)

workers regardless of union affiliation.

Monday's membership gathering specifically directed the executive board to call meetings in every division. These meetings would be aimed at mobilizing the local for a fight to back the negotiating committee in its demands. It was emphasized that the "best negotiating committee in the world can't do anything without the full and militant support of the people in the shops."

Reports coming from the plant indicated that many board members have already met with their stewards and members to discuss the negotiations picture. These discussions left a strong impression that UE Local 301 people are determined to get some share of the huge GE profits this year.

## UE 301 ON THE JOB!

**Bldg. 10:** Lorenzo Becker is classified as a piece work cut-off operator. In the past 2 weeks, he has not received any piece work jobs. He has complained of this to supervision but it has done no good. The union demands that this worker be given adequate piece work either in his present department or elsewhere.

Surface grinder operators under Foreman Makery are being taken off their piece work jobs and being assigned to other work at convenience of company. Since they are not being paid average earnings for all time involved, contract article VI-5f is being violated. The union demands an end to these violations.

Surface grinder operators under Foreman Nieckuz are not receiving adequate piece work jobs, and half of their operations are day work. As a result, they are losing earnings. The union demands management correction of this situation.

**Bldg. 14:** William Ellis, classified as a complete motor repair man, demands a 1-step increase to bring his rate to that being paid for similar work in 84.

**Bldg. 17:** Howard Place is classified as a B machine repair man, but is doing strictly A work. The union demands proper upgrading and rate adjustment.

There have been 2 major accidents on compound die jobs run with suction feeds under Foreman Howland. These accidents occurred primarily because it's difficult to handle the material properly with suction feed. The union demands that all compound blanking die jobs be operated by hand feeds in order to avoid further accidents. Correction of the faulty material which is being issued in many cases is also demanded.

**Bldg. 28:** Stator assemblers under Foreman Larsen on the 2nd shift protest the methods and tools used in assembling these units. There are women workers assigned to this job, and they do not possess the rigid physical strength required under the present routine. As a result, many are completely exhausted after assembling one unit. The union demands that supervision institute simpler and more efficient methods on this job.

Supervision in 28 has instituted a new method of reducing earnings by asking 2nd shift workers to work days on Saturdays, thus forcing them to forfeit the 10% shift bonus. Since there is ample work for them on their own shift, the union demands that this practice be stopped immediately.

**Bldg. 49:** Foreman Sable has taken over the work of tool crib keepers on Saturdays and Sundays, thereby eliminating the need of assigning keepers. The union demands an end to this practice.

**Bldg. 59:** There has been an agreement in effect for the past year under which members of service groups have received permanent transfers to other divisions in the plant, with the workers with

the greatest seniority receiving the earliest opportunities. The union demands strict adherence to this agreement.

**Bldg. 60:** W. Krutzfeldt demands retroactive adjustment of his starting rate as a millwright's helper. He transferred to this job from a B machinist-machine repair job, and has had 5 years' experience as a millwright. He therefore was entitled to start at the job rate for a millwright's helper.

Foreman Van Fechterman has deliberately attempted to curtail the activities of Michael Riggi as a shop steward by using threats and reprimands, and by making incorrect progress reports. This is outright coercion in violation of contract article VI, and the union demands that Van Fechterman be immediately restrained from this type of conduct.

Reduction unit assembly job 9783286 has been rated as C although the work is of a complicated nature meriting a higher classification. The union demands a change to B classification with a proper rate adjustment.

A and B painters under Foreman Hansen were sent home because electricians and welders were working in paint booth area. Supervision's position was that this was a question of safety, but actually other work could and should have been found for these workers. The union demands an end to this discrimination.

**Bldg. 68:** Group under Foreman C. Monosko asks reduction of forces because of lost time due to lateness of work situation.

**Bldg. 69:** John Johnson lost a full day's work and pay because of an error on his badge. This error was the responsibility of supervision, and the union demands that this worker be paid for the lost day.

**Bldg. 73A:** Spot weld assemblers have suffered losses of earnings for several weeks because while their work is short run and involves considerable waiting time, the table on which their pieces are based is computed for long run jobs such as magnetic switch boxes. As a result, there are no adequate waiting time allowances. The union demands a management investigation to correct this situation.

**Bldg. 269:** G. E. La Combe is being used as a painter although he is classified as a sand blaster. The union demands that this worker not be required to do jobs outside of his classification.

H. C. Litte is classified as a C tool follower and has charge of a tool crib under Foreman Kony. Another identical crib under same foreman is in charge of a man classified as an A tool crib keeper. Duties and responsibilities are identical. Recently the A man was reclassified to AA, while Litte was refused a reclassification. The union demands that this discrimination be ended by upgrading Litte to the A classification which he merits.

Thousands of grievances are handled by UE Local 301 each year at all levels from the steward up to final appeal in New York City. To keep members posted, we shall each week list some of the grievances that have not been settled at the steward-foreman level and have been referred to the executive board-management level.

**Bldg. 273:** Chester Bruce and Kenneth Brantley requested that their jobs be converted to piece work 7 months ago. Up to now nothing has been done about the request. The union demands an immediate management investigation.

B. Dumas, a worker with 27 years service, has been transferred to another machine against his desires. The union demands that management investigate immediately so that Dumas can be restored to his old job.

Henry J. Piccone is entitled, on the basis of experience, ability and performance, to an upgrading from B machinist-machine repair to A. The union demands this upgrading with proper rate adjustment.

Payment to R. K. Hutton for having chipped clearance for a cutter is demanded. He is entitled to be paid average earnings under contract article VI-5f.

Howard D. Salsburg is entitled to upgrading from common labor rating. Some higher classification duties which have been added to his job are sorting emery and making lifts on a hopper job, filling and maintaining levels and determining cycles on glue pots, changing accumulated deposits on blowers and salvaging silver solder. The union demands immediate upgrading and wage adjustment.

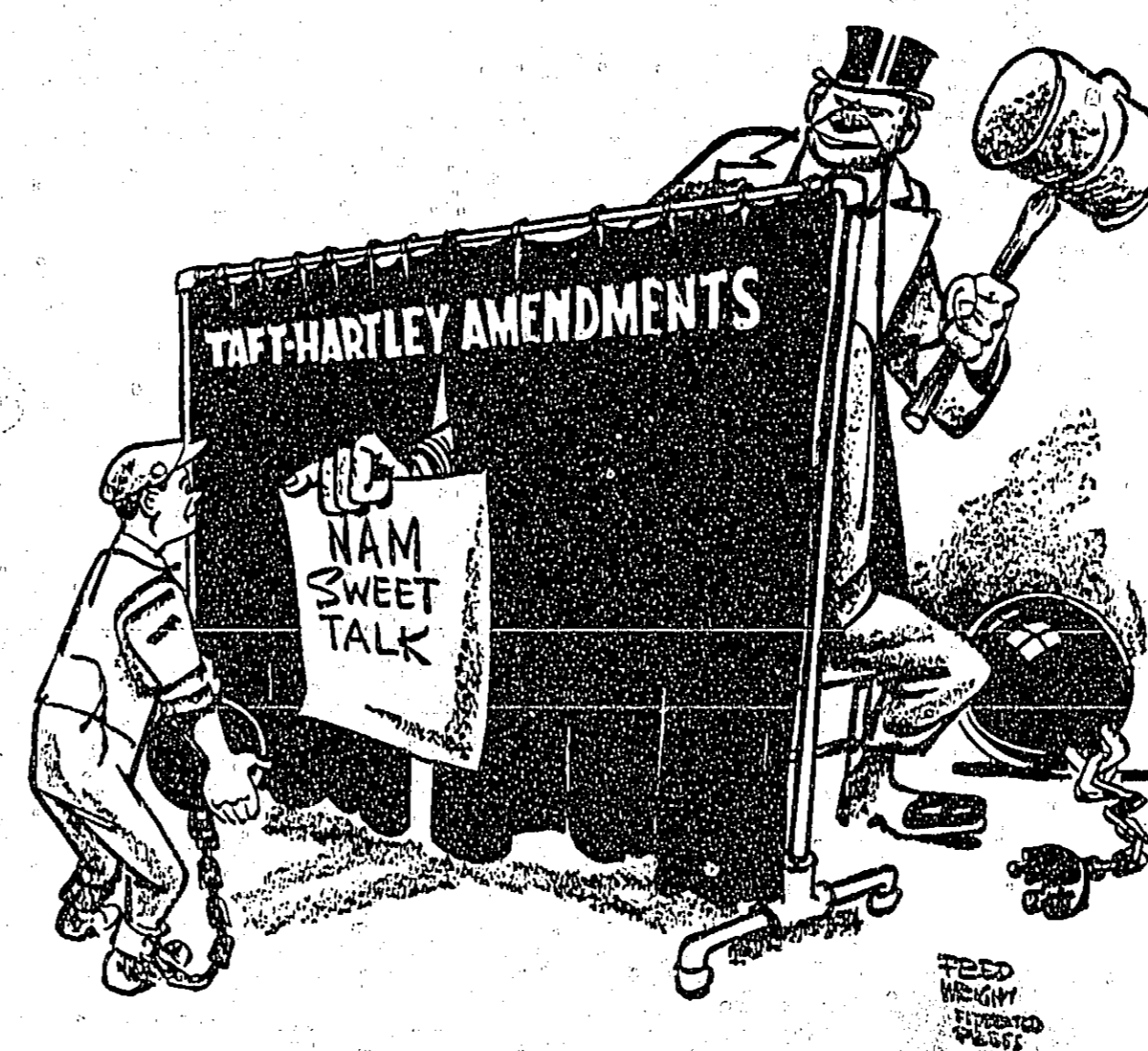
Although Daniel Sitterly was put on A work on 12/2/52, he was kept at a B intermediate cutter-grinder classification. His reclassification was not made effective until 12/15, and now the foreman refuses to give him a promised and merited increase. Based on his ability and performance, the union demands an immediate increase to the job rate.

Group of boring mill operators are rated at an A.E.R. of \$2.14 although their jobs rate a \$2.20 A.E.R. The union demands an immediate reclassification and rate adjustment.

**Bldg. 285:** A. Dinavlo is classified and paid as a grinder operator although he devotes 60% of his time to operating a bore-matic machine. The union demands an immediate reclassification and rate adjustment.

Richard Jabloncki is classified as a handyman and works under Foreman Luther. He caught a bud cold and asked Luther to give him inside work until he got rid of it. Luther refused, and as a result, the cold got worse and Jabloncki lost time and required medical attention. Luther also fails to rotate handymen, a practice always followed in the past. The union demands an immediate end to this discrimination.

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## 'Sneak' Measures to Destroy Political Action Rights Crawl Into Legislature

UE Local 301 mobilized this week to fight against a sneak attack aimed at destroying the basic right of organized labor to defend the interests of the working people through legislative action. The attack took the form of bills patterned after last year's Travia-Irwin meas-

## Pay Tax Threat Grows In State, City Bodies

A drive to add to the tax burden of the working people of Schenectady was in progress this week as the state legislature considered a measure to give Schenectady authorities a clear path toward imposition of a payroll tax.

At the same time, the city council appeared headed toward taking such action at the first available opportunity. However, widespread opposition from the entire labor movement was developing.

UE Local 301's membership voted unanimously against any payroll levy on Monday. Those attending the meeting reported that the men and women in the shops were showing rising anger at the idea of a payroll tax to solve the city's financial problems.

Many workers expressed the feeling that Schenectady could much more easily meet its financial obligations by assessing GE and ALCO property for just a small fraction of their actual value. This would be a lot better than trying to get added revenues from the workers who are already bearing the heaviest tax burdens, and who are least able to pay.

## Local Votes Pension Program To Pay Union Time Benefits

UE Local 301 members voted Monday to adopt a plan under which shop stewards, board members and union employees will be at least partially compensated for pension losses suffered while they are serving the union.

Under the plan, the local will add 3% to the lost time payments and union salaries. This money would be set aside and paid to union workers in the form of \$25 U. S. bonds whenever \$18.75 is accumulated.

It is hoped that this plan will help to solve the long-existing problem arising from the fact that active union members take a beating on their pensions because the company refuses to recognize any time except that actually worked for GE in computing pension time and payments.

Based on last year's lost time

and salary bill of the local, the plan will cost the union approximately \$4,000 annually.

In the past, many good union members have been forced to limit their activity because they could not afford to take the financial losses involved in losing time. This has been particularly true of men and women approaching their retirement age.

By eliminating this situation, the 301 executive board, which recommended the plan, hopes to encourage wider participation in union affairs, and to strengthen the grievance machinery. A similar pension plan has long been in effect in UE Local 506, Erie GE. There it has proved highly successful.

The proposal adopted at Monday's membership meeting also provides for the establishment of a committee to look into the possibilities of expanding the plan so that the people who have lost pension benefits in the past because of union employment would be covered.

## Call on FEPC

Men and women who face discrimination problems in the shops are urged to contact the UE Local 301 fair employment practices committee for help. They should get in touch with Wayne Lewis, secretary of the group, through the union hall.

## Big Difference

Columnist Drew Pearson reports a major difference between death and taxes. "Death doesn't get worse every time Congress meets."



**NEW STEWARDS.** The picture above shows Guide Mario Bagnato (right) administering the oath of office as shop steward to Robert Templeton, Bldg. 60. Also sworn in was Stanley Mnish, 13, whose picture is at the left. The swearing-in ceremonies took place Monday night at the UE Local 301 membership meeting. The 2 men join approximately 630 other shop representatives who represent the interests of 19,500 Schenectady General Electric Workers.