

Warns of Danger To Atomic Case

The UE court case against the Atomic Energy Commission and the General Electric Company is endangered by statements issued and actions proposed by several newly elected officers of Local 301, Business Agent Leo Jandreau told the shop stewards meeting Jan. 4 at the union hall.

President Frank Kriss and several other officers were quoted by newspapers as saying they plan to go to Washington to take up direct with the Commission the question of Local 301 representing atomic workers. They criticized national UE officers and Jandreau for not filing Taft-Hartley affidavits or submitting to "loyalty" tests, and expressed willingness to take any step to please the Commission.

Kriss Signed Letter

Jandreau pointed out that the Commission order barring Local 301 as representative of certain atomic workers at Schenectady has been exposed as a conspiracy between the Commission and GE. He read the letter which the 301 Executive Board sent to Chairman David E. Lilienthal of the Commission Oct. 26 condemning the effort of the government agency to dictate to a union the choice of its officers. This letter was signed by every member of the Board, including Frank Kriss.

The CIO has joined UE in the court case against the Commission and GE, Jandreau reminded the stewards. He read a letter from CIO President Phil Murray to Lilienthal attacking the Commission order against UE. The outcome of the case is of fundamental importance to other unions and the legal fight is being carefully planned. Jandreau pointed out.

"We can't have the case weakened or jeopardized by irresponsible statements and actions," he said.

Restrictions on Unions

As far back as the summer of 1946, Jandreau stated, UE had proof that the government planned to apply such regulations to atomic plants as to practically make it impossible for unions to bargain effectively for the workers.

Jandreau read a report made by Russ Nixon of the UE staff in 1946 about the transfer of the Atomic Energy plant at Hanford, Wash., to be operated by GE. Nixon, who had conferred with Secretary of War Patterson and an assistant, wrote:

"The War Department explained that union representatives would not be allowed to enter the plant and their contract with workers

CONGRESSMAN DRIF?

BY YOMEN



"SINCE MY VOTE WENT DOWN THIS YEAR, MISS SMITH, YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE A PAY CUT."

would be subjected to numerous restrictions. Furthermore, grievance machinery and stewards' organization would not be permitted to operate in anything like the usual manner. . . . Discussion of the nature of jobs involved would be so restricted as to practically eliminate any semblance of control over speed-up, job description and classification, and grievances arising on the job. . . .

"On the basis of these discussions it was concluded that no union would be permitted by the War Department to do an effective job representing the workers in the atomic energy plant."

UE decided therefore not to attempt organizing at Hanford and notified the War Department to that effect.

'No Help Wanted' Posted at Erie GE

For the first time since 1939 the General Electric plant at Erie, Pa. has hung up a "no help wanted" sign.

The third shift has been eliminated in the refrigerator division and there has been a big cutback in the locomotive shop. Workers from these sections are being absorbed into other departments.

Many lay-offs have been reported at steel plants and a paper mill at Erie.

GE Moves Work To South Africa

The General Electric Company has moved to Johannesburg, Union of South Africa, work which used to be done for it under contract at Syracuse by the Easy Washer plant. The work was the manufacturing of ballasts for GE fluorescent lights. When GE abruptly cancelled the contract last summer 600 workers lost their jobs. GE took a few skilled Easy Washer workers to Johannesburg.

Asks for Unity



UE President Albert J. Fitzgerald making an appeal for unity in the ranks of Local 301 at the shop stewards' meeting Jan. 4.

Convicted GE Official Now Advising Japanese

Japan is now on the way to true democracy under the guidance of General Douglas MacArthur, according to Dr. Zay Jeffries, GE vice-president. The Chemical Department News of GE Dec. 31 played up an interview with Jeffries, on his return from Japan. He served on an advisory board which helped found the Japan Science Council and to advise Japanese scientists.

Jeffries reported that MacArthur listed "labor troubles as some of his biggest headaches." He said MacArthur told the advisory board that right now "labor union activities are not such a hindrance to recovery as they may be after Japan starts competing with other countries for world trade."

He cited MacArthur as stressing "the great opportunity Japan now has to enjoy the combined blessings of democracy and Christianity."

In October Jeffries was convicted, along with GE, of the criminal charge of taking part in a price-fixing conspiracy with the Nazi Krupp munitions trust to monopolize the sale of carbonyl.

After a 40 minute interview with Emperor Hirohito, Jeffries and his fellow Board members "came out feeling that the emperor was not the sort of man who would have aroused his people into a war frenzy, and the blame must rest with the military group."

Jeffries stated that MacArthur has broken up the big interlocking monopolies of Japan. However, an Associated Press dispatch of Dec. 9 stated that the United States "threw overboard today its controversial plan for breaking up Japan's industrial combines." The abandoned plan had been attacked in Congress as "socialistic." The change in policy, according to officials, "should have a reassuring effect on the Japanese by ending some of their uncertainties."

Holiday Pay Grievances

Grievance discussions are continuing over the cases of a number of members who were refused pay for Christmas or New Year's day, though they had been working Saturdays. The difficulty is over the foremen's judgment as to who they would have called in. The agreement arrived at in New York provided for payment if a man worked the holiday if it had not been a holiday. The company has been taking the foremen's judgment as to what would have happened.

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Local 301 Board, Officers Installed

Officers and Executive Board members of Local 301 for 1949 were installed by UE Secretary-Treasurer Julius Emspak Tuesday night at the membership meeting at Mont Pleasant High School.

Emspak, a charter member of 301, spoke on wage, speed-up and layoff problems facing union members today and the need of united action. (See story on page 3.) He was unable to stay over in Schenectady to address the second part of the meeting, for second shift workers, Wednesday afternoon at the union hall.

The meeting elected six delegates to the GE Conference Board of UE. (See separate story on this page.) It approved all recommendations presented to it by the Executive Board. Most of the recommendations received unanimous approval and the others were passed by heavy majorities. President Frank Kriss presided.

Newspaper reporters were asked to leave the meeting hall after a floor dispute on a point of order. President Kriss finally ruled that under a previous membership decision, the press was excluded.

Meeting on Pensions

The 301 membership meeting this week unanimously approved an Executive Board recommendation that Vice-President Hodges and two members of the UE-301 Pension Organization be sent to a UE conference on pensions and social security at Lynn, Mass. Monday.

Will Attend Conference

On recommendation of the Executive Board the 301 membership voted this week to send Helen Quirini and James Cognetta, Board members, to the conference on workmen's compensation in Albany Feb. 16. The conference has been called by UE Districts 3 and 4.

Basketball Victories

The 301 men's basketball team beat the Arrows 78 to 55 Jan. 12 at Oneida High School.

The 301 girls' team defeated the Adams basketball team 26 to 25 Monday night at Central Park Junior High.

Six Delegates Elected to Conference Board



Jandreau

Kriss



Brashear

White



Stewart

Esposito

Local 301 representatives this year on the GE Conference Board of UE will be President Frank Kriss, Business Agent Leo Jandreau, the following Executive Board members, Dewey Brashear, Anthony Esposito and William Stewart, and the former treasurer, Marshall White.

They were elected by the membership meeting Tuesday night and Wednesday afternoon. The first meeting of the Conference Board will be in New York City in February.

Because of the importance of problems facing the union in connection with GE negotiations, the Executive Board recommended that Local 301 elect six delegates instead of three. The membership voted to follow this recommendation.

"It means more heads to consider the problems", Jandreau told the meeting, "and more people to come back and tell you about it."

Boulevard Is Back At Same Old Stand

After his cheerful New Year's message, Vice-President L. R. Boulevard of GE was right back in form with his Jan. 14 Works News statement, "A Report on Pay." It's the start of the 1949 propaganda campaign against another wage increase.

GE carefully avoids mentioning that its profits increased 34 per cent last year while GE workers received only an 8 per cent pay raise. The company doesn't mention that its profit for the first nine months of 1948 was over twice as much as its wartime profit rate. (The rate for the last quarter of 1948 may bring the figure even higher.)

The statement as usual presents misleading, phony figures, but ignores the drop in real wages (purchasing power) since 1946. And it also fails to mention the increased productivity of GE workers.

The Boulevard message quite unconsciously advertises the good job UE has been doing for its members. Certainly wages have been increased considerably since 1940. Why does Boulevard think people

Turbine Division Faces Problems On Pay and Hours

The questions of take-home pay and of hours became increasingly serious problems to thousands of Schenectady GE workers during the past week. Lack of work was reported in many parts of the plant, and the company announced to the union that it is trying to get the entire Turbine Division back on a 40 hour week. Turbine has been working 48 hours.

In discussing the Turbine situation, Local 301 members are again voicing protests against the objectionable third shift hours.

There will be a special meeting of all third shift members throughout the Turbine Division at 7:30 this morning (Friday) at the union hall to consider the company's intention of returning to the 40 hour week in the division.

After the GE announcement about its Turbine plan, about 100 third shift members in Building 49 met Tuesday morning. They took the position that they should not have to work more than five days to get 40 hours' pay.

The meeting unanimously agreed that:

The only satisfactory final solution to the problem will be three shifts of eight hours each with paid lunch periods.

For the present, the third shift's work week should consist of Monday night to Friday night, continuing to Saturday noon with five hours at time-and-a-half, for a total of 40 hours' pay, and no Sunday night.

If today's meeting approves this position, the union will take up the proposals formally with the company. Shop stewards have been taking a written poll among third shift workers this week on their reaction to the proposals.

Join a union anyway? And as for the "steady and secure" jobs he mentions, union members know the importance of the UE contract provisions and grievance machinery in establishing whatever security they have.

Protests Transfer Of Work to Europe

The president of the UE local at Iliion has appealed to U. S. Senator Irving M. Ives for an immediate investigation of Remington Rand's transfer of plant and jobs to foreign countries.

Edwin J. O'Bryan, the union officer, estimates that already over 3,000 workers have lost their jobs in the Iliion Rem-Rand plant alone, and that a total of over 8,000 jobs have been eliminated throughout the various Rem-Rand plants.

He pointed out that "the company's foreign investment program has already scheduled plant operations in Germany, France, Scotland, India and England." Several of these are already in limited production. The Syracuse plant has been completely shut down and production transferred to Scotland.

This policy of Rem-Rand and other companies will force American workers into depression conditions, he warned, unless it is checked.

"We believe that the time has come for you and other political leaders to think in terms of an American Recovery Plan with full employment for workers in the United States," O'Bryan told Ives.

"In the guise of foreign investments or recovery, millions of American dollars and complete industries where we earned our daily bread are being shipped to Europe."

Expressing his support for feeding the needy and hungry of the world, O'Bryan said that "this seems to go quite a bit beyond that. When it comes to moving our factories and our jobs, we have to draw the line."

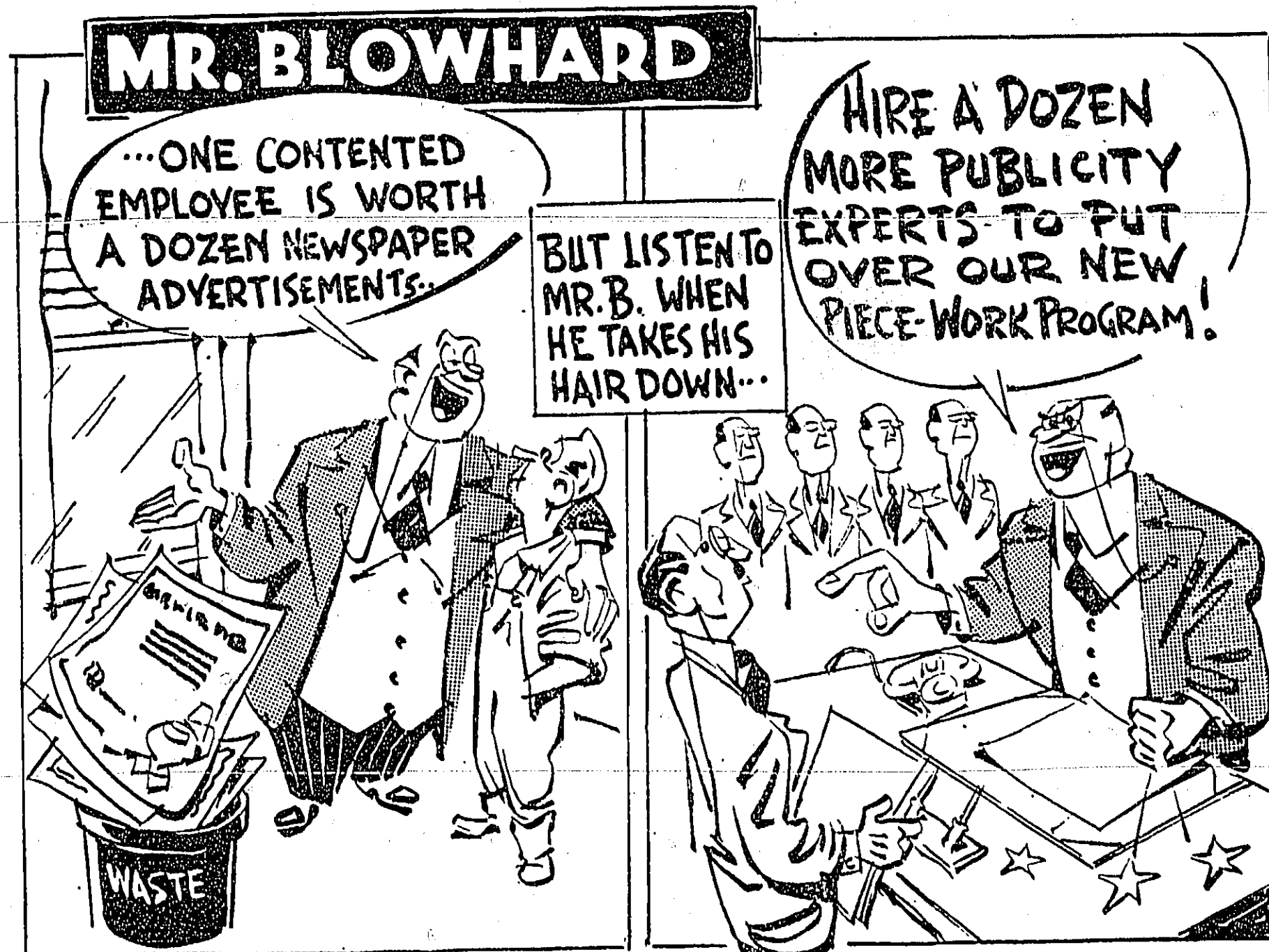
When the layoffs and job transfers began at Rem-Rand last May the company announced the cutbacks were due "to certain aspects of our government's foreign policy" and the resulting "loss of eastern European customers."

ATTEND YOUR UNION MEETINGS

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS
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GE Speaker Frank To Say the Least

Recent remarks of a General Electric physicist may very well provide an additional explanation as to why UE organization is not desired around atomic energy developments.

The quotations are entirely from the Schenectady Gazette, so they can hardly be suspected of being unfair to GE.

The GE physicist, Dr. John R. Stehn, was quoted as saying in a speech:

"You probably won't see much physical use of atomic power in your lifetime."

Then came the meat of the remarks. Here is the full paragraph from the Gazette:

"It's up to you fellows to see that atomic power is used for good effects," he added. He pointed out that an atom bomb costs less per man killed and, if dropped in the middle of this city, could set houses on fire for miles around and make them impossible to enter."

Some labor people have been heard to suggest that atomic power could be used to make it cost less to live, not to kill. Presumably that is disloyal.

Second Shift Party

Tickets for the second shift workers' party Jan. 28 are selling fast, shop stewards report. The affair will start right after work at midnight at 301 Hall.

Surprise Tribute

An unexpected tribute was paid recently to the UE movie, "The Great Swindle" by Robert S. Pearce, a vice-president of the General Electric Company.

At a forum on public relations conducted by the National Association of Manufacturers last month in New York City, Pearce was asked by a manufacturer:

"How can NAM counteract films like 'The Great Swindle'?"

Pearce replied, "I am not sure that those things can be immediately counteracted."

After suggesting that employers should so conduct themselves that their employees would not believe the films, he concluded, "I realize that's a lame answer."

"The Great Swindle" was made by UE early in 1948 to show union members and the public why labor needed a wage increase and why industry could afford to pay it. Pearce handles GE's advertising and radio programs.

Credit Union Meeting

Turbine Federal Credit Union No. 1884, comprising members in the Turbine Division, will have its regular annual meeting at 7:30 p.m. tomorrow (Saturday) at 301 Hall. There will be the regular order of business. Leland Bellinger, shop steward in Building 49, is president.

Latest GE Attempt At 'Thought Control'

Here's a new development in the General Electric Company's "thought control" program.

The General Electric Supply Corporation recently asked its employees to list all the organizations, associations, societies and clubs to which they belong. They also were asked how much dues they paid these organizations "either personal or whether reimbursed by the company."

Lunch Time Case

The grievance case involving the lunch period of hourly rated workers at the Knolls I research laboratory has been sent to New York by the union office. The workers want a half-hour lunch period like the rest of the plant, instead of their present hour.

Holiday Pay Cases

The Christmas and New Year's holiday pay grievances have reached the Male level. The union is pressing the cases for members who were refused pay for Christmas or New Year's day though they had been working Saturdays.

UE Wins Vote

Salaried employees of Ferranti Electric Company at Mt. Dennis, Canada, voted two to one in an Ontario Labor Relations Board Election to have UE as their bargaining agency.

Emspak Discusses Workers' Problems

Unemployment is spreading throughout the state and nation, UE Secretary-Treasurer Julius Emspak warned the Local 301 meeting Tuesday night.

"If it hasn't already hit here, it's backing up on you," he said, citing heavy lay-offs and plant closings at various GE plants. Fort Wayne GE recently laid off many workers. GE has closed its Kokomo plant and a plant at Scranton. The company has announced that a shutdown is in the offing at Meriden, Conn. Cutbacks in other industries and companies affect GE, he pointed out.

Half a Million Jobless

"There are 15,000 people out of work in Syracuse today," he reported. "Half a million people in New York state are getting unemployment insurance and many thousands have exhausted their benefits until next June."

"I don't know whether we are going into another 1929 or 1930 or not," he said. "But you know and I know that the workers in the shops are worried about job security, about lay-offs and transfer to new jobs, and chiseling in seniority. There's less work and less take-home pay."

Emspak urged that the membership unite to tackle these problems.

"The attention the General Electric pays you will be in direct proportion to your strength and unity," he said.

Must Cooperate

Emspak emphasized the importance of coordinating the wage program of UE with other CIO unions. He said that last November Phil Murray, as president of the Steelworkers, told UE President Albert Fitzgerald and himself that UE and the Steelworkers must work more closely together this year than ever before in trying to solve their economic problems.

Unfortunately this year a large section of the Auto Workers, the General Motors Division, will be out of the picture in wage negotiations, Emspak pointed out. They are tied to the "escalator" clause on wages in their contract.

He said New York state unions must kill the merit rating provision passed two years ago by the Dewey legislature, to give "big companies a kick-back on their Unemployment Insurance payments."

"In Massachusetts the Unemployment Insurance fund is nearly exhausted," he declared. "New York will be like Massachusetts if we don't watch out."

Register First Day If You Are Laid Off

Whenever you are laid off, even if only for a few days, register at the nearest unemployment insurance office on your first day out of work.

The only time it is useless to register is during a week (Monday to Sunday) in which you have already earned \$24 or more or have worked four days. In such case you should register the following Monday if you are still out of work.

This reminder is necessary because of the cases of lack of work developing in parts of the works. Most serious is in Induction Motors.

Registering for unemployment insurance may not bring any immediate payments, but it protects your future rights.

In Motor Generator last week a group were told they would just be out Monday. So they did not register for unemployment insurance. That day they were telephoned that they would be out the rest of the week. As a result of not registering Monday, they lost one day's unemployment credit, and it might turn out that they lost a full week, depending upon how they work between now and June, the end of the "benefit year."

The only safe thing is to register promptly in any week in which you might possibly claim any credit.

The Schenectady office is at 236 Broadway.

Latest Developments On Newspaper Front

The climax of the two-months' campaign of active interference by the Schenectady daily newspapers in the affairs of Local 301 came this week with a last flurry of misrepresentation.

Stories in both the Gazette and the Union-Star Monday gave incorrect accounts of what happened at the last Executive Board meeting. They were build-ups for a fight at the membership meeting. The stories this time quoted no one but anonymous "opposition spokesmen" and "it was learned."

But you could search every inch of the Gazette Wednesday morning and not find anything about what happened at the membership meeting the previous night.

The Union-Star ran a highly-colored story on the meeting, loaded with incorrect statements, and suppressing the real facts.

WEAR YOUR UNION BUTTON



301 Opposes Schenectady Payroll Tax Plan

Local 301 this week sent a protest to Mayor Owen Begley against a proposed 1 per cent payroll tax on Schenectady wage earners.

On recommendation of the Executive Board, the membership meeting Tuesday and Wednesday unanimously passed a resolution condemning the plan.

The resolution was part of a legislative program presented by Marshall Perlin, 301 attorney, and recommended by the Board. The membership approved the entire program, covering unemployment insurance, state and city financing, sickness and disability and workmen's compensation. Further details will be printed in next week's EU News.

The resolution sent to Mayor Begley states:

"Mayor Begley has proposed that the State authorize the City to levy a one percent (1%) pay roll tax on all wage earners in the City of Schenectady. Such a tax only increases the burdens on those who today are less able to pay and means a wage cut and reduction in the standard of living for the members of our union. It is to be noted that a pay roll tax would in addition fall upon the many small home owners of Schenectady who are already overburdened with

large and inequitable tax rates.

"There are other adequate means of raising the monies needed by the community. The City Council should tax those businesses and corporations with large profits who could pay increased taxes without any hardship.

"The State Formula for granting aid to the cities should be revised upward so that Schenectady would be given a fairer share of the monies raised in this community and paid to the State.

"Therefore, be it resolved, that we, . . . are opposed to any form of pay roll tax and demand that Mayor Begley withdraw the requests made for such powers to tax, and

"That the City Council use powers already granted to them to place a tax of three-tenths of one percent (3/10 of 1%) of gross receipts on large businesses grossing over \$100,000 a year, such as GE and ALCO and thereby obtain the revenues needed from those best able to pay, and

"That the State give a just share of revenues derived from the community back to Schenectady by revising the Moore Formula so that there would be an addition to the extent of \$12.00 per capita in place of the present sum of \$6.75 per capita."