

Fitzgerald Charges Congressional Investigators With Political Move in Summoning UE Officers

The action of the House Labor sub-committee in issuing subpoenas for Julius Emspak and James J. Matles, UE general officers, to testify before the "investigators" at Washington next week, was denounced in a statement by UE President Albert J. Fitzgerald.

Emspak, who is general secretary-treasurer, and Matles, director of organization, have been ordered to appear before the sub-committee next Tuesday. Fitzgerald had been called before the group the week before the national UE convention.

The UE president charged that the sub-committee is making "a political move designed to influence and dominate the thinking of union members and to capture their organizations so that they will become instruments of reaction."

Aiding Big Business

"Big Business forces which have been unable to capture democratic, progressive unions from within are turning increasingly to Congressional committees for aid," he declared.

In attacking UE again immediately after the national convention, Fitzgerald pointed out, the committee is trying "to nullify the decisions of 1,000 delegates representing 600,000 men and women under contract in 29 states."

"The action of the Hartley Committee is part of a pattern which seeks to impose the thinking of Wall Street on the American people and which declares that any departure from its domestic and international policies is 'un-American,'" Fitzgerald said. "The UE convention overwhelmingly rejected the Hartley committee's attempt to impose such policies on the UE's free, independent, thinking."

Vicious Record

"The Hartley Committee has a long, vicious record of work in behalf of reactionary employers who have tried to break collective bargaining contracts with the UE," Fitzgerald pointed out.

"The committee already has engaged in Congressional strike-breaking in disputes involving Remington-Rand, the Univis Lens Co. of Dayton, and today the Bucyrus-Erie Co. of Evansville, Ind."

"This latest committee diversion is designed to aid union-busting forces without and within the Union, as well as to take the people's minds off the pressing problems of rising prices, the shortage of housing and the dangerous international maneuvers that may lead to another war."

Political Bankruptcy

"The committee's 'investigation,' one month before the national elections, is symbolic of the bankruptcy

301 Votes to Back Community Chest

The 301 membership and stewards' meeting this week voted \$300 to the Schenectady Community Chest campaign, on recommendation of the Executive Board, and also voted to cooperate again this year in getting voluntary contributions from workers in the shops.

The Chest drive, Oct. 1 to 13, aims at raising \$394,146 to aid the following agencies: Association of the Blind, Boy Scouts, Carver Welfare League, Catholic Charities, City-Mission, Children's Home, Day Nursery, Sunnyview Hospital, Ellis Hospital, Family Service Bureau, Girl Scouts, Ingersoll Home.

Also, Humane Society, Jewish Community Center, Old Ladies Home, Public Health Nurses, Salvation Army, Boys' Club, Scotia Relief Association, Travelers Aid, WMCA, YWCA, and Related Activities Council.

If it weren't for the Community Chest, each of these agencies would be having its own drive, Chest officials have pointed out. They pool their fund-raising efforts, instead, "because it's the simple, sensible and economical way to raise the money needed."

A committee of Schenectady citizens studies the needs of the agencies, goes over their budgets and allocates the funds from the chest.

It is estimated that two out of every five families in the county use one or more chest agencies during a year.

of both old parties. Neither the Republicans nor the Democrats even suggest investigations of exorbitant profits which have caused high prices. Neither the Republicans nor the Democrats have demanded a probe of the scandalous lack of low-cost housing. Neither the Republicans nor the Democrats even murmur about investigating the high price of monopoly controlled meat.

"The UE officers propose to tell the Hartley Committee about these problems and they will stand on their Constitutional rights in refusing to be 'taken for a ride' down a blind alley of questioning which the committee has consistently used in an attempt to smear its political opponents."

CONGRESSMAN DRIPP BY YOMEN



"HALLELUJAH! I'M RE-ELECTED! I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO REGISTERED TO VOTE IN MY DISTRICT!"

12 Cent Raises

Workers at two plants in Wilmerding, Pa., get 12 cent raises, retroactive to June 28, under agreements negotiated by UE. They are the Union Switch and Westinghouse Air-Brake plants. A new hiring rate of \$1.20 an hour was established.

301 Attorney's Hours

Members of Local 301 can consult the union's attorney, Marshall Perlin, at the union office every Monday through Thursday from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. He will be available at other times by appointment.

Raise at Bendix

After the Bendix Company workers at Red Bank, N. J., staged a one-day work stoppage, management came through with an acceptable wage offer in its contract negotiations with UE. It raised its top offer from seven to 11 1/4 cents. The company dropped a proposal to weaken the seniority provisions and also dropped its demand for a two-year contract with wages frozen.

Government Fails To Reveal Charges

C. S. Jackson, Canadian vice-president of UE, who was barred from attending the UE convention by U. S. immigration officials, never found out on what grounds the government refused him admission to this country. On his arrival at La Guardia Air Field by plane, he was met by immigration officers who whisked him off to Ellis Island.

He was questioned by an immigration officer about his name, address and the purpose of the trip.

"I was asked whether or not I was a member of the Communist Party," he reported. "My answer was 'No.' I was then asked whether I associated with the Communist Party. I inquired as to the use and meaning of the term 'associated with.' The questioning did not proceed further on this point."

His request to be allowed to telephone UE attorneys was denied, but the attorneys managed to reach him after four hours.

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ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

THE VOICE OF LOCAL 301 - - - - U. E. R. & M. W. A. - - - - G. I. O.

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SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

October 1, 1948

UE Attorney Removed From Hartley Hearing

David Scribner, national UE attorney, was forcibly removed by three capitol cops from the Hartley Committee hearing in Washington Tuesday when he attempted to advise UE Secretary-Treasurer Julius Emspak of his constitutional rights.

Present at the hearing were representatives of U. E. locals, including Board Members James



Stanley Bishop



William Stewart

Cognetta, William Stewart and Stanley Bishop of 301. The 301 Board had directed them to go to Washington to observe the sessions of the committee "investigating"



James Cognetta

Matles said that to answer such a question "would be to betray my people and my union."

James J. Conroy, a former union member, testified Tuesday that he had attended Communist meetings with Matles and Emspak and that Emspak was known as "Comrade Juniper." A year ago he told the Thomas Un-American Activities Committee that to his knowledge neither Matles or Emspak was a Communist. Both times he testified under oath.

Matles called Conroy a liar on (Continued on Page 8)

Registration Starts Today

Registration for the Nov. 2 elections starts today in cities and villages with over 5,000 population. You can register from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. today, tomorrow and next Friday, Oct. 8, and from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 9.

In this section those hours cover Schenectady, Scotia, Albany, Watervliet, Cohoes, Gloversville, Johnstown, Amsterdam, Oneonta, Rensselaer, Troy, Mechanicville and Saratoga Springs.

You are required to register personally in those cities and villages.

In towns and small places of less than 5,000 population registration is tomorrow, from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Oct. 9, from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. You don't have to register personally, but it's wise to look at the books in these places to make sure you are listed.

Hartley Committee Attacks 301 in Anti-Union Campaign

The Hartley Labor Committee directed its drive to smash trade unions against Local 301 this week. Officers of the local and some members were subpoenaed Monday to appear at a hearing in the Schenectady post office yesterday and today before a sub-committee headed by Congressman Charles J. Kersten.

(See separate story on his record.) This week's EU News contains two late pages giving the story of yesterday's hearing. Business Agent Leo Jandreau made a talk Wednesday night explaining to the people of Schenectady why this anti-union Congressional committee is determined to destroy UE and Local 301, and warning against the dangers of the community hysteria which the committee aroused recently in Evansville, Ind.

Papers Suppress 301 Statement The union distributed throughout the shops Wednesday a pamphlet containing a statement by Jandreau on the "investigation" which both the Gazette and Union Star had refused to print. The leaflet pointed out the role of the newspapers in this attack on the union.

Shop stewards were called to the union hall during the week for several meetings on the investigation, addressed by Jandreau and Marshall Perlin, 301 attorney. Jandreau told the stewards that the Hartley Committee is determined to smash UE because it has been able to get wage increases and other benefits for its members in spite of the Taft-Hartley Law. He warned them of letting the committee create in Schenectady the same anti-Red hysteria that it whipped up in Evansville, Ind.

The Hartley committee hearings in Evansville resulted in vigilantes, mob violence, black-listing. The hysteria spread all over the community and hurt not only UE workers who were "investigated", but UAW workers and all labor unions.

Must Defend Constitutional Rights "The only way to fight this thing," Jandreau declared, "is to defend your rights under the constitution of the United States and your rights under the UE constitution. The purpose of red-baiting is to shift interest from the real issues—wages and working conditions. Red-baiting can help nobody but the boss."

He emphasized that UE and Local 301 are run by their membership alone. "Neither UE or the (Continued on Page 2)

Income Tax Difficulties The Milwaukee Journal of Jan. 24, 1947 stated that Kersten was assessed, as of that date, \$229.74 plus penalties for state income taxes he failed to pay for the years 1943, 1944 and 1945. According to the state tax assessor quoted in the article, Kersten had "either failed or refused" to file.

The assessment was what is (Continued on Page 4)

This Is the Type Man 'Investigating' Local 301

Here are some facts about the record of Congressman Charles J. Kersten, in charge of the "investigation" of Local 301 by a subcommittee of the Hartley Labor Committee.

This Republican from Milwaukee, Wis., elected in 1946, has voted consistently against labor and for Big Business in his two years in Congress.

Two other parts of his record are particularly interesting: his failure to pay a state income tax for several years until forced to do so and his talent for getting relatives on the government payroll.

Voted for Taft-Hartley Law

In 1947 Kersten voted for the Taft-Hartley law which he called a "bill of rights" for workers.

He voted for the bill wiping out portal-to-portal pay suits and weakening the Wage-Hour Act.

He voted for the gag rule in the House to stop any effort to pass genuine price control legislation.

He voted for the "rich man's tax bill" giving huge cuts to the wealthiest individuals and corporations.

He voted for the Rees loyalty bill providing for discharge of government workers without fair trial

Statement of Board On Michael Tedisco

The following statement was adopted unanimously by the Executive Board of Local 301 Monday night:

Michael Tedisco, who was the Executive Board member for Buildings 12, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 19, sent his resignation from the union to the union office last week after unsuccessful efforts had been made to get him to meet with the Executive Board to discuss reports about a campaign among Building 17 toolmakers to organize a dual union.

The Executive Board heard evidence from five members on the first and second shifts in Building 17 on the signing up of members for the International Association of Machinists. One of the five, a shop steward, admitted having received signed application cards for the IAM but said that he had seen to it that the applications were not followed up. This shop steward specifically named Tedisco as the man who had promoted the movement.

Confirming Evidence

This shop steward's evidence gave first hand confirmation of earlier rumors that Tedisco himself had started the dual union movement.

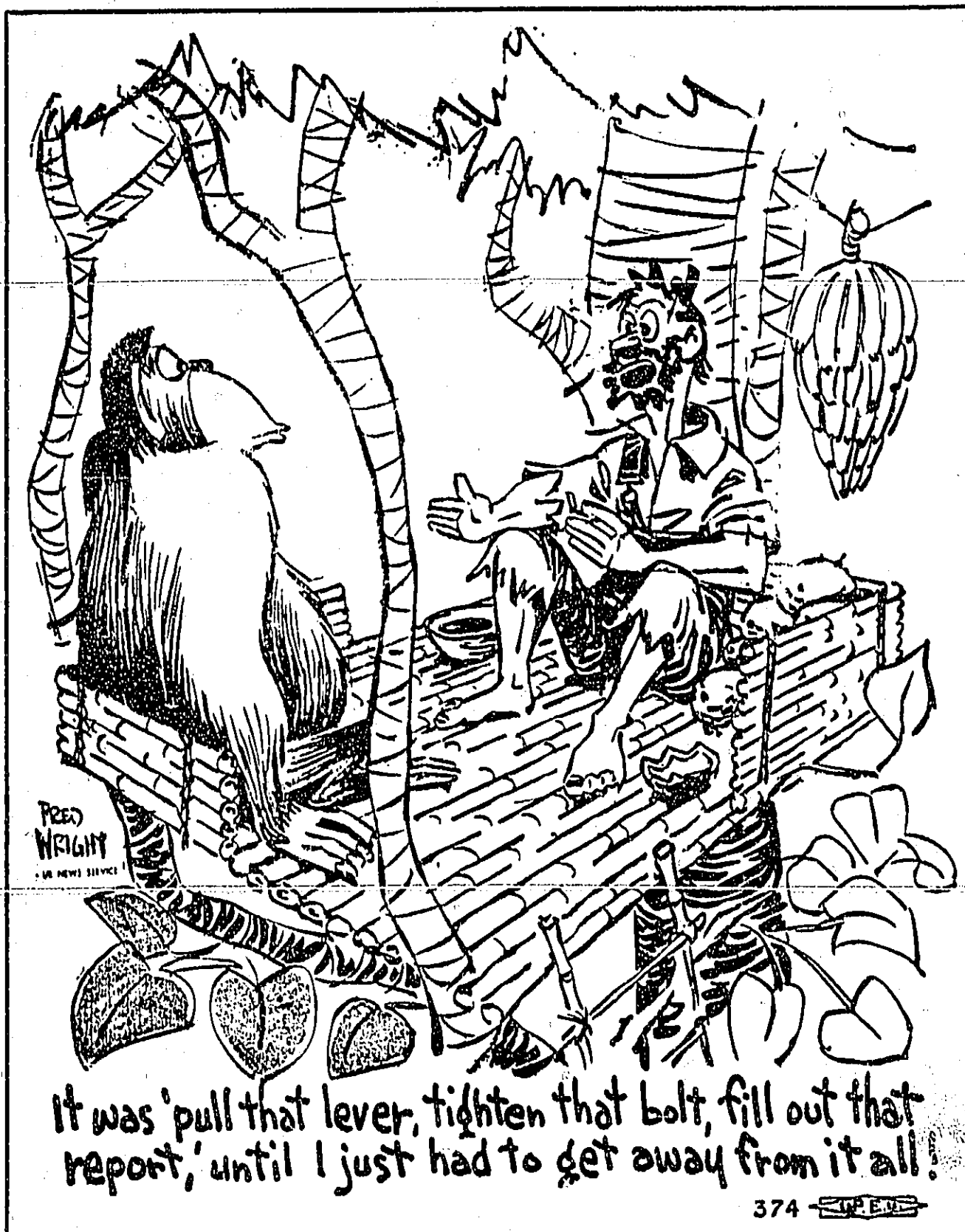
Tedisco had pleaded complete ignorance of the dual union movement when asked about it by union officers. He refused to face his accusers even though several of the shop stewards in his section pleaded with him to do so.

The Executive Board felt that the evidence was conclusive that Tedisco, while acting as shop steward and Executive Board member of the local, was actively engaged in trying to get a key group to leave the union.

Therefore, the Executive Board unanimously accepted Tedisco's resignation and notified the company that he no longer had any standing as a union representative.

Move Weakened Craft Fight

It appears that an overwhelming majority of toolmakers in Building 17 realized that their best interests lay with Local 301. The



It was 'pull that lever, tighten that bolt, fill out that report, until I just had to get away from it all!

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dual union movement failed completely. However, it came at a time when it inevitably did very serious damage to the cause of the toolmakers and other crafts in their hard fight to get the GE Company to correct their rates. The movement led by Tedisco showed enough disunity to give a serious blow to the morale in one of the largest tool room groups.

Tedisco had previously hurt this fight by carrying on a rumor campaign about the conduct of the fight, instead of bringing the supposed questions up on the floor of the craft meetings.

The toolmakers, as well as all other crafts, know from long experience that the only union which has been effective in taking care of their special craft problems, as well as their over-all problems as GE workers, is the UE.

Case Should Be Warning

This experience and its effect on the craft rate fight should be a warning to all members to be constantly on guard against anyone who seeks to split the membership for his own purposes.

Pending an opportunity to hold an election among the shop stewards in the section affected, the Executive Board has appointed three experienced shop leaders to act temporarily in the place of a board member for different parts

Community Chest Campaign Opens

The annual Schenectady Community Chest drive started today in the shops. Local 301 has donated \$300 from the union treasury to the campaign and has urged all members to give individual gifts. Vice-president William Hodges of 301 is co-chairman of the drive in the plant.

Dr. L. A. Hawkins, general Community Chest campaign chairman, has sent EU News the following information on services provided by Ellis Hospital, one of the 23 agencies aided by the Chest.

"Every day and every hour brings the possibility that one of us may need the hospital. During the past year 15,200 persons — or more than one out of every 10 people in the county — were admitted to the Ellis hospital. The hospital cannot and will not refuse admission to any individual because of inability to meet the costs of hospital care.

"Legally indigent persons are provided for by the County Welfare department. This by no means fulfills the community's responsibility toward its sick and injured. Much assistance must be provided at less than cost to help those who can pay part but not all of the costs of their illness."

Hartley Committee Attacks Local 201

(Continued from Page 1)
Hartley committee can tell Local 301 members what officers to elect or how to operate the union," he said.

Jandreau warned that union members must defend their right to hold whatever political beliefs they wished to.

Shop stewards brought to the union office this week petitions signed by several thousand workers calling on the union officers in appearing before the "Hartley Anti-Labor committee, to carry out the letter and spirit" of the preamble of the UE constitution. This preamble declares there shall be no discrimination because of craft, age, sex, nationality, race, creed or political beliefs.

UE Locals from all parts of District 3 sent telegrams of support to Local 301 this week. First to arrive were those from Local 316, Poughkeepsie; Local 381, Rome, and Local 215, Iliou. The Joint Board of UE locals at Jamestown had a special meeting Monday to pledge the help of their several thousand members. UE locals also have sent telegrams to Congressman Kersten denouncing his attack on 301.

Papers Keep Making 'Mistakes' Like This

The Schenectady Gazette story Tuesday on Governor Earl Warren's passing through Schenectady on his campaign trip mentioned a Wallace sign on "UE hall."

Local 301 rents the second floor of the building at 301 Liberty St. The local, which has not endorsed any presidential candidate, has not displayed any presidential candidate's picture on its part of the building.

The ground floor offices and stores in the building are rented to various tenants, including the Schenectady Wallace-for-President Committee.

Some Local 301 officers are supporting the Wallace candidacy, but entirely as individuals.

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of this section. For Buildings 12, 14 and 16, Albert Eastman of Building 16 will act. For the tool and die groups in Building 17, Anthony Esposito of Building 53, who has served on most toolmakers' committees in the local, will serve. For the production groups on the ground floor of Buildings 15, 17 and 19 the acting board member will be Sidney Friedlander.

GE Reveals Desire For Company Union

At the same time that the Hartley committee is sending its agents and sub-committees all over the country to attack the UE-CIO, the General Electric Company has opened its own "employee relations" campaign to take over the UE from the inside and turn it into a company union.

In Schenectady the visible form of the campaign was the relatively mild attack contained in such an advertisement as the one which appeared Tuesday "A Plague on Both Your Houses."

But the campaign was much bolder in Philadelphia, where the local union has at different times elected leaders supporting UE policies and others supporting the Carey-Block so-called "Democratic action" group.

Philadelphia Dinner
On Tuesday, Sept. 14, officers of UE Local 119 were invited to a dinner meeting of the GE Supervisors' Association in Philadelphia, along with representatives of industry in the area. They listened to a list of top GE officers headed by L. R. Boulware, vice-president for Employee Relations, as well as a sound-movie address by President Charles E. Wilson. When Linwood T. Ford, president of Local 119, sought to answer some of the remarks, he could not get the floor.

UE officers who attended said the speeches generally attacked the New Deal, the UE, and wage increases. The Philadelphia GE Works News carried more careful quotations about "employee relations." Probably the key remark quoted by the company was the following by L. H. Means, assistant to the manager in charge of labor relations:

"We think we can teach our employees the principles and practices that must be employed by any organization, union or otherwise, that expects to survive when under constant and intelligent public examination."

That is using rather big words to say that GE expects to "teach" its employees how to run their union. Presumably by "intelligent public examination" Means meant Hartley committee hearings for stool pigeons, without cross-examination.

Another speaker, E. S. McKay, assistant to the manager in charge of community relations, said: "Our opposition (which he did not identify) is tough and nasty, and thoroughly organized. It consists of forces which deal in hate, lies and confusion."

McKay did not specify what had

They've Gone on Duty as 301 Shop Stewards



George Walker, Local 301 guide, at extreme left, administered the oath of office to four new shop stewards at the Sept. 21 meeting: left to right, Norman Vielleux, Mario Conti and V. J. Liburdi, all of Bldg. 40, and Frank La Malfa, 10 C.

been said about GE profits, prices, wages, productivity, and conditions that was not true.

Boulware's Prize Remark
Boulware himself was more noble in tone. His prize remark was: "Our employees are in hungry search for significance."

He was not quoted as to the hungry search for lower priced groceries.

The Schenectady advertisement was more careful than the Philadelphia speeches. While claiming not to want to meddle in internal UE affairs, it jumped into them with both feet. It tried hastily to separate the company from the discredited Carey-Block faction. It also implied that the whole New Deal tradition was bad. Without saying so directly, the inference was that any government protection for the common man, such as price control, social security, unemployment insurance, anti-trust action, etc., was "collectivist", and we should go back to Hooverism.

The "ad" was obviously hinted that the membership should set up a union and leadership satisfactory to GE — a company union.

Evansville UE Members Hold Ranks Together

In spite of the hysteria and violence in Evansville, Ind., UE Local 813 is holding together. UE and members driven out of UE plants have filed a \$100,000 suit in Federal Court against Congressmen Edward A. Mitchell and Gerald Landis of the "investigating" committee, the Faultless Caster Corporation, Seeger Refrigerator Company, Servel, Inc., and several inside strong-arm men in those plants.

Defendants in the suit rushed to transfer their property to relatives or friends after the suit was filed, it is reported.

UE Attorney Removed From Hartley Hearing

(Continued from Page 1)

the stand and said to Chairman Charles J. Kersten of the Hartley sub-committee: "Conroy comes from the gutter. He is a management man who tried to wreck our union. He stands for everything that is evil, just like you do, Mr. Chairman."

Kersten interrupted every attempt that Matles made to read the Congressman's legislative record.

"Sensitive on that subject, aren't you?" Matles commented, and got a hearty laugh from the audience.

A report to local 301 from James Lerner of UE News said that the committeemen spent a major part of their time "badgering the UE officers about the union's constitutional provision which calls for no discrimination against anyone's right to be a member in the union".

At one point in this discussion Matles shut Kersten up with: "A UE local can no more bar anyone from running for office than the Congress can bar you from running."

Matles told the sub-committee that the UE's constitution is in line with that of the United States on that score.

Kersten's reading of long quotations from Soviet leaders regarding their internal affairs drew from Matles the demand that the Congressman spend his time reading Jefferson and Lincoln.

"You've buried them," he complained.

Emspak was asked whether he was ever known as "Comrade Juniper" and flatly denied ever having such a name.

Asked whether he thought something should be done about people promoting violence, Emspak said: "Certainly I think something

Hartley for Repeal Of Walsh-Healey Act

Representative Hartley this week urged repeal of the New Deal Walsh-Healey law which permits the secretary of labor to fix minimum wages for work on government contracts. Hartley is chairman of the Hartley Labor Committee of the House of Representatives and an author of the Taft-Hartley Law.

Hartley complained that in "fixing wages in industries on a national scale" the labor department is "usurping the constitutional privilege belonging to the Congress."

Even with the Walsh-Healey protection, according to the labor department, workers on government contracts still get substantially below the pay for labor-management contracts. Unions urged the adoption of the Walsh-Healey law to prevent serious undermining of union standards.

Continuous Process

Business Agent Leo Jandreau recently met with management to discuss changes proposed by the company in the continuous process operations schedule. As a check-up by the union showed that the changes announced so far do not involve loss of earnings or inconvenience for workers, Jandreau said the union would try out the schedules.

He reminded management, however, that under the contract schedule changes must be discussed with the union.

REMEMBER TO REGISTER

should be done, and damn quickly in Evansville."

Russ Nixon, UE Washington representative and former Army officer, was subpoenaed to testify after Emspak.

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Joint Steering Committee Recommends Postponing Fight on Craft Pay Rates

Postponement of the fight for correction of skilled craft wage rates was recommended to the craft groups by the Joint Craft Steering Committee this week, after a bargaining meeting with George Pfeif, of top GE management, last week had brought no change in the company position.

The committee recommended that the fight be resumed at a later date, when circumstances are more favorable.

The recommendation was approved unanimously by a meeting of toolmakers, tool room machine operators, and machinists Tuesday night. It was to come before meetings of the building trades, millmen, and welders Wednesday night (after this paper went to press).

In the meantime, the committee authorized all craftsmen to accept overtime work again, beginning last Saturday.

Session with Pfeif

A sub-committee picked by the steering committee met with Pfeif Thursday of last week. It included: Charles Ferris, A. J. Spears, Charles Nitsche, John Keeler, and Vincent Palazek, all from the building trades; Edward Wallingford and Anthony Esposito, from the tool rooms; D. Rogers Pitman, machinists, machine repair; and Henry Plourde, welders. They were assisted by Business Agent Leo Jandreau, and by Joseph Dermody and Joseph Turkowski, UE international representatives.

The negotiating sub-committee reported that the union's case for an increase in craft rates was the best it ever presented, and that Pfeif did not attempt to disprove it, but simply insisted the present rates were okay.

The steering committee emphasized that it was not accepting the case as a defeat, but as a necessary step in a continuing fight. The committee took note of certain definite gains in the course of the fight, in particular: the unity of the great majority of craftsmen in demonstrations and refusal of overtime; the fact that the crafts forced the company to back down on threats of reprisals; and the extent to which crafts, which had formerly stood separately in their rate cases, had joined forces this time.

Weakened by Tedisco

The committee noted that the craft fight was seriously weakened by the efforts of Michael Tedisco, former Board member, to split the Building 17 toolmakers during the fight. (separate story in this issue).

The committee also noted that the company had become extremely tough in its attitude toward its skilled workers, and that when the

Hot Issue

Bldg. 60 Welders Say Conditions Intolerable

Local 301 is pressing the company for correction of conditions in the hot welding booth in Building 60 which the men describe as intolerable. Welders assigned there said this week that they were reaching the point where they would be forced to stop work whether they wanted to or not.

The men say that the usual number of heated turbine shells in the booth is 10 or 11. On Tuesday morning the number was raised to 21, and Tuesday night another two were moved in, the men reported. Of the 23 shells, 22 were heated. The shells were so crowded that a welder working on a shell was forced to stand with his back close to another shell, heated to 400-500 degrees.

Protests to supervision have met with little apparent concern. Shop Stewards Marvin Rumrill and Henry Plourde were told by the foremen that they had orders to move the shells in regardless. In Building 41, A. C. Stevens and Frank Schaaff, of the works manager's staff, said the company had a schedule of turbine production to meet. Stevens said he did not believe working conditions were really intolerable. Schaaff said supervision in Turbine was meeting on the question.

The union is looking into the possibilities of action through state agencies.

\$30 Donation

The Local 301 Executive Board has voted a \$30 donation to the Schenectady Permanent Firemen's Association for the benefit of its widows' and orphans' fund. The association will have its annual dance Nov. 24, Thanksgiving Eve, at the State Armory.

fight was resumed the membership must be prepared for strong measures and a powerful rallying of membership support.

Demands for correction of craft rates are being pressed in a number of other GE plants, and the committee expected that in months ahead there will be pressure on the company in a number of plants at one time.

CONGRESSMAN DRIPP

BY YOMEN



"IF THAT UNION DELEGATION CALLS AGAIN, DON'T BE AFRAID TO USE THOSE WORDS I TAUGHT YOU!"

This Is the Type Man 'Investigating' Local 301

(Continued from Page 1)

known as "doomage" assessment in Wisconsin. This means that an individual fails to file and when requested to do so, fails once more. The tax assessor then estimates the tax due and the individual is forced to pay that amount or appeal. Kersten, who is a lawyer, paid without appealing. Earlier he had to pay "doomage" for 1936 and for 1941.

Editorial on Tax Evasion

Here's what the extremely conservative Milwaukee Journal said in an editorial Jan. 25, 1947 on the Kersten tax case.

"Tax evasion is one of the most un-American things a man can do. Even worse is the man, aspiring to public life, who dodges his just taxes. If Mr. Kersten has no satisfactory explanation for this sorry mess he is in, it seems fundamental that he has no business in the Congress."

Kersten paid his "doomage" the day the editorial appeared, and a couple days later said he could prove he hadn't attempted any tax evasion. But he never produced such "proof."

The Madison (Wis.) Times ran an editorial in July, 1948, about

Kersten's income tax record and that of his brother-in-law and law partner, Arlo McKinnon, and about Kersten's placing three members of his family on the federal payroll. In the same connection Fact stated July 19, 1948.

Three Relatives on Payroll

"Mrs. Arlo McKinnon is on the federal payroll as one of Kersten's secretaries at \$368 a month. Jerry McKinnon, Arlo's younger brother, is on the payroll as Kersten's 'home secretary' at \$150 a month, which enables him to stay at home in Milwaukee and practice law. The prize, however, goes to Kersten's son, George, who is only 14, but nevertheless draws \$219 a month as a page in the nation's capitol."

Kersten played a key role in "investigating" the Allis Chalmers strike of UAW at West Allis, Wis. in 1947. As a result, the union membership at the plant dropped from 11,000 or 12,000 workers to 184 paid-up members. (Figures from the CIO News of June, 1948).

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Peterson Accuses Kersten Of Trying to Smash Union

301 Officers Defend UE Constitution

"You're in Schenectady to bust up this union and you know it," Local 301 President Andrew Peterson told Congressman Charles J. Kersten at the afternoon session of the Hartley sub-committee hearing on Local 301 affairs in the Post Office Building yesterday.

When Kersten declared he was only trying "to break the hold of the Communist Party on this union," Peterson answered sharply:

"We know your record, You voted for the Taft-Hartley law, for the Mundt bill . . ."

Kersten stopped Peterson before he could recite more of the Milwaukee Congressman's record of votes against the people.

Sharply telling Kersten he had no right to inquire into people's political beliefs, Peterson declared: "I don't know anything about the Communist Party. I do what I am told by the membership. The membership runs this union and will continue to do so."

Stands on Constitutional Rights

Like the other 301 officers called yesterday, Peterson stood on his constitutional rights to refuse to answer questions as to political beliefs or alleged Communist Party membership.

Kersten got Peterson off the stand fast after Peterson had called



ANDREW PETERSON

Constitution, and to their rights under the First and Fifth amendments to the United States Constitution. These guarantee freedom of thought, and protect against being framed by committees such as this one.

Kersten sat as chairman of the sub-committee, assisted by O. Clark Fischer, a Texas Congressman with a similar reactionary record. (See page 1 of this issue on Kersten's record).

Kersten Denies Being Anti-Union!

Kersten opened the afternoon session with a denial of charges that the committee was interested in interfering in the union at the General Electric plant, but that the question of "Communist infiltration" was relevant to labor relations, because the committee had evidence that the Communist party was "not a political party, but a world conspiracy dedicated to the overthrow of all institutions."

Kersten said he was "in favor of good unions, against company unions. I think unions are not helped by Communist infiltration."

Kersten then called Chief Shop Steward William Mastriani and badgered him with questions about the Communist party.

Mastriani Speaks His Mind

Mastriani doggedly refused to get into a discussion of political beliefs, repeating that he stood on his constitutional rights. When Fischer sneered, "The constitution is a convenient thing, isn't it?" Mastriani flared back:

"Our forefathers fought for this

constitution, and we'll fight like Hell to defend it. No one has the right to overthrow the Constitution, not even the Hartley Committee."

Kersten asked him if he included the Communist Party among those which should not overthrow the Constitution, and Mastriani replied, "of course, including the Communist Party."

In reply to Kersten's question as to whether he considered the Communist Party a political party, Mastriani pointed out the United States Supreme Court had held it was.

Mastriani also pointed out repeatedly that he was interested in preserving and building the union, not in political theories, and that he would fight anyone seeking to overthrow the government.

"My record stands for itself," he added.

In answer to a question as to whether he would tell his members if he found a candidate for union office was a "member of the Russian secret police," Mastriani said he would "tell the members and the proper authorities."

Limits Right to Consult Lawyer

Kersten took the flat position that he would not let the witnesses consult their lawyers unless he, Kersten, thought there was a constitutional question involved. Both David Scriber, national UE counsel, and Marshall Perlin, 301 attorney, challenged the right to deny witnesses the benefit of legal advice.

Helen Quirini, recording secretary, last witness of the day, stressed the fact that the union was fighting for the welfare of women workers at the plant, that shop stewards, board members, and officers, were elected every year, and that all decisions were made by the membership itself.

Sister Quirini told Kersten that she would "not cooperate with you to violate my oath of office to uphold the UE constitution," which forbids discrimination because of political beliefs. She said that if this were to be changed, it would be by membership action through the Convention.

Kersten asked Sister Quirini if she thought a drive to "expose" Communists in 301 would hurt the union. She said it would lead to attacks on married women next, then Jews, Negroes, and other groups, once discrimination against any group was allowed.

DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER

Vottis Splatters Red Paint Freely

Salvatore M. Vottis, former Local 301 financial secretary, occupied the whole morning yesterday as the first and star performer for the Hartley sub-committee at the hearing in the post office building yesterday.

Going beyond his testimony of last year before the Thomas American Committee, Vottis yesterday made the extraordinary claim that Local 301 won recognition at GE in 1936 through a gigantic fraud on the National Labor Relations Board, in which he said he participated.

Names B. W. Kearney

Vottis threw the red paint about freely, at one time to the serious embarrassment of the committee. That was when he volunteered the statement that "Bernard W. Kearney was first named as a Congressman in a Communist Party meeting in 1942," and that the Communist Party had sent him to "meet with Cushing" (former Republican County chairman), to work out the nomination.

That brought a gale of laughter from the packed room, but staggered Kersten for a while. He later got Vottis to say that "to my knowledge" Kearney did not know the Communist Party was behind his nomination.

Vottis' Little List

Vottis used his red paint brush on the following:

Leo Jandreau—Vottis said one Dorothy Loeb signed him up in the party, but Vottis collected his dues;

Frank Emspak—signed up by Vottis;

Julius Emspak—Vottis said he failed to sign him up, but later "met with him and James Matles as Communists."

Edward Wallingford (shop steward in Building 60, former 301 president)—Vottis said that "Mr. Wallingford was the Communist Party front in 1943; he has followed the Communist Party line down to this date."

Andrew Peterson—Vottis called him a "willing tool" of the Communist Party.

As the large number of 301 rank and fliers as well as Board members walked out at the noon recess, the general comment was that Vottis had succeeded mainly in discrediting his own words.

The NLRB Election

Vottis' story of the NLRB election was that Local 301 needed 3,500 members to obtain an election, but had only 300. He said that

(Continued on Reverse Side)