

301 Protests Hiring Of Daniel Sheehan

By direction of the Executive Board, Local 301 protested to GE Tuesday against the hiring of Daniel P. Sheehan for a high-rated assembly job while many qualified present employees are still refused opportunities for upgrading.

While employed as a machine operator at American Locomotive Company, Sheehan was appointed an international representative of the United Steelworkers. One week after the ALCO workers went on strike in 1946, he went to the steel plant as labor relations man.

During the past few weeks, according to affidavits given to Steel Local 2054 by members, Sheehan suggested to several union members that they set up an "independent" union and oust Local 2054. He also mentioned the opportunity of taking advantage of the Steelworkers' refusal to use the Taft-Hartley Board or to file affidavits with it.

After Local 2054 presented this evidence to the company and protested against Sheehan's actions, ALCO fired him. He went to work Monday at GE in the west gallery of Bldg. 60.

A. C. Stevens, assistant to the general superintendent, told the 301 committee that Sheehan had a good record as a mechanic and was a machinist apprentice graduate from a plant in Watervliet. The union pointed out he hadn't worked at his trade for five years and at ALCO had held a rather simple machine job. His GE job has an AER of \$1.75 for A work and \$1.60 for B work.

In the opinion of the people who did the hiring, Stevens declared, Sheehan is "the kind of man we want." He said there was no reason to think the hiring was wrong. He agreed to consider the claims of several individuals with long service.

Over 500 New Members

The organizing drive had resulted in more than 500 new members for Local 301 when EU News went to press Wednesday. The Executive Board has extended the campaign period till May 1. During this time new members don't have to pay the dollar initiation fee.

Children's Movies Tomorrow

Children of Local 301 members are invited to a movie party at 10:30 a.m. tomorrow (Saturday) at 301 Hall. The Activities Committee will serve refreshments.

Here's a Good Example Of Unfair Income Tax



Higinio H. Hermida of Bldg. 109 goes into a huddle with Emil Radosvich, Local 301 bookkeeper (with his back to the camera), at the 301 Hall, over his federal income tax.

The case of Higinio H. Hermida, 57, of Bldg. 109 is typical of workers who have to pay income taxes way out of proportion to their wages. He paid \$309 on earnings of \$3,494.92 (his \$3,240.70 in GE wages plus \$254 his wife earned). They have one child, a son in high school.

"My pay just doesn't stretch far enough," Hermida said. Toward the end of last year it became necessary for his wife to take a job. They had \$190.80 medical bills last year and they started 1948 with new medical expenses.

During the year \$276.80 was taken out of Hermida's pay as a withholding tax and \$21.20 out of his wife's. But when he came to figure out the total tax, he found he had \$11 extra to pay.

Under the "spare the rich" tax system today, workers like Hermida pay these heavy taxes, while the government relieves GE and other big corporations of paying excess profits taxes.

Labor's tax proposals, for which UE is pressing, would raise the tax exemptions in the lower income groups so that a man in Hermida's circumstances wouldn't have to pay any tax at all.

Local 301 members can obtain expert help in making out their federal income tax returns from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. tomorrow (Saturday) at the union hall. The deadline for filing is Monday.

Heck Approves Bill Hitting Pensioners

Speaker Oswald D. Heck of the Assembly told a UE delegation Mar. 3 that he favors legislation depriving pensioners of unemployment insurance along the lines of a bill introduced by Assemblyman John F. Wadlin of Ulster County.

He avoided direct answers to several questions, but he spoke right up on the pensioner matter. He also spoke in favor of legislation which would set up a little Dies Committee for the State of New York; legislation to give employers larger rebates from the unemployment insurance fund. Dewey Brashear of Local 301 and Charles Ray, vice-president of UE District 4, headed the delegation calling on Heck at the Capitol.

A delegation visiting Senator Thomas Campbell found him in substantial agreement with Heck. Andrew Peterson, William Mastriani, William Stewart and James Cognetta, all of Local 301, interviewed him.

Interviewing legislators was part of the program of a District 3 and 4 legislative conference attended by 74 delegates.

Pensioners Party Planned For Union Hall March 27

The 301 Activities Committee is arranging a party at the union hall Mar. 27 for the UE-CIO-301 Pension Organization. There will be refreshments and dancing. All GE pensioners, whether members of the Pension Organization or not, are invited to attend, with their husbands and wives. The Pension Organization is open to all pensioners, from all departments of the plant.

Dance for Garry Waldron

Want to attend a good party and help a disabled veteran at the same time?

Then get a ticket from your shop steward for the dance which the 301 Activities Committee has planned for Mar. 20 for the benefit of Garry Waldron, 301 member. It will be at Stanford Heights Fire Department hall, Stop 8, Albany-Schenectady Rd.

Jandreau Backs Wallace

Business Agent Leo Jandreau advised the 301 Executive Board Monday night that he was joining, as an individual, the national and state Wallace-for-President committees. The Board voted unanimously that he had the right to take such action as an individual.

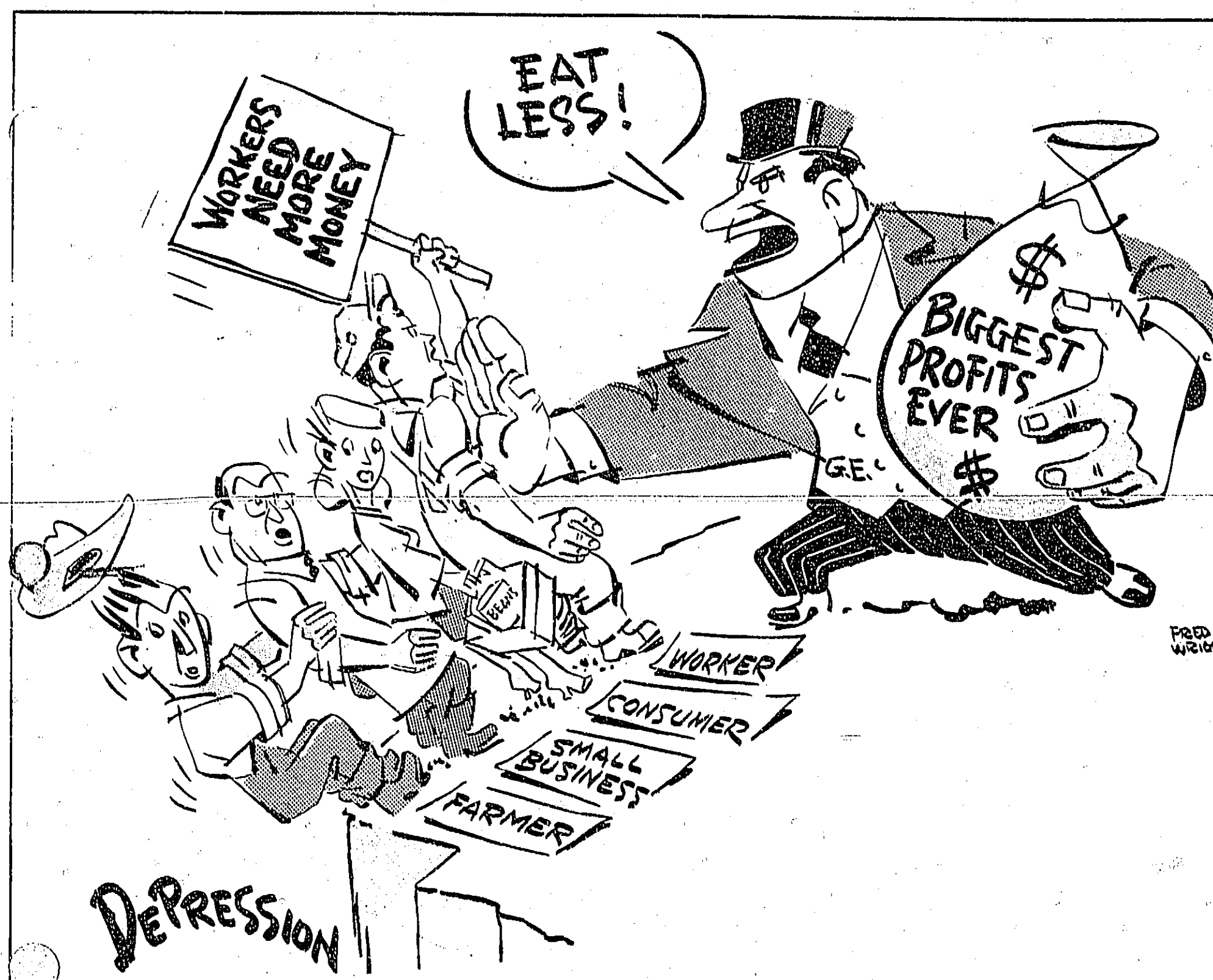
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THE VOICE OF LOCAL 301 - - - - U. E. R. & M. W. A. - - - - C. I. O.

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GE 1947 Profit Hits New High

GE net profit for 1947, after all taxes, was \$95,298,940.

This figure not only sets an all-time record, but is \$20,000,000 more than had been estimated on the basis of earlier 1947 reports. It is well over double the 1946 figure. Profit before taxes, out of which a wage increase would come, was \$156,700,000, instead of the \$120,000,000 estimated by the union.

These profit figures prove the point made by the union that GE (and Big Business generally) can afford both a substantial wage increase and a real reduction in prices.

No wonder the Works News story last week buried the profit figure in the ninth paragraph, as if it were just a minor part of its existence.

By the recognized business method of computing return on total investment, the 1947 profit was a 24.5 percent return. This is based on common stock, capital surplus

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301 Resolution on Contract Negotiations

The Local 301 meeting Tuesday unanimously adopted the following resolution:

"This membership meeting of UE Local 301 condemns the attitude of the General Electric Company in the present contract negotiations. "GE has just made record profits, beyond all expectations, because of the breaking of price control and because of the constantly increasing productivity of its workers without adequate reward. Yet it spends huge sums of money in advertising in order to avoid paying us a wage increase. Such an increase would only make up for part of the price inflation which has brought record profits. We cannot make both ends meet, but we are told to 'save money.' In the name of opposing inflation, GE fights for inflation now and depression later.

"GE refuses any concessions on such fair and badly-needed points as a minimum \$120-a-month pension; a guarantee of eight hours pay for any one regular shift; protection of piece workers against the current speed-up and price cutting drive; and holiday pay for Washington's Birthday and Election Day. GE actually wants to weaken present piece price and seniority guarantees, inadequate as they are.

"GE even refuses to agree to provisions which have become general in relations with companies with which we have contracts; standard grievance procedure to settle all shop disputes peacefully; clear-cut seniority protection in lay-offs and promotion; negotiation of local schedules of wage rates; recognition of the union in newly-organized plants where we have a majority; and the voluntary individual one-year check-off of our \$1.50 monthly dues.

"Evidently GE thinks it can hide behind the Taft-Hartley Law and the general anti-labor drive of Big Business and government to refuse proper compensation for the workers who have made its vast

GE Obstinate On All Major UE Proposals

Union and GE negotiators were far apart on all major points when the bargaining was recessed last Friday, Mar. 12 for one week. During the recess the union committee is taking up the issues again with the locals and the company committee is discussing union arguments with top management.

Facts Don't Interest GE

"We never had a better set of facts to justify our proposals than this year, but facts aren't moving the company in these negotiations" Leo Jandreau, Local 301 business agent and District 3 president, declared in his report to his local Tuesday. He is the senior member of the union committee. (See separate story on Local 301 statement on the matter. Actions by other District 3 locals will be printed in this paper as received.)

GE Defends Speed-up

The bargaining score on points not previously reported in this paper follows:

The company opposed the union proposal to make higher earnings possible where a change of method means a speed-up. George Pfeif, chief company spokesman, claimed the company did not get enough work out of the men, and that if speeding up the machines meant getting a full day's work, that was no reason for paying more.

Grievance Procedure

Pfeif opposed the grievance procedure proposal (standard in UE contracts) under which union committees can meet with intermediate supervisors in the shop before a case goes to the top local union officials and the works manager. He said, however, he would consider the possibility of grievance meetings between a union shop steward and the division superintendent. He wanted to make arbitration of unsettled grievances optional, on the ground that he did not want an "outsider" deciding anything affecting costs. Binding

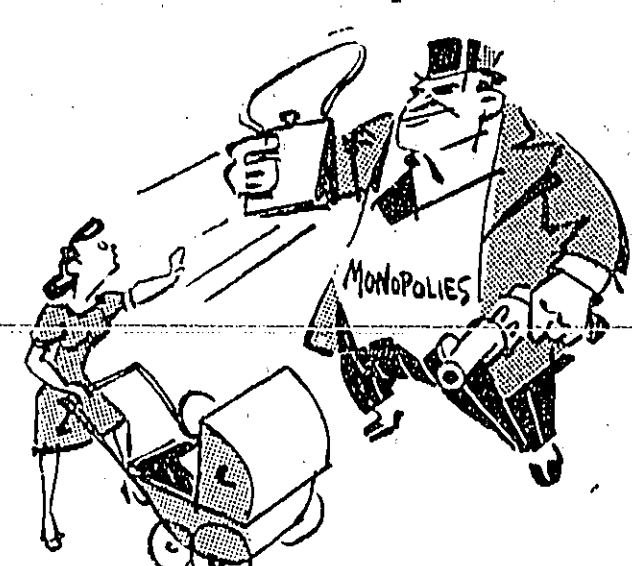
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profits possible. We do not intend to let this happen. We call upon GE workers here and in all plants to let the company know that they will insist upon a wage increase and necessary contract protection."

Will the Monopolies Bring Prices Down?

The General Electric Company is engaging in a publicity campaign to prove that big business will bring prices down voluntarily. But the Steel Companies have just announced an increase of \$5 a ton in the price of structural steel. The U. S. Federal Trade Commission has charged the steel companies with price fixing agreements.

The Big Four Rubber companies have increased the price of their



tires going to the automobile industry by a minimum of 5 per cent.

General Electric and Westinghouse are selling their heavy electrical equipment at terms which permit them to increase prices by 20 per cent.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture announces that the price of meat will go up once again in the spring.

The Big Six Meat Packers, the electrical companies, the Big Four Rubber companies and the Steel companies all report record-breaking profits in 1947. Yet even without their usual excuse that wages had increased they have raised prices.

When the big corporation get together,—they raise prices.

Broadcasts on Wages

Local 301 is broadcasting six "spot announcements" every day over WSNY, Schenectady, on the wage increase asked by the union as it relates to the community. The one-minute announcements started last week.

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Hardly News

Big Business Papers Back GE Wage Stand

Surprise! Surprise! The March 5 Works News proudly plays up the fact that the New York Sun and the New York Herald Tribune back GE in its opposition to a wage increase for GE workers. And of course these newspapers swallow the line that GE's recent price reduction ballyhoo was the real stuff, and that GE's stand is all based on a desire to fight inflation.

GE workers have long known that they must expect to find the daily newspapers lined up against the common people. For these papers are part of Big Business, and Big Business advertising is a large part of their income.

Company Obstinate On Major Proposals

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arbitration of grievances under a contract is standard procedure for peaceful relations, and management associations have frequently attacked unions which oppose the practice.

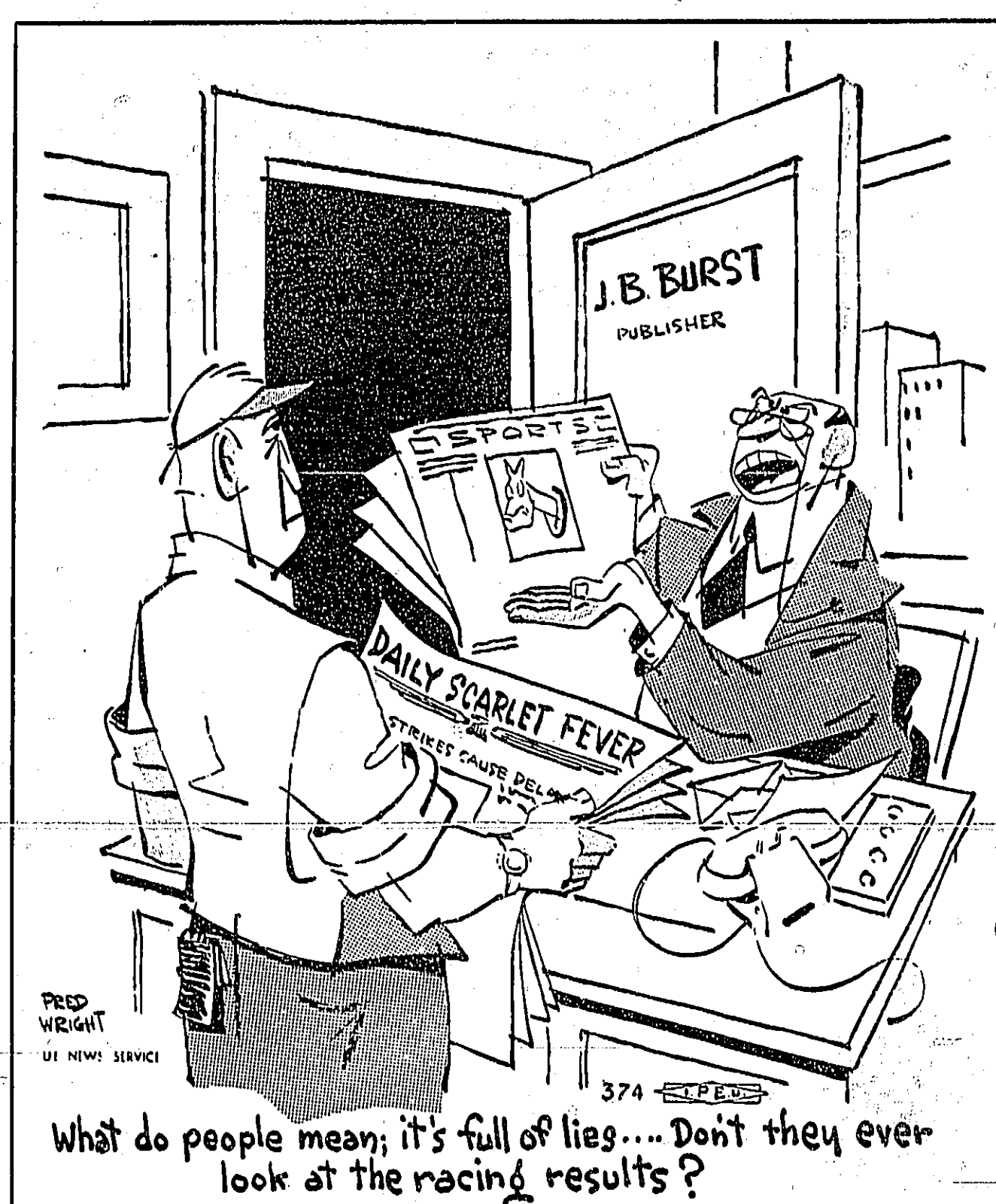
'Profit-Sharing' Payments
In discussing the union's demand for pay to make up for ending the "profit-sharing" plan, it was revealed that half of the \$9,000,000 to be paid for 1947 will go to the workers, and half to executives.

With respect to upgrading, Pfeif said he might work out some method of periodic meetings with local unions to discuss the outlook on jobs, to make it easier for the

members to apply for upgrading, but opposed any regular listing of jobs with the local. He also said he hoped to work out something on shift preference based on length of service, and some pattern for leader's rates on piece work, but not tied to average earnings.

Before the recess Mar. 12 the negotiators went again over the issues of wages, pensions, and holidays, but the company would not budge. Bargaining will be resumed Tuesday, Mar. 23.

**BUILD THE UNION
MAKE YOUR SHOP 100% UE**



Produce More—But Earn Less

The GE capacitor manufacturing plant at Fort Edward provides a good case history of GE's methods of fighting inflation. With the emphasis on speed-up and production, the output of GE capacitors in 1947 was 45 per cent greater than in 1946.

As of last week, 78 employees of the Fort Edward works had worked themselves right out of a job and more are slated to go soon. And the company now suggests a 32 hour week in order to "save the jobs" of Fort Edward workers.

Local 332 pointed out to management that it is difficult to make both ends meet on 40 hours of work, and that on 32 or 36 hours' earnings the people just couldn't manage. President Al Bove and Business Agent Frank Pincheon called a special membership meeting Monday. The members voted unanimously to hold GE to the contract and a 40 hour week.

UE Radio Program

Arthur Gaeth's weekly broadcast, sponsored by the national UE, is at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday over WSNY and WRWO.

New Members Galore

The organizing drive in the Philadelphia GE plant has brought in 272 new members since January, UE Local 119 reports. The Organizing Committee has issued three leaflets so far and utilized the shop steward system in order to strengthen membership ranks before contract negotiations.

Waterford Local

Officers of the recently organized UE local at the Waterford GE plant were installed Tuesday night by John Callahan, business agent of Local 255, of Pittsfield, Mass. He presented a charter to the new group, Local 327.

GE Profits

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and earned surplus of \$362,579,000 at the beginning of the year; \$412,817,000 at the end.

The wartime record net profit was \$68,328,000, for 1945. The all-time high until now was for 1929, the year of the crash. That profit was \$67,367,000, figured then for GE alone, without including affiliated companies. The 1947 figure for GE alone is \$88,331,949. The practice now is to issue a consolidated statement including the affiliated companies.

WEAR YOUR UNION BUTTON

Food Center Stock On Sale Tomorrow

All stock left from the Local 301 Food Center will be on sale at reduced prices at the union headquarters from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. tomorrow (Saturday) and the same hours next Friday and Saturday.

In announcing the sale, the 301 Food Committee stated that the Food Center will be reopened as soon as suitable quarters can be found for it. The committee has been running down all leads, without success, and urges 301 members to pass along information about possible locations.

Once a place is rented, the committee can stock up quickly on the necessary food and household supplies. Meanwhile, by selling the left-over, the committee is guarding against loss; is cutting down the inventory and cutting down the transportation problem and expense.

Bill Against Pensioners Dies Quietly in Albany

The Wadlin bill to cut the unemployment insurance benefits of pensioners failed to reach the floor of the state legislature this year for a vote.

Senator Thomas F. Campbell assured President Andrew Peterson of Local 301 in a letter last week "this bill will not come out of the Labor Committee this year." The senator representing Schenectady county ended the letter, "I trust this is satisfactory to you."

When Peterson and other 301 members interviewed Campbell at the Capitol a few days earlier, he took the same stand as Speaker Oswald D. Heck of the Assembly on most legislation, other than the Wadlin bill.

301 Broadcast

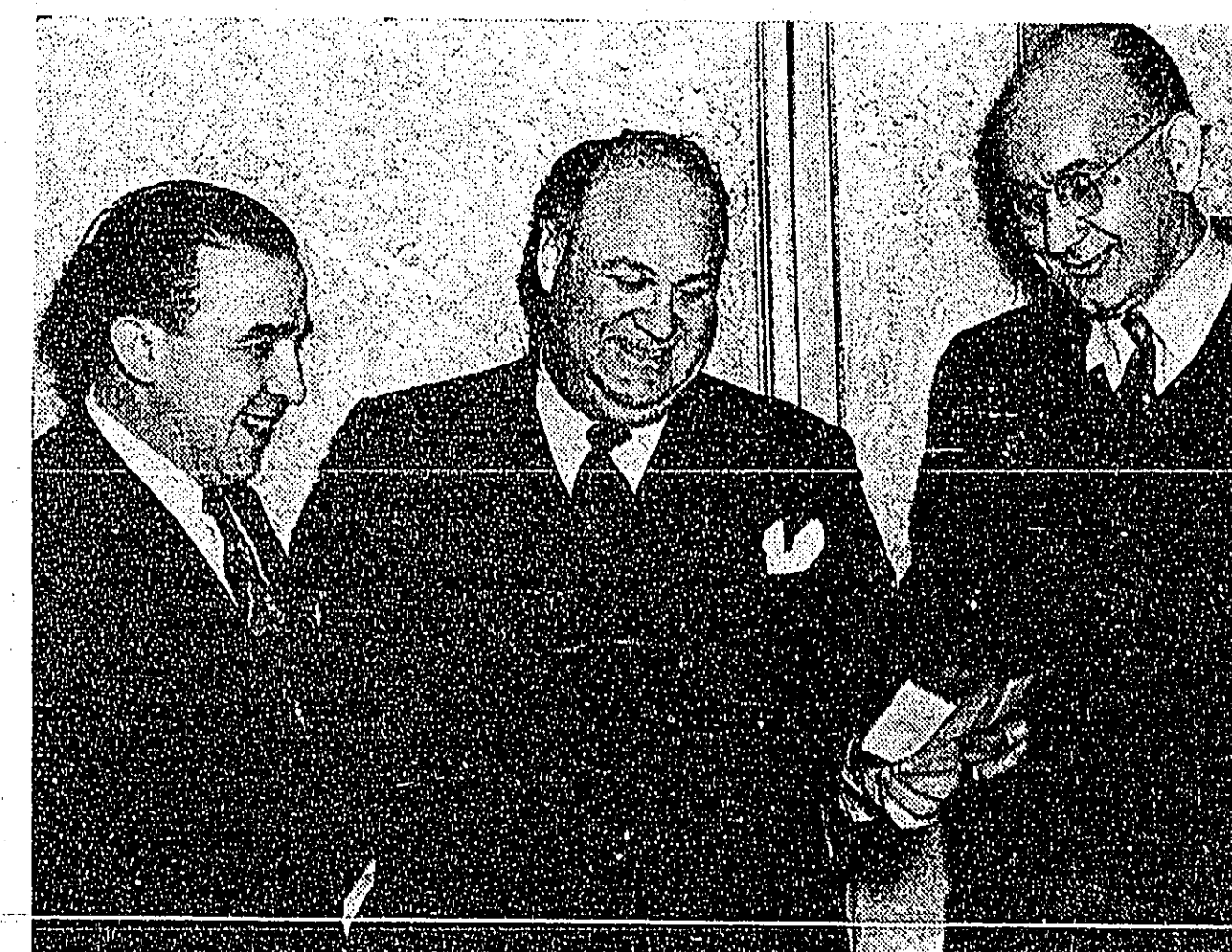
Local 301 presents its weekly broadcast at 7:30 p.m. Monday over WSNY.

Hard Prize to Win

Remember the piece in last week's EU News about the United States Supreme Court decision that GE engaged in price-fixing in violation of the anti-trust law?

EU News will give a prize to anyone who found any mention of the court decision in the Schenectady Gazette or Union-Star. There was a lot of interest in the shops in a small clipping from the Troy Record on the decision.

Food Center Stock Giving 301 Check to March-of-Dimes Official



President Andrew Peterson of Local 301, at right, hands the union's check for \$3,143.66 to William L. Mayotte, center, Schenectady County chairman of the March-of-Dimes drive, while Chief Shop Steward William Mastriani beams approval. Stewards collected the money for the polio fund in the shops. An additional sum of \$22.28, handed in late, was to be turned over to Mayotte this week.

UE Officers Resign from PAC Board in Protest Against Efforts to Dictate to Union Members

UE President Albert J. Fitzgerald and UE Secretary-Treasurer Julius Emspak have resigned from the Executive Board of the CIO Political Action Committee.

In a joint letter last week to CIO President Philip Murray, the two UE officials charged that CIO-PAC has departed from its "traditionally non-partisan position" and has become "an appendage of the Democratic machine."

301 Hits Threat To CIO Councils

John Brophy, national CIO director of industrial union councils, has sent a letter to all CIO councils forbidding their "officers, board members, committeemen or representatives" to participate in "movements or activities supporting or looking toward the formation of a third party or opposing the Marshall Plan."

"In our judgment, these actions by CIO-PAC make it impossible for it to carry forward a constructive campaign for the election of a progressive Congress and progressive state and local tickets," the officials stated.

PAC Now Partisan

"The completely negative fight of PAC against the formation of a Third Party automatically makes it a partisan organization. To condemn the formation of a political party necessarily leads to this partisan position with the further result that CIO-PAC then becomes an appendage of the Democratic machine.

"Politicians knowing the position of CIO-PAC months in advance of any elections or nominations, now have a clear signal to disregard the wishes of PAC in the designation of candidates for Congress or any other office, be-

Protest Violations Of Civil Liberties

A group of 34 union and civic leaders in the Capital District sent a telegram Mar. 5 to Attorney General Thomas Clark protesting his department's holding five labor and political leaders on Ellis Island without bail or charge, "solely because of their alleged political beliefs."

"This practice violates fundamental American liberties," the message stated. "It means police rule instead of rule of law. Unless the Bill of Rights applies to all, we no longer have a Bill of Rights."

The following five officers of Local 301 signed as individuals: President Andrew Peterson; Vice-President William Hodges; Recording Secretary Helen Quirini; Treasurer Marshall White and Business Agent Leo Jandreau. The 301 Executive Board Mar. 8 voted approval of their action.

Other signers included: Fred Krokenberger, business manager, Amsterdam Joint Board, Textile Workers Union of America; Allen McCabe, Local 159 Transport Workers Union; Roy Gregware, manager, Capital District Joint Board, Amalgamated Clothing Workers.

The five political prisoners were later released on bail by court order.

Blood Donor Needed

The widow of a union member who worked in Bldg. 46 has appealed to the Local 301 Blood Bank committee for a pint of blood to repay Ellis Hospital. Volunteers should contact the Committee through the union office. Committee members are Albert Davis, J. A. Mele, Helen Quirini and William Stewart.

Money for T-H Board

President Truman's budget message proposed about 9½ million dollars for the Taft-Hartley Labor Board, with more to come if it's needed, a National CIO news release points out. The present budget, provided for the NLRB in pre-Taft-Hartley days, runs about 5 million.

group that may be working for the election of progressive candidates to public office." PAC should concentrate on the election of progressive Congressional, state and local candidates, they said, "without attempting to dictate to any local union or individual on the matter of what candidate they might choose to support in the presidential race."