

## --The CIO and The Churches--

(Excerpts from an Extemporaneous Address by CIO President Philip Murray before the Buffalo Ministerial Association, May 12, 1941)

When we started the CIO, we anticipated criticism. We knew that we would be slandered and reviled for the work we were undertaking. I need not tell you how untrue the slanders have been.

The Congress of Industrial Organizations is composed of human beings, of men and women like you and me. None of its members are perfect, but they are just about as good as the rest of us, and I hope no worse.

The aspirations and ideals of the CIO come pretty close to the teachings of Christ himself. We aim to give to the poor, the weak, the lowly and the oppressed a better chance in this great game of life, an even chance to improve their conditions of employment, their wages and their living standards — so that cultural opportunities may be open to them and an understanding and appreciation of higher values.

The CIO organizations hope through intelligent, legitimate collective bargaining to alleviate some of the pain and some of the agony that follows in the wake of men who work for a living.

### THE ONLY WAY

The only way to achieve these ends is through organization.

We do not seek strikes. We do not want violence and destruction of property. It is our abjective, through sane collective bargaining, to wring from industry the highest wages economically possible, without interfering with a reasonable rate of profit.

There is nothing new in this philosophy. Religious denominations of all kinds down through the ages have preached this kind of philosophy.

It is to the best interest of the community and the public to lend every legitimate support to labor for the fulfillment of these aspirations. Through their fulfillment, the worker becomes a better citizen, the community becomes a better community, the state becomes a better state, and the nation becomes a better nation.

Our efforts to elevate the standards of labor mean pictures on the wall, carpets on the floor and music in the home — a chance for the children to have a better education, a better understanding and appreciation of the values of life, and to become better citizens who can make a greater contribution to society.

### CIO IS SLANDERED

The CIO has been criticized; it has been slandered and abused. Yet I have never known a single solitary instance wherein the right of the CIO to exist and to function has not been sustained when it came before the courts, and when the validity of our position has not been upheld.

Who is wrong? Employers like Bethlehem that have consistently refused to bargain, have maintained company unions, have employed private detectives, have exercised coercion and discrimination — and have been found guilty of violating the law on this account? Or the CIO, which asks only its rights under the law for the attainment of its constructive objectives.

If people would take the time to look into the fundamental wrongs of this question, if they would really get down to the basic facts, there is no doubt that all right-thinking people would acclaim the work which the CIO organizations are doing in the country today.

We are not trying to deprive industry of the right to exist. There is nothing in our constitution that even faintly suggests any change in our form of government or democratic institutions. We are just asking for the right to live and for the right to go forward in an orderly way to our common goal.

### THE CHURCH AND LABOR

The churches seek the spiritual salvation of human beings. I believe, in common with the principles of the churches, that labor has the right to fight for the material and economic salvation of human beings.

Out of this common crucible men can be made better citizens. Labor and the churches should be elinked together in this common, noble and holy endeavor.

We who believe in this country of ours, know that in the not distant future it may need a strong substantial labor movement to help it meet the raging storms which the people of our nation may have to face.

I am talking of the things that may trail in the wake of war, when industry slows up, when war production ends, when workers are laid off, when millions of our young men go home from the army. What then, America? Whither are you going?

### TIME FOR THINKING

The American people and American industry should begin thinking now not only about the solution of our present problems, but about doing a little economic planning for the days to come.

You do not read much about these things in the papers, it is true. About all the papers like to carry is sensational matter about individual cases, rather than material about the deep-rooted economic problems that cause social convulsions.

The rock on which the CIO hopes to build is the rock of sound, sane thinking. We do not appeal to hatred, prejudice and passion. All civic-spirited groups should support the CIO.

I have often wondered why ministerial associations should stand aloof and watch the parade go by, so far as the labor movement is concerned — why they should not take a greater interest than they do in the economic welfare of a community.

I wonder if the churches would not do better by taking a stand on labor questions than by professing neutrality. For after all, passivity is a sign of indifference.

Personally, I would rather have leaders of the church denounce me from the public platform than to stand aloof and say, "I want to blind myself to this situation."

**C. I. O.**  
**BALL**

## ANNUAL RECEPTION and BALL

SPONSORED BY  
Capitol District Industrial  
Union Council

VAN CURLER HOTEL BALLROOM  
9:00 O'CLOCK

Dress Optional      Assessment—per couple \$1.00  
Tax .10  
TOTAL \$1.10

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE AT UNION HEADQUARTERS —  
ASK YOUR COMMITTEEMAN OR DUES COLLECTOR TO GET THEM FOR YOU

"All that harms labor is treason to America. No line can be drawn between these two. If any man tells you he loves America, yet hates labor, he is a liar. If any man tells you he trusts America yet he fears labor, he is a fool. There is no America without labor, and to fleece the one is to rob the other." — ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

## ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

THE VOICE OF THE UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA—Local 301—CIO



VOL. 3

SCHENECTADY, N. Y. — JULY 16, 1941

No. 8

## 1,862 NEW MEMBERS JOIN IN LOCAL UNION IN JUNE

### Electrical Union Adds 33,793 New Members

NEW YORK, July 5—The past three months have been the most successful in the history of the United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers, Organization Director James E. Matles reported to the union's executive board here.

During that period the union reported its fastest growth, adding 33,793 members—more than 10,000 a month. The figure represented a 74 per cent increase over the previous three months and a 234 per cent jump over the same period one year ago.

The UE participated in 40 NLRB elections, winning 32 and losing seven; one is still in doubt. The CIO affiliate received 66 per cent of the ballots cast, and gained sole collective bargaining rights for 10,822 workers.

Wage increases—including those negotiated with General Electric and Westinghouse—brought an additional \$37,000,000 into UE members' pay checks, Matles estimated.

Two thousand two hundred members joined the local in May, with a slight drop for June to 1862. With the drop in new applicants for June, the dues payments for June increased 20% over the month of May.

The new membership has brought about a need for additional representation and new representatives have been added so that the ratio of representatives to members stands about the same, or slightly better than it did during last year.

It was reported a short time ago that many groups were reaching the 100 per cent organized point. Well, it can be reported now that this holds true in many departments, such as Refrigerator, Motor Generator, Screw Machine, Marine Aircraft, Turbine, Transmitter, Cable, Tool Rooms, General Maintenance.

The demand for a union shop is becoming more pronounced every day, and if the trend continues, it may become an issue in the very near future.

### Fifth Annual

## FIELD DAY

United Electrical, Radio, & Machine Workers of America - Local 301

Columbian Park, Dunnsville Road

**Sunday, July 20** **10 A. M. to 12 Mid-Nite**

DOOR PRIZE — 1941 PLYMOUTH 4-DOOR SEDAN

FREE DANCING — AL. MASTERS BAND

Free transportation — one half hour service from Cor. Erie Blvd. and Liberty St. to Park — Starting 10:00 A. M. to 12:00 Mid-night.

An elaborate sports program scheduled for the entire day.

The C. I. O. Drum and Bugle Corps will make their first public appearance on the field, an exhibition is promised.

Picnic tables will be available. Basket parties are invited.

Plenty of parking space will be available, with police protection, for those who will drive their cars.

The Plymouth Car will be drawn on the field at 9 P. M.

The car is now being displayed in the show window of Burtiss Motor Car Sales Room — Erie Boulevard.

Tickets for the Field Day are available either from Union representatives or the Union office. The price of tickets are 10 Cents each or 3 for 25 Cents or a book of 12 for \$1.00.

### PROGRAM FOR THE FIELD DAY

1:00 P. M. Raising of The Flag — Local 301 Jr. Drum and Bugle Corps.  
1:15 P. M. Parade Thru the Field — Entertainers and Committee.  
1:30 P. M. Children's Foot Races — Prizes.  
2:30 P. M. Music and Drill Exhibition — Local 301 Jr. Drum and Bugle Corps.  
3:00 P. M. Boxing and Wrestling — Five Bouts.  
4:00 P. M. Dancing Exhibition — Belle Baxter's Pupils.  
4:30 P. M. Comedy Acrobatic Act — John Marra and Charlie Smith (The Two Jacks).  
4:45 P. M. Adagio Dancing — Tony and Violet.  
5:00 P. M. Comedy Act — Hank Miller and Bill Turnbull.  
5:30 P. M. Softball Game — By Local 301 Team.  
7:30 P. M. Band Drill — Local 301 Jr. Drum and Bugle Corps.  
9 to 12:00 Midnight Dancing — Al. Master's Band.

### MASTER OF CEREMONIES — HANK MILLER

Drawing for Gate Prize — Plymouth Sedan at 9:00 P. M.  
National U. E. Officers will give 5 minute organizational talks between 4:00 P. M. and 5:00 P. M.

COMPLETE LIST OF MEMBERS OF ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE:— William Mastriani, Vincent Iovinella, Louis Geller, A. Eastman, Harry Aussiker, Joe Garrling, W. Schermerhorn, Ferrera, C. Perone, Fred Sgalla, Helen Rector, Mary Brlette, Margaret Galkins, Gertrude Chambers, Joe Bizwisla, Joseph Di Bartolomas, Isabelle Calmer, Olive Male, Anna Czubernat, Amelia Wozciukewicz, Pat Carrose— Chairman, C. B. Campbell — Secretary-Treasurer.

ORIGINAL TORN

### ... ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS ...

Published by:  
UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE WORKERS  
OF AMERICA, LOCAL 301  
301 Liberty Street, Schenectady, N. Y.

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## Economic Outlook

March unemployment, according to C.I.O. estimate, is 9,062,000—a drop of 512,000, or 5.4 per cent from the February figure of 9,574,000.

#### INFLATION

A substantial part of current discussions on wages, prices and production has centered around the question of inflation. In particular, the danger of inflation has been used as a reason for preventing wage increases at this time. In view of this misuse of the inflation idea, this issue of the Outlook will be devoted to a discussion of the problem of inflation.

Inflation usually means runaway prices caused by demand which exceeds production. The resulting rapid price rises dislocate industry and force up the cost of living.

Unquestionably, there is a danger of certain kinds of runaway prices now threatening the country. This threat, however, does not arise from wage increase or increasing money in the hands of low-income consumers.

Economists generally recognize two kinds of price rises. The first so-called general or monetary price rises are brought about when the national productive machinery can produce no more while aggregate monetary demand continues to increase. This causes a general rise in the price level.

The second kind of price rises, and the one which is now threatening, arises from increases in particular prices, or in the prices of particular commodities.

The price increases now occurring or now in prospect are not increases basically caused either by increased wage costs or by the kind of consumption demand which arises from increases in wage earners income. The increases in prices now threatening arise from other causes. Important among these are:

1. Shortages of specific essential materials, specialized equipment and (very soon) transportation.
2. Monopoly control of prices.
3. Price speculation and excessive accumulation of inventories.
4. Unplanned public purchasing.

#### Metal Shortages

Perhaps the most spectacular and serious explosion of price rises will come from metal shortages.

Of these shortages, aluminum is the most notable.

It is now estimated by O.P.M. economists that there will be a military shortage of at least 300 million pounds of aluminum on an annual basis by July 1, 1942, when aluminum will reach its peak production of 800 million pounds. All present plans for expanding capacity will be completed by then. Further additions to capacity are now finally under consideration. It takes a minimum of 18 to 24 months to plan, build, and bring into production an aluminum plant. It therefore is quite evident that there will be an overall shortage of at least 600 million pounds of aluminum by July 1942. This is a conservative estimate. Present circumstances changing as rapidly as they are would justify an estimate of needed aluminum in 1942 far in excess of one and a half billion pounds.

This was the metal which defense officials in October, November and December announced would be available in quantities sufficient to meet all needs.

The situation in aluminum repeats itself in varying degree in the production of many other metals and minerals. Priorities have already been placed, among many others, upon nickel, tungsten, magnesium, zinc, copper, various kinds and forms of steel, synthetic rubber, certain chemicals.

#### Other Shortages

The widening shortages on the East coast in petroleum products, particularly fuel oil and gasoline, arise out of a shortage of tankers. Most of the East coast petroleum supply has usually been transported from the Gulf and the West coast by tankers.

A very substantial portion of the American tanker fleet has either been transferred to carrying supplies for the British or outright transferred to British operation. Other tankers have been taken over by the armed forces for supply purposes.

The railroad tank car situation is almost totally inadequate to meet the problem, due in part to a refusal of the American railroads to expand their rolling stock. The situation in steel makes the outlook for building large new tank car capacity not very bright.

These shortages put the most serious kind of pressure on the price structure, not only of the basic materials, but also of parts fabricated of the materials and of assembled products into which the fabricated parts go. Even when prices are set in the face of such shortages as these, bootleg and illegal markets grow up where the prices go sky high.

It is acknowledged among experts that the task of keeping shortages from being reflected in price increases somewhere between the producer and the consumer is an almost impossible one. If it is to be done at all it must be done by regulation of prices that will eventually reach into almost every product.

#### Monopoly Prices

One of the most recent evidences of monopoly price control has been the widespread series of indictments handed down on be-

half of the Anti-Trust Division. It is well known of course that prices of aluminum, copper, steel and many other essential products are subject to close control by the producers. Price increases in these and many other commodities can be ordered at will by the major producer or producers.

Two speculative price rises have been dealt with in public recently by Mr. Leon Henderson's Price Division. The first was the rise in shoe prices, which was brought out by a letter late in April to Henderson by the United Shoe Workers.

The union pointed out that retail prices of shoes had risen substantially above any point justified by increased cost, in spite of the fact that the price of hides had reached speculative heights. The Shoe Workers took the position that an unjustified rise in retail prices would, as happened in 1937, greatly reduce the production of shoes.

#### Wages and Prices

Recent major wage increases have been negotiated in the coal, steel, and automobile industries. The facts indicate that in none of these cases, although the additional wages going to workers were substantial, was a rise in price justified by the increased wage cost.

In steel the facts are clear, as the union contended, that the major units of the industry could pay the ten-cent an hour wage increase and still collect a substantial profit margin.

Even in coal, where a wage increase of a dollar a day was negotiated, and the industry has a less extensive profit record than most other major industries, the Bituminous Coal Division pointed out that production costs had fallen 18 cents a ton within the past three years. Prices of course have not decreased. The wage increase according to the United Mine Workers would cost an average of 17 cents a ton. Thus the wage increase does not equal the decreased cost of production.

The automobile industry, the most profitable industry in the nation, has a record of profits sufficient to absorb the recently negotiated wage increases without the slightest difficulty. In spite of that fact a number of automobile companies are now increasing the price of cars, some of them using increased wage cost as an excuse. The excuse is not valid.

It will be seen from this discussion that the price increases that are now impending are not due to wage increases and cannot be controlled by preventing wage increases.

The heart of the job of preventing the threatened price rises is as Mr. Leon Henderson says, "To expand production of goods in step with rising demand."

In certain cases, it is, of course, necessary to institute price controls. Moreover, sooner or later there must be a breaking down or regulation of those monopolies which control so much of the price structure, both in normal times and at present.

#### Real Effect of Wage Increases

As a matter of fact wage increases which increase the incomes of families receiving annual incomes between \$1,000 and \$2,000 a year have only a relatively minor effect on consumer demand for those products which compete with national defense manufacturing.

Workers' families will by and large use the increased income coming from wage rises to buy food, clothing and shelter. Nearly 40 per cent of these wage increases, for example, will probably go for additional and better food.

The desirability of increased food supplies to the American people has been vigorously set forth at the recent Nutrition Conference, where it was pointed out that "Three-quarters of the non-farm families of the United States are now getting along on diets considered poor or only fair." Selective Service officials said that 400,000 out of a million potential draftees were rejected for physical reasons, "probably one-third of these were suffering from disabilities directly or indirectly connected with nutrition."

#### Wage Cuts by Taxation

Tax proposals now before Congress, both those of the Treasurer and of the Congressional experts, are directed in part toward cutting down consumption in the low income groups.

Although President Murray's tax statement itself did not discuss the question, it clearly was based upon the conviction that it was not necessary at the present time to reduce consumption by taxation. The statement set forth the view that taxation of low income groups should be reduced in order to raise the standard of living.\*

\* The full text of the CIO tax proposal is available in a pamphlet.

On this general analysis the following principles of tax policy underly the CIO tax proposal:

1. Incomes of 82 per cent of the American people, which fall below \$2,000 a year, should be boosted as far as possible, to insure, particularly for the lower sections of this group, the attainment of a decent consumption standard.

2. The higher the income above this level, the greater should be the absolute and relative amount to be taken by taxation.

3. All taxes falling on the consumption of the mass of the people should be eliminated, and all regressive taxes, such as a general sales or excise tax, should be avoided as inconsistent with the major objects of the defense program.

These rules clearly mean that income, excess profits and estate taxes should be the basic forms of taxation.

#### Conclusion

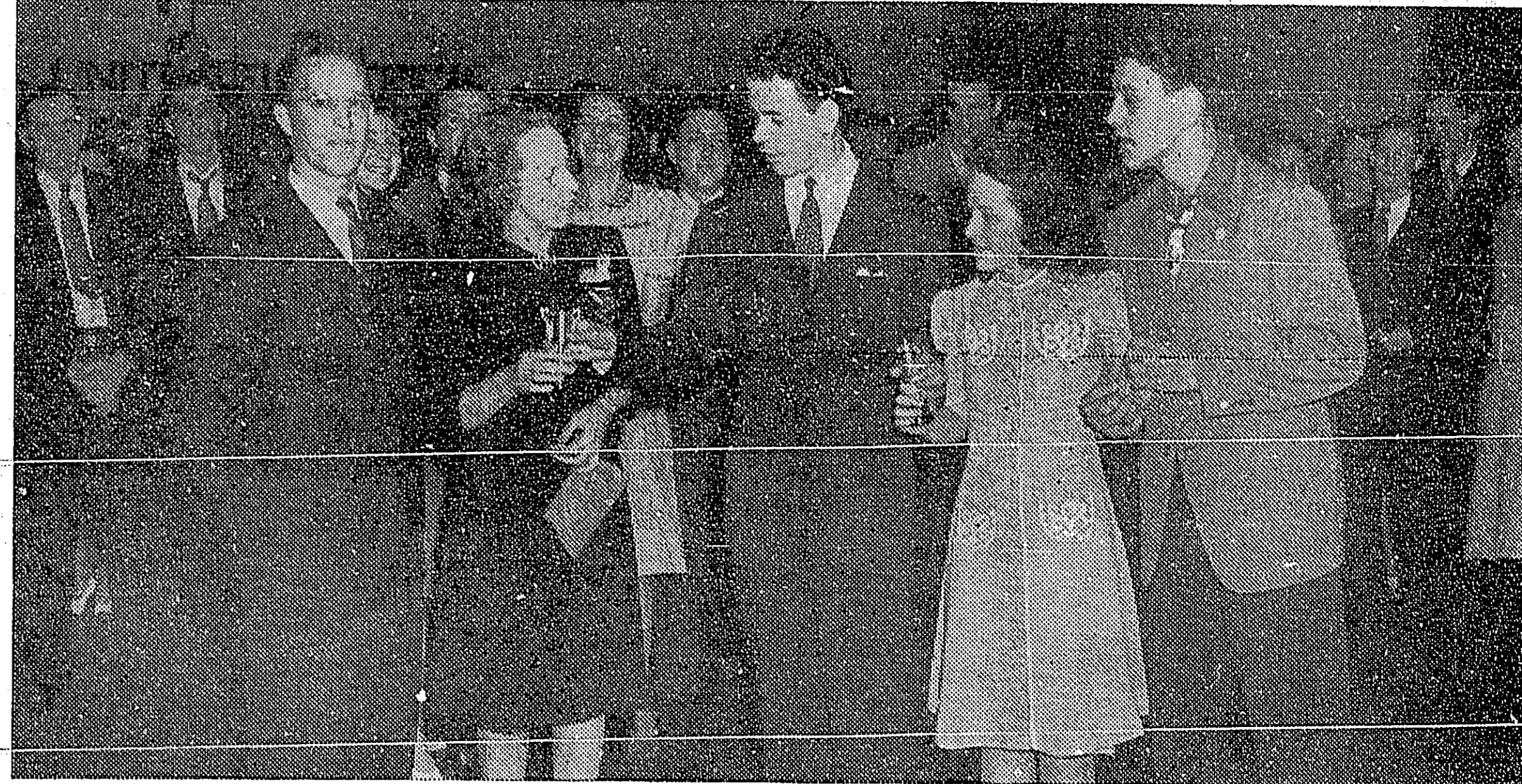
The discussion in this issue points to the conclusion that the kind of price rises which now threaten the country do not arise from wage increases, and would not be prevented by cutting wages. On the contrary, continued wage increases are desirable in order to raise the standard of living and improve the consumption of products which do not conflict with national defense production.

## TRANSMITTER UNION NIGHT



The Transmitter union members certainly went to town at C. I. O. Headquarters recently with all the trimmings — refreshments — band — entertainment, and dinner.

Louis De Angelis who handed out the prizes for the dancing contests looked like a cut-out for what the best-dressed man in town should wear. The waltz prize was awarded to Frances Zibrowski and partner, while Helen Maloney and Carmen Sipello captured the jitterbug prize.



The huge success of the social was due to the persistent work of the committee:— Adam Boss, William Mastriani, Carolyn Sherman, Louis De Angelis, and Lou Geller.

Committeeman William Muddle, the union leader who did the first spade work of Local 301 in the Transmitter and carried the load singly for



number of years, was greatly missed during the evening. It was too bad couldn't make it for we are sure it would have made him very happy to see such a large crowd of union people from his section at the C. I. O. Headquarters.

Union officials are proud of the results of the organizational efforts in the section and it won't be long now before the Transmitter Section will be one of the best unionized sections in the Schenectady Works.

# ORIGINAL TORN