



Local Holds Women's Meeting To Plan Widening of Sex Discrimination Fight

UE Local 301 took another long stride in the campaign to end pay discrimination this week when it held a set of special women's meetings at union headquarters on Wednesday and Thursday, too late for the details to be reported in this week's paper.

Leaflets Show Pay, Runaway Shops and Grievances Linked

Grievances and runaway shops shared the spotlight this week in leaflets distributed at the Schenectady works by UE. The leaflets were prepared by

Packinghouse Workers Hold Women's Meeting

In a conference closely patterned after the May 2 and 3 UE women's meeting, the CIO packing house workers this week mapped a fight against sex discrimination in their industry. The CIO union gathering was held in Chicago.

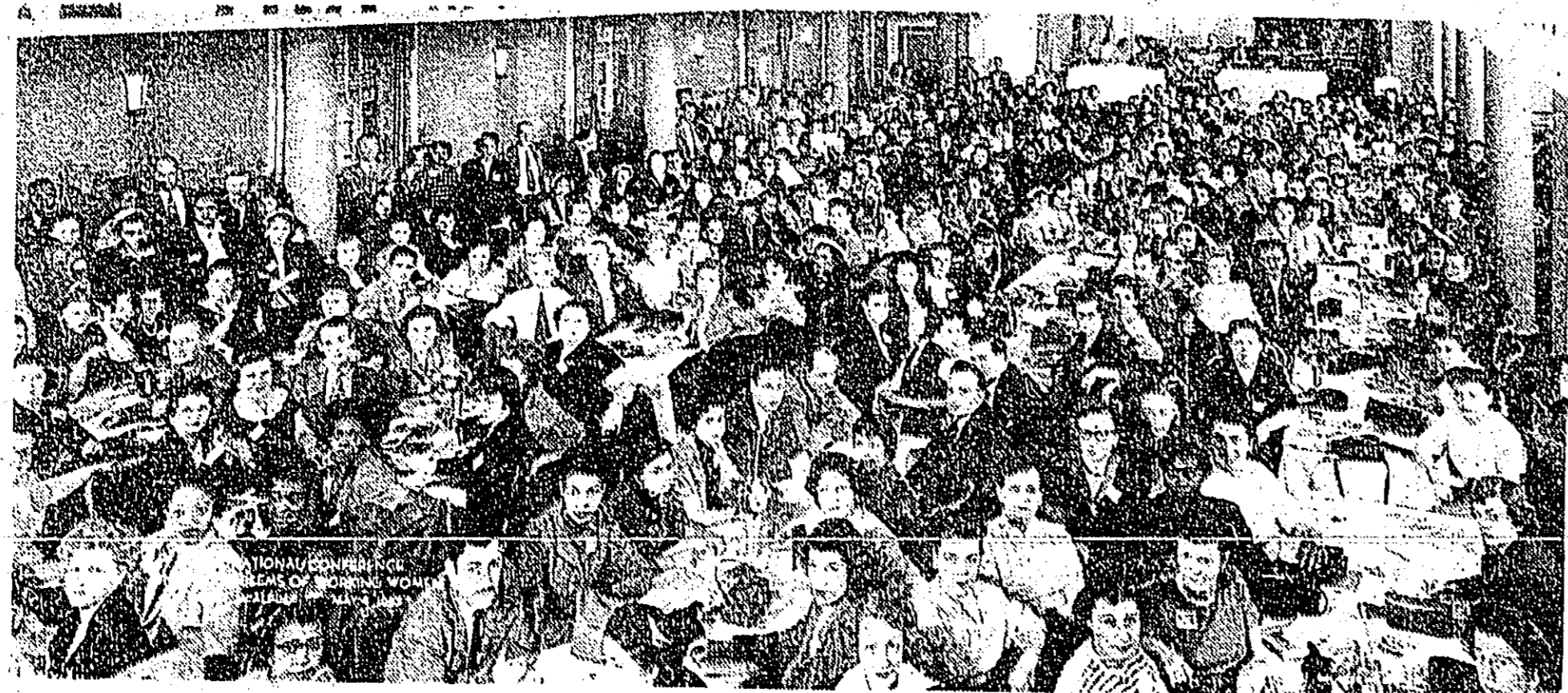
One of the major points discussed was the raising of the starting rate for women to the same level as that for men. Right now, there is a 5c differential between the two rates. Other subjects taken up were:

Problems of working mothers and pregnant women, broadening of the role of women in the leadership of the union, health and safety conditions, the special difficulties encountered by Negro and Mexican women and the opening of more job opportunities for women.

332 Demonstrates

Seven hundred UE Local 332 members staged a demonstration Wednesday similar to that held in Schenectady on Tuesday. The demonstration shut down the Fort Edward and Hudson Falls plants of GE one hour before the end of each shift break.

Reports from the two plants indicated that the protest stoppages were 100% successful.



ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

Chicago — UE Local 1114 has won a 16c to 27c hourly package increase for employees at the Miehle Printing Press Co. More than 1,000 Miehle workers will receive pay hikes of 6c to 17c, and fringe benefits amounting to another dime.

Pittsburgh — Reports from the key negotiations between the CIO steelworkers and U. S. Steel indicated that an agreement providing 10c an hour in wage increases had just about been reached. The bargaining is taking place under a wage reopener clause.

Hamilton, Ontario — UE Local 520 this week announced a 10% package increase won for workers at the Aerovox Co.

San Francisco — The International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union has opened contract negotiations on behalf of west coast dock workers with a demand for a \$3.50 hourly minimum for straight 7-hour shifts.

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ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

THE VOICE OF THE UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA UE LOCAL 301

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SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

Friday, May 29, 1953

Toolmakers To Demand Pay Hike

Several hundred UE Local 301 toolmakers came together at the union hall Tuesday night and drafted a program aimed at bringing their fellow craftsmen an overdue wage increase and providing a more equitable system of upgrading in their ranks.

In order to win these demands, the toolmakers elected a 10-member committee to carry on an intensive campaign. Chosen to serve on the committee were:

R. Alexander, Knolls; T. Bajer, 17; Neil Dube, 28; Ray Ellis, 273; Anthony Esposito, 53; Douglas Gray, 269; Roy Kenison, 273; Joseph Krone, 46; Rudy Kverek, 17; and John Pettinger, 37.

This group will get together with the union officers to plan the presentation of a mass grievance on behalf of all of the toolmakers in the Schenectady General Electric works. This grievance will note that according to all standards, including even United States government recommendations, a substantial wage increase is needed to restore the tool and die workers to their historic position at the head of the factory wage scale.

There are several powerful new arguments to back the toolmakers' position, including the 10c hourly special wage boost just negotiated for General Motors and Ford craftsmen, and the 15c hike won for toolmakers in Philadelphia job shops by UE Local 155.

Other key points on the program adopted Tuesday are demands for the immediate placing of apprentice course graduates as B toolmakers, elimination of the C classification and for guarantees of upgrading for qualified toolmakers.

Demonstration Shakes GE 'No Bargaining' Position

Spurred by the demonstration of unity made last week by 20,000 Schenectady GE workers, UE negotiators prepared this week to press union demands for a decent wage increase, the ending of all pay inequities and removal of strings from the holidays.

There were clear indications that the Schenectady walkout on Tuesday, May 19, had shaken the company's arrogant refusal to bargain in good faith with the unions. GE

spokesmen were forced to admit that the demonstration was the most extensive action of its kind in the company's home plant since the 1946 strike. There could be no further doubts about the complete unity of General Electric workers here behind the UE national negotiating committee.

Undoubtedly, it was largely because of the 100% walkout that GE agreed to at least live up to the contract and grant holiday payment for those scheduled to work tomorrow. However, the GE position on the holiday did not change the basic fact that thousands of workers are being denied payment for one of the most important patriotic holidays of the year—Memorial Day.

In fact, a situation was created by the GE position under which some workers will get double time for working tomorrow, others will be paid straight time and still others will get nothing at all. There will be cases in which all three situations will occur within the same group.

Particularly significant was the large number of men who attended the meeting. The turnout indicated the growing recognition that the company practice of paying women workers less than men with similar jobs was a threat to the earnings of all workers.

In order to spread the information brought to last week's meeting, the gathering voted to hold meetings in the plant for second shift workers. Three such plant meetings were slated for this past Wednesday evening.

Helen Quirini, woman executive board member-at-large, chaired the get-together last week. Sister Quirini also reported to the executive board on the plans being made to coordinate the fight for equal pay for equal work in UE Districts 3 and 4.

A second contribution of \$100 from the UE Local 301 executive board added to the flow of help being received by the strikers from UE locals throughout the country.

Many Sign Up as Local Opens Drive for 100% Membership

Several hundred new members were added to the rolls of UE Local 301 this week as the union's organizing drive got under way. The drive is aimed at bringing into the local all

of the 20,000 Schenectady GE workers in the 301 bargaining unit.

Reports made to the union hall this week indicated that many people were being approached to join the union for the first time, and they were responding by signing UE application cards. The first stage of the drive, in which all stewards were supposed to make complete lists of the workers in their groups so that these lists could be checked against the membership rolls of the union, was nearing completion.

As the drive swung into high gear, reports from the shops showed that the union members were putting pressure on those "free riders" who have been enjoying the benefits of a union contract without paying their way as union members.

One of the major objectives of the drive is to strengthen the UE in its fight to force GE to bargain in good faith. Obviously, a membership of close to 100% would virtually doom company attempts to split GE workers in UE shops, and in that way, to weaken the union.

Board Again Helps Scranton Strikers

UE Local 125's strike against the GE Scranton plant entered its second month this week with the Pennsylvania shop still shut down, and the workers completely united in their determination to enforce the seniority provisions of the GE contract and to prevent management price cutting.

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EQUAL PAY DEMANDED. Pictured here is a part of the group which attended the Local 301 women's meeting last week. The meeting was marked by a full discussion of grievances based on sex discrimination in the GE works.

BULLETIN

General Electric has agreed to UE's proposal for a national negotiating meeting in New York on Tuesday. The union will present its reinforced demands at the session.

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Vote 3 Donations

UE Local 301's executive board this week responded to an appeal for aid from the Schenectady County chapter of the Association for the Help of Retarded Children, by voting a \$100 contribution to that organization.

A \$100 donation was also voted to the Mt. Loretto home in Amsterdam, while \$50 was contributed to the Cerebral Palsy fund drive.

Programs Feature Bargaining Story

UE on the Air completes its third week of broadcasting over WTRY (980 on the dial) this morning. The week's programs were marked by discussions of contract issues by Local 301 rank-and-filers. Monday morning's broadcast saw a discussion of the Goldwater-Rhodes bill by two members of the local legislative committee, William Stewart, 273, and Lawrence Gebro, 273. Both men emphasized the danger to all unions of Goldwater-Rhodes, which proposes giving the McCarran board power to license unions and to outlaw, without legal processes, any union which dares to fight the corporations.

On both Tuesday and Wednesday, the current negotiations between UE and GE were discussed. Such key issues as the holiday deal, the need for a real wage increase, GE's huge profits, the needs of women workers, the fight against geographical discrimination and the demand for fair wages for skilled workers were aired. Participating were William Linka, 273; Jack Mele, 46; Charles Scott, 66; and Helen Woodruff, 269.

Also on the agenda of this week's programs were summaries of the news of labor throughout the United States and particularly in the capital district. The round-up of news in the world of labor will be a regular Friday feature of the broadcasts.

UE on the Air is the first regular union-sponsored news broadcast to be carried by WTRY, which is the Columbia Broadcasting System outlet in the area.



1952 FIELD DAY. Here's a picture of the huge crowd which turned out for last year's field day. With a bigger and better program planned, it is expected that this year's gala event, to be held Sunday, June 28, will bring an even greater attendance.

UE LOCAL 301 STEWARDS MEETING

2nd SHIFT
Monday, June 1, 1953
1:00 P.M. (before work)

1st and 3rd SHIFTS
Monday, June 1, 1953
7:30 P.M.

Local 301 Hall

Matles Defense Unit Formed

A special 4-member committee to aid in the defense of UE Director of Organization James Matles, who is facing possible deportation on framed McCarran Act charges, was established by the UE Local 301 executive board Monday night.

Members of the committee are President James Cognetta, Vice President Joseph Alois, Chief Shop Steward William Mastriani and Business Agent Leo Jandreau. The group plans to contact local Republican leaders to urge them to use all of their influence to force the Justice Department to drop its case against Matles.

Matles has been a resident of the United States for 24 years, and a citizen for 19 years. Throughout this time he has served his country in the labor movement and in the armed forces during World War II.

He is accused of "not having been attached to the principles of organized government in 1932." This fantastic charge was con-

28 Prizes To Be Awarded In Big Field Day Drawing

Twenty-eight prizes with a total value of well over \$3,000 will go on the line in the big giveaway drawing to be held by the union at the UE Local 301 Field Day on June 28. The gala program will be conducted at the Republican Park, Princetown Rd., ruin or shine.

Top prize in the giveaway will be a 7 cubic foot GE freezer, valued at \$300. Following in order will be a \$200 GE electric range; a 12-foot aluminum boat (\$240); a GE television set (\$200); Lauson outboard motor (\$125); and a Revere motion picture projector (\$125).

These are just the top six prizes. Twenty-two other awards will be listed next week. Tickets of admission, which make the buyers eligible to win drawing prizes, are now being sold in the shops at three for only 50c.

In addition to the drawing prizes, a special gate prize worth \$125 will be given to some lucky youngster who is under 12 years old.

The drawing will be only one of the features of the crowded field day program. A little league baseball game, featuring Local 301's own teams will also be on tap, as will wrestling matches, carnival acts and many game concessions. Refreshments will be sold at cost as they were in last year's highly successful field day.

In order to run the field day smoothly, the activities committee will need about 50 volunteers to give a few hours of time each at the park. Those people who are interested can obtain forms which to offer their services either from their shop stewards or at the union hall.

Tickets for the big day are also available either from the shop stewards or from the hall.

LL Teams Tune Up

UE Local 301's first venture into little league baseball got under way this week, as the youngsters who will carry the union banner into competition began practice under the direction of Assistant Business Agent Roy Schaffer.

UE is sponsoring two of the kids' baseball teams, one in the Northside league and the other in the Bellevue circuit. Each team will have 15 players on its roster, with "other applicants being farmed out."

Many of the youthful ball players are sons of union members who jumped at the chance to "play for" the organization which has meant so much to their families.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS
UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINERY WORKERS OF AMERICA (UE) Local 301
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ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

UE Delegates Exchange Views on Taxes And Goldwater Bill with 7 in Congress

A delegation representing Upstate New York UE locals visited seven members of Congress in Washington Tuesday to get their views on the Goldwater-Rhodes bill and other anti-labor measures in the congressional hopper, and on the vital question of cutting taxes this year.

UE's delegation was headed by District 3 President Lewis King, and included William Stewart, chairman of the Local 301 legislative sub-committee. Other members were Leslie Carr, Local 324 (Binghamton); Scotty Gray, 310 (Elmira); Eugene Cook, 306, representing the Niagara Frontier locals; and John Saunders, 323 (Syracuse). King represented the Jamestown locals.

Only three of the seven representatives were willing to admit to any knowledge of the Goldwater-Rhodes and anti-labor proposals. All three pledged that they would oppose such legislation if it came up in Congress. The trio consisted of Republicans, Edmund T. Radwan of Buffalo and William E. Miller of the Tonawandas, and Democrat Leo O'Brien of Albany.

Others seen—all Republicans—were Daniel Reed of Jamestown, Harold Ostertag of Attica, W. Sterling Cole of Binghamton-Elmira, and R. Walter Richman of Syracuse.

On the tax question, the general consensus of the congressmen was that the Reed Bill would remain bottled up in the House Ways and Means Committee and, there would be no general tax cut this year. However, several of the

GOP legislators had signed the petition to bring the bill out of committee.

Reed, who is chairman of the key Ways and Means group, pledged his all-out opposition to any and all sales tax proposals and "guaranteed" that none would ever leave his committee.

The feeling of the visited representatives was that neither Goldwater-Rhodes, nor any other union-busting measure would come up on the floors of Congress before the summer recess. In fact, they indicated that it was unlikely that any such bills would come to a vote in 1953.

Nevertheless, the feeling of UE's Washington observers was that the threat of new legislation to bust unions still loomed large, and that any relaxation of the labor counter-attack could prove disastrous.

Condemns T-H Oath

Condemnation of the Taft-Hartley non-Communist affidavit required of union officials was made this week by the American Civil Liberties Union.

The group blasted the T-H oaths as an "abridgement of free expression and association," and as "impractical."

Rep. Bernard Kearney of this area (Schenectady through Gloversville) was not in Washington when the delegation made its rounds.



WILLIAM STEWART

Bldgs. 18 and 40 Stop Work To Block Price Cut Attempts

Attempts by supervision and wage rate to cut prices and generally crack down on the workers in Small and Medium Motor were stopped last week as the men and women in the division became so disgusted that they staged a mass walkout.

Final straw in a long list of grievances for the Building 18 and Building 40 workers was the attempt of wage rate to move a job from Building 40 to Building 18 while there was a dispute on the price. This maneuver was a barefaced attempt by the wage rate department to obtain the work at a price which had been flatly refused by the 40 workers.

As a result, the men and women in both buildings walked off last Thursday. Only after the walkout took place did management agree to discuss the grievance. The workers returned, and early this week a meeting was held at which management agreed to return the job to 40 so that it could be worked at a decent price.

Actually, this incident merely touched off the anger of the workers, which had long been building up because of repeated violations of the contract by Small and Medium Motor supervision. In cooperation with wage rate, supervision has been trying for several months to ignore past practices and to get away with such violations as refusal to pay average earnings on jobs not yet timed.

In addition, there were many minor grievances which should have been settled easily in the shop, but which supervision had refused to negotiate.

Name Linka and Alois

UE Local 301's executive board Monday selected William Linka, 273, to replace Joseph Whitbeck, 69, as the union's representative on the Citizens' Advisory Committee on Housing. Whitbeck had requested that he be relieved of his assignment on the group for reasons of health.

The board also named Vice President Joseph Alois, 273, as the UE representative on the executive body of the Sight Conservation Society of Northeastern New York.

T-H Amendment Takes In Goldwater-Rhodes

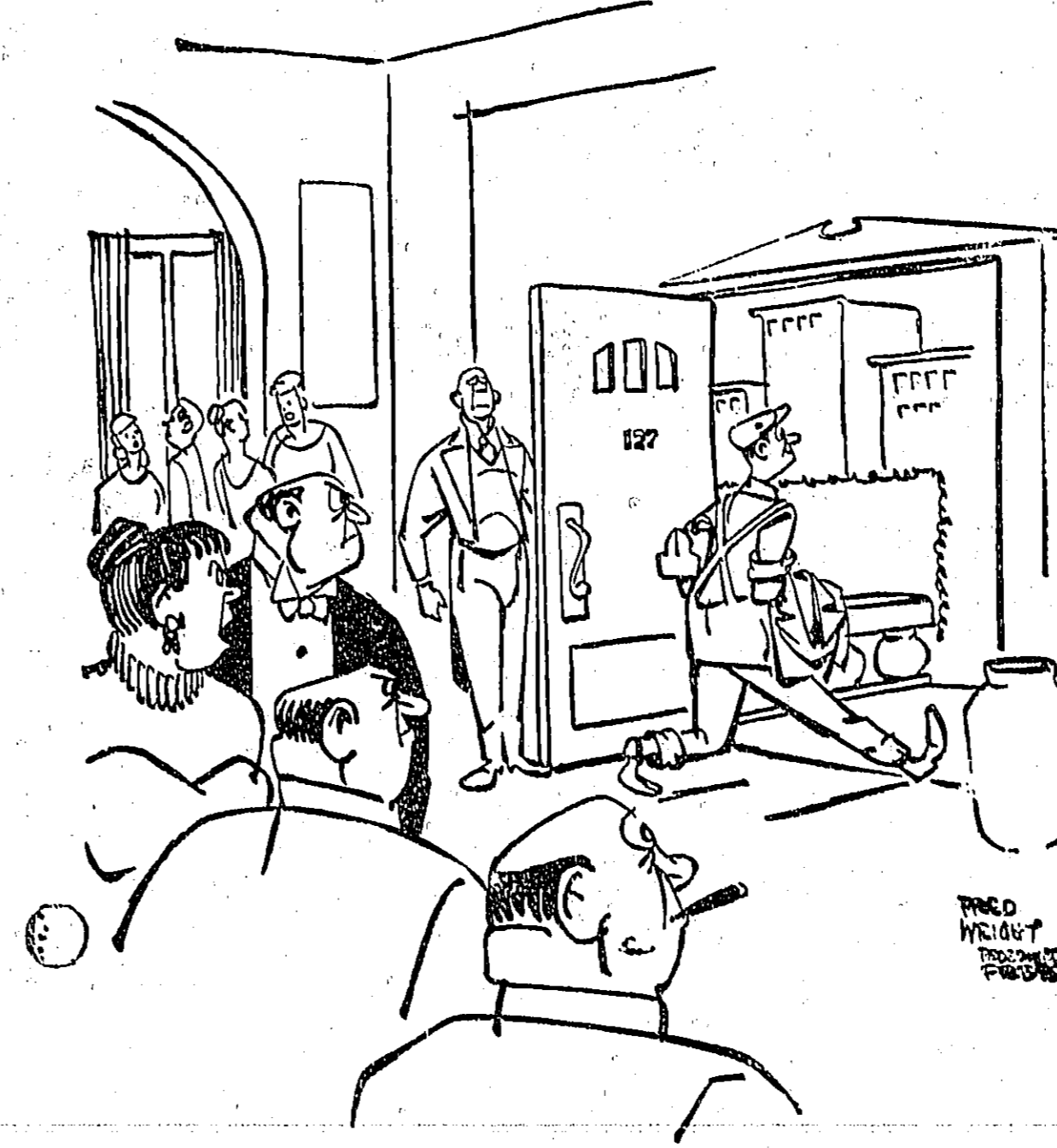
A new blanket anti-labor amendment to the Taft-Hartley act, upon which the full Senate labor committee started work May 25, grants to states the full right to regulate strikes, picketing and labor disputes, allows the enlarged NLRB to cede to states jurisdiction over other labor matters and sets up rigid new procedures against unions whose political life displeases the corporations.

A highlight of the amendment bill, regarded on Capitol Hill as a substitute for the Goldwater-Rhodes union busting measure, is the widening and intensification of the T-H act's affidavit provisions. The definition of an "officer" of a union is expanded to include anyone who is consulted on policy-making decisions. The affidavit itself is broadened to require an oath that the signer is not a Communist, does not support any organization that believes in overthrow of the government by force and violence or is "seeking by force and violence to deny other persons their rights under the constitution of the U.S."

Attorneys said such a clause could be stretched to apply to strikers refusing seals the "right to work."

Refusal by an "officer" to testify under oath before a grand jury, a court or a congressional committee or government agency on whether he signed the affidavit would be grounds for canceling it. This would open the door wide for frame-ups based on perjured testimony by paid informers and labor spies.

If any of these things happened, the union affected would be required to disassociate itself from the officer within 30 days. If it failed to do so, the union would lose its rights under the act.



MY BROTHER IS A DISGRACE TO OUR FAMILY...HE INSISTS UPON WORKING FOR A LIVING!

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS