

Membership Approves Editorial Group's Report

The 301 membership meeting this week by a big majority vote approved the report of the 1948 Editorial Committee, including its recommendations on editorial policy to be followed during 1949. Approval of the report was recommended by the Executive Board.

"The job of the union paper is to help promote Local 301's policy and program by reporting facts truthfully from the viewpoint of the 301 membership," the report said.

"It is particularly necessary to review the editorial policy in view of the repeated charges by the so-called 'Democratic Action' group in recent weeks that the Electrical Union News is 'Jandreau's paper,' does not print the views of other officers, and gives Leo Jandreau an unfair advantage in reaching GE workers."

The committee pointed out that the group criticizing EU News had received in the two daily Schenectady papers during the election campaign almost as much space as the entire printed space of the 301 paper.

Facts About Coverage

The report stated that until the election was over EU News printed no campaign material whatever and even refrained from correcting obvious lies. Since the election it carried in full the only statement submitted by opposition winners. It carried factual stories on newspaper interference in the campaign and corrected outright lies in such stories. It carried official statements by the shop stewards' body and a statement by Jandreau and Vice-President Hodges.

The committee said the paper's policy has been to carry:

"Official actions of the membership, stewards, and executive board.

"Developments on grievances, negotiations, and general relations between the General Electric Company and UE.

"Various membership activities, such as legislative, social, welfare, blood bank, sports, etc.

"Miscellaneous news items closely related to the welfare of the membership.

"Constructive statements, addresses and reports by officers, within space limitations.

"We believe that this is correct, and that the union organ should follow a unified policy based on 301 policy.

Policy Recommended

"The suggestion has been made that because of the division in the Executive Board, the paper be turned into a so-called 'impartial' battleground for conflicting statements. This would merely drive members on both sides away from

the paper and from the union. The function of the paper is to unite the members around 301 policy. It is guided by a standing committee named by the Executive Board and confirmed by the shop stewards under the union constitution.

"There certainly is room in the union paper, as in the union itself, for honest differences of opinion among officers.

"We believe that the editorial committee should publish in the Electrical Union News statements submitted by any of the officers which express differences of opinion, not in conflict with the 301 constitution, and subject to the very real space limitations of a small paper.

"The main burden of the union paper must still be news on relations with GE, not on internal differences. And this access to the union paper's columns must be accompanied by a complete end to the issuance of statements to the daily press by individual officers, other than when an official spokesman speaks officially on union actions.

The Editorial Committee recommends the above as the rule for the paper."

The report was signed by the entire committee, Mary McCartin, secretary, John G. Grasso, Arthur Bertini, Clayton Pudney and Victor Pasche.

Continuing on Job

The 301 membership meeting this week approved Executive Board recommendations that the present assistants to the business agent and the present office force be maintained, and that the union continue to retain Marshall Perlin, 301 attorney, on the same basis as last year.

The assistants to the business agent are Victor Pasche and William Kelly. The office force is headed by Emil (Rudy) Radosevich, bookkeeper.

Be Sure to Read Your UE News

Tomorrow's national UE News will feature a story about the big UE victory in Brooklyn over raiders from the United Auto Workers. There also will be comments on some recent remarks of GE President Charles E. Wilson.



Fate of Unions at GE After First World War

How the craft unions at General Electric in Schenectady were unable to withstand company attacks after the first World War and what happened to wages and working conditions as a result is illustrated in the following quotation:

"The war put the unions in a strategic position. Booming production, a sympathetic city administration and the plant manager's favorable attitude contributed to the success of the Council. The end of the war, however, marked the beginning of disaster.

"In 1918 and 1920 strikes in support of unions in other General Electric plants were lost. The depression of 1920-21 accelerated the decline in prestige. Where formerly the unions had unofficially limited an individual worker's production, the bars were now let down and competition for bonuses spread.

"In 1921, wage cuts of 10 per cent and of 10 cents-an-hour were made at six-month intervals without much opposition. Although some organizations did not crumble until the late 1920's, only the pattern makers and the steam fitters survived the decade and a half from the end of the war to the New Deal."

The quotation was taken from "How Collective Bargaining Works" issued by the impartial research agency, the Twentieth Century Fund.

Effort to Legalize 'Rump' Session Beaten

An early surprise move to make valid the Jan. 3 meeting called by President Frank Kriss and Recording Secretary Frank Fiorillo was defeated by a large standing vote at Tuesday night's regular meeting.

The move took the form of a motion that the minutes of that meeting be read. Kriss argued that it was not he who had called the meeting, but "the membership", because at least 75 members had asked him to call one. Leo Jandreau pointed out that the constitution sets forth clearly how meetings are called, and that the membership acts in legally-called meetings.

The motion was defeated. The meeting later confirmed the regular schedule calling for a membership meeting the third Tuesday night and Wednesday afternoon every month.

The shop stewards had previously ruled by an overwhelming vote that the Jan. 3 meeting was "nothing but a rump meeting held by the 'Democratic Action' group."

Actions of the shop stewards were scheduled to come before a membership meeting for ratification, but were not reached because of the time taken by earlier business.

BUILD THE UNION

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

Vol. 7 - No. 4

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

January 28, 1949

301, GE Meet Today On Third Shift Hours

The Turbine third shift members' demand that they be able to earn 40 hours' pay in five days, in line with accepted contract and industry practice, will be presented to the company in Building 41 this morning.

Accompanying Business Agent Leo Jandreau and other union grievance representatives will be a committee of six third shift members. These are Phil Krawczyk, Ray Weber, and Ernest Criscuolo of Building 60, Joseph Baumgartner and James De Massee, Bldg. 40, and Carl Huszar, of Bldg. 273.

The special meeting of third shift members last Friday voted unanimously to propose first that for three-shift operation the company establish an eight-hour shift with a 20-minute lunch period paid for by the company. As a present alternative proposal the meeting decided, with six dissenting votes, to ask for five nights of six and a half hours each from Monday night to Friday night, with a five-hour extension to noon Saturday at one-and-a-half, for a total of 40 hours' pay.

Many members emphasized in the discussion that the situation would only be solved on a satisfactory permanent basis with a straight eight hours and paid lunch period for all shifts.

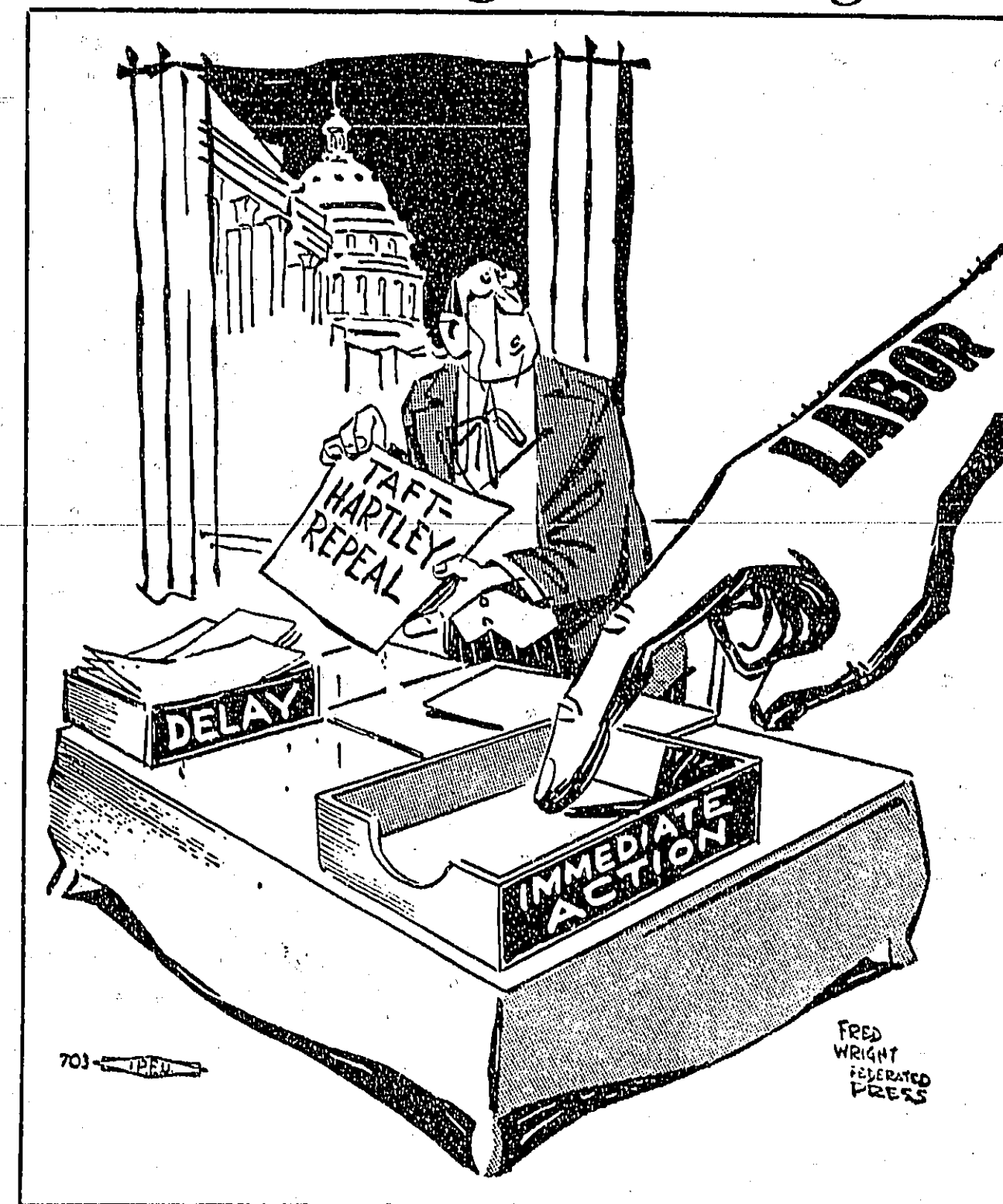
A related complaint to be taken up at this morning's grievance meeting will be the repeated discrimination against third shift workers in distribution of overtime in Turbine in recent weeks.

Kriss Okays Cards

President Frank C. Kriss wants the membership to know that he has consented to the issuance of the first quarter dues check-off cards for 1949 carrying the signature of former President Andrew Peterson, because of the fact that the cards were printed before the election of officers. Kriss said he realized that to print new cards bearing his signature would be a considerable expense for the union.

The next cards, for April, May and June, will carry the signature of Kriss.

Put the Finger on Congress



Local 301 Starts Postcard Campaign For Immediate Taft-Hartley Repeal

Board Member Willard Kuschel reported to the 301 Executive Board Monday night on his recent two-day experience in Washington visiting Senators and Congressman with a UE delegation. A strong follow-up is needed from the workers in the shops, he warned, to win the fight for repeal of the Taft-Hartley Law and restoration of the Wagner Act without crippling amendments.

Kuschel emphasized the danger of repeal being stalled by lengthy hearings. He urged immediate pressure by the union and by the workers in the shops.

The Board, after approving Kuschel's report, voted to start a postcard campaign through the plant, demanding immediate repeal of Taft-Hartley, and instructed Business Agent Leo Jandreau to send a telegram to Congressional leaders.

Took 301 Petitions

Kuschel took with him to Washington the petitions signed by Local 301 members demanding immediate repeal of T-H and return to the Wagner Act. The Schenectady signatures were part of 250,

301 Stewards Will Discuss GE Bargaining

Discussion of bargaining issues to be brought before the next meeting of the GE Conference Board, Feb. 11 in New York City, will be one of the main items of business to come before the regular shop stewards' meeting Tuesday night, Feb. 1, at 301 hall.

The contract allows the union to reopen the contract on wages and other economic issues once before Apr. 1, 1950, on 30 days' notice, at a time picked by the union.

When is the best time to reopen on wages is one of the main things to be considered.

Other Important Issues

The Executive Board also is recommending that the stewards discuss other important issues to be raised, starting from the major points listed in the 1948 officers' report as major issues to be settled, based on the union's experience in grievances. The points include:

- 1) Negotiated wage structure (to correct injustices in job rates).
- 2) Skilled craft rates.
- 3) Women's rates.
- 4) Upgrading based on seniority.
- 5) Adequate pensions.
- 6) Seniority in transfers.
- 7) Threats to break service when laid-off worker refuses a less desirable job.
- 8) Increased earnings for increased production (which involves the whole speed-up and price-cutting drive now being pressed by the company).
- 9) A full eight hours' pay for any day's work for all shifts.
- 10) Improved shop grievance procedure.
- 11) Compulsory arbitration of grievances.
- 12) Improved holiday provisions.

Problems To Be Solved

The 1948 officers' report declared that these issues would have to be resolved sooner or later either through grievance procedure or in contract negotiations. The stewards and the conference board will (Continued on Page 2)

Kuschel was a member of the group of 10 delegates who called (Continued on Page 2)

Discuss Grievance On Welding Work

Discussions are continuing between the union grievance committee and the Works Manager's office (Building 41) over the job requirements for welders in the Turbine division. It is the union's contention that the company is trying to introduce a new requirement for "special welders" getting the \$1.62 rate, so that fewer welders would be entitled to the rate.

The issue arose around a welder with considerable experience who had been doing pipe welding. The company took the position that pipe welding as such might rate only as "general welding" with a rate of \$1.51, if it did not involve special difficulties of position.

The issue was discussed last week with shop stewards for a number of welders' groups present. They unanimously advised Frank Schaaff, of the manager's office, that pipe welding always has been recognized as calling for the "special welder" rate, that it is a question of quality of weld and not position, and that it requires a higher skill.

Schaaff said he would submit revised job descriptions for discussion shortly.

Present at the meeting were Stewards Marvin Rummell and Carmen Renzi, Building 60, William Poltorak, Salvatore De Pietro and Willis Rexford, Bldg. 49, and Paul E. Brown, Bldg. 61 Test, Board Members William Stewart and Raymond Planigan, and the grievance committee.

Stewards to Meet

(Continued from Page 1)

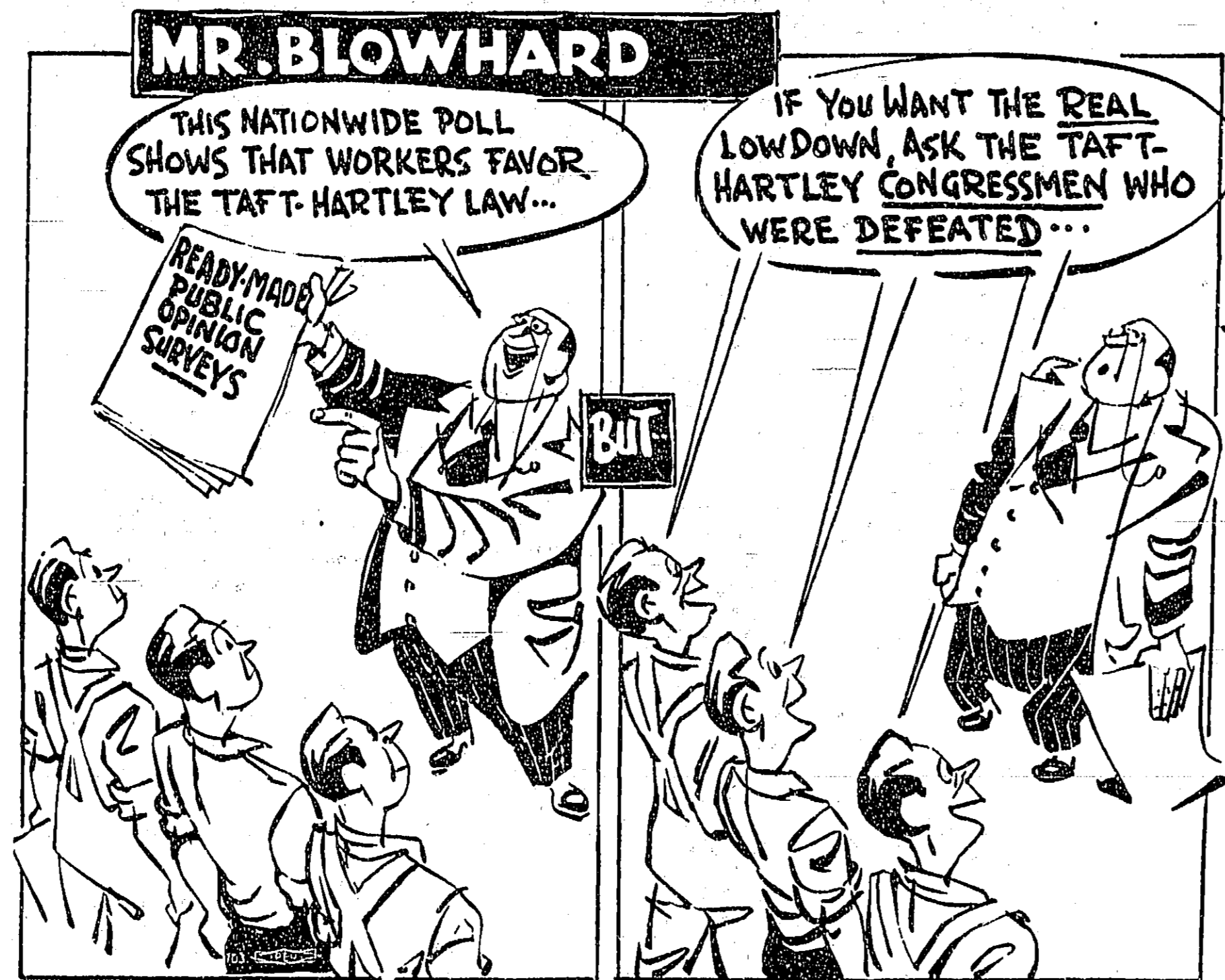
be asked to consider the best approach to these and any other issues.

The stewards' meeting also will act on a number of Executive Board recommendations, including standing committee appointments, an organizing drive, the coming workmen's compensation conference, Garry Waldron fund, etc.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS
United Electrical, Radio & Machine
Workers of America, CIO
SCHENECTADY GE LOCAL 301

Published by Editorial Committee
Mary McQuinn, Secretary
Arthur R. Bertini Clayton Fudney
John G. Grasso Victor Pasche

Editorial Office
ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS
301 Liberty St., Schenectady, N. Y.
Telephone 3-1386



301 Sends Telegram To Congress Leaders

On instruction of the Executive Board, Business Agent Leo Jandreau this week sent the following telegram urging speedy repeal of the Taft-Hartley Law to Chairman Elbert D. Thomas of the Senate Labor Committee, Chairman John Lesinski of the House Labor Committee, Senator Scott W. Lucas, Senate majority leader, and Representative John W. McCormack, House majority leader.

"18,000 General Electric workers in Schenectady, members of our Union, urge you to press for speedy repeal of Taft-Hartley and restoration of the Wagner Act.

"Contracts are coming up for negotiation now and within the immediate future. We are in hopes to negotiate our new contracts on a Wagner Act basis and not on the basis of the employers' Taft-Hartley Act.

"We are deeply concerned over the delaying moves of Senators Ives and Morse, and the various proposals to amend the Wagner Act with the worst features of Taft-Hartley. Working people throughout the nation demand the return of the Wagner Act without strings."

March of Dimes

Next Friday, Feb. 4, is the deadline for shop stewards to turn in their March of Dime collections for infantile paralysis victims.

GE Labor Poll Fails To Stir Much Interest

Members of the union are paying very little attention to the General Electric company's highly advertised "poll" of employees about labor laws, according to informal reports made at the 301 Executive Board meeting Monday.

There are indications however, it was reported, that in some cases pressure is being put on foremen and other salaried employees to cooperate with the company by answering the carefully slanted questions and sending the filled-in forms to Congressmen.

The questions, of course, are "loaded" to misrepresent the contents and intentions of the Taft-Hartley law.

301 Will Buy Wire Recorder

Local 301 has voted to buy a wire recorder, at a cost of not over \$500, to record the discussion at membership meetings. The Executive Board recommendation that a recorder be purchased was approved by the membership meeting last week. The price provision was added from the floor.

The meeting also approved the Board's recommendations that the recorder shall not be taken out of the union hall without the Board's approval, and that at membership meetings there shall be two microphones.

301 Postcard Campaign For Speedy T-H Repeal

(Continued from Page 1)

on Representative John Lesinski, Mich., chairman of the new House Committee on Education and Labor. Lesinski said he would follow whatever direction President Truman gives as to what method should be used in repealing the Taft-Hartley law.

Senator Elbert Thomas of Utah, chairman of the Senate Labor Committee, came off the Senate floor to meet a UE group, including Kuschel. He declared himself for absolute repeal of T-H and a return to the Wagner Act, and has introduced a bill to that effect.

Kuschel and the other two delegates from UE District 3 were in the group to interview Senator Irving Ives. He favored returning to the original Senate bill which he helped draw up and which was about as bad as Taft-Hartley.

Kuschel reminded him that in 1947 he told a UE delegation in Washington that there wouldn't be any bad labor legislation passed and that everything was going to be all right.

Representative McCormack, House majority leader, told Kuschel and others that he wants immediate repeal and a one-day hearing.

The second day Kuschel and the other two New York state delegates called on various Congressmen from this state.

Installing 301 Officers and Board Members for 1949



Officers and Board members of Local 301 taking their oath of office at the membership meeting Jan. 18 at Mont Pleasant High School. National UE Secretary-Treasurer Julius Emspak, who officiated, is behind the microphone.

12 Claims Are Filed For Mercury Poisoning

A total of 12 workmen's compensation claims have been filed through the Local 301 attorney, Marshall Perlin, for members suffering from mercury poisoning as a result of their work in the mercury power station in Building 265.

Medical tests arranged by the union revealed the alarming extent of the poisoning among the 39 workers in close contact with mercury. The union filed a grievance with GE over the violation of safety and health provisions of the contract in the working conditions at the mercury power station.

Since the filing of this grievance and an explosion in the mercury boiler the company has stopped the use of the boiler for power. At a grievance discussion last week A. C. Stevens, assistant to the works manager, told the union that management has no intention of resuming the use of the mercury boiler for power. He agreed that in case the company should decide to run the boiler again it would notify the union enough in advance to give time for a discussion with the union about working conditions and health safeguards.

The union is still discussing the question of health hazards reported as remaining because of mercury still lying around the building.

Gaeth Radio Program

Delegates to the GE pension conference held by UE in Lynn Wednesday will discuss the problem of social security and pension plans on Arthur Gaeth's UE radio program Monday night, Jan. 31. They will be interviewed by Gaeth. The program is heard locally on Station WXXW, Albany (860 on your dial).

UE Action Wins Ruling In 'Security' Discharge

As a result of UE action, the War Department has ordered a St. Louis, Mo., company to pay Mrs. Opal Cline for any money loss she suffered through her transfer by the company to another job for alleged security reasons and her later discharge.

The Emerson Electric Company shifted Mrs. Cline last Apr. 12 to

a lower-paying job and fired her Sept. 28. UE District 8 demanded a hearing before the War Department Industrial Review Board.

The Board ruled Mrs. Cline was suspended "without sufficient cause" and directed the company to pay her "the actual monetary loss sustained by her because of any unemployment or change of employment resulting from such suspension."

Typical Attack By Victor Riesel

A recent syndicated column by Victor Riesel is typical of the untrue, distorted statements printed by anti-union newspaper columnists. In this case every member of Local 301 is in a position to recognize a lie of Riesel's.

The Riesel column printed in the Knickerbocker News (Albany Gannett paper) attacked Business Agent Leo Jandreau. The following crack is a sample of Riesel's distortions:

"Not long ago, Jandreau had a burst of patriotism. At a meeting of his local union, he actually pledged allegiance to the flag (of the United States)."

Local 301 members know that the pledge of allegiance to the flag has been the first order of business at every 301 membership meeting and stewards' meeting for years. And they know that Jandreau and the other officers have always joined with all the members in making that pledge.

Pensioners to Hear About Lynn Meeting

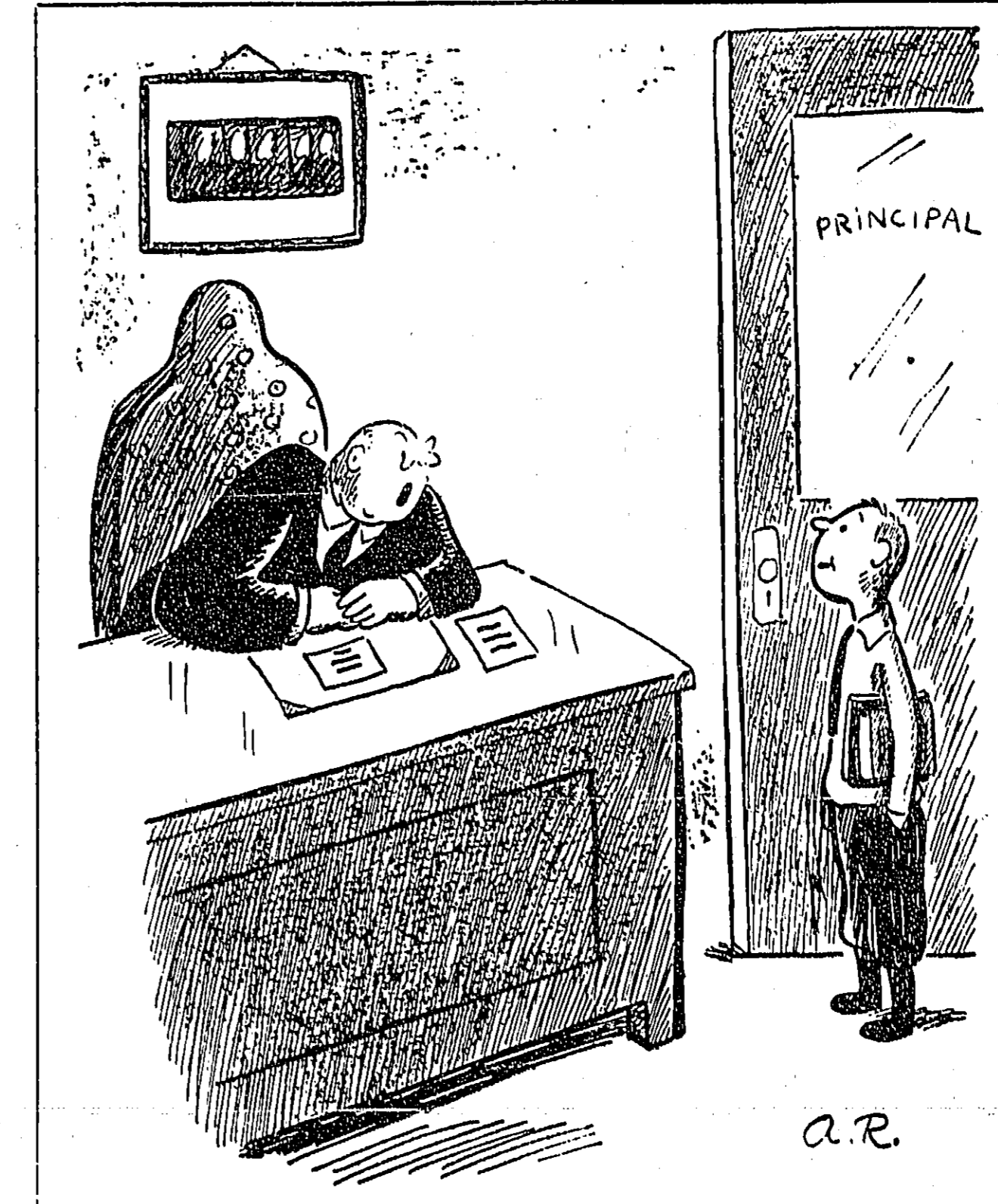
Reports on the national UE pension conference at Lynn, Mass., will be made at the monthly meeting of the UE-301 Pension Organization at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 2, at 301 Hall.

301 Vice-President William Hodges and Frederick E. Helmbold, who went on pension last June 1, attended the Lynn conference Wednesday and will make the reports.

UE News Features

The national UE News tomorrow (Saturday) will contain a story on the GE lamp monopoly conviction and a story on the threatened shutdown of the GE plant at Meriden.

Taft-Hartley School Days



Local 301 Draws Up Program to Improve State Workmen's Compensation Law

A plan for protecting workmen's compensation rights of workers on radio-active materials was approved by the 301 membership meeting last week, as part of the union's program for improving the state Workmen's Compensation Law.

Atomic workers and others exposed to radio-active materials are in an unfortunate position about receiving compensation for injuries or illness, Marshall Perlin, 301 attorney, told the meeting. They may develop a new and strange disease and not dare tell a doctor how they got it, because of the secrecy of their jobs. And they're afraid to discuss their cases with a lawyer, so they don't file claims.

The union's proposed legislation would protect the secrecy of the work, but protect the workers' rights too. Local 301 proposes that the names of all workers in any way exposed to radio active substances be listed on a master file with the State Labor Department. If any worker on the list becomes disabled or ill he would automatically get workmen's compensation, unless the company proved his work didn't cause the condition.

Silicosis Cases

Local 301 is also pressing for an amendment to the Workmen's Compensation Law to put silicosis and other dust diseases on the basis of other occupational diseases. At present you have to be totally disabled by silicosis to be eligible for compensation. That's the reason that only 12 of the 90 silicosis cases discovered at the Elmira GE foundry are protected by the law now.

The legislative program on workmen's compensation also calls for: Increasing maximum benefits from \$32 a week to \$40.

Providing additional money for dependents. Ten states already have this.

Should End Waiting Period

Eliminating the waiting period of seven days. A worker should collect from the day he becomes ill or has an accident.

Charging all legal fees to the employer or insurance company. Double compensation to be paid for an accident which involves a violation of the labor law by the employer.

Perlin pointed out to the meeting that union action on state legislation is especially pressing because of the shortness of the legislative session at Albany.

The members empowered the Executive Board to carry out the legislative program through organizing delegations to visit assemblymen and senators, petitions, letter and post card campaigns, and other activities.

\$49.98 Back Pay Won For Bldg. 18 Worker

Back pay of \$49.98 for shift change overtime premium was obtained for a member under Foreman James Whiting in Building 18 by Shop Steward William Christman this week. The man was among a number of second shift men who had been changed several times from the regular second shift to a special shift of 7 p.m. to 7 a.m., and back again, without receiving the premium. When Christman took up the case, the foreman admitted that the premium should have been paid, and had the records checked.

Christman now is going into the claims of a number of other men who had such changes.

Schedule of Meetings To Continue Unchanged

The 301 membership meeting last week approved the Executive Board's recommendation that the schedule of meetings for the union continue unchanged.

The regular 301 membership meeting will be the third Tuesday night of every month for first and third shift members and the next Wednesday afternoon for second shift members.

The shop stewards' meeting will be the first Tuesday night of each month.

The Board meetings will be the second and fourth Monday nights each month.

No Reply from GE On Silicosis Cases

The General Electric management at Elmira still hasn't replied to the grievance filed by UE Local 310 on the 90 silicosis cases at the foundry there.

The union asked for financial aid and job guarantees for silicosis victims. Management informed the UE committee that such a big problem is involved that more time will be needed.

Second Shift Party

There will be an after-midnight party at 301 hall for second shift workers, as soon as they finish at the plant tonight (Friday). The program will include cards, ping pong, darts and the usual beer and hot dogs.

CONGRESSMAN DRIPP

BY YOMEN



200 Unemployed At Decatur GE

Over 200 people are now out of jobs at the General Electric plant at Decatur, Ind., and the rest of the plant is on a 36 hour week. Lay-offs started after last summer's vacation period.

As a result of the lay-offs grievances have increased at a rapid rate. UE Local 924 has obtained satisfactory settlement of many of them, but is constantly battling seniority violations. The company tries to down-grade, cut rates and interpret seniority as applying only to code classifications.

The company also has been using foremen and supervisors to "help out" on production. The local is fighting this practice.

100 Per Cent UE

Workers at the Pam Clock Company of America voted 100 per cent for UE as their bargaining agent in an election conducted in Brooklyn by the State Mediation Board.

Pay Raise at Philadelphia

Pay raises ranging from eight to 13 cents an hour were negotiated by UE Local 155 at Philadelphia with American Metal Specialties Corporation.

Is Your Shop 100 Per Cent UE?

GE Found Guilty Of Lamp Monopoly

The General Electric Company was convicted in U. S. Federal Court at Trenton, N. J., last week of violating the Sherman anti-trust act by monopolizing the incandescent lamp industry in the United States. Eight other lamp supply companies were convicted with it for assisting GE in maintaining this monopoly.

Federal Judge Phillip Forman found that GE, to insure success of the monopoly, joined in an international cartel, fixed prices and either absorbed competitors or forced them out of business by keeping them from the American market.

The conviction carried with it no fine or jail sentence. The judge said some complimentary words about the "industrial efficiency" of GE, which the Jan. 21 Works News carried on page 1. The Works News headline was simply "Court Rules on Lamp Case".

10 Cent Increases

Pay raises of 10 cents an hour across-the-board have been won by UE workers at G.E. Richter Company and L. and S. Casting Company, Long Island City, in recently negotiated contracts.

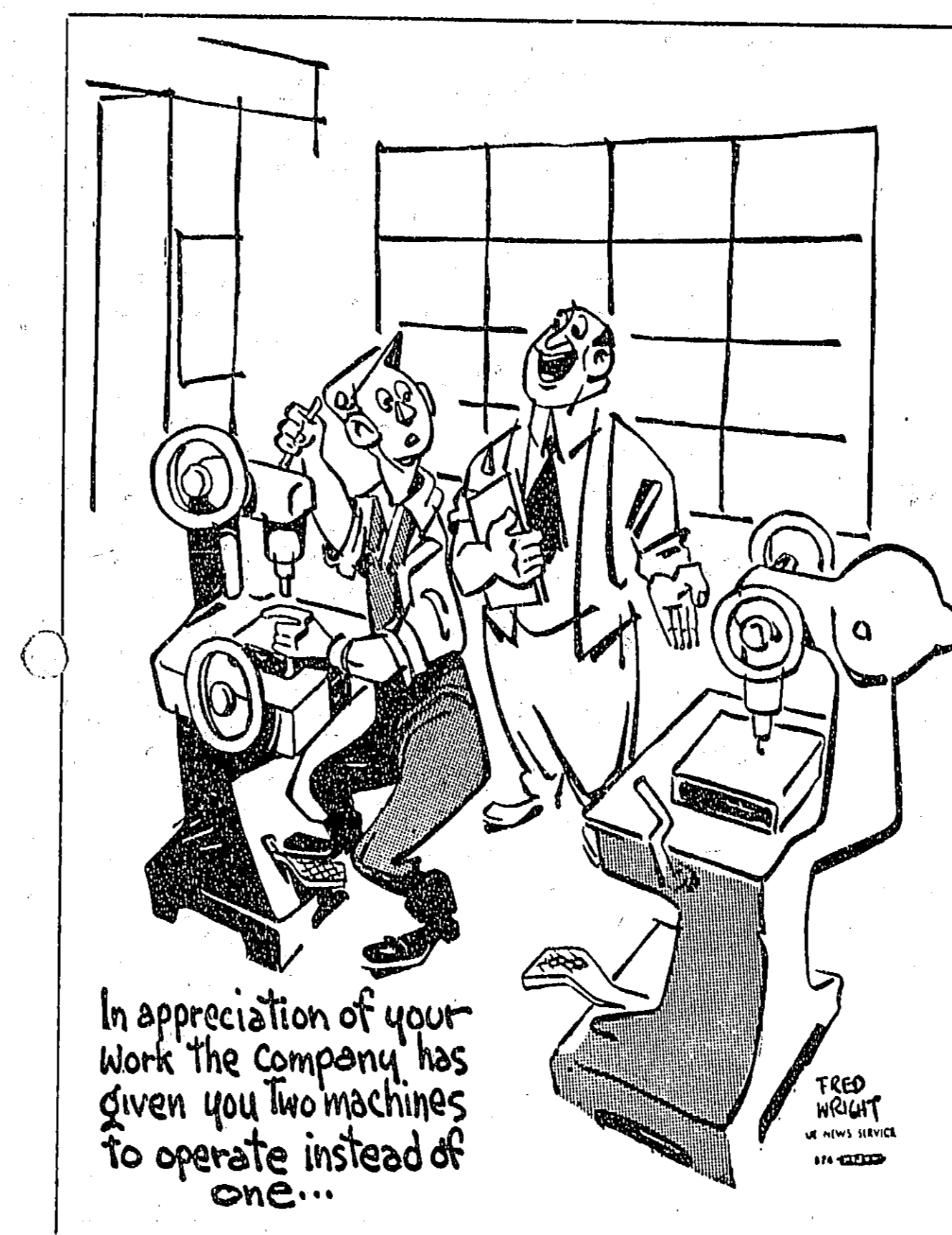
ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

Vol. 7 - No. 5

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

January 28, 1949



Union Fights T-H In Post Card Drive

A 301 postcard campaign for the swift repeal of the Taft-Hartley Law and restoration of the Wagner Act is in full swing at the plant.

Shop stewards received packages of postcards from the union office, to distribute to their groups, with information about the names and addresses of Congressional leaders to whom they should be sent. If any member hasn't been given a card yet he ought to hunt up his steward and ask for one—or more.

Washington Developments Disturbing

The stewards' meeting Tuesday night voted that no effort should be spared in pushing this drive, in face of the recent disturbing developments at Washington.

Marshall Perlin, 301 attorney, warned that "they're trying to put across a bill that isn't the Wagner Act, but a child of a combination of the Taft-Hartley Law and the

Wagner Act." He analyzed dangers of this Administration bill.

Executive Board Member Willard Kaschel, who reported on a recent trip to Washington with a UE delegation, also urged follow-up action by 301 members to prevent stalling on T-H repeal and crippling of the Wagner act.

Resolution Passed

The meeting passed a resolution demanding that the mandate of the voters in the November election be carried out by a clear-cut repeal of Taft-Hartley and return of the Wagner Act. It criticized the bill now under consideration in Congress and endorsed H. R. 259, a bill introduced in the House in accordance with labor's program.

Perlin pointed out that the Administration bill retains the Taft-Hartley ban on the secondary boycott. Such a boycott is important

(Continued on Page 3)

Need Help in Filing Income Tax Return?

Local 301 will again this year provide free help for members in filing out their federal income tax returns.

On instruction of the Executive Board the union office has arranged for a group of members, experienced in making out tax reports, to be at 301 hall every Saturday, starting tomorrow, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. through Mar. 12. The hours will be extended if necessary.

Workers should bring with them their W2 forms, the statements from the company showing earnings and withholding tax. Anyone who gets part of his income from rents should bring in the duplicate of the income tax return he filed last year.

Members who will help with the tax forms include Joseph W. Wallace, Building 76; Elwood R. Senchal, Bldg. 285; Sid Friedlander, Bldg. 16; Eugene Daley, Bldg. 24; Rudy Ellis, Bldg. 101; Richard Fliss, Bldg. 57 and Alex Cook.

Infantile Paralysis Fund

March of Dimes contributions turned in to the union office by Wednesday totaled \$3,033.34. Today is the deadline for shop stewards to wind up the campaign and hand in the envelopes.

\$100 Donation

The Local 301 Executive Board Jan. 24 voted \$100 to the United Packinghouse Workers, CIO, toward expenses arising from the strikes against the big meat packers.

Many Suggestions For GE Contract

At the shop stewards' meeting Tuesday night numerous suggestions were brought up and proposed contract improvements which they want the 301 representatives to take up at the GE Conference Board sessions. The Conference Board will have its first meeting of the year next Friday in New York City.

It was announced that additional suggestions would be welcome and should be sent by letter to Business Agent Leo Jandreau.

Organizing Drive Plans Are Mapped

Plans for a vigorous organizing drive Feb. 15 to Apr. 15 to build Local 301 to its fullest possible strength in the shops were approved by the shop stewards' meeting Tuesday night. Final action will be taken by the February membership meeting.

Board Member William Stewart, who is again chairman of the organizing committee, presented the recommendations to the stewards, with a detailed report on the number of members and non-members in every section of the plant. The other members of the committee



Above, Stewart

At right, Green

are Assistant Recording Secretary John Green; Board Member William Mastriani and Chief Shop Steward Stephen Watts. They have asked the Board to add a woman.

The committee was named by the Executive Board Jan. 24 and drew up plans for the drive at a session Jan. 28. The Executive Board approved the proposals at a special meeting called just before the shop stewards' meeting.

\$1 For Getting a Member

Stewart pointed out that the figures compiled by the union office show the need of an intensive campaign, involving rank and file members as well as shop stewards.

When a new member joins the union he pays an initiation fee of two dollars. To stimulate as wide participation in the campaign as possible, the organizing plan calls for awarding one dollar out of this initiation fee to the shop steward or member who signs up the new

(Continued on Page 3)

CONGRESSMAN DRIPP

BY YOMEN



"CONGRESSMAN DRIPP WAS MY CHARACTER WITNESS."

Boycott Hoover, Belmont Products

Members of Local 301 are urged by the Executive Board to boycott products of the Hoover Company at Canton, Ohio, and Belmont Radio Corporation.

Over 2,000 UE members were forced to go on strike last summer by these companies. Both companies are now manufacturing under anti-union conditions and with the protection of the Taft-Hartley law.

Put on Unfair List

The 301 Executive Board Jan. 24 voted to place Hoover and Belmont on the local's unfair list and to back the boycott which UE is organizing on a national scale.

The Hoover Company makes

Hoover vacuum cleaners and Hoover electric irons. Belmont produces Belmont radios which are also sold under the following brand names: Airline, Tru-Tone, Coronado, Freshmen Television Sets and Raytheon Belmont Television Sets.

The Belmont strike is now in its seventh month. It was called because the company refused to grant a pay increase in line with those granted by the rest of the industry and demanded contract changes to undermine seniority and to give it a free hand on speed-up. The strikers have faced strikebreakers, injunctions and the threat of a Taft-Hartley election with only scabs allowed to vote.

Company Union

The Hoover Company has fought UE every inch of the way since the union organized there in 1942. After negotiations were hopelessly deadlocked and the contract had expired, the workers went on strike last June 10. The strike lasted nearly two months. The strikers were be-deviled by injunctions, beaten by thugs on the picket line and spied on by private detectives. The company fostered a company union and used the Taft-Hartley Board to force it on the workers and to break the strike.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers of America, CIO
SCHENECTADY GE LOCAL 301

Published by Editorial Committee
Mary McCarroll, Chairman
Arthur R. Bertini, Secretary
William Christman, Frank D'Amico
Victor Pasche

Editorial Office
ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS
301 Liberty St., Schenectady, N. Y.
Telephone 3-1386

Committees Named to Serve for Year

The shop stewards' meeting Tuesday night approved appointments to standing committees made by the Executive Board meeting Jan. 10. Under the 301 constitution the committee members are named by the Board, subject to approval by the shop stewards.

A rotating system has been adopted this year for the Grievance Committee. In addition to the business agent (or an assistant) the committee will include the Board member whose section is involved and two other Board members on a monthly rotation basis. The practice will be continued of having the shop steward involved present and also committees from the shop when necessary.

Assigning two Board members in turn for a month's duty on the Grievance Committee will familiarize more people than ever before with the handling of grievances in Building 41.

Members of the Constitution Committee are Frank Emspak, Building 46; George Walker, Bldg. 78; Roy Lash, Bldg. 60; Anthony Campriello, Bldg. 52; and Stanley Aldhous, Bldg. 269.

Editorial Committee: Mary McCarroll, Bldg. 28, who has been elected chairman; Arthur Bertini, Bldg. 68, who has been elected secretary; Frank D'Amico, Bldg. 53; William Christman, Bldg. 18, and Victor Pasche, assistant to the business agent.

Finance Committee: Treasurer William A. Downs, Albert E. Davis of Building 10; Joseph Kelly, Bldg. 16 and William Templeton, Bldg. 11, Test Maintenance.

Activities Committee: Louis Durrer, Bldg. 109; Helen Quirini,

Bldg. 81; William Mastriani, Bldg. 78 A; Belle Baxter, Bldg. 53; Recording Secretary Frank Fiorillo, Bldg. 37; James Cognetta, Bldg. 52; Manuel Fernandez, Bldg. 269; Gordon Belgrave, Bldg. 17; Edward J. La Bombard Jr., Bldg. 97; James Muir, Bldg. 273; Michael De Celi, Bldg. 60; Joseph Aschenback, Bldg. 60; Mario Bagnato, Bldg. 52; Rudy Radosevich of the office staff and K. Simmons.

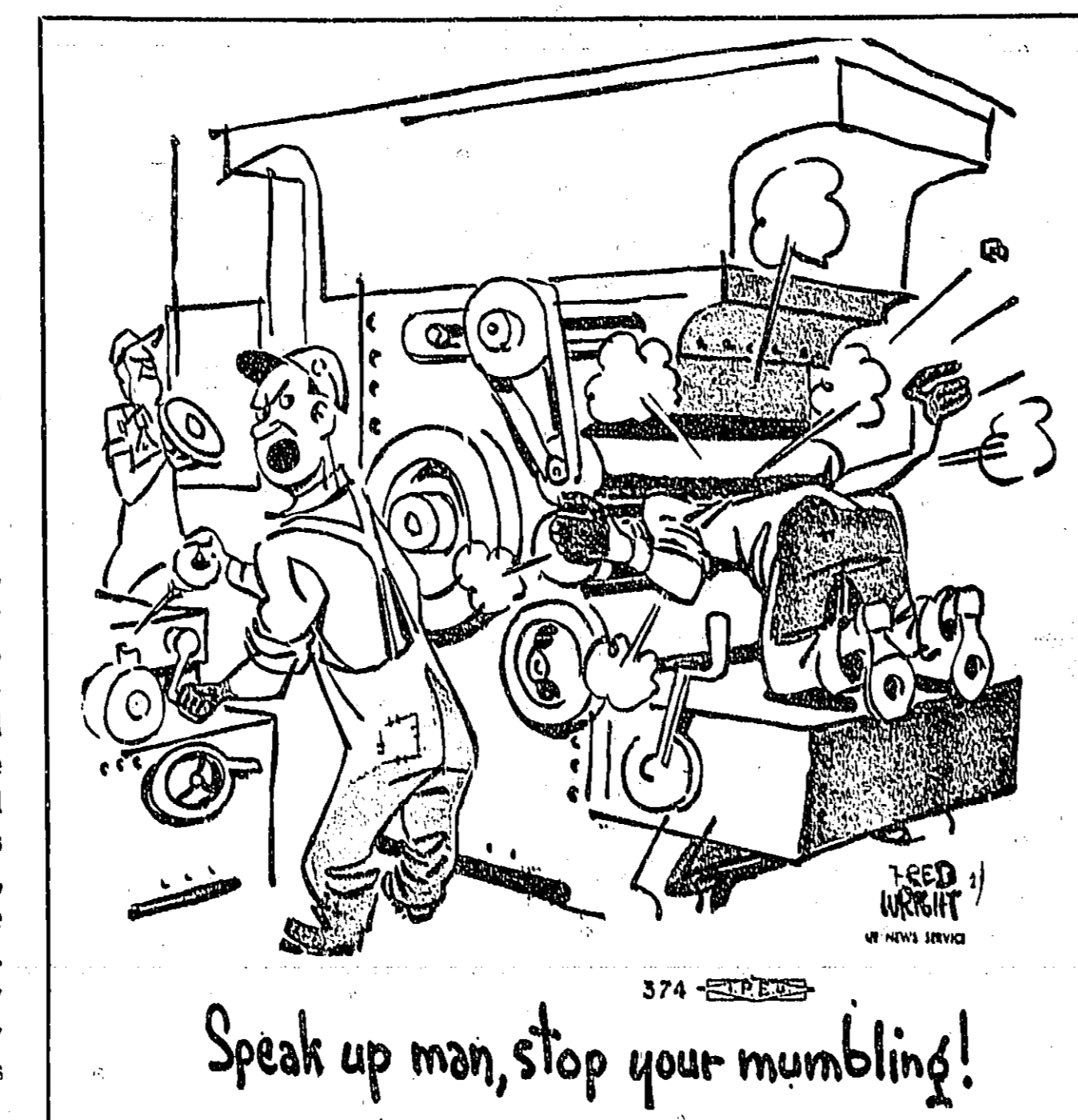
House Committee: Henry Kaminski, Bldg. 766; John Boyd, Bldg. 285; Joseph Hills, Bldg. 89, and Miles Moon, Bldg. 85.

Transportation Committee: Andrew Peterson, Bldg. 52; Anthony Villano, Knolls Research Laboratory; Virginia Murphy, Bldg. 53, and Morton Lewis, Bldg. 46.

Appeals Committee: Vice President William Hodges, Helen Quirini, Bldg. 81, and Chief Shop Steward Stephen Watts. This committee will meet at 4 p.m. every Wednesday to hear the appeal of any member who may be dissatisfied with the handling of a grievance. The committee will meet at 1 p.m. on appeals of second shift workers.

The Executive Board will serve as the 301 Blood Donor Committee.

The Executive Board and the 301 attorney, Marshall Perlin, will serve as the Legislative Committee.



Speak up man, stop your mumbling!

Alco Threatens To Move Plant

The American Locomotive Company made a threat to its employees recently that unless they speed up production the plant will be moved from Schenectady. President Anthony F. Barbieri of Local 2054, United Steelworkers, immediately charged the threat was "the first shot in the 1949 contract negotiations." The contract between Alco and the union expires May 31.

The company put on its speed-up pressure in individual letters sent in January to all its workers by Alco President Robert B. McColl. If there isn't "greater productivity and economy," he said, the only alternative to leaving Schenectady would be increasing the price of locomotives. "This is out of the question," he asserted.

Statement by Barbieri

"We are confident that all reasonable citizens of Schenectady join members of Local 2054 in deeply resenting such a naive and contemptible bargaining tactic," Barbieri declared.

Workers at the plant have already "materially increased their individual production and efficiency," Barbieri pointed out.

"For the 12 months period of June 2, 1946 to June 2, 1947 there were 323 diesel locomotives built at the plant or a monthly average of 26," he said.

"For the 12 months period from June 2, 1947 to June 1, 1948 there were 540 diesel locomotives built or a monthly average of 45. For the seven months period June 1, 1948 to Jan. 1, 1949 there were 392 diesel locomotives built or a monthly average of 56".

Biggest Production Yet

Barbieri said that in December, 1948, there were 80 engines built, the highest diesel locomotive production for any month in Alco's history. Moreover the locomotives built in the past 18 months have greater tonnage and greater value than the former ones.

"All this increased production was accomplished without any corresponding increase in the working force at the plant," Barbieri said.

The union president warned that "any arbitrary action by the company will be diligently prosecuted by all lawful means at our disposal."

News Forecast

Tomorrow's issue of the national UE News will devote six pages to the subjects of unemployment, workmen's compensation, health and pensions.

More Shop Stewards Take Oath of Office



National UE Secretary-Treasurer Julius Emspak administering the oath of office to five shop stewards at the 301 membership meeting Jan. 18 at Mont Pleasant High School. Left to right, Emspak, Mary Kelly of Building 28; Lansing Cole, Bldg. 285; Harold Barnum, Bldg. 46; Richard Boehm, Bldg. 17, and Anthony Rainone, Bldg. 68.

Organizing Drive Plans Are Mapped

(Continued from Page 1)

The new member may pay his initiation fee in cash or by payroll deduction. After the union office receives the two dollars, it will pass along the dollar to the person who obtained the new 301 member.

Application of members who dropped out of the union will be taken up individually by the Executive Board under the constitutional provisions for reinstatement.

Every Executive Board member is to set up a sub-committee of stewards and rank-and-filers, to work during their lunch hour on organizing their shops 100 per cent.

Shop stewards were asked to make lists immediately of all the workers in their shops and turn them in to the union office to be checked with the membership records. The office can then compile lists of non-members for the shop committees to work on.

Turning in the lists of workers is very important Stewart explained, because there are so many transfers and changes.

Resolution on T-H

The resolution on Taft-Hartley repeal and return of the Wagner Act, adopted Tuesday night by the shop stewards, said in part:

"The Wagner Act itself, while fully supported by labor, only has the effect of limiting to a small degree the disproportionate power management has in dealing with workers and trade unions. Even under the Wagner Act employers were able to take oppressive steps against unions until curtailed by the strength of the workers.

"Management in the New Deal period and during the war were able to thrive and make large profits under the Wagner Act. The country grew and became more prosperous under this legislation. We see no need for any amendments at this time to the Wagner Act especially when motivated by forces hostile to labor. Labor's hand must be strengthened in dealing with the giant industries of the nations."

Copies of the resolution were ordered to be sent to Chairman John Lesinski of the House Labor Committee, Chairman Elbert D. Thom-

Union Fights T-H In Postcard Drive

(Continued from Page 1)

to unions in protesting against company unions and in fighting scabs.

The new bill retains the Taft-Hartley provision of allowing unfair labor charges to be filed against unions.

It empowers the President to impose a 30 day cooling off period before the calling of any strike which in any way affects the national interests. Practically any strike could be included in that description. This provision implies that if a union doesn't observe the 30 day order, an injunction can be obtained against it.

The bill states that the members of the present Taft-Hartley Board (who are 100 per cent anti-labor) must be kept in their jobs till the end of their terms, up to five years.

The prospects are that if hearings are held on the bill, still worse provisions will be added as amendments, Perlin said.

as of the Senate Labor Committee, Representative John W. McCormack, House majority leader, and Senator Scott W. Lucas, Senate majority leader.