

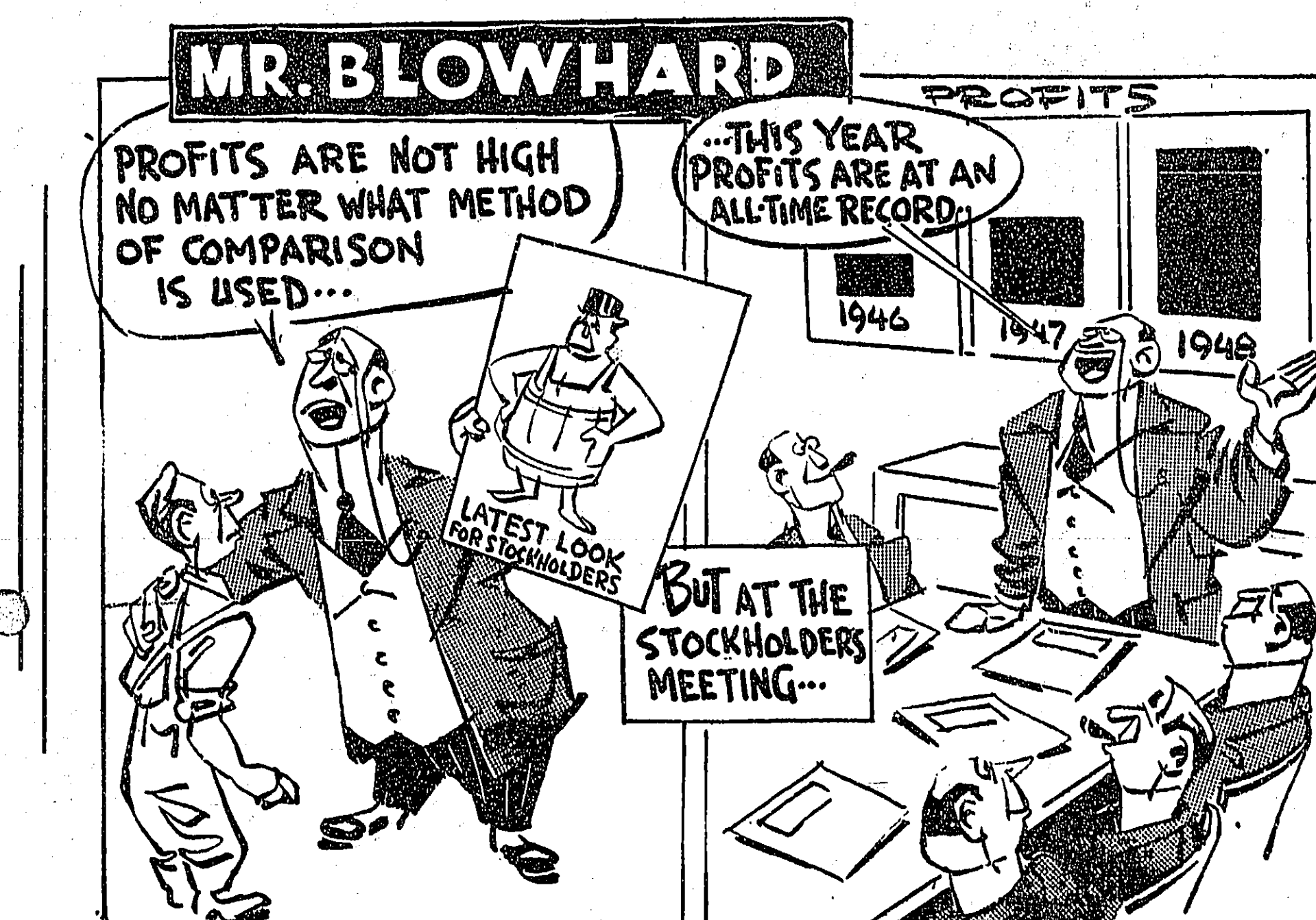
# ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

Vol. 7 — No. 1

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

January 7, 1949



## Stewards Hit Actions of Kriss Group

Over 400 shop stewards, elected during the past few weeks, attended the first meeting of the Stewards' Council for 1949 Tuesday night at the union hall. Chief Shop Steward Stephen Watts presided. By unanimous invitation of the Executive Board, UE President Albert J. Fitzgerald and Secretary-Treasurer Julius Emspak were present. Fitzgerald administered the oath of office to the stewards.

The stewards adopted by an overwhelming vote a motion declaring unconstitutional a "rump" meeting called by President Frank Kriss and Recording Secretary Frank Fiorillo at Mont Pleasant High School. (See resolution on page 1). The motion condemned the so-called Democratic Action group and "their agents", Kriss and Fiorillo, for attempting to hold such a meeting.

### Condemn Anti-Union Publicity

Also by an overwhelming vote, the stewards condemned "the publicity campaign which Frank Kriss, Frank Fiorillo and Stephen Watts and their 'Democratic Action' gang have been conducting during the past month". (See resolution and story on page 2).

This vote followed a report by Business Agent Leo Jandreau on the anti-UE and anti-301 publicity, illustrated by newspaper quotations citing new officers.

Kriss stated that he would defer answering the attack on his actions and publicity until the membership meeting Jan. 18.

### Approve Delegates' Report

The stewards overwhelmingly approved a report on the State CIO Convention by the five delegates from Local 301, William Templeton, William Stewart, Joseph Sacocio, Fred Pacelli and Leo Jandreau, and an introductory report by Jandreau. (See story next week.)

The meeting heard an appeal by President Fitzgerald to work together "for the people in the shops" and the welfare of the union. He warned that GE is ready to move in and destroy the union if it is

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## Jandreau Discusses Wage Negotiations

Wage negotiations aren't over when you go to the newspaper and say, "We're going to do it next month," Leo Jandreau reminded the shop stewards' meeting Tuesday night.

"There's a little more to it than that," he said.

Recent newspaper articles quoted President Frank Kriss that Local 301 would seek a wage reopening in January, Jandreau pointed out. These reports brought an alarmed letter from the business agent of the Lynn GE local, which was printed in last week's EU News, and a telegram from the business agent of the Bridgeport, Conn. GE local.

### Bridgeport Telegram

"Was amazed to hear one of your officers wants to reopen wage negotiations independently of all GE locals and GE Conference Board," the Bridgeport telegram id.

"This kind of action will only help the company by breaking down the unity we have built over a period of 10 years."

Jandreau outlined the process by

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## Resolution Concerning 'Rump' Meeting

The 301 shop stewards meeting Tuesday night at the union hall overwhelmingly passed the following motion on the "rump" meeting called Monday night by Frank Kriss and Frank Fiorillo at Mont Pleasant High School.

"Moved, that this general meeting of Local 301 shop stewards just elected by the members in the shop condemn the so-called 'Democratic Action' group and their agents, Frank Kriss and Frank Fiorillo, for attempting to hold a membership meeting in direct violation of the Local 301 constitution. These two officers are trying to substitute themselves for the entire membership, and to take over the authority which the membership has specifically delegated only to this body of stewards and to the executive board elected by the stewards.

"The gathering held last night at Mt. Pleasant High School, presided over by Frank Kriss, is hereby declared to be nothing but a rump meeting held by the 'Democratic Action' group in a conspiracy with outside groups and the daily papers to interfere in the election of the executive board, for the benefit of outside groups. We declare that no motions or resolu-

tions passed at that rump meeting have any standing in this union.

"The 'Democratic Action' gang fear the elected shop stewards and are trying to put outside pressure upon us. We shall resist all such pressure and defend this union and the living standards of GE workers."

## 301 Asks GE Prevent Another Gate Incident

Local 301 has asked the company to take action to prevent a repetition of the incident Thursday night, Dec. 30, when the plant gates closed suddenly just before 12:30. The gates stayed closed until 12:45, and second shift workers were forced to stand in the pouring rain. Hundreds missed their buses and had to walk home.

The official explanation given by the Works Manager's office was that a burglar alarm had been short-circuited by the storm, and the guards were required to close the gates.

Any members who suffered serious illness as a result should report the facts to their shop steward.



## Stewards Condemn Anti-301 Publicity

Shop stewards of Local 301 by an overwhelming vote adopted the following resolution introduced from the floor at their meeting Tuesday night at 301 hall.

"Moved, that this general meeting of shop stewards of Local 301 condemn the publicity campaign which Frank Kriss, Frank Fiorillo and Stephen Watts and their 'Democratic Action' gang have been conducting during the past month.

"While pretending to favor democracy, this group has tried to destroy the democracy of Local 301 and substitute their will for that of the membership. Through the press they have sought to create a public hysteria in order to cancel out the democratic decision of the membership in its choice of its principal officer, the business agent.

"While paying lip service to the collective bargaining needs of the workers and the contract benefits for which this union has been pressing during the past year, Kriss, Fiorillo and Watts have been actively engaged in a campaign to ruin that bargaining position by a smear campaign against the local and national officers elected by the membership to represent them in collective bargaining with the General Electric Company.

"The 'Democratic Action' group's campaign is giving support from inside the union to the most vicious Taft-Hartley forces in Congress. It is seriously hampering the union in settling grievances. If elected officers are allowed to continue such a publicity campaign against other elected officers and the union, they will seriously threaten the existence of the organization and wipe out the huge benefits which UE has won for GE workers over a period of twelve years."

## Start the Year Right

If you haven't signed the petition demanding repeal of the Taft-Hartley Law, get off to a good start for 1949 by signing it today.

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

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



## Jandreau Discusses Wage Negotiations

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which the GE Conference Board draws up wage proposals which are then passed upon by the locals, and the bargaining procedure with GE afterwards.

The demands made on GE are coordinated with the UE bargaining program at Westinghouse,sylvania and RCA, he pointed out. They are affected by the bargaining of other CIO unions.

"Last year UE gave leadership to the entire CIO in the question of wages," Jandreau declared.

## Recalls Pre-Union Days

In the days before UE, Jandreau recalled, the workers in Schenectady used to say, "If we could only get all GE workers under one roof."

When the workers tried to get an improvement in Schenectady they were met by the management argument, "We can't take that up because it would affect workers in other plants too."

"Now we have our union at GE," Jandreau said, "but we won't if we don't watch out. If we let people divide us, this union is going on the rocks."

"It's a pity some people will try to break up overnight what it took years to build up."

Is Your Shop 100 Per Cent UE?

## Newspaper Campaign Reaches New Height

The Union-Star and Gazette campaign in support of Frank Kriss and the so-called "Democratic Action" group reached new heights during the past week, as the shop stewards were preparing to elect the 1949 executive board members.

The newspaper pieces featured a series of outright lies. They magnified any statement by Kriss and his associates, even including a personal attack on Leo Jandreau and a "New Year's message" by Kriss engaging in heavy red-baiting.

In a remarkably distorted story of the stewards' meeting, the Gazette on Wednesday said the only official action taken was "approval of a report by a delegation" to the State CIO convention. The fact is the Gazette was informed officially of the stewards' action declaring the Monday night "rump" meeting null and void, and approving Leo Jandreau's actions at the State CIO convention. The same Gazette story said that Jandreau "attacked the Catholic clergy." Actually what Jandreau did was to say that several clergymen had interfered in union affairs and he would oppose such interference.

Here are a few more outright lies:

301 Vice-President William Hodges declared that the Mont Pleasant meeting was a "direct violation of the constitution," and that Kriss "certainly made a big mistake" when he disregarded the constitution.

He also criticized the statements by Kriss and his group on the wage reopening, as contrary to the UE and 301 wage negotiation provisions. Hodges emphasized the importance of the GE Conference Board procedure.

"Our strength is in unity among all GE locals," he said.

Opening the meeting, Watts pledged he would preside impartially. He said he wants to plan a program of educating stewards in union problems. There is no doubt that GE and the Atomic Energy Commission are acting jointly against the union, he declared, and said that in his opinion the refusal of officers to sign non-Communist oaths makes it harder to solve this atomic problem.

## Endorse Polio Drive

The shop stewards Tuesday night endorsed the annual polio campaign in Schenectady County. President Frank Kriss brought the request before the meeting.

ATTEND YOUR UNION MEETINGS

## GE Raises Price Of Larger Motors

The General Electric Company put into effect as of Dec. 27 a 5 per cent increase in the price of motors rated 50 horsepower and above, and a 10 per cent increase in the price of large turbo-generators of 20,000 kilowatts and higher. The price of motors had already been boosted 5 per cent last July 1.

The latest price action by GE once again explodes the company propaganda about prices and profits. GE always says that wage increases cause price increases, but there wasn't any wage increase to blame the new jumps on.

GE is charging all that the traffic will bear. It raises prices on large motors and generators where it has substantial backlogs of orders. It does not increase prices on appliances where demand is weak.

GE's high price policy has helped kill the demand for appliances and small motors. Now GE is killing the demand for larger motors and turbo-generators by raising prices.

## Additions to List Of Shop Stewards

Additional official returns on the election of shop stewards have been reported by the Election Committee as follows:

Building 2—Patrick L. Vellano. Bldg. 16—K. R. Case. Bldg. 17—Edward A. Luberda and F. C. Van Schaik.

Bldg. 23 (Office Service)—Merriman Dorsch, Ida Suprunowicz, Anna Waldenziak and Paul Ricciardi.

Bldg. 28—Stephen Lasak. Bldgs. 40—Earl Wilkinson. Bldg. 49—Joseph H. Bartkowski, Salvatore De Pietro, Willis A. Rexford and Louis D. Valentino.

Bldg. 49 Patrol—Robert A. Reid. Bldg. 53 — Salvatore Castiglia, Addison Miller, Katherine Van Wert, Reatha Pipe and Donald E. Kniskern.

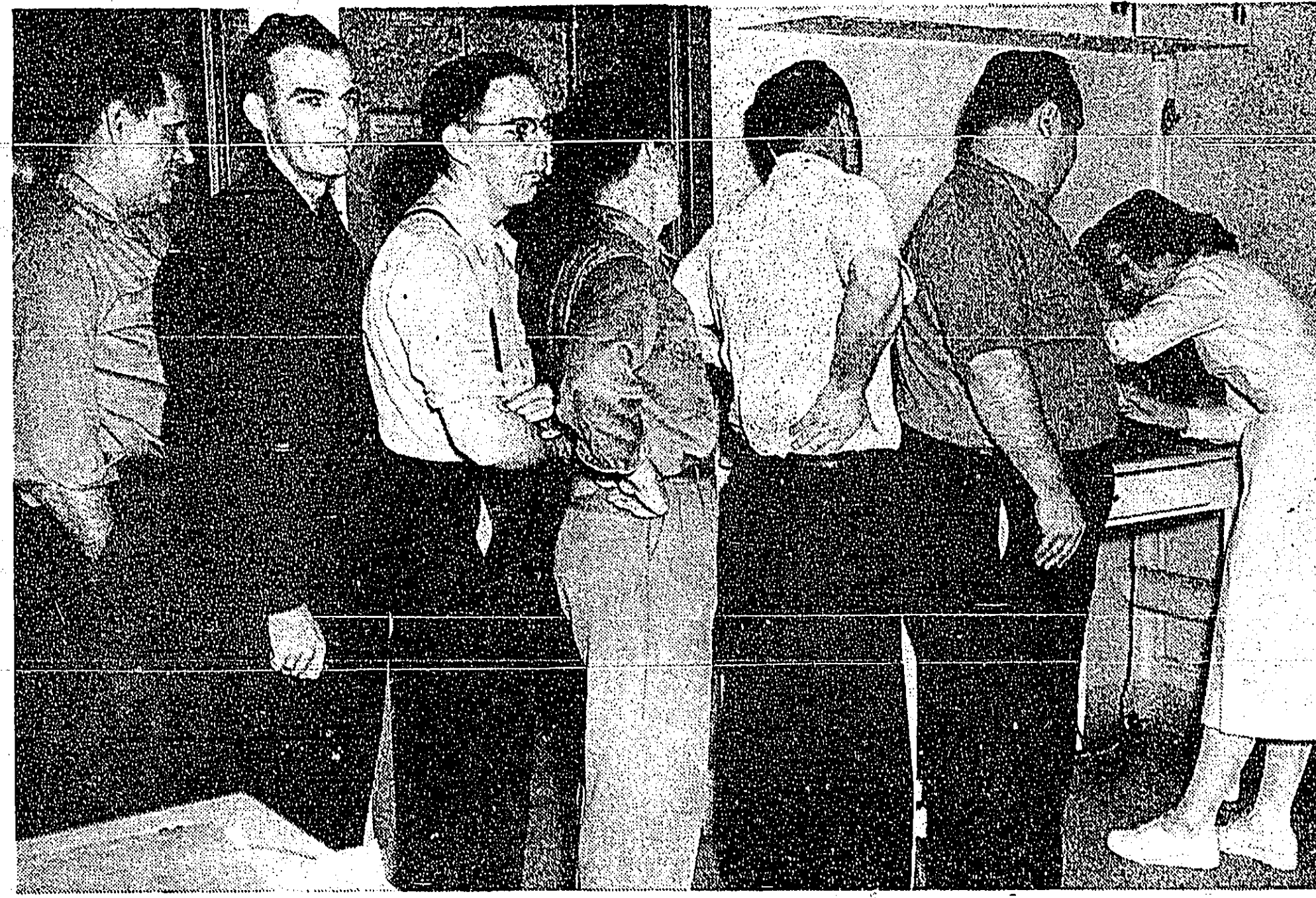
Bldg. 59—Fay R. Hildreth. Bldg. 66—Peter Pompilio. Bldg. 68—Henry Busse. Bldg. 76—John W. Van Auken. Bldg. 273—Fred Barber.

## UE Wins Raise

Pay increases ranging from 12½ cents to 17½ cents an hour are provided in the new contract of UE Local 475 with the E. C. Carpenter Company, Brooklyn. There are eight paid holidays, severance pay and other improvements.

BUILD THE UNION

## They Answered the Call for Blood Donors



Among the first members of Local 301 to answer the recent emergency plea for blood donations for Beverly and Barbara Renzi were these men from Building 46 where Albert Renzi, father of the children, works. Left to right, Willard Kuschel, George White, John Loughlin, Jerry Prouski, James Sloane and Louis Pidgeon lining up at Ellis Hospital. The nurse is Betty Nourse.

## Another Statement By Watts in Gazette

On Tuesday night Stephen Watts, as chief shop steward, presided over his first meeting of Local 301 shop stewards. He pledged himself to carry out his duties. He heard General President Albert Fitzgerald plead with members not to take internal fights to the newspapers. He thanked Fitzgerald for his appearance. Then he heard the stewards' body adopt, by a big vote, a motion condemning the publicity campaign of himself, Frank Kriss and Frank Fiorillo, as a threat to the existence of the union.

The next day's Gazette carried a statement by Stephen Watts attacking Leo Jandreau personally and denouncing the appearance of General President Fitzgerald.

## Bus Drivers Get 14 Cent Increase

Agreement was reached this week between Local 159, Transport Workers Union, CIO, and the Schenectady Railway Company on their 1949 contract.

Bus drivers get a raise of 14 cents an hour under the new contract. Mechanics are to receive for a 40 hour week the same pay they

## Big Business Lobbyists Ready for '49

By Russ Nixon, UE Washington Representative

The Washington lobbyists for Big Business haven't given up. As a matter of fact, they are getting ready for their biggest season in the Capitol. Three of the biggest of these lobbies are the following:

### Real Estate Lobby

Led by Herb Nelson of the National Association of Real Estate Boards, there are at least 15 full-time lobbyists for the real estate interests. No one knows, actually, how much money they spend.

Their aim is no rent control, no public housing, no controls on building materials prices. Needless to say, they don't represent the little landlords, their interest is the Big Real Estate operator.

### Power Lobby

The power lobby is one of the most powerful and wealthy lobbies in Washington. They are out against any kind of public power such as TVA.

The leader of this lobby is P. L. Smith, president of the National Association of Electric Companies which represents about 60% of the private power companies in the United States. Smith is paid \$65,000 a year plus expenses. His association admits spending in excess of \$300,000 a year lobbying in the Capitol.

The American Medical Association

conducts a terrific lobby against any proposal for public health care or health insurance. They call it "socialized medicine." They boast they will raise a \$3,500,000 war chest to fight against national health legislation in the new session of the Congress.

These are only three of the major lobbies. They are enough to show that the fight for decent legislation for the people will be tough.

## UE Gets Court Order Forbidding Lock-out

UE Local 813 won a major victory in its campaign to end the Evansville, Ind., blacklist when a probate court judge issued an order forbidding the Faultless Caster Company to lock out workers.

The case was brought in behalf of four workers fired without cause after the "hearings" conducted at Evansville by Congressmen Mitchell and Landis of the Hartley Labor Committee.