

Fryer Rules for GE in Pay Day Complaint

(Continued from Page 1)

a company-dominated town.

The union is taking immediate steps to bring a new action against GE on this issue, in a court where the workers can hope to have the case considered on its merits. Marshall Perlin, Local 301 counsel, is consulting other lawyers and the State Labor department this week. The State Labor Department already has agreed with 301 that GE's Monday pay day violates the law.

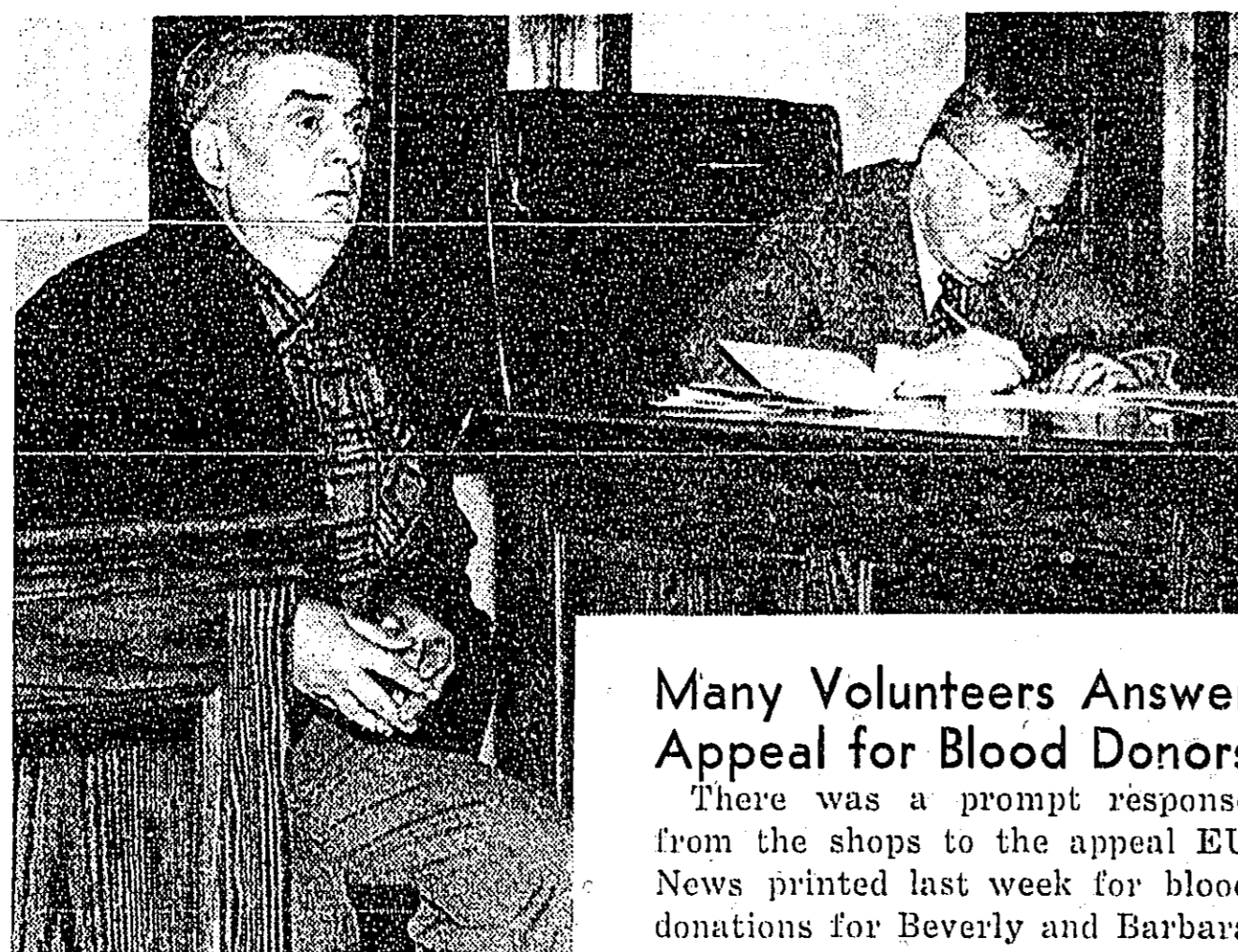
The case heard Saturday was on a complaint filed by five 301 members as individuals. As it was a criminal case, the acquittal cannot be appealed. The next case will be on behalf of other 301 members.

Three of the complainants, William Mastriani, of Bldg. 73A, chief shop steward, Dominick Gabriele, a steward in 73, and Patrick Bucei, member there, were called as witnesses by Assistant District Attorney Emmet Lynch. Two other complainants, Stanley Antonowicz and Charles Malinowski, both of 73, were unable to attend.

Their testimony was simple, establishing that they worked through Friday and sometimes Saturday, and got paid for that work on a Monday over a week later.

GE, appearing with a battery of Albany lawyers headed by Frank A. McNamee, Jr., appeared to be building up a technical defense for appeal purposes, in some way related to the federal Wage Hour law. They had Works Manager Jesse M. Howell testify that GE

Police Court Scene in Pay Day Trial



Dominick Gabriele of Building 73 testifying before Police Justice Charles G. Fryer in the pay day case against GE.

GE Tries to Drag Election Into Case

The General Electric Company tried to drag the recent union election into the police court trial Saturday on the pay day charge brought by five 301 members.

In cross-examining William Mastriani, chief shop steward, Frank A. McNamee, Jr., Albany lawyer who handled the case for GE, asked him about his union office, although Mastriani was appearing as an individual. Then he asked about the election. Emmet Lynch, assistant district attorney, objected that this has nothing to do with the pay day issue. The question was so obviously out of order that McNamee did not press it.

mitted he did not know just when. The three union witnesses promptly took the stand and testified they were expected to turn in their time on Friday. The company made no effort to contradict this.

The case was clear. Everybody, including GE officials present, obviously expected a conviction, which they would appeal on technical grounds.

Then, without waiting for a word of legal argument, without asking for the usual legal formalities, Judge Fryer barked out his acquittal. GE officials appeared to be as surprised as the union members present.

GE officials and attorneys congratulated each other. However, there are other courts besides Justice Fryer's.

Many Volunteers Answer Appeal for Blood Donors

There was a prompt response from the shops to the appeal EU News printed last week for blood donations for Beverly and Barbara Renzi, daughters of Albert Renzi of Building 46.

The union office made appointments with Ellis Hospital for 17 volunteers to donate blood this week for the little girls. These donations will more than repay the 10 pints owed for the children and will give them a good start on the New Year. In addition, other names were put on file for future donations.

Strike Settled

The strike against the Brown Taxi Company was settled Wednesday, Local 159, Transport Workers Union, CIO, has announced. Workers were to return yesterday.

The drivers are to get 40 percent of all fares, with a guarantee of \$7.50 a day for a six-day week.

Jandreau Condemns Support of Kersten

Business Agent Leo Jandreau gave the following statement to the Electrical Union News this week:

"GE workers were given a horrible example this week of where factionalism can lead. The president-elect of this union was quoted by Schenectady's anti-labor newspapers as endorsing the lying attack made on UE by Charles Kersten, the Taft-Hartley Congressman with a 100 percent record of fighting against the people. Kersten's own constituents repudiated him at the polls.

"Brother Kriss has every reason to know this union is controlled by the membership alone.

"Brother Kriss' statement has won him the praise of Congressman Kersten. He may welcome it. I do not believe the membership will.

"Certainly the cry of 'split' handed to the press by Brother Kriss will not help GE workers win a settlement of their many pressing shop problems, much less obtain a general wage raise. It is elementary trade unionism that strength lies in unity of the members.

"There is ample room for honest differences of opinion among elected officers as to union policies. The place to air them is in the union hall and the union paper. I believe the membership will insist that all officers do so hereafter."

UE Broadcast

Tune in on the Arthur Gaeth broadcast, sponsored by UE, at 10 p.m. Monday on WJKW.

GE President Admits Company Spends \$1,000,000 On Wage Propaganda

President Charles E. Wilson of the General Electric Company admitted to a Congressional subcommittee in Washington Tuesday that GE spends about a million dollars a year on propaganda connected with union wage demands.

Wilson testified for three hours before an economic subcommittee studying corporate profits. He said that GE's profits are lower than they should be to "cushion" the company against a market drop.

GE profits are now at an all-time high. During the first nine months of 1948 the company made \$84,000,000 profits (after taxes)—or over twice as much as its wartime profit rate.

Before Wilson testified, the Congressional subcommittee had heard Russ Nixon, UE representative, but limited him to 15 minutes. Nixon suggested that industrial heads be questioned about the

amount of money spent for economic propaganda.

GE recently opened its guns against the 1949 wage increase demands of UE through a speech of Wilson's at Shelby, N. C. He said that industrial cutbacks and unemployment might result from a fourth round of general wage increases.

"If such demands are successful," he said, "there will result increased costs of manufacturing goods. There is simply no other way out."

This argument is just a repetition of the Big Business propaganda that wage increases cause price increases. There is no truth in it.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

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December 31, 1948

Local 301 Takes Up Holiday Pay Cases

Local 301 has taken up with the Works Manager's office a number of individual and group cases over refusal to pay Christmas Day pay to workers who have been working Saturdays.

The difficulties arose over the question of individual foremen's judgment as to who would have been scheduled to work on the Christmas and New Year's holiday. The settlement arrived at in New York on the 301 grievance provided for holiday pay for those who "would have been scheduled to work" if the Saturday had not been a holiday.

Building 41 told the local union office that after the settlement was reached in New York, the foremen were told to make up lists of those workers they would call in Saturday if it were not a holiday. In some cases foremen reported they were not going to call in workers even though they had called them in on earlier Saturdays. These cases are being argued by the union.

Local 301 received word from Pittsfield that the GE management there was trying to make it appear that the holiday pay settlement was an act of generosity on its part, instead of a negotiated settlement of a grievance under the contract. The Pittsfield management also was trying to attach more strings to the settlement.

GE Prospects Bright For '49, Wilson Says

GE President Charles E. Wilson recently predicted that the company's business will continue "at the same high level of 1948" during 1949. He admitted that the company's net income in dollars is about twice what it was in 1940.

But he used the same statement to say that "a fourth round of wage increases" would probably result in "cutbacks and unemployment."

Signed The Petition?

Don't let 1948 end without signing the UE petition for repeal of the Taft-Hartley Law and return of the Wagner Act. Your shop steward is collecting signatures. See him today.



Nailing Some Lies Printed About 301

Difference of opinion can be debated on the union floor, but outright lies about the union require correction.

An unsigned mimeographed leaflet marked "Submitted by the Membership Committee," distributed over the Christmas week-end, declared that members found out "this week" they would not be paid for Christmas and New Year's. It said "when the contract was signed this year we were told that we were going to get 6 paid holidays."

The facts have already been reviewed in recent issues of this paper. When the contract was approved, Leo Jandreau pointed out that the two Saturday holidays would be lost this year. The membership nevertheless approved the contract, almost unanimously, because there was no strike sentiment.

The minutes of the Executive Board meeting June 9 at which the contract offer was reported show that Frank Kriss himself referred

UE Locals Fight GE On Piece Rate Cuts

Various UE locals at GE plants are fighting company efforts to cut pay by changes in piece work prices.

Joseph Dermody, national UE representative reports that at the Elmira Foundry GE based a cut in a job price on a small change in the hole in a casting.

At Bridgeport the company gave as a reason for cutting piece work prices a change in the catalogue number of an electric blanket. The operations are identical.

At the Taunton plastics plant the company has used a change in the color of a plastic compound as an excuse for reducing the piece work price.

At Holyoke, output quotas are increased on piece work jobs transferred from Pittsfield. In other words, the company expects their Holyoke workers to produce faster on identical operations.

to the loss of two holidays. But he proposed no action in the matter.

Call Meeting Of Stewards For Tuesday

Shop stewards elected by membership groups throughout the plant during the past few weeks will meet for the first time as a body at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 4, at 301 hall. They will take their oath of office at that time.

The Executive Board Tuesday night unanimously voted to recommend the following agenda for the meeting:

Pledge of allegiance to the flag. Reading of minutes of last meeting.

Swearing in of stewards. Report on State CIO convention by 301 delegates.

Recent publicity and leaflets affecting Local 301.

Recommendations of Executive Board.

Report by international UE officers.

New business. Good and welfare.

More Election Returns

Additional official election returns on the voting for shop stewards throughout the plant have been reported by the Election Committee as follows:

Building 13—Marshall J. White. Bldg. 28—W. T. Wilkinson. Bldg. 49—Fred C. Van Dervoort and Charles D. Wood.

Bldg. 60—Salvatore Albert, James Serrapiglio, Elmer Horstmyer, Noel Test, Richard Haines, Richard Snyder and Ernest D. Criscuolo.

Bldg. 64—V. J. Millington and Adam S. Krawczyk.

Bldg. 66—Donald D. Murphy, John P. Green, Ray DeWire, Jerry Ohlidal and Mark Brownell.

Bldg. 67—D. A. Siskind.

Bldg. 93—Francesco Rossi, Michael Santorelli and Edmund C. Paska.

Bldg. 258—J. H. Smith.

Bldg. 259—R. H. Wagoner.

Bldg. 273—Edward L. Kearney and Edward A. Noisieux.

Through a clerical error the report in last week's EU News gave the name of Norman Vielleux as elected from Bldg. 40. David Oliver defeated Vielleux.

Another correction has been made (Continued on Page 2)

Remember Next November

Police Justice Charles G. Fryer comes up for re-election in November 1949.

This is something to be remembered by UE members as well as the great majority of other citizens who believe that a judge should apply the law to big corporations as well as to small business and the common people.

produced for interstate commerce. Edward A. Cavosic, supervisor of payrolls, contended the company's work week ran from Monday morning, to Monday morning at the end of the third shift.

Leonard R. Hincle, Control division payroll supervisor, testified that piece workers turn in their time on Monday morning. He ad-

Boulware Tries Hard To Earn His Salary

The Works News Dec. 10 carried a full-page defensive piece by L. R. Boulware, GE vice-president, entitled "What is the Trouble?" The lengthy piece attempted to answer charges made by UE here and elsewhere.

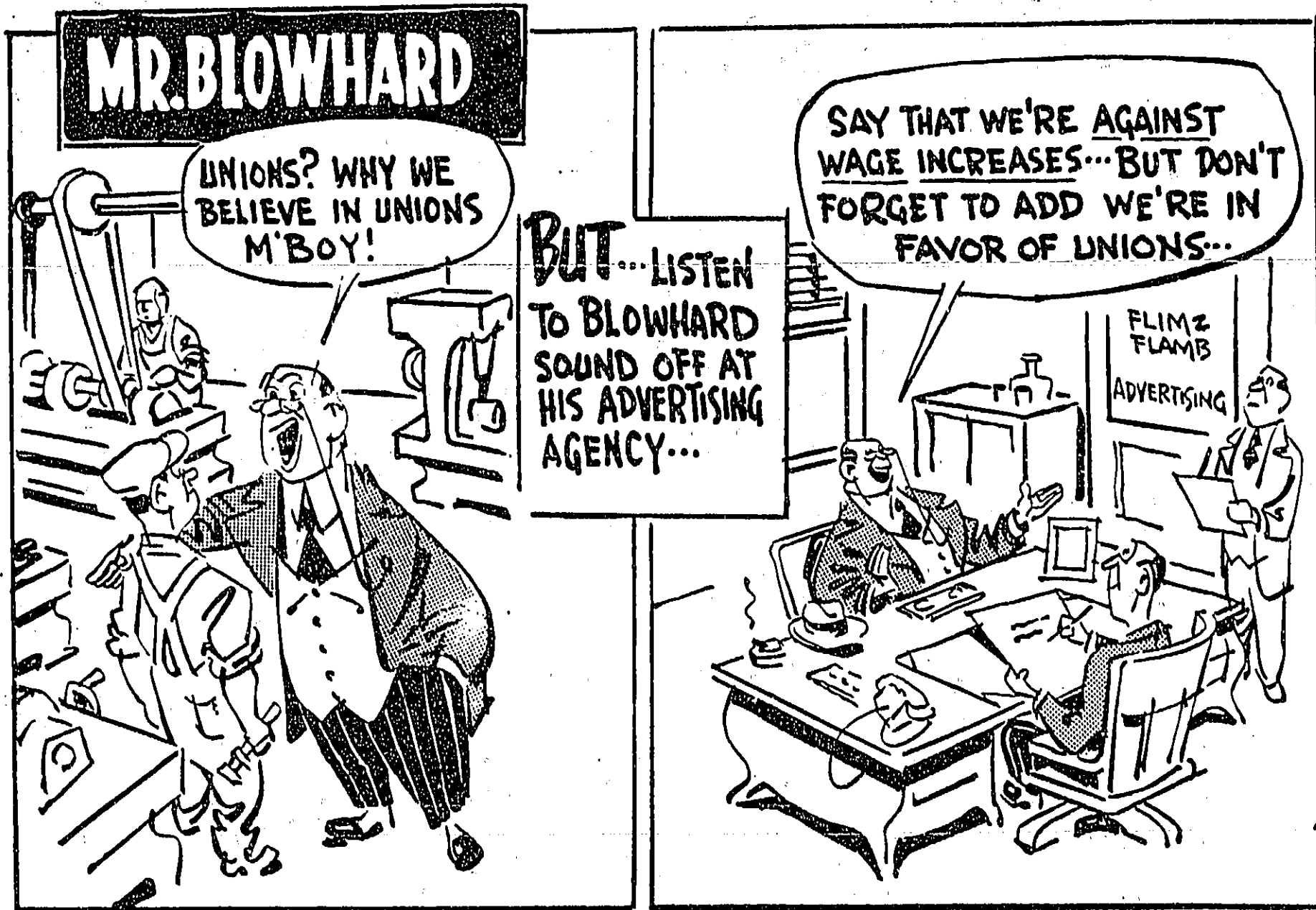
It is not necessary to answer the mass of details thrown in by Boulware. Here are a few simple facts:

Boulware denies that GE is in conspiracy with the Atomic Energy Commission against UE. The fact is that Chairman David Lilienthal of the AEC was in secret consultations with GE before the AEC order came out. The fact is also that when the AEC directed its first order against UE only as to the future Knolls II laboratory, Boulware (in his letter of Sept. 28) complained this was not "adequate" because it did not cover Peek Street. Lilienthal obediently came back with an order applying to Peek Street.

Boulware denies that General Electric's own loyalty is in doubt. That is just calling black white. The fact that government officials entrust secrets to GE is all the more serious in view of 12 specific charges of GE actions against the American people, including conviction of conspiracy with the Nazi Krupp firm even after the war started in Europe. Senate Committee testimony showed that this held back American war production while the Nazis had the advantage of the use of tungsten carbide (carbology).

Boulware denies that GE is trying to have a company union. But in the 1948 contract negotiations he fought against seniority, against piecework safeguards, and against compulsory arbitration of grievances. GE executives have publicly declared they could teach GE workers how a union should be run.

Even in his statement trying to deny he wants a company union, Boulware calls for union leaders who would "promote a higher



Newspaper Tells 301 About Wage Reopening

Local 301 members were told by the Union-Star Tuesday that the contract wage reopening clause would be "negotiated next month" and that at that time certain contract demands would be made.

The story quoted Frank Kriss, president-elect, as making the "announcement" of what the local would do. It contained no reference to the membership of Local 301 having anything to say on the subject, nor to the fact that the wage reopening is something to be decided by the membership in all GE plants under the UE contract.

Business Agent Leo Jandreau's only comment on the supposed "announcement" was that all matters of union program will be decided by the membership.

The Kriss announcement apparently was the outcome of a meeting of about 25 so-called "Democratic Action" and Kriss followers, held at PNA Hall last Sunday.

standard of living through the traditionally successful American way of improved equipment and methods, of a fair day's work by everybody, and of free choice in jobs, in purchases, and in speech." That is just NAM dressing for GE's program of speed-up, no raises, no seniority, no union security, no price control, and the right of employers to interfere in unions.

For once the EU News will imitate John L. Lewis and use a familiar Shakespeare quotation:

"Methinks the lady doth protest too much."

Smooth Talking Business Spokesmen Can't Hide Huge 1948 Profit Figures

Big Business paraded its smoothest spokesmen at the recent Congressional sub-committee hearing on profits at Washington, D. C.

"All the fancy talk, however, couldn't hide the following facts," Russ Nixon of the UE Washington staff reported.

Shop Stewards

(Continued from Page 1)
in the Bldg. 40 list by the Election Committee. Last week's EU News reported Thomas J. Morrissey as elected. The vote was protested and another election was conducted by the Election Committee Monday. The winner is Earl Wilkinson.

Aids Newspaper Guild

The 301 Executive Board Tuesday night voted to donate \$62.50 toward the fifteenth anniversary fund of Tri-City Newspaper Guild.

Gazette Story Suggests Raid

Is the Gazette now trying to promote raiding of Local 301 by another union?

A story datelined Washington Dec. 21, but evidently written right in the Gazette office, concluded by saying that for Local 301 to be approved by the Atomic Energy Commission—

"Either top officers of the international UE will have to pass loyalty tests; there must be complete change in top officers of the UE, or the Schenectady local must affiliate itself with a different international union."

The words are by the Gazette. Who is behind it?

UE Broadcast

Tune in on the Arthur Gaeth broadcast, sponsored by UE, at 10 p.m. Monday on WKKW, Albany (850 on your dial).

Camera Shots at Local 301 Children's Christmas Party



While these young guests of Local 301 watched movies at Mont Pleasant High School Dec. 19, a photographer snapped their picture for EU News.



The quartet above sang during the children's entertainment at the union Christmas party. Left to right, Shirley O'Brien, Ara Porter, Patsy Polens and Eileen Burke.

Latest Awards Made For Workers' Injuries

Workmen's Compensation awards obtained recently for Local 301 members injured at the Schenectady General Electric plant include:

\$32 a week from Oct. 5 to Oct. 14 for Clifford Pierce, Building 60 sheet metal worker, who suffered a compound fracture of the left little toe Oct. 4.

\$32 a week from Sept. 22 to Dec. 13 for Carlo Cassaro, Bldg. 59 porter who strained his back Sept. 21. He is to get \$28.93 a week for two months from Dec. 13.

\$32 a week from Oct. 18 to Nov. 29 for Walter G. Scofield, assembler and erector in Bldg. 16, whose right thumb was fractured Oct. 15.

\$32 a week from Nov. 1 to Dec. 6 for Hugo Fasching, toolmaker, whose right knee was hurt Oct. 26.

\$32 a week from Oct. 14 to Nov. 23 for Antelo Pace, Bldg. 17 punch press operator, whose back was sprained Oct. 13.

\$12 a week for reduced earnings from June 28 to Nov. 8 for Anthony Marotta, Bldg. 15 punch press operator who suffered a hernia Jan. 6.

\$25 a week from Aug. 2 to Sept. 13 for Stephen Califano, punch press operator who suffered shoulder, back, foot and heel injuries Mar. 21, 1941. He was awarded vacation pay from July 19 to Aug. 2 of the present year.

\$30.1 a week reduced earnings from May 18 to Sept. 9 for Joseph Curcio, who suffered a back sprain. He also gets compensation at the rate of \$28 a week from May 11 to May 18 and from Sept. 20 to Sept. 24.

Quotes Ives' Spokesman On New 301 Officers

A Washington story carried as "special" by the Schenectady Gazette last week quoted "a spokesman for Senator Irving M. Ives (Rep., N. Y.)," as saying that new officers of Local 301 "may be called upon to aid in formulating anti-Communist provisions in any new federal labor law."

When the Taft-Hartley bill was passed in the Senate, Senator Ives was praised in the press as one of those most responsible for its passage, because of his skill in maneuvering and his use of his one-time reputation as a "liberal."

CIO and AFL unions have condemned him for his Taft-Hartley vote.

Board Favors Increase For Election Officials

The 301 Executive Board went on record Tuesday night in favor of a salary increase to \$5,000 for the Schenectady County election commissioners, Charles W. Eckel and Henry C. Fagal. The Board will recommend to the shop stewards and to the 301 membership that the local ask the Board of Supervisors to grant this raise.

Biggest GE Profits

The Wall Street Journal Dec. 1 said that profits of the General Electric Company for 1948 "are expected to be the largest in the history of the company, exceeding last year's \$92,298,000 by a substantial margin." For the first nine months of 1948, GE profits totalled about \$84,000,000.

BUILD THE UNION



Harold Vine, Albany magician, with two members of the audience who volunteered to go on the stage to take part in one of his acts.

Lynn Local Alarmed Over Kriss Remarks On Local 301 Reopening Wage Clause

Local 301 has received a letter from Frederick M. Kelley, business agent of UE Local 201 at the Lynn, Mass., GE plant, expressing alarm over an article in the Wall St. Journal Dec. 23 quoting President-Elect Frank Kriss of 301 on reopening the wage clause. Lynn has 15,000 members and like Local 301 is a key local in the GE system.

Kelley said the article reported the 301 officer as saying that "an increase would be sought next month under a wage reopening clause in the local's contract with General Electric."

(Similar articles quoting Kriss were printed by other newspapers too.)

Kelley's letter pointed out "that the wage reopening clause referred to is not in a contract with Local 301" but is in the national agreement between GE and UE, acting for all its GE locals.

Further publicity along this line will cause confusion in the Lynn GE local, Kelley protested.

"I think it unnecessary to point out to you that a matter as serious as wage increases under the National agreement must follow a

13-Cent Raise

The recently organized workers of Johnson, Matthey and Mallory, Ltd., at Mt. Dennis, Canada, have won a pay raise of 13 cents an hour in their first UE contract.

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Filling Gift Bags for Union Christmas Party



Volunteers stuffing gift bags for the 301 children's Christmas party. Left to right, Mary McCartin, Building 28; Betty Di Nicola, Bldg. 81; Christina Maietta, Bldg. 269; Mary Ruggiero, Bldg. 17; Philip Suits, and Paul Wait, Bldg. 46.

Danville GE Local Defends Seniority

A layoff of 97 workers in which seniority was disregarded caused a work stoppage of 700 employees at the General Electric plant at Danville, Ill. recently.

After meetings with UE representatives, the company agreed to call back the laid-off workers within two days. In a letter then sent to all employees, the company said it had regarded the layoff as "temporary" and had planned to call the workers back in 10 days "and possibly less." GE blamed the layoff on shortage of silicon steel.

Company representatives agreed that if similar layoffs are considered in the future they will notify the local before carrying them out and try to work out a satisfactory method.

GE workers said the layoff was the final straw in forcing the work stoppage. They had protested the company's failure to act on grievances concerning speedup, seniority and piecework prices.

Interference Continued By Schenectady Papers

Schenectady's daily newspapers continued their campaign of interference in Local 301's affairs without let-up during the past week.

Typical was the Union-Star story Christmas eve saying that petitions seeking Leo Jandreau's resignation were being circulated in the plant. The next morning's Gazette then quoted Frank Kriss as saying his group knew nothing about it.

Even the bare statement by Jandreau that the union's program would be determined by the membership was distorted by the Union-Star on Tuesday.

GE To Open Plant In Low-Pay Area

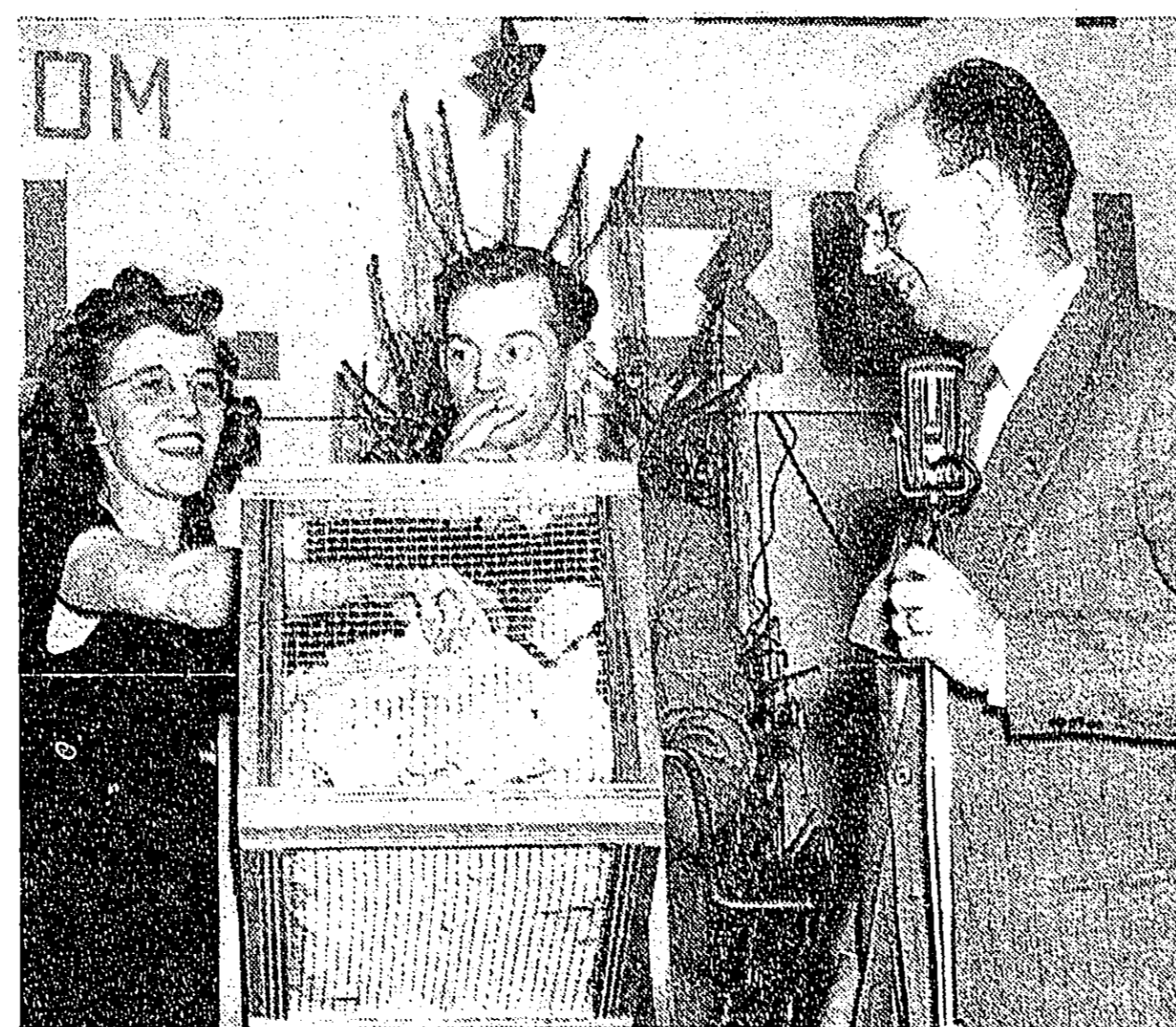
An article in the Atlanta Constitution recently stated that the General Electric Company plans to open a plant in one of the smaller cities of Georgia to manufacture small appliances such as toasters. The company is reported to be considering Elberton and Carrollton as sites for the plant which is to employ about 500 workers.

According to the southern newspaper, GE is going to Georgia to make use of the "stability and the traditional conservatism of Georgia's population" and the low cost

power. "Stability" obviously refers to the largely unorganized character of Georgia labor. This lack of organization is reflected in the income of the people of the state. The average annual income of a resident of Georgia was \$885 in 1947 compared to \$1,372 for a person in Pennsylvania.

While GE is making plans to expand in low-paid areas in the south, it is closing down some of the northern plants opened during or since the war.

Picking the Winner of Television Set



Rose Palkovic, inspector in Building 89, drawing the lucky ticket stub that won a television set for Earl Briggs, Bldg. 53, at the Local 301 dance Dec. 18, at the union hall. Edward J. La Bombard, Jr., center, and Gordon Belgrave, right, are co-chairmen of the Activities Committee. Proceeds from the sale of dance tickets went to finance the 301 Children's Christmas party Dec. 19.

GE Will Close Scranton Plant

The General Electric Company plastics plant at Scranton, Pa. will be closed down by the end of February, management has notified UE Local 125. Indications are that the closing will be earlier, the local reports.

All employees of the plant, totaling approximately 200, will lose their jobs. The work now done at the plant will be transferred to Taunton, Cohocton, Decatur, Pittsfield, Meriden and possibly elsewhere.

The company has given two explanations of the permanent shut-down:

Lack of demand for products made at the plant (such as lamp shades, plastic knobs, plastic refrigerator parts, plastic dishware and fluorescent light shades).

A complete reorganization of the plastics division.

There is little prospect of the GE workers getting other jobs in the Scranton area where 14,500 jobless are already seeking employment.

At the other GE plant in Scranton, the electric sink and cabinets plant, 140 of the 300 workers were laid-off in October. About 25 were called back in the past few weeks, but the rest aren't expected to be back before six months.

Jandreau Will Address Bridgeport GE Workers

Business Agent Leo Jandreau will address a meeting of the tool section of UE Local 203 at the Bridgeport, Conn. GE plant Jan. 10. The 301 Executive Board Tuesday night authorized him to accept the invitation sent by Business Agent Ellis Brooks of 203. He will speak on specialization, tool rates and other problems relating to the tool section.

The Bridgeport local recently re-elected Brooks, President Michael Marinaccio and an entire slate of officers committed to national UE policy. This slate won by a majority of more than 2½ to 1 over opponents who were largely "Democratic Action" leaders.

The defeated candidate for business agent, Pat O'Boyle, is a "Democratic Action" man who was local treasurer in 1947. In 1947 the "Democratic Action" group and its allies defeated founders of the union in a red-baiting campaign and brought about the expulsion without trial, of the men who built the union. The membership later reinstated the expelled leaders. Last year the Marinaccio-Brooks slate won in a close three-way contest.