

## Big Business Says This Is the Year

Big Business looks on 1949 as the year to impose speed-ups and to break seniority and other union guarantees. This was voiced frankly by a key speaker at a National Association of Manufacturers conference Mar. 30, at Belleair, Fla.

According to the United Press, Wilson Wright, chief economist for the Armstrong Cork Company, told 150 manufacturers:

"It is a year in which to regain managerial control—authority lost in the last several years. It is time to reverse this process."

Management controls to be regained, he said, should include "the authority to hire and fire." That means seniority would go out the window.

He advised the industrialists "to take steps to correct inefficient workmanship". In plain English,—speed-up.

### 100 on Honor Roll

There are now 100 shop stewards with 100 per cent UE membership in their groups. The latest names added to the honor roll were John Rej of Building 42 and H. E. Barnum, Bldg. 46.

Below are pictures of some stewards previously listed: Stanley L. Fisher, Bldg. 16; Addison Miller, Bldg. 53; Oscar H. Stolze, Bldg. 265; Walter Balbarsus, Bldg. 97.

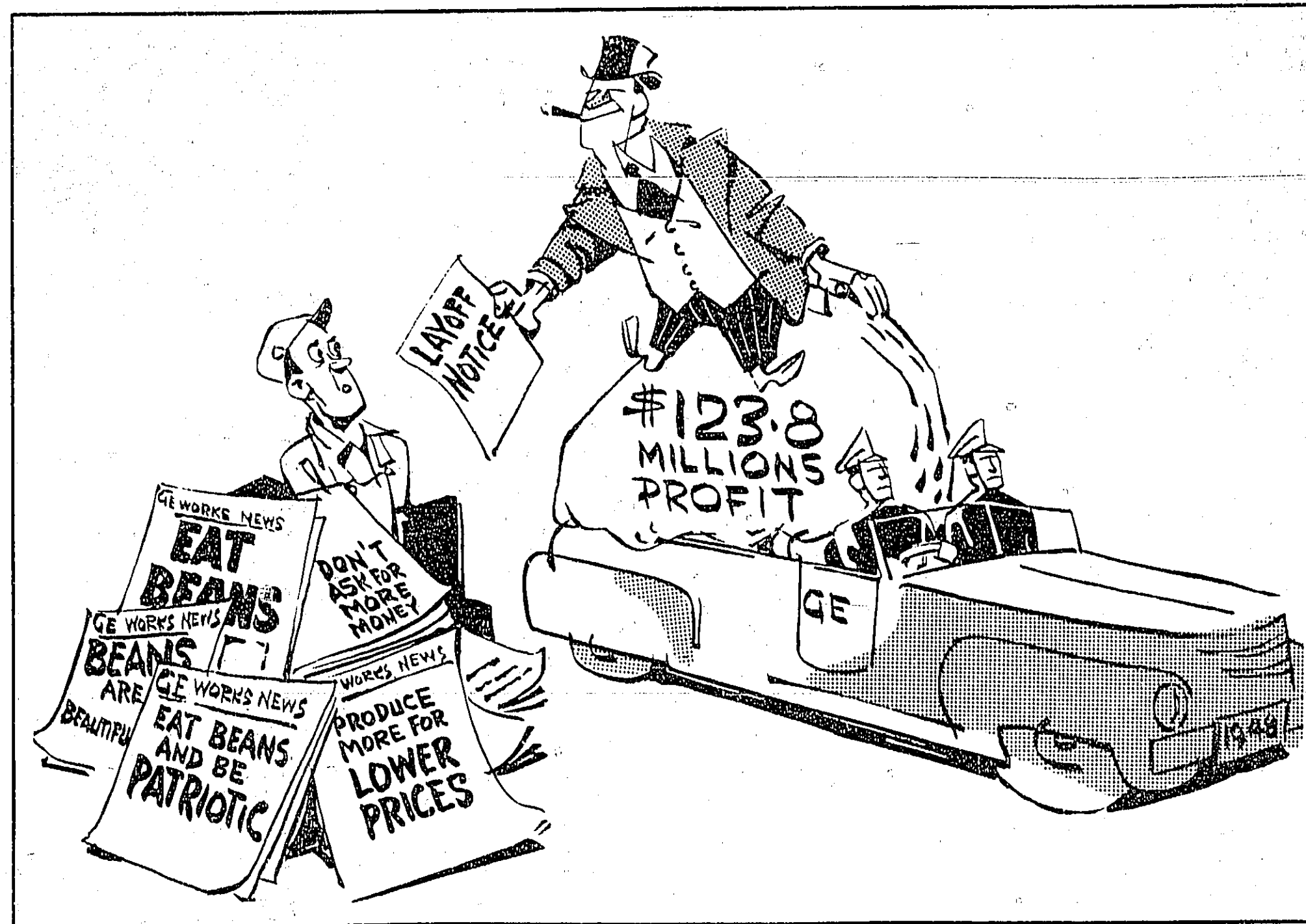


Fisher Miller



Stolze Miller

## Labor Saw It Coming



### Stewards Will Pay Visit to City Hall

Local 301 shop stewards voted Tuesday night to attend the Apr. 18 meeting of the Schenectady City Council to demand that the Council ask Congress to repeal the Taft-Hartley law. A large number of stewards made individual pledges that they would be present.

Action of the stewards followed a report by Business Agent Leo Jandreau on the appearance of 301 Executive Board members before the Council Monday night to urge that the Council take a stand against Taft-Hartley.

No action was taken by the Council that night. Both Republican and Democratic members of the Council said the body would take up the question at its next caucus conference next Thursday, Apr. 14.

In the 301 delegation, in addition to Jandreau, were Board Members Dewey Brashear, Albert Davis, Sidney Friedlander, Henry Kaminski, Willard Kuschel, Edward J. La Bombard, Jr., William Mastriani, and William Templeton, and the 301 attorney Marshal Perlin. They appeared in accordance with action voted by the Board.

Jandreau told the Council that

### Jandreau Makes Report On Craft-Rate Meeting

Business Agent Leo Jandreau reported to the shop stewards' meeting Tuesday night on the special UE conference on GE craft rates which he and Board Members William Templeton and Anthony Esposito attended last Friday in New York City.

UE locals at most major GE plants were represented, including Philadelphia, Lynn, Pittsfield, Erie, Cleveland, Syracuse, Bloomfield and Trenton, beside Schenectady. Information was exchanged on the rates for skilled crafts at various plants.

Jandreau said the union is preparing to reopen all cases from GE locals on craft rates which have reached the top grievance level.

Industry is spending a lot of money lobbying in Washington to keep Taft-Hartley.

"We are trying to do in our own communities as much as we can to get Congress to repeal the act," he said. He pointed out that all branches of labor are united in fighting the anti-union law. The Taft-Hartley law has been a hardship on the workers of Schenectady, he said.

Several other 301 representatives also spoke.

### Facts for GE Workers GE Policies Lead To Depression

GE workers should keep in mind that in the 1948 wage negotiations the company's counter proposals would have led to an immediate depression. The company then proposed the following:

DON'T ASK FOR MORE PAY  
WORK HARDER  
EAT LESS  
DON'T BUY GOODS

By rejecting these proposals UE and organized labor were able to postpone the depression temporarily. But right now the people of the country involuntarily are being faced by the conditions the company suggested a year ago.

Productivity has increased; workers can't buy this production; they are eating less food—consuming 3 per cent less per person in the past year. These are the conditions that presently are causing lay-offs and hard times.

### No More Movies

Due to poor attendance, the weekly movie program of Local 301 has been discontinued. The Activities Committee had been showing free movies every Saturday night.

# ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

THE VOICE OF LOCAL 301

U. E. R. &amp; M. W. A.

C. I. O.

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April 15, 1949

## Vosburg Testifies On Social Security

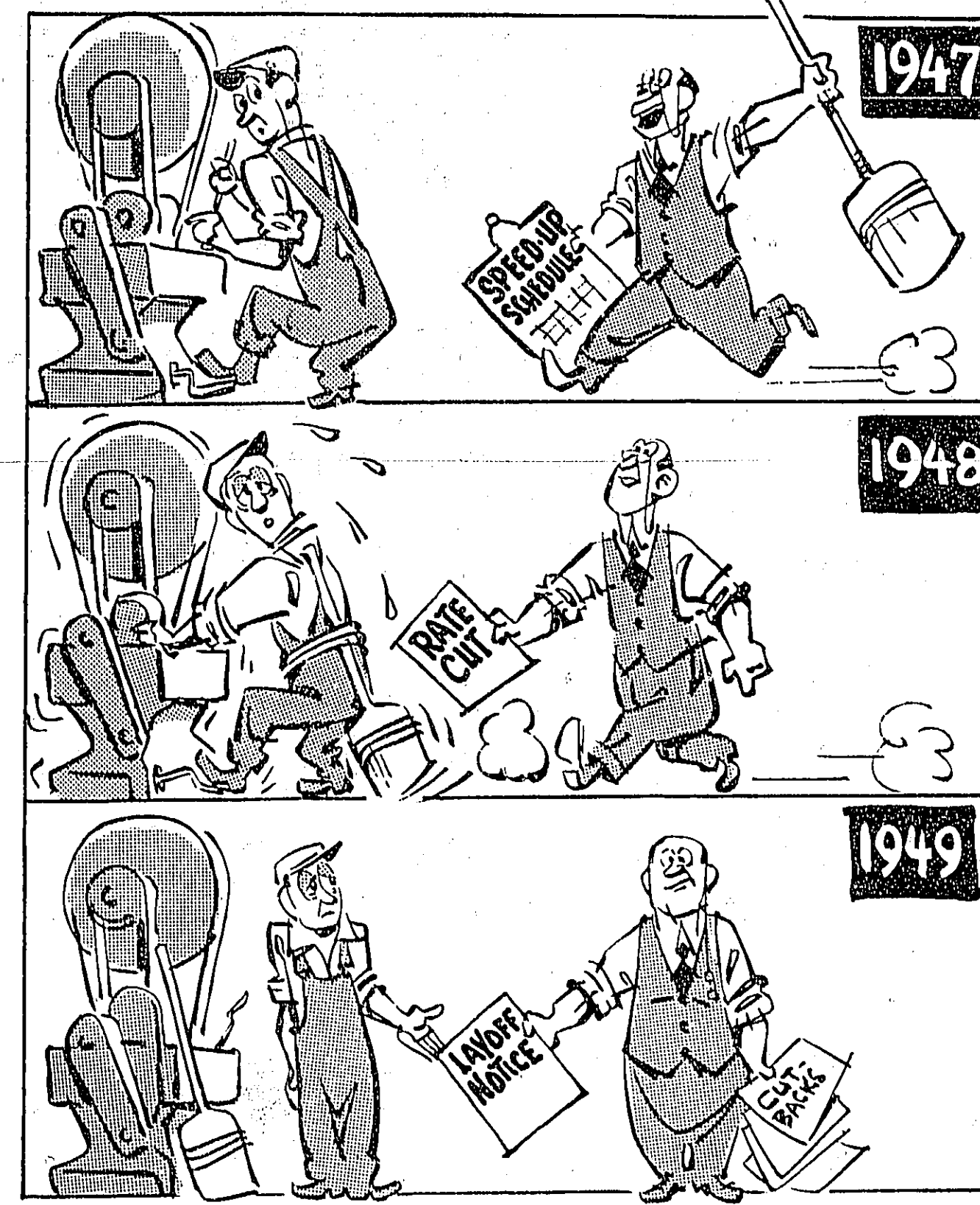
Leo H. Vosburg, county commissioner of public welfare, went to Washington this week to testify before a Congressional committee in support of improvements proposed in the Social Security Act. He was to speak on time reserved by UE.

Also scheduled to speak at the hearing before the House Ways and Means Committee were Business Agent Leo Jandreau and two members of the UE-301 Pension Organization, Albert T. Van Der Zee, president, and Fred Helmbold.



Vosburg

## And the Speed-Up Gets Still Worse



## 2 Big Tool Rooms Hit by Lay-Offs

The lack of work situation in the GE plant here hit two major tool rooms last week.

In Building 53 thirteen toolmakers and four other tool room workers were laid off. In Bldg. 17 ten toolmakers were laid off. In general it appeared that those with more than a year's service would be given equal jobs in other tool rooms, by exercising their seniority rights.

Both temporary and permanent lay-offs hit various parts of the Punch Press Tool and Die Division. After putting most of the punch press groups on "rotation," supervision said it was preparing permanent lay-offs to maintain the workers on 40 hours. Union shop stewards had insisted that the "rotation" be stopped. About sixty workers, on the punch press floor and in the tool room, lost time this week.

Layoff of toolmakers is significant because until recently the company was trying to hire and to hold on to the men in this key group.

Don't Be a Free Rider  
Join the Union

## 301 Field Day To Be June 19

The annual field day of Local 301 will be Sunday, June 19, at Hans Grell's Grove, 2390 Albany St. The Activities Committee asks that anyone interested in setting up a booth or concession at the outing get in touch with union headquarters. Gordon Belgrave is chairman and Edward J. La Bombard, Jr., co-chairman of the committee.

## Appeal for Blood Donors

A request for blood donors has been made to the union office by Harvey Bingmon, Building 46, to repay Albany Hospital for blood transfusions received by his wife. Mrs. Bingmon recently underwent an operation at the hospital. Six pints of blood are needed. Volunteers should contact the union office.

## Meeting With Kearney Sought by 301 Board

The Executive Board had planned to call on Representative Bernard W. Kearney at Gloversville during the Easter recess of Congress to urge that he vote for the repeal of the Taft-Hartley law.

In reply to a request for an appointment, Kearney said he would be away from home during the holidays but can meet union representatives Apr. 28 or Apr. 29 at Washington.

## 301 Membership Meets Next Week

The monthly membership meeting of Local 301 will be at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Apr. 19 for first and third shift members and 1 p.m. Wednesday, Apr. 20 for second shift members, at the union hall.

## Violations Of Contract Increasing

Downgrading of jobs and other contract violations on piece work prices and seniority increased in the plant this week. These actions and the continued speed-up drive are the kind of conduct which the shop stewards' council last week cited as the reason for occasional work stoppages.

The shop stewards took this stand in answer to a letter from A. C. Stevens, assistant to the works manager, threatening "disciplinary action" over such stoppages. The full text of Stevens' letter and Leo Jandreau's reply, as approved by the stewards, was carried in last week's EU News.

### Provocative Actions

Here are typical examples of provocative actions by GE supervision:

In the Induction Motors Division 12 B stockkeepers, working in Bldgs. 11, 18 and Campbell Ave., were notified, without consultation, that next Monday they would be downgraded to accumulators with a cut of 8½ cents an hour, because of the changed conditions of work. While the force has been reduced, the duties of the stockkeepers have not been changed.

A modelmaker in Building 69, qualified for toolmaker work, was told in Building 1 that he had no seniority rights in tool room work, and that he had better take an inspector job at 21 cents an hour less for fear of losing his service.

### Glassblower's Case

A Class B. glassblower with 18 years' GE experience was refused his bump rights when laid-off last September in Bldg. 269, although there were men in the identical job with shorter service in the Laboratory. He was made to take a totally different job. When the union brought the case to light, the Personnel Division this week refused to apply the contract. They said they would "try" to place the man in his trade, but he has not yet been placed.

In the Welded Products division Tuesday the union leadership had

Continued on page 2

## WIN A WAGE INCREASE TO PROTECT YOUR JOB

## GE Report Skips Lay-offs, Speed-up

Last weekend new lay-offs, both permanent and of the "rotation" kind, were announced in Industrial Control and Punch Press, Tool and Die divisions. That same weekend was picked by General Electric as the occasion for a "report to the Community," signed by Works Manager L. J. Male, declaring:

"In 1948 there were new job openings, expansion of our facilities. . . ."

There was of course no reference to the lay-offs in Industrial Control or Induction Motors in 1948, or to the use of the "expanded facilities" for greater speed-up and the promise of additional lay-offs later.

The message declared the company was striving for "job security for our employees."

Nothing was said about the aim to make profits, nor the fact that the workers of the community helped GE make a new all-time record profit in 1948.

## Taft-Hartley Question Before Council Monday

The Schenectady City Council has postponed until Monday night the caucus at which it scheduled discussion of the Taft-Hartley law. On instructions of the 301 membership, the Executive Board recently demanded that the Council ask Congress for immediate repeal of Taft-Hartley. Shop stewards voted to appear at the next Council meeting.

The Schenectady Gazette Wednesday predicted in a news story that the Council will take the stand that Taft-Hartley repeal is none of its business. In an editorial that same day the Gazette urged the Council not to heed the demand for action on this issue.

The 301 delegation appeared before the Council because the membership of the union believes that it is very much the business of the Council to demand that Congress repeal Taft-Hartley. The delegation pointed out the harm the anti-labor law has done to the workers in Schenectady and the community as a whole. It was pointed out to the Council that the entire labor movement condemns Taft-Hartley.

## ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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## 301 Delegation Visits Supervisors on T-H Law

A committee from the Local 301 Executive Board appeared before the Schenectady County Board of Supervisors Tuesday night to ask that the supervisors memorialize Congress to repeal the Taft-Hartley Law.

Chairman Kenneth C. McKee referred the matter to the ways and means committee for future consideration.

Board Members William Mastriani, James Cognetta and Sidney Friedlander were the 301 delegation, accompanied by Leon Novak, UE District 3 attorney.

They pointed out that grievances have piled up in the shops as a result of Taft-Hartley, that the law has caused unrest and hardship in the community. They stressed that all branches of the labor movement are united in opposing Taft-Hartley.

## Garry Waldron Fund Campaign Plans Set

The Local 301 campaign for the Garry Waldron fund will start Monday and continue through May 2. The Executive Board this week approved plans outlined by the union's special committee for the drive. Pierce Siler, shop steward in Bldg. 28, is chairman and Stephen Watts, chief shop steward is secretary of the committee.

Garry Waldron is a 301 member who lost both legs in World War II. A county-wide committee is

## GE Violations

Continued from page 1.

great difficulty persuading a group of assemblers not to walk out because, after a change of method, supervision refused to set a price which would enable the men to maintain their earnings, as required by the contract.

A similar price dispute is pending on the big boring mills in Bldg. 60, where a new price was timed to enable the men to make their AER (anticipated earning rate) instead of their normal earnings.

Men sent to Bldg. 1 for placement after lay-off are continually pressured to accept lower-rated openings instead of exercising their seniority rights within their occupation.

In the plant equipment repair crew in Control, working out of Bldg. 53, three men were laid-off late in February. At that time Shop Steward Rogers Pitman warned that the remaining crew was too small for the work to be done. This month the foreman put in a request for additional journeymen. This week higher supervision sent in four apprentice machinists. One of the men laid-off in February is working at more than 20 cents an hour below what he was paid in the repair crew.

All these cases are being taken up as grievances. But the grievance procedure has bogged down because of company resistance, and on numerous cases which the union has taken to the end of the line, the company has refused arbitration, in direct violation of one of the most basic provisions of the contract.

Underlying the situation is a ceaseless drive to cut costs and increase even further profits — through speed-up and downgrading.

The price now asked for the warehouse, located in Erie Blvd. near the GE plant, is \$90,000. The experts consulted by the committee estimate that remodeling the building to suit the needs of the union would cost about \$75,000.

The committee stated that undertaking such an expense would be impossible without an increase in dues and that they would oppose such an increase. The shop stewards approved the report of the building committee.

raising funds to build him a house. Representatives of this committee reported to the 301 committee recently that \$8,300 has been collected and there are \$2,900 outstanding debts. The total cost of the house is estimated at about \$16,000.

BUILD THE UNION

## Boulware Bemoans 'Power' of Unions

The terrible "power" of unions continued to be the theme song of L. R. Boulware in the quotations in the Apr. 8 Works News from his speech to the Senate Labor Committee in support of Taft-Hartley.

Boulware talks as though the people had taken over the big corporations during Wagner Act days and were rolling in wealth. Actually, of course, Big Business was able to make plenty of profits under the Wagner Act. It has continued to underpay workers and, at its own convenience, to lay them off.

Boulware speaks of the abuses of the "closed shop". There are no abuses of the closed or the union shop which the members cannot correct. The union shop is nothing but the right of the majority in a plant to be protected from attacks by the employer and his small minority of stooges. Taft-Hartley protects the employer agents.

Boulware also tries to put political contributions by unions on the same basis as those by corporations. He conveniently omits the fact that the few people who control a corporation can spend vast sums of money for political purposes without its being tied to the corporation officially. And these corporations exercise political control through the newspapers.

Forbidding use of union funds for political purposes is forbidding members of a voluntary organization to make a democratic decision on how to spend their own money for their common good.

## Board Proposes Kriss For Community Chest

The 301 Executive Board Monday night nominated President Frank Kriss to represent the union on the board of the Schenectady Community Chest. The name was sent to the Chest board for action.

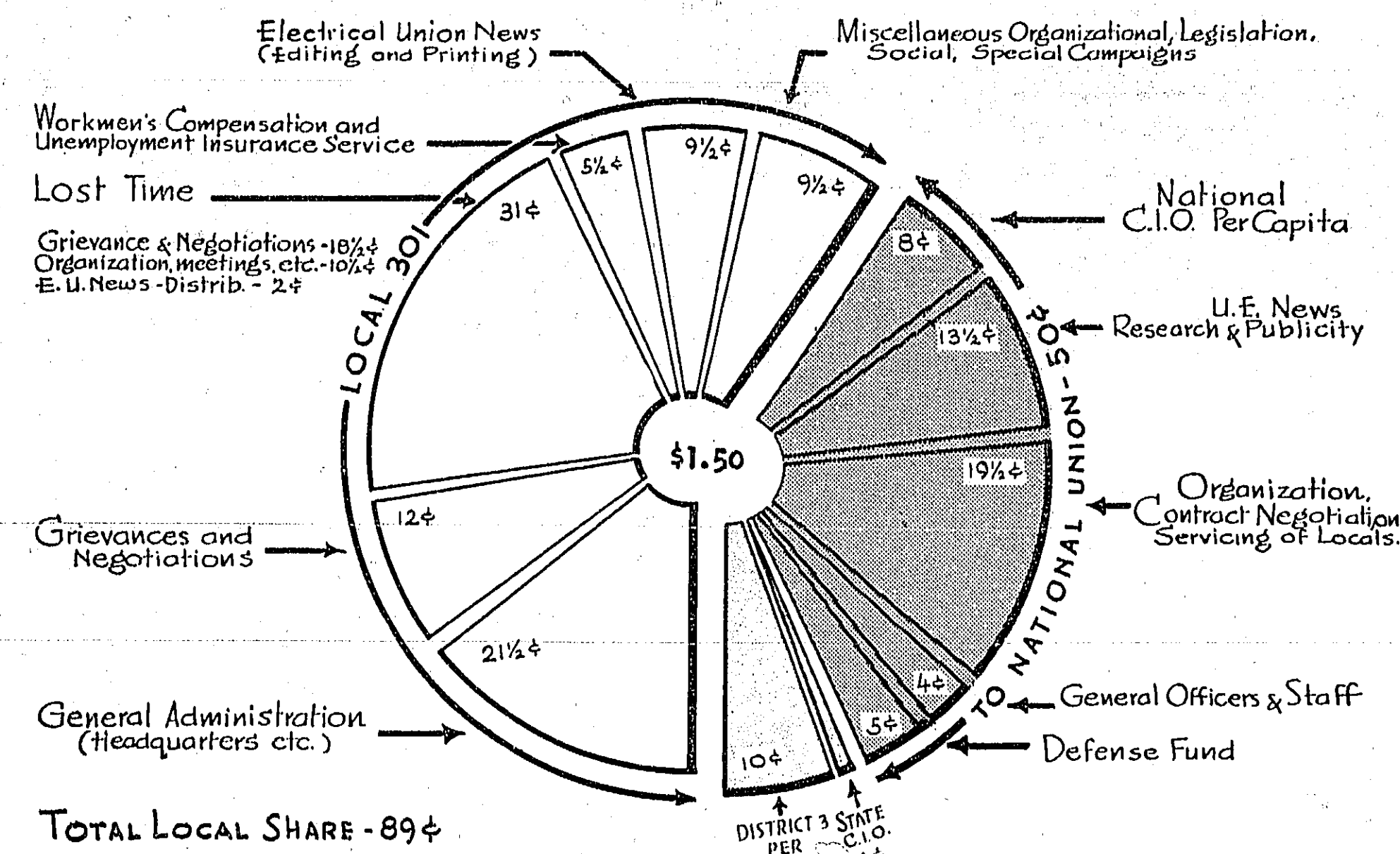
For the past two years 301 has been represented on the Chest by Edward Wallingford, former president and Board member.

Paul Benjamin of the Related Activities Council addressed the Board on activities of the social agencies which comprise it. He pointed out that 301 is entitled to two representatives on the Council. The Board elected Helen O'Riini and Sidney Friedlander.

The Board also voted to send a letter to the Community Chest asking that it request its affiliated agencies to see there is labor representation on their boards.

## Where Your \$1.50 Dues Goes

(As proposed in budget recommended by 301 Executive Board to next week's membership meeting).



Further Details on Above Chart, Clockwise from Bottom

The item "General Administration" (21.5 cents) covers headquarters rent, janitor service, telephone, telegraph, postage, membership records, bookkeeping, insurance, etc.

The item "Grievances and Negotiations" (12 cents) covers salaries and expenses, but lost time on grievances is shown separately.

"Lost Time" includes an item "Organization, meetings, etc. 10 1/2 cents." This includes:

- 1) Meetings of stewards, Executive Board and trustees (5.5 cents).
- 2) Miscellaneous organizational work, committee meetings, convention delegates, legislative and community activities, annual elections (4.7 cents).

Under "Lost Time" the item "UE News Distrib. (2c)" covers lost time paid the volunteers who distribute the union paper.

The item "Miscellaneous Organizational, Legislation, Social, Special Campaigns" includes:

- 1) Miscellaneous organization expenses, conventions, legislative, sports, and social activities, etc. (4.8 cents).
- 2) Special campaigns (on wages, legislation, shop health hazards, etc., 4.7 cents).

District 3 Per Capita (10 cents) pays for UE upstate New York organization and legislative activities through District 3.

## Tune in on Gaeth

The Arthur Gaeth broadcast, sponsored by the national UE, is at 10 p.m. every Monday on WXKW, Albany.

## Want Training In Dramatics?

A weekly dramatic class for Local 301 members has started at the union hall, under direction of Mrs. Dorothy Perlin, former stage and radio actress. The class is at 7:30 p.m. every Thursday. Drop in if you have an ambition to appear in a play or skit. The Activities Committee arranged for the class.

## Last Chance Today For Cash Award

Today is the last day that the dollar award for signing up a new member of the union applies. A dollar will be paid to any member for each application card turned in at the union office by the close of business today. The money is not paid, however, until the union receives the two dollar dues.

Although the dollar award arrangement ends now, the membership campaign itself will continue for the entire year. Since the drive started in February 512 new members have joined.

BUILD THE UNION

## Added to Honor Roll

Names of 19 more shop stewards have been added to the honor roll for having 100 per cent UE membership in their groups. They are:

- Building 16—Floyd Warner.
- Bldg. 49—George Trombley and Merlin O. Williamson.
- Bldg. 60—Joseph Alois, Joseph Aschenback, Frank Colamarino, Roy Hamilton, Elmer Horstmyer, Harmon McCann, Ernest Criscuolo and Pierce Holahan.
- Bldg. 61—E. H. Carriere and Alan Edwards.
- Bldg. 77—Wilfred Vidamour.
- Bldg. 107—Stephen E. Matarazzo.
- Bldg. 250—Roland Wagoner.
- Bldg. 273—R. C. Huton.
- Bldg. 285—Paul L. Landolfo and L. C. Shannon.

## Michael Guerra

Michael Guerra, one of the Electrical Union News' volunteer distributors, died of a heart attack last Friday night at his home, 89 Elder Street. He had handed out this paper at the 85 gate. Last year he was a shop steward in Building 77, where he drove a station wagon. He was 36 years old, and leaves his wife, one daughter, and an infant son.

Building 77 workers this week took up a collection for the family.

## Scribner Speaks On Atomic Case

David Scribner, national UE attorney, reported to the Local 301 shop stewards' meeting last week on the recent hearing in Washington involving the suit UE has filed against the Atomic Energy Commission and the General Electric Company.

All UE is asking, he pointed out, is the chance to prove in court how GE and the AEC conspired to break the GE contract through barring the union as representative of atomic workers. GE claims to be innocent of entering into such conniving but instead of welcoming the opportunity to show just what its own role was, the company is trying to prevent the case from going to trial.

While Scribner was waiting to speak, the stewards' meeting discussed the speed-up at the plant and the recent letter from A. C. Stevens, assistant to the works manager, threatening "disciplinary action" in the event of future work stoppages.

Scribner declared that these present developments at the plant make "crystal clear" the purpose of the Taft-Hartley law, the Kersten "investigation" and the anti-union rulings of the AEC. The speed-up will be imposed and the shop stewards system destroyed if the company can get away with it, he warned.

At the Washington hearing, Scribner reported, GE agreed with the AEC's claim that when a worker employed by a private corporation does work on a government contract he becomes a government employee and loses his constitutional rights.

In connection with "security", Scribner pointed out that GE sent printed invitations to all its stockholders to visit the research laboratory and the plant.

### Did You Know?

During 1938 GE cut foremen and office workers' pay 10 percent, but UE prevented application of the cut to production workers.

There had been two 10 percent pay cuts before that, in the early 1930's, before UE was organized.

## Union Wins Pay Raise For Woman Assembler

A young assembler at the Research Laboratory at the Knolls, Ali Glionna, broke through the prejudice against women mechanics last week with the help of union grievance action. She was advanced from the laboratory D classification to the C grade, usually reserved for men. This brought her a raise of 7 cents back to Mar. 14, with an additional 13 cents coming by June, in monthly steps.

Sister Glionna has been working for some time with the men assemblers on assembly of newly-developed electronic tubes from blueprints. She has used a lathe and made her own fixtures. Board Member Anthony Villano, shop steward for the group, argued she was actually doing B work, but the laboratory stood by its position that all she did was D work. After the case was aired in Building 41 by the grievance committee, it was admitted that she had done some C work in the past, and had shown considerable aptitude.

## Apprentice-Journeyman Balance Must Be Kept

In line with the recommendations of the recent conference of skilled craft groups from major GE plants, the 301 Executive Board this week asked the company to reduce the number of apprentice machinists in proportion to the reduction in the total number of journeymen toolmakers and machinists.

The board, by unanimous vote, took the position that lack of work for journeymen should not be made worse by giving part of their work to men other than journeymen. Apprentices should share in the reduction of force, the board held. A formal grievance has been sent to the company on the subject.

## Report on Speaker Heck

and the Problems of the Working People

By instruction of the March membership meeting, we wrote to the Hon. Oswald D. Heck, Schenectady's assemblyman and Speaker of the Assembly, on March 24.

Our open letter called attention to the urgent problems of the working people in connection with growing unemployment and industrial hazards. We listed changes needed in the Unemployment Insurance and Workmen's Compensation laws.

We pointed out that bills embodying these changes were pending, and that the need was for leadership in the interest of the people, to get the bills passed. We asked Mr. Heck to let us know his stand.

The Legislature has now adjourned.

Here is the score on the membership's request to Mr. Heck:

- No reply from Schenectady's assemblyman.
- Leadership by Mr. Heck in pushing through a law on disability benefits which takes effect July 1, 1950. The State CIO has declared that it is "not honest disability insurance" but a bill "for the benefit of the insurance companies." It is worse than no law at all.
- NO action on measures to improve the Unemployment Insurance law to meet present conditions, NOR on needed changes in Workmen's Compensation.

Executive Board, Local 301

## Swearing In Shop Stewards at Opening of Monthly Meeting



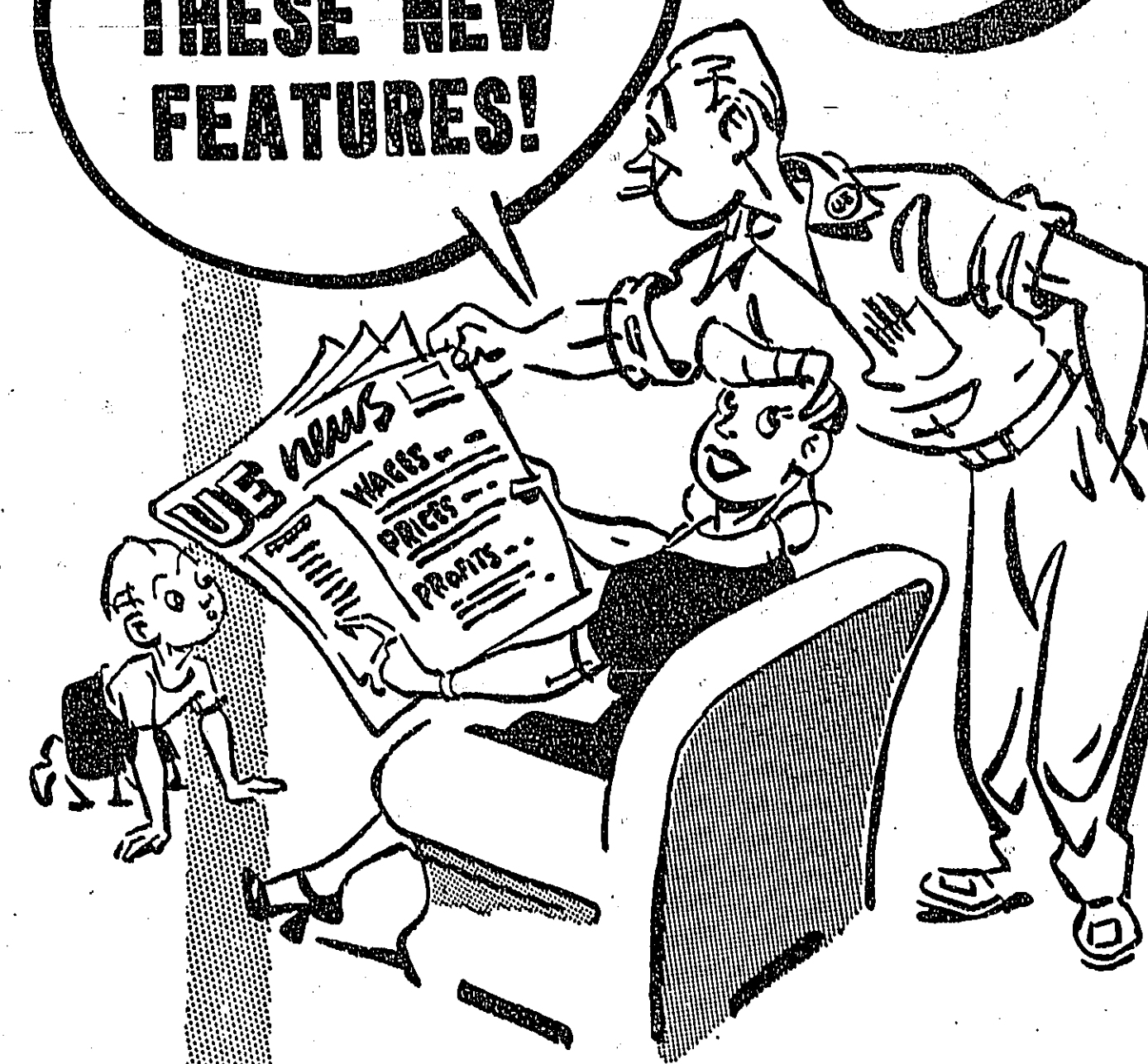
Chief Shop Steward Stephen Watts, extreme left, administering the oath of office to a group of recently elected stewards at the meeting of the shop stewards last week: left to right, Francis Bouchard, Building 59; Francis Mankes, Bldg. 18; Charles Cole, Bldg. 49; Charles Roberts, Bldg. 60; Steven Koziomkowski, Bldg. 69, and Bernard Valachovic, Bldg. 37.

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