

GE Workers Win 301 Starts Series of Children's Movie Parties Awards for Injuries

Awards made recently by a Workmen's Compensation referee in Schenectady to workers on claims against GE included:

\$840 to Otto Lehman for an injury to his left thumb in an accident last July 30.

\$500 to Ralph Tolbert, Bldg. 60, for a facial scar resulting from an injury last June 24.

\$250 to John DeGraff, Bldg. 60, for an accident to a finger Dec. 20, 1945.

Weekly payments of \$28 to Adele Urban from last Dec. 11 to Feb. 2, the date she returned to work, for a hand injury suffered last Dec. 9. Final adjustment will be made in four months, when it should be possible to determine whether the injury is permanent.

Weekly award of \$25 to Marie Joiner from last Oct. 27 to Feb. 27 and \$21.03 weekly from Feb. 27 for three months. Her back was hurt Apr. 2, 1943. Other weekly payments had been awarded since the accident.

Weekly award of \$27.71 to Mildred Salerno from Jan. 21 to Feb. 26 and \$20.78 from Feb. 26 for a month. She had received two weeks' award earlier for her back injury, suffered last Sept. 9.

Weekly award of \$28 to Emile Beneau from last Dec. 9 to Jan. 26, when he returned to work. He lost part of three fingers as the result of an accident last Dec. 8. The case has been adjourned for a final award for the injury.

The referee authorized payment for an operation performed in December on the hand of James J. Toolan, injured over 10 years ago, Jan. 1, 1937. He has partially lost the use of the hand. Final adjustment of the case has been set for July.

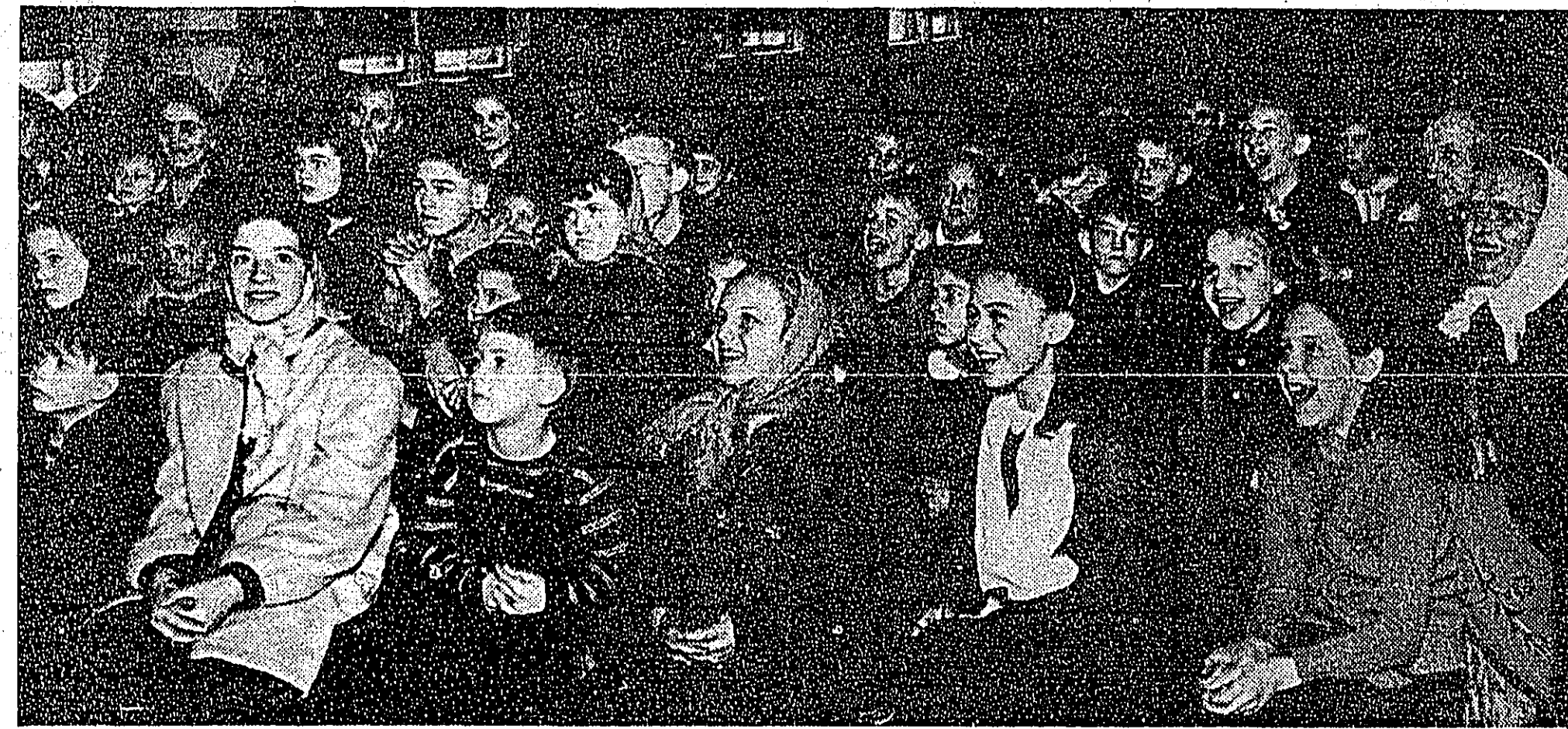
These cases were handled through Marshall Perlin, 301 attorney, since he joined the union staff. Most were won over GE objections to their size and in some cases, to there being any award at all.

Pensioners' Party

Local 301 will give a party Saturday night, Mar. 27, at the union hall for the UE-CIO 301 Pension Organization. All GE pensioners from all departments are invited. There will be dancing, refreshments and entertainment.

New Shop Steward

Edward A. Richard, Bldg. 84, was sworn in as a shop steward at the membership meeting Tuesday.



Look at those faces, and you won't have to be told that the movie party of children of Local 301 members last Saturday was a huge success. There's another one at 10:30 a.m. Mar. 27 at 301 Hall. The Activities Committee will serve refreshments. There won't be any children's party tomorrow because the committee is busy arranging for the Garry Waldron dance tomorrow night.

Printers Increase Strike Assessment

Members of the International Typographical Union, in a nationwide poll, have voted to assess themselves 5 per cent of their weekly pay for the union's strike benefit fund, instead of the former half of 1 per cent. The assessment is \$4 and more a week for Schenectady printers.

The ITU, which has refused to file affidavits or put itself in the power of the Taft-Hartley Board in any way, has also refused to abandon its century-old closed-shop tradition. The printers now give employers statements of conditions of employment under which they will work, instead of signing contracts hamstrung by the Taft-Hartley Law. There are 1,600 printers on strike now in a city-wide struggle in Chicago and several hundred in Philadelphia.

Publishers have united in attacking the ITU by seeking injunctions under the Taft-Hartley law. There's every sign the publishers will force a strike on the large New York City newspapers.

Waldron Dance Tomorrow

The 301 dance for the benefit of Garry Waldron, disabled World War II veteran and union member will be tomorrow (Saturday night) at Stanford Heights Fire Department hall, Stop 3, Albany-Schenectady Rd.

There will be round and square dancing from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., an entertainment by Belle Baxter's dancing class and refreshments.

670 New Members Join Local 301

The number of new members who have joined Local 301 during the membership campaign reached 670 by Wednesday, when this week's EU News went to press.

The Board members whose sections have turned in the most application cards are: William Stewart, Bldg. 60, with 170 new members; Lawrence Schilling, Bldg. 49 with 71; John P. Brauneisen, Bldgs. 40, 40B, 18, 18A and 41, with 45; Michael Tedisco, Bldgs. 12, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 19, with 42, and Willard Kuschel, Bldgs. 42, 46, 48 and 50, and Frank C. Kriss, Bldgs. 57, 87, 91, 95, 98A, B, C and D, 99A and B, 101, 150 and 107, tied with 40.

Until the drive ends May 1 new members don't have to pay the \$2.00 initiation fee.

Worker Asks Foreman 'Who Is Inflationeer?'

A foreman in Bldg. 11 got red in the face when he handed out a new GE leaflet and a 301 member asked him who was the "inflationeer" described in the leaflet as "always kicking about scarce goods."

Said the worker: "You must be thinking of some of the bosses who always blame scarce goods when they send people home for lack of work. You can't be talking about any worker. The workers haven't enough money to buy the food of which there is plenty."

Calls GE Leaflet Insult To All Scottish Workers

As a native of Scotland, Chairman William Templeton of the 301 Editorial Committee is especially annoyed at a recent GE "anti-inflation" leaflet. He says the "Scottish" tartan decorating the cover is as phony as the GE arguments.

Trying to give a Scottish slant to the GE "austerity program" is an insult to any good Scotsman, he points out.

"Scottish workers have a long and militant record of fighting for freedom and decent wages. They don't let anyone tell them how to spend their money."

Templeton suggests that GE ought to try a little "voluntary austerity" itself. It might cut down on big bonuses to executives, on excess profits and on its expensive propaganda campaign.

Rules Unions Can Make Political Expenditures

Federal Judge Ben Moore of Washington, D. C. this week ruled that the Taft-Hartley law provision forbidding political "expenditures" by unions is unconstitutional. He dismissed an indictment against CIO President Philip Murray and the CIO for articles run in the CIO News supporting a pro-labor candidate in a Congressional by-election in Baltimore.

The T-H ban is "an unconstitutional abridgement of freedom of speech, press and freedom of assembly," the judge declared.

ATTEND UNION MEETINGS!

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

THE VOICE OF LOCAL 301

U. E. R. & M. W. A. C. I. O.

Vol. 6 — No. 13

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

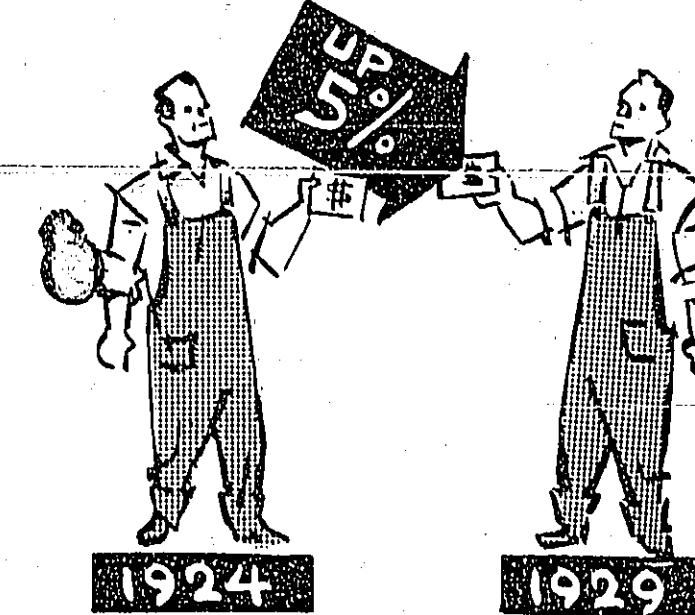
March 26, 1948

GE Wants to Return To Good Old 1920

L. R. Boulware's weekly message to GE workers in the Works News Mar. 5 referred to his current "cut less — spend less — produce more" line, and made this boast: "We said it in 1920 . . . We say it again today."

Is it Mr. Boulware who has forgotten what happened then, or is

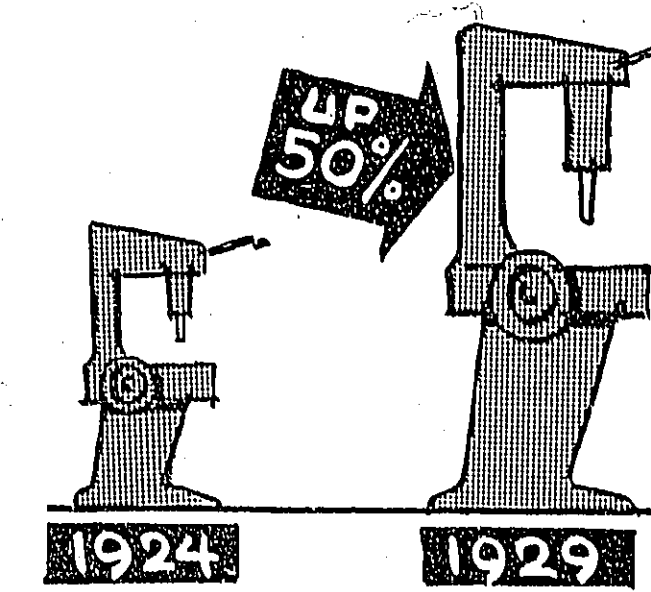
WORKER'S WAGES



it just that he thinks everyone else has forgotten?

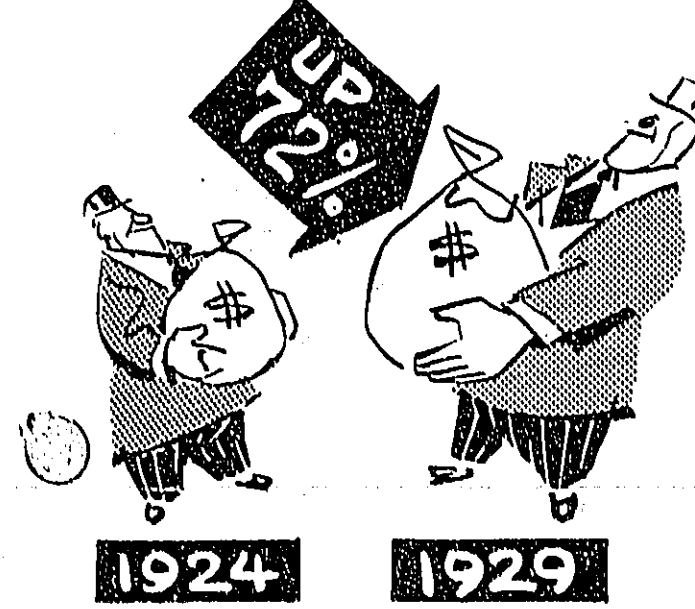
For Big Business was highly successful in putting over that pro-

WORKER PRODUCTIVITY



gram in 1920 — with the help of newspapers, federal and state

PROFITS



roups, and union leaders described by the newspapers as "enlight-

Jandreau Quotes Boulware to GE

Vice-President L. R. Boulware's own words were thrown back at the General Electric negotiators Tuesday, in support of the UE's proposed contract provision to make increased earnings possible where a change of method means a speed-up.

But the company committee refused to be influenced by the Boulware words.

The New York Times reported Tuesday that the GE vice-president told the New York Personnel Management Association the previous night that "the employee is entitled to extra pay where increased production results from his contribution in skill, care and effort," and also for "exercising more of these characteristics than reasonably expected for the pay previously received."

Leo Jandreau, 301 business agent and District president, read these words to George Pfeif, chief company spokesman. Jandreau asked if the company now recognized that where there is a great increase in production, as well as speed and strain of work, as in the use of carboly tools, the men should earn more.

Pfeif said that the fact that the company got more work out of the men did not necessarily mean there was greater effort.

GE Pays Lower Rates Than Westinghouse, GM

The average hourly rate of GE workers (excluding overtime) is \$1.28, according to the national UE research department. That's \$51.20 for a 40 hour week. (The \$53.93 weekly average for 1947 mentioned in the Mar. 12 Works News included overtime.)

In contrast to the GE average of \$1.28, Westinghouse pays an average of \$1.52 an hour and the electrical division of General Motors, \$1.38.

ened" and "statesmanlike".

So there followed the open shop drive, company unions, rapidly falling union membership, something politely called "industrial peace", great production, almost no wage raises, huge profits, the "recession" of 1921 and the great crash of 1929.

Does Mr. Boulware want all that again?



No Wonder GE Likes Regional Differentials

GE is always claiming that living costs are a big factor in its policy of paying different rates in different communities. We wonder how it explains the difference between its wage rates in Memphis, Tenn. and Cleveland, Ohio.

According to the latest U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics report, a family of four needs a minimum of \$3,226 to live in Memphis and \$3,200 in Cleveland.

But with living costs slightly higher in Memphis than in Cleveland, compare these GE wages: inspector (quality), \$.86 an hour Memphis, \$1.14 Cleveland; inspector (shrinkage) \$.86 Memphis, \$1.07 Cleveland; clean-up man, \$.80 Memphis, \$1.18 Cleveland; mechanic, \$1.01 Memphis; \$1.30 to \$1.60 Cleveland, and machinist, \$1.48 Memphis; \$1.75 Cleveland.

No wonder GE likes its geographical differentials. And it's also easy to figure out why GE is using the Taft-Hartley Law to stall off recognizing the union as collective bargaining agent in its new and scattered plants.

Memphis is one of the plants where UE has a majority, but GE has refused to recognize it.

Workers Speak Up Against GE Policy

Following up the action of the Local 301 membership meeting last week in condemning the attitude of GE in the negotiations, groups of members all over the Schenectady works have been letting their supervision know how they feel about that attitude.

Many groups have turned in pe-

Negotiations For Contract Are Resumed

Contract negotiations with the General Electric Company were resumed in New York Tuesday, after a recess of one week. There was no progress to report on any major issue at the close of the day.

The union and company committees went again over issues previously discussed, in an effort to resolve differences. The company repeated its opposition to any wage increase, to any improvement in the holiday provision, and to the proposed pension minimum.

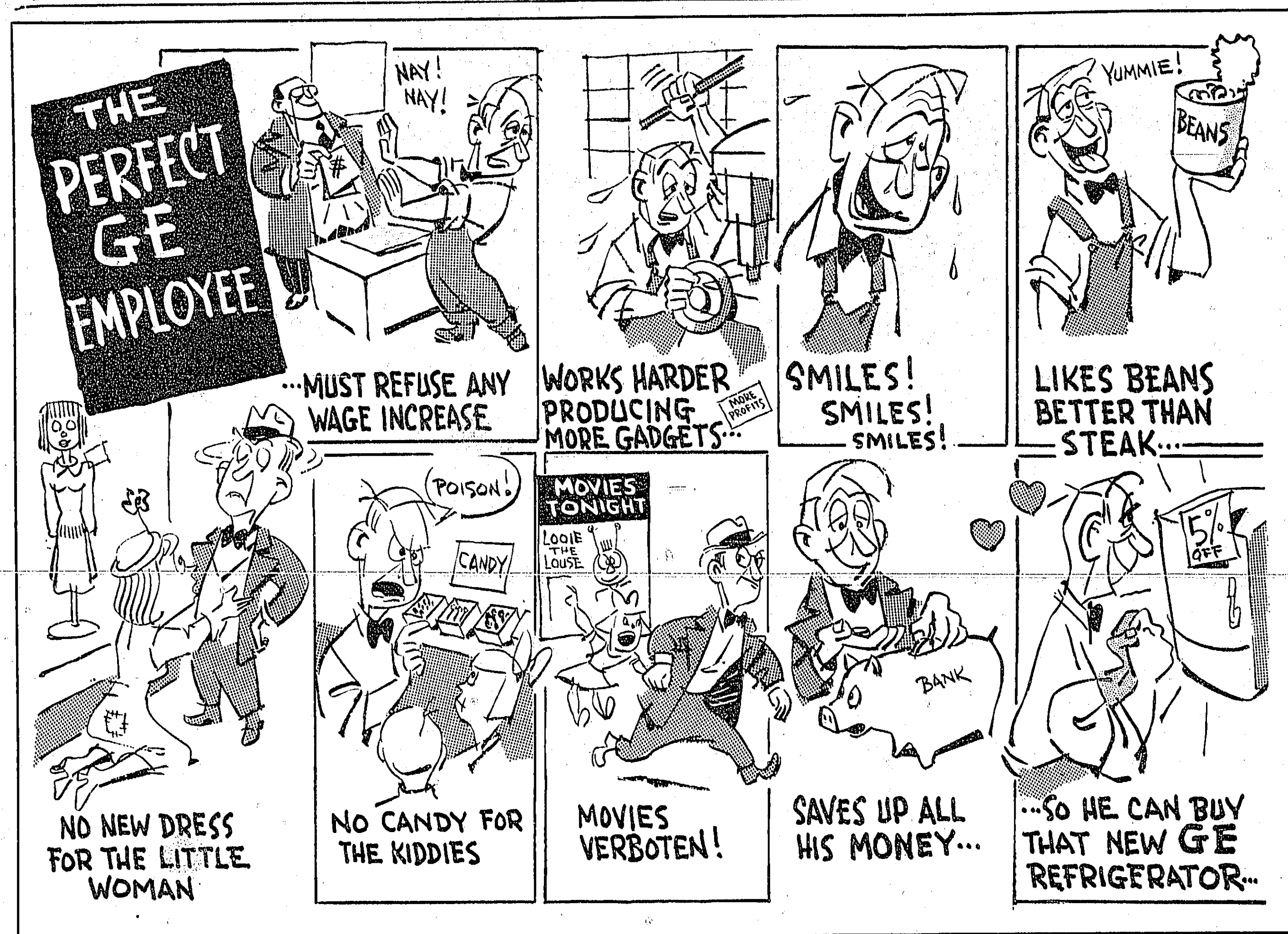
As to seniority, George Pfeif, company spokesman, would not even withdraw the company's proposal to weaken seriously the present provision as it applies to workers with less than five years' service. The union contends that, from recent experiences, the present clause is much too weak.

Vice-President L. R. Boulware was not in the negotiations when they resumed Tuesday.

titions telling the foremen they want a general increase, and action on other contract proposals. Other members went singly or in groups to tell the foremen personally.

The foremen generally appeared to have been given instructions not to accept petitions. However, when pressed by the members, they promised to convey the demands on upward in management.

MAKE YOUR SHOP 100% UE



Arbitrator Orders GE to Reinstate 3 Workers; Company Starts Court Action on Power to Fire

An arbitrator has ordered the reinstatement with back pay and full seniority of three women fired by the GE lamp plant at East Boston last summer for stopping work during a record-breaking heat wave.

Saul Wallen of the American Arbitration Association made the reinstatement decision after ruling first on the basic question of whether such discharges are subject to arbitration, under terms of the GE-UE contract.

GE claimed that only discharges related to union affiliation or union activities can be arbitrated. Wallen upheld the union position

that other discharges also are covered by the arbitration provision of the contract.

As a result of its defeat in the East Boston decision, GE has started a court action. It wants to establish the right to fire anyone at will, as long as union activity isn't the issue involved. This would destroy one of the chief job security safeguards of the contract.

The GE-UE arbitration procedure clearly pledges both sides to accept arbitration decisions. One of the reasons for setting up arbitration machinery is to avoid long and expensive court proceedings.

In ordering the reinstatement of the three women, the arbitrator said the company had applied discipline "mechanically." He pointed out that the work stoppage was "apparently spontaneous" and that the three weren't accused of instigating it.

We Thought GE Boasted About Its Price Cuts!

The General Electric Co. has started a Supreme Court action against eight New York firms which GE claims are selling GE household appliances at too low prices, according to an article in the Schenectady Gazette Mar. 19.

The report stated: "GE affidavits filed with the court allege that the dealers have been selling the firm's household appliances at \$3.85 to \$9.90 below minimum prices fixed under fair trade agreements."

Products covered by the "fair trade agreements" were listed as including clocks, irons, mixers, toasters, coffee-makers, fans, automatic blankets, sun lamps and vacuum cleaners.

Settles With Union

After a nine-to-one strike vote at the RCA Victor plant in Montreal, Canada, the management stopped stalling contract negotiations and came to a speedy agreement with UE Local 531.

Public to Be Deluged With GE Opinion Ads

The public this year will be treated to an even greater outpouring of GE opinion. (Some of the ads in New York City newspapers will cost several thousand dollars for a single page.)

This information comes from GE Vice-President Robert Pearce, as quoted in the New York Times. Pearce predicted an "unprecedented increase in the use of public relations and advertising techniques in community work and in so-called institutional or public relations advertising."

The GE vice-president also said the ads would plug opinions "which industry feels called upon to offer on controversial subjects."

As expected, the ads started off with attacks on the idea of a wage increase.

Gaeth Program

The Arthur Gaeth broadcast, sponsored by the national UE, is at 7:30 p.m. every Wednesday over WSNY, WROW and other Mutual network stations.

UE Makes Protest On Raids by UAW

The national office of UE sent a letter to CIO President Philip Murray Mar. 16 protesting against the efforts of the United Automobile Workers CIO to raid UE locals and start secession movements. Such actions are "bound to shake the organization structure of the CIO", the letter pointed out.

In reply, Murray wrote UE "I have never condoned practices of this kind, particularly within our CIO unions."

The Carey-Block so-called "Democratic Action" group, which is in the leadership of UE locals at the Royal Typewriter Co. and Niles Bement and Pond, both in Hartford, Conn., cooperated with UAW in starting secession movements in those shops.

On the basis of a vote taken at a meeting of 600 out of 3,500 workers at the Royal plant, the "Democratic Action" leaders announced the local had withdrawn from UE. The meeting was conducted with the aid of policemen, without a secret ballot. National UE representatives were not allowed to be present.

At the Niles plant, the company shut down for the day at 2 p.m. so everyone could go to the meeting, but only 400 out of about 1,800 workers turned up. National UE representatives were excluded and there was no secret ballot.

Already there have been many protests from Hartford workers against the railroaded secession votes. UAW had issued a UAW charter for Hartford without any application from any group of workers.

The UE letter to Murray on the attacks against UE stated:

"The fact that the new attack comes from unions within CIO rather than an employer or an anti-labor government agency will not diminish the union's determination to protect its interests."

UE Victory

UE has won collective bargaining rights at another new plant, the Empire State Laboratories, New York City. In a ballot conducted by the American Arbitration Association 80 per cent of the workers voted for the union.

Party for Children

Children of Local 301 members are invited to another movie party at 10:30 a.m. tomorrow (Saturday) at the union hall. The Activities Committee will serve refreshments.

More GE Discrimination Against Women Workers

Local 301 has moved to the works manager grievance step a dispute over the price on a hand wound coil in Bldg. 53, which the union claims is a clear-cut case of discrimination against women.

Just before being moved from Bldg. 89, the job was done by a man, and had a price of \$1.22 based on an AER of \$1.45. In 53 it was given to a woman, with a price of 90 cents based on an AER of \$1.10.

Frank Schaaff, of the labor relations staff, admitted the work was no more difficult on the men's machines than on the women's, but said the lower price was the original one, and that the raised price had been set because the "men would not have done it if offered the \$1.10 AER." He said supervision in 89 should not have given the job to men and should not have paid the higher rate.

Illegal for Company To Withhold Company

Several inquiries have been received at the union office recently as to the right of the company to withhold wages from an employee, or delay paying wages, because tools issued to him are still out, or for other reasons.

The state Labor Law says that an employer must pay a worker his wages at least weekly, and not later than one week after the period worked. Violation is punishable by a fine or imprisonment, or both.

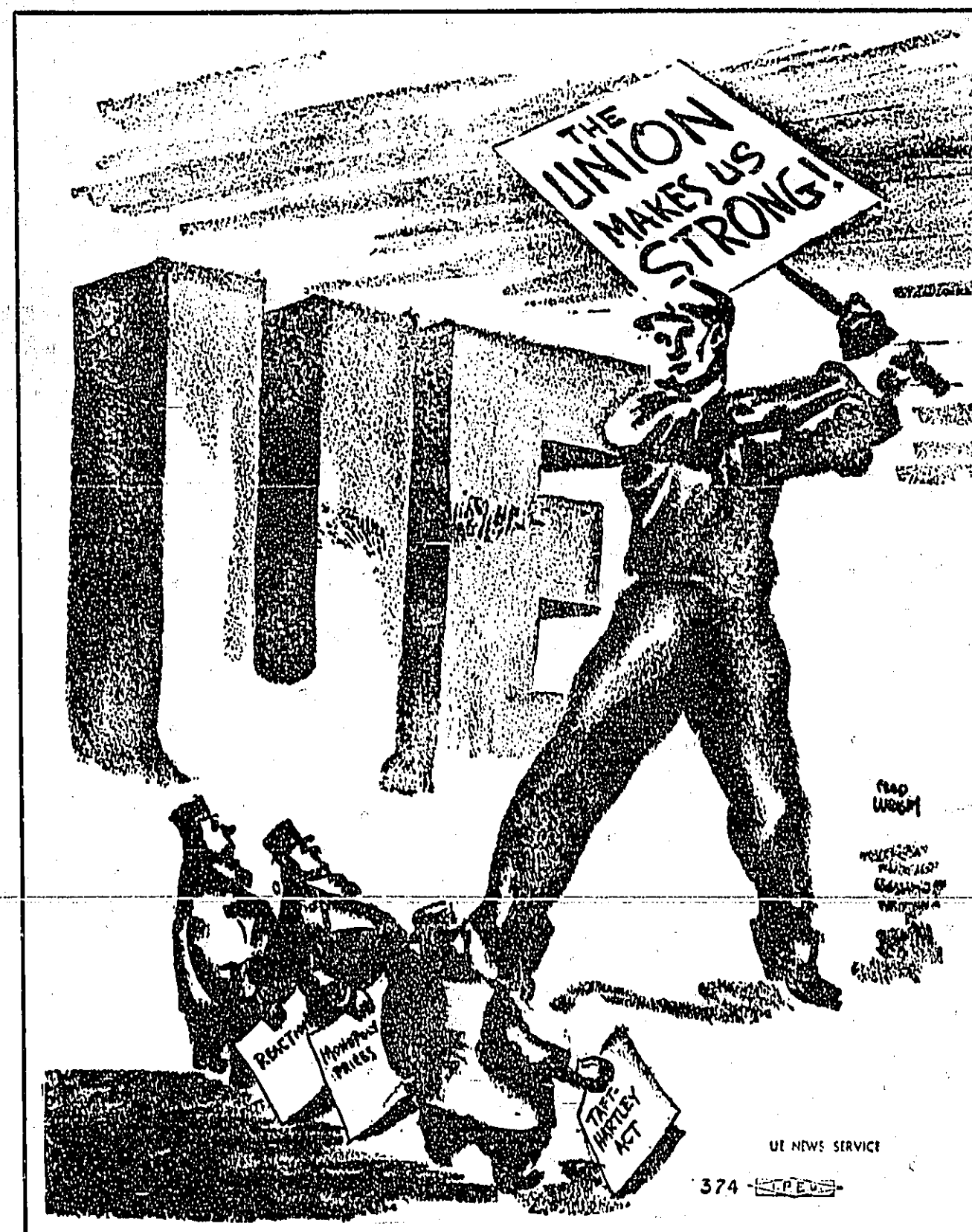
An employer is not allowed to deduct from the wages the value of a tool lost by an employee, nor withhold wages until the employee has accounted for tools and equipment issued to him.

Fitzgerald Backs Wallace

President Albert J. Fitzgerald of the national UE has become a co-chairman of the National Wallace for President Committee and chairman of the labor committee for Wallace. The UE General Executive Board last week voted unanimous approval of his action, which was taken as an individual.

Unjust Taxation

Presidents of five national CIO unions have protested against bills now in Congress which would place "unjust taxation" on farmers' cooperatives. The legislation is an attempt to destroy the free and voluntary organization of farmers. It is sponsored by the same interests that passed the Taft-Hartley Law.



Switchboard Operators' Complaint Turned Down

J. R. Alexander, Power, Heat and Light superintendent, last week insisted on a revised three-shift schedule to which the switchboard operators in Bldgs. 61 and 63 objected. He turned down the alternative proposed by the men because it would require payment of time-and-a-half on two Saturdays in three months under the slightly improved "continuous process" clause negotiated last year.

The operators, who are subjected to frequent changes of shift, objected to schedules worked out by Foreman Myron Best and by Alexander himself, on the ground of hardship from the arrangement of third shift work. Through Shop Steward Marshall White they submitted their own schedules. A. C. Stevens, assistant to the general superintendent, backed Alexander in overruling the men's objections.

Record of UE Gains In 12-Year History

Beginning with 18 local unions and 15,000 members in March 1936, the UE has grown to 425 local unions bargaining for 600,000 workers in 1,536 plants.

During the 15-year period 1920-1935, before the organization of UE, hourly wages in the electrical manufacturing industry increased by slightly less than five cents an hour. In the 12 years following the organization of UE, wages rose \$7.1 an hour.

Prior to the organization of UE, paid vacations were rare in the industry. Where they were given, they were brief and only long service workers were eligible.

Before the UE, practically no electrical worker was paid for holidays not worked.

Reinstatement

An arbitrator has ruled that Durez Plastics and Chemicals, at North Tonawanda, must reinstate a worker who was fired for an act of horseplay. The arbitrator pointed out that the company had given no former warning that playing pranks of that nature on other employees would be punished by discharge. UE Local 312 took the case to arbitration.

301 on Air

Tune in on the weekly radio program of Local 301 at 7:30 p.m. Monday on WSNY.

Activities Committee

The 301 Activities Committee will meet at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the union hall.

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

Published by Editorial Committee
William Templeton, Chairman
Mary McCartin, Secretary
William Landau, Victor Pasche
Clayton Pudney

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