

301 Board Backs Insurance Workers

Full support for the fight of the United Office and Professional Workers of America, CIO, against the Prudential Life Insurance Company, will be recommended by the 301 Executive Board to the 301 membership.

Vincent Dembski of Albany, president of Local 119, UOPWA, vice-chairman of the regional UOPWA Council and president of the Capital District CIO Council, described to the Board meeting Monday night Prudential's drive to smash the union. The Taft-Hartley Board and raiding unions have pitched in to help the company.

When the UOPWA contract expired Oct. 1 Prudential announced it would not deal with the union because its officers have not signed the Taft-Hartley affidavits. The company sent four letters to every employee red-baiting the union. Claiming not to be "anti-union" Prudential said it would recognize an "independent" union or an AFL one.

In a nationwide strike poll, the 9,000 Prudential insurance agents recently voted overwhelmingly to authorize a strike. The Local 119 members voted 50 to 1 in favor of the strike. No date has been announced yet for the walk-out.

Meanwhile the Taft-Hartley Board has announced it will run an election within a few weeks. The AFL Insurance Agents will be on the ballot in 26 states and an "independent" union in four states. As it will not use the T-H Board, UOPWA will campaign for a "No" vote.

Dewey Policy Attacked By State Police Lawyer

The attorney of the New York State Police Benevolent Association recently accused the Dewey administration of "attempting to break" the troopers' association through "suppressive action."

Walter A. Caddell, who made the charge, pointed out that the administration refused to recognize the association "despite the fact that 80 or 85 per cent of the state police are members." He said the "Gestapo tactics" of the Dewey administration "will make us fight harder."

Housing SOS

The 301 office has received an appeal for help in finding a house or a flat for a shop steward. He is obliged to move by Nov. 1. He is married and has two young children. Any one able to help him is asked to notify the union office.

They're Admiring \$175 Check for Back Pay



Clifford E. Smith, inspector in Building 69, and his wife have something to be pleased about,—this \$175 check for back pay won through a grievance processed by Local 301. The union obtained a correction of his transfer rate. The check adjusts eight months of underpayment.

301 Officers Request GE Investigate Anonymous Leaflets Spread in Plant

Local 301 President Andrew Peterson and Business Agent Leo Jandreau have asked GE to investigate the circumstances surrounding the distribution of an anonymous leaflet Oct. 6 in the plant, purporting to give names and addresses of Communist Party members.

The pamphlet, entitled "Eternal Vigilance Is the Price of Liberty," listed 200 names including a number of dead people, a GE foreman, and a Gold Star mother.

"From the many reports to this office," the officers wrote Works Manager J. M. Howell, "it would appear that the distribution of this leaflet inside the Works was free and virtually open. This is in contrast with the difficulties encountered by many of our shop stewards last week in circulating petitions pertaining to legitimate union business. In a number of places shop stewards circulating these petitions during their lunch hour were told by foremen, quite improperly, that they could not do so.

"Now it appears that certain unidentified persons found it easy to circulate a leaflet which at the same time attacks the union and attempts to intimidate and blacklist workers. Under the circumstances, the only logical conclusion would appear to be that the circulation of yesterday's improper leaflet had either the open or the tacit approval of supervision. As a matter of fact, the question arises as to whether this leaflet was run off on a multigraph machine in a GE office."

The Executive Board voted Mon-

Fitzgerald Addresses Schenectady Meeting

UE members are being persecuted by Congressional investigators "because we have the nerve to work for the interests of the people, and not for the interests of GE, General Motors and the rest of them," UE President Albert J. Fitzgerald told a Schenectady audience Oct. 6. He spoke at a rally at the Erie Theater with U. S. Senator Glen Taylor.

He said the Hartley Committee "hope they've created enough dissension in the shops to get people to destroy their own organization."

"But the only result of the Kersten attack is to intensify our efforts to drive them from public office once and for all."

Fitzgerald spoke after Leo Jandreau, chairman of the meeting, reviewed the record of the Hartley Committee.

"Those Congressmen here last week could learn a lot about loyalty," Fitzgerald declared, "by following the program Leo has been following for 12 years in this union."

Taylor congratulated 301 members on fighting back against the investigators.

He said Big Business and their allies in Congress "are trying to scare the daylight out of us with Reds when the Nazis are running the country."

Local 301 President Andrew Peterson, ALP candidate for Congress, said he entered the race when it became apparent the Democratic machine intended to default the election to Congressman Bernard W. Kearney. He outlined his program, drawn up by CIO unions of this district.

Army Will Employ CIO Longshoremen

The striking West Coast Longshoremen's Union (CIO) scored a victory recently over the Waterfront Employers Association when the Army backtracked on its threat to use strike-breakers from the streets to handle military cargoes. Instead, the Army accepted the union's offer to supply stevedores through the union hiring hall.

The Employers Association has refused to carry out its contracts with the Army rather than do business with the union in any way. The union stevedores will move military cargoes handed by non-association concerns. In this way the Waterfront Employers Association is by-passed.

Needn't Give Details Of Accidents to GE

Workers injured on their jobs should notify GE that an accident has occurred, and the time and place. It is neither necessary nor advisable, however, to give details of the accident in their notice to the company.

If you are injured inform the union at once and your claim will be properly filed and processed.

Fired When Ill, Gets Job Back

Reinstatement to his job with four weeks' back pay was won for a worker at the Cleveland Wire Works by UE Local 707. The worker was fired while he was home ill. A company nurse who visited him at home said he was ready to work, but his own doctor testified to the contrary. The grievance was carried to the New York level before the company gave in.

day to take all possible steps to expose the people responsible for the leaflet. The union has taken the matter up with the district attorney's office.

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Atomic Loyalty Test



90 Silicosis Cases at GE Foundry in Elmira, UE Medical Tests Show

Ninety workers at the General Electric Company foundry at Elmira this month learned they have silicosis.

The bad news came from Dr. Saul Solomon, New York City, one of the leading lung specialists of the east, who was engaged by UE to study X-rays and make personal examinations of suspected cases. The check-up has taken several months.

Employees at the foundry have been complaining for years about unhealthy working conditions. Their complaints were shrugged off by management, though at one point a department stoppage brought a slight improvement.

Tired of the stalling, Local 310 started its own health investigation last spring. The union set up a big tent outside the plant for workers to be X-rayed. Most of the 700 foundry workers seized the chance to have pictures of their lungs made. Second X-rays were made of those persons with suspicious pictures, and personal examinations followed.

No Cure Known
The medical report shows 10 severe cases, 36 moderate ones and 44 described as "mild." Though re-

(Continued on Page 2)

Arsenal Rates Raised, Jandreau Notifies GE

Recent rate increases at the Watervliet Arsenal should create a "definite basis for an increase in the Schenectady Works for craft rates," Business Agent Leo Jandreau wrote George H. Pfeif of GE top management last week.

"The company pointed out during our meetings," Jandreau reminded Pfeif, "that the immediate area (Capital District) carried considerable weight in determining rates."

"We have been informed that wage increases ranging from nine cents to 20 cents an hour have been granted to tool, die and gauge makers and other related trades at the Watervliet Arsenal effective Sept. 1, 1948. This increase establishes a top rate of \$2.10 an hour at the Arsenal for 'A' class toolmakers in addition to the other conditions of employment affecting cost, such as sick leave etc.

"The Arsenal employs the largest number of toolmakers and mechanics in our immediate community outside of GE and in view of

301 Members Map Fight on Atomic Ruling

The membership of Local 301 Tuesday night overwhelmingly condemned the joint attack of the Atomic Energy Commission and the General Electric Company on UE.

The meeting voted to bring before the public, through radio, advertisements and other means, the real reasons why the Commission and GE raised the phony issue of "security" at the unbuilt Knolls II laboratory to bar union representation there.

Back Conference Board

A statement adopted by the GE Conference Board of UE Oct. 12 in New York City denouncing the action of the Commission and GE was approved by the 301 membership. This statement pointed out that the order issued by the Commission was timed to make front-page headlines just before the Hartley Subcommittee moved into Schenectady to "investigate" Local 301. It also appeared just before GE was found guilty on all counts of a federal indictment for criminal conspiracy with the Nazi Krupp armament firm.

'Security' Issue Phony

The statement exposed as completely phony the "security" issue raised by GE and the Commission. Every worker at an atomic project is checked and screened by the Army, Navy, FBI and AEC. Banning union representation would mean "that grievances may not be investigated nor deadly health hazards checked."

GE hopes to use the Commission and other government agencies in its scheme of smashing real unionism at all of its plants, the Conference Board statement warned.

the company's border line position on rates, compared to the state as a whole, we think that this recent rate change should create a definite basis for an increase in the Schenectady Works for craft rates.

"Will you kindly advise us of your position in this matter?"

No answer had been received when EU News went to press.

WEAR YOUR UNION BUTTON



How can we afford more time-study experts... if we don't step up production?

How Well Off Are The People?

With real wages falling, how well off is the American worker? Does he have the same guarantee to his job as does Charles E. Wilson? Will he be taken care of in his old age as adequately as Charles E. Wilson will? Can he and his family get the adequate medical care that Charles E. Wilson and his family can get?

The UE program is a simple one. It is doing all it can to realize in fact the Economic Bill of Rights of Franklin D. Roosevelt with its emphasis upon the right to useful and remunerative jobs, "adequate protection from the economic fears of old age, sickness, accident, and unemployment," decent homes for every family and the right to "adequate medical care."

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90 Silicosis Cases At Elmira GE Plant

(Continued from Page 1)
search work is being done on silicosis, there is no cure in sight, according to Dr. Solomon. The victims of the disease can receive no medical assurance that their condition may not get progressively worse, even if they shift to another type job.

"Prevention is much more likely than cure," he emphasized. "You can't take a scar away from the lung."

National UE representatives have asked GE to take action at once on the basis of this silicosis report. The union is pressing for modernization of the working conditions at the foundry. It wants assurance of adequate income for people who can work no longer and the transfer to safer jobs of those still able to work.

Why UE Engaged a Doctor

One of the chief reasons the union engaged its own physician was that Elmira doctors have so often ducked taking workers' cases and testifying for them at compensation hearings. They are apt to tell a worker just to see the company doctor.

Many of the workers are worried about filing claims or changing from their unhealthy work, for fear they won't have enough money to live on. They have been afraid to take time out for illness in the

Remember that GE Works News "message" Feb. 3 about "GE Job Objectives"? The objectives included "A clean, safe, pleasant place to work..."

Like the Elmira foundry, maybe?

past, for fear they couldn't pass the physical examination GE requires after a two-weeks' sickness.

Dr. Solomon described silicosis as a "fibrosis of the lung—a scarring of the tissue as a result of the inhaling of dusts containing silica."

Symptoms of Disease

The victim is hit by many colds. He may get influenza or pneumonia, or develop heart ailments. He coughs a good deal and finds it so difficult to breathe that walking and the ordinary exertions of everyday life become a great strain. Lung hemorrhages may result in severe cases.

One silicosis victim reported that he consulted the GE doctor after spitting blood and developing a chronic cold. He said the GE doctor

Townsend Leader



Merlin Casterlin of Binghamton, representative of New York State Townsend Clubs, addressing a joint meeting of the UE-301 Pension Organization and Townsend Clubs Oct. 12 at 301 Hall. Other speakers were 301 President Andrew Peterson, ALP candidate for Congress; William M. Murphy, Democratic candidate for Congress; Leo Vosburg, county commissioner of public welfare, and 301 Business Agent Leo Jandreau.

301 Votes to Help Insurance Workers

The 301 membership meeting Tuesday night unanimously voted to back the United, Office and Professional Workers of America, CIO, in their fight against the Prudential Life Insurance Company.

The company has refused to negotiate another contract with the union and has issued letters to all employees attacking the union leaders for not signing Taft-Hartley affidavits. A riding AFL union has called for a Taft-Hartley election. The insurance workers have authorized their executive board to call a strike.

The 301 board recommended that the membership support the UOPWA in its struggle.

tor told him there was "nothing wrong" and gave him a prescription for bronchitis. Then he received a bill for \$8 for an X-ray the GE doctor had taken.

Business Official Wants Recession

E. B. Gallagher, president of the Clover Manufacturing Company, told a district conference of National Purchasing Agents at Cincinnati recently that "something should be done to engineer a recession at once."

According to Gallagher, a recession is "the only way to save our system of free enterprise." He said a recession would put an end to inflation, but that "there would be quite some unemployment."

Gallagher himself would get along pretty well. He owns a 300-acre estate on Long Island and a private hunting preserve of several hundred square miles in Quebec, Canada.

He isn't the only industrial leader to talk this way. Ralph Blodgett, a spokesman for the auto industry, has said "it is to be hoped that depressions are never abolished."

And Winthrop Aldrich, Rockefeller bank chief and a Westinghouse director, said a recession "ought not to be feared" because it would do the country good!

Vote of Confidence Given 301 Officers

The 301 membership meeting Tuesday night went on record condemning the Hartley Subcommittee's effort to smash the union by its "investigation" and expressing "100 per cent confidence" in the union officers "investigated."

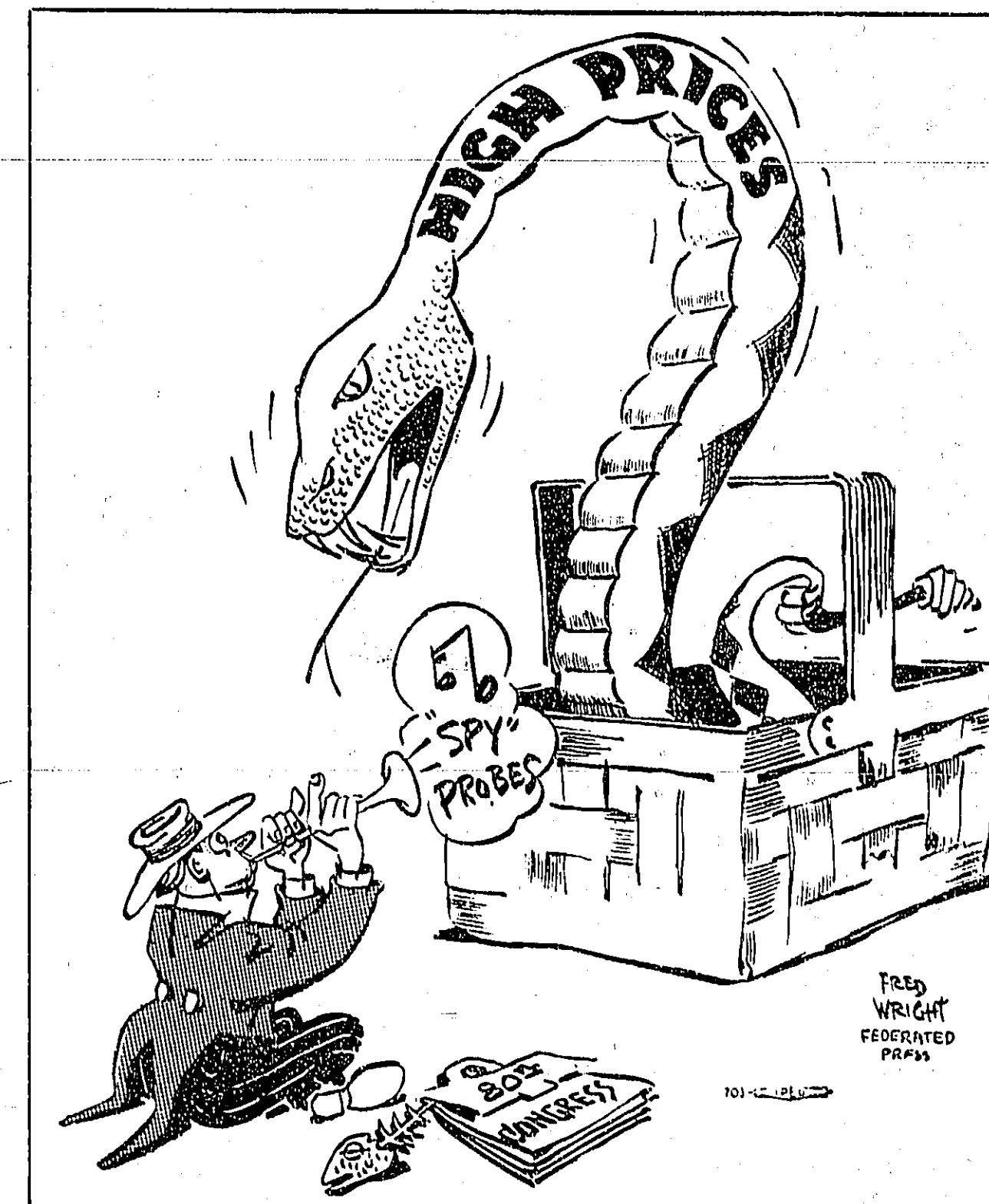
During the discussion of the motion, President Andrew Peterson said that he had refused, on the witness stand, to answer questions about his politics put to him by men who were trying to wreck the union, but that "all my friends know my politics and always have." He said he is not a Communist and has never been one.

Peterson said he would never ask a member of the union his political belief and that he would honor the right of any member or officer not to answer such a question.

"I shall judge the officers of this union solely by their actions," he declared. He said he had worked closely with the other officers and had found they always worked solely in the interest of the membership.

ATTEND YOUR UNION MEETINGS

Snake Charmer



Wallace Criticizes Atomic Commission

Henry A. Wallace criticized the Atomic Energy Commission, in a speech at the gates of the East Pittsburgh Westinghouse Works this week, for barring UE from representation at the new Knolls II atomic laboratory.

"I say I would rather trust the UE than GE," he declared.

What's The Answer?

The recent GE colored comic-strip, "Joe Becomes a Stockholder", is devoted to the company's new savings and stock bonus plan for GE workers.

There's one important piece of information it doesn't give though. What's Joe going to use to buy food with these days if he lets the company deduct weekly "savings" from his pay?

Strike Wins Raise

A seven-week strike at John Wood Company, Chicago, brought UE Local 1114 members an average wage increase of 14 cents an hour. The strike began when the company locked out the workers following demonstrations protesting a company proposal to install an incentive system.

GE Can't Bear To Pay \$2,000

Last December an arbitrator ruled that the General Electric Company must reinstate Felicia Carter, active UE member, to her job at the Newark, N. J. lamp plant, with over \$2,000 back pay.

She has been back on her job a long time now, but GE has stalled paying the back pay in hope of winning an appeal to the courts. The courts have refused to upset the award however. The New York State Appellate Division recently refused unanimously to give GE permission to appeal to the Court of Appeals.

Since When, Mr. Boulware?

One of the members has called our attention to the fact that in a recent "message" to GE workers about Communism, L. R. Boulware refers to "our unions."

Of course, Boulware has made it very clear that he wants company unions. But isn't he a bit previous in already talking about "our unions"?

CONGRESSMAN DRIPP BY YOME.



"OH... IT'S ONLY SOME CHAP FROM THE KLAN."