

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

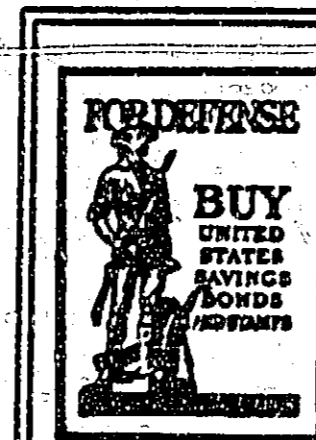
Published by:
UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE WORKERS
OF AMERICA, LOCAL 301
301 Liberty Street, Schenectady, N. Y.

EDITOR BOARD

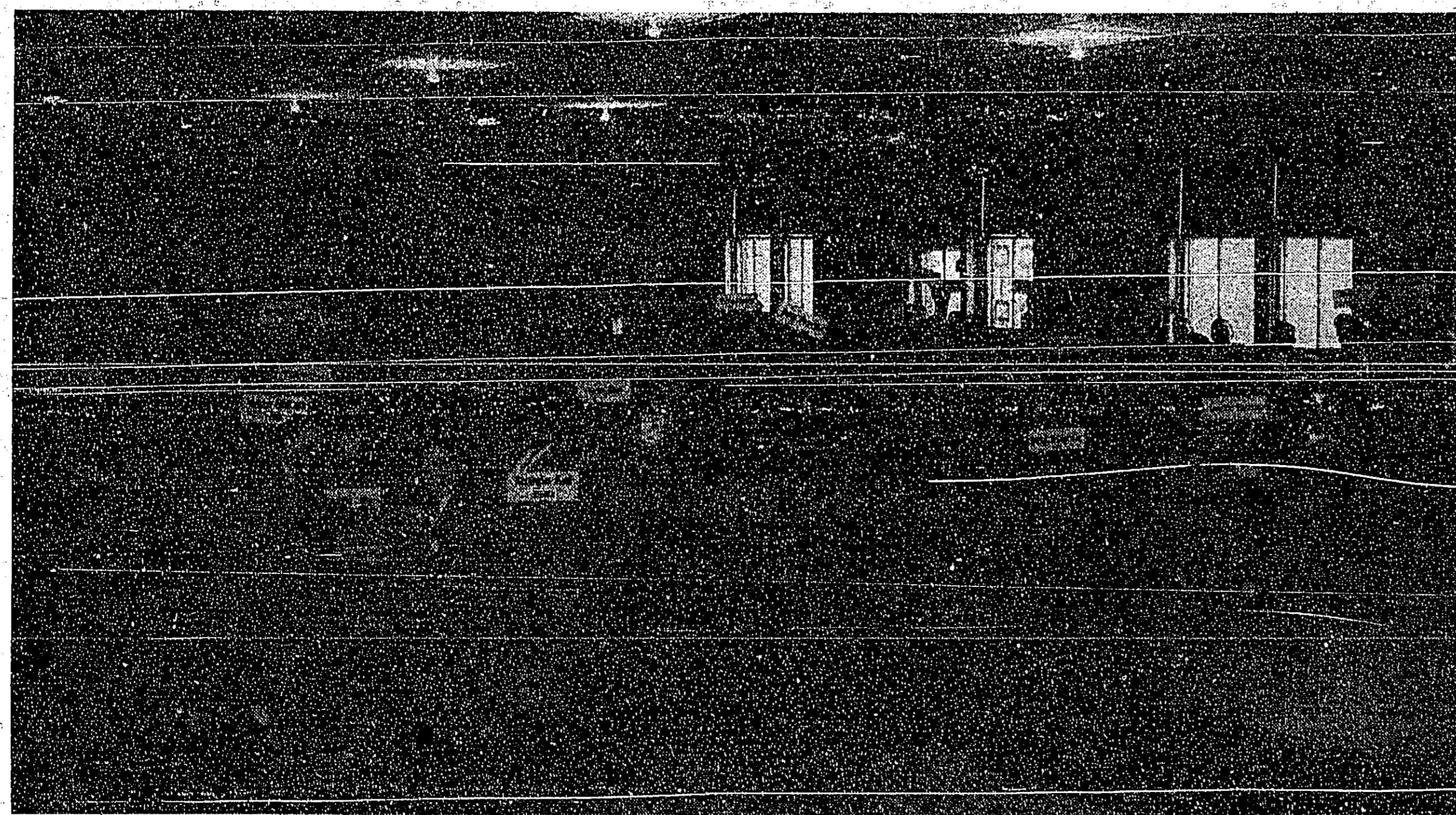
William Turnbull
Thomas Caulfield
Benjamin Geersen
Fred Schoeffler

Seymour Schreffer
Sidney Webb, Secretary
Michael Tedesco
Fred Matern, Chairman

Editor — L. JANDREAU



REMEMBER
PEARL HARBOR!



U. E. Delegates at District 3 Conference on War

Over 100 delegates from U.E. locals in the State of New York outside the Greater New York City area, representing 80,000 employees in the Electrical and Machine Industry, met at the C.I.O. headquarters, 301 Liberty St., Saturday, March 14th, to hammer out a definite union program for labor-management cooperation.

Brother Julius Emspak, national secretary-treasurer, keynoted the discussion on war production with his opening remarks:

"I would like to discuss why we as a labor movement are interested in the war production. We are interested in war production to see that it comes to a speedy and successful conclusion. It is a war against certain ideas which have as their main objective the destruction of the organized labor movement of this country and other countries. In Europe it has been a course of blood and death of the working people. That is why we as unions are interested in the war and to bring the war to a speedy conclusion."

During the discussion from the floor many cases of dislocated production from the various plants came to light in the reports of the delegates. One brother from Local 313 wondered why so much effort was put into turning out 800 washing machines a day and so little effort into war work. From our own local the question of faulty planning was raised by Brothers Cooke and P. Vottis. The question of shortage of materials as a cause of lack of full production was given important consideration. Conkling, of Local 311, claimed that "other companies are using the material for products unnecessary for defense".

On the question of the organization of labor-management production councils as a solution to the problem of increased production, Brother James Matles, national organizer, reported:

"We have been negotiating with the General Electric Company for the past two months concerning production councils. We continued negotiations yesterday (March 13). We have just received a call from the General Electric Company that a statement will be made on Monday (March 16) that production councils will be set up in every department in the General Electric throughout the country."

A War Production Committee organized by the convention to formulate concrete resolutions for future work by the District, re-

ported the following resolutions which were adopted by the delegates:

1. Second and third shifts should be extended until they equal the first.
2. Where three shifts are in full operation, four shifts (7 day week, 6 hour day) should be established to keep the machines operating 168 hours a week. We recommend 7 day three-shift coverage, six days per week, until men are available to establish 168 hours a week.
3. Scrap, waste and spoilage of vital and scarce materials must be reduced.
4. A program must be developed for cutting down absences for health or any other reasons. (This may require extra safeguards at the plant.)
5. A plan must be worked out for the prevention of accidents.
6. Machinery must be maintained to prevent breakdowns.
7. Suggestions should be sought out from the workers for increasing the capacity of their machines.
8. Plant operations and training must be planned so that a supply of adequately skilled labor will be available immediately from among present workers.
9. A training program should be instituted in each plant or community to train new workers. A fight must be made against discrimination regardless of race, color or creed in training so that the greatest possible number may be brought in to the productive effort.
10. A production quota should be set for each plant and for each department, and the employees should be kept posted on how production is going.

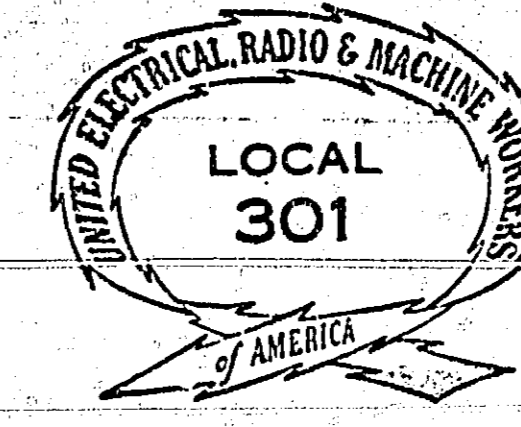
The Conference, after listening to a report by Harry Aussicker, Local 301 delegate, unanimously approved full support to the sale of Defense Bonds.

After the conference, in the evening, Julius Emspak, the local boy who made good, was given a testimonial dinner by the delegates and the committeemen of Local 301. Needless to say a good time was had by all.

"All that harms labor is treason to America. No line can be drawn between these two. If any man tells you he loves America, yet hates labor, he is a liar. If any man tells you he trusts America yet he fears labor, he is a fool. There is no America without labor, and to fleece the one is to rob the other." — ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

THE VOICE OF THE UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA—Local 301—C.I.O.



Vol. 4

SCHENECTADY, N. Y. — APRIL 16, 1942

No. 2

LOCAL BACKS WAR EFFORT

SCHENECTADY GAZETTE IS ANTI-LABOR UNION MEMBERSHIP ONE HUNDRED PERCENT BEHIND U. E. PROPOSALS . . . AS USUAL

The workers of Schenectady were treated to as vicious a piece of news distortion as one would ever expect to see when the Gazette did a job on the reporting of the U.E. wage proposals to the Company made in the interests of national unity and increased war production. The glaring headlines in this "impartial" newspaper gave forth the story that the CIO had waived the 40-hour week. Now, we don't doubt for a moment that the editors of the Gazette would have loved such a proposal but we didn't expect their desires to run so far ahead of the facts. The confusion that the misleading report caused must have warmed the hearts of our local labor baiters in the Gazette office. It is unfortunate that some of our union brothers swallowed this lie—hook, line and sinker—without waiting to get the true story from their own officials.

This incident, however, should impress upon every one of us the part that the press too often has played in reporting labor news. At the present time, the majority of the newspapers all over the country are engaged in a much more serious campaign of lies and slander than the little sample the Gazette gave us last week. The newspapers, which are always belly-aching about a free press, have joined in a wholesale conspiracy with the National Association of Manufacturers to whip up public sentiment against labor. The press has printed all sorts of fairy tales about millions of hours lost because of strikes in war industries, how workers cannot work more than forty hours a week, etc., etc. The government of our country—from President Roosevelt down—has exposed these stories as lying propaganda calculated to break up the unity of our people. But the same papers that peddle every lie handed to them by Big Business, in scare headlines on the front page, do not consider Donald Nelson's reports important enough for anything but some hidden-corner-on-the-back-pages.

And if anybody thinks the Gazette's account of the U.E.'s proposals was an accident, just take a look these days at the smelly cracks the wise-guy editors are passing out about labor. The Gazette, never too hot on the labor question, has fallen right into line with the rest of the pack of wolves howling for labor's lifeblood. It is to the credit of the Union-Star that it corrected the bad impression of the piece in the Gazette by printing the facts as they were.

LET'S GO!

The response from every section of the CIO to President Philip Murray's recent broadcast on stepping up war production leaves no doubt that he spoke the mind of the whole membership. "Count on us—we'll work to win," is the unanimous tone of this response.

In every plant throughout the land, the workers are ready and eager to back up our men at the front to the limit; and to enable them and our allies to turn the tide of battle to a great offensive of the free peoples for speedy victory.

A plan of action for organized effort is now available through the joint labor-management committees called for by Production Chief Nelson.

Such Victory Production Committees offer a splendid opportunity to CIO unions and their members to make their full contribution to more and more production. President Murray has urged their establishment in every plant without delay. Here's our chance to take the offensive on the production front. Let's go!

IT'S BETTER TO PRODUCE AS FREE MEN FOR THE MAN WITH THE LONG WHISKERS THAN IT IS TO PRODUCE AS SLAVES FOR THE MAN WITH THE LITTLE MOUSTACHE

The membership of Local 301 packed the C.I.O. headquarters the other night despite a pouring rain, and enthusiastically—and unanimously—pledged to carry out the recommendations of the officers and executive board—

1. That for the duration of the war we voluntarily forego premiums of time and one-half for Saturdays and double for Sundays and Holidays. This means that straight time shall be paid for five work days within the payroll week and that premiums shall be paid only if requested to work six or seven days within the work week. The sixth day to be paid at the rate of time and one-half and the seventh day at double time.

All time over eight hours in any one day shall be paid at the rate of time and one-half.

The savings which shall accumulate because of the relinquishing of these premiums shall be turned over to the U.S. Treasury monthly as labor's contribution to our nation to help offset the cost of the war.

2. That "All-Out" War Production-Management-Union Committees be immediately established for the sole purpose of getting immediate production from each employee and to improve and maintain morale on the production lines.

3. For an individual extension of effort on the part of every employee to over-produce normal output—provided certain safeguards are established.

Executive Board for Unity

Local 301's Executive Board recommendations carried the following statement:

"Labor fully realizes that this war is a war of the people, a war against an enemy who seeks to enslave the people of the world—and labor, being the majority of the people, has the most at stake.

Labor further realizes that there is a certain sinister fascist-minded group among the industrialists and legislative bodies of our country who would rather take their chances with Hitler and his partners than with the people of their own country. This sinister group is now seeking to divide and demoralize our people by spreading all kinds of vicious lies against organized labor.

The American people will not allow themselves to be divided by these unpatriotic forces—but will meet these forces with greater unity in our war effort.

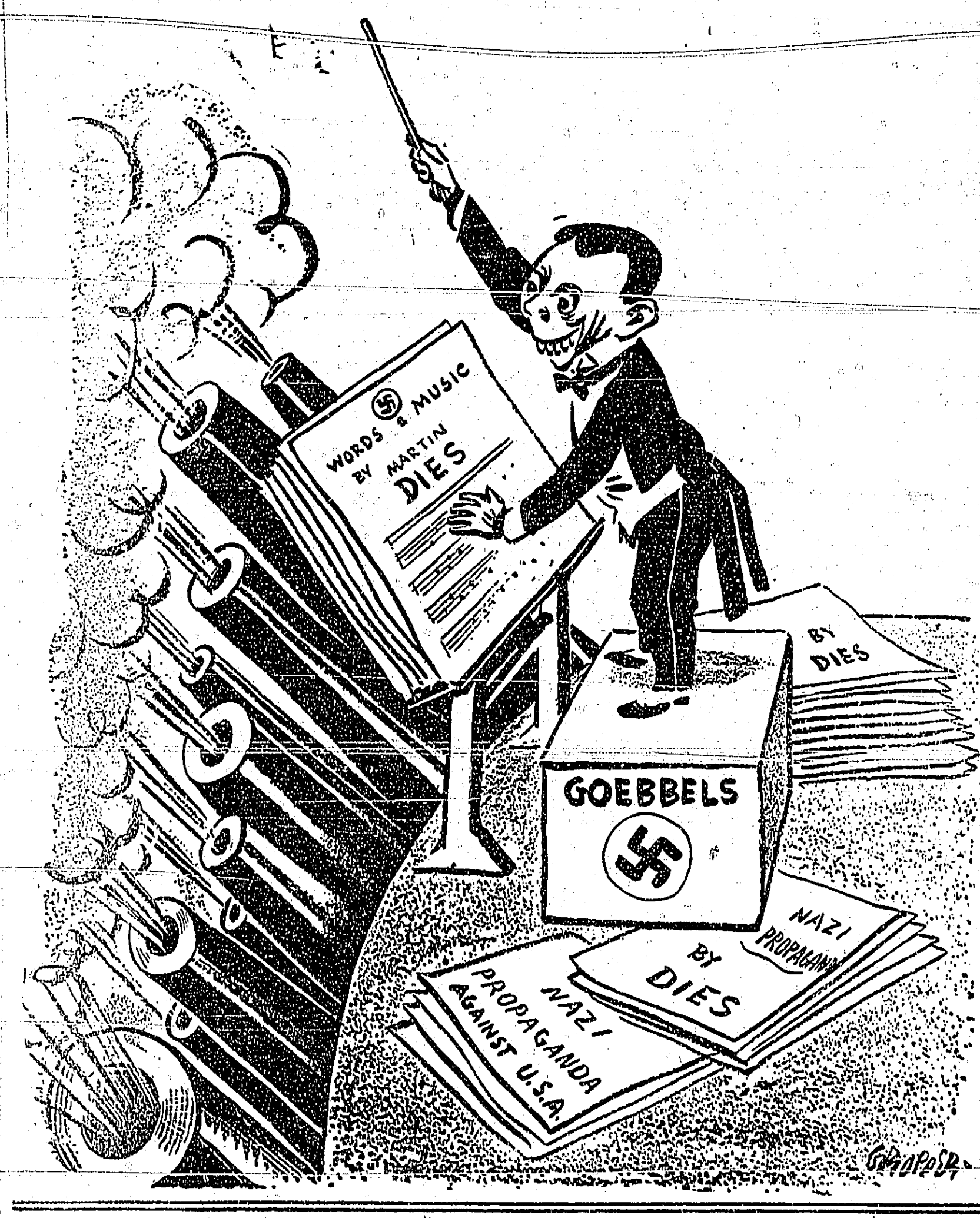
Our Local 301 already has more than three hundred of its members in the armed forces and we pledge these boys the fullest support on the home front and shall supply them with the most and the best weapons and equipment that the mind and skill of American labor can produce.

Leo Jandreau Speaks Against Nation's Fascists

Leo Jandreau, business agent of Local 301, said in part: "In order to win this war—and we must win it—it requires the total effort of all the people of our country. There is no room for appeasers or pro-fascists whether in the Chambers of Commerce, in the nation's legislative bodies, in the National Association of Manufacturers, or in the ranks of labor."

One of labor's main jobs will be to keep a vigilant watch on these appeasers and pro-fascists and denounce and smoke them out wherever they are.

We are not going to send our boys on foreign soil to fight fascism or a Hitler from Berlin and then come back to our country only to find an American brand of fascism in the saddle. We pledge our soldiers fighting fascism on foreign soil that we shall keep our country clean of all brands of fascism and when they come back they will find the American way of life with all its democratic processes and standards prevailing as they left them.



EDITORIAL

NOT A CENT FOR DIES!

The leaflet issued by the Capitol District Council on Martin Dies' coming to Schenectady on Lincoln's birthday was the subject of a good deal of discussion and even more speculation. The Council's four-page statement on the Texas Congressman brought to the attention of the people of our city certain activities carried on by this gentleman that are decidedly smelly—to put it politely. Now the question raised in the leaflet may have sounded a little vague and more than a little sensational, but . . . THE FACTS BEHIND THE QUESTION RAISED ARE FAR MORE SENSATIONAL AND NOT IN THE LEAST VAGUE.

The New City Chapter of the National Lawyers' Guild recently submitted to Congress a documented report on the activities of Representative Dies. This report was the proof of Dies' disruptive and fifth column work, which the Guild presented in its demand that the Dies Committee be abolished for the good of the country in its war effort. We are going to let you in on enough information the Guild dug up to convince you of the dirty work Mr. Martin Dies is mixed up in.

To give you a rough idea of the extent of Dies' work, let us quote the six topics under which the Lawyers' Guild has presented its case:

- Dies as a Source of Nazi Propaganda
- Dies' Shielding of Anti-American Groups
- Disruption of Production for War
- Dies' Opposition to National Policy
- Dies' Interference with Agencies of Government
- Dies and Pearl Harbor

All quotations are taken directly from the Guild report:

Dies as a Source of Nazi Propaganda

On January 5, 1942, the periodical "Newsweek" printed the following:

"The Federal Communication Commission's short-wave monitoring service has found that Rep. Martin Dies is the American most frequently quoted by the Axis radio in programs beamed to this hemisphere."

From the "Birmingham Age Herald" for December 24, 1941: "Recently the Nazis talked for days about the Dies letter to President Roosevelt accusing Leon Henderson of having Communist sympathies and of harboring Communists in his office of Price Administration."

"In all their quotations from Mr. Dies, no one has ever heard a single criticism of him by the Axis radio. It is indeed a fine thing for a United States Congressman to be the chief source of information against his own country!"

Dies Has Shielded Anti-American Groups

Dies has protected and encouraged every "shirted" fascist

LITTLE LUTHER

"I see by the papers, father," said Little Luther, "that Senator Mackerel of Nevada says the Basic Magnesium Company with the assistance of Jesse Jones' Defense Plant Corporation is making a 4280% profit on its contract for a war plant at Las Vegas."

"Such remarks," replied Mr. Dilworth, "are unworthy of a United States senator and patriotic little boys should not go around repeating these sneers on American business."

"But, daddy, if Mr. Mackerel, the grocer, was overcharging us, you would want me to tell you about it, wouldn't . . ."

"Has that fellow rigged our bill again? Why, I'll . . ."

"No, no, daddy; but I think the people ought to know when some company gets its fingers stuck in the national pocketbook."

"But, my boy," shouted Mr. Dilworth, grabbing the paper from Luther, "Jesse Jones says the plant is wholly owned by the government and will be operated for its account."

"If the government owns the plant, then why did it pay the company \$300,000 for supervising construction after the government pays all bills, including the wages, salaries and materials as well as construction, engineers' and contractors' fees to the tune of \$1,000,000?"

"How many times do I have to tell you, Luther, that a company is entitled to a fair return on its investment?"

"Yes, father," said Little Luther meekly, "but the only money the Basic Magnesium outfit invested was \$63,000,000 that the government lent it. Why couldn't the government have taken the \$3 million and built the plant itself and it wouldn't have had to . . ."

"That," screamed father, "would be state socialism, and nothing is more destructive of the very foundations of our democracy."

"In other words, father, the government had to 'bribe' somebody to the tune of \$63,000,000 to get a plant built so that this country could have enough magnesium for the war."

"That is not bribery, my boy. It is because of such private enterprises that we have the finest industrial system in the world."

"Then why haven't we got enough magnesium?"

"Probably because of restrictive regulations by some damned union . . ."

"Yes, indeed, father; a union of the Aluminum Corp. of America and the Nazi chemical trust. Under one of those cartel agreements, the ALCOA agreed with the Germans before the war to limit U.S. production of magnesium to 4,000 tons a year while the Nazis could produce as much as they wanted as long as they did not compete with ALCOA's aluminum trust."

"Luther, I'll have to speak to your mother."

gang in the United States—and we certainly have them. From the Guild report we find: "The treatment accorded Rudolph Mangold, active in the American Fellowship Forum, a Nazi propaganda agency, who was given limitless opportunities to whitewash himself, is of interest for the contrast it offers to treatment of persons in high government position. Rep. Voorhis, a member of the Dies Committee, took special pains to point out

"the high regard in which Mr. Mangold has been held by many respectable citizens in his community."

And Imperial Wizard C. C. Cole of the Ku Klux Klan has congratulated Dies for "a job well done". To cover up his traces, Dies has made a lot of noise about investigating anti-American organizations but in the precise fact that he has never backed up his promises he has afforded them protection.

"On March 8, 1941, the Washington Post reports that Dies has evidence relating to an organization of one million members promoting Nazi ideology. But this organization is not named, nor has it been referred to by Dies since."

"On December 27, 1940, Dies declared that he would soon get a complete membership list of the German American Bund, after trying for two years. More than a year has elapsed and no membership list has been referred to again."

"Representative J. Parnell Thomas, a member of the Committee, at the 18th annual meeting of the Allied Patriotic Society, declared that the Bund, the Silver Shirts, the Knights of the White Camelia, and other anti-Jewish organizations are not to be worried about." (Daily Mirror, Dec. 2, 1939).

"Fritz Kuhn, leader of the Nazi Bund, said: 'I am in favor of it (the Dies Committee) to be appointed again, and I wish them to get more money.'"

Dies' Disruption of Production For War

"When Reid Robinson, President of the United Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, informed O.P.M. that Nazi interests shared control of the American Potash and Chemical Company, Joseph Starnes, acting chairman of the Committee, promptly came to the defense of the Company and called Robinson a Communist."

"There are few trade unions and trade leaders who have not been assailed as Communists by Dies in the public press. Each of these attacks has coincided with a labor dispute and has been timed either to delay negotiations, or disrupt them altogether."

"During negotiations between the United Automobile Workers and the Chrysler Company, Dies is reported as planning a two week hearing into spying and espionage by subversive elements. (Washington News, Nov. 21, 1939). The report of his Committee, published in January 1940, mentions neither spying, espionage nor the United Automobile Workers."

"As recently as December 2, 1941, while the national administration was considering the Reuther Plan for the conversion of the auto industry to war production, a plan which has in large measure been adopted, Dies resumed his attacks on the U.A.W., and repeated his unfounded assertions that it was Communist con-

(Continued on Page Four, Column Two)

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS . . .

Published by:
UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE WORKERS
OF AMERICA, LOCAL 301
301 Liberty Street, Schenectady, N. Y.

EDITOR BOARD

William Turnbull	Seymour Schretler
Thomas Coughlin	Sidney Webb, Secretary
Benjamin Geersen	Michael Tedisco
Fred Schoeffler	Fred Matern, Chairman
Editor — L. JANDREAU	

COULD I WRITE A LETTER?

This seems to be the theme song these days in the State of Oklahoma. Letter writing on a mass production scale is the big war industry in this state of lynchings, anti-union conspiracy trials, and other such indoor and outdoor sports. Yes, increased production is the order of the day. So . . . the boys in Oklahoma's Big Business circles decided that it was their patriotic duty to get right into the spirit of things and streamline industry—the letter writing industry.

In recent days it has come to light that the anti-labor fascist-minded disrupters of America's war effort organized a vast fake letter writing campaign in Oklahoma for the purpose of jamming through Congress the vicious Smith Bill. The extent of this burlesque of democratic action is very serious indeed. Congress was flooded with letters and telegrams demanding the passage of the Smith anti-fascist legislation and on the surface it appeared that this correspondence was merely the democratic expression of free citizens . . . until it was discovered that the whole thing had been planned and organized by the National Association of Manufacturers and the Postal Telegraph Company. One of the cute tricks that were pulled off was to have Postal Telegraph messengers go out to every commercial establishment in Oklahoma City with "canned" telegrams just like birthday forms, with a choice between such messages as "Stop strikes" and "Repeal hour-week law". The telegrams had already been addressed to Congress. The Associated Industries of Oklahoma, an N.A.M. affiliate, sent out a circular to all its members calling upon them to ask Congress for immediate action against the unions. The circular, by the way, had the black-mailing title, "Why we are losing". It was found also that children had been gotten to sign letters they could know nothing about. Many other letters were sent to Congress in other such underhanded ways. Senator Truman is now investigating this outrageous situation.

This is not the first time this stunt has been pulled off on the American people. A few short years ago when President Roosevelt was trying to reorganize the national government so as to include a federal Department of Welfare that would take care of the unemployed instead of leaving it to politics-corrupted and bankrupt local communities, the Big Business labor haters organized another fake letter writing campaign to Congress. On that memorable occasion the N.A.M. boys went so far as to take names from telephone books and graveyards in order to furnish signers for their telegrams.

There is one thing we can learn from all this business, however. It is about time we got going on a really democratic letter writing campaign and make known to our representatives in Congress just how we feel on the Smith Bill and any other anti-labor finagling they have in mind. Pressure is important! Why don't we use it!

OUR VICTORY

Deep in the heart of the C. I. O.
Lies a wealth of love, the world should know.
They have cursed it, ignored it, blackened its name;
They abused it, misused it, tried it to shame.
They hissed it, but missed it by a mile or two—
For the C. I. O. stands for the Red, White and Blue.
They tore at its head, they tore at its feet,
They tore at its vitals, but it would not retreat.
They brought in the soldiers to shoot us all down;
They made us the laughing-stock of the town!
We were not afraid; we did not run; and now
A victory we have won.
They slandered all our leaders, but they came to stay;
They were going to have Harry Bridges deported right away.
They didn't like President Roosevelt; "favors labor", so they say.
They would crucify our Saviour, were He on earth today.
The rich can live in the fancy hotel,
The Jap rulers can enjoy the war we call Hell;
We will live by the C. I. O.—
And we are AMERICANS, we'd have them know.
May God bless the C. I. O.; may it never bow to shame;
Let us forgive the misinformed who try to black its name.

—By Joanne Stiver, Member of Local 55.

UNION SCHOOL FINISHES FIRST TERM

This week brings to a successful close the first session of the Local 301 Trade Union School. The school has been in session since January 19th when it set up shop in Room 2 of the CIO Labor Center. It was a new type of school and one which had for its program something definite and objective. It was the outgrowth of much thought, both on the part of the membership and of the Executive Board that there was great need for some practical training for union leadership. A number of previous attempts to organize such a school had not materialized, mainly through the failure to secure a suitable instructor. Finally Brother Jandreau managed to snare one in the wilds of New York City and lure him up to our fair town.

The first course in the school, "Principles and Practices of Trade Unionism", was designed especially for committeemen to iron out some fundamental trade union problems. Some of the subjects covered give a rough idea of the extent of the course: "Origins of the American Labor Movement"; "Collective Bargaining and Negotiations"; "Contract and Grievances"; "Labor Legislation"; "Labor and the War", etc., etc.

Now, more than ever, it is essential that the committeeman know his job. It is impossible for the Executive Board to maintain personal contact with every man on the job. The committeeman is the representative of the union in the shop; he is the voice of the union and the exponent of its policies and opinions. In these days we have a big job ahead. The armed forces of the country must be supplied with all necessary equipment as rapidly as possible. We aim to cooperate fully in the defense of democracy. These tasks can be achieved only through an understanding of the correct role of our trade union in the whole proceedings.

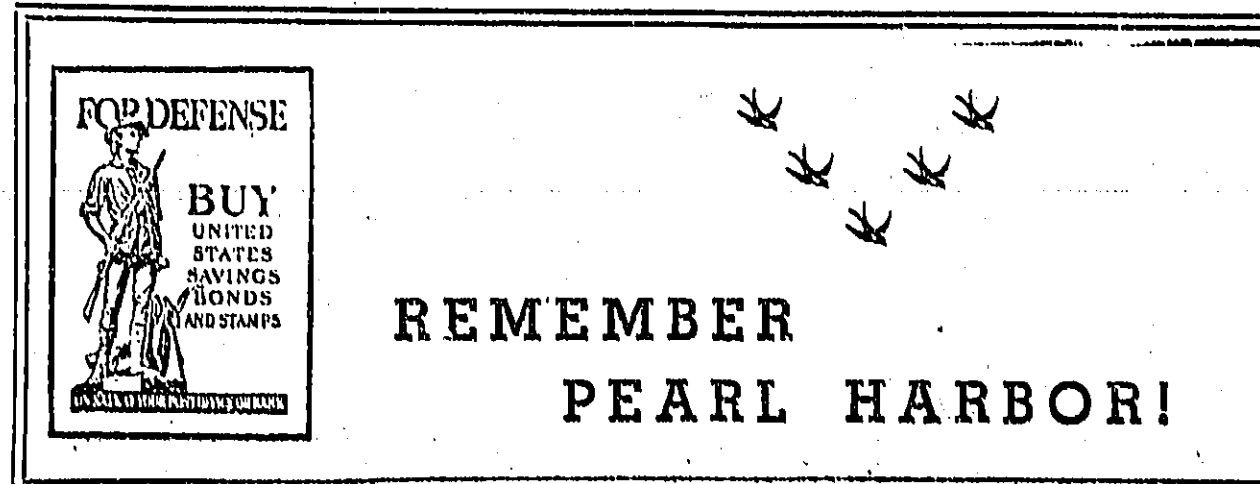
The committeeman should be on the alert to prevent the company from taking advantage of the emergency to obstruct the union or union organization; he should likewise be on the alert to educate his men in the job that they have to do for the war effort and their obligations to the boys at the front. He must constantly be on his toes to settle things as quickly as possible and with as little friction as possible. He must be ready to answer the questions of the workers on the burning issues of the day. In short, he must be the unifying force on the job in the tremendous work we have ahead. It is hoped that the School will be a big help in making the committeeman the kind of leader the workers expect him to be.

The new term will begin in a couple of weeks with what is expected to be an even bigger enrollment.

LOCAL 301 BASEBALL TEAM

Local 301 will have an official baseball team in the field during the coming season. The membership has okayed the recommendation of the Executive Board to organize a baseball team.

The preliminary arrangements have been made by the Education Committee consisting of the following Executive Board members: Jack Mele, Charles Campbell, and William Turnbull. All players please report to the union—301 Liberty Street.



ORIGINAL TORN