

Statement and Platform of Dr. Gross

Dr. Walter S. Gross, endorsed by Local 301 as candidate for state senator, has pledged full support to the 301 Congressional program, and on state and local issues, has the same kind of platform. It is drawn to fit the needs of workers, farmers, small business men, — the people as a whole.

Here is a statement issued by Dr. Gross in connection with his candidacy. He is running against the Democratic machine candidate, Vincent Smith, in the Aug. 24 primary, and has ALP endorsement.

"My decision to run in the Democratic Primary against Mr. Smith came after it was obvious that a small group of Democratic machine politicians was picking candidates without even consulting the county committee members of the party. It was especially clear that choices were being made without regard to the interests of labor and the working people of our area.

"I have been a Democrat all of my voting years, but I am not a skilled politician. However, I welcome the opportunity to fight for the principles of government in which I sincerely believe.

"My program is one which I think will meet the needs of labor, the family-sized farmer, small businessmen, teachers, veterans and other groups of people who must work for a living."

The program of Dr. Gross follows:

Unemployment Insurance

Increase unemployment insurance benefits from the present inadequate maximum of \$26 to \$40. Extend coverage to groups now excluded. Repeal the "Merit Rating" law. Reduce the waiting period for workers on strike or locked out to four effective days rather than the present seven weeks. Stop the system of rebates to employers from the insurance fund. (The total rebated to employers last year was about 150 million.)

Workmen's Compensation

Increase workmen's compensation benefits to at least \$40. The high cost of living demands nothing less than that figure. Increase the schedule of benefits for specific loss.

Housing

Authorize at least 500 million dollars and necessary subsidies for low-rental, self-supporting, permanent, public housing projects. Replace the present Dewey-sponsored barracks with decent homes for our veterans.

Veterans

Repeal the 1947 law which increases the cigarette tax so that veterans and other citizens must pay for the bonus without regard to their ability to pay. Finance the bonus from sharply increased income taxes on the higher brackets.

Labor

Complete opposition to the Taft-Hartley Law. Stop any attempt to pass a New York State version of the Taft-Hartley Law. Retain the present New York State Labor Relations Law which closely resembles the old Wagner Act. Repeal the Condon-Wadlin Law which restricts the rights of state employees. Establish a grievance machinery for city and state employees.

State and City Finances

Repeal the Dewey sponsored income and corporation tax cuts which benefit only the rich. Increase the amount of state aid to municipalities. Oppose enactment of sales taxes which can only benefit the wealthy and hurt the low income groups.

Education

Lessen the crisis in New York State schools by passing at least the 103 million dollars provided in the Young Milroe Bill.

Farmers

Force Governor Dewey's milk commission to function and to take action against the "milk monopoly" which constantly drives the price of milk to the consumer higher and which always attempts to decrease the price received by the farmer.

UE Buttons Are the Style



Lee Di Donna of Bldg. 53, at right, obviously approves of the UE button which Toni Halterman, Bldg. 69, is wearing. In fact she has one on the collar of her own blouse. There's been a big demand for union buttons, on the part of both men and women members, since shop stewards started distributing them late in July.

Trade Commission Hits GE 'Cartels'

The Federal Trade Commission last week, in a report to Congress, proposed amending patent laws to prevent "undue control" through international cartels. It reported as follows on operations of GE and Westinghouse:

"These two companies, particularly General Electric Company through its foreign subsidiaries, took the initiative in forming and attempting to form international cartels to include British, German and other companies. . . ."

"The extent to which General Electric and Westinghouse owe their present positions to keeping others from using foreign patents and experience is most difficult to measure.

"It is certain, however, that they have made their patent exchange contracts a source of direct income in the form of royalties."

UE Broadcast from Rome

The second broadcast of Arthur Gaeth from a European capital will be heard Monday night from Rome. The UE radio commentator spoke from Paris this week. Tune in at 10 p.m. Monday on WKKW, Albany 850 on your dial.

100% Union Shop

UE Local 117 went into negotiations this year with the Lummus Company at Honesdale, Pa., with a 100 per cent UE shop. The union won a raise of 11 cents for both office and production workers, and obtained a check-off for the first time.

Canadian GE Workers Obtain 13 Cent Raise

A wage increase of 13 cents an hour has been won by UE workers in GE Canadian plants after they answered the company's offer of four cents by an overwhelming strike vote.

And for the first time a master contract has been obtained covering all GE Canadian plants organized by UE.

Another major gain is the guarantee that women workers will be paid a minimum equal to the job rate while on piece-work, and every job will stand on its own feet for calculated earnings.

The union did not get its demand for a guarantee against a cut in the workweek. But where additional shifts are put on there will be no reduction in hours for any shift.

The union security clause was strengthened by the provision that all new employees must join UE within 30 days. There is a check-off of dues and initiation fees.

Three weeks' paid vacation will be given after 20 years' service, instead of after 25 years. In connection with seniority, a new procedure of "bumping" will be worked out.

The contract is effective as of July 1 and runs for a year. It covers six plants in Toronto, Petersburg and Cobourg.

Still Going Up

Profits of corporations are expected to reach 20 billion dollars this year. In 1947 they were "only" 17½ billion. Before the war they were around \$5 billion.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

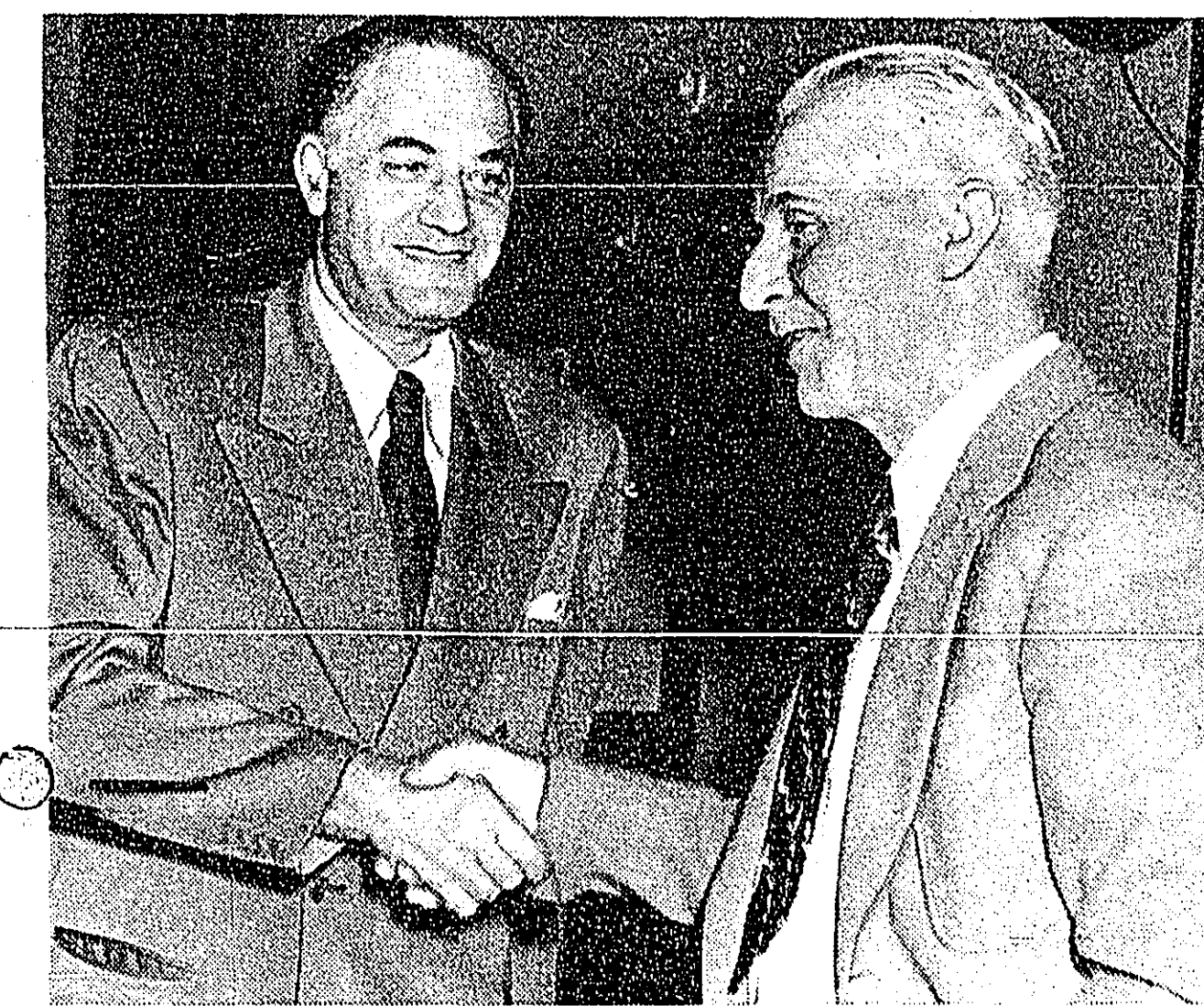
THE VOICE OF LOCAL 301 - - - - U. E. R. & M. W. A. - - - - C. I. O.

Vol. 6 — No. 32

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

August 13, 1948

A Warm Union Welcome for Candidate Gross



Dr. Walter S. Gross, left, endorsed by the membership of Local 301 as candidate for state senate, is greeted by William Hodges, 301, vice-president, at the meeting of volunteer workers for the primary campaign Aug. 3 at 301 Hall.

301, GE to Meet Tuesday on Crafts

Negotiations on craft rates will be resumed with General Superintendent Louis Male Tuesday afternoon. At that time Male is scheduled to state the company's position after having studied the evidence submitted by Business Agent Leo Jandreau last week, showing that GE's craft rates are out of line.

Tuesday's meeting will be concerned with rates of toolmakers, tool room machine operators, and machinists (non-production). It is expected there will be another meeting shortly after that on the other crafts.

On Monday of last week Jandreau, with a committee of all the crafts, presented the evidence on tool room rates. He argued the rates of the other crafts on Wednesday of last week. Male asked for time to study the material, and to take a week's vacation.

Jandreau showed that GE craft rates are low, both with relation to rates of other industrial plants in the area and with relation to plants of direct competitors in many cities.

While the negotiations are pend-

Board Hears Report On Primary Campaign

A report on the progress of the Peterson-Gross primary campaign was made to the Local 301 Executive Board Monday night by the Independent Political Action Subcommittee of the union.

This subcommittee was appointed by the 301 officers to handle the union's day-to-day work in the primary campaign, under decision of the 301 membership — to support 301 President Andrew Peterson as candidate for Congress and Dr. Walter S. Gross for state senate. Members of the subcommittee are Morton Lewis, Chief Shop Steward William Mastriani, and Business Agent Leo Jandreau.



Morton Lewis, Chief Shop Steward William Mastriani, and Business Agent Leo Jandreau.

Transport Workers Back Peterson, Gross

Local 159, Transport Workers Union, CIO, announced this week its members voted unanimously to endorse Andrew Peterson, 301 president, as candidate for Congress and Dr. Walter S. Gross, for state senate. The Local 159 members operate the Schenectady Railway Company buses.

Candidate for Congress

John Calahan, business agent of Local 255 at Pittsfield, Mass., has entered the Democratic primary to seek the nomination for Congressman.

WEAR YOUR UE BUTTON

ing, all the crafts, building trades, tool room and machinists, welders, and millmen, who have joined in the present campaign, are refusing all overtime. Many rumors have been circulated to the effect that one or another group of craftsmen planned to come in Saturday, but a check each time showed that these were false rumors. With a few small exceptions, the ranks have been solid in carrying out the decisions of the craft membership.

301 President Makes Report On Congress

President Andrew Peterson reported to the 301 Executive Board meeting Monday night on the emergency National UE Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. which the board directed him to attend last week. He will also report on the conference at the next membership meeting.

At the opening session Tuesday night of last week approximately 60 UE delegates met with Russ Nixon, UE Washington representative. They agreed to visit the Senate and House of Representatives the next day to press for action on the following points: price control, housing, repeal of the Taft-Hartley Law, civil rights, repeal of the peacetime draft, and social security.

Filibuster in Senate

"When we went to visit the Senate and the House," Peterson reported, "they were in session with a small number of members present and a filibuster going on in the Senate against the Anti-Poll Tax Bill.

"You already know that the special session accomplished nothing, but was taken up by a filibuster by the Southern Democrats which no one made any effective effort to break."

Peterson said the UE delegates were unable to see Senator Ives, but talked to one of his assistants. They did not see Congressman Kearney. On the basis of inter-

(Continued on Page 2)

Gaeth Program

The weekly Arthur Gaeth broadcast, sponsored by the national UE, has been shifted to Station WKKW, Albany (850 on your dial), from WSNY and WOKO. The time remains the same, 10 p.m. every Monday.

Gaeth went to Europe in late July to interview "the man on the street" on problems of the day. He has broadcast from Paris and Rome. Next Monday he will broadcast from Athens, Greece.

Remember, 10 p.m. Monday, Station WKKW.

Peterson Reports On Washington

(Continued from Page 1)
views with a number of Democratic and Republican Congressional leaders Peterson reported:

This Is the Score

"On price control the Republicans were frankly opposed and claim that most of the Democrats are. The Democrats are divided and say they are helpless.

"The Republicans are opposed to repeal of Taft-Hartley. The Democrats say they would vote for repeal but would not be willing simply to return to the Wagner and Norris-LaGuardia Acts. They want to write a new bill, which is of course a very serious danger in view of the nature of other Democratic proposals of the past three years in respect to labor legislation.

"On housing, both parties blame each other for the lack of a real program. The Democrats point out that the Taft-Ellender-Wagner Bill is in committee and that they cannot get it out because of the Republicans.

"On civil rights, the Republicans of course cite the southern filibuster as an excuse to blame the Democrats.

"On the draft, both parties are united in opposing any change.

"On Social Security, the Congressional leaders on both sides were not prepared for any action."

Meets Democratic Leaders

Peterson said that as a lifelong Democrat he was particularly interested in "a meeting we had with Lesley Biffle, secretary of the Democratic minority in Congress, and two Democratic leaders in the Senate, James Murray of Montana and Alben Barkley of Kentucky.

"It became evident that the party had done nothing to organize to put favorable legislation through the special session, had done nothing to fight the filibuster and had not even held one caucus to decide on tactics in the special session.

"Senator Murray, a real liberal

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

Published by Editorial Committee
Mary McCarlin, Secretary
Arthur B. Bertini, Clayton Pudney
John G. Grasso, Victor Pascho

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

Here's the Answer



GE Vice-President L. R. Boulware had another of his full-page statements in the Works News Aug. 6 trying to blame high prices on wage increases. "Why are YOU Paying High Prices?" was the heading. The above cartoon is the real answer, although we don't expect Boulware to admit it.

and Roosevelt Democrat, said that he wanted the Democratic Party to be what it was under Roosevelt but that President Truman had surrounded himself with reactionaries like Snyder and Forrestal and other Wall St. bankers in the Cabinet and that there were no fighters for the people in the Cabinet. Senator Murray said that the Democratic members of Congress were never called together, and that "we do not know what the program is or where the Party is trying to go."

While the special session was on, Peterson pointed out, there were big newspaper headlines about "the Red scare investigations which were being conducted by two committees of the House and one of the Senate."

Peterson said he dropped in at one of these which was in theory concerned with labor relations.

"Before this committee were

representatives of the UE local in Dayton, Ohio, which was on strike against the Univis Company," he said:

"Under the pretense of investigating, the members of the committee were making strenuous and unsuccessful efforts to show Communist control. I thought the UE representatives showed conclusively, with photographs, that there had been violence and brutality on the part of the police. But the committee members were closing their eyes to this. As was the case with the whole special session, the Red scare was used to cover up damage done to the people by officials supposedly elected by the people."

Peterson told the Board that the visit to Washington "brought out once again that nothing is more important than active participation by all our members in political action to insure the election of representatives who will work for the people and not against them."

National GE Refuses UE on Seniority Issue

The national GE management has failed to act on the UE's request that it act to get the Schenectady Works to comply with the seniority provision of the contract in connection with recent lay-offs of women in the Industrial Control division.

Local management has kept women on with less than two years' service while laying off others with close to five years. Local 301 is processing a formal grievance, but in the meantime national UE representatives asked the national GE office to look into the matter. After investigation, the top management repeated the local management story that to lay off the short service girls now would mean further "bumping" later on.

Local management has asked for additional time to study the formal grievance. The union contends there is a clear-cut contract violation.

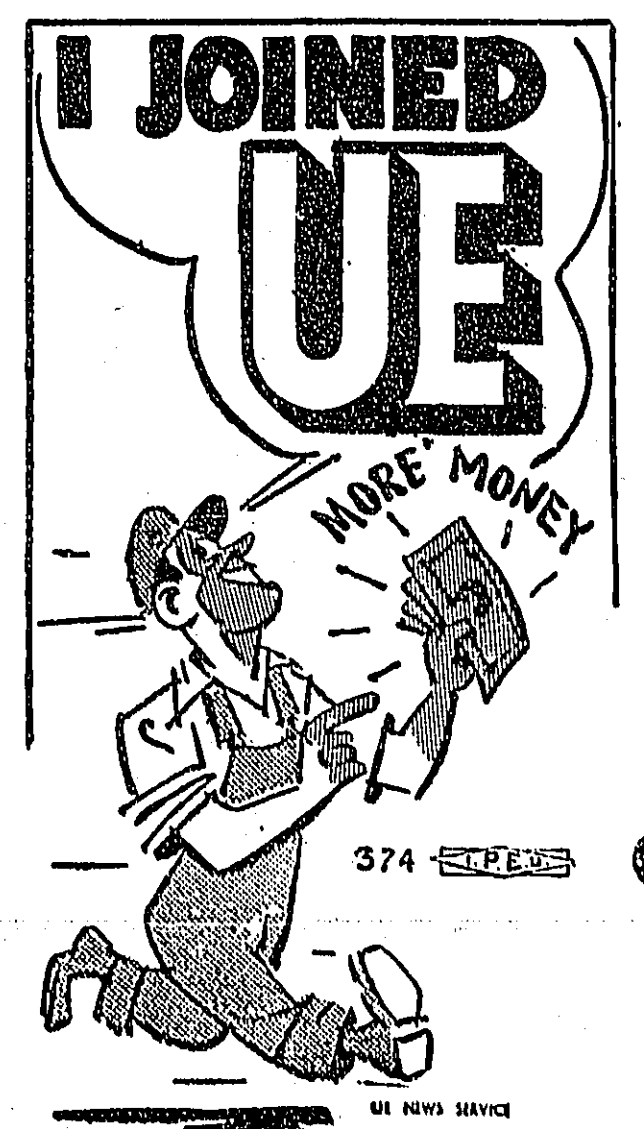
Strike Vote Brings Raise

The threat of a UE strike at Lion Mechanical Company, Long Island City, brought the workers a 10 1/2 cent wage package retroactive to May 10. The contract also provides for three weeks' vacation for nine years' service.

Political Action

UE locals at Sandusky, Ohio, led the successful fight of labor organizations to defeat the plan of city officials to impose a city income tax on the people of Sandusky.

THE POLLS ARE OPEN
PRIMARY DAY, AUG. 24,
NOON UNTIL 9 P.M.



GE Should Pay Pensions People Can Live On

What will you have to live on when you become too old to work? That is a vital problem for about 8,000 men and women retired from General Electric, who worry along on GE pensions. And it will be a problem for thousands more who look forward to retirement.

The average worker's pay is not high enough so that he can live on his savings. Yet at 65 years of age, he is retired by GE and has to get along on a monthly income considerably less than his former weekly wage. Part of this income comes from U. S. Social Security.

GE pensions are too small, particularly for workers in the lower pay scales. Some pensions are reduced even further because the company deducts for Social Security payments, provided that this does not reduce the pensions below a level of \$1 a month for every year of service. (This deduction is most unfair, for the worker has contributed half of the Social Security tax and therefore should be entitled to at least half of the Social Security benefits).

Altogether, the sums provided for retirement do not leave workers with enough to pay for food, rent, fuel and other necessities of life.

Working people deserve a better fate than that. Year after year, those at GE have earned thousands of dollars in profits for the company. In the best years of their lives, they have given their skill and work to produce the turbines, refrigerators and other electrical equipment that the American people need.

There were 8,552 GE pensioners in 1947. Recently the company adjusted its pension plan so that retired workers will be paid a minimum of \$1 a month for every year of service. This action came after the union had made public the pensioners' plight.

GE can afford to guarantee a minimum of \$120 a month on retirement. Until the U. S. Social Security system provides the full pensions these men and women need, GE should make up the amounts that are lacking.

GE refused to discuss higher pensions. Yet the company has saved millions of dollars annually by cancellation of its profit-sharing plan.

GE says that \$95,000,000 net profit in 1947 isn't really enough—the company needs more security against the unknown future.

Old folks need security too. It is the responsibility of the company to see that GE pensioners' remaining years are not haunted by the fear of poverty.

REMEMBER TO VOTE
PRIMARY DAY, AUG. 24

Big Business Devours

2,450 Small Concerns

The U. S. Federal Trade Commission revealed recently that Big Business has gobbled up 2,450 "formerly independent" manufacturing and mining companies.

The number of small businesses that failed this year is 40 per cent higher than the failures for the same period last year. The giant corporations are responsible for these failures. The small businesses had to buy materials from the large corporations at sky-high prices and sell their goods to a public whose purchasing power has been wiped out by high prices.

The Federal Trade Commission expressed fear that "the giant corporations will ultimately take over the country." Why say "ultimately"? Surely the FTC must know the Big Business connection of the Wall Street men and bankers who now run the State Department, the Army, the Navy, the Treasury, and the European Recovery Administration.

UE Won't Be Caught By This Squeeze Play

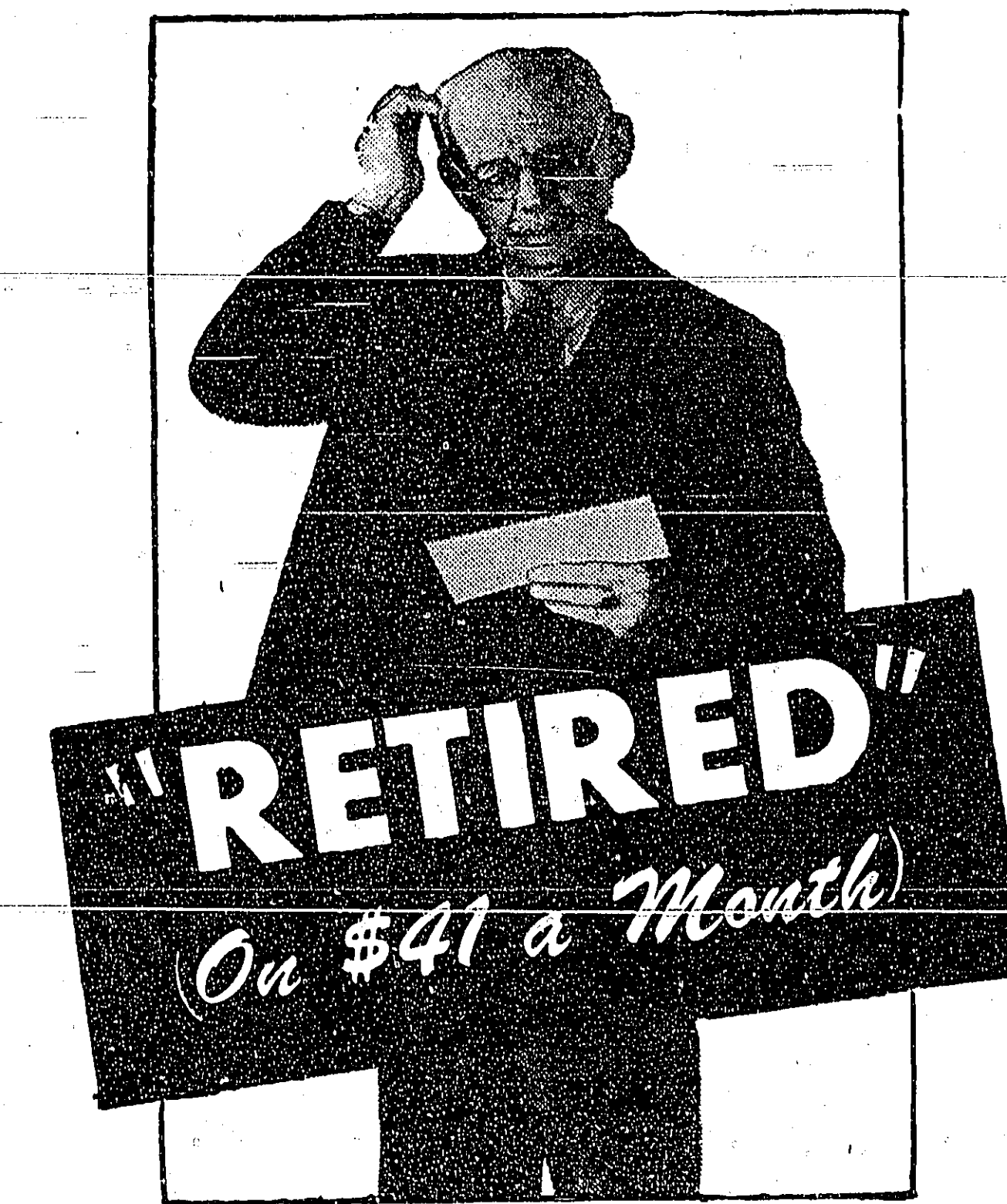
A new twist was tried by the Champion Lamp Works at Lynn, Mass., to keep the members of UE Local 215 from making any economic gains in their wage negotiations.

Some time ago the company tried to speed up the machines without paying for the increased production. The union took it to arbitration, and the award was expected by both parties to be in favor of the union.

So management told the negotiating committee they could have a wage increase if the union would agree to forget the award and give management the right to speed up whenever they feel like it. The union said no.

Strikers Aid Strikers

Members of UE Local 1217, who have been on strike over 100 days at the Fairchild Camera Company, Jamaica, L. I., dug down in their pockets to contribute \$112.55 for the UE strikers at the Hoover Company, North Canton, Ohio. They gave the money after hearing the story of the Hoover strike from a visiting striker.



Raises Negotiated At 21 Radio Shops

Renewal of a contract between UE Local 430 and the Electronics Manufacturers Association brought wage raises to 5,000 workers in 21 New York City radio shops.

Time workers get increases ranging from eight to 17 cents an hour, while incentive workers get increases ranging from seven to 13 cents an hour.

UE Local Continues

Despite the closing down of the Sylvania plant at Jamestown, members of UE Local 335 unanimously decided to continue their local to help take care of the organization, unemployment and job problems of the laid-off Sylvania workers. Wherever possible, the union committee is arranging transfers to jobs in other Sylvania plants with workers keeping their seniority.

Attempted Raid Fails

The AFL Carpenters Union has lost its second attempt to get the at Cleveland to vote for it in a Taft-Hartley election. Now that the raiders have been defeated by the "No" vote of the workers, UE Local 735 will press for a new contract. The AFL interference simply gave the company another excuse to delay wage increases.

Strike Against Pay Cuts Ends with Wage Increases

UE has won the strike at American Pulley Company, Philadelphia. The settlement provides a wage increase ranging from nine to 12 1/2 cents an hour, vacation improvements, an irrevocable checkoff and strengthened piece work and seniority clauses. The company had originally demanded the right to cut 711 piece-work rates, take away Saturday and Sunday overtime and make the workers take more time off for vacation with less pay.

During the strike, disrupters from the United Automobile Workers and supporters of the Carey-Block faction attempted to split the strikers by approaching their leaders with secession proposals. The strike leaders rejected the proposals on the grounds they would only help the boss, not the workers.

Peterson and Gross Draw Top Positions

In drawing for position on the Democratic primary ballot, both Andrew Peterson, candidate for Congress, and Dr. Walter S. Gross, candidate for state senate, won top position over their opponents. Both Peterson and Gross are endorsed by the membership of Local 301. The drawing took place in Albany recently at the secretary-of-state's office.