

Electrical Union News

THE VOICE OF THE UNITED ELECTRICAL RADIO & MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA—LOCAL 301 CIO

Vol. 11—No. 26

July 21, 1945

3c per copy

This One's On Me...

This is the second in a series of weekly columns which will appear in the Electrical Union News serving as a clearing house of ideas, thoughts and knowledge of union problems that is stored up in the minds of many union people. It will be written by a different person each week and the topics will be varied. Opinions expressed will be those of the writer and not necessarily that of the editorial committee or the leadership of this union.

Facts and Fancies

By SIDNEY FRIEDLANDER

Time was when people said, "Don't believe everything you read in the papers." Now they say, "Don't believe anything you read in the papers." So much prestige has the American "Free Press" lost in recent years that even "news" items are read with suspicion.

It is not easy to reconcile the idea of an uncontrolled press with the consistent anti-labor bias of almost every American commercial paper. It is unfortunate that the democratic press of America should be so thoroughly controlled by "Big Money" that it is impossible to get a fair statement of the workers' position into a standard daily newspaper.

In a democracy, opinion and consequently the votes of the people can only be based on correct and accurate information. If the information is unreliable, opinion is misled and the people base their thinking on errors and lies. If America is to survive as a democracy rather than a "Big Money" dictatorship, it is necessary for the people to have some medium through which they can get at the facts which the commercial papers either distort or suppress.

The labor press is the only press that can meet that qualification.

For example, it is not commonly known that Mikhailovich and his Chetnik bands had been exposed as traitors two years before the regular press would admit it. That was because certain financial interests in England were more interested in working with the Nazis than in a democratic government for Jugoslavia, (see Louis Adamie's book "My Native Land").

For over a year the facts concerning the London Polish government in exile were known to the commercial press but it was only when the leaders of that "Big Money" supported phony government were exposed as traitors to Poland before the whole world that the commercial press was forced to admit its "mistake."

The present situation in China where the largest part of Chiang

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Press for Gov't Action on UE Jobs, Urge Members Write to Washington



CHAIRMAN TAYLOR who must revise the Board's wage policy to meet needs of workers facing a cut in pay but no cut in living costs.

Edward Wallingford, acting business agent during the absence of Leo Jandreau, today called on the members of Local 301 to write personal letters to War Labor Board Chairman, Dr. George Taylor, Washington, D.C. and to the Congressmen from their district, requesting action on the UE-CIO program outlined in last week's Electrical Union News, be put into immediate effect.

Wallingford, who attended a meeting of CIO leaders of New York State in Syracuse recently as representative of Local 301, states the following important points of the CIO program should be put into effect immediately if economic upheaval and unemployment is to be averted during reconversion and in the post-war era:

1—Congress should immediately enact the necessary emergency legislation, requested by President Truman, to provide for federal supplementary unemployment relief compensation payments to war workers rendered unemployed during the reconversion period so that a minimum of \$25 per week for 26 weeks be provided. In addition, unemployment benefits should be made available to all federal employees, merchant marine and all other groups not now covered by law.

2—The President should revise the national wage policy and confer the necessary authority upon the National War Labor Board to make such wage adjustments as may be necessary and which will not substantially affect the cost of living.

3—Consistent with maximum war production, the War Labor Board should take all necessary steps to assure resumption of civilian goods in those plants where cancellations and cut-backs of war contracts have occurred.

One of the urgent needs at the present time, according to Wallingford, is the revision of the federal wage policy. Because of increasing cutbacks in war production, overtime work is rapidly declining and in the not too distant future it is reasonable to

expect that work in excess of the 40-hour work week will be an exception, not the rule as is still the case at the local plant.

Because high prices and cost of living have been based not on increased hourly earnings but rather on overtime hours worked, the wage policy must be changed to permit hourly wage increases which will compensate for the decrease in the number of hours worked.

Also of extreme importance and timely would be the rescinding of the 9240 Order which was issued by the late President Roosevelt which restricted conditions under which workers would receive time and a half or double time for hours worked outside of the regular work schedule. Since that order was made when overtime was the universal practice and to prevent certain abuses, it should now be rescinded so as to compensate as much as possible for the loss of overtime.

Individual members are urged to take the time necessary to write personal letters and, in their own words, tell the government leaders whose actions determine

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Flanagan New Assistant Business Agent; Mrs. Iovenelli Leaves Post

Effective July 29th, Raymond Flanagan, executive board member of building 285, will take over the duties of Mrs. Sadie Iovenelli as Assistant to the Business Agent. Flanagan received the appointment from the executive board when it became certain Mrs. Iovenelli would have to relinquish her union post in order to return to her job in the GE plant.

Flanagan was elected to the executive board from his section about two years ago and has since been one of the most active mem-



IOVENELLI FLANAGAN

bers in the organization. In addition to his participation on the board, he has served on many committees and delegations representing the union. He has also been co-editor of the Electrical Union News since the editorial committee was reorganized in March, 1944.

In commenting on his new post, Flanagan said that although he did not solicit the appointment, he would accept it and would devote his full and best efforts towards processing grievances in conjunction with the business agent and his co-assistant, Ernest Bexio, for the membership of the union.

Mrs. Iovenelli, who was forced to relinquish the post due to the fact that her leave of absence expired from the General Electric Company, has served as assistant to Business Agent Jandreau since March, 1944. The role which she has played in the operation of the union's grievance machinery has been a credit to her and proven that women are capable of handling the many intricate problems of collective bargaining. Her

energetic interest in the problems of the workers in the shop and her natural ability to understand them and choose the proper solution has won her a host of friends.

A dinner party was given by the officers, executive board and committee chairmen in her honor Thursday evening at the Town Tavern at which time she was presented with an appropriate gift by her union co-workers.

Central Park Program

Milo Lathrop, director of education programs, has announced that a summer series of entertainment and educational programs will be presented by the Local 301 Education Committee at Central Park Sunday, July 22, at 2:30 p.m.

Committeemen Amend Rules On Meetings of 2nd Shift

Committeemen of Local 301, using a prerogative granted them by the Local's constitution, voted at their July 3rd meeting to change recommendation of the Executive Board and membership in respect to the manner and time their meetings will be held.

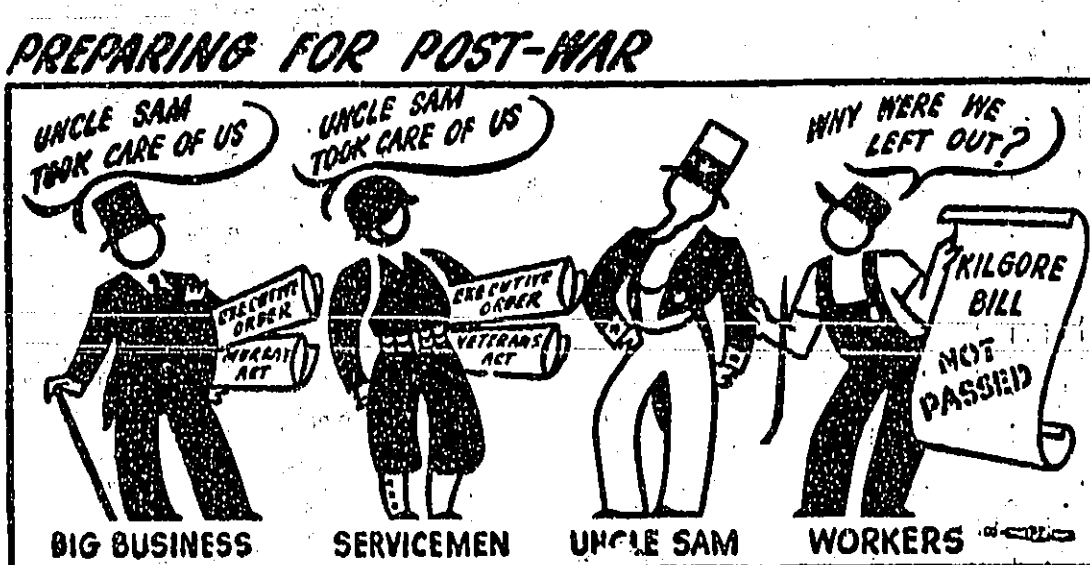
It was their decision to hold committeemen's meetings as in the past, the first Tuesday evening following the first Monday of each month. Second shift representatives will not, however, be held for lost time while attending the meeting in accordance with a companion membership recommendation.

This alters the plan which was announced in a recent issue of the Electrical Union News which reported the membership action that provided for 2nd shift committeemen to meet on Monday afternoons, and the day shift committeemen to meeting on the regular Tuesday date.

ORIGINAL TORN

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

United Electrical Radio & Machine Workers of America, Local 301 CIO... Published weekly, the first three weeks of each month...



Let's Argue With A Liberal

By TRAVIS K. HEDRICK... WASHINGTON, D. C. (AP)—I have a bone to pick with Thomas L. Stokes, the able columnist of the Scripps-Howard Alliance...

Now Sen. Joseph Ball, the Minnesota Republican, is no friend of labor. You can prove that by asking the AFL Congressman from Minnesota, Rep. William J. Gallagher, and also the members of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Newspaper Guild (CIO)...

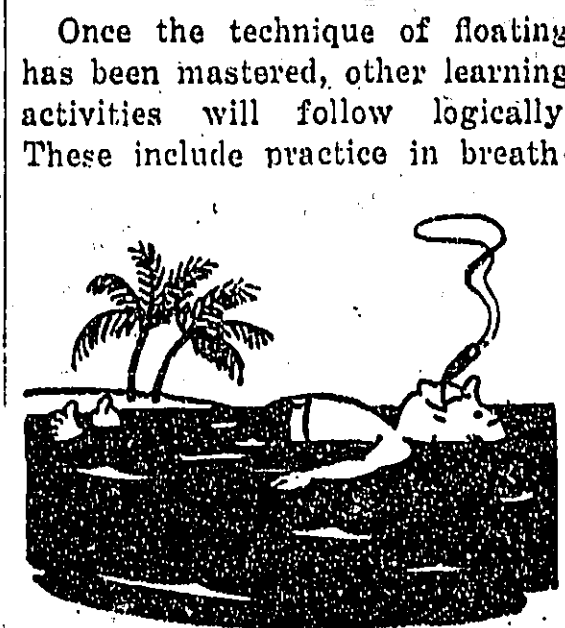
The trouble with Stokes and other liberals who think along these lines is that they refuse to see that after years of giving employers a free rein with their workers, a law was necessary to check their unfair practices. It does not follow, however, that the law defending labor's rights must be amended to give employers the right to WEAKEN those rights in order to be FAIR...

Learning To Float

Before learning to swim, learn to float. It's just as important as swimming, and, if properly done, it has the advantage of requiring no effort.

First of all, the learner should get rid of the notion that floating is a matter of maintaining his body in a horizontal position parallel to the surface. In persons of average buoyancy, the body, from chest to knee, will be suspended at an angle of about 45 degrees, and the legs below the relaxed knees will hang nearly perpendicular.

If the head is allowed to rest in the water with only the face above the surface, and if the arms are extended gradually to the side and then somewhat beyond the head, the chest and torso will be buoyed up, the back will be naturally and comfortably arched, and the legs, if relaxed and allowed to flex at the knee, will take care of themselves.



holding, with the face buried in the water; rhythmic breathing, which is the evenly repeated process of inhaling through the mouth above the surface and exhaling through the nose in the water; and practice in keeping the eyes open under water. This, the learner will soon discover, is not unpleasant, and is essential both for convenience and safety.

When the beginner has satisfied himself by experiment that the body's natural buoyancy will serve to keep him at the surface, he will not, later, divide his stroking movements and waste energy.

Call your Red Cross chapter for information about courses in water safety and swimming and enroll.

Jest Jokes

Dolly: How about going over to a corner booth and singing me a quick opera, outkins? Windhelm: I don't know about a quick opera, but I guarantee you some fast overtures. —From "Duffy's Tavern"

Cases Pending Before Management

The following is a list of cases pending before management at the present time. As a service to the membership, the Electrical Union News in co-operation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics will publish in each issue the list of cases pending. When a case no longer appears in this list, it may be assumed that settlement has been made.

Table with columns: No., Case, Committee, Date. Lists various labor disputes and their resolutions.

We Need a 72 Cent Minimum Wage

A review of one of the Union-Company disputes on the 1945 Contract Proposals which the Union has carried to the War Labor Board. The establishment of a minimum wage of 72c an hour for the lowest rated jobs is essential if the standard of living is to be maintained in spite of increased costs of living.

A guaranteed living wage—that's the goal all workers have been seeking. It was about one year and a half ago that the late Franklin D. Roosevelt told the Congress of the United States that our country has "accepted a second Bill of Rights under which a new basis of security and prosperity can be established for all—regardless of station, race or creed."

Roosevelt's Plans Among the rights which our late President said "spell security" are: "The right to a useful and remunerative job in the industries or shops or farms of the Nation; "The right to earn enough to provide adequate food and clothing, and recreation; "The right of every family to a decent home;

Important To All Our Union's proposals to the General Electric for a 72 cent-an-hour minimum wage, for wage increases, for equal pay for women who perform duties equal to those of men, for special provisions to aid returning servicemen, are of profound importance not only to ourselves but to all people of Schenectady.

When the late President Roosevelt said in his new Bill of Economic Rights that all people have the right to "earn enough to provide adequate food and clothing and recreation," he expressed a very important thought. Local 301 realizes that one way to help workers obtain the necessities of life is to sign contracts with industry guaranteeing a minimum wage, which will provide a decent standard of living for the lowest-paid worker.

\$28.80 Per Week On the basis of a 40-hour week, the minimum wage of 72 cents-an-hour would mean a weekly wage of \$28.80. This is not a very high figure, but since the General Electric Company has no minimum wage standard other than what the law demands, we considered the \$28.80 a week figure as a fair standard from which to start.

Despite the logic of the Union's request, the Company would not agree to raise the very low minimum rates now in effect in its plants. Any such increase would be subject to the National War Labor Board's approval but there are grounds to fully justify such an increase within the present wage stabilization policy of our Government.

In refusing to come to an agreement with the Union, the General Electric Company is taking a short-sighted attitude and is counting on the low-wage policy giving them the inside track in the market for peace-time products. Such

low wage policy led by the large manufacturers would be disastrous and would lead our country to another tragic depression. Because of that and the increase in the cost of living which faces us all, our Union is carrying its fight for an adequate minimum wage to the National War Labor Board.

Improve Health Standards When the UE-CIO proposed a 72 cent-an-hour minimum wage for G. E. employees, it was also proposing—at the same time—that the health standards of the community be maintained and improved. It was proposing that the white-collar or salaried employees receive a measure of the security to which they are entitled.

It was proposing that wage standards, far higher than \$28.80 a week be maintained and increased. Because, unless a floor on wages is set at a subsistence level, then no wage rates—no matter how high—are secure. By its proposal for 72 cent minimum wage rates, our Union was proposing that our people be guaranteed at least MINIMUM funds to pay their bills. By making this possible the Union thus promotes the security of the Storekeeper, the Grocer, the Small Businessman, as well as doctors and dentists of the Community who must be paid if they are to carry on their businesses and their professions. The success of the Union's fight is the concern of the entire city.

Local 301 believes that a living wage is the one way of guaranteeing that our people have the funds

to make the purchases which can keep the wheels of industry turning.

Take the case, of the General Electric Company itself. If such a leading company in the industry insists on paying sub-standard rates, it merely helps limit the market for refrigerators, radios and the many other electrical appliances such a company makes.

Need \$1752 a Year In order to provide merely a BARE LIVING—according to a survey conducted in cooperation with the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics recently—the average family must have an income of \$1,752 a year. This means that the wage earner must receive a wage rate of about 84 cents an hour to live with any decency at all.

Such surveys as these show the reasonableness of the proposal of our Union for a 72 CENT-AN-HOUR MINIMUM WAGE which has been FLATLY REJECTED by the Company.

GE Can Pay Proof of the General Electric Company's financial ability to pay a living wage is to be found in the fact that the operating profit made by the Company per worker in 1939 was \$670. In 1944 the operating profit rose to \$1,067, per worker. The increased productivity of labor is shown by the fact that labor cost per dollar sales has fallen 15 per cent as compared to 1939.

BUT THE UE IS NOT ACCEPTING THE COMPANY'S ANSWER.

We continue the fight in the War Labor Board and in our communities. Local 301 is confident that the people of Schenectady, given the full information, will understand the correctness of our Union's position and give it their support.

Story of Labor comic strip. Panels show workers in Virginia, 1607, discussing their conditions and the actions of Captain Smith and the gentlemen.