

## UE Protests Change in State Policy On Rights During Vacation Shutdown

In the past, during a vacation shutdown, a worker who wasn't entitled to pay for the full shutdown period was allowed unemployment insurance credits for the time when he was out without pay.

### Statement on CIO

The General Executive Board of UE at its June meeting condemned efforts of top CIO leaders to dictate to international unions and to destroy unions which refuse to submit to their orders.

In April the GEB issued a statement pointing out the dangers of the policies certain CIO leaders are trying to force on unions. The GEB demanded that the CIO stop using the funds and energies of CIO for raiding, dual unionism and union-busting and urged that the CIO lead a united campaign for jobs and a higher standard of living.

Instead the CIO Executive Board at its May meeting adopted a resolution demanding that representatives of every CIO union on the Board must support every action of the controlling group of CIO leaders or resign from the Board.

The GEB last month voted to uphold the action of UE representatives on the CIO Board in opposing such a dictatorial policy.

The GEB declared that UE, within the CIO, has fought for policies to advance the welfare of the working people. But the GEB served notice that UE will not support "union-busting, rule or ruin policies" that the CIO leadership insists upon.

To summarize:

UE will not submit to raids upon this union or condone raids on any other CIO union.

UE will not agree to the use of CIO funds by CIO officers or staff members to promote secession and dual unionism and connive with employers against the interests of UE and its membership.

UE will not support efforts of the CIO to hand the membership of one union over to another or to take away the right of the membership of CIO unions to run their own affairs.

UE will not support the CIO leadership's policy of knuckling under to the Democratic Party machine, and covering up for its failures to deliver on its campaign promises instead of fighting aggressively for the legislative interests of the CIO membership.

The State Division of Placement and Unemployment Insurance has ruled that this policy will no longer apply. Instead the state will look into the circumstances at every plant involved. If the state officials decide that there is an understanding that during the period of shutdown workers will take vacation, unemployment insurance will be barred. If a worker is out of the plant without pay for the entire vacation shutdown it's just his hard luck, according to this new policy.

Representatives of UE Districts 3 and 4 protested against this reversal of policy at a meeting in New York City last week with two high officials of the Unemployment Insurance Division. They were told that any worker or union dissatisfied with the ruling will have to test it by an appeal. The UE spokesmen pointed out that the state should give the benefit of any doubt to the worker who is out of work without pay and that the burden of any appeal should be borne by the company.

The Local 301 Executive Board Monday authorized that letters of protest on this policy be sent to Governor Dewey, State Industrial Commissioner Edward Corsi and Milton Loysen, director of the Unemployment Insurance Division.

Members of Local 301 should register with the Schenectady Unemployment Insurance office if they are not eligible for pay during any part of a vacation shutdown. The union will fight for their rights and handle their appeals.

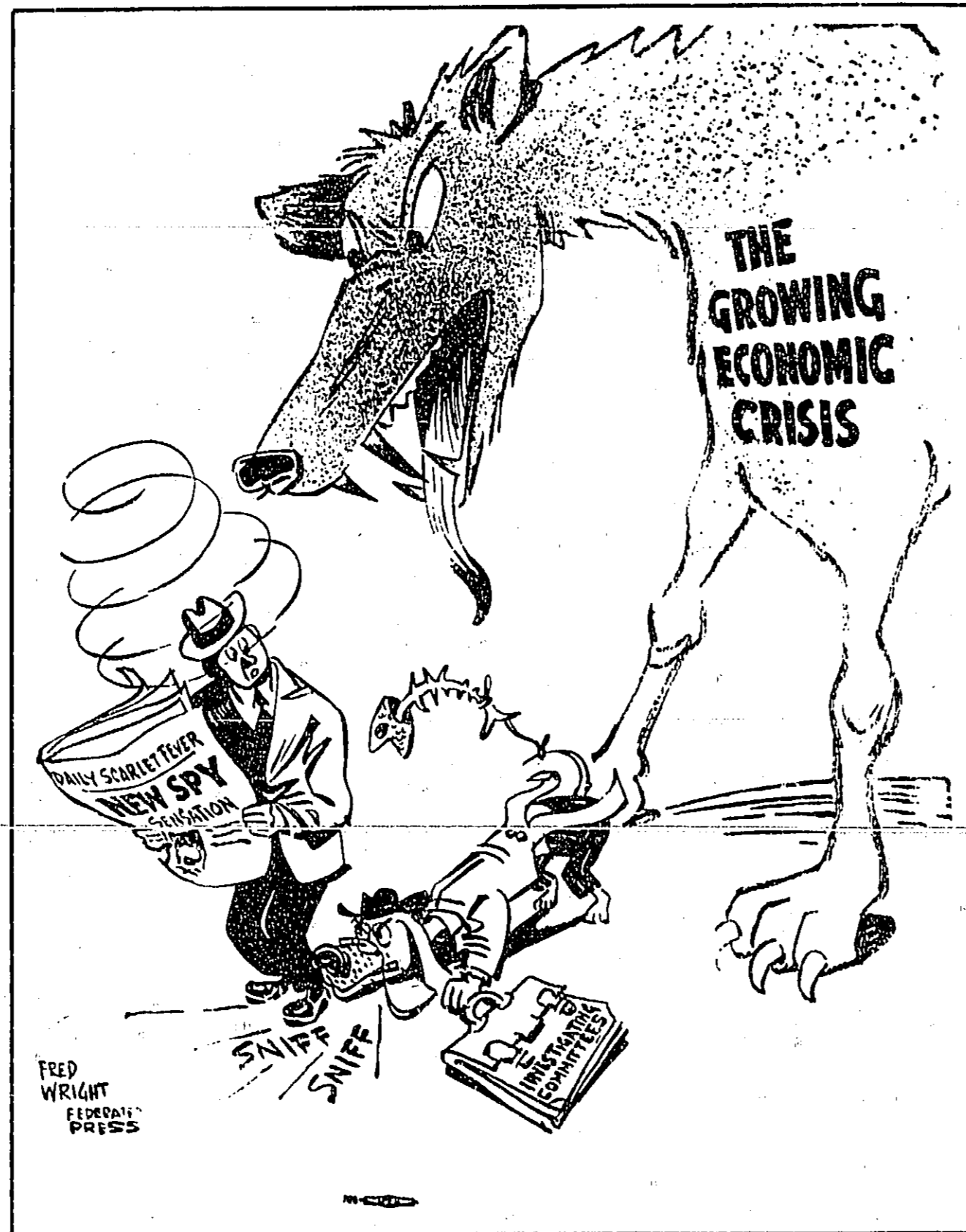
### GE Price Reductions Too Little, Too Late

The General Electric Company has been boasting about some small reductions in the price of appliances. GE price cuts are too little and too late.

GE joined the other corporations in profiteering and wiping out wartime savings. As a result, overall industry sales of radio receivers fell 62 per cent in January 1949 as compared with January 1948; sales of washers fell 41 per cent and of vacuum cleaners, 25 per cent.

It will take more than a few trifling price reductions to restore the people's purchasing power.

## About Face!



### Union Represented At Meeting on Roads

President Frank Kriss and Board Member Fred Pacelli of the 301 Transportation Committee attended a meeting of the New York State Good Roads Association recently at the county courthouse. The 301 Executive Board had authorized the committee to represent the union at the meeting.

On motion of Pacelli, the road association meeting voted to organize a Schenectady Chapter of the Association.

### Did You Know?

As a result of price increases, downgrading and rate cutting, real weekly wages in manufacturing dropped 17 per cent between 1944 and 1947. This is a greater decline in real wages than occurred during any depression since 1914.

The situation did not change in 1948 and any small price declines in 1949 have been more than matched by a fall in weekly wages of \$2.39, from \$55.01 in December 1948 to \$52.62 in April 1949.

### 301 Wins Pay Raise For Woman at Knolls

Through a grievance carried to the New York level, the union has won a pay raise, retroactive to Apr. 4, for a woman worker at the Knolls, formerly of Building 5. The company also has agreed to write a new description of her work.

The union, in a docket filed in June, 1948, protested that her classification as an assembler was wrong and that her pay was too low. There have been shop investigations and several meetings on the case. Settlement was reached last week when Business Agent Leo Jandreau and UE International representative Joseph Turkowski met in New York with James Burnison of GE on the matter.

The one step increase brings her job rate to \$1.19 an hour.

### Schenectady Jobless

There were 3,178 jobless workers registered with the Schenectady Unemployment Insurance office as of July 8. The figure for June 24 was 3,034.

# ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

THE VOICE OF LOCAL 301

U. E. R. &amp; M. W. A.

C. I. O.

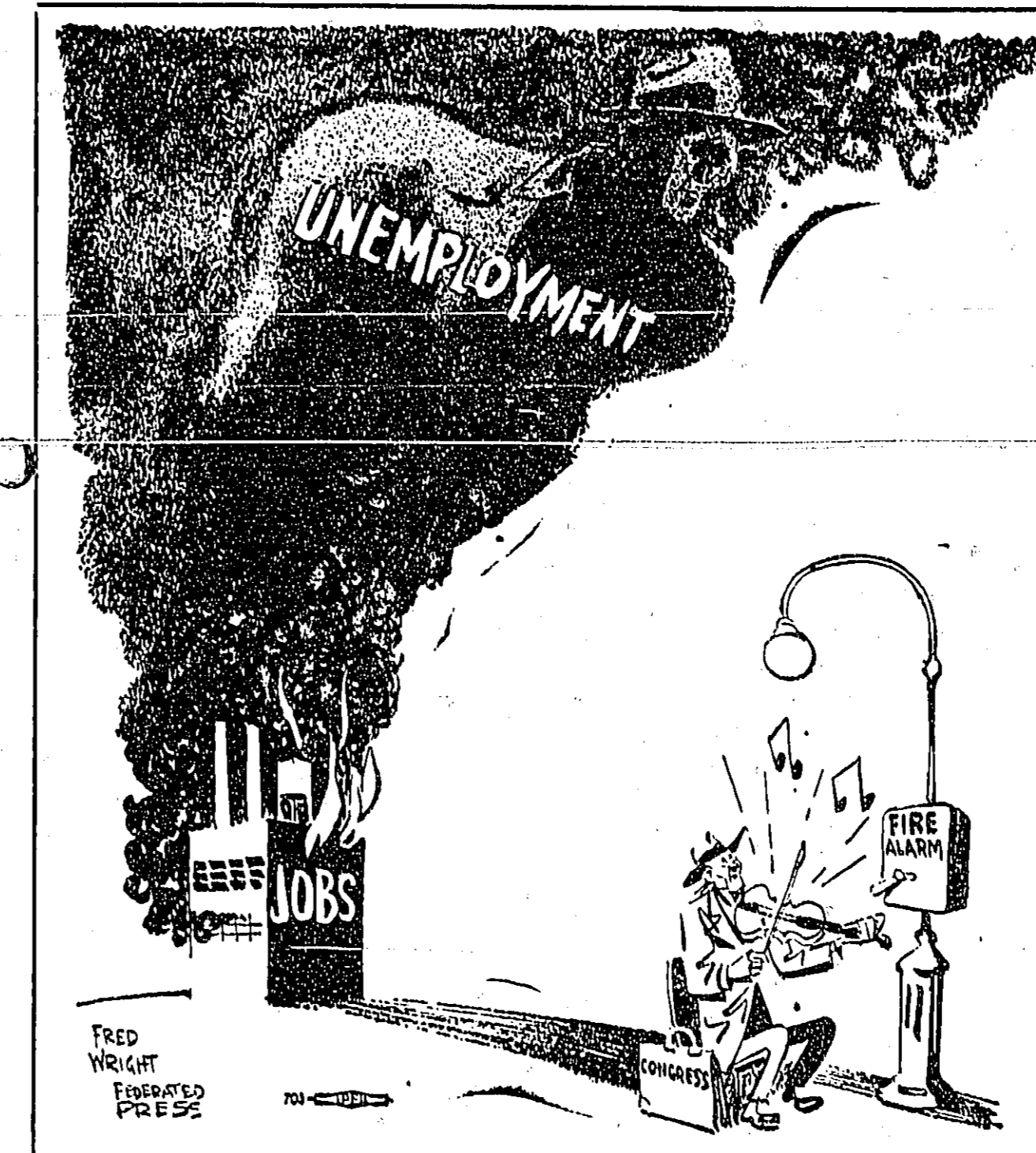
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SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

July 22, 1949

## 301 Urges Action to Support Demands

### While Rome Burns



### GE Stands Facts on Their Heads

General Electric advertised this week "Why We Oppose a Fourth Round." The attempt to defend its refusal to give anything to its employees is another example of the "Big Lie" method of propaganda used by employers today.

The key sentence in the ad is this:

"But something like 95 percent of the buying public still has the needed buying power. . . ."

The ad concludes with talk of a "bold dynamic program" which will "irresistibly compel that 95% of the buying public to buy again. . . ."

This statement is made in the face of 5,000,000 unemployed and millions more downgraded or on short time.

The only "bold program" of GE is one to force greater speed-up on the workers, so it can continue its record while lay-offs increase.

The ad does not mention ability to pay, for the simple reason that GE is rolling in piled-up profits.

GE's propaganda stands the economic condition of the nation on its head by the simple device of leaving out the key issue—the record profits which are bringing lay-offs and depression.

The ad makes the admission that "customers have been priced right out of the market." But then you are told that wages did it.

Labor has been pointing out ever since the war that the customers—the people—are being priced out of the market—by industry's policy of huge profits through high prices and too low wages, so that people can't buy.

The only thing that can help meet the problem is more purchasing power—a shorter work week to re-employ the unemployed with higher pay, out of profits.

### 301 Wins Victory In Dismissal Case

The union has won a sweeping victory in an arbitrator's decision that the General Electric Company was not justified in firing Milton J. Daring, World War II veteran, from his Campbell Ave. Plant job last fall.

Arbitrator Edward C. Maguire ruled that GE should reinstate Daring with full back pay and all other rights "to which he would otherwise be entitled."

The case was the first arbitration of any Local 301 grievance. The hearing was conducted in Schenectady in May and the decision was handed down last Friday.

### Employee's Discount Involved

GE dismissed Daring because he refused to pay back an employee's discount which he had received on a washing machine, an electric stove and a refrigerator. Daring had lived in Gallupville when he ordered the equipment, but moved to an uncle's home in Middleburg and had the articles installed there.

A Middleburg GE dealer complained to the company about the equipment being installed. GE ordered the veteran to pay back the discount or lose his job. The company had started docking his pay when he took the case to the union. When GE saw he was standing on his right to the discount, it fired him.

### GE Detectives

Testimony of GE executives showed that the company went to amazing lengths to try to deprive the veteran of his employee's discount. It developed that three high executives from GE had spent a day touring the Schoharie Valley playing amateur detective, to check on where Daring lived. The "detectives" were Works Manager Lewis Male; his assistant, A. C. Stevens, and Pay Master Benjamin Wilson.

Handling the case for the union were International UE Representative Joseph Dermody, Business Agent Leo Jandreau and Marshall Perlin, 301 attorney.

### Keen Interest In Shortening Work Week

The 301 membership meeting this week met the General Electric Company's refusal to yield an inch on contract demands with a unanimous vote "to show the company we mean business." Despite the intense heat and humidity, the meeting was one of the best attended and most spirited in several months.

The meeting instructed the 301 delegates to the GE Conference Board to press for making the shorter work week, at 40 hours' pay, the central issue of the union's fight.

The same motion also instructed the delegates to call for the organizing of shop gate meetings at all GE plants as soon as possible, in support of the contract demands.

The GE Conference Board was to meet yesterday in New York City after obtaining the reaction of GE locals to the company's arbitrary attitude. Last week GE said the bargaining sessions should end because the company intended to continue saying "No" to everything.

Business Agent Leo Jandreau, a member of the negotiating committee.

### Kearney Opposes Extending '52-20'

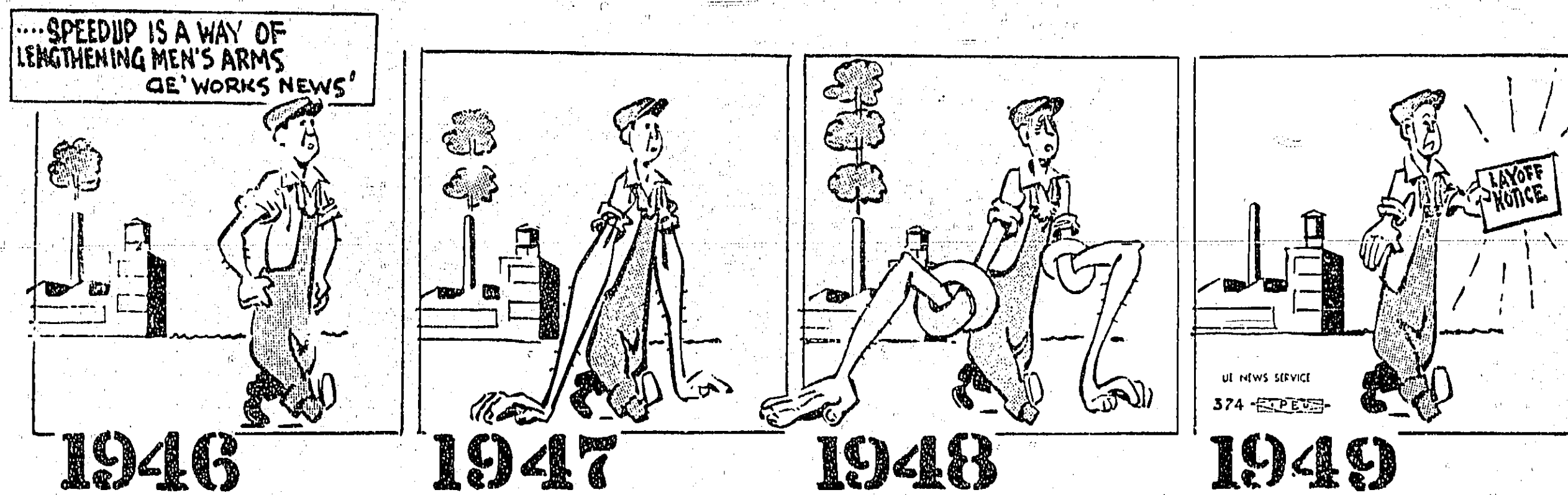
Congressman Bernard W. Kearney of Gloversville is opposed to extending "52-20" to continue unemployment benefits for veterans.

He told a member of the Washington UE office July 14 that he is against extension and won't join any move to force the Extension Bill out of committee so that it can be voted on. Representative John Rankin of Mississippi has the bill blocked in his veterans' committee now.

Kearney admitted that unemployment is bad and that "it would get worse." But he won't help veterans meet the problem.

## MORE PAY — MORE BUYING POWER — MORE JOBS





### 301 Urges Action To Back Demands

(Continued from Page 1)

mittee, warned the membership, "We can't afford to wait to see what steel does."

The situation in the steel and electrical industries are not the same, he said.

"The 'fact-finding board' appointed by President Truman in the steel deadlock may make a decision giving the workers nothing, Jandreau pointed out, or the steelworkers might end up only with a pension plan inferior even to the one now in GE. There is no pension system at all in steel at present.

#### Strong UE Arguments

UE has never entered negotiations with a stronger set of facts to warrant a pay raise, shorter hours and decent pension and insurance benefits, Jandreau declared. He said that GE brazenly admits it expects to go right on making its huge profits and speeding up the workers, without lifting a finger to stop lay-offs or help the pensioners keep out of the poorhouses.

"GE says you have plenty of money," Jandreau told the members. "It's only a case of waiting till you start spending it!"

UE had several pensioners and unemployed members tell the moving story of their hardships to the GE officials at the last negotiating session. Both Vice-President L. R. Boulware and George Pfeif were present.

Jandreau reported that Pfeif said they were sorry to hear of

### Here's Good News For Some People

Following discussion at the New York level, the company has agreed that if a laid-off worker completed his 1948 vacation after August 1 because of a vacation shutdown, the period worked for purposes of figuring vacation pay will be figured from August 1 rather than the end of the vacation.

For many persons in Control who were laid off between June 1 and June 14, this means getting full vacation pay instead of five-sixths. Checks will be mailed to those who were paid less than they were entitled to.

The understanding was actually worked out several years ago, but top supervision apparently failed to issue the proper instructions.

The ruling does not apply to persons who took a vacation after August 1 by their own choice. It does apply to those not on vacation shutdowns, but who were asked by supervision to take a late vacation because of work requirements.

The understanding was cleared up in discussions by Business Agent Leo Jandreau and International Representatives Joseph Dermody and Joseph Turkowski, with George Pfeif of top management.

such pitiful situations. GE President Charles E. Wilson was determined to break the union in 1946, Jandreau warned, "and he still has that determination."

If GE succeeds now in rejecting all the union's demands, Jandreau said, it will step up its program of profits and speed-up, and will try to destroy the contract itself.

In discussion from the floor members emphasized that GE must be shown right now that the workers mean business. They said that the greatest unity would be in a fight for the shorter work week at 40 hours' pay, to safeguard jobs and to return laid off workers to the plant.

### Length of Service Case Finally Won

It took the General Electric Company about 14 months to agree that the service record of a worker should not be broken because of transfer to Bloomfield, N. J. and his lay-off there.

The man started working for GE at Schenectady in 1941 and was sent to Bloomfield in 1946. Early in 1948 he was laid off there for lack of work.

He applied immediately at the Schenectady plant for work but was told there was no hiring being done. Seranton, GE also turned him down. In March, 1948 he was put back to work in Building 46 here. The union called the attention of the company June 1, 1948, to the fact that he was wrongly listed as a new employee and that he should be credited with his full service.

GE finally notified the union this week that the Pension Board has changed his service to give him full credit. The case was processed by Shop Steward William Germain and Executive Board Member Willard Kuschel.

### Three Radio Programs Planned by Local 301

Local 301 is planning three radio programs to show the problems of pensioners and of workers who are laid off or working on short time.

The first program will be broadcast at 7:15 p.m. Tuesday, July 26 over WSNY. It will be an interview with Petronella Melsert, punch press operator in Building 17 who has been on rotation for three months.

Two unemployed 301 members will be interviewed Thursday night, July 28, at the same hour, same station. The third program on pensioners will be Tuesday, Aug. 2.

Robert Northrop of the 301 unemployment committee will be interviewer.

ATTEND THE UNION MEETINGS

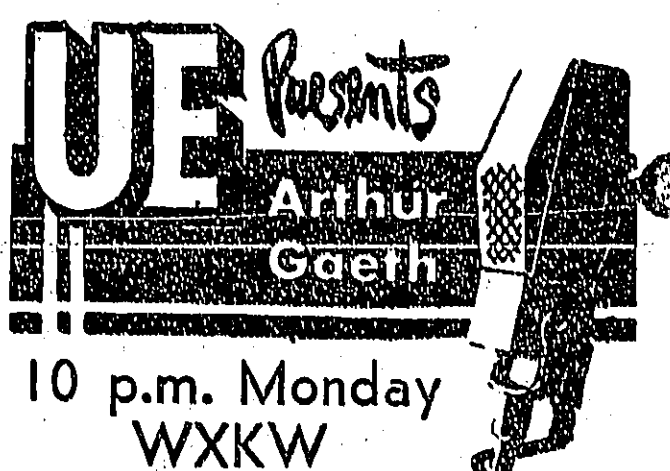
### Hope the Windshield Will Be Safety Glass

GE's insistence on carrying on its carbonyl speed-up drive, despite danger warnings from the workers, sent a turret-lathe operator from the new Turbine building to the works hospital a few minutes after a time study started Monday morning.

Thereafter the time study was stopped pending further discussion of the safety angle. The operator, W. F. Rex, refused to continue because of the danger. The group, represented by Steward Roy Lash, backed Rex up, and Board Member William Stewart notified Don White, assistant general foreman, that he was instructing the operator not to proceed. Barney Gardener, foreman, wanted to start a method study on the same job Wednesday using a windshield, but later he notified Lash the whole thing was being held up.

While the standard cut on turret lathes in the group is one-quarter inch, Gardener ordered a half-inch cut for this valve job. Lash requested him orally and in writing to hold it up so the safety angle could be discussed, as the men felt it was dangerous. Gardener declared he would go ahead with the time study.

The study started promptly Monday morning. It had just started when a hot chip flew off, cutting Rex on the arm. He was taken to the hospital for treatment, bleeding badly.



### 301 Approves Unemployment Committee; Hears Report on Washington Delegation

The 301 membership and stewards' meeting this week voted unanimous approval of the committee on unemployment named by the Executive Board. The meeting also approved a report made by Robert Northrop, Local 301 representative in the delegation of 125 unemployed UE members sent to Washington recently to press for action against unemployment.

The 301 committee on unemployment consists of President Frank Kriss, Northrop and Board Members Stanley Bishop, Henry Kaminski and William Mastriani.

"UE is the first labor union in the country that has forced leaders in the U. S. government and Congress to listen to the facts about the growing unemployment and depression," Northrop said.

He pointed out that instead of being "labor statesmen" and glossing over the depression, the leaders of UE organized the delegation to tell the government about the situation and urge that something be done about it immediately.

#### Some Interesting Interviews

Northrop reported also:

President Truman's economic advisor, John Clark, said he was "very optimistic and that everything would readjust itself shortly."

"Vice President Barkley expressed sympathy, but said the real reason for whatever unemployment there was was due to the fact that consumers were holding their money back. We asked him if he referred to us and he quickly answered, 'No, I mean another group of consumers.'"

"Edith Nourse Rogers of the House Veterans Committee told us that Mr. Charles Wilson is doing all he can for GE workers and then she hurried away, explaining that it just so happened she had to keep an appointment with Mr. Wilson himself."

#### Couldn't See Ives

Northrop said Senator Irving M. Ives of New York state refused to meet the group and that Congressman Bernard W. Kearney "successfully avoided us for two days."

Representatives of the Interior, Labor and Commerce Departments said unemployment is still too spoty throughout the country to worry about.

#### Part-Time Cleaning

The company's Personnel Division has notified the Local 301 office that it is trying to obtain 11 women for part-time cleaning jobs.

Forty seven longer service women, now out of their jobs, have turned down the work because it is part-time, GE said. Women now out of the plant who are interested in these jobs should contact the company employment office.

### Collections Planned For Singer Strikers

Local 301 voted unanimously this week to have collections made regularly in the shops for the UE strikers against the Singer Sewing Machine Company. The membership pledged \$500 a week to the strike, after hearing a report on the fight from a striker, Leo Bizjak, of Local 401 at Elizabeth, N. J. The money will be advanced from the treasury till the collection machinery gets rolling.

In urging the shop collections, members said that the need of supporting this strike and others must be brought home to every member of the union. Solid support of all workers is needed to defeat the united opposition of Big Business.

Bizjak pointed out the great similarity between the attitude of GE toward its workers and the Singer Company's attitude. The strike was called May 1 to fight for higher pay, a shorter work week, seniority, and against speed-up.

### Charles Wilson Talked Differently in 1944

In October, 1944, GE President Charles E. Wilson said:

"After the war is won, take-home pay on a 40-hour week basis must eventually represent the high level of earnings that now prevail."

But instead the take-home pay of GE workers and other workers has dropped. There are about five million unemployed in this country and lay-offs are increasing. People haven't the money to buy the products the factories are turning out.

That's the reason we are headed toward a depression, instead of toward the better standard of living we could have.

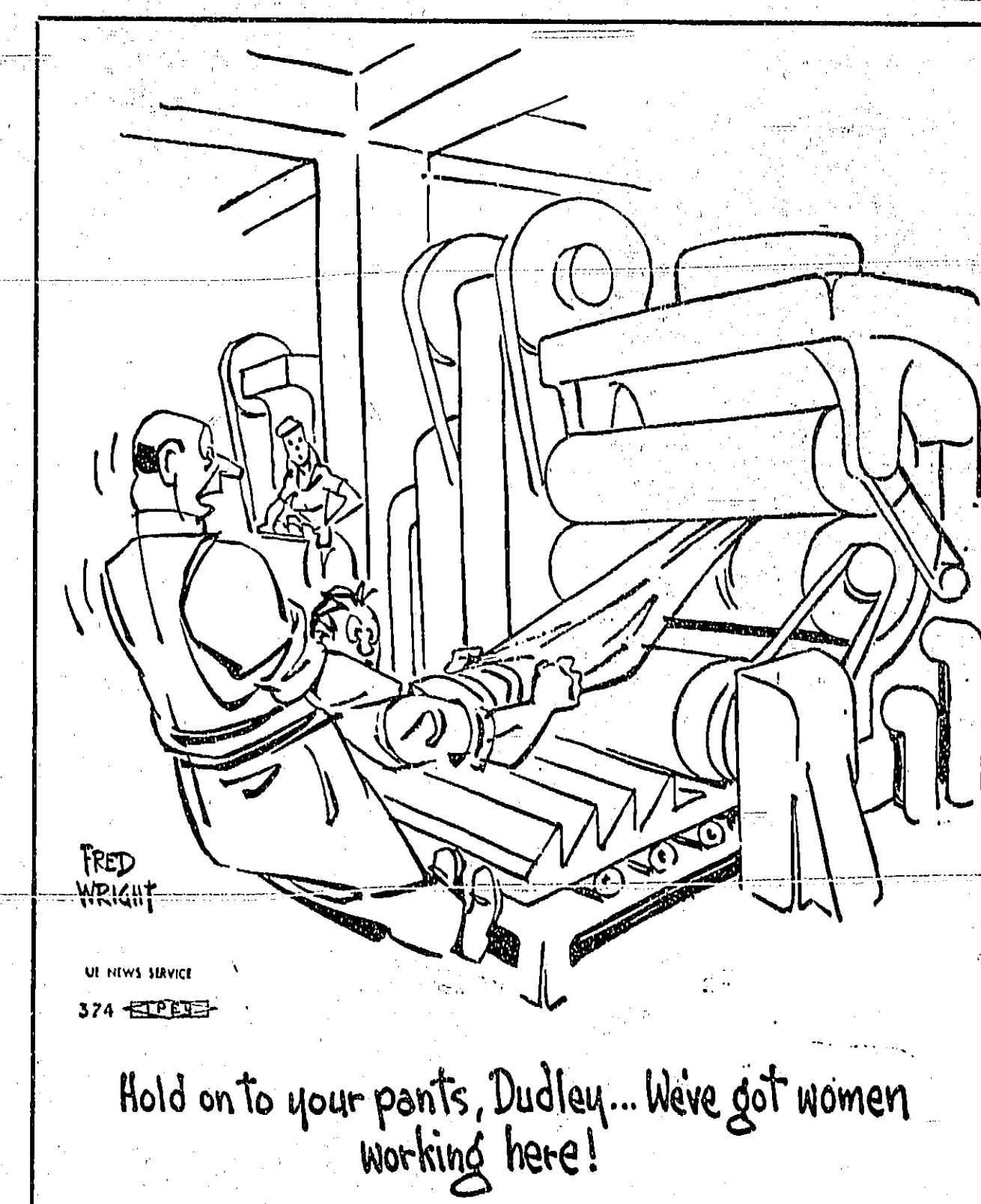
It was only four years ago that Director of War Mobilization Vinson told the nation:

"The American people are in the pleasant predicament of having to learn to live 80 per cent better than they have ever lived before."

But look at the predicament we're in now instead!

#### 301 Advertisement

The Executive Board has voted to take a full page advertisement for Local 301 in the program for the national UE convention. The cost is \$100.



### Committee Analyzing Views of Candidates

A special committee of the Executive Board reported to the 301 membership meeting this week that Local 301 has received letters from numerous candidates for city and county offices in reply to inquiries about their views.

The committee had written to all known candidates, regardless of party, seeking their stand on a proposed 301 program, approved by the Executive Board, on election issues.

Action on the committee's report was tabled till the next meeting when the committee will present an analysis of the views of the candidates.

### MBA Rights in Lay-offs

A worker who is laid off can continue MBA membership for a year from the date of his lay-off, by paying the same amount he did when working. He should pay at the payroll office of his own department. Payment may be made in advance for a period up to a year.

During the year the laid-off worker is entitled to hospitalization and all other MBA benefits, except the \$15 a week for being out of work because of illness.

Is Your Shop 100% UE?

### Veterans from 301 In '52-20' Caravan

Two unemployed World War II veterans, members of Local 301, were to be in Washington, D. C. yesterday with the national UE veterans' caravan to fight for extension of the "52-20" unemployment benefits.

They are George De Cresce, formerly of Building 78, and Steve Narodki, who worked in Building 17. The 301 membership meeting endorsed the caravan and voted to send representatives from Schenectady.

The UE veterans are working for passage of the Marcontonio or Huber bills to extend and increase "52-20."

### To Report on Contract At Pensioners' Outing

Members of the Local 301 Pensioners Organization will have an outing Thursday, July 28 at a camp on the Mohawk River, as guests of Local 301.

President Albert Vanderzee, who represented the group at the UE-GE contract negotiations last week in New York City, will report on the meeting.

The pensioners will receive free transportation on a bus leaving 301 hall at 1 p.m. The union also will provide refreshments.

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