

Democrats Aid GOP In Over-riding Veto

Organized labor, nationally and locally, kept up the drive to defeat the Taft-Hartley bill to the bitter end.

The final main effort was directed to getting the Democratic party to line up the Democratic Senators behind the veto.

CIO President Philip Murray wired Senator Alben Barkley, Democratic leader, and Robert Hannegan, Democratic chairman, that the vote on the veto "will be the test whether the Democratic party can be the instrument for the protection of the interests of the American people against those who would destroy our democracy".

Warning to Democrats

President Albert J. Fitzgerald of UE wired that "if the Democratic party fails to sustain the veto, it deliberately forfeits any claim that it represents the common people."

Andrew Peterson, 301 president, wired that "our 14,000 members are now watching anxiously to know whether the Democratic party intends to retain any trace of the Roosevelt heritage."

Members in the shop chipped in for similar wires Monday, when the final vote was taken.

Important facts for GE workers to remember in this fight are:

Senator Irving Ives voted to override the veto. So did Congressmen Bernard W. Kearney and Dean Taylor of Troy. Congressman William T. Byrne of Albany voted against the bill.

Line-up on Veto

Republicans voted almost solidly for the bill, and a majority of the Democrats in the two houses also did. The vote on overriding the veto to pass the bill was: Republicans—48 senators and 225 representatives for; 3 senators and 11 representatives against; or a total of 273 for and 14 against; Democrats—20 senators and 106 representatives for; 22 senators and 71 representatives against; a total of 126 for and 93 against.

President Truman denounced the bill in his veto message, but the administration forces in the Senate gave up the fight early. They told Senator Elbert D. Thomas of Utah, a sure vote to uphold the veto, not to bother to come home from Geneva, Switzerland. Three Democratic Senators, Claude Pepper, Glenn Taylor, and Harley Kilgore, and one Republican, Wayne Morse, alone kept up the fight to the end.

The drive for union-busting legislation was built up largely on an endless campaign of newspaper lies. It got its first

Board Statement on Taft-Hartley Law

The 301 Executive Board voted unanimously at its meeting Tuesday to issue the following statement on the Taft-Hartley law:

"The Taft-Hartley bill has been passed over the overwhelming protest of all sections of the working people. We are now in a much tougher round of the fight to preserve our unions and our American living standards.

"The new law kills virtually all the protection given workers by the Wagner Act. It provides for the greatest possible interference in and against unions by the government, courts, and employers. We do not believe that our members, any more than the rest of organized labor, will take this interference lying down.

"Our specific future course under the law will be charted later in consultations of our whole union and the whole CIO. For the present, the Board, on the basis of immediate advice from the international officers, points out:

"Our contract remains in full force and effect at least until Apr. 1, 1948. It is up to all of us to observe and enforce the contract.

"The passage of the law by the vote of virtually all Republicans and a solid majority of the Democrats in the two houses of Congress should convince the last doubting Thomas among us of the urgent need of genuine independent political action, as laid down by unanimous vote of the June 17 membership meeting — namely through CIO-PAC. The law forbids flatly and immediately any use of union dues funds for political action. It does not forbid contributions for that purpose. As ordered by the membership, receipt books for PAC Dollars are being issued to all stewards. We call upon all members to give the dollar promptly and cheerfully, as a tiny down payment on the cost of regaining American freedom."

Machinist Injured

William Wadsworth, machinist in Bldg. 273, is in Ellis Hospital as a result of an accident in the shop last week. His arm was broken when it was caught in a grinder. He also suffered cuts on his face.

Impetus in the railroad strike in May 1946, when President Truman broke the strike with federal troops and delivered his May 25 "Black Saturday" message to Congress calling for wide strikebreaking powers. It received further impetus in the threat to use the Navy against the maritime strike, and more recently in the government action to break the miners' strike.

FIELD DAY PROGRAM

Sunday, June 29 at Pete and Sally's Grove, Upper Albany St.

- 10 a.m. Gates open.
- 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Soft ball. Local 301 versus Pittsfield.
- 1 to 2 p.m. Children's games.
- 2 to 4 p.m. Boxing and wrestling.
- 4 to 5 p.m. Belle Baxter's dancing troupe.
- 5 to 6 p.m. Games for adults.
- 6 to 7:30 p.m. Announcement of queen contest winners.
- 7:30 to 8 p.m. Prizes.
- 8 to 9 p.m. Movies.
- 9 to midnight. Dancing. Gordy Randall's orchestra.

Schenectady Papers Back Taft-Hartley Law

The Schenectady Gazette and Union-Star, like the rest of the Big Business press, campaigned vigorously for the Taft-Hartley bill, through the propaganda they printed. They paid no attention to the fact that the community as a whole opposed the bill.

The Union-Star urged Congress to override the President's veto in its June 21 editorial. The Gazette June 19 declared the bill was "so weak" that it was hard to imagine how any union could oppose it!

The Gazette distorted a piece of 301 news again last week, by the way. In its report of the membership meeting which endorsed collecting voluntary one-dollar PAC contributions, the Gazette referred to an "assessment" on members. The union asked for a correction. The Gazette didn't print any retraction. It simply added a paragraph to a story about Local 301 the next day. This final paragraph casually mentioned that the local would soon start collecting the voluntary contributions.

\$100 for Baseball Strike

A donation of \$100 was voted for the CIO strikers at Wilson Athletic Goods Mfg. Co., Schenectady, by the 301 Executive Board Tuesday.

Local 574, Textile Workers Union of America, called the strike June 6 after contract wage negotiations were deadlocked. The plant makes baseballs.

Electrical Union News

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

Vol. 5—No. 24

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

July 3, 1947



A GROUP OF UE STRIKERS from the Iliion Remington-Rand plant visits the Local 301 field day. At the extreme left is Chief Shop Steward Lewis Deepe who gave a talk on the strike. A "wishing-well" was set up for donations.

Field Day Program Combines Union Talks With Plenty of Sports, Fun, Food, Prizes

The crowds of union members, families and friends at the annual Local 301 field day Sunday took time off from the program of sports, entertainment and picnicking to hear the story of the Remington Rand strike. They also listened to two speeches on the crisis labor faces today, with enactment of the Taft-Hartley Bill.

Lewis Deepe, UE chief shop steward at Plant No. 1, Iliion, told how Remington Rand refused to meet the national wage pattern established by UE. He was introduced by Charles Rivers, UE District 3 executive secretary.

Speakers from the national UE were General Vice-president Ernest De Maio of Chicago and Joseph Dermody, secretary of the GE Conference Board of the union.

Bonnie Evans Becomes Queen

Title of field day queen was won by Bonnie Evans of Bldg. 16, with 87,900 points. She received a trophy and a \$100 bond as prizes. The next two highest were Evelyn Haras of Bldg. 29, with 81,100, and Stacia Roicki of Bldg. 269, with 81,050.

As every ticket sold in a girl's name

gave her 50 points, there was only one ticket difference between the scores of the two runners-up. Their prizes were a \$50 bond and a \$25 bond respectively. The 10 other candidates received compacts.

Biggest excitement of the day was the awarding of the 1947 Studebaker as the (Continued on Page 4)

Holiday Warning

If you don't want to risk your July 4 holiday pay, be sure you don't leave work early today without a recognized excuse. Lateness in returning to work Monday or failure to return that day will also endanger your holiday pay.

UE Maps Plans To Defeat GE Drive on Union

NEW YORK CITY, Monday, June 30 —Preparations for the coming fight to preserve the union in General Electric despite the Taft-Hartley law were discussed by national UE leaders and about 80 delegates from GE plants all over the United States at the meeting of the GE Conference Board of UE here today. The meeting will conclude tomorrow.

General President Albert T. Fitzgerald opened the meeting with the declaration that GE "is the major company that has set out to take every advantage" of the new law, and which sees the law "as an opportunity to destroy this union." He referred to the anti-union advertisement about the law published by GE last week. Reports from the locals showed the advertisement had appeared in virtually every city with a big GE plant.

Relations with GE have been getting constantly worse in the past year and a half, and the company deliberately provoked last year's strike, declared Julius Emspak, national secretary-treasurer. GE is leading the fight to pay workers as little as possible and get bigger profits, he said, and now the corporations have the help of special legislation passed by an "employers' Congress."

Organizing Is Number One Job

The number one job in answer to the attack by GE, Emspak declared, must be the complete enrollment of all eligible GE workers into UE.

In addition to finishing the organizing job, he said, the members must fight disruption from within and must back up the CIO program of community and political action to wipe the Taft-Hartley law off the books.

"The company is using government agencies and factional elements within the locals in its fight", Emspak declared. "First it will try to take over the leadership of locals and failing in that, it will then try to divide the members. It will create all kinds of provocations to

(Continued on Page 2)

UE Plans Defense Against GE Attack

(Continued from Page 1)

tie up the unions in lawsuits and undermine the national agreement."

The membership must be prepared for the possibility of working without a contract within a year, Emspak said. He pointed out that this might work out better than having a contract used as the basis for lawsuits by employers.

It was mentioned at the meeting that the National Association of Manufacturers has advised corporations not to be too obvious and hasty in using the provisions of the new bill to crack down on unions.

Reports from the locals on grievances showed increasing trouble over GE company efforts at speed-up and at cutting piece work prices by claiming change of method. Several locals reported having had stoppages over such disputes.

Peterson Reports on Schenectady

For Local 301, President Andrew Peterson told of the local membership's demand that the company submit grievances to arbitration in accordance with the contract, and about stoppages which resulted when the company refused. He urged a fight by all locals to enforce this provision. He also described the local's plan to negotiate a complete wage structure for the whole works to correct wage injustices. Joseph Turkowski, international representative, told of difficulties in getting grievances settled with the national GE management, and said the best grievance results came through local pressure.

In addition to Peterson, Treasurer Marshall White, another 301 representative on the Conference Board, also was present. In the absence of Leo Jandreau because of illness, Victor Pasche, an assistant to the business agent, sat in on the meeting to assist the 301 representatives. Pasche also took up some local grievance cases with the national UE office while in New York.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS
UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE
WORKERS OF AMERICA, CIO
SCHENECTADY GE LOCAL 301

Published by the Editorial Committee
William Templeton, Chairman
Mary McCartin, Secretary
Willard Kuschel, Victor Pasche
Leland Sisto
Editorial Office - Electrical Union News
301 Liberty St. Schenectady, N. Y.
SCHENECTADY PRINTING CO., INC.

Too Important To Be Left Out

The important final paragraph of the 301 Executive Board's statement on the Taft-Hartley law was left out of last week's EU News by mistake.

After pointing out that the passage of the anti-labor law shows the urgent need of political action by union members through CIO-PAC, the Board states:

"Above all, the new law makes it more necessary than ever that we maintain the complete unity of our membership. The Taft-Hartley law encourages employer and government interference in our union with the aim of destroying our union. Typical of such action is the recent announcement of the Dies-Thomas 'Un-American' Committee that it plans to go after the UE. It is up to every member to see to it that such interference receives no aid from within our ranks. Let us close ranks to defend the union."

De Maio Urges Fight On Anti-Union Law

The Taft-Hartley law "strengthens the vultures of Wall Street", UE General vice-president Ernest De Maio of Chicago told a 301 field day audience Sunday.

"It was conceived in anger and fear of the working people", he said.

Big Business is heading the country into another depression, he charged, maybe in late 1947 or early 1948, but industry claims it will only be "a shake-up." The Taft-Hartley law will speed the depression, De Maio warned.

Mentioning the coal and shipping strikes, De Maio said Big Business is "making us show our muscles on the picket line." He predicted employers will use all the weapons of the Taft-Hartley bill "and anything else they can get away with" to smash labor. The new law will be used to attack paid holidays, vacations and call-in pay as provided by union contracts, he warned.

Right now, immediately following the enactment of the Taft-Hartley bill, Big Business in general is "playing dead dog", according to De Maio. He said the enemies of labor are deciding where to begin first and that perhaps they will start with the smaller, weaker unions.

"Everyone who works for a living" must be swept into the fight against the Taft-Hartley law, he said.

De Maio and Joseph Dermody of the UE staff, who also spoke, both urged vigorous PAC programs.

GEB Endorses CIO Stand on New Law

The General Executive Board of UE at its meeting in Washington Saturday unanimously endorsed the militant statement on the Taft-Hartley law issued by CIO President Philip Murray Friday in behalf of the national CIO Executive Board.

Congress has "wilfully and deliberately placed the power and authority of the government into the hands of the organized anti-union employers of this country led by the NAM for the purpose of smashing organized labor," President Murray charged.

"This bill was not passed in a vacuum. It is a vital part of a coordinated program to destroy the living standards of our people for which the zealots in the Republican and Democratic parties share the responsibility.

"This bill seeks to condemn the great mass of the American people to depression living standards and to prevent any lasting escape from the cycle of boom, bust and mass unemployment."

Murray accused the sponsors of the bill of attempting "to commit the perfect crime."

"The liberty of workers, like the liberty of all our people, was won only after a bitter struggle," he pointed out.

"Our duty, both as trade unionists and as citizens of a democracy, demands of us an unwavering determination that this infamous law must be erased from the statute books."

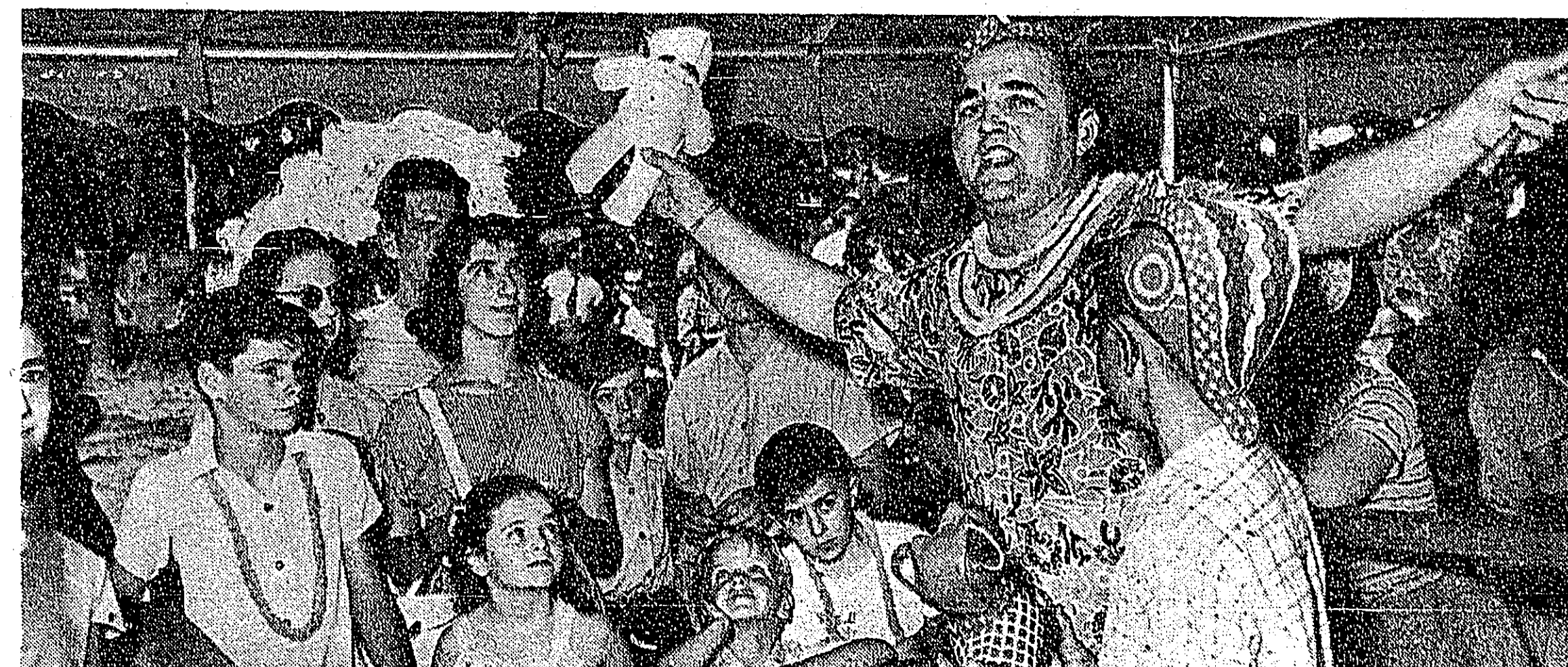
Murray served notice that "we propose, as good Americans, to fight the political restraints in this legislation."

"We would not merit the name of free Americans if we acquiesced in a law which makes it a crime to exercise rights of freedom of speech, freedom of press, freedom of assembly. . . . The Constitution remains the law of our land and we propose to enjoy its protection. We will not comply with the unconstitutional limitations on political activity which are written into the Taft-Hartley bill.

"We dedicate ourselves to an unceasing campaign against the Un-American conspiracy which has produced this bill. We pledge ourselves not to permit this bill to destroy the economic or the political rights of the people. Nor will we permit the blackmail, the threats and the smears of legislative hatchet-men operating through the House Labor and Un-American Committee to divide or deter us.



FIELD DAY PHOTOS. The pony riders look happy. So do Mr. and Mrs. John J. Battaling, top right, in the car he won.



LOTS OF PRIZES at the booth run by Ray Kory, Bldg. 57. Below, left, Joe Dominelli referees wrestling bout between Jimmy Anderson, left, and Patsy Sarruth, right. Below, right, George Judway gives queen's trophy to Bonnie Evans.

