

Continuity of Service Issue in Arbitration

Arbitration hearings were conducted in Schenectady June 16 and 17 in three Local 301 grievance cases involving continuity of service.

Two of the men were taken off jobs during the war and were out of the plant for a year and a half and three years. When they returned to work GE broke their service.

In the third case, which also dates back to the war, the worker was laid off for lack of work and the company didn't give him suitable employment for 10 weeks. Management broke his service because he had not accepted a job, regardless of its suitability, within two weeks. The union recognizes no company rule that conflicts with the contract provisions on continuity of service.

In all three cases the union argued that GE ignored the fact that any challenge to continuity rights must be taken up with the union.

J. J. Healy of Boston, arbitrator from the American Arbitration Association, is to decide within 30 days whether the men's service should be restored.

Handling the cases for the union were International Representative Joseph Turkowski, Business Agent Leo Jandreau and the 301 attorney, Marshall Perlin.

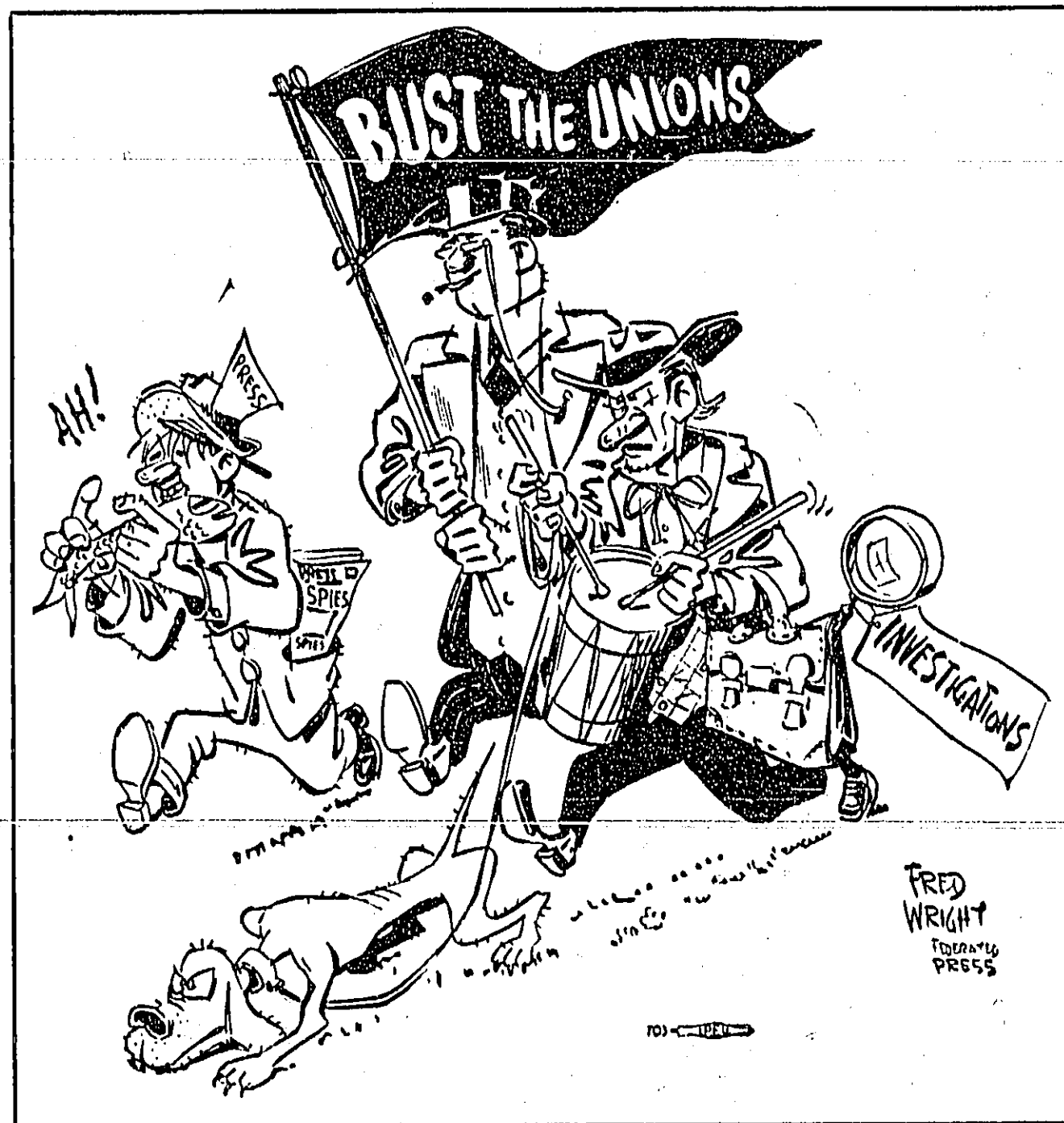
Appearing for GE were J. W. Burnison of top GE management, C. G. Marcy, Lester H. Mean and a number of lawyers.

Can Insist on Jobs Under UE Coverage

The company has offered a number of laid-off workers jobs at Knolls II and Peek St. on the atomic project. Because of the conspiracy between the Atomic Energy Commission and GE to violate the union contract, the union is not now recognized as bargaining agent at the atomic power laboratory. (A court action is pending over this GE-AEC conspiracy).

Many of the workers are unwilling to take these atomic jobs because they don't want to lose their union protection. Under the contract they can insist that their seniority rights be exercised in the parts of the plant where the jobs are covered by the UE contract. They can refuse transfers to Knolls II or Peek St.

Spirit of '49?



What Is \$500?

The \$500 yearly over-all increase per worker which UE is seeking from GE is a modest figure indeed.

The House of Representatives has voted itself \$500 per member for just an extra expense fund. The money will go for free haircuts, shaves, daily rations of mineral water etc. The total bill the country pays to keep the representatives pretty and happy is \$62,200,000 a year.

Interesting Guest List

Victor Riesel, newspaper columnist notorious in Schenectady for the lies he wrote about Local 301, is on vacation.

The column, "Inside Labor", is being written in his absence by "guests", including:

Phillip Murray, CIO president; Wallace F. Bennett, president of the National Association of Manufacturers; J. Edgar Hoover, FBI chief; James C. Petrillo, president of the Musicians' Union; William Green, AFL president; David Dubinsky, Secretary of Labor Tobin and Lemuel R. Boulware, GE vice-president.

Union Awaits Answer

(Continued from Page 1)

Joseph Mangino and James Cognetta, has drawn up a proposed program for Local 301 on election issues, in line with previous actions taken by the 301 membership. This program will be submitted to the Board next week and to the combined membership and stewards' meeting the following week.

The committee has sent letters to all persons known to be candidates, regardless of their political party, asking about their program for the county and city elections, particularly on issues on which the 301 membership has taken a stand.

Schenectady Jobless

The number of unemployed registered with the Schenectady office of the Unemployment Insurance Division dropped to 3,034 as of June 24, after many workers, returned to jobs at the American Locomotive Company. The temporary lay-offs took place during a controversy between the Steelworkers and the company.

However, hundreds of permanent lay-offs were announced at ALCO immediately afterwards. Because of these, and increasing lay-offs at GE, the jobless figure for early July will probably be at least 3,500. The figure for June 17 was 3,839.

CIO Leaders Shift T-H 'Fight' to '50

The national CIO has officially given up all hope of Taft-Hartley repeal this year.

In a publicity statement issued July 1 the CIO conceded the "Taft-Hartley Act will not be repealed in 1949." But the statement claimed that "labor and liberals in Congress fought hard and well for Taft-Hartley repeal."

The CIO leadership is trying to make it appear that there was a real fight in Congress. Actually it was a sham battle. The Truman Administration and so-called "liberals" gave up the fight before they ever started it.

National AFL and CIO leaders never put up any real fight. They began retreating as fast as the Administration did. Practically at the start they accepted "compromises" to retain most Taft-Hartley provisions.

Now they are trying to cover up the hanging and double-crossing of 1949 with fighting talk about 1950 elections. There were some 1948 election promises about repealing Taft-Hartley. Remember?

UE Wins Vote

Workers at the Purves Manufacturing Company, Richmond, Ind., voted overwhelmingly in a recent bargaining election to be represented by UE. The balloting was conducted by a joint management-union committee. The vote was: UE 112; Independent 10; no union 5.

Andrew J. McNally

Andrew J. McNally, who resigned as a shop steward in 1948 because of ill health, died June 30. A machinist in Building 60, he had 35 years service with GE. For eight years he was a steward. He is survived by his widow, and a daughter, Mrs. Evelyn McGrath, both of 1700 Central Ave., Colonie. Until illness caused his resignation, he was assistant chief of the Colonie fire department.

Did You Know?

The average consumption of food per person has dropped 5 per cent since 1946 in this country. The consumption of fluid milk and cream, so important to the diet of children and also of adults, has declined 10 per cent per person since 1945. The consumption of meat is 5 per cent lower than in 1945.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

THE VOICE OF LOCAL 301

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

C. I. O.

Vol. 7 — No. 27

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

July 15, 1949

Pinkerton Agents Do GE Spy Work

The General Electric Company recently hired the notorious Pinkerton National Detective Agency to spy on an injured woman worker, in hopes of avoiding paying for an operation on her.

Mrs. Nellie Vaitulis, 48, has not been able to work since she was injured Apr. 5, 1944, at the Schenectady plant. She has had three operations for hernia and must undergo a fourth one soon.

GE has fought her workmen's compensation claim every inch of the way. Obviously more than any pinching is behind the company's vindictiveness in this case. A few years before she was injured, Mrs. Vaitulis testified in the criminal case involving the job selling racket at the Schenectady GE. The shocking practice was exposed through Local 301.

GE Continues Fight

When GE was ordered to pay workmen's compensation to Mrs. Vaitulis the company appealed unsuccessfully to the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court. Under court order it had to pay for her three operations. But when the need for a fourth operation developed recently GE renewed the fight and refused to pay voluntarily.

At a hearing in New York City July 7 before a workmen's compensation referee 301 Attorney Marshall Perlin produced medical evidence that the operation is necessary. A noted surgeon, a specialist in hernia, testified to this effect. GE produced a doctor to say no operation is required. The company

July 301 Meeting Will Be Next Week

The combined 301 membership and shop stewards' meeting this month will be at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 19, for all stewards and first and third shift members and at 1 p.m. Wednesday, July 20, for second shift members. Both parts of the meeting will be at the union hall.

also produced a Pinkerton agent, Fred F. Neumann of Hartford, Conn., who claimed he had been spying on Mrs. Vaitulis at her farm and to have taken 500 feet of moving pictures of her when about 500 feet away from her. Testimony revealed that GE had hired a female Pinkerton operative too, a Mrs. Daley.

Pinkerton Movie

The movie was displayed at the hearing but was not admitted into evidence. The referee ruled that so far the film doesn't show the woman pictured to be Mrs. Vaitulis.

A small part of the movie, six inches to a foot, apparently is a head-on shot of a woman. The referee agreed that this section of the film is to be enlarged to see if it then may have any relation to the case.

Mrs. Vaitulis denied that she was the woman photographed or that the movie even was made on her farm.

In urging that the referee reject the movie, the union declared that it could not trust any evidence produced by the Pinkerton outfit. The strike breaking, labor spying activities of the Pinkerton Agency were officially exposed in the

GE Still Says 'No' to Union; Won't Act to Stop Lay-offs

The company continued to say "No" to all union proposals when bargaining resumed Tuesday in New York.

While Vice-President L. R. Boulware was in the meeting only a few minutes, George Pfeif, speaking for the company, repeated the Boulware line that the answer to the present lay-offs was to work harder and produce cheaper. He likewise made it clear that the company is indifferent to the hardships of the thousands of GE workers laid off or working short time.

The UE committee on Wednesday brought pensioners and laid-off workers to the bargaining session to tell the company their own story of their hardships resulting from the company's policies. The committee has been making every effort to convince the company committee by common sense reasoning that the union's proposals are fair and necessary.

Shorter Week Urged

The UE committee stressed the fact that thousands of GE workers were hit hard by lay-offs and rotation, and that a 10 per cent cut in hours without pay cut would immediately put 18,000 to 19,000 workers back to work. This is just about the number laid off so far throughout the company. Workers who are laid off or on short time cannot buy appliances, the committee said.

Pfeif replied that GE workers are still well off, and that they are

ports of the La Follette Congressional Committee. This exposure played a large part in enactment of the Wagner Act to eliminate such evils. Pinkerton agents have been used for over 70 years against railroad strikes, against the miners and other unions.

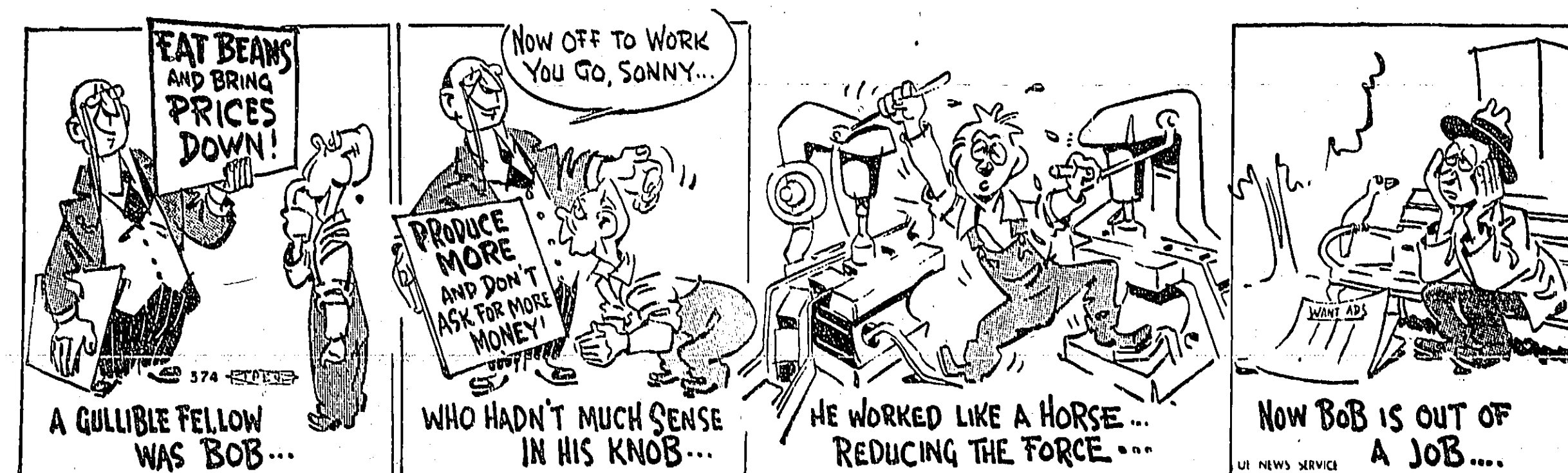
still "buying new cars". He said that it should have been evident the "inflation bubble" would burst and someone would get hurt. His attitude was "so what?"

The union spokesmen pointed out that the "inflation bubble" consisted of tremendous profiteering by GE and other big companies. The least that GE could do now would be to give the employees some of the vast hoard of profits which GE piled up in the last two years, so as to maintain purchasing power, the UE said.

GE's Past Record

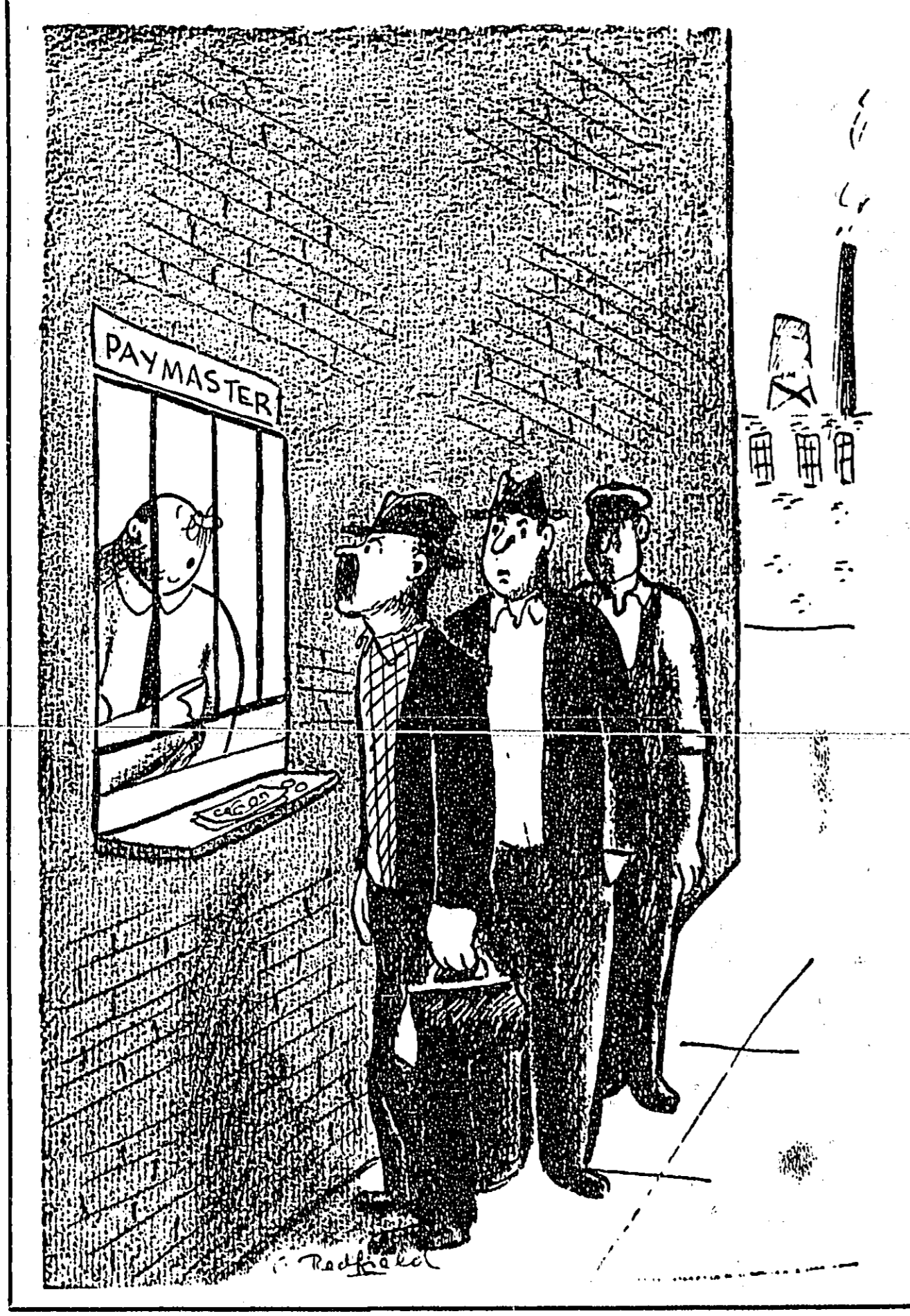
Leo Jandreau, 301 business agent and senior member of the negotiating committee, pointed out to Pfeif that GE always had opposed shorter hours or higher pay, or any benefits for its employees. At the present time, he said, it has put the heat on the state Unemployment Insurance division to rule that workers who are on a two-week shutdown but are paid for only one week may not receive pay for the second week (the union is fighting this ruling). GE's position on MBA has not changed since MBA was started, Jandreau said. He pointed out that while amending

(Continued on Page 2)



TO SAVE JOBS— A SHORTER WEEK AND HIGHER PAY

We Can Think of a Better Idea!



"It would look like more if you took it in pennies. . ."

Shop Stewards Handing Bi-Mor Discount Cards

The union office has received a number of inquiries from members who want their Bi-Mor Government Surplus discount cards.

Executive Board members distributed the discount cards to shop stewards to give to all members interested in getting them. Anyone who wants a Bi-Mor card should ask his steward.

Don't Be a Free Rider
Join the Union

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

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Brewery Strikers Win 37 1/2 Hour Work Week

The Brewery Workers, CIO, has won an 82 day strike in New York City with a new agreement providing a 37 1/2 hour week at 40 hours' pay on a year-around basis for production workers.

Another basic demand won was to have two men on each truck. Other gains included a \$2 across-the-board pay raise, strengthened seniority, an additional week's vacation, preferential hiring and an industry-wide pension plan. Employers are to contribute \$3 a week per worker toward the fund.

Base rate for production workers is now \$73 weekly; \$72 for drivers and \$77.50 for trailer drivers.

Cancer Fund Drive

Collections started in the shops this week for the annual Cancer drive. Cans for donations were distributed to all shop stewards by the Executive Board members.

Entire 301 Board Will Take Up MBA

The Local 301 Executive Board this week notified Works Manager Lewis J. Male that the entire Board will insist on meeting with him for discussion of the question of GE sharing the cost of Mutual Benefit Association benefits.

The Board last month asked for a meeting with Male on this question. During a meeting last week with the 301 grievance committee Male inquired just what the union wanted to take up at the proposed session on MBA.

Victor Pasche, assistant to the business agent, said the Board wants to discuss financial participation by GE and joint administration of MBA. The Board feels that under the new state Disability Law GE should contribute to the cost of MBA benefits, and not just toward MBA—administrative expenses, Pasche explained. With GE contributing, benefits could be increased and MBA dues lowered, the Board believes.

Male said he would take up the question of possible contributions with his associates and in the near future would meet with the union on the matter. He stated, however, that he didn't want to meet with the whole 301 Board as he considered it too large for such a discussion.

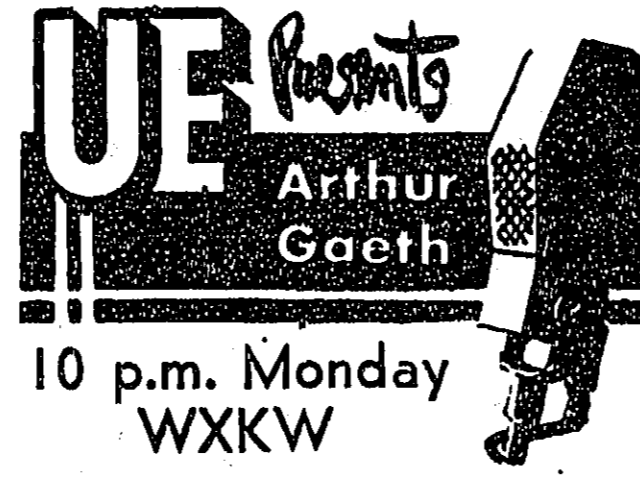
The Board has advised Male that the company should not have anything to say about who represents the union at a collective bargaining session.

GE Still Says 'No' To UE Proposals

(Continued from Page 1)
The MBA plan to meet the state disability act, GE insists the workers pay the additional cost.

A bulletin from Jandreau on the negotiations was scheduled to be read by shop stewards to their members throughout the works at lunch hour meetings yesterday (Thursday). The bulletin stressed the fact the negotiations depend on the determination of the membership, because GE will give nothing unless forced to do so.

A special Executive Board committee this week visited civic leaders in the community to present the union's case in negotiations, and seek to have these leaders speak out publicly in favor of the union's proposals, in the interest of the whole community. The committee includes President Frank Kriss, Vice-President William G. Hodges, and Board Members William Mastriani, Helen Quirini, James Cognetta, and Henry Kaminski, alternate.



Newspapers Twist Facts Of London Dock 'Strike'

Front page stories in this country on the "strike" of London dock workers provide another example of the distortion of labor news.

Newspapers reported that all London docks were idle because of a "strike" of stevedores over a "jurisdictional dispute between two Canadian sailors' unions." The British "labor" government charges the "strike" was fomented by Communists and has ordered soldiers, sailors and marines to act as strike-breakers.

Actually the situation is a government lock-out against the dock workers, not a strike. London stevedores refused to unload two Canadian ships struck by the Canadian Seamen's Union. The government dock board in London refused to let dockers unload any other ship unless they first unloaded the struck ships. The stevedores refused.

The very legitimate strike of the Seamen's Union is no "jurisdictional dispute". The Seaman's Union of Canada has contracts with shipping companies owned by the Canadian government. These companies entered into back-door agreements with the Seafarers' International Union, which isn't even a Canadian union, and forced the Seaman's Union to strike.

Wear Your Button

Shop stewards have received special UE buttons for all members of 301 to wear to back the union's contract demands. On the buttons is printed "Higher Pay—Shorter Hours—Stop Layoffs." If you haven't one of these buttons yet, see your steward today.

Save '52-20'

July 25 is the deadline for saving "52-20". Unless an extension bill is passed by then, veterans' unemployment insurance will die.

Demand that your Congressman sign Representative Walter Huber's discharge petition to bring the extension bill to a vote in the House of Representatives.

New Dispute Develops Over Carboly Speed-up

Another carboly speed-up dispute is moving up the grievance procedure, because of the company's insistence on running work with carboly tools at speeds which experienced lathe operators feel are dangerous.

Involved is a two-ton shaft job in Building 16. On changing to carboly tools, the company jumped the speed from 30-40 RPM to 199 RPM. The over-all price was cut by more than one-half. The operator who has 16 years' lathe experience, insisted he could not run the work safely faster than 103 RPM. The operators near him felt the same way. The union asked that the price be based on 103 RPM, and that in view of the increased production and effort, the operator should be able to make higher earnings than before on the job.

Frank Schaaf of the Works Manager's office insisted that the higher speed was safe, and that therefore the price was satisfactory if the man could make his past earnings at 199 RPM. The union grievance committee pointed out that a time of lay-offs for lack of work was a poor time to insist on such a great speed-up. Schaaf said the machine must be run at the most "effective" speed. He said the only difficulty was the "human factor" involved in the operator's fears. He said he wanted the question discussed further in the shop, but that in the meantime he would not raise the new price to permit the operator to maintain his earnings at 103 RPM.

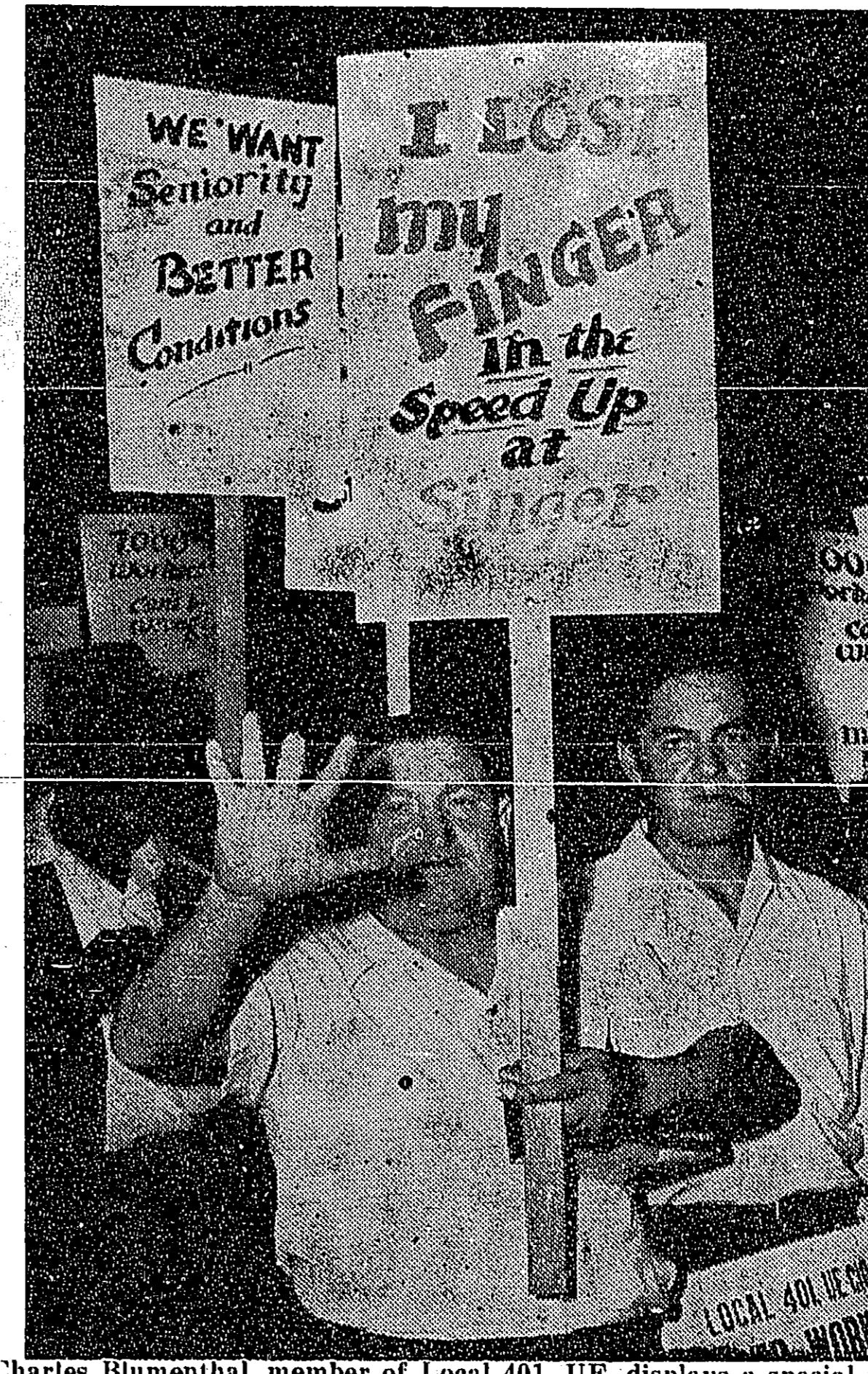
The case has been moved to the Male level. Board Member Joseph Kelly and B. L. Fertal, shop steward on the big lathes in Building 278, represented the union in investigating the case with the company.

Stockholder Backs UE Singer Strikers

An 83 year old woman, Miss Arabella Miller, caused a flurry among stockholders of the Singer Company when she turned up at a recent stockholders' meeting in New York City.

As a stockholder she demanded an accounting by the company of its failure to settle the UE strike. She is a prominent resident of Elizabeth, N. J., where Singer workers are on strike. After personally investigating the issues, she decided that the workers' position is fair and that the company was unfair in forcing them to continue the strike.

Lost Finger in Speed-Up



Charles Blumenthal, member of Local 401, UE, displays a special reason why he's on strike against the Singer Sewing Machine Co. at Elizabeth, N. J.

Recent Developments In Steel Situation

As this paper went to press, it was impossible to know whether or not the scheduled steel strike would start tomorrow (Saturday) as previously voted by the United Steelworkers' wage policy committee.

Newspaper stories said that Philip Murray, president of the CIO and of the Steelworkers, had hinted he would accept an administration request to postpone the strike while a government board investigated and made recommendations.

However, before Murray had a chance to act on the government proposal, the U. S. Steel Company flatly rejected President Truman's request that it cooperate with a fact-finding board outside the Taft-Hartley law. This apparently gave the steel union no choice other than to go ahead with its announced strike. The next question then is, if the union decides to strike, will President Truman seek a Taft-

Hartley injunction against the union?

In any event, it was clear that there is no reason to count on a so-called "wage pattern" to be set this year by the steel industry in the immediate future.

In 1947 the pattern was set by UE. In 1948 it was set by UE and Auto.

Is Your Shop 100% UE?

Getting Your UE News?

If you aren't receiving your copy of the national UE News at your home fill out this form and turn it in to the union office.

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Mercury Poisoning Admitted by GE

In the face of overwhelming evidence presented by Local 301 at a Workmen's Compensation hearing this month, the General Electric Company has officially acknowledged that 10 workers in Building 265 are victims of mercury poisoning.

The company admitted that the workers were exposed to the poisoning because of their work and that the GE is responsible for loss of teeth resulting from the poisoning.

The admission of responsibility is a reversal of policy on the part of GE. The company had contested the claims filed by the group through the union during the past winter.

301 Exposed Conditions

An investigation by the union of health and working conditions in the mercury power station, Building 265, revealed last November that 11 of 39 workers examined had symptoms of mercury poisoning. The union arranged clinical and laboratory tests for them.

Mercury poisoning in one of these cases had already been established through a Workmen's Compensation case handled by the union's attorney. A state referee held GE responsible for loss of the worker's teeth. However GE is now fighting the right of the worker for additional payments for other disabilities resulting from the poisoning.

10 Cases Heard

Testimony in the other 10 cases was presented by the union July 1 at a hearing in Schenectady. Witnesses included Shop Steward Charles Zajac of the mercury power plant, the workers affected by the poisoning and a medical expert.

Although the company acknowledged responsibility for loss of teeth, in these cases it is still fighting against paying the bill for other disabilities arising from the poisoning, either now or in the future.

Marshall Perlin, 301 attorney, handled the cases at the hearing.