

## Meeting Aug. 8 For Unemployed

The 301 committee on unemployment has called a meeting for all unemployed GE workers at 8 p.m. Monday, Aug. 8, at the union hall. Plans will be made for activities to bring the problems of the jobless to the attention of the public.

One part of the program to be presented is participating in the campaign of UE Districts 3 and 4 to get 100,000 signatures on a petition to Governor Dewey. The petition urges that he call a special session of the legislature to launch a public works program and to increase and extend unemployment insurance benefits.

The committee has sent a letter to unemployed members of 301 announcing the meeting and informing them that they can continue their union membership by payment of 10 cents a month dues. The letter also announced that the union is setting up a service bureau to help people with problems connected with unemployment.

Plans for the Aug. 8 meeting were made at a session of the committee Monday. Robert Northrop, a World War II veteran who was a punch press operator in Building 17 before he was laid off, was elected committee chairman.

## Radio Announcements

Local 301 last week started a series of spot radio announcements on WSNY on the union's contract proposals.

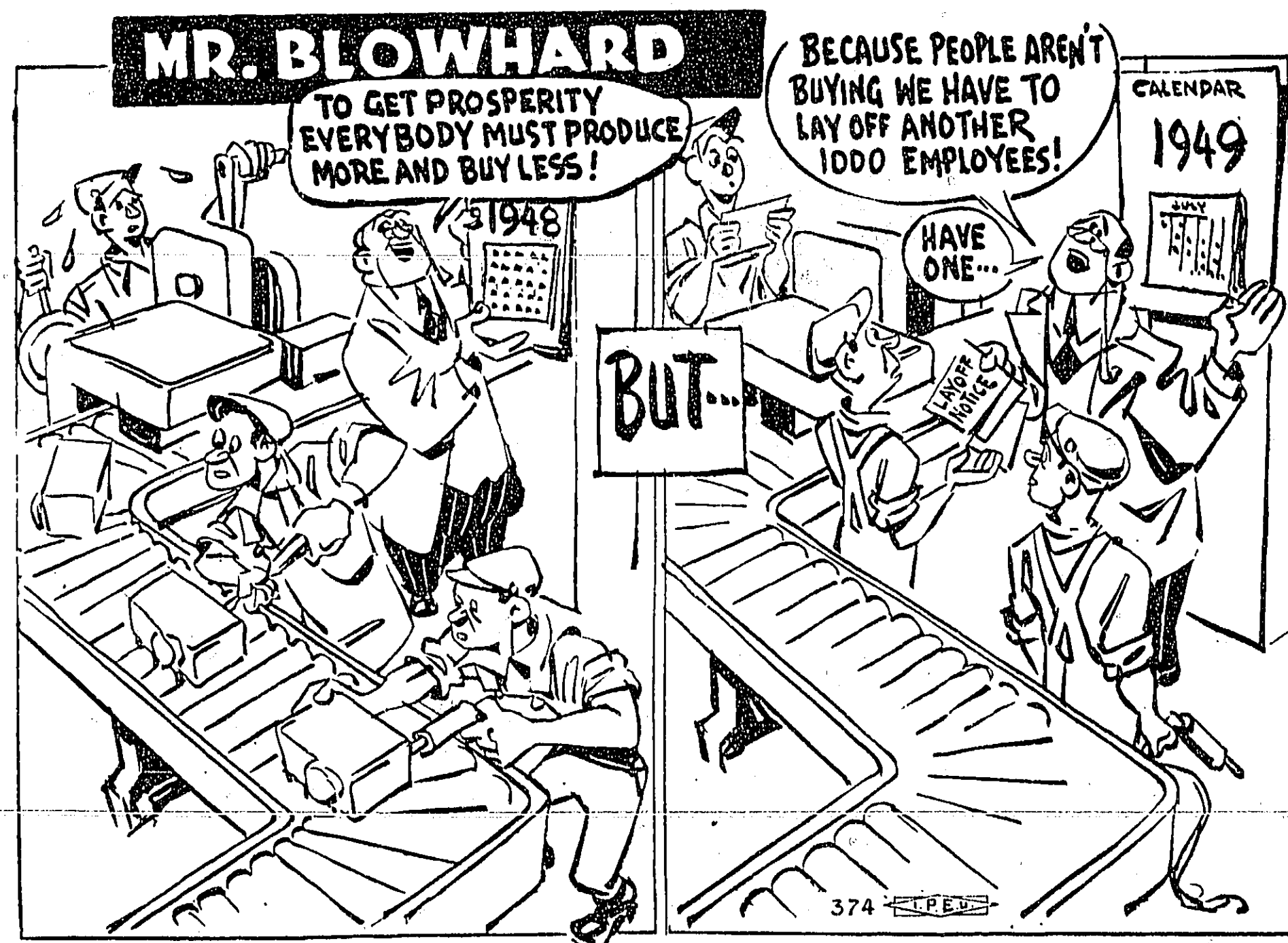
## 3,497 Jobless

The number of jobless workers registered with the Schenectady office of the Unemployment Insurance Division July 15 was 3,497.

## 301 to Elect CIO Delegates

The combined membership and shop stewards' meeting for August will be at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 16, for all stewards and first and third shift members and at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 17, for second shift members. Both parts of the meeting will be at the union hall. Arrangements for the meeting were voted by the Executive Board Monday.

Delegates to the State CIO convention Sept. 8, 9 and 10 at Saratoga Springs will be elected. The Executive Board has voted to recommend that 10 delegates be elected.



## Removal of Callahan Confirmed by Board

The meeting of the GE Conference Board of UE last week in New York City unanimously confirmed the removal of John H. Callahan, business agent of the local at the Pitsfield GE plant, from the national negotiating committee. He was removed because of his published offer to GE President Charles E. Wilson to withdraw the unions contract demands under certain conditions. He made this offer without consultation with the negotiating committee or the Conference Board.

Present from Local 301 at the Conference Board meeting were President Frank Kriss, Business Agent Leo Jandreau, Marshall White and 301 Executive Board Members Dewey Brashear, Anthony Esposito and William Stewart. Jandreau was elected chairman of the meeting.

Callahan was present at the session, but made no reply when Joseph Dermody, secretary of the Conference Board, brought up the subject of his removal and condemned his conduct.

## Did You Know?

From 1923 to the 1929 depression pay went up 4 per cent; productivity per worker went up 33 per cent; profits shot up 60 per cent. It was profiteering, based on low pay and speed-up, that caused the 1929 crash.

## Veterans' Council Asks '52-20' Extension After Plea by Veterans Sent by Local 301

After hearing an urgent plea by three veterans sent by Local 301, the meeting of the Schenectady County Council of Veterans Organizations Monday night voted to ask that the "52-20" benefits be saved. The action of the veterans' council followed prolonged discussion.

## Wage Increase Needed To Raise Buying Power

The nation's production of goods and services took a drop of 9 billion dollars on an annual basis in the first quarter of 1949 from the previous quarter's record high. This biggest post war dive in production resulted primarily from the drying up of consumer purchasing power and increased unemployment.

Consumer spending fell almost 4 1/2 billion dollars, but corporation dividends were maintained at the previous quarter's record rate and savings — mostly of wealthy persons — increased by almost 2 1/2 billion dollars.

Despite the needs of the people for homes, housing construction dropped for the second consecutive quarter.

The UE's program for an increase of \$500 per year per employee in wages, and other benefits from the growing wealth of the corporations, will help halt the present trend of decreased purchasing power and mounting layoffs.

Appearing before the meeting from Local 301 were George De Cresce, who went to Washington last week with a delegation of UE unemployed veterans to press for "52-20"; Robert Northrop, chairman of the 301 committee on unemployment, and Board Member Stanley Bishop. They were named by the 301 Executive Board to take up with the veterans' council the need of emergency action.

A letter from the 301 Board to the veterans' council cited De Cresce's report on his Washington trip.

"He reports that Congressman Bernard W. Kearney said he did not find much indication of sentiment from his home district for the proposed extension," the letter pointed out, "and specifically that he had not heard from any of the veterans' organizations. Congressman Kearney indicated that he would oppose the proposed bill" (to extend '52-20').

The 301 Board said that of the 4,000 unemployed in Schenectady, a very large proportion are veterans and that many of them are not eligible to state unemployment insurance.

# ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

THE VOICE OF LOCAL 301

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

C. I. O.

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## Thousands Hear Report by Leo Jandreau



Part of the crowd at the big first-shift plant-gate meeting Thursday of last week, listening to a report on the contract deadlock by Business Agent Leo Jandreau. The banner behind the speaker's stand says "Stop Layoffs — Shorter Hours — Higher Pay."

## Membership Backs Conference Board Proposals at Plant Gate Meetings

The Local 301 delegates will go to the meeting of the GE Conference Board of UE locals later in August with unanimous authority, from huge plant-gate membership meetings, to call for a formal strike vote throughout the GE locals.

Other locals of the GE system have also voted to arm the negotiating committee with the power of taking a strike vote, the national UE office has reported. (See separate story on page 4.)

Authorization for the strike vote and other recommendations of the GE Conference Board were unanimously voted by 10,000 first shift workers, Thursday noon of last week, and 1,000 second shift workers at 7 p. m.

## Jandreau Makes Report

The members left their work to hear the report on the contract deadlock by Business Agent Leo Jandreau, a member of the UE negotiating committee. Jandreau and President Frank Kriss were on a stand across the street from the main GE gate.

The General Electric Company has a "shotgun and steel vest attitude" toward the workers this year, Jandreau charged. The company has said "No" to every part of the UE contract proposals.

"They are going through the motions of collective bargaining with no intention of settling anything

at all," he said.

He reported that since the negotiations started June 14 the union has faced GE with a solid array of facts to justify the UE demands for a 35 hour work week at 40 hours pay, improved pensions, sick benefits to be paid by the company, and other provisions to increase security.

## GE Unemployment

GE has laid off 17,000 workers since last year, Jandreau reported. The Schenectady Works has been hit by lay-offs and many workers are on rotation or have been transferred and "are taking a terrific licking in take-home pay". Reducing the work-week 10 per cent would provide 19,000 more jobs throughout GE, he said.

"The company wants to return to the conditions of 1929 and the early 1930's," Jandreau charged, "before the union was at GE".

In those days, when workers had no job or wage safeguards, the company forced unemployed workers to bid against each other for jobs at 45 or 50 cents an hour. GE is trying to destroy the con-

## Welded Products Work Is Slashed

The company notified Local 301 this week that there will be a substantial drop in the work of the Welded Products Division for at least three or four months. Before this employment was believed to be stabilized in Welded Products which produces for the Turbine and Motor Generator Division.

GE first told the union there will be an average of only four days' work a week for the approximately 400 workers in the division between now and November.

At a meeting with a shop committee Wednesday, however, supervision said the work shortage will affect only a much smaller number engaged directly in producing for Turbine. Four employees with only 1948 service are to be laid-off immediately and efforts will be made to loan out some employees to other divisions. Executive Board Member James Cognetta headed the union committee.

Because of the specialized skills of the workers involved, the company is trying to avoid the usual procedure of cutting the force to keep the five-day week for those remaining. This question is being discussed by the shop stewards with the members affected.

The union has asked GE for further information concerning the overall lay-off picture at the plant. It will also again take up the matter of the continuing delays in calling people back to work. Some people, especially women workers, have been out eight or 10 weeks already while people with far less service are still at work.

tract, he declared. If the company succeeds in resisting the union's contract demands now, he warned, it will serve notice of termination of the contract in January, just as it did in 1946.

## Can Win Victory

He predicted, however, that if GE knows the union means business, the company "is greedy enough" to make some concessions rather than "hold up the whole parade" of production, at its huge profit rate.

"This company can be brought to their senses and made to do the

(Continued on Page 2)

## 301 Protests GE Removals In A. and O.

Union members in Building 46 were called by their shop stewards to a meeting at the 301 hall after work Wednesday (after this paper went to press) to consider the company's action in barring 20 workers from their jobs late last week.

The 301 Executive Board charged GE with gross violation of the contract and with attempting to destroy seniority and to throw fear into the contract negotiations.

Removal of the workers was because of the failure of the armed forces to give the people their clearances under "security" regulations. Since then seven of the 20 have been cleared and returned to their jobs.

All the workers affected are in Aeronautics and Ordnance, with the largest number in Building 46.

## Meeting with Stevens

At a special grievance meeting with the 301 Executive Board and the Building 46 shop stewards Tuesday, A. C. Stevens, assistant works manager, said there were no charges against the 20 workers. He said that under the general government policy of tightening up security regulations, the company itself had made the specific decision that men lacking clearance could no longer be on "classified" work, even though the lack of clearance was caused simply by government agency delays.

The union was notified of the impending moves on Wednesday afternoon of last week, and those workers not out on vacation were moved to other jobs within 24 hours.

## Security Question 'Fighter'

Stevens told the Executive Board that the security question was getting "tighter" and would continue to get "tighter" (meaning tougher). He declared there was no violation of contract, because the workers had been moved to other jobs with equal pay. He argued that the contract seniority provision does not protect a man's right to stay within his group if the

(Continued on Page 2)

# A 35 HOUR WEEK at 40 HOURS' PAY to SAVE JOBS



## 301 Jobless To Hear UE District Program

The action program on unemployment, adopted by the UE District 3 Council meeting July 23 at Syracuse, will be presented to a meeting for unemployed GE workers at 8 p.m. Monday, Aug. 8, at the union hall. The meeting was called by the 301 committee on unemployment of which Robert Northrop is chairman.

The program calls for getting 100,000 signatures during August on a petition asking Governor Dewey to call a special session of the legislature to enact emergency measures to fight unemployment.

The Council also called for pressure on the Unemployment Insurance Division to end delays in issuing unemployment insurance checks. It also called for delegations to visit local legislative bodies.

Local 301 was represented by Leo Jandreau, district president, and Board Members William Stewart and William Mastriani at the Council meeting.

Plans for a 301 service bureau for jobless members will be made at the meeting Monday.

## Shop Gate Meetings

(Continued from Page 1)

right thing by us," he declared. The meetings also approved a recommendation to prepare now for all eventualities in connection with the strike vote which it authorized. The members also voted to step up the campaign to enlist community support for the union's program.

L. J. Male watched the noon demonstration from his office window, according to the Schenectady Gazette.

## Meet Ohio Governor

A committee of jobless UE members, at a meeting recently with Governor Frank J. Lausche, of Ohio, urged that the state take immediate steps to combat mounting unemployment. The union members came from Cincinnati, Dayton, Warren, Mansfield and Cleveland.

## ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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SCHENECTADY GE LOCAL 301

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## Don't Try Repeating 1929 in 1949



## Boulware Finally Says Profits Exist

GE's L. R. Boulware finally got around to recognizing the existence of profits, in his propaganda page in last week's Works News.

But he did not mention GE's extraordinary rate of return on capital investment (the real rate was 39.5 per cent for 1948). Nor did he mention what this profiteering has done to purchasing power and GE workers' jobs.

### 'Rabble Rousers'

If you discuss such unpleasant things about profits, Boulware calls you a "rabble rouser."

A third shift shop steward walked in the other morning and asked the Electrical Union News to let Boulware know that GE workers are not "rabble" and are not being led around by any "rabble-rousers"—they're just mad at GE for what its profiteering policies have done to their jobs.

Boulware's piece juggles figures to make you believe that most profits go to low income people, that there are 25,000,000 owners of business, that "WE ALL" get profits, etc.

### Contrary to Facts

The propaganda is based upon omitting the fact that the stockholders in one corporation are stockholders in numerous other corporations. Boulware's piece flies in

the face of certain proven facts—

The Securities and Exchange Commission reported to the Temporary National Economic Committee (quoted in U. S. Senate report in 1946) that one-half the dividends of ALL American corporations go to just 61,000 persons—less than 1/20th of one per cent of the people.

A U.S. government study showed that in 1945 the wealthiest 10 per cent of the people held 46 per cent of the savings. In 1946 this 10 per cent held 63 per cent of the savings, and in 1947 held 77 per cent of the savings. In 1948 and 1949 the wealthy groups accumulated still more savings and the low income people dropped further. ....

GE and companies like it make their extraordinary profits by speed-up, high prices, and too low wages. This has been destroying purchasing power and causing layoffs.

Boulware would cover this up with a smokescreen of juggled figures and talk of "rabble-rousers." But the tragic history of the Hoover depression, brought on by profiteering, speaks louder than propaganda. Shall GE be allowed to repeat that history at the expense of its workers?

Is Your Shop 100% UE?

## Removals Protested

(Continued from Page 1)

company wants to transfer him to an equal job.

The Executive Board and stewards told Stevens that the action was far more serious than a loss of money, because the removal had caused gossip and suspicion to be circulated about the workers involved, which no explanation could completely clear up. They pointed out that it is an American principle that a man is innocent until proven guilty, while in this case the persons involved were not even accused of anything. They are mainly men with long service, including several with fine war records. The board argued they should either be restored to their jobs or informed of specific charges.

Stevens flatly rejected the board's demand that he return the workers to their jobs. He arranged to have three men, who had been placed on virtual exhibition in a cage, sent to another location, still on non-classified work.

In a formal letter to Stevens Wednesday, the board contended GE is violating the contract in three respects:

1. Removal from the job without charges creates an atmosphere of intimidation, and when timed during negotiations and to coincide with the plant gate meeting, it is "an attempt to cast fear over the negotiations."

2. The workers were moved out of their groups without lack of work and "contrary to their seniority rights."

3. The workers were penalized without cause. The removal threatens a man's permanent job and casts "suspicion and humiliation" upon patriotic citizens and employees of long standing. The board declared that "the damage cannot be compensated for in money," and "it was imposed without cause and in violation of the American principle that a person is innocent until proven guilty and that no government official nor the GE company may set standards of patriotism."

The letter also declared: "While the armed forces have no authority to instruct GE to violate either the contract or the law of the land, that question is not involved in this dispute, in view of your statement that the decision was made by the company."

In the Executive Board discussion it was reported that while workers have waited for months and even years to be cleared, a nephew of Works Manager Lewis Male was cleared in three days upon his recent transfer.

## A Gift for Garry Waldron from Members of 301



Garry Waldron, left, disabled war veteran, receives a check for \$936 toward mortgage payments on his new house. Shop Steward Pierce Siler, right, was chairman of the 301 committee in charge of raising the fund through collections in the shops.

## GE Forces Retirement Of Man Reaching 60

The General Electric Company made Joe Smith, a worker at the Bloomfield, N. J. plant, retire in June at the age of 60.

When he was notified that June 14 would be his last day of work, Smith demanded to know why. He said he wanted to continue working and pointed out that he was in good health.

The payroll supervisor told him, "When you become 60 years old your brain doesn't function like it did before."

(GE President Charles E. Wilson turned 60 three years ago, by the way!)

Although GE insists its pension plan is its own private property, UE is taking up the Smith case with the company.

Employed in the accounting department as a salaried worker, Smith made \$59 a week. The company pension will be \$41 a month for the next five years. Then it will be cut to \$11 as he becomes eligible to old age benefits.

Smith figures that the company is trying to make a guinea pig out of him in forcing retirement at 60. If GE can get away with it in his case, he thinks, other cases will follow all over the GE system, especially as unemployment spreads.

## More Unemployed

The Schenectady Unemployment Insurance office reported that 3,510 jobless were registered as of July 22. The figure was 3,497 for July 15.

## 301 Board Protests Clark's Appointment

The Local 301 Executive Board last week sent a telegram to President Truman urging him to withdraw his nomination of Attorney General Tom Clark for the United States Supreme Court to succeed the great liberal, Frank Murphy.

The Board declared Attorney General Clark "has built up a record of subversive attacks on the Constitution of the United States" and "has used his high office in a campaign to destroy the Bill of Rights."

"Local 301 speaks from its own experience," the telegram stated. "Last October Mr. Clark, on a visit to Schenectady, condemned this union's court action against the GE-Atomic Energy Commission as subversive."

"Tom Clark has tried to substitute Tom Clark's decrees for court action. He has made it clear that he does not believe American citizens are entitled to their day in court. He is unfit for the Supreme Court."

"We therefore urge President Truman to withdraw the nomination and urge the Senate to refuse to confirm his appointment."

## Singer Strikers Need Money for Their Fight

The few shop stewards who had turned in money by Wednesday for the Singer Sewing Machine strikers reported that donations have averaged 25 cents a member in their groups.

The 301 membership meeting in July pledged financial support to the UE strikers and voted to have weekly collections in the shops. The machinery has been a bit slow in getting started.

## What Are 20 Years Against 19 Cents?

Here's an example of the way GE earned that nickname, Generous Electric.

A permanently disabled worker, who has been out of the plant since he was injured there in February, 1948, dropped in at the Local 301 office recently when he was able to get around a bit. He said he thought GE still owed him a week's pay, about \$66 before deductions for social security, etc. When the union inquired, the company agreed that the final wage check was still due him.

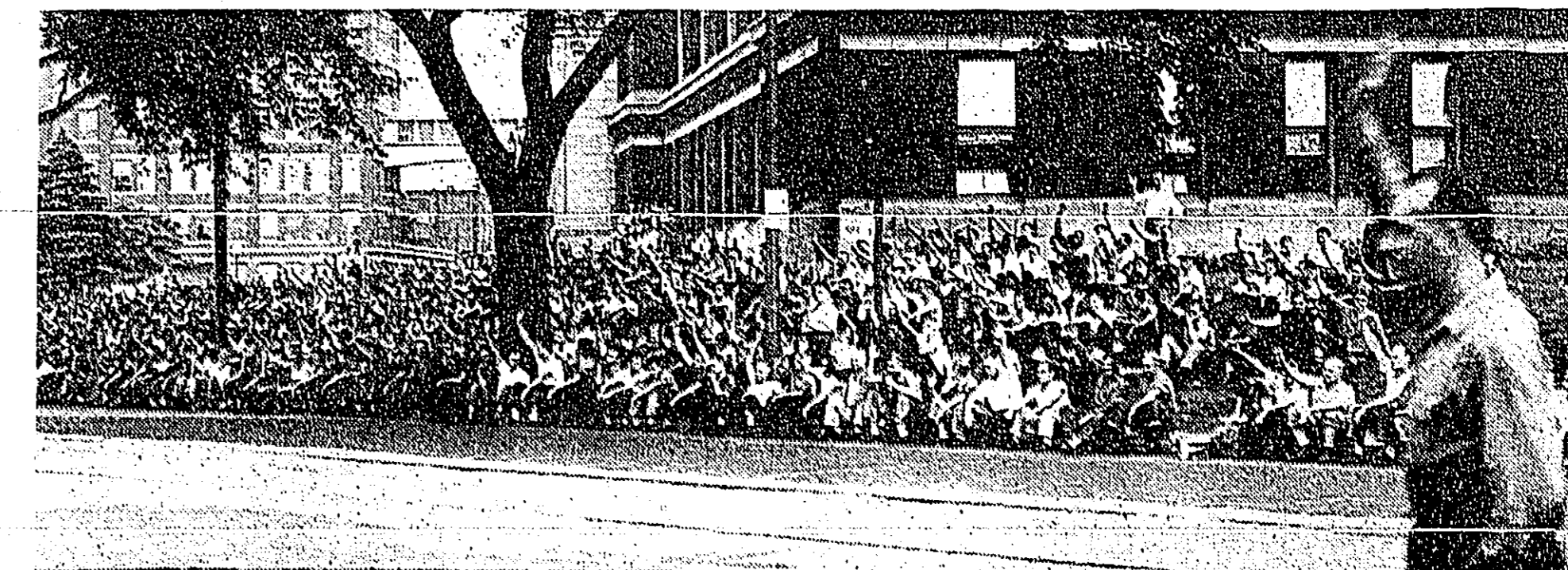
The worker, who had 20 years' service with GE, went to the plant to collect the payment. He was told that something would have to be deducted for tools given him in 1936 or 1937. This claim was dropped however, when he reminded the payroll official that he had been laid off temporarily in 1939 and that at that time his record was clear.

So finally the man received his check. But the company had added the income tax and social security deductions wrong, and had taken out \$3 too much. In addition, there was an extra deduction of 19 cents, for a pair of gloves which GE says he once used—no date mentioned.

The union asked the company to correct its arithmetic and protested the 19 cent charge for gloves. A GE representative in Building 41 agreed that the glove item sounded ridiculous and said he would see what could be done about it, in view of the man's long service. He said the arithmetic error would be corrected at once.

Don't Be a Free Rider  
Join the Union

## Unanimous Vote to Back Conference Board Proposals



A view of the second shift's plant-gate meeting Thursday of last week, showing the members voting unanimously for the proposals of the GE Conference Board of UE locals. The chief proposal was to authorize the 301 delegates to the Conference Board to ask for an official strike vote to be taken among GE locals.