

Local 301 Members Visit Washington To Demand Ives Oppose Mundt Bill

Following up its campaign of letters and telegrams against the Mundt bill, Local 301 sent members to Washington last weekend and this week to increase the pressure against the police-state legislation.

President Andrew Peterson went by airplane Saturday for the purpose of interviewing Senator Irving M. Ives. The senator was unavailable, but Peterson talked with his administrative assistant.

Recording Secretary Helen Quirini, who went by train to Washington with a Capital District delegation, also visited the Ives' office Saturday.

Republicans Make Trip

Three members of Local 301, who are on the Republican Schenectady County Committee, left for Washington Tuesday night to tell Ives that rank-and-file Republicans oppose the Mundt bill, despite its endorsement by most top leaders of the party.

The three are William Gleason, shop steward in Bldg. 69 and Republican committeeman from the town of Rotterdam; William Sulzer, shop steward in Bldg. 46 and Republican committeeman from the Fourteenth Ward, and Ralph Pietrosanto, Bldg. 64, Republican committeeman from the Second Ward.

The Executive Board authorized their trip and sent President Peterson with them. They were among thousands of union members and citizens' delegations from various parts of the country who mobilized in Washington Wednesday to visit Senators in a protest against the Mundt bill.

Stewards Take Action

Local 301 shop stewards voted Tuesday night to send telegrams against the bill to Ives and to the Senate Judiciary Committee, and to call for additional telegrams from the shops.

Leon Novak, UE District 3 attorney, analyzed the bill at a meeting called by the Capital District Committee for Democratic Rights May 27 at Nott Terrace High School. Other speakers included Helen Quirini, who reported on 301 activities against the bill, and Richard Linsley, District 3 representative.

A public discussion on the Mundt bill, scheduled for Wednesday night at Union College, was cancelled by the Citizens' Council. William M. Murphy, chairman said no speaker could be found to speak in favor of the bill.

Candidate for Queen



Jennie Tescione, Bldg. 81, the first girl to enter the contest for Local 301 Field Day queen. The winner will be announced at the big union outing July 10 at Columbian Park, Dunsville Rd.

Are They Satisfied With GE's Lower Pay?

In view of the recent announcement by a committee of the Schenectady GE Engineers' Association that the engineers oppose a general wage increase, it is interesting to note the results of a survey of engineers' salaries made by the same group.

The engineers' group found that a comparison in 1946 between the salaries of engineers at the plant here and the national average for engineers in all industries showed the local GE men lagging substantially behind the national for the first 10 years after graduating from engineering school or getting into engineering work. The local men were somewhat better off than the national average after 12 years.

But in the big early year groups, the 5-year men averaged \$3,550 here as against \$3,880 national average; the 8-year men \$4,000 here as against \$4,450 national average; the 10-year men \$4,300 here as against \$4,750 national average.

A local survey made Nov. 15, 1947 showed that half the 2-year engineers earned \$3,300 a year or less (under \$64 a week), and half the 5-year men earned \$3,900 or less (\$75 a week or less).

BUILD THE UNION
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More Meetings For Craft Groups

Skilled craft groups started this week on a second round of special meetings to consider action to get the General Electric Company to correct the injustices in craft wages.

The company has flatly refused to negotiate or arbitrate the union's proposal for a complete wage structure for Schenectady, which would correct the rates that are out of line.

The building trades held their second meeting Wednesday night. The other scheduled meetings are: machinists (non-production) and tool room machine operators, tonight; welders, Tuesday night, June 8; toolmakers, Wednesday night, June 9.

The toolmakers last week held the largest meeting of the four groups. They discussed various possible actions to change the management's attitude, and voted formally to press for their wage demands as contained in the wage structure proposal. Further action was deferred to the next meeting.

The toolmakers also sent a telegram to the UE negotiating committee in New York, asking them to inform GE that the toolmakers protest the company's failure to correct their rates, and will give the company "the same cooperation as they are giving us."

The welders last Thursday also wired the union negotiators to tell the company that "the welders are getting tired of being paid way less than welders are paid on the outside." Further action was deferred to the next meeting.

The first meetings of the building trades and machinists were reported in last week's EU News.

Promotion in Bldg. 269

A production machinist in Building 269 rated as B was promoted with a 5-cent raise and the promise of another 5 cents shortly, as the result of grievance action by Shop Steward James Petraske last week. The steward showed Foreman Joseph Kiss that the man was doing diversified work rating more than the B classification.

Another Pay Raise

UE has obtained a general wage increase of eight cents an hour and classification adjustments up to 16 cents an hour for workers at the Monroe Calculating Machine Company, Orange, N. J. They received a five cent raise last November. The new contract adds an eighth paid holiday.

Clergymen Meet With Jandreau

At the invitation of the union, nine clergymen met with Business Agent Leo Jandreau Tuesday at the Van Curler Hotel for a discussion of the UE-GE contract negotiations.

Jandreau spoke on the need of a substantial wage increase and its importance to the community. He reviewed negotiations and touched on most of the union problems taken up at the recent series of stewards' meetings.

The clergymen asked questions of him for over an hour afterwards.

Tool Room Machine Operators

Machinists (non-production)

Special Meeting on Machinists' Wage Rates
7:30 Tonight

FRIDAY, JUNE 4
LOCAL 301 HALL

WELDERS

Special Meeting on Welders' Wage Rates

TUESDAY, JUNE 8
7:30 P.M.
LOCAL 301 HALL

TOOLMAKERS

Special Meeting on Tool and Die Rates

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9
7:30 P.M.
LOCAL 301 HALL

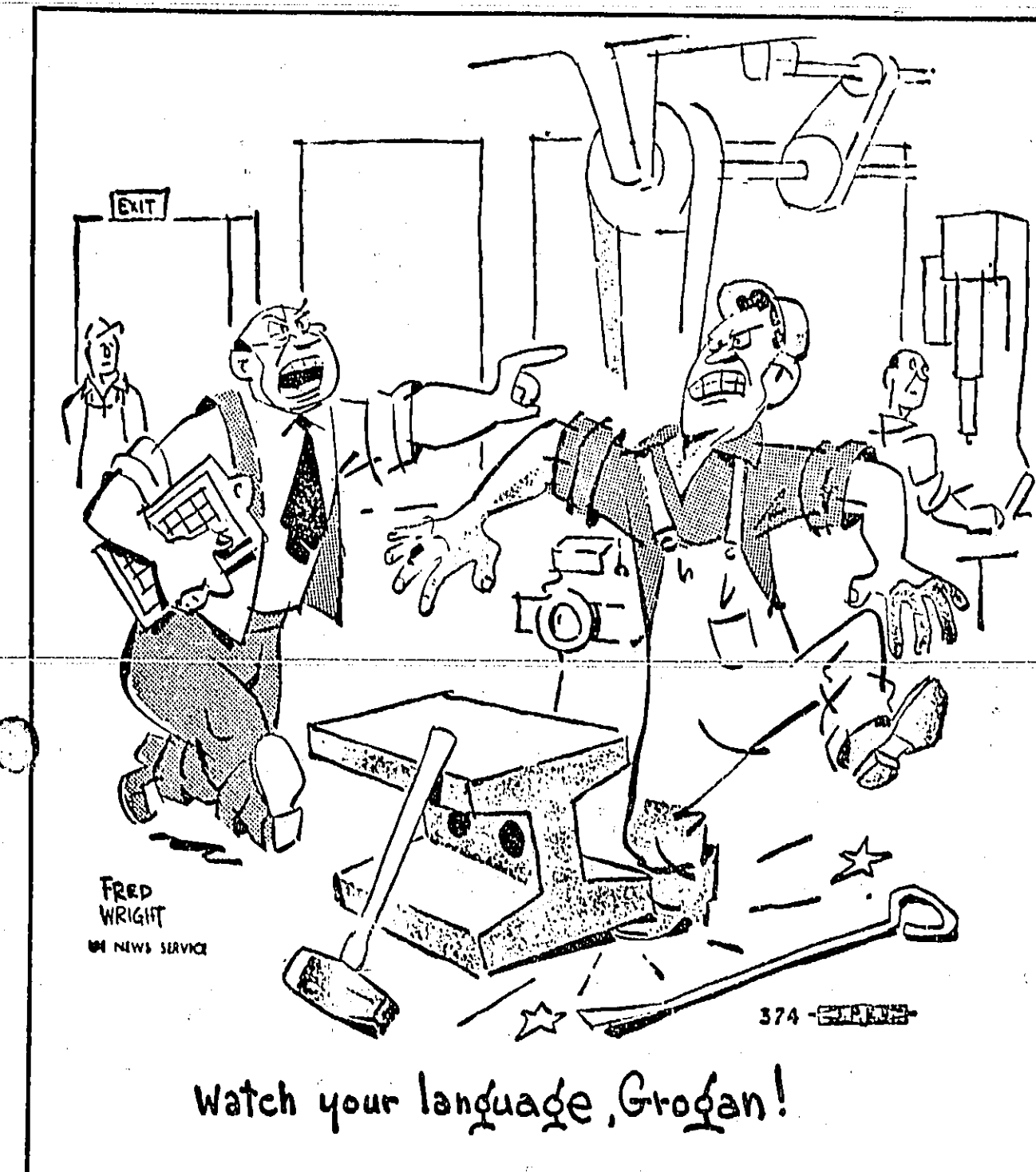
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SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

June 11, 1948



14,365 Members Sign Check-off

The number of check-off authorizations signed at the Schenectady plant had reached 14,365 by Wednesday, when this issue of EU News went to press.

In the process of gathering the signatures, shop stewards signed up 266 new members in Local 301.

Stewards reported that some members said they want to continue in the union, but prefer to pay their dues individually to the union office, instead of through the check-off arranged with GE. They have this right.

Union officers point out, however, that by refusing to use the check-off such members are making the work of their shop stewards more difficult in handling grievances and seeing the contract is enforced. By paying dues individually instead of through the check-off, a member is withholding information from the foreman that he is a union member. The strength of a union in a shop depends on the number of union members willing to stand up and be counted.

Executive Board members are now checking with all stewards to get reports on their groups.

Profits Going Up Savings Going Down

In the last year one-quarter of the families in the United States had to go into debt or dip into their savings to keep going. More than 3,000,000 families had to cash in on their war bonds during the year.

These are some of the figures revealed by the U. S. Federal Reserve Board from a survey made for it by a University of Michigan group.

The biggest falling off in savings was reported in the lower income group, people earning \$3,000 a year or less.

And don't forget that corporate profits for that period set a new all-time high of \$17,000,000,000 after taxes.

UE Wins Strike

Wage increases from 10 to 42½ cents an hour resulted from a 52 day strike of the new UE local at Molded Playthings Inc., Mamaroneck. The strike was called because the company refused to recognize UE as bargaining agent without a Taft-Hartley Board election. The strike didn't end until the workers had a UE contract with pay raises and other gains.

GE Conference Board of UE Meets on Wage Raise Offer

The GE Conference Board of UE local delegates met in New York yesterday to consider the company's wage and contract offer. Any action by the Conference Board will be submitted to the membership in all the plants.

The GE offer would raise actual earnings of each employee by 8 per cent, with a minimum raise of 9 cents, figured to the nearest half cent. As a condition of the offer, there would be a contract running for two years from the date of settlement, and reopenable on wages only, once during the two years, at the union's request.

The reopening is different from the two-year contract in General Motors and U. S. Steel, because the GE proposal would leave the membership free to take any action in the reopening negotiations.

After receiving the offer, the UE negotiating committee continued its efforts to have the offer improved. The negotiators pointed out to the company that the offer would leave unsettled the serious problems of the lower-paid workers, and of discrimination in women's rates, as well as the question of bringing the rates for the skilled crafts at GE into line with those at other plants. At the time this paper went to press, the company had not changed its position.

Representing Local 301 at the Conference Board meeting were

Andrew Peterson, president; Marshall White, treasurer, and Leo Jandreau, business agent, who also is president of District 3 and the senior member of the national negotiating committee.

301 Board Meets

The 301 Executive Board met Wednesday morning to give the local's delegates a cross-section of the comments of members in the shop on the company's proposal.

The company's offer was contained in a long letter to the union from George H. Pfeif, GE manager of employee relations, and chief company negotiator. The letter repeated the usual company arguments that a wage increase would be "inflationary" and contended that if GE applied the "formula or method of figuring" used in the General Motors or Chrysler settlements, "there would be no wage increase due."

Pfeif's letter also said that flat cents-per-hour increases were wrong, and that a percentage increase would "restore the principle of having the increases in proportion to the skills involved."

The letter concluded with a call for "more production per person."

Interesting Advice

Those people who are trying to feed and clothe families at today's high prices ought to be interested in the GE idea of what to do with a pay raise.

In his letter to the union on the GE wage proposal this week, George H. Pfeif, chief company negotiator, said:

"If this offer is accepted, it seems to us that all concerned should then direct their efforts immediately to attempting to have everyone understand that these increased wages will do absolutely no good unless our own employees and those of other companies who receive wage increases put away in savings the total of such increases as well as holding on to their old savings."

Fingers Don't Matter Compared to Profits

The General Electric Company's effort to make 1/17th of a cent more profit on each electric iron produced at the Toronto plant has cost a girl worker the use of two fingers for life.

GE insisted on a speed-up, involving a dangerous change in operations, in order to save 59 cents per 1,000 pieces on the girl's job rate in coil assembly. The accident occurred the day the change was made. The girl had protested against removal of safety devices, but had been ordered to do the work. Shortly before the accident took place she got word to the union president to make a complaint, but he was not allowed to enter the department.

New York Judge Sees Moscow Plot in Seamen Joining Picket Line of AFL Financial Workers

The fact that members of the AFL Seafarers International union joined the picket lines of the AFL United Financial Employees in the recent Wall Street strike appeared to be a Moscow plot to Judge Frederick L. Hackenbush in New York City.

When he placed a seaman on probation, on suspended sentence, June 3, as a result of having a run-in with a policeman during the strike, Judge Hackenbush spoke about "outsiders" joining the picket lines "under compulsion."

Sees 'Foreign' Influence

"This compulsion did not come from within the territory of the United States," he declared, "but was dictated by a foreign government which under the guise of ideology tries to start trouble so that they can publish in Moscow 'riots in Wall Street'."

It happens that both the Financial Employees Union and the Seafarers have active records of red-baiting.

The Financial Employees rushed to file Taft-Hartley affidavits and won a Taft-Hartley election for a union shop. But the Wall St. firms refused them a decent pay raise and refused to negotiate a union shop. In spite of the affidavits, the union had to strike.

Clubbed by Cops

A large part of the strike activity was devoted to issuing leaflets explaining that the union was "anti-Communist." The pickets even chanted "We're not Communists" as they walked in front of the brokerage firms. But the cops clubbed them just the same. Scores landed in hospitals and jails and many paid fines. In the end they returned to work after a month, on the employers' terms. Many of the strikers were not rehired.

The whole strike is a fine example of labor relations under the Taft-Hartley Law. And Judge Hackenbush's remarks give a good pre-view of what life will be like if the Mundt bill becomes a law. There's not a union that may not called the "agent" of a foreign power.

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Published by Editorial Committee
William Templeton, Chairman
Mary McCartin, Secretary
Clayton Pustney, Victor Pasche

Editorial Office
ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS
301 Liberty St., Schenectady, N. Y.
Telephone 3-1386

Exposing GE Propaganda On Wage-Price Relation

Here are extracts from the wage-price material studied by the 301 shop stewards at their meetings.

"Because GE and the NAM were successful in breaking price control, the company has had considerable success in making people believe that the wage increases of 1946 and 1947 caused the price increases, that took place in those two years. The fact is that once price control was broken, prices would have gone up regardless of wages, because of monopoly control and post-war shortages.

"The prices have continued to rise with no wage increase being given and all predictions are that prices and profits will continue to rise because of the new markets offered by the Marshall Plan and the re-armament program. The price reductions announced by GE, Westinghouse and the steel companies are trivial compared to the previous increases, and are a crude hoax on the people. GE made slight cuts on certain products only where forced to as a matter of business, and for publicity purposes.

"It is high prices and profiteering which cause inflation. Inflation is the increasing spread between prices and purchasing power. Any wage increase which reduces the gap reduces inflation, by that much. "From 1924 to 1929 wages went up 5c an hour while prices and increased productivity brought profits up 50%. The result was that the people could not buy what they produced and the depression resulted."

Package Co.'s 'Package'

The 600 workers at the Package Machinery Company, Springfield, Mass., who received an eight cent raise as a down payment last fall, get four cents more now, and improved vacation and holidays, and a pension plan. There are to be eight paid holidays under the UE contract.

SOS On Mundt Bill

UE District 3 this week urged all locals in the district to increase their fight against the Mundt bill. There is danger the bill will be brought to a vote in the Senate before Congress adjourns.



Locals Win Pay Boosts In Pennsylvania Shops

Wage increases between 11 cents and 15 cents an hour have been won by UE at various shops in western Pennsylvania.

After UE Local 623 took a strike vote, the McKinney Hinge Manufacturing Company at Pittsburgh came through with a 1 1/2 cent offer.

A 15 cent wage package was won at E. Keeler and Company, Williamsport, and the same amount at Robinson Manufacturing Company in Muncy.

In Erie UE won a 12 cent package at the American Meter Corporation and at Penn Union Electric Corporation, covering about 1,000 workers. A raise of 13 cents was obtained at Pennsylvania Furnace and Iron Company, Pittsburgh.

GE on Inflation

The letter from George Pfeif to the union, stating the company's wage proposal, declared that "unless counter-inflationary measures are undertaken at once by management, employees and the public across the country, the round of wage increases now beginning will be reflected promptly and fully in the same amount of increase in the Bureau of Labor Statistics index."

The letter did not, however, suggest any "heroic" drive to restore price control.

Delegation Interviews Ives About Mundt Bill

A Local 301 delegation, consisting of three members of the Schenectady County Republican Committee and President Andrew Peterson, finally succeeded in seeing U. S. Senator Irving M. Ives in Washington June 2 to demand that he vote against the Mundt bill. Earlier delegations had been able to see only his administrative assistant.

Senator Ives told the 301 members he was not familiar with the provisions of the bill, but expressed opposition to giving such sweeping power to one man, the attorney general.

The delegation included William Gleason, shop steward in Bldg. 69 and a Republican committeeman from Rotterdam; William Sulzer, shop steward in Bldg. 46 and Republican committeeman from the Fourteenth Ward, and Ralph Pietrosanto, Bldg. 64, Republican committeeman from the Second Ward.

Pay Raises Negotiated

Maytag workers at Newton, Iowa, have a new UE contract providing the following pay raises: 10 cents an hour for day workers; six cents on the base rate for incentive workers and additional adjustments of wage inequities from three to eight cents.

MAKE YOUR SHOP 100% UE

Classes Arranged For 301 Stewards

A series of classes for shop stewards on their problems will start Tuesday, June 22, at the union hall.

One of the main purposes is to give the large number of shop stewards elected in the past three months a chance to clear up questions about the handling of grievances and the application of the contract. Stewards with longer experience have plenty of shop problems to discuss too.

The classes will be scheduled during weeks in which there is no meeting of the 301 membership or of the Shop Stewards Council. The first session will be at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 22, for first and third shift stewards, and 1 p.m. Wednesday, June 23, for second shift stewards.

Leading the classes will be Chief Shop Steward William Mastriani and the assistants to the business agent, William Kelly and Victor Pasche. The classes will continue for as many weeks as there seems to be need for them.

Register with State As Soon as Laid-off

Workers who are laid-off for lack of work and lose time while waiting to be placed on a suitable job should immediately register for unemployment insurance. Even if they only lose a few days and do not qualify immediately for payments, they should obtain credit for all lost days, for the future.

Workers do not need any slip from Building 1 to register at the unemployment insurance office. If they have any difficulty on this score, they should take it up with the union office.

What Do You Think?

Some of the workers have been asking whether the members of the Schenectady GE Engineers' Association are going to refuse the 8 percent wage increase offered in the UE negotiations, in view of the fact that they opposed any general increase this year.

AFL Union Is Sued

The AFL Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, one of the first unions to file affidavits with the Taft-Hartley Board, has been hit with a million dollar damage suit by the Radio Condenser Company at Camden, N. J. for striking. The company charges the union with violating the Taft-Hartley law by breaking a no-strike clause in its contract.

More Shop Stewards Line Up for Duty



George Walker, 301 guide, at extreme left, swearing Wager, Bldg. 81; George Mahan, CAP; Earl Wilkin newly elected shop stewards: left to right, John Inson, Bldg. 18, and John Rodd, Peek St.

301 Letter to Bishop Gibbons on Mundt Bill

The 301 Executive Board Monday night voted unanimously that the following letter should be sent to the Right Rev. Edmund F. Gibbons, Catholic Bishop of Albany, by President Andrew Peterson:

"The Executive Board of this union has instructed me to communicate with you regarding an untrue statement which appeared in the Weekly Parish Bulletin of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel for June 6. Copy of this bulletin is enclosed.

"We feel that this matter is so serious as to deserve your attention.

"An article about the Mundt-Nixon bill in that bulletin contains the statement that 'the commies... have raised half a million dollars to fight the bill, and a thousand of that came from some of you generous souls who belong to Local 301; did you know that you recently contributed \$1,000.00 to the commie campaign to defeat this legislation...'

"We regret to say that the above statement, as to Local 301, is untrue and carries a wholly unwarranted insinuation of secret expenditure of funds.

Voted by 301 Membership

"The fact is that Local 301, in membership meeting, voted to authorize a top expenditure of \$1,000, to be used in cooperation with other groups and prominent persons in the Capital District, including prominent clergymen, in campaigning against the Mundt bill. The expenses were for advertising, leaflets, a public conference, and sending delegates to Washington. Local 301's share actually was \$700.00.

"The membership action was broadcast prominently in the union paper which is distributed to the

301 Thanked for Help in Hospital Campaign

Leo Jandreau, Local 301 business agent, has received letters from Henry Schaffer, chairman of the St. Clare's Hospital campaign committee, and the Rev. William C. Keane of the committee thanking the union for its cooperation in the drive.

In addition to donating \$3,000 from the union treasury, 301 is assisting with a collection in the shops. Helen Quirini represents the union on the shop drive which continues till June 18.

The letter from Father Keane expressed thanks for "the very generous contribution" made by the union and congratulated the union for assigning "such a capable person as Miss Quirini to be co-chairman of the campaign organization in the General Electric Company."

301 Broadcast

Tune in on the Local 301 radio program at 7:30 p.m. every Wednesday on WSNY.

volving false accusations as to union funds.

"We are concerned over this matter on behalf of all our members. We are particularly concerned on behalf of our many thousands of members at GE who are of the Catholic faith, including many who worship at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. These Catholics feel that there is no conflict whatever between their faith and their union membership. They regret to see their own parish involved in an unwarranted attack on their union.

"We hope that you will see fit to order the parish bulletin to print a complete and unqualified correction of the untrue statement in question."

Improper in Church Paper

"You may well feel that the language about the Mundt bill is a matter of opinion to which the writer of the article is entitled. But you will surely agree that a church organ should not engage in outright libel of union officers, board members and members, in-