

Glad to Get Hands on Some Low Cost Clothes



Members of Local 301 snapping up bargains at the sale of low cost men's clothing at the union hall. The sale will continue through 9 p.m. tomorrow (Saturday).

Don't Miss Out On Clothes Sale

Today and tomorrow will be the last chances for Local 301 members to save money by buying low cost coats, jackets, suits, trousers, slacks and shirts at the union hall. The hours will be 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. both days.

Several thousand members of 301 have already taken advantage of the opportunity to get clothing at reasonable prices. The demand for trousers and slacks has been particularly heavy.

The clothing project, sponsored by UE District 4, gives workers a practical demonstration of how the cost of living could be kept down if there were price controls.

Reports from the shops show there is widespread satisfaction with the quality of the clothes purchased through the union, as well as the price.

Capital District Conference Is Called To Combat Problem of Unemployment

A Capital District labor conference on the unemployment problem was scheduled for Wednesday night (after this week's EU News went to press) at Krueger's Hall, Schenectady.

The call for the meeting was issued by a group of labor representatives: Anthony Barbieri, Schenectady, president of Local 2054, United Steelworkers of America; Leo Jandreau, president of UE District 3 and business agent of Local 301; Clarence Carr, Gloversville, president of District 3, Fur and Leather Workers, and president of Local 202, and Lewis Benedict, Schenectady, president of Local 159, Transport Workers Union.

Also L. J. Hannig, Gloversville, president of the Operators and Day Hands; Gordon Blake, Gloversville, president of the Consolidated Cutters; Frank McMasters, Gloversville, business agent of Local 292, Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America; John Wright, Albany, president of Local 80, United Public Workers, and Costas Cakoulis, Albany, vice-president of Local 471, Hotel and Restaurant Workers.

The group represents CIO, AFL and independent unions.

"Unemployment is fast becoming a major problem in the country, the state and particularly the Capital District," the call to the meeting pointed out. (There were

2,574 people getting unemployment insurance from the Schenectady office as of Mar. 1)

"Albany, Troy and Gloversville now suffer mass unemployment as serious as in 1932. Schenectady has seen two thousand steelworkers thrown out of jobs and the present outlook is not bright for electrical workers.

"The Albany railroaders have taken either a 17 per cent wage cut or a 17 per cent cut in jobs. Everyone faces speedup. We cannot afford to sit idly by. We cannot afford another 1929."

The 301 Executive Board named President Frank Kriss, Jandreau and Board Member William Stewart to represent the local at a preliminary meeting.

The Board voted Monday night that Board members would act as delegates and would take shop stewards and active members with them as delegates also. The Board voted \$25 toward defraying the cost of the conference.

Pension Organization

The UE-301 Pension Organization will meet at 2 p.m. Wednesday at 301 hall.

301 Will Show Italian Picture

"Two Anonymous Letters" will be the feature film at the Local 301 free movies tomorrow (Saturday) night in the rear of the union hall. It is an Italian picture showing the struggle of the Italian resistance movement against the Nazi occupation of their country.

The program also will include a short on fishing thrills and "Caldonia," featuring Louis Jordan and his orchestra. Shows will start at 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. for 301 members and their families.

The Answer Is Easy

Lemuel R. Boulware, GE vice-president of employee relations, is quoted as telling Schenectady GE engineers last Friday that "15,000 members of General Electric management are devoting themselves to a re-education in economics and human relationships in an attempt to find out how jobs may be made better."

So that's what it really is! GE workers thought the idea was to teach them to live on beans and low wages.

Now that Lemuel's true aims are known, any 301 shop steward will be glad to tell the "15,000 members of GE management . . . how jobs may be made better." And without the big words.

GE Price Policy Causes Lay-offs

The GE policy of trying to keep prices high and wages low is responsible for heavy lay-offs at Bridgeport GE and other appliance plants.

It is so clear now that the people simply haven't the money to pay the GE prices that the company this week announced price reductions on a few appliances.

UE Local 203 of Bridgeport recently declared there was no need for the 3,500 lay-offs that have taken place in the past 14 months at the GE plant there.

"These lay-offs inevitably result from GE's incorrect policy regarding wages and prices," the Local 203 statement pointed out.

"Since GE has assumed a leading position among opponents of wage increases in our community and nation, GE has a direct responsibility for limiting the purchasing power of consumers of GE's own products.

"Figures show that GE prices and consumer prices have increased 36 per cent in the last three years. Today in Bridgeport warehouses bulge with GE consumer products. Yet GE refuses to cut prices to permit people to buy."

The statement also cited GE's 133 per cent increase in net profits in the past three years, in contrast to the 14 per cent increase in the weekly earnings of employees.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

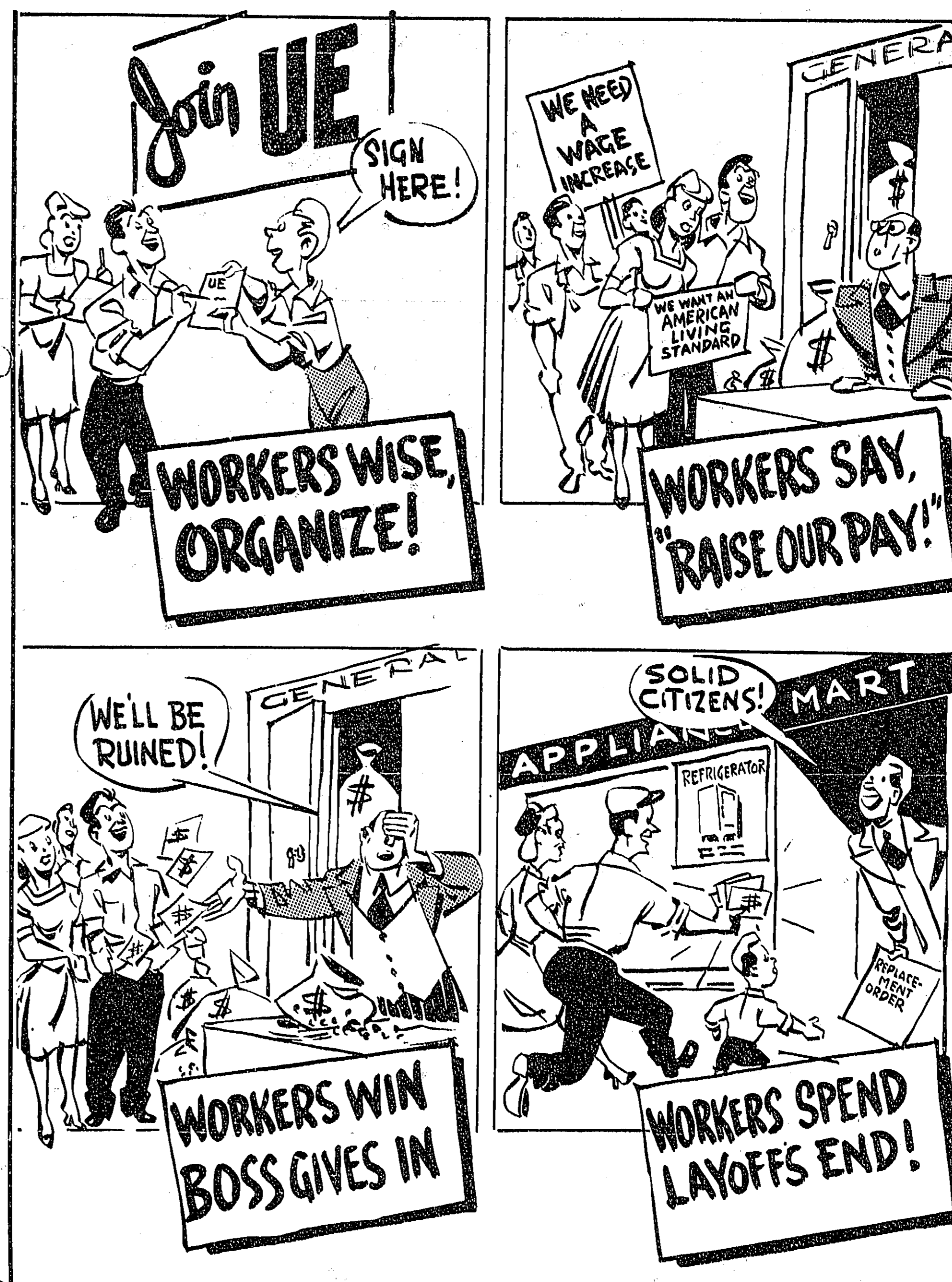
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\$123,835,000 Profit to Do It With



Two More Lobbyists

The General Electric Company has hired two more lobbyists to help retain the Taft-Hartley Law. They are John C. Gall, who was

attorney for the National Association of Manufacturers for 20 years, and L. Byron Cherry.

GE had already retained Gerald Reilly, advisor to Senator Taft in drafting the Taft-Hartley Law.

UE Broadcast

The Arthur Gaeth broadcast, sponsored by UE, is at 10 p.m. every Monday on WXXW, Albany.

Unions Unite On Problems Of Lay-offs

Local 301 has joined with other unions of the area, CIO, AFL and independent, to tackle the growing unemployment problem through joint action.

Representatives of various unions, at a conference Mar. 16 at Krueger's Hall, organized the Capital District Union Committee Against Unemployment and adopted a program. The Local 301 membership meeting this week unanimously approved the program.

Clarence Carr of Gloversville, president of District 3, Fur and Leather Workers, presided at the Schenectady conference. Ernest Herman of Local 2054, United Steelworkers of America, read the program drawn up by the planning committee. He substituted for Anthony Barbieri, 2054 president, a member of the committee. Barbieri and Business Agent Leo Jandreau of Local 301 were among the union representatives who issued the call for the conference. 301 President Frank Kriss served as secretary.

Double Action Needed

The conference agreed that the unemployment situation must be tackled both by a legislative program and by collective bargaining. It urged coordinated activities to expose and fight all area attempts at speed-up, press for wage increases, protect and extend the rights of Negro workers, and work toward establishment of a 30 hour week.

The legislative program adopted called for: repeal of the Taft-Hartley Law and reinstatement of the Wagner Act, larger individual income tax exemptions, and the improvement of the Unemployment Insurance Law.

Legislative Program

Proposed amendments to the Unemployment Insurance Law were approved:

Increasing the minimum jobless benefits from \$10 to \$16 and the maximum from \$26 to \$32.

Granting additional dependency benefits of \$3 for each dependent. (Continued on Page 2)

WIN A WAGE INCREASE TO PROTECT YOUR JOB

Facts for GE Workers

GE Company Can Easily Raise Wages From \$123,835,000 Profit for 1948

The General Electric Company is opposed to wage increases whether its profits go up or down. GE fought against pay raises as its profits skyrocketed during the period 1940 through 1948. During the depression of 1921 GE cut wages twice, once 10 per cent and once 10 cents an hour.

If You Are Laid-off

Members who are laid-off and are not placed elsewhere in the Works should do two things promptly:

- 1) Register at the Unemployment Insurance office.
- 2) Register at the 301 hall.

Unemployed members retain full membership rights in UE as long as they pay unemployed dues and do not leave the industry permanently. Unemployed dues are 10 cents a month. Unemployed members have the same rights as all other members at local union meetings and otherwise.

By registering at the local union office and keeping in touch with it, unemployed members will receive help in enforcing their claims to unemployment insurance. The union also is working on other methods of helping unemployed members find work.

Madeline Carroll Film Will Be Shown Tomorrow

"Thirty-Nine Steps" will be the feature film of the Local 301 free movie program tomorrow (Saturday night) at the union hall. Madeline Carroll and Robert Donat are in the film.

Also on the program will be a cartoon, "Brotherhood of Man", and a short, "Sea Going Thrills." The shows are at 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. for 301 members and their families.

Don't Be a Slacker Join the Union

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United Electrical, Radio & Machine
Workers of America, CIO
SCHENECTADY GE LOCAL 301

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UE believes that regardless of profit levels workers should continue to press for an adequate and improved living standard. This is important, not only to provide for the needs of the people, but this also is a contribution to the economy as a whole, as an aid in putting off and reducing the severity of depressions.

Actually GE has never since 1899 been in a position when it could not pay an increase because of low profits. It made substantial profits and paid substantial dividends during the depression of 1907, and during the crash following 1929, when by 1933 it had laid off 46,373 of the 87,933 workers it employed in 1929.

As a result of its monopoly profiteering over the years, GE has over 219 million dollars of its profits in its treasury even after payment after dividends. Out of this fund GE could pay wage increases even if for the first time in 50 consecutive years of profits GE should suffer a loss as a result of an economic crash brought on the country by GE's and industry's reckless profiteering.

GE made its biggest profit on record during 1948, \$123,835,000 after taxes were paid.

Unemployment

(Continued from Page 1)

up to three dependents. Repealing the seven weeks penalty waiting period for workers unemployed because of a strike or lockout.

Extending coverage to include firms having less than four employees, and employees of charitable, educational and non-profit institutions, and all government employees.

Repealing the "merit-rating" provision which gives huge rebates to employers. The money should be used to increase the benefit rates.

Including sickness disability as part of unemployment insurance. This sickness disability insurance should be paid for entirely by employers.

Establishing a commission to recommend emergency legislation on unemployment.



301 Asks Action from Heck, Campbell

Demands of Local 301 and other labor unions for immediate improvements in the Unemployment Insurance Law were placed before Assembly Speaker Oswald D. Heck, State Senator Thomas F. Campbell of Schenectady and Senator William F. Condon, chairman of the Senate Labor Committee, at Albany Monday night.

About 25 members of Local 301 joined with members of other unions in visiting legislators on the growing problem of unemployment. The action was planned at the conference on unemployment Mar. 16 in Schenectady.

301 Business Agent Leo Jandreau and the union attorney, Marshall Perlin, obtained interviews with Campbell, Heck and Condon.

Jandreau reported to the 301 membership meeting this week that Heck gave the UE representatives "a brush-off". On mention of improving unemployment insurance Heck asked, "Didn't we give you something last year?"

The union spokesmen told him the increase in benefits granted last year was entirely inadequate.

Heck was vague on bills introduced on unemployment insurance and workmen's compensation and on their prospects. He said he didn't have time to discuss either subject and told Jandreau and Per-

lin to leave material with him and he would look it over. Jandreau was to get his verdict later in the week.

Jandreau reported that Campbell said he would vote for liberalization of the maximum unemployment insurance benefits and for additional allowances for dependents. Campbell indicated he would favor cutting the amount of money rebated to employers under "merit rating." He raised arguments against cutting out the penalty seven-week waiting period in cases of strikes or lockouts. Workers should contribute toward sickness disability insurance, according to Campbell.

Campbell would not commit himself to putting any pressure on Republican leaders to pass any bills on unemployment insurance. Condon said flatly that he opposed any increase in the maximum jobless pay. The membership meeting voted unanimous approval of Jandreau's report and directed that the union's program on unemployment and workmen's compensation be carried to the public, through newspaper advertisements. The record of Heck and Campbell on the question is also to be set forth in the advertisements.

More GE Pressure For Taft-Hartley

The Works News of March 18 carried the third piece in the series on the Wilson-Boulware plea to the Senate Labor Committee to keep Taft-Hartley and make it worse. This time the piece spoke about "secondary boycotts."

GE Vice-president Lemuel R. Boulware talked of abuses by AFI unions, not by the UE or other CIO unions. He could not name any on the part of UE. He forgot to mention the very legitimate boycotts directed by labor against union-busting companies and other concerns helping these anti-labor employers through business deals.

Earlier Articles

The first two pieces in the series were on the "non-Communist affidavits" and so-called jurisdictional disputes.

On the affidavits, Boulware was asked to cite specific examples of effects of the affidavit provision of Taft-Hartley which he considered so useful.

He mentioned the Atomic Energy Commission order to GE not to recognize UE for the Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory. The Works News forgot to mention that the whole deal was cooked up to help GE.

Wants to Pick Union Leaders

Boulware also said that union members had been aided by the affidavit procedure "in making progress toward better local and top leadership". It is an admission by Boulware that he wants the law to help him pick the leaders for unions.

On the Taft-Hartley provision against jurisdictional strikes, Boulware mentioned examples of what looked, at least in his statement, like genuine "jurisdictional" disputes of the old line AFL craft character. But he forgot to mention the fact that numerous so-called "jurisdictional" disputes are simply cases where a legitimate union is fighting against a back-door deal between an employer and a company-sponsored union.

Education Program

The Executive Board voted recently to continue Local 301 participation in the Cooperative Evening Assemblies, a forum program sponsored by various community organizations in cooperation with the Division of Adult Education, Schenectady Education Department. The Board voted to contribute \$50 to the organization and named Dewey Brashear as 301 representative.

GE Will Close Meriden Plant

The General Electric Company this month announced plans for the gradual closing of its plastics division plant at Meriden, Conn.

The Associated Press quoted Plant Manager James D. Milne as saying that most production activities would be moved to GE plants in other cities, but that the manufacture of cold molded products would continue temporarily at Meriden. Of the 340 workers at the plant 100 are in the cold molded plastics division.

Milne said the decision to close the plant resulted from GE's current survey of its entire manufacturing organization. The survey is being made with a view to "effecting economies which will enable the company to operate in the increasingly competitive situation it now faces," he explained. He added that the plant is "out-moded."

Compensation Proposals Introduced at Albany

Bills covering most of the key proposals of the recent conference on workmen's compensation at Albany have been introduced into the state legislature. The conference was sponsored by UE Districts 3 and 4 and attended by representatives of other unions and by attorneys, physicians, social workers and other interested in improving New York state's inadequate Workmen's Compensation Law.

Some of the principal bills would: Pay compensation to silicosis victims for partial disability instead of only for total disability.

Raise the maximum compensation to \$40 and the minimum to \$20.

Eliminate the seven day waiting period for payment of compensation benefits.

Protect the compensation rights of workers in atomic energy plants.

301 Asks State Action Against GE on Pay Day

Local 301 this week asked the State Labor Department to start legal action against the General Electric Company for its law violation in postponing Thursday and Friday paydays to Monday.

The letter to the Labor Department pointed out that at a conference in Albany Mar. 1 GE had agreed to shift back from the Monday pay day and to notify the state and the union in two weeks about the date the change would be made. The company has failed to live up to this agreement, 301 charged.



UE Reveals New Jersey Grand Jury System As Being Heavily Stacked Against Workers

UE has challenged the legality of the grand jury system of Union County, N. J. as stacked against 12 UE members indicted in connection with the Phelps Dodge strike in 1946.

The indictments should be thrown out, the union charges, because in selecting grand jurors the officials systematically exclude Negroes, trade unionists and daily and hourly wage workers. Test cases have been made of the indictments against a Negro leader and a white leader of the strike, members of UE Local 441.

The union showed in court that during the past five years only 121 working people were called for grand jury duty in contract to 1,602 proprietors, managers and officials. But there are 71,142 workers in the county and only 12,868 proprietors, etc.

The grand jury rolls also included 1,022 housewives (not occupied outside their homes), out of 72,157 housewives in the county. The commissioner refused to let UE present any evidence about the occupations of the women's husbands. Therefore there are no figures before the court to show how many of the women are wives of wealthy men or proprietors.

Birds of a Feather

Two former Congressmen, Gerald Landis and Charles Kersten, who were defeated because of their anti-labor activities, have been hired by William Ingles, one of the most notorious anti-labor lobbyists at Washington, D. C.

Landis tried to destroy UE in Indiana last fall through strike-breaking activities of the House Labor Committee. He has been engaged by Ingles for \$1,000 a month and has registered as a lobbyist. Kersten came to Schenectady last fall for the Labor Committee's "investigation" of Local 301. The voters of Wisconsin defeated him in November. He has not registered as a lobbyist, but works in Ingles' law office.

Ingles is one of the authors of the Taft-Hartley law. He is paid by Allis Chalmers Co., Inland Steel, Foremen's League, National Association of Electrical Contractors, American Hotel Association and others.