

State CIO Calls for Intensive PAC Campaign; Prospects Bright for Joint CIO-AFL Action

The State CIO convention at Saratoga Springs last week, representing more than 1,200,000 CIO members, declared the struggle against the Taft-Hartley law "the key political task of all labor."

It called for "the intensive political mobilization of the CIO in New York—for the defeat in 1948 of those faithless members of Congress who voted for the Taft-Hartley law."

A telegram from officers of the State Federation of Labor, AFL, indicating there will be a real united labor campaign, was greeted by a long and noisy standing ovation.

The telegram spoke of "the unity of our purpose in eliminating those false prophets who claim to represent their constituents by placing shackles on the labor movement of this country."

The AFL leaders pledged: "Jointly we will go forward determined to right the injustices perpetrated by the Taft-Hartley slave labor act."

Vigorous PAC Drive Urged

A resolution on political action, passed by the convention, urged every CIO local to set up a permanent political action committee. The State CIO pledged "its wholehearted support to CIO-PAC and the American Labor Party as CIO's political arm in New York State."

Newspaper stories distorted the action in regard to the ALP. Actually, the resolution took exactly the same stand on ALP that last year's State CIO convention did. The delegates recognized that the existence of the ALP gives labor candidates a ticket on which to run, if the major parties will not nominate them. Or if a candidate running on a major party slate has PAC endorsement, his chances of election will be greatly strengthened by his nomination on the ALP slate too. President Louis Hollander made it clear that this endorsement of the ALP as a whole did not guarantee PAC endorsement of all ALP candidates. All PAC groups will make their own decisions locally.

In spite of newspaper predictions, the Executive Board unanimously recommended a foreign policy resolution which was passed overwhelmingly by the convention.

This resolution said that "The United Nations must remain the cornerstone of all our hopes for permanent peace" and that "We do not believe that the interests of the United States and the Soviet Union are irreconcilable." It criticized "the excessive use of the veto power."

Dewey and Ives Condemned

President Hollander and other speakers condemned Senator Irving Ives for

Queen Is Married



Bonnie Evans, left, of Bldg. 16, this year's 301 field day queen, is queen now exclusively for Earl Avery. They were married Sunday at the Trinity Reformed Church in Curry Rd. The bridegroom also works at the GE plant.

GE Tries Hard to Sell Labor Law to Workers

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article from Newsweek, another attempt to whitewash the Taft-Hartley law. This article quoted from one of the opinion polls which labor has learned to distrust. It's obvious that the questions put to people were "loaded" and didn't give an accurate picture of the provisions of the Taft-Hartley law.

For instance, there's mention of prohibiting union political contributions, but no mention that the law actually tries to stop unions from engaging in political action. The poll doesn't mention how the law makes it easy for an employer to fire people for union activity—or points like that.

Reminder to Veterans

The 301 Veterans' Service Center is open at 301 Liberty from 1 to 5 p.m. every Tuesday and Friday.

supporting the Taft-Hartley bill and Governor Dewey for aiding the conspiracy against labor. Mayor William O'Dwyer of New York City declared that Roosevelt New Deal policies must be carried forward so America can lead the world in building a pattern of permanent peace. He accused Dewey of blocking social service benefits in New York state.

Brother Hollander of Amalgamated Clothing Workers was reelected president and Harold Garno of the Auto Workers, secretary-treasurer. Leo Jandreau, Local 301 business agent, was reelected to the Executive Board.

State CIO Resolution On Political Action

The following resolution on political action was passed by the State CIO convention at Saratoga Springs last week.

"Whereas, a coalition of Republicans and reactionary Democrats, the majority of the 80th Congress, have adopted a legislative program which not only completely ignores the fundamental needs of the American people but actually destroys many of their basic rights and

"Whereas, this reactionary majority acting as the spokesman of the National Association of Manufacturers has wrecked price control, rent control, ignored the desperate needs of the American people for health insurance and housing, and improved Social Security, and has attempted to shift the tax burden even further from these best able to pay to those least able to pay and

"Whereas, this reactionary majority has enacted into law the infamous Taft-Hartley slave-labor act which strikes at the very heart of the economic and political rights of the trade union movement as well as the rights and freedom of all the American people and

"Whereas, the defeat of the supporters of the Taft-Hartley law, the repeal of that legislative act and the election of a progressive Congress requires the most intensive organization of labor as a political force;

"Therefore:

"Be it resolved that the New York State CIO pledges its wholehearted support to CIO-PAC and the ALP as CIO's political arm in New York State and further pledges its energetic and active work in the CIO-PAC campaign for voluntary individual contributions to finance its vital work; and be it

"Further resolved, that in view of the fact that the repeal of the Taft-Hartley law passed by the 80th Congress constitutes the most important task facing the unions in our state, and since this requires the complete organization of all of our unions for political action, we call upon each and every affiliate of the New York State CIO to immediately organize permanent political action committees to be coordinated by the New York State CIO, to wage a continuous campaign for the defeat of every New York State Congressman who voted for the Taft-Hartley law."

HOW ABOUT THAT PAC DOLLAR?

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

THE VOICE OF LOCAL 301 - - - U. E. R. & M. W. A. - - - C. I. O.

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Empspak Addresses Meeting of Local

Working men and women face tremendous questions today, Julius-Empspak, national UE secretary-treasurer, told the 301 membership meeting Tuesday night.

"You're up against the question of whether democracy is going to continue in this country. Of whether there's going to be another war. And whether you're going to be able to buy groceries in another six months."

The Big Business forces that passed the Taft-Hartley law "want to go back to the good old days of unlimited exploitation of the people," he charged.

"Big Business bought Congress. Now Big Business is back taking over industry in Europe. GE is there. So are General Motors and the rest."

Empspak warned that our country's foreign policy must not be left in the hands of the same reactionary coalition of Democrats and Republicans who saddled the country with the Taft-Hartley law, removed price controls and refused to pass any measures for the welfare of the people this last session of Congress.

He declared that the tactics of the "Committee for Democratic Action" clique at the meeting, to create confusion and disorder, would give comfort, "to GE, to Cushing and to John English."

"There's a difference between free discussion and hoodlumism, yelling and disruption," he said. "This is the kind of confusion Hitler had when he walked into power. I think you'd better examine the influences at work here."

A member of the "Democratic Action" group heckled Empspak with a remark about not wanting international officers to come up from New York.

"I'm a charter member of this Local," Empspak said. "From now on I'm going to attend every meeting of this local and exercise my right of speaking from the floor, as a member."



Julius Empspak

301 Votes to Fight High Prices By Buying Food to Sell Members

Local 301 will tackle the problem of rising food prices by buying products wholesale and selling them to its members at cost.

This step, recommended by the Executive Board, was unanimously approved by the Tuesday night membership meeting.

Wage Structure Plan Is Approved by Local

Proposed negotiations looking to the setting-up of a complete wage structure for the plant and correction of rates that are out of line was approved unanimously by the membership meeting Tuesday night.

The meeting approved the points to be negotiated, and gave the Stewards' Council the authority to pass on labor grading and rates for jobs in the union's proposal. Every steward will receive a copy of the whole proposal before it is acted on by the council.

The Executive Board's job evaluation committee has been studying claims submitted by stewards as to jobs on which rates are considered out of line by comparison with the over-all plant picture.

The proposal would place all plant jobs, both day work and piece work, in 15 labor grades with job rates ranging from \$1.10 for Labor Grade 1 to \$2.30 for a few highly-specialized jobs in Grade 15. It would establish a fixed relationship of 15 percent over the job rate for the anticipated earning rate on piece work, instead of the present supposed three steps which in many cases are not actually applied.

Progression to the job rate would be negotiated on all jobs, and the job rate would become the guarantee on piece work jobs.

The timing rate on which piece prices are based would be raised by the amount of any increase in the AER, which would raise prices accordingly, but where earnings are already substantially above the new AER, this new AER would serve mainly to protect future prices rather than raise the existing prices.

The report was presented by Victor Pasche, assistant to the business agent, who has been working with the committee.

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A price committee of three members, Marshall White, Leland Sisto and Henry Busse, was appointed Wednesday by President Andrew Peterson and went into immediate session. It was authorized by the membership meeting to set-up the machinery for purchasing the food supplies.



Leland Sisto



Henry Busse

"We must put on pressure and expose the profiteering that's going on," Business Agent Leo Jandreau told the membership meeting in presenting the motion.

"I don't have to tell you what's wrong with prices. You feel the pinch, every one of you that's buying food for your table."

Jandreau said that the union will ask the Farmers' Union, which supplied food during the strike in 1946, to co-operate. The union will seek milk, eggs, poultry, meat, vegetables and fruit.

UE locals in New Jersey and Auto Workers in Detroit recently started the experiment. The idea is spreading rapidly through AFL and CIO locals all over the country.



Marshall White

Jandreau Message To Union Members

By Leo Jandreau

Business Agent of Local 301

Our next holiday will be Thanksgiving. It seems to me the time off with pay on Thursday, November 27, will give every GE employee an opportunity to look over the record and find much to be thankful for. Too many of our members are not aware of the campaign that is now going on against the working men and women in our country to take away the good things they have won.



Leo Jandreau

The campaign slogans are so designed that you and I will not catch on quickly. If the slogans said, "Wages are too High," or "Workers are Lying Down on Their Jobs and Must Do More," or "Paid Holidays are Unfair to Industry," or "Seniority Rights are Un-American", we would recognize them immediately and know where they came from. But the adversaries of organized labor are too smart for that. They would rather say:

"Watch out, he's a Red."
 "Union leaders are to blame."
 "The Taft-Hartley Bill is O.K."
 "Price control is not necessary."
 "PAC is un-American."

The anti-labor campaigners represent the interests of only the few against the millions of the American people. However, they are effective in their campaign because they have at their disposal the newspapers, the radio, and vast sums of money.

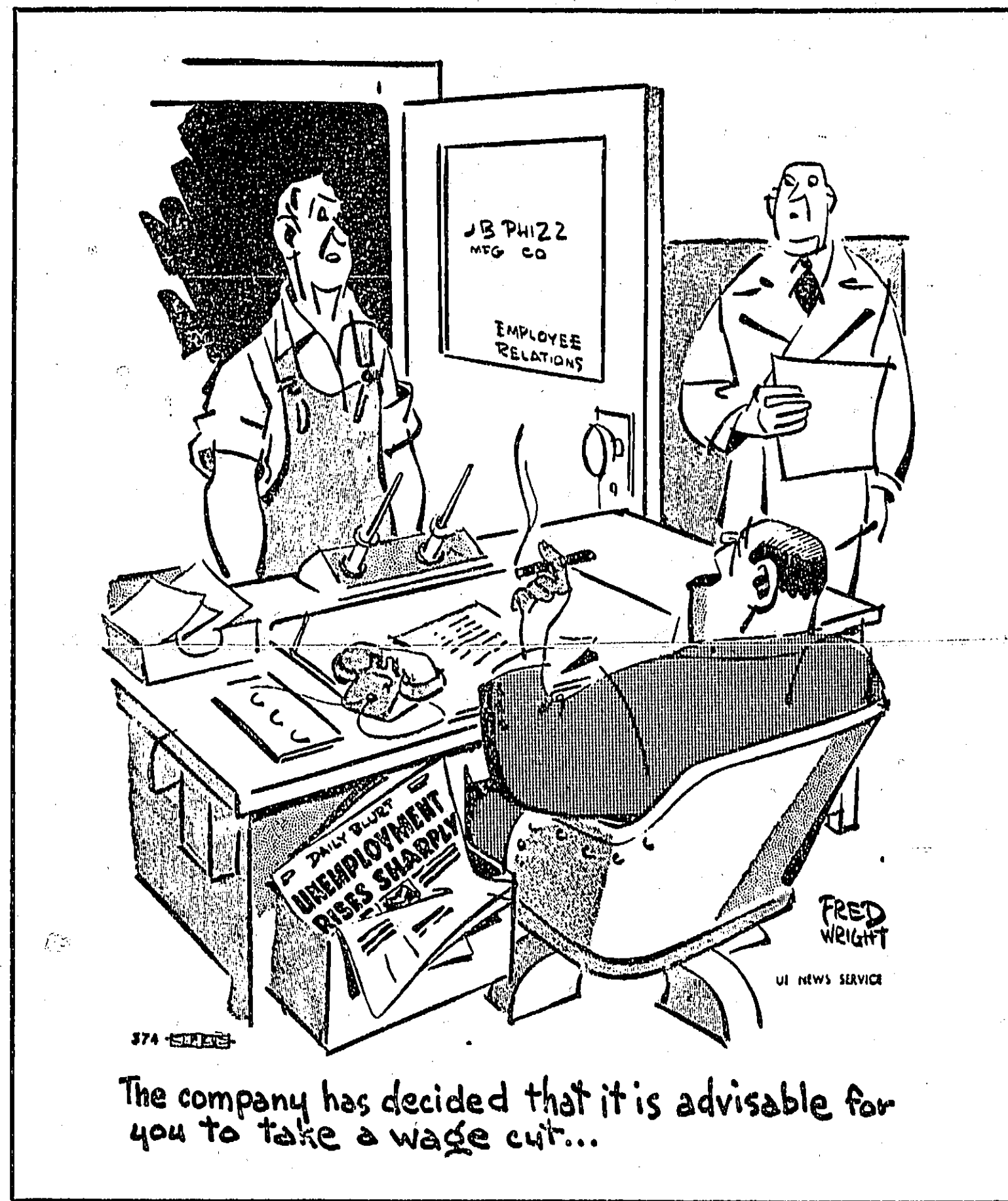
You don't have to be hoodwinked into anything, if you will just make some comparisons on your job right here in Schenectady GE.

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SCHENECTADY PRINTING CO., INC.



The company has decided that it is advisable for you to take a wage cut...

(Continued from Column 1)

Behind the smoke screen that is being laid down against our union, here are some facts.

	1937	1947
Common labor	55c per hour	\$1.10 per hour
Toolmakers	\$1.08 per hour	\$1.75 per hour
Paid holidays	None	6
Call-in pay	None	4 hours
Reporting time	None	3 hours
Vacations	2 weeks after 5 years service	1 week after 1 year
		1 week 1 day—2 years
		1 week 2 days—3 years
		1 week 3 days—4 years
		2 weeks—5 years
		3 weeks—20 years
Night Bonus	5%	10%
Seniority	None	Service
Smoking permits	On no jobs	on almost all jobs
GE plants under the Union Contract	None	86

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Jandreau's Message to Local 301

(Continued from Page 2)

And many other improved working conditions, protecting our wages and hours.

During this last 10 years, I don't recall one occasion where the company called the union in, and offered any of these improvements. I do recall hours of discussion and argument backed up by united membership action, in order to obtain successive contract gains.

Remember we were not able to get these improvements until we got the Wagner Act. The Taft-Hartley Act killed the Wagner Act. The General Electric Company did not favor the Wagner Act, and the union's record of progress shows why.

GE Propaganda

You can imagine how "good" the Taft-Hartley law is for GE workers when GE gives all of us a reprint from the "American Machinist", a Big Business magazine, advising us to accept the Taft-Hartley law.

The UE all over the country has made progress similar to ours here and the reason for it is that the men and women in the electrical industry united and took up their problems with employers collectively.

Anti-labor bosses are smart enough to realize if there is strength in unity, there is weakness in disunity. So they serve us a platter of Red Herring. And some of us bite at it. If you're suspicious of your fellow worker, you can't have confidence in him and you won't work with him on common problems. If you're suspicious of your union officers, you cannot give them the support they need when they are trying to represent you with management.

If there is enough of this suspicion spread around, the union is ineffective because the members spend their time fighting one another, and their attention is diverted from a progressive program.

Democracy in UE

Our union was born with the help of honest men and women, and its constitution was written on the basis of learning from the mistakes that were made by unions in the past. It provided for control of the union by the membership. It provided progressive policies for our union. After reviewing the union's record, I do not think a mistake was made. At no time has any outside organization controlled our union. The provisions of our constitution guard against that. The officers are elected each year by secret ballot by the membership. They are in-

structed in the discharge of their duties by the membership. The revenue collected is spent only by permission of the membership. Reports are made quarterly by a certified public accountant to give our members the proof that their instructions have been followed.

There is no organization in this country that is run more democratically than our union.

The ill-informed and the special interest groups have much to say at times, but every member has the right and should attend union meetings to find out for himself.

The same group that would bust unions are the ones who cried out, — "do away with price control, and free competition will level prices." GE fought price control every step of the way. Well, was it good for us? Ask your wife or whoever in your home buys the groceries.

Political Action — Labor's Self Defense

During the war the labor movement was driven into politics because we were obliged to go to the government on everything we did. Remember Executive Order 9240? If you were late or absent from your job during the week you were paid straight time for Saturday. The Wage Stabilization Act required permission to grant an increase. The Manpower Commission would not let you move from one job to another, and many more restrictions were put into effect.

Industry kept busy lobbying in Washington and in the state capitals for restrictive legislation on labor. Millions were spent for laws that will protect the few and hurt the many. While matters like old age pensions, health insurance, housing, veterans' bonus were shelved, Congress found time to put through laws abolishing price control, injuring the wage-hour act, and passing the Taft-Hartley Bill to stop the progress of the working people. Industry says PAC is un-American. Some of our own members who are not aware of the life and death battle going on between reaction and progress in this country say "Why did we get into politics?" The reason is obvious. If we don't our union will be legislated out of business, and the future will be pretty gloomy for our children.

Why GE Hates Union

Remember, it would be a very simple and easy task for our union and its leaders to be talked about as a shining light of respectability — if our members

Local Approves Report On State CIO Session

A report by Leo Jandreau on the recent State CIO convention at Saratoga Springs was unanimously approved Tuesday night by the 301 membership meeting.

Jandreau declared that despite newspaper attempts to show a split in CIO ranks, the convention produced "a unified and constructive program", centering on the repeal of the Taft-Hartley law and the defeat of all members of Congress who voted for it.

"The delegates went out of there determined to do a job for the people they represent," Jandreau said, "regardless of what differences of opinion they may have expressed on the floor about individual questions and details."

"The newspapers saw they couldn't make front page stories about the convention's foreign policy resolution, Jandreau pointed out, after the convention passed the resolution unanimously recommended by its Executive Board. So they turned their attention to distorting the story of the voting on political action and the ALP.

The resolution adopted was printed in full in last week's EU News.

As Jandreau explained, it simply restates last year's resolution, that the CIO will function through the PAC and will also make use of the ALP in New York state. This does not mean that ALP candidates are automatically endorsed by PAC. The decision is up to each local PAC group.

want to pay the price. If we agreed with the employer and never did anything as a union for our people, we would become the shining example of virtue in the eyes of the Schenectady Gazette, the General Electric and other anti-union groups.

The only reason our union and its officers receive the attention we get in publicity and newspaper attacks from within and without is that we have carried out a program in the interest of our people. We intend to continue doing so.

We should be thankful that we have an organization of our own that will keep on trying to help make this country what our forefathers set out to make it — that we have leaders from the top national officers down through the rank and file of stewards, who are ready and willing to give their time and efforts despite opposition and slanders, to keep up the fight to protect our job and help maintain democracy in our country.