

301 Writes GE On Retirement

Local 301 has asked the Schenectady GE management to time the retirement of workers in such a way as to protect them against cuts in unemployment insurance benefits. The request was made in a letter sent to Works Manager Lewis J. Male by Business Agent Leo Jandreau and approved by the Executive Board.

"The time of retirement within the unemployment insurance benefit year has a material effect upon the rights of these retired workers under the law," Jandreau pointed out.

"Specifically, retirement between November 1 and April 1 cuts into the normal number of weeks which these pensioners can be paid for in unemployment insurance. Many of these pensioners, finding out that their expected payments have been cut, have brought their pitiful stories to us when it was too late to do anything about it."

Pointing out that it should be easy for the company to establish a policy to solve this problem, Jandreau said: "In substance it would mean agreement that any retirement scheduled between November 1 and April 1 would be postponed to April 15."

The letter reminded Male that until GE installs an adequate pension plan, the union believes that "compulsory retirement of men at sixty-five and women at sixty, when the employee is willing to work and needs the job, is nothing but a discharge without proper cause."

Local 301 members who are told to go on retirement should come to the union office for advice about their unemployment insurance rights.

Rubber Workers Seek 25-Cent Hourly Raise

The United Rubber Workers, CIO, will demand a wage increase of 25 cents an hour across-the-board when contract negotiations start in the industry this month. The union's key policy committee at a recent meeting at Cleveland voted to place its chief emphasis on the need for the pay increase.

Second on the union's list of demands will be pensions and third, a health and hospitalization plan.

Net profits of the "Big Four" in the rubber industry, Goodrich, Firestone, Goodyear and U. S. Rubber, were \$100 million last year, 120 per cent greater than the 1940 level.

Some Revealing Facts On GE Questionnaire

Russ Nixon, UE Washington representative, has been doing a little checking up on that GE loaded questionnaire "How Would You Revise Our Labor Laws." Here's the result of a tabulation he made of the people who sent in GE questionnaires to one Congressman.

Public relations men	5
Engineers	17
Accountants	7
Insurance Men	5
Salesmen	13
Foremen	6
Real Estate Men	7
Bankers	14
Lawyers	19
Brokers	10
Company executives	17
Clerks	7
Merchants	5
Welder	1

Out of 127, only one was from a wage earner. The questionnaires were from groups usually largely anti-labor or lacking in understanding of labor's problems. They were mostly from people who were repudiated in the 1948 election by the defeat of Dewey, Senator Ball, Hartley, Kersten, Landis and other Taft-Hartley supporters. This is clear from the remarks many of them added to their GE questionnaire which I noted.

Comments, Too

Many of those who answered and added their own words wrote of "unscrupulous, self-centered, and predatory labor leaders." One wrote that "featherbedding" was the main cause of the high cost of living! An engineer wrote "never mind Harry Truman's campaign promises."

A bank officer really paid the right tribute to the GE questionnaire when he wrote "the fact that I am using this printed form does not mean that I feel less strongly about the issues involved than if I had used my own words. The form expresses my views most clearly."

SPECIAL

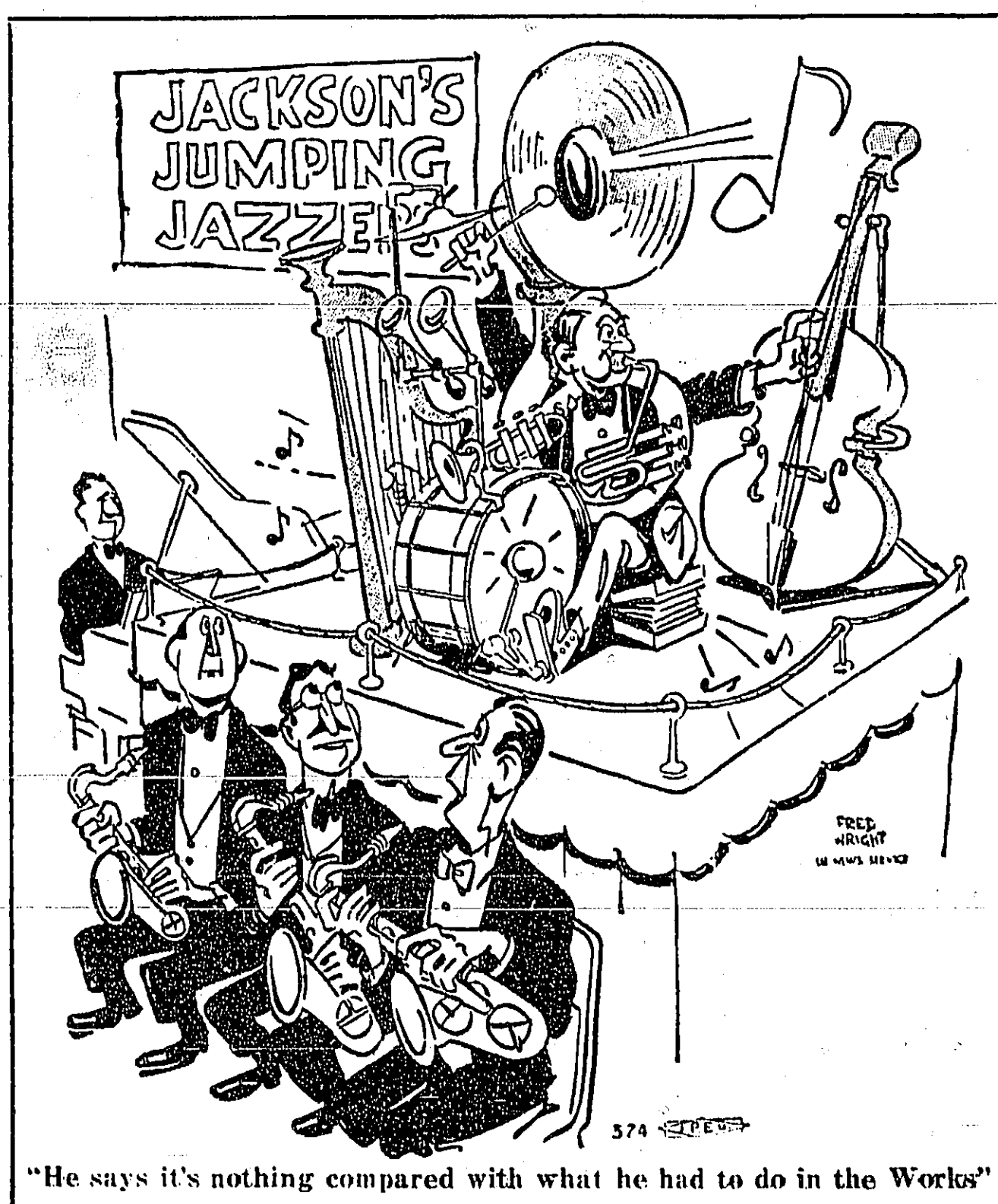
YOUNG MEN'S SUITS

A Few Hundred at
\$18.75

Regular Retail Price about \$35

HAND MADE
Coverts - Flannels - Cheviots

At 301 Hall



"He says it's nothing compared with what he had to do in the Works"

Contract Rights In Lay-off Cases

Local 301 is handling an increasing number of grievances over the placement of laid-off workers. Workers report pressure in Building 1 to accept openings which are substantially less good than the jobs from which they are laid-off.

The key contract provision on this subject reads: "Those not retained will be transferred on the basis of length of service to existing openings for which they are qualified or may qualify."

"If no openings exist, they will be created as soon as necessary adjustment of other working forces can be made by laying off people on the same or like kind of jobs who have shorter service, beginning with those having the shortest service."

There is another contract pro-

vision which states:

"In the case of employees who are laid off from their regular jobs for lack of work, every effort will be made to transfer them to related jobs of equal or higher value."

The Personnel department has been resisting application of this clause.

What job a member can expect depends to some extent on his occupation and how many such jobs exist elsewhere in the works. When in doubt as to a job offered in Building 1, it is good to check with your shop steward as to your rights.

Leo Jandreau is arranging a special meeting shortly with Works Manager Lewis J. Male, to review the lay-off and employment situation and prospects.

Report Approved

The report of Board Member James Cognetta on the workmen's compensation conference in Albany Feb. 16 was approved unanimously by the February membership meeting of Local 301. Cognetta and Helen Quirini were 301 delegates and Business Agent Leo Jar. Jareau was conference chairman.

JOIN THE UNION

250 Members Join Union

The number of new members of Local 301 had reached 250 when this week's EU News went to press.

Many shop stewards haven't given the list of the workers in their groups to the union office yet, to be checked with the membership records. This is an important part of the machinery of the drive.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

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March 18, 1949

Outcome of Strike By Steamfitters

The settlement of the steamfitters' strike gave GE workers a clear example of the fact that craft unionism is not suitable for a big industrial plant.

While obtaining small concessions by being willing to strike, the AFL craft union could not obtain its main aims, specifically a higher job rate and apprenticeships.

To meet the company's strong opposition on these points requires the united action of GE workers here as well as in other plants.

Big Risk Involved

The gains achieved by the steamfitters' Local 128 did not justify the risk to the men involved in a very small walk-out, and particularly the risk to the welfare and possible future gains of the GE workers as a whole, including the steamfitters.

The vote to settle was carried overwhelmingly at the meeting called at the starting time of the strike. The Local 128 officers did not take a position on the issue. Rank and file speakers in favor of accepting the company's terms said frankly that a strike could not succeed because the group involved was too small.

301 Letter

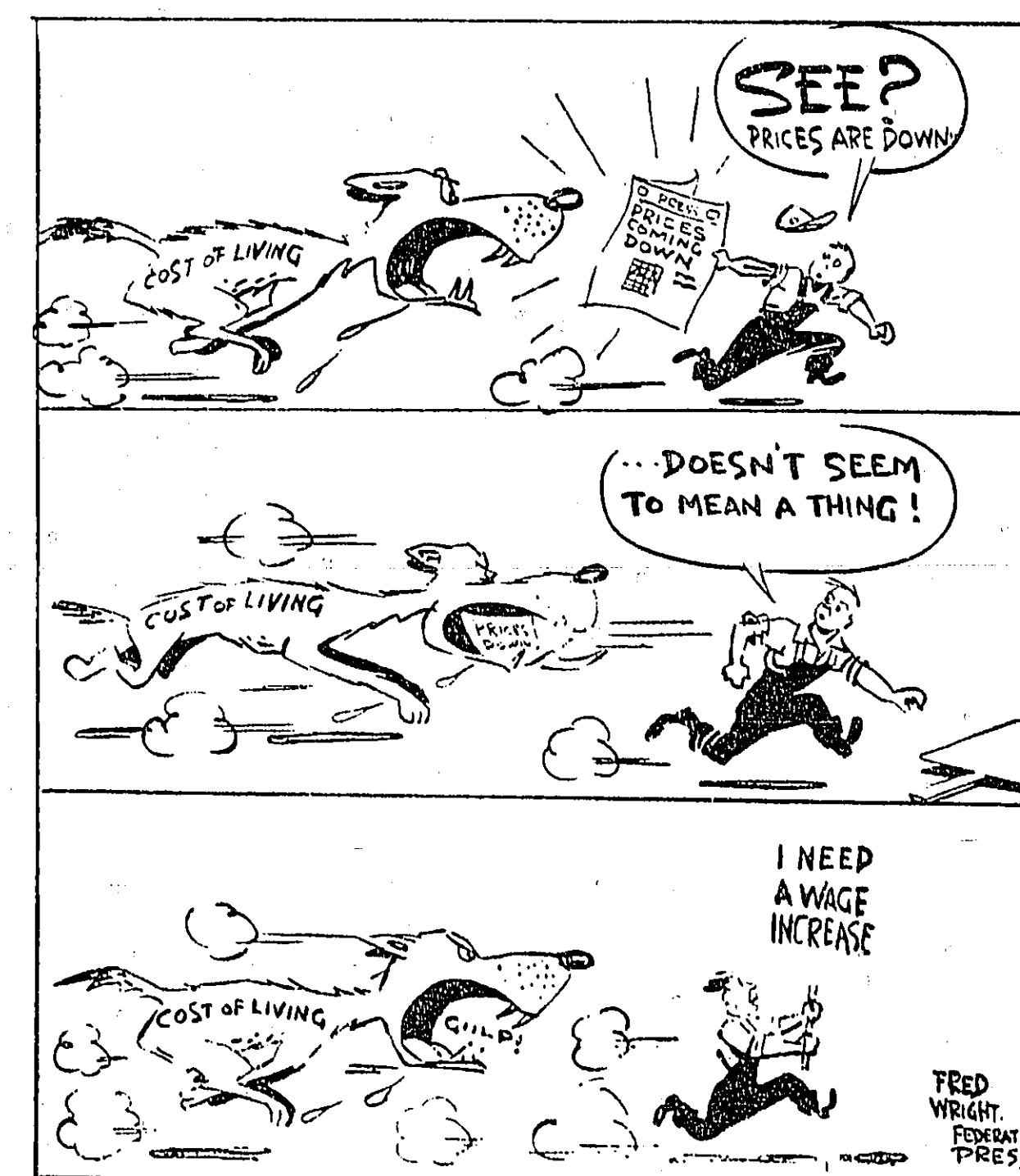
Two days before the strike the Local 301 Executive Board sent the steamfitters' board a letter, copies of which were distributed in the Works, urging a postponement of the strike pending a decision by the UE membership on reopening negotiations. The letter said that the only long range result of a strike would be "to advance the General Electric's long range aim to split the workers employed by GE and return to the disunity and disorganized condition which prevailed before 1935."

The letter again proposed joint action by the two unions.

Membership Meeting

The 301 membership meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the union hall for first and third shift workers and at 1 p.m. Wednesday for second shift workers.

The Only Answer



Male Predicts Job Losses at GE Plant Will Be at Rate of About 150 a Month

Works Manager Lewis J. Male told the Local 301 Executive Board at a meeting Wednesday morning that prospects for the coming months are that about 150 workers will lose jobs each month at the plant.

The meeting was arranged by Business Agent Leo Jandreau so that the union could obtain information on the employment picture in view of recent lay-offs.

Less than 150 workers are out of employment now, Male reported, and practically all of them are people with less than six months service. The few exceptions are workers with physical disabilities which make it hard to place them, he said. He predicted that for about a year the job losses will not affect anyone with over a year's service. During the last few months, he said, there has been a downward trend in employment.

Will Issue Statement

At the request of the union, Male agreed to issue a statement to GE workers on the employment situation. He also agreed to provide the union with the service brackets

1948 Profit Of GE Sets New Record

The General Electric Company has revealed that its net profit for the year 1948 was \$123,835,000. This is an increase of 29.9 per cent above the previous all-time record, the 1947 profit of \$95,299,000.

When the GE Conference Board of UE locals met Feb. 11 to map a wage program, GE had not yet admitted the 1948 profit would run to such a tremendous figure. It had confessed only to a profit rate of \$112,000,000 for the year, or 18 per cent above the 1947 record. Therefore the profit statement issued by the Conference Board contained an underestimate of GE's huge "take" for 1948.

In other words, the official figures finally released by GE provide UE with an even stronger set of facts to back its wage increase demands.

And remember that the \$123,835,000 is a net profit after taxes are paid. Figures on the wages paid GE workers always show the wages before taxes are taken out. GE's total income for 1948 was \$1,651,559,000, or \$304,615,000 above 1947. The company increased its dividend payments \$5,279,000 in 1948 over 1947.

ing after the transfer of work from Bloomfield, N. J.

It is becoming increasingly difficult to find comparable work for workers from these divisions, according to Male, because other departments have reached the saturation point.

Turbine Prospects Good He reported prospects in the Turbine Division as good. Outside of Induction Motors and Industrial Control, Male stated, there is little "rotation" (temporary loss of work) going on in the plant.

Several Board members challenged his claim about "rotation" by citing recent developments in Punch Press, Foundry and Building 76.

Male said the policy is not to farm out work that can be done at the Schenectady plant. He agreed that he would investigate complaints of farming out work, in order to keep work here as much as possible.

Taft-Hartley Crisis

The need is more urgent than ever for letters, postals and telegrams to be sent to Washington demanding repeal of the Taft-Hartley Law and restoration of the Wagner Act. Latest developments at the Capitol show that the enemies of labor are making headway every day in their all-out campaign to keep Taft-Hartley. Write your Congressman and Senators today.

covering the range of employees laid-off.

Most of the reduction of employment has been in Induction Motors and Industrial Control. Male blamed the situation in Induction Motors on dropping off of business. The job losses in Industrial Control he called a result of overstaff-

Facts for GE Workers

Raises Needed for Everyone's Good, Not GE 'Increased Productivity' Drive

The way for workers to better their own living conditions and help save the country from another depression is to win wage increases. But the General Electric Company wants people to believe the solution is "increased productivity". Here are a few reasons the GE argument are wrong.

In the past workers have gotten only a few crumbs for their increased productivity, the lion's share going to the corporations. As a result we have had economic depression and large scale technological unemployment.

From 1923 to 1929 while productivity increased one-third wages increased 4 per cent and profits increased 60 per cent. Workers did not benefit but corporations did.

In 1939 there were 3,000,000 fewer workers than in 1929, despite the fact that the volume of production was the same. During this period productivity resulted in loss of jobs and not in an expansion of production sufficient to absorb the 3,000,000 unemployed as a result of technological changes.

Between 1939 and 1949 productivity in industry increased one-third and in the electrical machinery industry by 39 per cent. While war demands temporarily absorbed this increased production, in 1949 working people are faced by unemployment once more.

GE has been getting more out of its workers, — but they are not benefiting from this increased production. Their rates are being cut.

GE has been getting more production with fewer workers. Instead of lowering prices so that demand will increase, GE has kept prices up and is closing down plants and laying off workers in line after line.

It is only to the extent that workers are able to wring wage increases from the corporations that they have been able to get any of the benefits of increased production.

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SCHENECTADY GE LOCAL 301

Published by Editorial Committee
Mary McCarlin, Chairman
Arthur R. Bertini, Secretary
William Christman, Frank D'Amico
Victor Pascho

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

Why So Sensitive?

The leading story on the front page of the Works News of Mar. 11 was a summary of the company's 1948 financial statement. The entire article was written without once mentioning the \$123,835,000 profit or even using the embarrassing word "profit" at all.

You had to turn to page three, where there was a full-page message on "How Did We All Make Out in '48?" to find a trace of the \$123,835,000 or the word "profit". And with the help of some cute little cartoons, GE tried to explain the whole huge profit away.

GE Spends More Money To Fight Pay Raises

The company's full-page advertisement last week on the steamfitters' scheduled strike contained the reluctant admission that the AFL group had won all its past benefits for years through UE bargaining.

But otherwise the advertisement was in complete disagreement with UE. It said:

"With unemployment mounting daily, the country is in no position to stand another round of wage increases."

UE members know that, with unemployment mounting daily, the country urgently needs another round of wage increases, to restore the people's purchasing power, stop the lay-offs and restore employment.

That is one of the reasons why 301 considered a steamfitters' strike very inadvisable now. Temporary lay-offs of thousands of UE members would have it that much harder for them to insist that GE come across in contract reopening negotiations.

News Forecast

The UE News tomorrow (Saturday) will contain an analysis of profits in the electrical industry, including GE and Westinghouse. It also will feature a letter sent by UE President Albert Fitzgerald to President Truman on layoffs.

Add 32 Stewards To Honor Roll

Names of 32 more shop stewards have been added to the honor roll for having 100 per cent UE groups, the Organizing Committee announced this week. The total number of membership applications received so far during the membership campaign was reported as 810.



Hazel Regan



Santorelli

Hazel Regan, whose picture appears with this article, is one of the stewards on this week's list. Mike Santorelli was on the honor roll published Mar. 4. EU News will run pictures of all stewards in the list when they are available.

The additions to the honor roll are:

Buildings 10 and 10C—Martin E. Behr, Frank La Malfa, Lawrence L. Parker, Alfred J. Pollak and W. A. Ramsey.

Bldg. 19—Joseph Oswald.
Bldg. 23—Merriman Dorsch.

Bldg. 24—Neil J. Dube and John R. Mott.
Bldg. 26—Sidney Halliday and Edith McCarter.

Bldg. 28—Harold D. Simpson, Marvin E. Springer and William R. Reid.

Bldg. 68—Arthur Bertini, Joseph Battagliano and Harold S. Hall.
Bldg. 69—Eugene F. Stevens, Hazel Regan.

Bldg. 77—C. Edward Wetsell.
Bldg. 81—Dewey Brashear.
Bldg. 85—Miles Moon and Hugh P. McMullen.

Bldg. 89—John Parisi.
Bldg. 109—Damas LaPountain and Ralph Lasher.

Bldg. 209—Stanley Aldous and Frank Ragucci.
Bldg. 273—George Farr.
Bldg. 285—Oscar H. Stolze and Lewis A. Carach.

One of the issues to be discussed will be the effect of the steamfitters' settlement on craft rate relationships.

The company here has told Local 301 that the final details of the settlement with the steamfitters will be worked out in negotiations next Monday.

UE Broadcast

Arthur Gaeth's broadcast, sponsored by the national UE, is at 10 p.m. every Monday on WXXW, Albany (850 on your dial).

Jobless Pay Law Needs Changing

State officials told representatives of Local 301 last Friday that workers laid-off as the result of a strike by another union can receive no unemployment insurance for seven weeks.

Business Agent Leo Jandreau and Marshall Perlin, 301 attorney, met with State Labor Commissioner Edward Corsi and Milton Linsen, state director of the Division of Placement and Unemployment Insurance, last Friday in New York City. Jandreau asked for the meeting in view of problems connected with the steamfitters' strike.

The state officials said they interpret the Unemployment Insurance Law as requiring a delay of seven weeks for all workers at a plant closed by a strike or lockout. It makes no difference whether the workers are involved in the strike.

The 301 Executive Board voted Monday night to press for the introduction of a bill eliminating the waiting period entirely. Several states have such laws.

Now Local 301 Has Television

Local 301 has bought two RCA television sets.

The larger one has been installed in the main hall. It is the newspaper size, with a screen 15 by 21 inches which can be clearly seen from the rear of the hall.

The other set is a 16 inch tube model and will be put in the rear room, now being painted and redecorated.

The union bought the sets for a total of \$600, including delivery from the factory and installation. There is a year's guarantee on each. The price was nearly 50% below the retail cost.

The Activities Committee will have charge of the new equipment. Members are invited to drop in and watch the fights or other programs.

Plan National Meeting With GE on Craft Rates

An early meeting of the national GE negotiating committee of UE with the company is planned to discuss the question of rates for the skilled crafts. Cases on the issue are pending for a number of big plant locals, including Local 301.

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Latest Awards Against GE for Injuries

Workmen's compensation awards announced recently for Schenectady workers on claims against GE handled by the Local 301 attorney, Marshall Perlin, include:

\$1,238 to Willard Hotaling, Building 95, for 95 per cent loss of the use of his left index finger in an accident last May 11.

\$1,209 to Antonio Di Leva, crane follower in Bldg. 95, for injuries to his right leg Jan. 6, 1948.

\$1,024.80 to Claude Rizziconi, Bldg. 85, for injuries to his left hand Feb. 11, 1948. The payments represent 36.6 weeks at \$28.

\$810 to Frances F. Gittkowski, now a cleaning woman, for an injury to her left wrist in accidents Oct. 16, 1943 and Feb. 23, 1944. She never had a compensation hearing until the union obtained one for her last June. There were several other hearings before the award was made recently.

\$630 to Alesio Capobianco, attendant in Bldg. 5, for injuries to his right thumb last July 22.

Approximately \$500 more to Hiram Warner, tool and die maker in Bldg. 17, for 25 per cent loss of the use of his right foot in an accident Sept. 22, 1947. As he had 31 weeks of temporary total disability payments the additional sum brings the total to \$1,435.

\$250 to Milton Van Vranken, Bldg. 97, for facial disfigurement resulting from an accident last July 22.

\$250 to John J. Budka, machine repairman in Bldg. 60, for 50 per cent loss of the use of his left ring finger in an accident June 6, 1947.

\$225 to John Martin, Bldg. 58 material handler, for facial disfigurement resulting from injuries Feb. 20, 1948. The case will be continued for two months for further reports on headaches which Martin complains of.

\$210 to Hubert Lake, Bldg. 72 woodworker, for injuries to his left thumb May 21, 1946. The case was closed at an informal hearing in 1946 without an award and reopened through the union.

\$168 to Raymond Reckner, Bldg. 97 salvage department, for injury to his left middle finger last August.

\$150 to Edmond J. Tys, Bldg. 18 boring mill operator, for facial disfigurement suffered last Mar. 29.

\$150 to Albert Mitchell, Bldg. 60 turbine erector, for a scar on his head incurred last Apr. 28.

\$105 to Peter Attianese, Bldg. 53 machine operator, for 25 per cent loss of the use of a finger in an accident Sept. 8, 1947.

\$100 to John J. Maietta for facial disfigurement suffered last July 30.

\$100 to Miles McNutt, heavy equipment operator at Malta, for

Federal Official Urges Fight for Pay Increase

Labor should press "militantly" for higher wages and a better standard of living, Leon H. Keyserling, vice-chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisors, declared recently.

In a talk to an AFL butchers' conference in New York City, Keyserling stressed the importance of keeping up wages for the sake of the national economy.

"Softening up starts," he said, "because consumers throughout the country do not have enough money to buy goods in amounts that will keep production and employment at a maximum level."

Keyserling said he disagreed with the notion that labor leaders ought to be "labor statesmen."

"Labor statesmen is a fine sounding expression," he said. "Too often it is used to mean that labor should make the sacrifice play first."

He declared that labor leaders should be "militant trade unionists."

Belmont and Hoover On UE Unfair List

Here's another reminder that the Hoover Company, which produces Hoover vacuum cleaners and electric irons, and Belmont Radio Corporation are on the UE unfair list.

Belmont products are sold under the following brand names: Tru-tone, Airlines, Coronado, Freshman television sets and Raytheon television sets.

Strike Victory

The 16 day strike at Con-Mar Products Corporation, Newark, N. J., ended with a new UE contract providing an 11% cent package wage increase.

facial disfigurement suffered last Apr. 27.

\$75 to Edward Mordawski, Bldg. 90 boring mill operator, for facial disfigurement suffered last May 14.

\$32 a week from last Aug. 30 to Oct. 4 to Wiley Looman, Bldg. 52 roll operator, for a hernia suffered last July 29.

Medical expenses and \$28 a week lost time, from Nov. 11, 1947, to Dec. 8, 1947, to Mario Bagnato, Bldg. 52 welder, for a back injury Nov. 10, 1947. There had been no hearing on the case till the union took up the claim.

CONGRESSMAN DRIPP

BY YOMEN



"Let's pass a law making it libelous for labor to use the word profits".

Federated Pictures.

301 Representative Urges Bus Inquiry

Bus routes of the Schenectady Railway Company have been approved by the city's joint legislative transportation committee, but the group is pressing for a state investigation of reduced schedules. Service was curtailed Feb. 1 on eight of the 10 city lines.

Morton Lewis, 301 representative on the committee, opposed the reduction in service. He introduced the motion passed by the committee calling for a Public Service Commission investigation of the need for reducing the schedules.

The February membership meet-

ing of Local 301 unanimously approved Lewis' report on his year's service on the committee. He has taken before the committee many complaints from union members and has been able to improve some of the unsatisfactory transportation conditions. He has continually stressed bus failures and missed trips at peak hours as costing workers more money by making them late to their jobs.

In tackling transportation problems, Lewis has worked closely with Lewis Benedict, president of Local 159, Transport Workers Union, and has backed TWU efforts to improve pay and working conditions.

Forming 301 Bowling League

Would you like to bowl in a Local 301 league? Then fill out the form below and turn it in to the union office. The Local 301 Activities Committee is organizing a bowling league for next season. The league will be plantwide and will have men's women's and mixed divisions.

Details will be discussed at a meeting to which all people who sign the form below will be invited.

NAME			
ADDRESS			
BLDG. NO.	DEPT.		
BOWLING AVERAGE	PHONE		