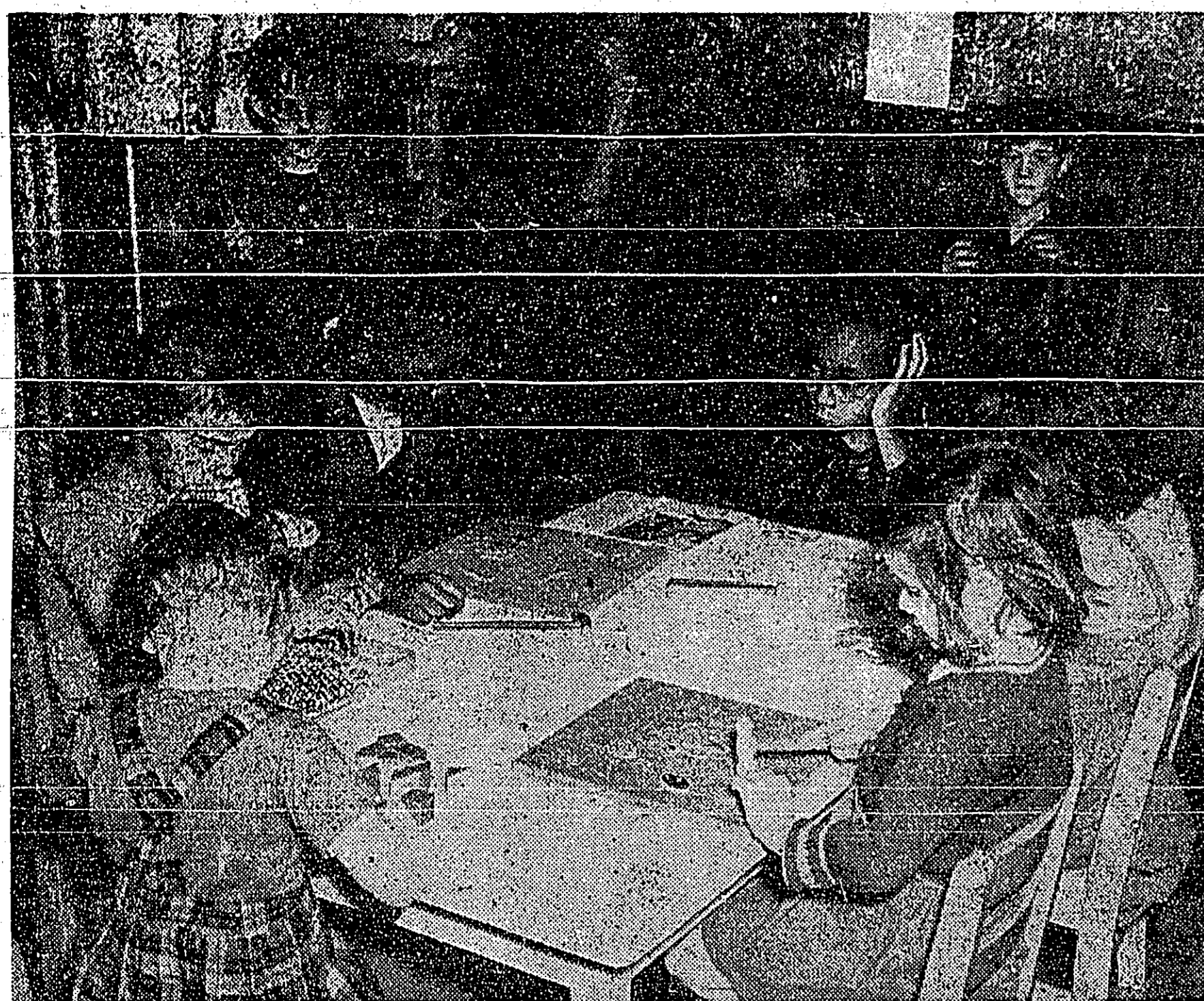


This Is What "Fun-Za-Poppin" Is For



Children at Play in One of Schenectady's Child Care Centers

Child Labor Co-Ordinator Lauds Efforts of Local 301

By Mrs. Helmer L. Webb, Co-ordinator, Schenectady County Child Care Committee

The Executive Committee of the Child Care Committee was very much pleased to know that Local 301 had voted to give the proceeds of their Talent Show to be held at the Mont Pleasant High School, Friday and Saturday evenings, March 17th and 18th, to the Schenectady Child Care Centers. There were two reasons for their pleasure. One, the committee believes that the care of children is a local community responsibility. Two, a better and sounder program is possible when community groups back the program, not only through interest and understanding, but also through providing some of the financial support.

During 1943, fees paid by parents made up a large part of the 50 percent that must be raised locally for the up-keep of the Centers. The Board of Education contributed heat, light, gas, some janitorial service, and supplies. The War Chest contributed \$400 per month. This made a local contribution of 12 percent and the State made up the difference.

Aid Decreased While Costs Increase

Beginning January 1, 1944, the Federal Works Administration no longer allowed contributed services and we now pay cash to the Board of Education for fuel, gas for cooking, electricity, extra janitorial services and supplies. Also we now carry Workmen's Compensation Insurance and have found it necessary to add a nurse and open an isolation room so that mothers will not be called from work so often.

These plus a few other items omitted from the 1943 budget, such as maintenance, alterations and repairs have increased our operating expenses.

When the 1944 budget was drawn last November it was estimated that fees would make up 31 percent of the local 50 percent contribution. Experience since then has shown that fees will make up less than 25 percent of the operating costs due to declining wages for women and because more and more women are practically the sole support of their children. Recently women on short time have had to ask for re-adjustment on fees so that there are now very few who pay the highest fee of \$3.00 per week. Since we have more children enrolled, over 280, our operating cost

A NEW WRINKLE

Instead of professional politicians now kissing babies, it has apparently become the custom for politicians to use government pamphlets and government postage to corale the vote.

Just imagine a new mother receiving a communication from a Congressman congratulating her on the blessed event.

The following is an example from our own Congressman Bernard W. Kearney. This communication was received by Mrs. Sam Yoskowitz some weeks ago.

Mr. Kearney makes good use of the birth notices in the local newspapers.

B. W. Kearney, 30th District New York Committees: Immigration and Naturalization, World War Veterans Legislation

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Friends:

I have just learned through the press that you are the happy parents of a new baby.

The Childrens Bureau has furnished me with a limited number of copies of "Infant Care" a publication which has become very popular over the country. I am forwarding one to you herewith hoping that it will be of interest to you, and also helpful.

Please accept my hearty congratulations, and with my best wishes for the baby's future, I am

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) B. W. KEARNEY,
M.C.

are increasing, because many mothers are paying only the food costs.

We have two choices. Either we must negotiate our contract and accept more federal aid with the resulting restrictions; or the community recognizing its responsibility must raise the additional funds. The War Chest contribution of \$400 per month, which represents the total community cash contributions is only 4 percent of the total operating costs.

Do Child Care Centers mean enough to the Community, to labor, and to industry for them to find the funds to meet the local 35 percent.

The State gives 15 percent of our operating costs. Children are a community investment. They are the reason fathers are fighting and mothers are working. If the investment deteriorates both efforts will have been in vain.

Legislative Committee Reports on Vital Topics

Submitted by Marshall White

Price Control

The last war taught us a dramatic lesson. We learned that war is followed by price rises and a boom ends in collapse. There is danger that this will be repeated. Civilian goods will continue scarce for some time, and people will have huge savings to spend. Business men eager to reconvert may compete for an inadequate supply of equipment and raw materials. Speculation and hoarding would intensify difficulties. Without effective controls over scarce goods and prices, an inflationary spiral might result.

Yet immediate relaxation of war-time regulations will be demanded by many people, as after the last war. They must be shown both here and abroad.

Failure to regulate prices effectively during the war will make later control difficult since the pace of price rises tends to accelerate. The work of the CIO Cost of Living Committee is therefore very important for the post-war situation.

A rapidly rising price level inevitably intensifies social conflicts as well as individual suffering. The need for upward adjustment of wage rates, added to accumulation of other war time grievances, can lead to widespread labor unrest when the war is over. In 1919, when prices were shooting upwards, and in the following years when they declined rapidly, strikes and lockouts were widespread. Price stability would greatly facilitate orderly reconstruction.

Unemployment Insurance

The goal of an unemployment insurance system should be to give every wage earner real protection when he cannot find a job. Benefits received by a wage-earner should, as at present, be related to his past earnings, but persons with dependents should receive extra benefits since their need is greater. All types employment should be included so that all workers may receive credit for all work performed. Workers should get full credit for work done in different states. Benefits should be paid for at least fifty-two weeks if necessary or as long as unemployment lasts. Members of the military services, after they are discharged, should be entitled to unemployment benefits until they find jobs, just as if they had been on private pay rolls. Eligibility requirements should be liberal. The waiting period should be short so families do not suffer.

Poll Tax

Write your two senators requesting them to work for passage of HR-7 to vote for cloture and not allow the anti-Poll Tax to be shelved.

The anti-Poll Tax bill, HR-7, which has already been passed by the House and reported favorably to the Senate by its Judiciary Committee is ready for action when it is brought to the floor. The threat of a filibuster has been by Southern Polltax Senators. Such filibuster can only be defeated by "cloture," a vote by two-thirds of the Senate to close debate.

There is great danger that trickery may be used in the vote on the anti-Poll Tax bill to kill the whole issue. Labor and the people want to see this measure kept before the Senate until it is finally enacted.

BUY U. S. WAR BONDS
AND STAMPS

ELECTRICAL

"All that harms labor is treason to America. No line can be drawn between these two. If only man tells you he loves America, yet hates labor, he is a liar. If only man tells you he loves America yet he fears labor, he is a fool. There is no America without labor, and to fleece the one is to rob the other." — ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Vol. I

SCHENECTADY, N. Y. — MARCH 29, 1944

No. 18



UNION NEWS

THE VOICE OF THE UNITED ELECTRICAL RADIO & MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA—LOCAL 301 CIO

Action Planned on Wage Demand

Temporary Appointments As Asst. to Bus. Agent

Executive Board Takes Emergency Action To Expidite Grievances

At a meeting of the Executive Board of Local 301 Thursday afternoon, Harry E. Case, board member from Building 89, and Ernest Bezio, board member of Building 73, were temporarily appointed as assistants to Business Agent Leo Jandreau. Both Mr. Case and Mr. Bezio assumed their duties immediately and will serve until the next membership meeting in April at which time their temporary appointment will be submitted to the membership for consideration.

Mr. Jandreau pointed out to the Board that an emergency existed in his office due to the large number of grievances coming from the shops and he recommended the action taken as imperative so that the members might receive the service on grievances which they are entitled to expect.

Although the action taken by the Board was of an emergency nature, it is in line with recommendations made by the Board several weeks ago at which time it met in special session to consider the grievance procedure.

"Fun-Za-Poppin" at Erie Theater March 30th for Red Cross

"Fun-Za-Poppin," Local 301's sparkling musical comedy which was presented recently at the Mt. Pleasant High School, will be staged at the Erie Theater, March 30th. The Red Cross War Fund will receive 100 percent of the net proceeds of the show. Pat Vottis, who has headed the Activities Committee which has sponsored the production, states that other organizations such as the Stage Hand Union and the Musicians Union and many civic and industrial groups are cooperating in making possible the theater presentation. The show made such a hit in its previous appearances that it is felt that all those who missed the show before will find a fun-filled evening in store for them and will also be contributing to one of our most worthwhile wartime needs.

Major Johnson Sends Thanks For Cigarettes

The following excerpts from a letter addressed to Mr. and Mrs. Ray Ellis from Major Gordon F. Johnson from England:

"Having spent two and a half weeks getting settled and ready to cross the channel and beat the h - - out of the Germans who are responsible for my being here, it is about time I stopped long enough to tell you that you were the first people I thought of when I stepped off the gang plank and onto British soil. The enclosed label will help to explain why.

"We marched about three-quarters of a mile from the ship to the train which was to bring us 150 miles to here and at the train were met by American and British Red Cross girls who gave us all the hot coffee and doughnuts we could hold. And to each man went a package of cigarettes. You can imagine my surprise when I read the enclosed label which was on my package of cigarettes. Of all the places those cigarettes came from, I think it was more than a coincidence that one should reach me straight from home. I feel as though it were just as though all the home folks were with me and telling me they were going to be with me all the way through. It is a good omen. But for a few seconds I had an awful wave of homesickness, too, because pictured in my mind was shop 90, my old Bldg. 5, Works Avenue and, of course, you, Ray because you have been so active in the Union.

"So I want the men in the shop to know that not only was their gift appreciated as such, but that it did more good than they can ever know, in boosting my spirits at the outset of a new and big and tough job. I wish Ray, that you would pass this on to the men in the shop, not alone for me, but for all our men who must have felt the same way. Our thanks to you will be the way in which we are going to deliver the goods right on Germany's doorstep."

These and other matters— which affect the lives and see— (Continued on page 4)

"Fun-Za-Poppin" Is Outstanding Comedy Success

"Fun-Za-Poppin," Local 301's musical comedy was put on March 17th and 18th at Mt. Pleasant High School before near-capacity houses and has been declared to be one of the best talent shows ever put on in this area. It was the first big effort made by the local in the entertainment field and if those who saw the show have their way, there will be many more.

Membership Elects Delegates To Dist. 3 Council

Local 301 elected its delegates to District 3 Council, United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers of America, for the current year. Those elected were Leo Jandreau, Roy Lash, Mrs. Cora Rogers, Andrew Peterson and Bill Mastriani. Peterson and Mastriani are new members while the others on the slate served last year.

Executive Board Appoints Committee To Unite All Employees and the Community Behind Stabilization Program

The Executive Board has taken initial steps to get the Union program for the 17c wage adjustment and price stabilization under way by appointing a committee which will organize and assist the Executive Board and officers in directing this important and wide scope program.

UE-CIO Local Already Pressing Political Action

Bloomfield Local Enlists Entire Community Behind Stabilization Program

BLOOMFIELD, N. J.—Here's an example of how a Local Union is helping the people of its community solve the urgent problems they face. And, in doing so, here is how the local Union won support from the community toward solving its own problems. Bloomfield, N.J., is an industrial city of about 50,000 people.

It is not different from Schenectady. Yet, today, this small city is on its way toward solving such problems as post-war planning, rehabilitation of soldiers when they return, cutbacks, consumer problems and price questions.

And the workers of the community are enlisting the help of the community in their campaign to obtain their greatly needed 17-cent-an-hour wage adjustment.

These and other matters— which affect the lives and see— (Continued on page 4)

The general membership of Local 301 have not fully understood the problems faced by organized labor in this program and it is only through their understanding and active participation in it that we can be successful.

Little Steel Formula

At the present time the wage rates received by workers are frozen to 15 percent above those rates paid January 1, 1941. This is what is commonly referred to as the "Little Steel Formula". Since that date, Local 301 along with other UE locals have been successful in winning the 10c and the 05 1/2c an hour increases so we have received the 15 percent allowed. However, there is a way in which we CAN get an increase in wages.

Surveys have been made by many agencies covering the increased cost of living and it is the consensus of opinion among labor leaders that the cost of living has increased some 43 percent since the 1941 date. Your own experience will bear this out if you consider the price you pay for a pair of shoes, a dress, a suit of clothes or a pound of steak at the present time and compare that with the price you paid three years ago. And all of the increased cost isn't found in the increased price. The shoes and other items of clothing are being made of cheaper and less serviceable material and naturally do not last near as long so that you have to buy oftener. This is as much of the increased cost of living as the increased price you pay over the counter for the item.

Action Planned

The UE and the CIO has a program of action which is designed to correct this unfair economic condition. It has already been put into action by many UE and other CIO affiliated locals. Inasmuch as Local 301 is the largest UE local in the country, it is up to us to lead the way, not follow.

Entire Community Involved

Also this program should be of as much concern to the policeman, the butcher, the school teacher or anyone who works for a wage or salary because they are as much affected by this economic imbalance as any of us in the General Electric. In light of this fact, they too (Continued on page 4)

ORIGINAL TORN

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS
 Published by
 United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers of America—Local 301
 301 LIBERTY STREET
 AUSTIN J. CASE, Editor — R. FLANIGAN, Co-Editor

Editing Committee
 FRANK EMSPAK JAYNE STARKO B. MOWERS
 JACK NELSON CHEST COOKE TROY SNIPES
 SID. FRIEDLANDER

— Legislative — Committee Report

Do You Know Your Committeeman?

Your committeeman is the real leader in your group. He has the duty to attend committeemen's meetings where many of the major actions of the Union are decided. He has the right and the duty to take up grievances with your foreman and with the executive board member of your section or with the business agent of the union. He has the privilege of being elected on important committees and delegations sent out by the Union. He is one of the most important factors in the building and maintaining of a strong and active Union.

In giving your committeeman these rights and privileges, you should expect him to be a good unionist, ready to battle for you if necessary. You should expect him to attend committeemen's meetings regularly and report back to you the important things that are happening in your Union. He should understand the contract or at least be studying it so that he can know what your rights are in negotiating grievances. If your committeeman is not that kind, you are not properly represented and it is up to you to see that you get someone who will properly represent you. Don't elect a man just because he is a good friend of yours and a nice guy. Elect the man who you know to be a good unionist, a square shooter, one who will do a job. That will be your contribution to good unionism and to a better future for the worker.

EDITORIAL "You Need the Union, — It Needs You"

It is now of utmost importance that the entire membership of Local 301, maintain the active interest in their Union which they have evidenced in the recent crisis affecting the leadership of our Union. There are many problems which are on hand at present and which will come up during the coming year and it is to the interests of every member to back the union in its effort to see that the best interests of the workers are considered in the solving of these problems. The Union is your means of being heard.

At the present time the Price Stabilization program and the 17c an hour wage adjustment demand, the obtaining of better group insurance benefits at reduced costs to the worker, and adoption of a post-war plan which will aid the worker financially during the reconversion to peace time production are only a few of the things on hand at the present time which needs the active participation of every Union member if they are to be obtained.

There are many workers in the shops who have worked for only two or three years. These people, by nature, take the many favorable conditions of employment which we enjoy for granted and do not realize that they were obtained only after a long period of struggle on the part of the Union and that only by maintaining a strong and responsible Union as their bargaining agent, will they be maintained.

Grievances are, of course, foremost in the minds of people when they think of the Union. It is true that as cutbacks take place and general reductions occur, that people's earnings will be seriously affected and naturally many justifiable grievances will arise which will tax the skill and ability of every Union representative and official to the utmost. So the theme of all this is merely, "Stay in the Union, back it up, and win for YOUR own good!"

Our Union Comes of Age

With this issue of the UE News, we celebrate the maturity of Local 301. Under the difficult conditions of a severe internal conflict, we have weathered the storm that every Union must sometime in its history face if it is to continue to progress and serve.

On this day as is fitting to every individual or organization which has reached adulthood, that we look to the future hopefully. There will be scars of the battle but the Union is stronger for this fight. Members who attended recent meetings will testify to the vigor of our organization. Those who have sneered at our Union saying that it was a weak thing must now realize that it is strong. It is strong with the strength of all the thousands of people who attended the meetings and with the strength of those who would have attended if it were physically possible.

The leadership, in office as a result of the unity meeting, is aware of the great trust put upon it and pledges itself to keep faith. It has made mistakes in the past, serious ones, and the only plea it can make is the inevitable fallibility of human judgment. It has tried to keep the Union a true working democracy and if, at times, it has appeared timid to make innovations, it was because it felt that the membership alone had the right to make changes.

The spirit shown by the membership during the past few weeks is a sure sign of the way in which this Union must travel. The leadership pledges itself to continue its work as it always has done, sincerely and always in the interest of the workers. It further pledges itself to undertake whatever new work the united membership will ask it to undertake. This much it does ask: Realizing the weakness of all individual human efforts, and that only by the work of many hands can the necessary jobs be done, it asks for the voluntary and whole hearted cooperation of every Union member in the jobs that lie ahead.

Executive Board Appoints New Editorial Committee For Paper

At its Thursday meeting, the Executive Board took steps to reorganize the staff which edits and publishes the Electrical Union News. It appointed Austin Case, Campbell Avenue Plant Board member, as editor, and Ray Flanigan, Building 285 Board Member, co-editor of the paper. The editorial staff appointed is Frank Emspark, Jayne Starke, Jack Nelson, Blanchard Mowers, Chester Cook, Troy Snipes and Sid Friedlander.

This group will endeavor to bring the news of the Union and its problems to the people in a clear, straight forward manner and will be responsible to the officers and the Executive Board. Also the Reporters' Club, which has held meetings during the past few months, will continue to function and hold meetings and work in conjunction with the editorial committee. Members who would like to offer news stories and items to the paper are welcomed and urged to send them in to the Union office and if they have time which they would like to devote to the work, to join the Reporters' Club and take an active part in making our paper one of which we will all be proud.

Urge Action on Polltax

This is OUR Polltax. Every election it keeps 10,000,000 of US — 10,000,000 American citizens, white and Negro both, on the outside of our democracy looking in.

Ten million Americans are discriminated in the greatest war ever fought for freedom and survival by OUR polltax; discriminated because they're prevented from using — democracy's greatest weapon — the right to vote.

Every two years, as a result, our polltax brings us Congressmen like Martin Dies, Howard Smith, Gene Cox, Tom Connally, Bilbo and scores just like them.

And they bring us things like the Smith-Connally Act and the Dies Committee and the Smith smear jobs on the Wagner Act, on OPA, on every labor and war agency that tries to do a job for the people, not on the people.

Our polltaxers and their Congressional pals gang together to shower us with higher food costs, with unfair tax laws, with gags on Unions and threats of gags on political action. Latest fruit of this "unholy alliance" is the bill making it impossible for millions of serfdom and women to vote in 1944.

Yes, they're ours all right, these polltaxers, even though we didn't vote for them.

They're ours by default, and they'll stay ours just so long as we let the Polltax Repeal Bill (HR 7) lie around unpassed in the Senate.

Now's the Time

The Polltax Repeal Bill (HR 7) can come up in the Senate April 1. We got it through the House last year, by a big majority. The Senators will vote for it the same way the House did if . . .

IF it can be forced past the filibuster polltax Senators are preparing for it now

It takes a cloture vote to end debate and kill the filibuster. A cloture vote takes a two-thirds majority of the Senators, which is 64.

Some people — mainly polltax Senators, though others follow their line — claim that cloture is undemocratic. They argue that Congress should never cut off debate on anything.

Once Again, Now

April 1 is coming up. Write, wire, visit if you can, your two Senators. Urge them: (1) To vote for cloture (end of filibuster); (2) To vote for HR 7 without any amendments or changes.

The Polltax Repeal Bill (HR 7) doesn't need any amendments or changes. All it needs is to be passed right away.

And then we can get rid of our polltaxers and get on with winning the war.

Fay Marvin's Son Helps to Organize Montgomery Ward

Fay Marvin, new financial secretary of Local 301, received an amusing letter from his son, Fay, Jr., who is stationed with Uncle Sam's forces somewhere in the South Pacific. "Ham," as he is known to his friends, related the incident to his dad in which he described how his group had taken a certain beach and were holding it against the enemy. There were several of the proverbial "South Sea Island" girls around wearing their grass skirts. Two British Tars who were in the occupying forces tried to barter with the girls for a grass skirt and finally one was successful so that one of the girls began to remove one she was wearing. Although it may seem contradictory to the stories usually heard about sailors, the boys began to blush and turn away . . . but behold, they didn't know one fact. The girls who wear grass skirts don't wear one, they wear several at a time!



I. C. Plating Dept., Bldg. No 73
Joyce Wilbur
Tinsmith Dept. No. 52
T. Frederick

Comm. Urged to Study New Contract

At the membership meeting, March 21, the new contract which has been negotiated with the General Electric Company, was presented by Leo Jandreau, Business Agent, and was approved unanimously by those present.

Among the important features of the agreement is the placing of all day rate jobs on step rates. All rates under 80c per hour will be on rates at .08c steps; between 80c and \$1 the rates will be on 4c steps and above one dollar all rates will be on 5c steps. Along with this provision there are definite progression schedules set up which call for increases at set intervals until a person reaches top job rate.

These new features along with many others are new departures from our old contract so it is imperative that every committeeman fully acquaint himself with the provisions so that he or she can insure the membership of the benefits which will result from the agreement.

Dorothy Carangi, our exciting member, fell down slap-bang on her nose. It flattened it out a little but it is gradually resuming normalcy.

Several of the men have received Leap Year proposals and according the Harry, the "Sawdust Kid," most of the girls seem to be interested in getting a good cook and housekeeper.

Anthony Butler soon leaves the employ of the G. E. to travel in the West. His final stop will be Kansas City, where his wife's relatives live. Tony is still trying to find the gal who sent him the Leap Year proposal on the penny post card. Good Luck, Tony.

And for Troy Snipes, may I say, God bless you, Troy, you are one of the persons of the G. E. Co. who has my full admiration. Your faith in your race is fully justified. One of the most intelligent and gentlemanly boys I have talked to since I have been working at the G. E. was a member of your race. Keep up your courage and some day we will make these words, "United We Stand," mean something.

Here's a few lines about the workers in the shop:

Vera Shelp all smiles after visiting her soldier-husband in Detroit.

Frank D'Amico carry the reputation of being the best hearted fellow in I. C. Plating.

Emilio DeGasperi, our Union committeeman, getting all set to fill our quota for the Red Cross Drive.

Marie Froelich, a three-star mother, proudly carrying letters from India, the Pacific and the Sampson training station.

The three Tylutka sisters laughing heartily on the bus.

Alice Black all smiles after her trip to Binghamton.

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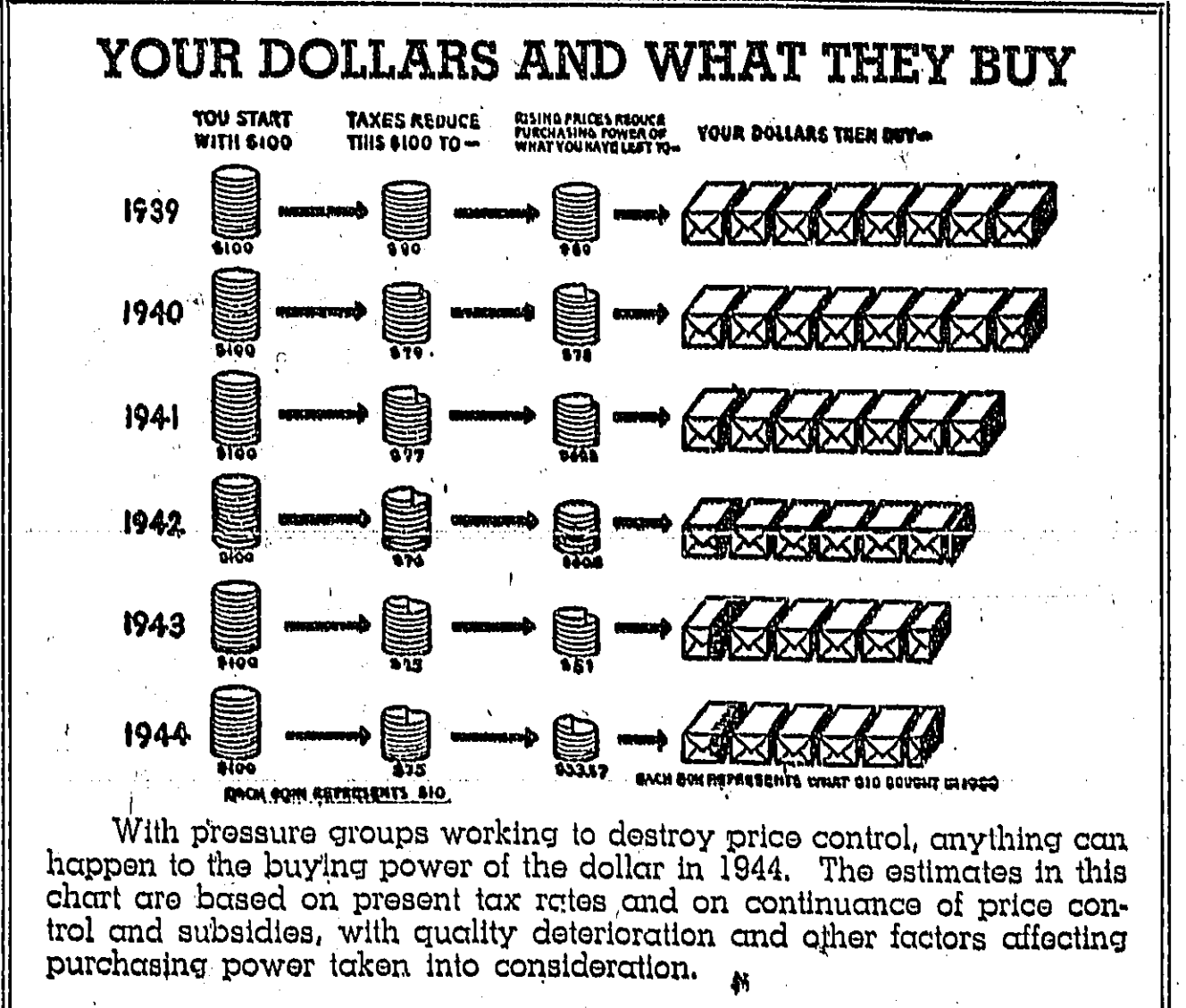
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Lack of Planning in Cutback Layoffs

WASHINGTON—(FP)—Investigation of the War Department's flagrant disregard for manpower needs in current layoffs of 50,000 workers in the small arms ammunition industry due to cutbacks was asked by Russ Nixon, Washington representative of the United Electrical Radio & Machine Workers (CIO), in a letter to Sen. Harry S. Truman (D. Mo.) recently.

Nixon accused the War Department of "letting the nation down" in its anxiety to protect the interests of private industry. His charges were contained in identical letters sent to Truman, War Production Board Chairman Donald Nelson and WPB Vice Chairman Charles Wilson, Undersecretary of War Robert Patterson and War Manpower Commissioner Paul V. McNutt.

Nixon's indictment leveled these charges again the War Department and WPB in their selection of plants to be cut back. He wrote:

"Cutbacks are applied with virtually no advance notice to labor or management and without any apparent plans for the utilization of the released manpower and the vast industrial facilities for which the government has just recently expended many millions of dollars.

"There has been no planning whatsoever by the War Department, WPB or the WMC to bring about an orderly transfer of the released facilities, manpower and management ability to other uses vital to our wartime economy.

"The government's tragic failure to use means of manpower planning and mobilization already available without additional legislation underscores labor's belief that labor draft legislation would be sorely misused, Nixon said. "The War Department apparently attempts to carry war on both shoulders, having one standard of total war mobilization when it comes to the labor draft, and a totally different standard when dealing with private industrial interests," he declared.

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