

### Members Approve Jandreau Telegram On 'Convention' of Carey-Block Faction

The 301 membership meeting this week by an almost unanimous vote approved a telegram sent by Business Agent Leo Jandreau to the New York Times on the recent so-called "right wing convention" of some UE members at Dayton, Ohio.

The telegram stated: "Your article in today's paper says UE Local 301 is represented at Dayton meeting. For your information Local 301 did not and will not send a representative to this meeting. This meeting is called for the sole purpose of disruption within the UE. It is planned to dis- unite the membership on the eve of coming negotiations with the major companies in our industry. Please print retraction."

#### Reports on Meeting

The membership voted after hearing reports from Rudy Ellis of Building 101 and Shop Steward George Walker, Building 78, supporters of UE policy who went to Dayton to get first-hand information about the two-day "convention", and from Martin Stanton, Bldg. 69, and Shop Steward Ray Greiner, Building 60, who attended from the Schenectady faction of Carey-Block followers. Fellow workers of Ellis and Walker in the shops raised the money to send them to Dayton.

Ellis said over 50 UE members were barred from the "convention". He and Walker were admitted May 7, he reported, but were told to leave the hall the next day after Stanton and Greiner appeared and labeled them as "stooges." Not a word was said about the wage program, speed-up or other shop problems the first day, he declared.

"The program called for the Carey-Block group to take complete control of UE and throw out all national officers, organizers and staff members and take control of all major locals."

#### Kriss Quoted at Dayton

Ellis quoted Business Agent John Callahan of Local 255 at the GE plant at Pittsfield, Mass., as making the following statement at the Dayton meeting:

"I spoke to President Frank Kriss of Local 301 who told me the situation there was not so good. Even though they (the right wingers) are in office they do not have their own way. We have got to give all possible help to 301 people in their fight, using any help from outside sources such as steel workers and any other outside source we can get to help them."

Ellis called on Kriss to tell the

301 membership whether it was true that he had made such a statement to Callahan.

"This is my answer," Kriss told the membership. "I have been out to fight the Commies. I'll continue to fight the Commies and if you, Rudy Ellis, are one of the Commies I'll fight you."

Greiner read at length from a general statement of policy adopted by the Dayton meeting calling for restoring UE "to decency and respectability in the American house of labor," and condemning policies set by the national UE conventions.

Recording Secretary Frank Fiorillo declared that UE "is attacking the CIO and Phil Murray just as the NAM and the big corporations are attacking the CIO and Phil Murray."

#### Jandreau Statement

Business Agent Leo Jandreau read a list of people taking an active part at the Dayton meeting, including men expelled from UE for stealing union funds and men working for the Auto Workers in raiding campaigns against UE.

As an example of the leadership of Carey and Harry Block he cited their recent handling of contract negotiations and the strike at their home Philco local in Philadelphia. The strike settlement was worse than the terms the company had offered before the strike was called.

Jandreau charged that national CIO officers have departed from the original CIO policies of organizing the unorganized and working for the welfare of the members. He cited raids on UE by other CIO unions. National CIO leaders double-crossed the workers in the Taft-Hartley fight he charged. He read a report showing that the national CIO attorney had agreed to Taft-Hartley amendments which would cripple the Wagner Act.

#### Garry Waldron Fund

Shop Steward Pierce Siler of Building 12, chairman of the Local 301 Garry Waldron fund committee, reported this week that \$843.09 was raised in the recent drive in the shops. The money will go toward a house for the disabled war veteran, a 301 member.



#### Telegram to Murray

The following telegram was sent to CIO President Philip Murray Wednesday by 301 President Frank Kriss and Business Agent Leo Jandreau in accordance with a unanimous vote of the 301 membership meeting this week:

"At a membership meeting last night Local 301, UER & MWA, representing 18,000 GE workers in Schenectady, N. Y., unanimously passed a motion calling upon you and the CIO Executive Board now in session to recommend a national demonstration of all CIO members in the form of a one day work stoppage as a protest calling for the repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act and the reenactment of the Wagner Act without amendments.

"Rank and file members are demanding from the leadership of CIO action on this question. Such a national demonstration by labor will remove the alibis of certain congressmen and administration heads (that it is just a demand from labor leaders). A national demonstration of a day's work stoppage will also reflect favorably for us in the coming contract negotiations with the major companies in our country."

A copy was sent to UE President Albert Fitzgerald.

#### Facts for GE Workers

##### Big Profit for GE On Each Worker

The General Electric Company took \$1,383 in profits before taxes from each of the 188,000 workers in 1948. (Profits before taxes are used because they represent the full profits the workers produced.)

The 1948 profit on each worker was \$500 greater than in 1947 and \$600 greater than in 1939. The increase was so great because of the company's speed-up policy and the high prices it charged for its products.

During 1948 each GE worker produced 8 1/2 per cent more goods than in 1947. The yearly increase in productivity for industry as a whole was 3 per cent.

The GE productivity increase represents an average for the entire year of 1948, compared with 1947. The figure would be much greater if it was a comparison of the beginning of 1947 with the end of 1948.

##### Did You Know?

The weekly purchasing power of those workers in the electrical industry who still have full-time employment is \$11.09 a week less than in January, 1945.

# ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

THE VOICE OF LOCAL 301

U. E. R. & M. W. A.

C. I. O.

Vol. 7 - No. 21

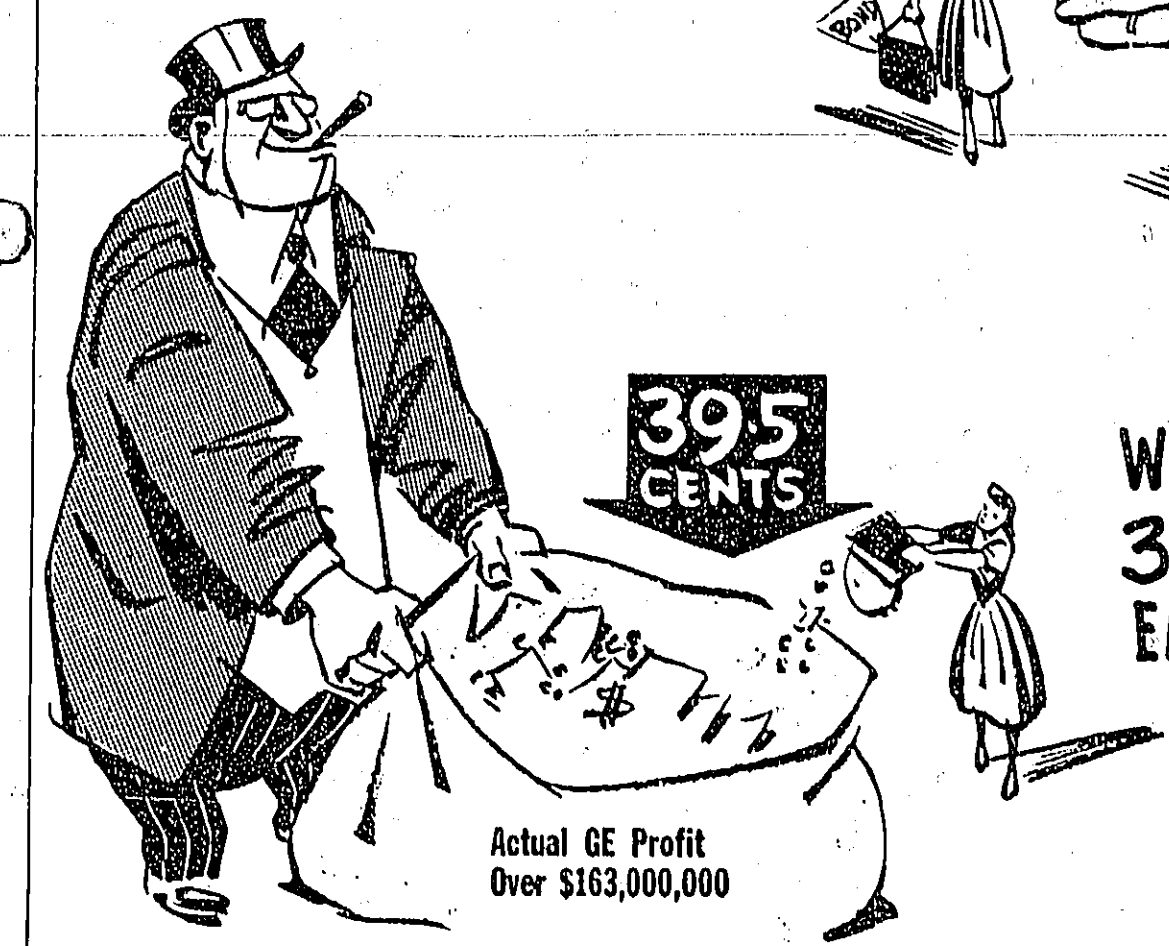
SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

May 27, 1949

## And GE Wants Still More!

IF YOU WERE LUCKY ENOUGH TO HOLD ON TO YOUR SAVINGS BONDS, YOU WERE GETTING ANNUAL INTEREST AT THE RATE OF 3 CENTS ON YOUR INVESTED DOLLAR ....

3 CENTS



WHILE GE IN 1948 MADE 39.5¢ IN PROFIT (AFTER TAXES) ON EACH INVESTED DOLLAR!

BASED ON GE FINANCIAL STATEMENT TO FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR TAX PURPOSES

### 301 Board Hits Callahan Action

A statement condemning Business Agent John H. Callahan of UE Local 255 at the Pittsfield GE plant for irresponsible action damaging the bargaining program was adopted unanimously by the 301 Executive Board Monday night.

Newspapers last week quoted Callahan as announcing that Local 255 would send to GE contract re-opening proposals in direct conflict with the unanimous recommendation of the GE Conference Board. Local 301 telegraphed Callahan to ask whether the story was true, and in reply received a mimeographed copy of the letter to GE President Charles E. Wilson.

#### Hurts Other Locals

The 301 Board statement on Callahan said that "such individual action, ignoring all the other GE locals, is irresponsible and is damaging to the unity of GE workers in achieving their bargaining ob-

(Continued on page 2)

### To Elect Delegates For UE Convention

Delegates to the international UE convention in September will be elected at the combined 301 shop stewards and membership meeting June 7 and 8 at the union hall.

All stewards and first and third shift members will meet at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 7. The second section of the meeting will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday, June 8, for second shift members.

The Executive Board Monday night voted unanimously to recommend that 10 delegates be elected and agreed unanimously on election arrangements.

### Pensioners' Meeting

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

Want a New Car? Maybe You'll Win the Studebaker At the Local 301 Field Day

### 40 More Jobless In Porcelain Div.

About 40 workers were given lay-off notices in the Porcelain Division, Building 68, during the past week. These had not been forecast previously, and indicated that lay-offs would go beyond the estimate of 500 to 550 for May given two weeks ago by Works Manager Lewis J. Male.

Because of continuing lost time in the Welded Products Division, additional lay-offs are being made there. A. C. Stevens, assistant to the Works Manager, has again promised that "farming-out" of work will be kept down.

Numerous grievances have developed over the application of seniority. A big difficulty has been the effort of some supervisors to use technical points of classification as a means of holding on to favored employees instead of applying direct seniority. Individual grievances are being pressed.

Laid-off workers are reminded again to insist on their seniority

## 301 Asks GE To Confer on MBA Changes

Local 301 has asked the GE management to defer any action on proposed changes in the Mutual Benefit Association plan until the union meets with the company on the matter.

A statement of proposed MBA changes, signed by J. C. Meader, secretary, was distributed in the plant Monday. The changes would raise MBA dues, raise the maximum benefit from \$15 to \$26 a week but reduce the weeks from 16 to 13, eliminate the death benefit and make several other changes.

The purpose of the changes, the union pointed out in a letter to Works Manager Lewis J. Male, is evidently to make MBA comply with the new State Sickness and Disability Law.

#### Early Vote Scheduled

The MBA statement said the proposals would be voted on by June 10 by its General Committee. Under the MBA set-up, the company has the power to exert the dominating control over policy.

The 301 Executive Board meeting Monday night, which voted unanimously to send the letter to Male, took the position that the increase in MBA dues is not justified by the cost of the changes proposed. Moreover the changes do not meet the complaints which union members have been making about MBA benefits for a long time, the Board held.

#### Proper Subject for Bargaining

"As you know," the union letter stated, "we have always considered that the Mutual Benefit Association plan was a subject of collec-

(Continued on Page 2)

rights. It is advisable to check with your shop steward or the union office before accepting a lower-rated job.

Laid-off members also are reminded to register promptly at the unemployment insurance office. Those not placed in other jobs should register at the union office to protect their rights in the future.

## A 35 HOUR WORK WEEK AT 40 HOURS' PAY

## Facts for GE Workers

### GE Profit 39½% On Investment

The \$163,300,000 profit which the General Electric Company made in 1948 represents a profit of 39.5 per cent on the net worth of the company. At that rate the company's net profit would equal its net worth every two and a half years.

GE claims that its rate of profit, or return on capital investment, is only 17.5 per cent. Even if this were the true figure, it would be an extremely husky profit rate.

The company arrived at the 17.5 figure by some very misleading bookkeeping. First, it claimed the 1948 net profit was only \$123,835,000 by ignoring \$39,465,000 in concealed profit.

In addition, it compared the profit with the net worth of the company at the end of the year, instead of at the beginning of the year. When anyone invests money he figures the return on the basis of the money invested at the beginning of the year. GE used a close-of-the-year figure for net worth, including the 1948 profit itself. And GE also included in the net worth figure money borrowed from the banks.

The 39.5 per cent rate for profit is an all-time high for GE. In 1947 the rate was 26.3 per cent; in 1945 it was 15.9 per cent and in 1939 it was 13.5 per cent.

### Reporter Excluded From 301 Meeting

A Schenectady Gazette reporter appeared May 17 at the 301 membership meeting. President Frank Kriss was asked from the floor to order the reporter to leave the room, in accordance with policy in effect for over six months.

Kriss ruled that the union's vote last October to bar reporters was unconstitutional and that the reporter could stay. An appeal from the chair's decision was taken and Kriss was over-ruled by a substantial majority. He then asked the reporter to leave. (The reporter left.)

**ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS**  
UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE  
WORKERS OF AMERICA, CIO  
SCHENECTADY GE LOCAL 301

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### Boring Mill Operators Will Meet Next Week

A meeting for all boring mill operators of the Turbine Division has been called for next week at the union hall. First and third shift workers will meet at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 1, and second shift workers at 1 p.m. Thursday, June 2. Board Members William Stewart, Ray Planigan and Sam Scott called the meeting.

The chief purpose of the meeting is to consider the move being made by the company to downgrade part of the boring mill jobs. This was one of many of the problems of speed-up, downgrading and working conditions discussed last week at a meeting of shop stewards of the Turbine Division.

### Erie G-E Lay-offs Reported as 3,650

The employment outlook is growing increasingly black throughout the GE system. Lay-offs of hourly workers at the Erie GE Works were scheduled to reach 3,650 by today. At the Pittsfield GE 500 were recently laid off.

The original lay-off figure announced by the Erie GE management several weeks ago was 1,200, but the estimate tripled in a week. The 3,650 lay-offs will mean that about 35 per cent of the hourly workers are jobless. Lay-offs of salaried workers are expected to represent the same percentage.

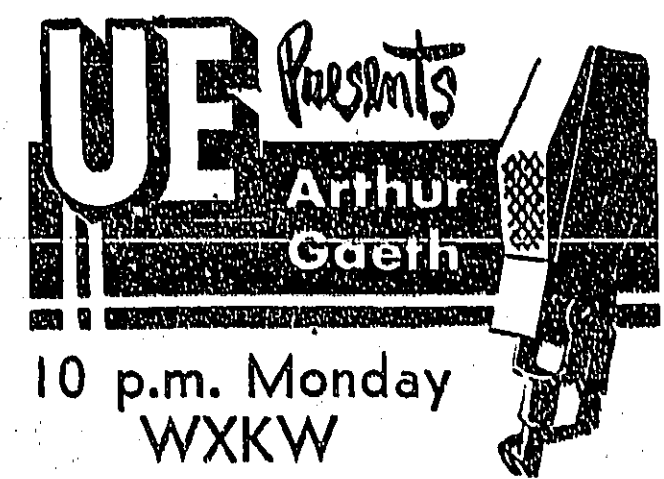
### 301 Votes Changes In Constitution

Several changes in the 301 constitution, proposed by the Constitution Committee, were approved by the special called membership meeting last week by practically unanimous votes. George Walker, chairman of the Constitution Committee, presented the amendments.



Walker

Most of the amendments concerned election procedure and were designed to save money and to simplify the rules. Another change made was to repeal the provision allowing charges to be brought against a member for making statements to the press affecting union business before exhausting the procedure within the union.



### 301 Board Hits Callahan Action

(Continued from page 1)

jectives."

"It is particularly bad coming from a member of the national negotiating committee named by the Conference Board.

"We condemn Brother Callahan's action and ask the national negotiating committee and the Conference Board to give serious consideration to the question of Brother Callahan's fitness to serve further on the committee."

Callahan at Dayton

At the May meeting of the Conference Board Callahan voted for the bargaining program unanimously recommended. However, that meeting took place before the so-called "right wing convention" of the Carey-Block faction at Dayton, Ohio. Callahan was a prime organizer of the Dayton meeting. At Dayton he urged that "all possible help" be given to the Carey-Block group in 301, using "steel workers and any other outside source we can get."

Since the Dayton meeting factional issues have been introduced in the Westinghouse and GM Conference Boards by Carey-Block supporters.

Joseph Dermody, secretary of the GE Conference Board, wired Callahan Monday advising him to withdraw the proposal made to GE.

### Asks Meeting on MBA

(Continued from Page 1)

tive bargaining, and so far the company has not accepted this view. Now it is our belief that the passage of the Sickness and Disability Law makes collective bargaining with the union on this question mandatory."

The letter also gave another reason that the proposed changes should be taken up in collective bargaining.

"In the past, membership in the Mutual Benefit Association was voluntary. The proposal to have the plan comply with the new law means that such membership would be a requirement of employment. Therefore, the plan would be a direct part of the working conditions of every employee, necessarily something they are entitled to discuss through their chosen bargaining agency."

The Executive Board "is unanimous in the belief that the changes in Mr. Meader's statement will be very unsatisfactory to our members," the letter declared.

Members are invited by the 301 Board to write the union office their views on the proposed changes.

## Now Boulware Puts Blame on Customer

The GE-Boulware phony economic theories grow wilder as the hard facts of lay-offs and dropping orders debunk last year's "eat beans, work harder" propaganda.

Boulware's piece "What About Job Security?" in the Works News of May 20 is an example of the propaganda idea that if you make a falsehood big enough, many people will believe it.

The piece offers the explanation that jobs are disappearing because of the "customer who buys — or refuses to buy."

### Workers Can't Buy

The truth is that the main customers are the millions of working people. Their ability, not their willingness, to buy, is being destroyed by the Big Business policy of profiteering — speed-up, high prices, and low wages. The people have just not been making enough to buy what they produce. GE has been the leader in this Big Business policy.

### Invitation to Speed-up

So GE now says that we have all been too well off, and that to hold your jobs you must give "full interest, skill, care and effort." In other words, you must speed-up some more so GE can lay off more of you.

The previous week Boulware said "further wage increases are not warranted in view of the need this year for cost and price reductions to attract buyers."

The country's real need is for higher wages, shorter hours, and lower profits, so people can afford to buy.

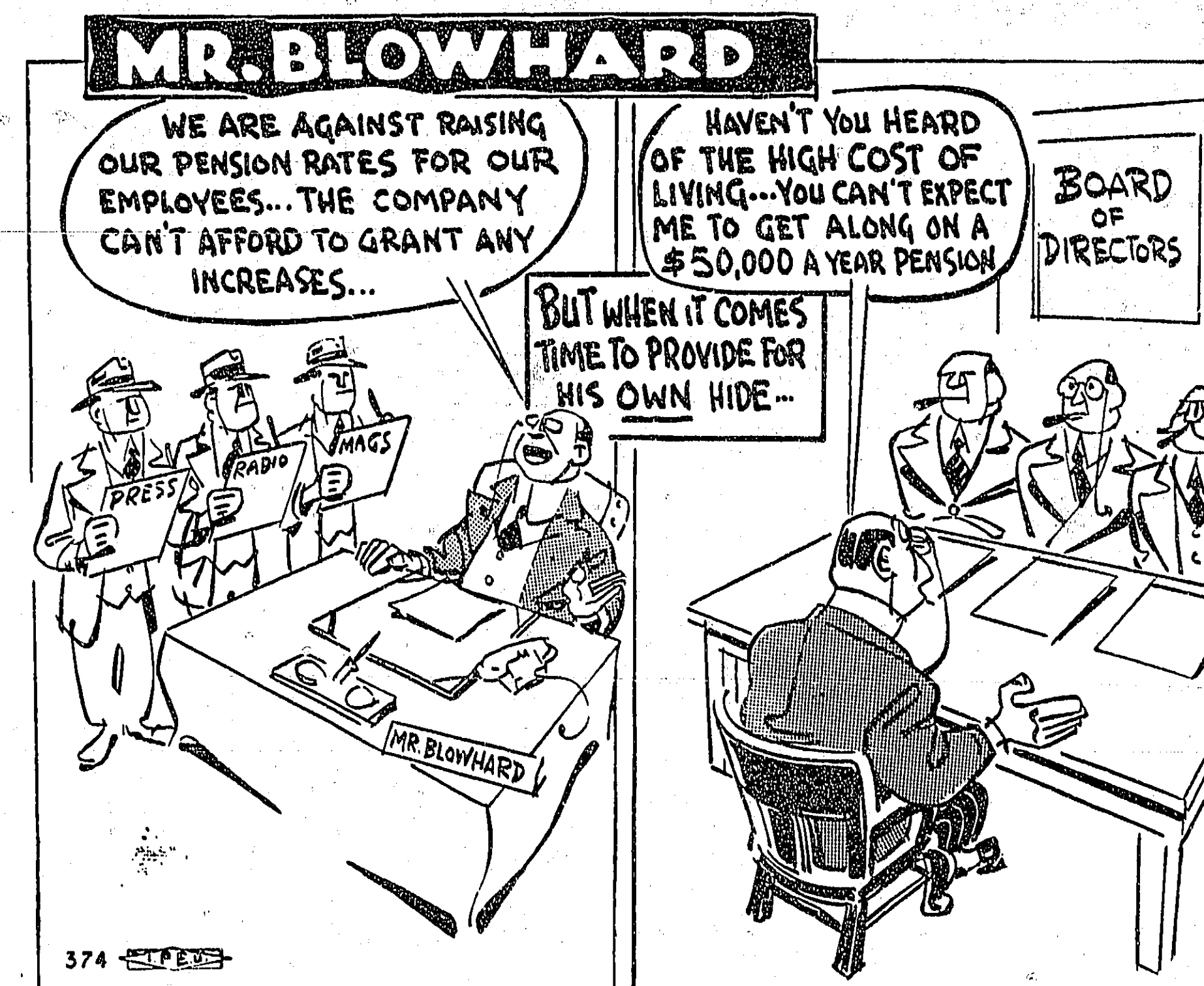
GE cordially invites the American people to repeat the tragedy of 1929.

### Union Fights Speed-up On Building 273 Job

A protest has been made by the union to management over the speed-up on a milling machine job in Building 273. The company has been requiring one worker to run two machines, although running one of the machines alone used to be a full-time job.

Not only has the company been getting double production out of one man, the union pointed out, but the speed-up has obviously cut out another man's job. The company claimed that it increased the AER five cents when handling the second machine was added to the job and that the man's earnings increased 25 or 30 cents an hour.

The situation came to the attention of the union office after the original worker, who had been



### Top-Notch Entertainers Will Appear Field Day

Entertainers who will come from New York City to take part in the Local 301 field day program June 19 include Lee Hays, song writer, singer and song leader, and Fred Hellerman, who sings ballads and plays the five-string banjo, guitar and recorder.

Members of 301 who want to participate in the field day entertainment program should notify Mrs. Dorothy Perlin at 129 Furman St., (Telephone 2-0885) or through the union office. The show will include a skit by the 301 dramatic group and a folk dance demonstration. Field day will be at Hans Grell's Grove, 2390 Albany St. Shop stewards are selling tickets.

### 2,403 Jobless

There were 2,403 jobless workers registered May 13 with the Schenectady office of the Division of Placement and Unemployment Insurance, compared with 2,605 on May 6. The most likely explanation of the drop is that many workers have exhausted their benefits for the year. The new benefit year will start in June.

handling the two machines for months, had to take time off because of an injury. Another man was put on the job and complained of the speed-up.

### Blood Donors Needed

Six or seven pints of blood are needed immediately for Jean Dziuba, Building 269 worker in Ellis Hospital for treatment for anemia. A member of 301, she has received blood transfusions for which repayment must be paid to the hospital blood bank. Volunteers should contact the union office or Shop Steward Manuel Fernandez.

### Membership Oposes Mundt-Ferguson Bill

The Local 301 membership meeting voted last week to mobilize action against the Mundt-Ferguson bill, practically a duplicate of the Mundt-Nixon "thought control" bill introduced last year. The action was recommended by the Executive Board.

An analysis of the bill has been sent to shop stewards and will be printed in condensed form in next week's EU News.

### Mangino in Hospital

Board Member Joseph Mangino is seriously ill at Ellis Hospital as the result of a ruptured appendix. Board members contributed at their meeting Monday night for a gift for him. Workers in his division are also planning to send a gift.

### GE Executives Tour Schoharie on Case

An arbitration hearing in Schenectady last week revealed that three high executives from the GE plant here spent a day last spring touring the Schoharie Valley on amateur detective work. The trio were Works Manager Lewis Male, his assistant, A. C. Stevens, and Pay Master Benjamin Wilson.

The case taken to arbitration by the union concerned the firing of a World War II veteran last September from his job in Campbell Ave. because he refused to pay back an employee's discount he received. Management claimed he wasn't entitled to the discount on a washing machine, electric stove and refrigerator he bought. One of the points at issue was whether he lived in Middleburg or Gallupville.

The three GE executives testified that they spent a day driving around on a personal check-up. They said they interviewed the Middleburg GE dealer who complained about the appliances being installed, a clerk from this dealer's office, an unnamed woman behind a grocery store counter in Gallupville and an unnamed woman customer of the grocery store.

The union presented testimony by the veteran and several others. The arbitrator reserved decision.

JOIN THE UNION