

Can General Electric Afford To Pay 10c An Hour More To Their Employees?

The General Electric Corporation had a net profit of fifty-five million dollars on 65,000 employees.

If the G. E. had given its employees 10 Cents an hour more during 1940 — it would still have had a profit of \$38,480,000.00.

Each employee earned a net profit of \$826.00 for the General Electric during 1940.

The net profits of the Company for 1941 will be much greater than in 1940.

Can the General Electric afford to pay its employees 10 Cents an hour or \$208.00 a year more?

Based on the profits of General Electric for 1940 this will mean that each G. E. Worker will earn only \$618.00 a year for the G. E. Corporation.

Now, you might ask, what is this all about? It means this: That the General Motors Corporation on each employe for the year 1940 had a net profit of \$977 per employe, a staggering figure, a figure based upon the average employment of the employes of General Motors Corporation of 250 days a year, a profit of approximately \$4 per day to each employe.

The American Telegraph & Telephone Company netted \$528 per employe; the Standard of New Jersey netted \$2,000 per employe; the U. S. Steel Corporation netted something approximating \$420 per employe; the DuPont Corporation netted \$2,220 per employe.

Standard of New Jersey—Standard Oil Company, netted a profit of \$110,000,000 on some 55,000 employes.

The United States Steel Corporation netted a profit of \$102,180,000 on some 260,000 employes.

The DuPont Corporation had a net profit of \$9,900,000 on some 45,000 employes.

The General Electric Corporation included above. And the total net profits of these six corporations for the year 1940 being \$609,750,000 on 585,000 employes.

Now, you might ask, what is this all about? It means this: That the General Motors Corporation on each employe for the year 1940 had a net profit of \$977 per employe, a staggering figure, a figure based upon the average employment of the employes of General Motors Corporation of 250 days a year, a profit of approximately \$4 per day to each employe.

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So, they suggest, these distinguished leaders of American industry, very boldly, very bluntly, very brutally, in fact, that nothing should be done in the United States of America during the period of national defense to improve living standards, to increase wages, and that at the same time nothing should be done in the United States by government, labor, or industry to disturb the profit-making opportunities of American industry.

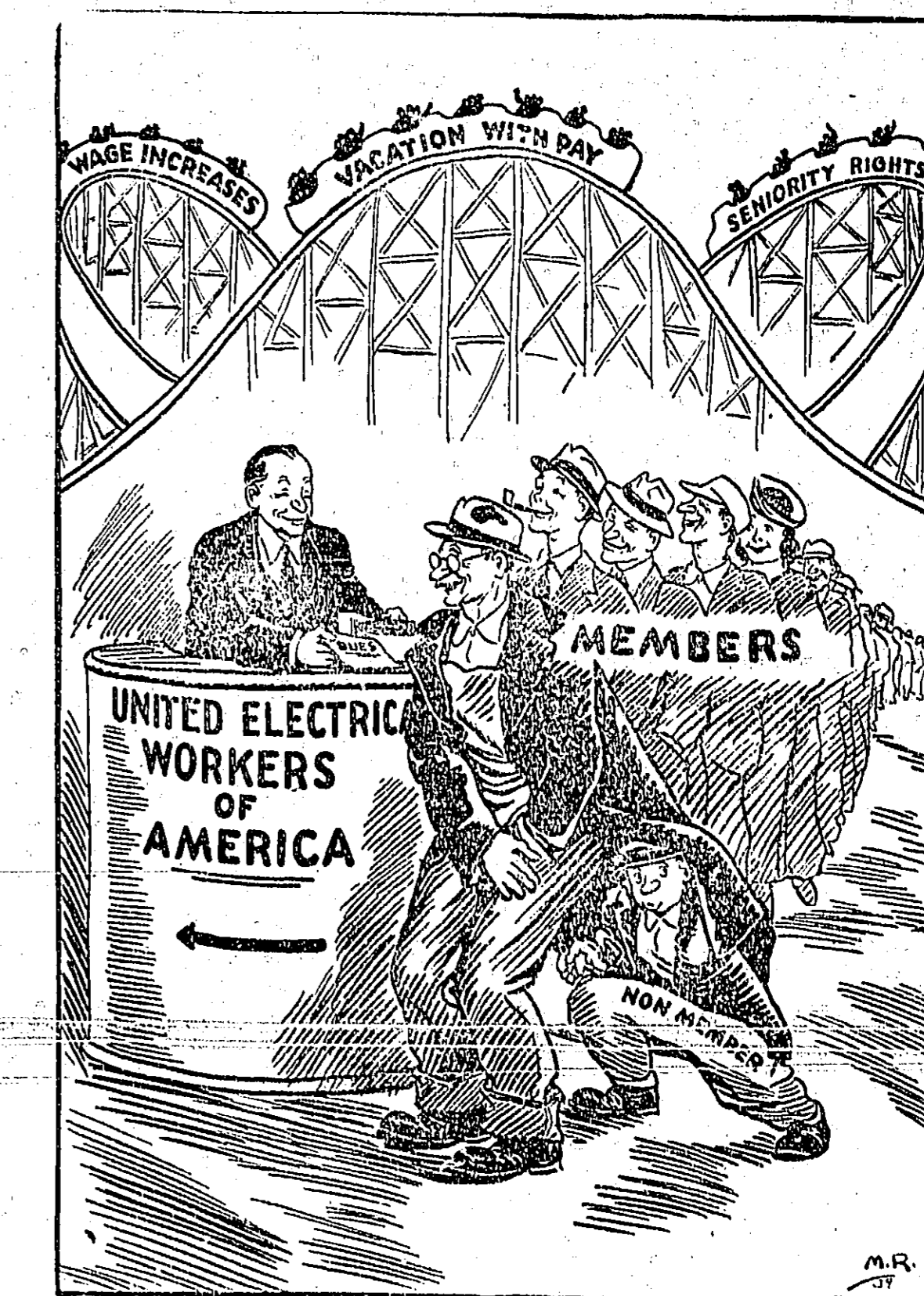
It is these attitudes on the part of the mighty, important businessmen, that create conflict. It is these economic disturbances that not only cause strikes and spilling of blood, but they oftentimes throw the world into what we have now, international convulsions.

We are talking about breeding better world relations. We are talking in the United States today of supporting the enactment of legislation which will tend to promote democracy, and yet we have employers of labor in the United States of America, even today that refuse to recognize their labor when their labor is organized in labor unions.

We have a law upon the statute books that in substance is a virtual command to employers throughout the nation: Thou shalt not interfere with the right of labor to join organizations of its own choosing for the purpose of collective bargaining. And yet we have a number of very substantial employers in the United States of America who violate that law—and they are quite frank and quite candid about it.

They defy the law. They use the age-old systems of espionage, discrimination, discharge, eviction; they incarcerate people in prisons, because those individuals seek the protection of the law, the right to join an organization of their own choosing.

— FORD IS AN OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE —



THE FREE RIDER

Yes! it's an old picture...it has been used before, but this problem of the Free Riders is still with us.

The real self-supporting workers have exercised patience for a long time with the Free Riders. These Union Members have been financially and morally supporting the issues of higher wages and better working conditions; and also have been paying the freight for the Free Rider or non-member.

The pressure from the Membership on the officers of the Union is gaining momentum on this question. The cry is—Why can't we do something about it?

The Officers feel that the cartoon heading this column should be sufficient to all those who have a conscience and any self pride. Just stop for a moment and think this question over!

The majority in a community vote a measure that is good for the community as a whole—certainly all of the taxpayers must pay for the improvements, the minority just can't stand on the side lines and enjoy the improvements and not pay. Things happen!

This is Democracy in Action!

You may say this is not comparable, but it is. You are enjoying all the benefits on your job that others have voted and paid for to establish.

FREE RIDERS CAUSE OF UNREST AND GENERAL LABOR TROUBLE!

The minority not belonging to the Union and not being familiar with the general agreements between the Company and the Union (which is the sole bargaining agency for all the employees) are constantly infringing on these agreements. The Company Foreman fully appreciates the friction caused by the non-members, but is in no position to tell the workers to join the Union.

Most of the labor trouble in this country can be attributed to those workers who refuse to join unions where there is one in existence. This minority in a Union Shop is a constant source of trouble and friction. Unscrupulous management often use this minority to stir trouble among the workers.

Now that we are in the midst of a National Defense effort and the utmost unity is needed in our Country, these non-members are actually playing the role of "saboteurs" of our Defense.

FLAUNT GAINS IN UNION'S FACE! Most of these non-members take the attitude of "Why should we join the Union and pay dues, when increases go through, we get them too!"

This subversive and un-American attitude on the part of the

(Continued on Page 4)

SIGNERS OF THE CALL (Continued)

- | | |
|--|--|
| Michael J. Quill
Pres., Transport Workers of America
Chicago, Illinois | Washington Industrial Union Council
Washington, D. C. |
| Rev. Bryon Reynolds
Vice-Pres., American Newspaper Guild
Chicago, Illinois | Morris Watson
Vice-Pres., American Newspaper Guild
Burlington, Vt. |
| Reid Robinson
Pres., Mine, Mill & Smelter Workers, V.-C., APM
Dorchester, Mass. | Rev. Max Webster
Burlington, Vt. |
| Joseph Selly
Pres., American Communications Assn. | Rev. Charles Wellman
Dorchester, Mass. |
| Mason Smith
Editor, Waco Messenger, Texas | Professor Doxey Wilkerson
Howard University |
| Rev. F. Hastings Smyth
Society of Catholic Commonwealth | Rev. Charles Wilson
St. Louis, Missouri |
| Calvin Sutterlin
Connecticut LNPL | United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers of America, Local 1225
New York. |
| Leon Strauss
Intl. Fur & Leather Workers Union, Local 125 | Dr. Max Yergan
Organizations Listed for Identification Only, Except Where Their Names Stand Alone as Endorsers |
| Katherine Terrill , Vice Chairman, APM | |
| Eda Lou Walton
Columbi. University | |

REGISTRATION BLANK

Name

Address

Organizations

Number of members

I will come as a delegate an observer (check one).

Please enclose \$1 registration fee and mail immediately. Advance registrations will be credited only when received by the National Office of the American Peace Mobilization, 1133 Broadway, New York City. New York Registration opens April 4 at 10 a.m. and closes noon April 5.

ENDORSERS BLANK

(Check one)

I, as an individual, endorse the Call to the American People's Meeting.

My organization endorses the Call to the the American People's Meeting.

APRIL 5-6 IN NEW YORK CITY

Signed

If Organizational (Name of organization)

Endorsement (Number of members)

Please mail immediately to the National Office of the American Peace Mobilization, 1133 Broadway, New York City.

ORIGINAL TORN

... ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS ...

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STRIKES

Placing the Blame

Who is to blame for the present and recent industrial stoppages? And how can they be ended? The facts are so plain, so simple and so clear-cut that all the hysterical ravings of the anti-labor press and union-baiting politicians cannot conceal nor long confuse them.

COAL

The bituminous coal stoppage is a lockout, for which the United Mine Workers of America is in no way responsible and which it did everything humanly possible to avert.

The union agreement expired on March 31, but the UMWA offered to continue working under previously existing conditions until a new agreement should be reached.

The union's concern about the speediest possible negotiation of a new contract was further shown by the usual and wholly reasonable proviso that any wage increases in the new agreement should be retroactive to April 1. If this proviso were not made, obviously the operators would consider each day's delay that much more money saved.

Coal production could be resumed immediately, and never should have stopped, if public pressure compelled the operators to end their lockout and to keep the mines working during negotiations.

ALLIS-CHALMERS

The continued stoppage at the Allis-Chalmers in another lockout, prolonged and embittered by a disgraceful double-cross and flagrant governmental intervention on behalf of a company which rejected OPM proposals for a settlement.

The Allis-Chalmers workers voted to return to work under terms proposed by the OPM, on behalf of the United States Government. These terms were also at first agreed to by the company, and when it later rejected them, the union was assured that all governmental pressure would now be exerted to make the company comply.

Instead, William Knudsen and Secretary Knox of the OPM suddenly issued an order to the strikers to return to work on the company's terms.

The Allis-Chalmers lockout could have been ended long ago, and can be ended now, by a simple act of governmental good faith in compelling the company to open up on the terms which the government representatives promised to insist upon.

FORD

The shutdown of the huge Ford plant at River Rouge is an event of historical importance in the age-long struggle for labor's rights. It reveals the degree of CIO organization in a citadel of anti-unionism employing 80,000 workers that never was penetrated by labor before.

But this stoppage need never have occurred and was provoked entirely by the Ford Motor Co.

This company has for years arrogantly defied not only union labor but the United States Government itself. Its records of labor law violations and anti-union intimidation would fill books. Yet it has been coddled in its lawbreaking and encouraged in its arrogance by the fattest of government contracts.

All the Ford workers and their union, the UAW-CIO have ever asked is that this company be required to observe the National Labor Relations Act, cease its unfair labor practices, agree to a Labor Board election, and negotiate with the union thus legally chosen by the workers to represent them.

The Ford stoppage would not have happened, and could be ended at once, by the simple requirement that the Ford Company, comply with the law of the land.

BETHLEHEM

The history of Bethlehem Steel is similar to that of Ford, with the additional fact that its law-defiance provoked the 1937 strike. Here too, all that the Steel Workers Organizing Committee asks is its collective bargaining rights under the Labor Act.

Typical of this company's attitude is the fact that while its insistence on conducting illegal company union elections created stoppages at two of its plants, it was at the same time seeking an injunction to prevent the holding of a legal Labor Board election at its Lackawanna plant.

In the face of all the above facts, is it not the rankest injustice and dishonesty for any writer or speaker to blame labor, or to demand any other action than a cracking down on the employers who are wholly responsible for current stoppages?

VIOLENCE—FORD MODEL



Ford goons, in a sortie on striking members of the United Automobile Workers (CIO), attack from the gates of the River Rouge plant. The daily newspapers described them as "loyal workers".

An Editorial from "PM"

LENTEN SERMON FROM AND TO FORD

The sanctimonious W. J. Cameron, voice of Henry Ford, took the air again on the Ford Sunday Evening Hour. Many people who would not otherwise have listened, including me, tuned in to see if he had anything to say about the Ford strike. Although Mr. Cameron did not use the words "strike" or "labor," he made it clear what he was driving at.

"We will now hear a brief talk by Mr. W. J. Cameron of the Ford Motor Co."

Lent, said Mr. Cameron earnestly, "is a loud alarm call to repentance and self examination." Like a revivalist preacher (he is a former minister), he railed at "ribald speech," at some of the indecent things the papers have been printing, and at the low moral level to which the nation in general has sunk. Then he got going:

People in a land "honeycombed with movements to rule or ruin their neighbors" are headed for an awakening. Mr. Cameron declared. And to make his point, he cited a Paris newspaper article which harked back to "the crimes of the French Revolution" and the "free-thinking vomit of the Popular Front"—as if to say: Look at what has happened to France; beware lest the same thing happen here.

During the Lenten period, we'd better examine ourselves—politically as well as morally, Mr. Cameron concluded.

How about recommending a little self-examination for Mr. Ford, Mr. Cameron?

Starting from nothing, Henry Ford took advantage of the opportunities offered, and became one of its most powerful citizens. Why does he not now respect its laws—particularly its labor laws?

If genuinely concerned about the rise of Fascism in once-free France, Mr. Cameron, why have you and Mr. Ford helped build a domestic Fascism in this country by your anti-Semitism? Why Mr. Ford's unreasoning opposition to democratic unionism, his resort to violence in fighting unionism, his thorough-going contempt for the rights and desires of his own employes? These are all Fascist acts, Mr. Cameron.

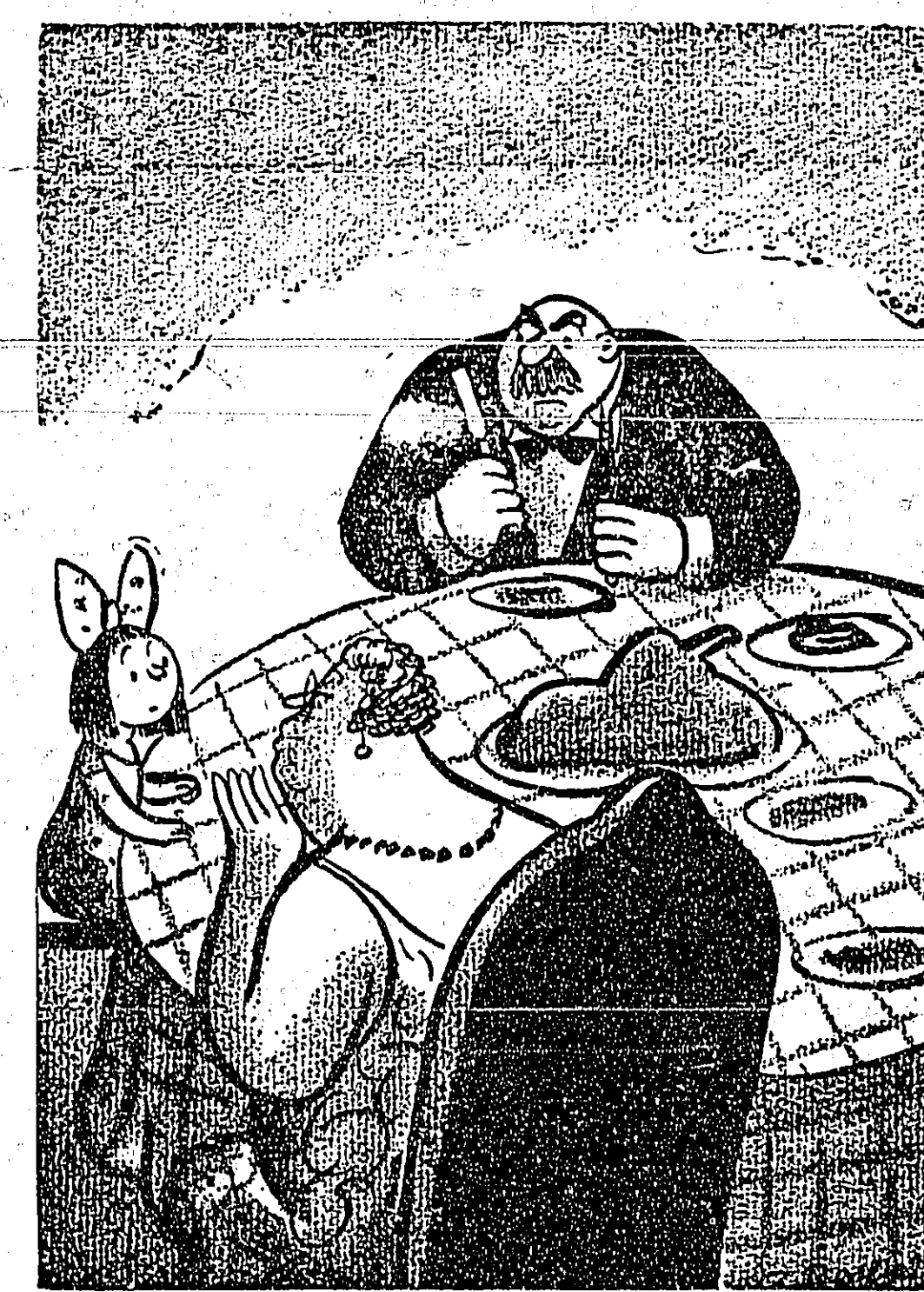
Mr. Ford has made a prodigious fortune through the skill and industry of these American workmen. Why don't he pay them workers 10 cents an hour more—not to bring their wages above—but to bring them up to the wages of unionized auto workers?

Mr. Ford is about to make a new fortune through his \$150,000,000 worth of defense contracts. Will you ask him, Mr. Cameron, how about a little respect for the institutions these defense materials will be used to protect?

Until we see some soul-searching on your boss's part, Mr. Cameron, and some reformation of his ways as a result, that Lenten sermon of yours is going to go on sounding the way it sounded over the air, like pure, simple, unmitigated hypocrisy.

—Amos Landman

THE UPPER CRUST



"Don't ask for more onions, dear . . . Papa thinks you're saying unions."

LaFollette Committee Reports:

LITTLE STEEL RESPONSIBLE FOR 1937 STRIKE

"Little Steel" was solely responsible for the strike of several thousand workers in 1937, the Senate Civil Liberties Committee declared today in a report that warned of serious interruptions to defense production if the companies do not alter their policy of flouting the federal labor law.

The report, based on months of hearings, is the fourth published by the LaFollette Committee on the role of employers' associations in labor disputes. It pulled no punches in its condemnation of the policies of Bethlehem Steel, Republic Steel and Youngstown Sheet & Tube Co., whose plants were struck by the CIO Steel Workers Organizing Committee during the summer of 1937.

While the press and propaganda forces of the nation were then doing the same sort of "smear job" on labor that is prevalent today, the Senate Committee placed the blame for the strike, and for its accompanying violence, directly on the companies.

"The bloodshed, bitterness and economic disorganization of communities resulting from the 'Little Steel' strike might easily have been avoided had the companies conformed to the laws of the United States," the report asserted. "Instead of ranging their combined economic strength and prestige and influence of their employer associations in opposition to collective bargaining.

"Their determination to flout the law, and their efforts, through a careful campaign of propaganda, to enlist local communities to assist them, must be condemned as dangerous to lawful government."

Policies Menace U. S.
After determining that resistance by the companies to collective bargaining was the primary cause of the 1937 walkout, the Senate Committee warned: "Any company which today stands up and flatly refuses to

Here and
There in
Bldg. 12



The outstanding bit of news in Bldg. 12 is the recent announcement by Mr. and Mrs. Adelbert Waddell on the birth of a son named Kent Douglas. This youngster arrived via St. Mary's Hospital, Amsterdam, and tipped the scales at 5 lbs. 13 ozs. "Del" the proud Daddy, is employed on the 1st shift in charge of experimental repairs.

One of our popular young ladies on C. F. Line, (the girl with the 'Irium Smile') recently had a letter from our former co-worker, Arnold Von Stetina. Arnold reports that he likes army life and has now been advanced to Sergeant. Why not drop him a card? He is always glad to hear from his friends in Bldg. No. 12. His address is:

Sgt. A. Von Stetina, Co. H
105th Inf. Rifle Division
Fort McClellan, Anniston, Ala.

We still hear inquiries such as "Where is Bill?" Of course most every one knows this refers to Bill Jansen. Well, Bill has been transferred to Bldg. 11-Balcony, in charge of production second shift. Bill's many friends in Bldg. 12 wish him much success in his new position, and as a token of friendship, his many friends in Bldg. 12, presented the Barron with a beautiful gold pen and pencil set. Bill was superceded by Al Fouck.

We haven't had a Bldg. 12 col. out of late, as it has been rather difficult to pick up news items. All one hears these days is the discussions about the 10c per hour raise, and all of our workers are still talking about the big turnout at the Mass Meeting.

The fellow most likely to succeed is the one who recently became a Daddy and then offered to name his baby after the Foreman. One of our older fellows was heard to remark, "If my wife ever has a little one, I'll name him after the Manager."

The outstanding squeeler of the month in Bldg. 12 is that cute little darling on first shift

LOCAL 301 MEMBERSHIP IS GAINING RAPIDLY

The report of the Financial Secretary showed over 2500 new members have joined the Union during the past three months.

Notwithstanding this increase

front organizations to sugar coat the corporations' drastic policies.

In examining the four most serious riots of the 1937 strike, the Committee found that the pressure from the fake citizens' committees and from company-paid deputies was a major factor in provoking violence.

"The companies had themselves to blame in large part for the feeling of distrust and bitterness which existed among the strikers," the report declared. "Continued interference with the right of organization through espionage, company unions and coercion inevitably generated an atmosphere of bitterness."

paint line. The fellow who thinks he is a big important executive and has his nose in everybody's business. You are right! Local No. 301 hasn't any tattlers in its Membership like him.

Wonder if the married woman downstairs thinks she is kidding anyone. Hear she has been hitched a long time and he is working too. Why not give a single girl a break.

The four people in Bldg. 12 who are shouting the loudest for 10c more per hour are, the fellow in the Test who wears a dirty hat and glasses; the one at the Welder's tank-2nd shift, known as the first man who hangs around the Office Thurs. mornings waiting for his pay check, and the two girl inspectors on the tray assembly. If these people work near you, why not ask them to join the union and keep the 10c hour demand hot! Of course, these people all want and feel they should have more pay but they will not spend approximately two cents a day to get it.

Who is the relief man that takes all the relief?

SMOKING AND WASHROOMS

The Executive Board has received several complaints from our responsible members in reference to the abuse practiced by some members of the smoking privilege in washrooms. When this privilege was granted us, it was deeply appreciated by us all. We greatly deplore this abuse. The least that we can do is to use company property and privileges as carefully as we would our own. Certainly, we cannot expect to maintain these privileges by abusing them.
—Executive Board
Local 301

ORIGINAL TORN