

301 Approves Report of Delegates On National Convention at Cleveland

The report of Local 301's 10 delegates to the national UE convention was approved by a large majority at the membership meeting Sept. 29.

The members voted to support UE policy and the national officers despite a highly organized effort of James B. Carey followers to disrupt the meeting. (See shop stewards' condemnation of Carey disruption on page 1 and shop stewards' statement on the membership meeting on page 3.) Carey and Fred Kelley, defeated candidate for UE president, put in personal appearances to attack UE and Local 301.

Kelley claimed he and his running mates had really won the election at the convention. He listed the votes of Local 301 among those which he said should have gone to him.

Figure This One Out

He based his claim on some apparently non-existent "8,000 signatures" on a petition asking for a membership meeting to be held Sept. 20 (during the convention). If the meeting had been held, according to Kelley, it would have endorsed him and his slate.

No such petition was ever handed in at the Local 301 office or produced at the UE convention, Leo Jandreau told the meeting.

The 301 delegates were elected at a duly advertised membership meeting, in accordance with the union's constitution, and were sent to the convention under instructions voted by the August membership meeting.

"The boys don't like it when they don't win," Jandreau declared, "so they bring Carey and Kelley to town. We do our voting outright and forthright here. When we win we win and when we lose we lose."

Kelley referred to the "impertinence" of UE daring to take issue with top CIO leadership on any matter.

Carey defended CIO raids on UE and repeated the threat he had made at Cleveland that he would start another union in the electrical field unless UE knuckled under to orders from CIO officers.

Emspak Speaks on CIO

Julius Emspak, national UE secretary-treasurer and a delegate from Local 301, declared that the question at issue between UE and top CIO officers is "whether rank-and-file industrial unionism, free from domination by any political party, will continue." He spoke at

the meeting of second shift workers at 301 hall.

Emspak outlined the part UE played in helping organize and develop the CIO and pointed out the ways in which the CIO leadership has veered from its original policies.

He cited the case of the Farm Equipment Workers, a union which the CIO Executive Board ordered to merge with the Auto Workers (with UE Board members dissenting). The Farm Equipment Workers convention rejected this merger and the membership voted to retain their own union in Taft-Hartley elections. But the CIO leadership insists that the merger must be made.

Jandreau declared that UE "is going to fight to stay in CIO, to try to bring CIO back to the days when it was started,—to organizing the unorganized."

Hits Carey Disruption

The Carey faction was voted down by the majority of the UE convention, Jandreau said, "and now they are continuing their disruption." Instead of trying to split the union, Carey should be backing his fight against GE and Westinghouse, he said.

He pointed out that Kelley, business agent of the Lynn GE local, is taking time off for his factional campaigning at a time when it is vital to unite GE workers behind the contract demands.

"Fred Kelley wouldn't have the time to be here tonight if he was doing a job at Lynn," he charged.

Slight Exaggeration

Remember that flop "mass demonstration" that the Carey followers staged recently outside the 301 office? Even the Schenectady Gazette and Union-Star admitted there was only a handful of pickets.

But here's the way it was described in the newspaper of UE Local 201 at Lynn, Mass., of which Fred Kelley, Carey's defeated candidate for UE president, is business agent:

"Determined to have their meeting, thousands of members picketed their Local union hall."

CONGRESSMAN DRIPP

By YOMEN



Protect Your Rights

Members who are sent home for temporary lack of work are reminded that they should report to the Unemployment Insurance office their first day out, if they have worked not more than three days and earned less than \$24 in the week. This is true regardless of what reporting day you may have scheduled because of an earlier lay-off. A member who was out part of last week, but did not report until his scheduled appointment Friday, is having difficulty getting credit for the time lost.

Did You Know?

The General Electric Company's 1948 allotment for depreciation and maintenance of its machinery and plants was over \$78 million. All in all it has over \$336 million in its reserve for depreciation, far more than enough to provide for replacement of its plants and machinery.

But in 1948 GE paid only \$34,800,000 into its pension trust. A good part of this was for its executive employees.

Singer Strike Solid At Elizabeth Plant

The 7,000 UE strikers at the Singer Sewing Machine Company, Elizabeth, N. J., are standing solid and are not accepting the company's proposal to submit to a speed-up.

The 1,500 strikers at the Bridgeport, Conn., plant have accepted the speed-up proposal, along with other offers made to both groups prior to the strike.

Workers at the Singer plant at South Bend, Ind., did not participate in the strike, but voted to extend the contract, by mutual agreement with the Bridgeport and Elizabeth locals.

Local 301 has collected \$942.79 in the shops for the Singer strikers. Shop stewards are now selling donation books for the Elizabeth strikers, with an automobile as the prize. The books should be returned to the union office by next Friday.

Don't Be a Free Rider
Join the Union.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

THE VOICE OF LOCAL 301

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

C. I. O.

Vol. 7 — No. 40

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

October 14, 1949

301 Membership Meets Next Week

The monthly 301 membership meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 18, at the union hall for first and third shift members and at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 19, for second shift members.

The report by Business Agent Leo Jandreau on GE contract negotiations will be postponed until a special membership meeting the week following the Oct. 18, 19 meeting.

Chief business at the Oct. 18, 19 meeting will be:

Election of five delegates to the UE District 3 Council. The delegates elected at this meeting will serve at the District Council meeting Oct. 22 at Rochester which will elect District 3 officers. The district president and secretary will be the district representatives on the General Executive Board of UE.

Election of a treasurer for the remainder of the year to succeed William Downs who resigned the office and left the plant to study for the ministry. Marshall White, former treasurer, was named by the Executive Board to serve pending the election.

Recommendations by the Executive Board (Continued on Page 2)

GE is Very Happy About Carey Actions

GE now boasts to its supervisors that the Carey activities are holding back the membership in negotiations.

The September 30 issue of the "Employee Relations News Letter," the confidential bulletin from the top management to supervisors, says that both James B. Carey and Frederick M. Kelley, "are reported" to have appeared at the 301 meeting September 29, and that "both warring factions came to grips" over the Cleveland convention. The piece continues:

"So far the expected increase in militancy towards the Company has not materialized. It is assumed that the real energies of the officials are being taxed now in their fighting among themselves and that the additional attention will be shifted to us when and if the threatened raiding of the locals starts and the two factions turn their attention to making their competitive appeals to members."

Of course, the membership has never modified its bargaining program. What GE says is that it need not worry about these reasonable demands as long as the Carey forces are able to keep up their activities.

Company Will Give Answers To UE Proposals Wednesday

When UE and GE contract negotiations were resumed Wednesday in New York City the company asked for additional time to consider the union's proposals. George H. Pfeif, chief GE negotiator, said the company would be prepared the following Wednesday, Oct. 19, to present answers on every point.

\$30 More for Daring

Milton Daring, World War II veteran who won reinstatement to his job and \$2,502.72 back pay through UE grievance action and arbitration, recently received another check from GE as a result of the case. This check was for \$30 which had been deducted from his pay checks before he was discharged. The company had started to take the money from him for employee discounts on purchases of GE appliances. He was discharged for refusing to refund the discounts.

Daring was an accumulator at Campbell Avenue when the difficulty arose. Floyd Thomas, a shop steward there, advised him to take the matter to the union office. Since the union won the case, Daring has been an accumulator in the Turbine Division.

Union negotiators agreed to adjourn the negotiating session until next Wednesday. They informed the company representatives that they will study the position taken by the company next week in its answers and will report back to the GE locals of UE.

Special Membership Meeting

Leo Jandreau, a member of the UE negotiating committee, will report to a special membership meeting of 301 on the answers which GE makes. The special 301 meeting will be the week after next and because of its importance will be at the state armory, for first and third shift members, and at the union hall for second shift members. The date, which will be announced later, will depend on what night the armory is available.

At the opening of the brief meeting Wednesday in the GE office building, company spokesmen asked the union committee if the union had a new approach to the contract questions. The UE committee said of course not, since GE has never made any offer since the contract talks started in June.

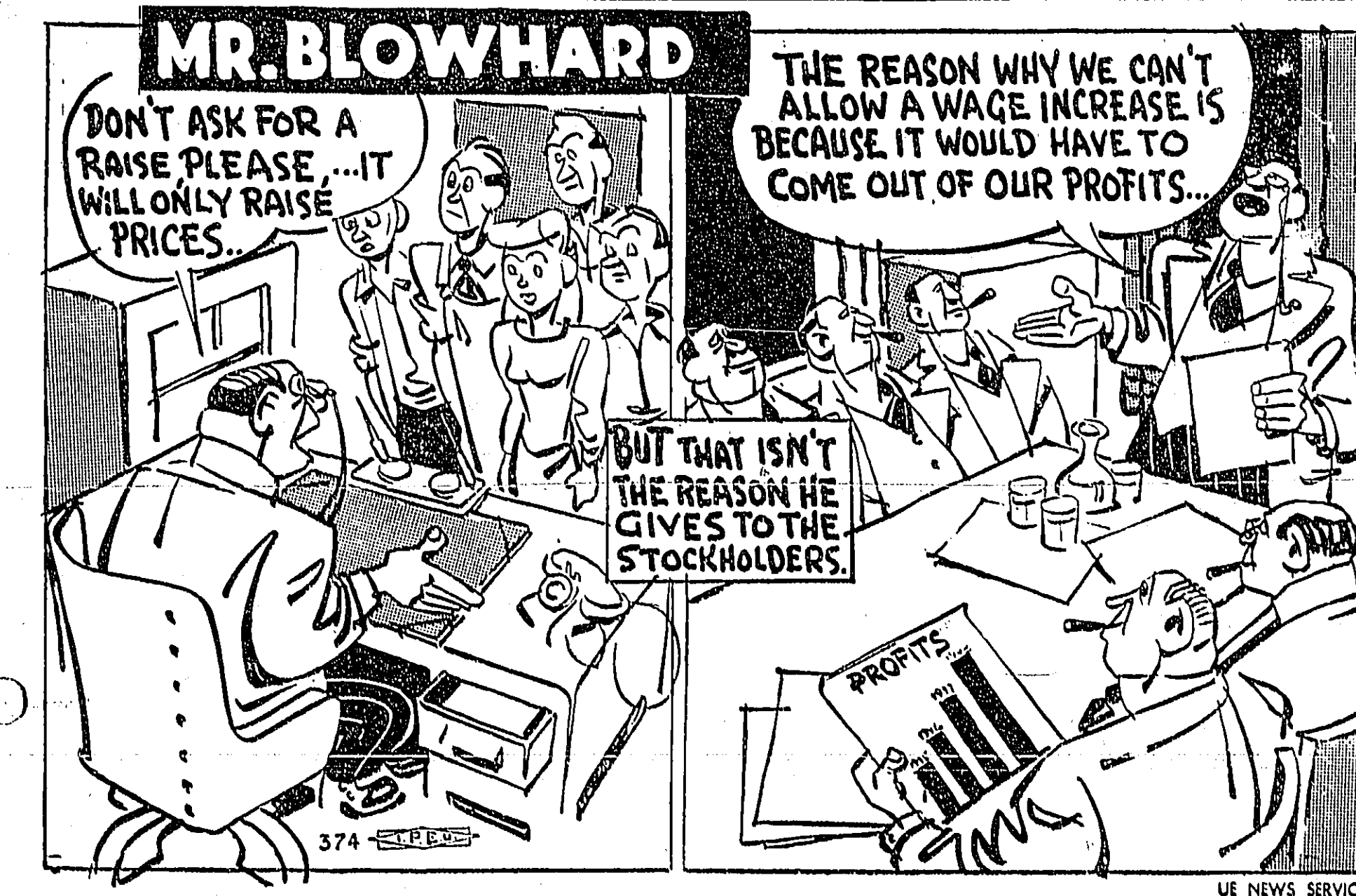
Then Pfeif declared the company is considering the union's proposals very carefully and asked for the week's recess.

Plant Gate Meetings

Thousands of 301 members walked out of the plant at 11 a.m. Wednesday for a plant gate meeting voted by the shop stewards last week. The second shift was scheduled to hold a similar meeting at 6 p.m.

The company carried on a last minute campaign of intimidation to try to keep workers from leaving their jobs.

Foremen told shop stewards Wednesday morning that the scheduled meetings were a contract violation and would jeopardize the contract negotiations in New York. They urged the stewards (Continued on Page 2)



FIGHT LAY-OFFS BY WINNING THE 35 HOUR WEEK

GE to Answer UE Next Week

(Continued from Page 1)

ards to influence their groups to stay at work.

Works Manager Lewis J. Male called the union Wednesday morning and charged that the gate meeting would violate the contract. He said similar meetings were taking place at other GE plants.

Victor Pasche, assistant to the business agent, replied that there was no contract violation. He said the gate meetings here were called by vote of the shop stewards because of the bad relations with the company in negotiations and grievances which have gone to the end of the line without settlement.

At the plant gate meetings a statement by Business Agent Leo Jandreau, who was in New York for the contract negotiating session, was read by Vice-President William Hodges. Short speeches were made by other members of the Executive Board urging unity behind the contract demands. President Frank Kriss presided.

Jandreau's statement declared that the meetings were called not only in protest against the company's attitude in negotiations, but in protest against the speed-up drive at the very time workers are being laid off, and against the company's refusal to settle such grievances as the tinsmiths' case, the electricians' case and the difficulties in Turbine.

Workers had a big demonstration Monday at the GE plant at Erie, Pa. There was an enthusiastic meeting at the GE receiver works at Syracuse Tuesday in support of the contract demands and there was a plant-gate demonstration Tuesday at the GE plant at Holyoke, Mass.

Meeting with Male

A committee of 25 Turbine Division shop stewards was to meet yesterday with Works Manager Lewis J. Male on a number of grievances which have developed in the new Turbine building.

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

Published by Editorial Committee
Mary McCarlin, Chairman
Arthur R. Bartini, Secretary
William Christman, Frank D'Amico
Adam Kolostenaki, Victor Pasche
Troy Sulpes

Editorial Office
ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS
301 Liberty St., Schenectady, N. Y.
Telephone 3-1395



"You weren't in such a hurry during that last filibuster!"

Membership Meeting

(Continued from Page 1)

Board and the shop stewards.

The Executive Board voted unanimously Monday night to recommend rules to avoid the repetition of recent difficulties in the conduct of membership meetings and to protect the rights of second shift members. These proposed rules, printed in full on page 4, will be presented to next week's meeting for action.

For identification purposes every member attending the membership meeting next week must bring his 301 membership card for the last quarter of 1949 and his GE badge.

Kriss Speaks for Chest

Frank Kriss, Local 301 president, addressed the GE employee Community Chest solicitors Sept. 29 at a meeting at the plant. He said the quota can be met easily "if each one carries some part of the load." The payroll deduction plan brings the greatest contributions, he stated.

Strike Victory

A contract with wage increases from 7½ to 20 cents an hour was won recently at the August Thomson Company, New York City, by UE Local 475 after a 29-day strike.

Exposing Some More Boulware Propaganda

L. R. Boulware's page in the Works News continues on and on, grinding out GE propaganda for speed-up (under the name of increased productivity) and against wage raises. As always, the propaganda depends on twisting the facts.

The recent piece entitled "High wages — Low prices?" declared that "we can have low prices with high wages" provided we "get more done during our day's work."

The fact is that the productivity of workers has been going up steadily year after year, but where are GE's "low prices with high wages?" GE has turned the higher productivity into higher profits.

Remember 1929

From 1923 to 1929 productivity per worker went up 33 per cent, wages went up 4 per cent, and profits went up 60 per cent. Result — the crash. Now the big employers are trying to repeat this. Because the increased productivity has been grabbed up for profits, compensation of employees dropped from 65.9 per cent of the national income in 1929 to 61.5 per cent in 1948. This is the big danger signal.

In another Works News Boulware said conditions are "soundly on the mend," and will continue if we reject "ill-advised cost increases", meaning, of course, if we drop shorter hours and higher wages.

Sure Way to Depression

Now, everybody hopes that things are getting better. But there is a lot of evidence to show that the talk of the recession being over is largely wishful thinking. And regardless of what is happening right now, the fact is that with the people's purchasing power lagging far behind their production, they simply cannot buy what is produced, and a depression is bound to come. Shorter hours and higher pay can slow the depression down.

Singer Strike Benefit

Today is the deadline for shop stewards to hand in at the union office the ticket stubs and the money for the sale of donation tickets for the benefit of the Singer Sewing Machine strikers at Elizabeth, N. J. The chief prize is an automobile.

Remember To Register

The last days of registration for the November elections are today, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., and tomorrow, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

15 Cent Bus Fare Opposed by Union

Local 301 protested Tuesday at a State Public Service Commission hearing at the county courthouse against the request of the Schenectady Railway Company for permission to raise bus fares to 15 cents.

The union was represented by the transportation committee: Joseph Mangino, chairman; Virginia Murphy, Fred Paelli, Frank Kriss and Willard Kuschel.

Mangino read a statement urging that the Commission deny a fare increase and order a return to "the 3 for 25 cents bus fare."

"At the same time we request that the City Council immediately take all necessary and proper steps on a country-wide basis to obtain another bus company to operate the line within the city and revoke the franchise granted the Schenectady Railway Company," the statement declared.

In view of the Schenectady Railway Company's past history, Mangino pointed out, "it is our firm conviction that the company and its management are totally incapable of rendering the necessary service demanded in this important industrial city . . ."

Mangino declared that whatever arrangement is made for bringing another company to the city "it should be understood that full rights of the union (Transport Workers), and through it the employees of the company, are protected."

Kriss reminded the Commission that when Local 301 protested last spring against allowing the bus fare to be raised to 12 cents, the union predicted the number of passengers would drop noticeably if the increase went through. The prediction came true, he pointed out.

Firemen's Fund

A donation of \$30 to the widows' and orphans' fund of the Schenectady Permanent Firemen's Association was voted Monday by the 301 Executive Board.

UE Presents
Arthur Gaeth
10 p.m. Monday
WXXW



Unemployed Members

If you are laid off for lack of work, protect your unemployment insurance rights and your job rights at GE by coming to the Local 301 office, corner of Liberty St. and Erie Blvd., immediately.

Be sure to apply for unemployment insurance the day after you leave work.

Keep your union membership by paying 10 cents a month dues.

If your unemployment insurance checks are delayed,

If you have any grievance regarding your unemployment insurance,

If you have any relief or eviction problem,

Or if you have any problem due to being laid off,

Come to the union hall. The union will do its best to help you.

New Stewards

Shop stewards chosen since Sept. 8 are as follows:

Building 16, George C. Sengenberger.

Bldg. 17, Adam Glover.

Bldg. 50, Richard Bennette.

Bldg. 52, Jesse J. Graham.

Bldg. 81, John Poltrack and Louis Roscioli.

Bldg. 273, R. Rudolph Rissland and Frank Baumgartner.

CAP, Albert F. Wells.

301 Awaits Reply From Supervisors

The Schenectady County Board of Supervisors last spring refused to take a stand on Taft-Hartley repeal on the grounds that national affairs were not within the board's jurisdiction.

But the supervisors on Sept. 13, by unanimous vote, urged the federal government to support the international program known as World Federation.

The 301 Executive Board last week sent a letter to the Board of Supervisors and to each individual supervisor, renewing the union's request that the Board now go on record against Taft-Hartley and for restoration of the Wagner Act.

The letter pointed out that World Federation "is a national matter, taking in the whole world, and about which there is a wide difference of opinion within virtually all groups, including the Federal Government."

"Without taking a stand either way on the subject of World Federation," the union letter said, "our Executive Board is glad that the County Board of Supervisors now recognizes it has a responsibility to take a stand on national matters, even remote ones.

"Inasmuch as the Taft-Hartley law is a national matter having a direct effect on the great majority

More GE Propaganda

The cartoon signed by L. R. Boulware in last week's Works News was a good example of propaganda based on a thorough distortion of facts, in line with all the propaganda that GE has been issuing in the negotiations.

The cartoon tried to show the worker as having interests separate and apart from his union representatives. It tried to show the consumer and the worker as two different people, and Uncle Sam still another.

The truth is, of course, that the union negotiators simply present the wishes of the workers. The workers and their families are the vast majority of consumers. They are also the vast majority of the American people who are "Uncle Sam."

Boulware tries to involve a "Big Four" which he says are "waiting anxiously outside" the bargaining room. Actually the bargaining involves just two sides, the workers who are the vast majority of people, and the company which is controlled by a handful.

of Schenectady citizens whose income derives from factory work, we trust the Board of Supervisors will now reconsider their stand and get actively behind the demand for repeal of Taft-Hartley and restoration of the Wagner Act."