

Stewards to Hear Report Tuesday On UE-GE Contract Negotiations

Reports will be made on the GE contract negotiations at the meeting of shop stewards of all three shifts at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the union hall. In view of the deadlock between GE and UE on all major proposals of the union, the Executive Board has stressed the importance of full attendance.

Local 301 delegates to the GE Conference Board of UE will report on the meeting of the Conference Board scheduled for Monday in New York City. The Conference Board will hear full reports on the contract sessions, will have a thorough discussion and make recommendations. The 301 representatives are Leo Jandreau, also on the negotiating committee; Andrew Peterson and Marshall White.

Julius Emspak, general secretary-treasurer of UE and a charter member of 301, will speak at the stewards' meeting.

Secession Moves Defeated by UE

Efforts of Carey-Block followers to split off two Orange, N. J. shops from UE have been defeated. UE has signed an agreement with Thomas A. Edison Industries, Inc. covering these shops with the improved UE contract already negotiated for five other Edison shops.

James Conroy, former member of UE Local 1237 in New York City and a leader of the so-called "Democratic Action" group, organized the raid on the two UE shops. Conroy called for an election under the Taft-Hartley Board, but the workers at one plant voted against him 102 to 58 and at the other plant, 441 to 310. UE was not on the ballot, as it will not use the Taft-Hartley board. Immediately after elections, the company signed the UE contract.

UE recently won an improved contract at the Schrader Valve Co., Brooklyn, in spite of efforts of the United Automobile Workers, CIO, to start a secession movement.

UE has obtained an injunction at Hartford, Conn., to keep former officers of a UE Local at Niles-Bemond-Pond Co. from turning the local's funds and properties over to UAW. A meeting of the local had voted to affiliate with UAW. Many rank-and-file protests have been received at the UE office about the way the vote was railroaded.

UE is expected to apply for an injunction against former officers of the local at the Royal Typewriter Co., Hartford, which switched to UAW. The Carey-Block group led both the Hartford secession moves.

The 301 Executive Board this week protested to CIO President

Union Fights Attack On Rights of Guards

UE is fighting an order by the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission removing guards on the GE atomic energy project from the protection of the union.

The company notified Local 301 Monday that because of this order it was obliged to take 14 guards, now at the Peek Street plant, off the check-off. The commission's order said it was based on an interpretation of a section of the Taft-Hartley law providing that the Taft-Hartley Labor Board cannot certify a unit which includes guards as well as production workers.

The law does not say guards cannot belong to the same union as production workers. It refers only to a labor board procedure. The company has not challenged the guards' right to be in the union. The company spokesman said he agreed with the union that the guards had the right to remain in 301, but that the company was obliged to carry out the orders of the government agency.

Union attorneys are convinced that the Atomic Energy Commission ruling has no basis in law, and is merely another attack on organized labor by the government.

Local 301 is filing a grievance under the contract, as the start of procedure to reverse the ruling.

2 More Chances to Buy Food at Local 301 Hall

Stock left over from the 301 Food Center will be on sale at reduced prices for union members and their families from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. today (Friday) at the union hall. The food and kitchen supplies also be on sale at the hall Tuesday, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., before the shop stewards' meeting, and later in the evening after the meeting.

The 301 Food Committee is still hunting for new quarters where the Food Center can be reopened.

Joos at New York Meeting with GE

Fred Joos, 71, represented the UE-301 Pension Organization at the UE contract negotiating session with GE in New York City Tuesday. Before he was retired in August, 1946, after 26 years service with GE, he was a maintenance and repair man in Bldg. 53.

He could speak from first hand experience about the need of the minimum \$120 a month pension which UE and the Pension Organization are demanding. He has been trying to support his wife and himself on \$36 a month from GE, plus \$36 a month Social Security.



Fred Joos

Two months ago he had to sell his two-family house "in order to keep alive."

Joos handed GE representatives the following resolution which the UE-301 Pension Organization adopted at a special meeting Mar. 27.

"Whereas, thousands of GE pensioners, forced to retire after many years of faithful service, are receiving such meager pensions that they exist on the borderline of starvation, or are forced to depend on charity, and

"Whereas, the condition of these pensioners has been made much worse by the climb in the cost of living, and

"Whereas, GE pensioners in Schenectady organized the UE-301 Pension Organization to back the UE's fight for a decent minimum pension for us,

"Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the UE-301 Pension Organization declare that the recent change made by the company in favor of men and women already out on pension is pitifully low and a mere gesture, and that we insist that the UE's demand for a minimum monthly pension of \$120 is reasonable and should be granted."

\$50 for Printers' Strike

A donation of \$50 for the International Typographical Union strike in Chicago was voted by the 301 Executive Board Monday night.

Pensioners' Meeting

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

301 Will Organize Soft Ball Leagues

Plans for forming both a women's and a men's softball league were approved by the Executive Board Monday night. It is expected that each league will have eight to 12 teams. Arrangements have been made for ball diamonds and for purchase of softball equipment.

The Activities Committee has called a meeting of all members of the union interested in the softball plans for 7 p.m. Tuesday at 301 Hall. Anyone interested but unable to be present is asked to contact the union office.

Social Security Advice To Workers Nearing 65

Stanley R. Putnam, manager of the Social Security office in Schenectady, has asked the EU News to print a reminder for people approaching 65, the age at which they are eligible for old age benefits.

It is important for those who have been working in employment covered by the Social Security Act to write to or call at the nearest Social Security office upon reaching the age of 65. In the event of the death of anyone eligible for Social Security payments, the nearest surviving relative should contact the office promptly.

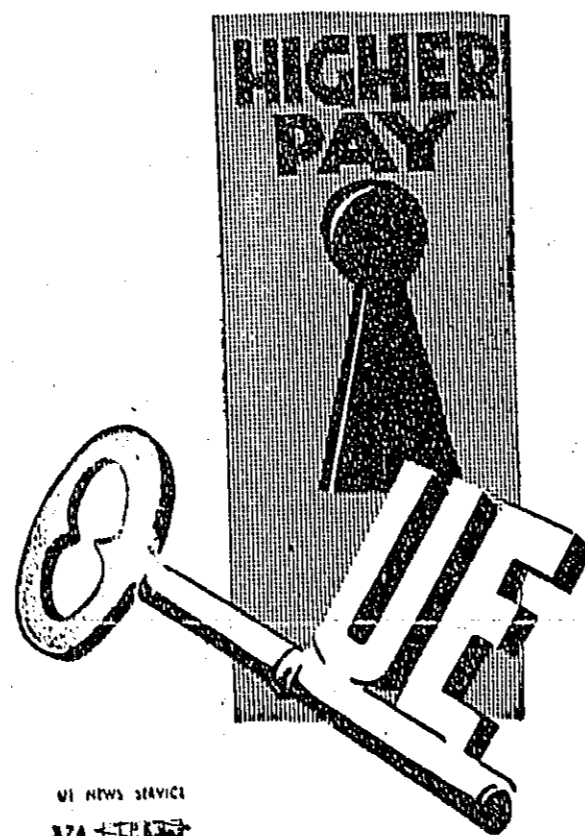
The area Schenectady office at 133 Wall St. covers residents of Schenectady, Montgomery and Saratoga counties.

Putnam reported that the loss of benefits due to delayed filing of claims has considerably decreased during the past year.

Local Adds 750 Members

The 301 drive for new members passed the 750 mark this week. That means an increase of approximately 5 per cent in membership since the campaign started in February. Until May 1 workers may join the union without paying the initiation fee.

Philip Murray against the UAW raiding of UE locals. Copies of the letter were sent to the Capital District CIO Council and the UAW locals in this district.



ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

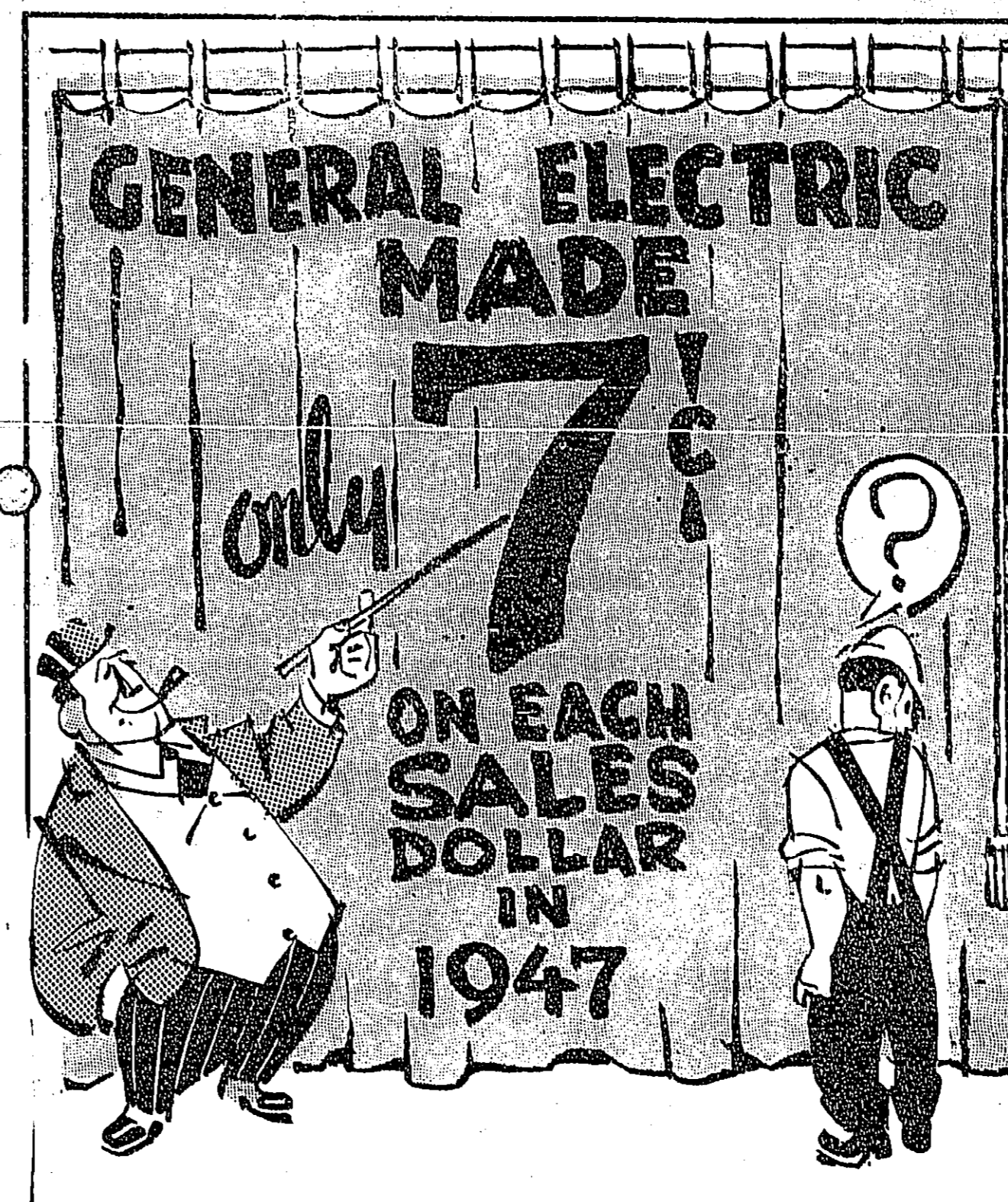
Vol. 6 - No. 15

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

April 9, 1948

GE Still Refuses to Budge on Wage Issue

GE Propaganda



GE Defies Order Of Arbitrator

The General Electric Company has refused to reinstate three girls at its East Boston lamp plant, as ordered by an arbitrator's decision. Instead it has started court proceedings to try to have such firings declared outside the scope of arbitration.

GE's action is a violation of the contract with UE, the national UE charged in a letter last week to J. W. Burnison at the national GE office. The contract states that an arbitration decision "shall be final and binding on both parties."

In trying to excuse the GE's failure to reinstate the girls immediately with full back pay, Burnison told the union that the company's refusal "cannot work to the detriment of the three employ-

(Continued on Page 2)

GE Confirms Giving Foremen Pay Increases

Confirmation of the union report that widespread raises had been granted to foremen was given by a statement to the Schenectady Gazette Monday night. The statement denied there had been a "flat pay increase," but this denial merely confirmed what the union had learned.

The Gazette quoted a "company spokesman" as saying that "many persons" had attained positions of greater responsibility, and that the raises were merit increases under a review plan.

UE negotiators had stated that raises for foremen were so widespread as to be nearly general. The union said it favors raises for foremen, but asked what became of the company's repeated defense that a raise for the workers would be "inflationary."

Jandreau Tells 301 Stewards Of Deadlock On Many Points

Failure to make progress on wages and other principal issues in four weeks of negotiations means that steps to obtain concessions from the General Electric Company are now up to the membership in the locals, Leo Jandreau, Local 301 business agent and president of District 3, told the 301 shop stewards Tuesday night.

The stewards, at their biggest meeting in two years, decided to meet with their respective groups to inform them of the deadlock and consider further activities.

Jandreau said the GE Conference Board of local UE delegates Monday picked a committee of 26 delegates to go and tell the company committee how the workers felt, but the company was not moved. The Conference Board put the question of local activities up to the locals.

Wage Issue GE Smoke Screen

Jandreau said that the company's inflation argument against wage increases was nothing but a smoke screen, and that the com-

pany's real aim was to break the union so the company could do as it pleased with wages and conditions.

"The members won't let GE get away with it," Jandreau said.

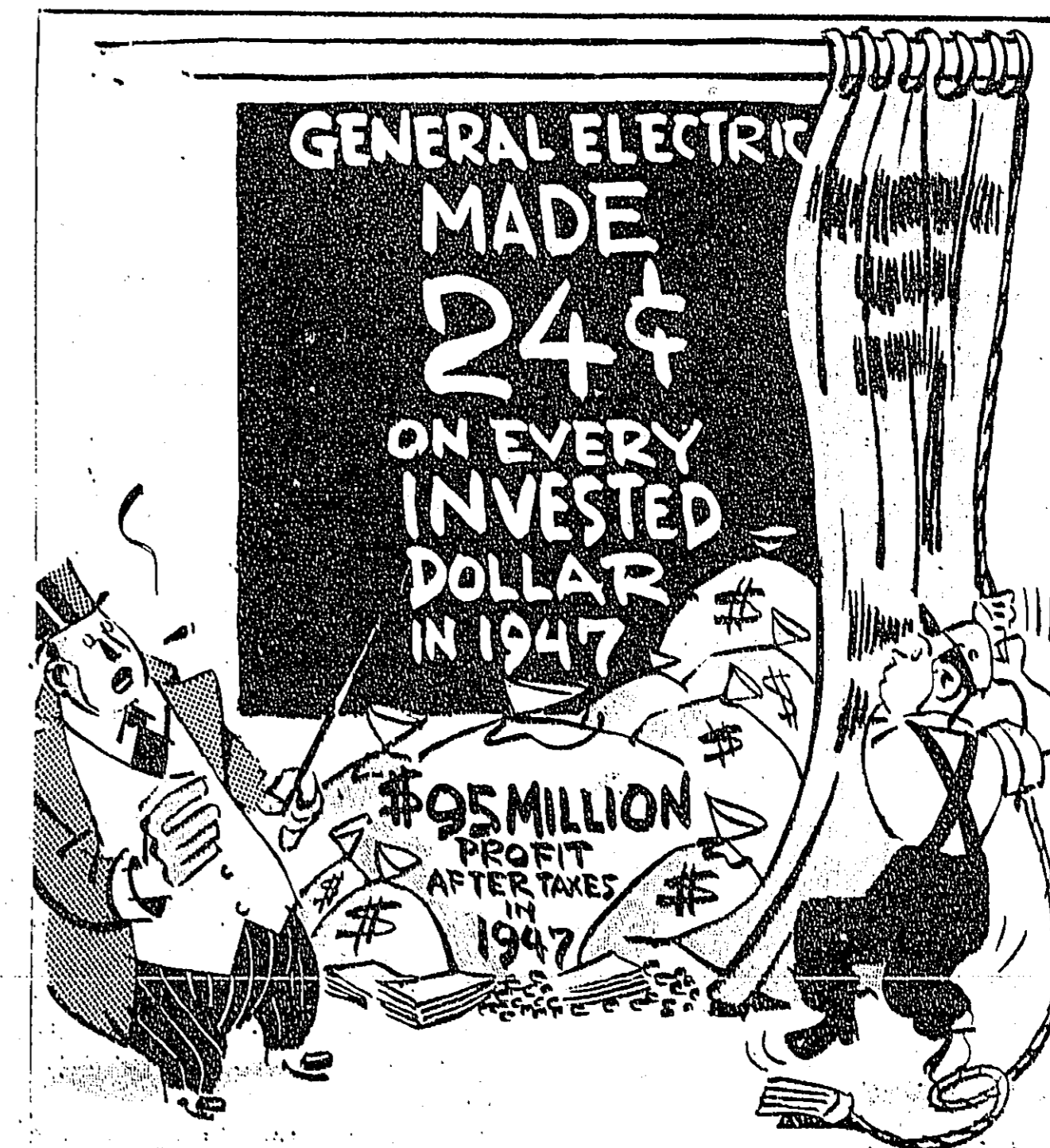
In the past week there has been a flock of rumors, all supposed to come from top management offices, to the effect that the company was about to offer a 7-cent raise, or 10 cents, 12 1/2 cents, or 15 cents. Obviously the rumors are false, and are intended to lull the workers to sleep.

Can Easily Pay Raises

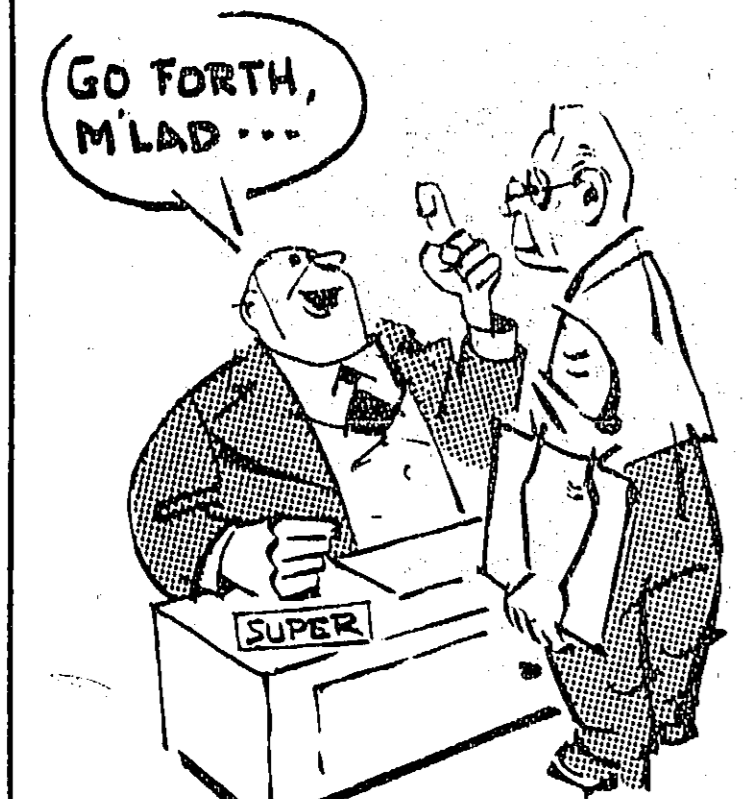
Jandreau pointed out that the company was making such huge

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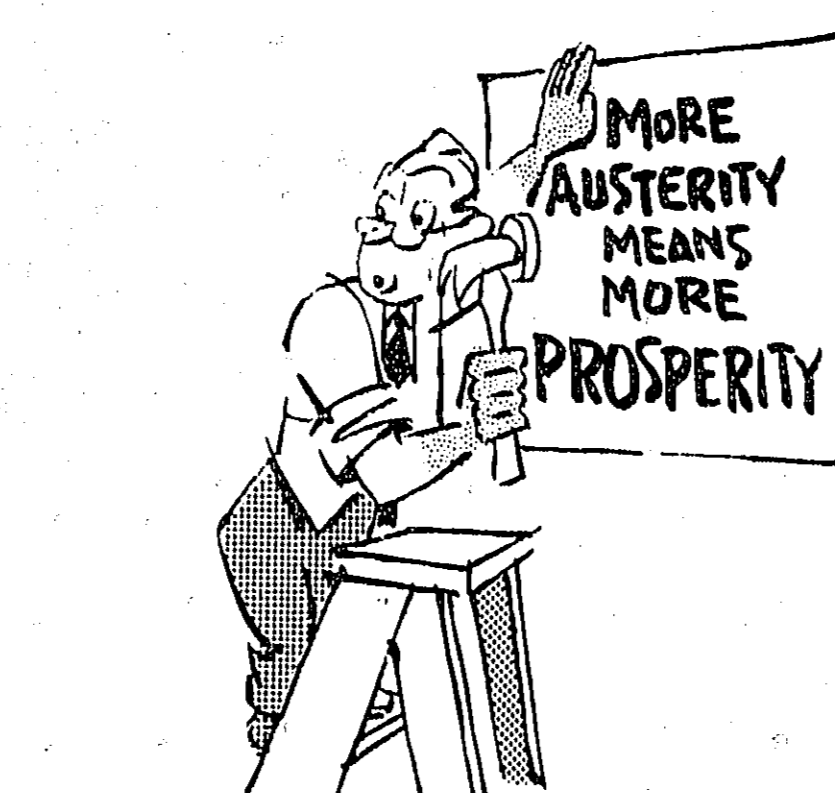
. . . . And the Truth



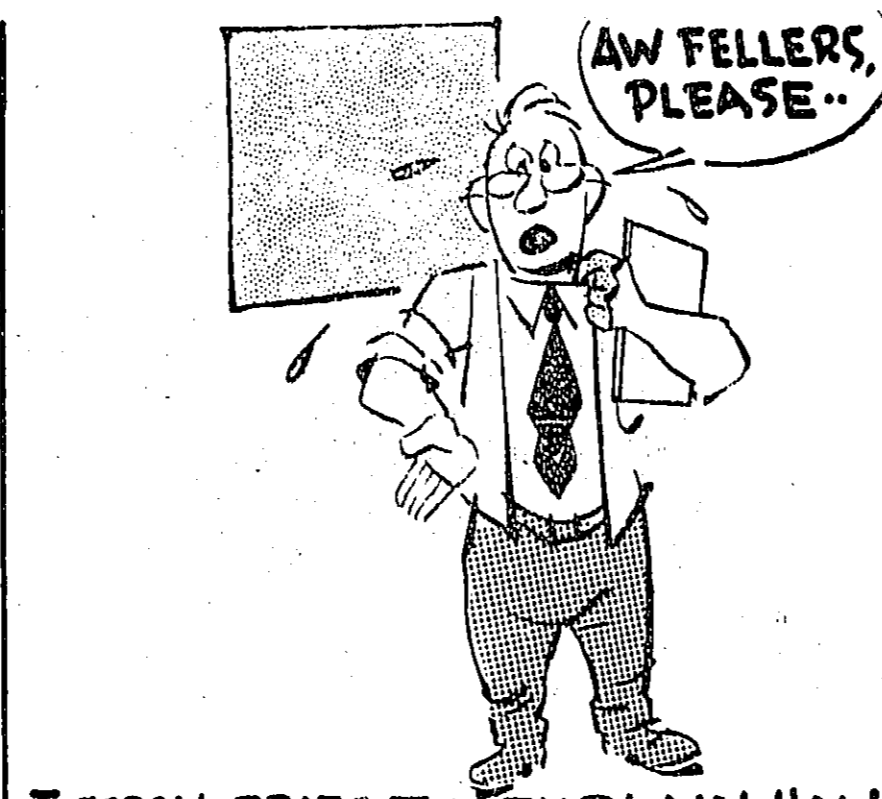
Life of a GE Foreman



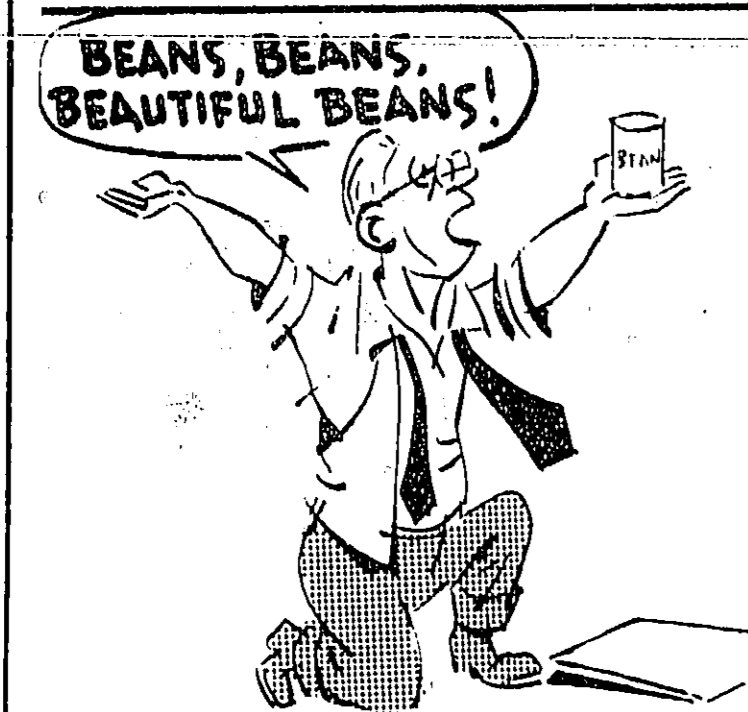
MONDAY MORNING: FOREMAN GETS PEP TALK FROM PLANT SUPER--



MONDAY AFTERNOON: TACKS UP ANTI-INFLATION (NO WAGE BOOST) POSTER



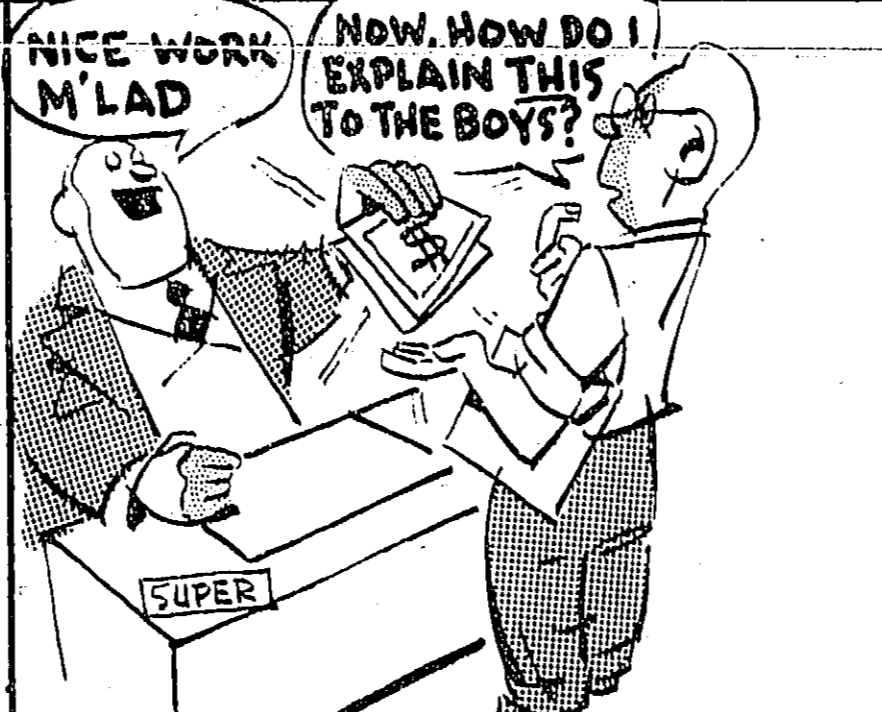
TUESDAY: TRIES TO EXPLAIN HOW ANOTHER WAGE INCREASE WOULD ONLY MAKE WORKERS POORER.



WEDNESDAY: EXPOUNDS THE SUPERIORITY OF BEANS OVER BEEFSTEAK



THURSDAY: STATES THE MORAL REASONS WHY WORKERS SHOULD MILITANTLY REFUSE A RAISE



FRIDAY: COMPANY REALIZES THE VALUE OF FOREMEN AND GRANTS THEM A RAISE...

Longer Vacations

Western Electric Company, with over 50,000 workers, gives three weeks' vacation after 15 years' service. That's what UE is asking from GE, instead of the present three weeks after 20 years. UE is also asking GE for four weeks' vacation after 25 years. Long service employees in the federal government get a month.

BUILD THE UNION

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GE Defies Order Of Arbitrator

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ees involved if the union is ultimately successful." The girls were fired last August. Apparently GE thinks it won't be a "detriment" to go without wages indefinitely — till a final court decision is handed down.

In a letter to GE locals of UE, Joseph Turkowski, UE international representative, pointed out that the company's stand in the East Boston case reflects its whole attitude toward arbitration.

"They consistently refuse to arbitrate matters covered by the contract because they do not want their judgment subject to review by a third party. Since the passage of the Taft-Hartley law, the company has fought hard against any challenge of their right to discharge at will, except for union activity."

Turkowski said that in its 1948

UE-GE Contract Still in Effect

Because of the deadlock in negotiations, many members have asked whether or not UE now has a contract with the company. The answer is "Yes." The contract has an annual April 1 termination date, but since neither the GE nor the UE served notice of termination, the contract continues at least to April 1, 1949.

The present bargaining is under another contract clause, providing for negotiating contract changes annually.

contract proposals, GE seeks the right to dismiss people under five years' service without regard to seniority. Those with over five years service could be discharged without recourse to the arbitration machinery, if the company's proposals about arbitration became effective, he warned.

GE Still Refuses Increase in Pay

(Continued from Page 1)

profits that it could easily pay a substantial raise without raising prices. He said that while GE talked about "inflation," it refused to make concessions on points that have nothing to do with the company's own inflation theories, including holidays, seniority, grievance procedure, compulsory arbitration of grievances, and check-off. He said the company wants to weaken seniority and the piece work earnings protection, and was moving parts of old plants to new locations with lower wage rates, and refusing to negotiate for these new plants when the workers there organized.

There was some progress on lesser issues, Jandreau reported, but on the main issues the company is sitting back because it has not felt pressure from the shops.

Stewards Approve Vote Against Brophy Order

The shop stewards' meeting Tuesday night approved the action of Local 301 delegates to the Capital District CIO Council in voting Mar. 24 against the Council's complying with orders in a letter from John Brophy, national CIO director of industrial union councils.

Brophy ordered all councils to take positive action in opposition to a third party and in support of the Marshall plan and forbade persons favoring a third party or opposing the Marshall plan from serving as a Council officer, board member or committee member.

A written report from the delegates who cast 301's vote, Gordon Belgrave, John P. Brauneisen, Sidney Friendlander, Frank C. Kriss, William Mastriani, Allen E. Townsend, George Walker and Joseph Whitbeck, was submitted to the stewards. It said in part:

Council Unity Involved

"The Capital District Council has remained united around issues on which the various locals were in agreement. Previous to the Brophy letter, the council had voted unanimously to leave any position on the third party to the member locals. This was agreed to by delegates who strongly favored the Wallace movement, as well as by supporters of the Murray-Brophy-Hollander position of backing the Democratic Party, because the delegates wanted to continue the useful work of the council on wages, hours, and other community issues.

"The Brophy letter attempts to dictate how local delegates shall cast their votes—thereby invading the freedom of the local union members. It goes beyond that and would dictate how individual members shall act, even as individuals. "The Brophy letter is aimed to destroy both the unity of the local council and elementary trade union democracy. That issue is clear, regardless of how members may feel on the Wallace candidacy or the Marshall plan.

Delegates Follow Instructions
"A motion to approve the letter, oppose the third party and support the Marshall plan, was defeated on a roll call vote of the locals present. In accordance with the specific instructions of our last membership meeting, the 301 delegates voted against the motion. The result of course is to leave the Council uncommitted on the presidential campaign, but committed to maintaining democracy in the CIO and to an effort to maintain the CIO Council as a united body, serv-

Pensioners Are Guests of 301 at Party



Retired GE workers took time off from their financial worries to enjoy the UE-301 Pension Organization's party Mar. 27 at the union hall. The 301 Activities Committee provided refreshments and entertainment.

Last Chance Today At Food Bargains

Members of Local 301 will have their last chance to buy stock left over from the union's Food Center from noon until 9 p.m. today (Friday) at 301 hall. All prices have been reduced.

Here are some of the bargains:
Grated tuna.....30 cents a can
Cleaning tissues.....2 boxes, 21c
Pels Naptha soap.....2 bars, 15c
Swerl20c a package
Chase and Sanborn
Coffee47c a pound
Raisins.....10c a box
Pie crust mix.....10c a box
Figs (imported).....30c a pound
Dates.....15c a box
Pink salmon35c a can
Madonna peaches.....2 cans, 25c
Beets.....2 jars, 19c
Toilet tissue.....2 rolls, 15c
The Food Center will be reopened when a new location can be found.

ing the interests of the CIO members in the Capital District."

The report also stated that a 301 delegate, Joseph Krone, announced at the Council meeting that he would not cast his vote, despite the instructions of the membership. Krone left the Council meeting before the voting. Later the Schenectady Union-Star published a letter from him attacking the 301 delegates for their vote. The delegates' report pointed out there were misstatements of fact in the Krone letter. The Executive Board has notified Krone by letter that he should follow instructions of the membership in voting, or resign as delegate.

Membership Drive Beats '47 Figures

The Local 301 organizing drive this year has brought in 856 new union members so far, compared with only 353 at this time in last year's drive.

During the 10 day withdrawal period in late March the union received 84 resignations. Deducting these 84 from the total membership figures, there's a net gain of 772 for the campaign period so far.

In the withdrawal period in March, 1947, there were 126 resignations.

Union Softball Teams Now Being Organized

Four softball teams are now being organized for a 301 men's league and Helen Quirini has started organizing a girls' team. The men organizing teams to date are Edward J. La Bombard, Jr., Bldg. 97; George Judway, Bldg. 18; Stanley Bishop, Bldg. 69, and Manuel Fernandez, Bldg. 269.

Plans for the softball leagues were outlined at a meeting called by the Activities Committee Tuesday night. Michael De Celli of Bldg. 60, well known in Schenectady athletic circles, volunteered to help form the teams.

Equipment is available at the union headquarters for union members who want to start in practicing now. If there's no team being organized in a building where a member is interested in the sport, the member should contact union headquarters.

Stewards Support Fight of Miners

A resolution supporting the members of the United Mine Workers in their fight for a pension plan was unanimously passed by the Local 301 shop stewards' meeting Tuesday night. Miners have voluntarily stopped working in protest against their owners' refusal to negotiate a pension plan as called for by their contract.

"President Truman has entered the fight on the side of the mine-owners against the miners," the 301 resolution declared, "by seeking an injunction against the miners under the notorious Taft-Hartley Law."

The resolution condemned "President Truman's repeated strike-breaking activities" and demanded that the injunction be dropped. The Capital District CIO Council and the national CIO are to be asked to take similar action.

"The miners' fight for a pension plan is the same as our own demand for adequate GE pensions," the stewards stated.

Boulevard Advice Bounces Back at GE Foremen

Foremen in Bldg. 69 recently solicited the workers there to buy tickets at \$2.50 each for a dinner in honor of George Gerding, assistant foreman transferred to Bldg. 285.

They were greeted with lots of cracks like this: "How can we save our money the way Boulevard tells us to if we spend \$2.50 for a dinner ticket?"