

Committeemen Tackle Price and Wage Problems



301 Groups Discuss Issues Labor Faces

Grievances and other problems facing the plant membership were explored in meetings of the 301 committeemen, held in eight groups last week.

While most of the time was taken up in discussion of grievances, there also was considerable exchange of views between the officers and committeemen on the current problems of wages and rising prices, and political action.

Reports from most of the committeemen revealed a picture of the company actively fighting the union in the shop, and seeking to chisel on piece prices and working conditions generally. The company campaign, it was brought out in the discussion, is backed up by a newspaper campaign to throw discredit upon the union, and to mislead the workers and the rest of the public on the vital issue of wages and prices.

As a result of the discussion, a number of practical detailed steps are being taken by the local to strengthen the handling of grievances in the shop.

The Wage-Price Question

Liveliest discussion centered around the question of wages and prices. Committeemen reported many members had fallen for the phony story, so carefully built by the Manufacturers' Association and the daily newspapers, that the wage increases won by the CIO were responsible for the current price increases.

President Andrew Peterson and Business Agent Leo Jandreau pointed to the experience of World War I to show the

This picture of committeemen shows part of the group from Bldgs. 42, 46, 48, 50, 52, 64 and 66 at one of the series of meetings called at 301 Hall for discussion of grievances, wages, price control and other problems. At right, left to right, are Ray Flanigan, assistant to the business agent, with his back to camera; Leo Jandreau, business agent; George Farrell, recording secretary, and Victor Pasche, assistant to the business agent.

nonsense in that line of reasoning. After World War I the leaders of the American Federation of Labor adopted a policy of not fighting for wage raises, but prices rose 125 percent above the pre-war level, far higher than at present.

The 301 officers pointed out that wage increases had nothing to do with price increases, that in fact Big Business always set out to get the highest prices and profits it could, and that the causes of today's price rises were simply the shortage of goods, monopoly control of most production, and Big Business control of Congress which made it possible virtually to destroy price control.

The 18½-cent wage raise was intended to make wages catch up partly with the price increases which occurred before January 1946, the union leaders declared. If this raise had not been obtained, Big Business would have pushed prices up just the same, and the workers would have been that much

worse off. The need is for price control that will keep prices frozen, and then to push wages somewhere near the price level.

Political Action the Answer

The great desire for lower prices brought out the need for labor political action. There was general agreement that the Congressmen who sabotaged price control must be defeated, and a Congress must be elected which will hold down prices and stop the mad race of Big Business for inflationary super-profits which threaten this country with another big depression.

The meetings will be followed by department meetings of the whole membership, and further group meetings of committeemen.

Don't Forget

Local 301 goes on the air every Monday at 7:15 p.m. over Station WSNY.

REGISTER! REGISTER!

Electrical Union News

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

Vol. III—No. 38

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

October 10, 1946

'Remember, Only Two More Days to Register'

Union Endorses All Candidates On PAC Slate

The full slate of candidates recommended by the PAC Advisory Committee won overwhelming endorsement at a joint membership and committeemen's meeting of Local 301 Oct. 1 in the union hall. The candidates were approved earlier by the 301 Executive Board.

Volunteers stepped forward at the end of the meeting to sign up for doorbell ringing and other hard, plugging work necessary to get out a big registration of voters from union families.

Local 301 backed its "get-out-the-vote" campaign with cash, by authorizing the Executive Board to spend the necessary funds on registration activities from money ear-marked for PAC work when the increase in dues was voted last summer.

Candidates Endorsed

The list of PAC candidates, endorsed by Steel and Transport unions of Schenectady as well as by 301, is as follows:

For governor, Senator James M. Mead; for U. S. senator, former Governor Herbert H. Lehman; for representative in Congress, Carroll E. (Pink)

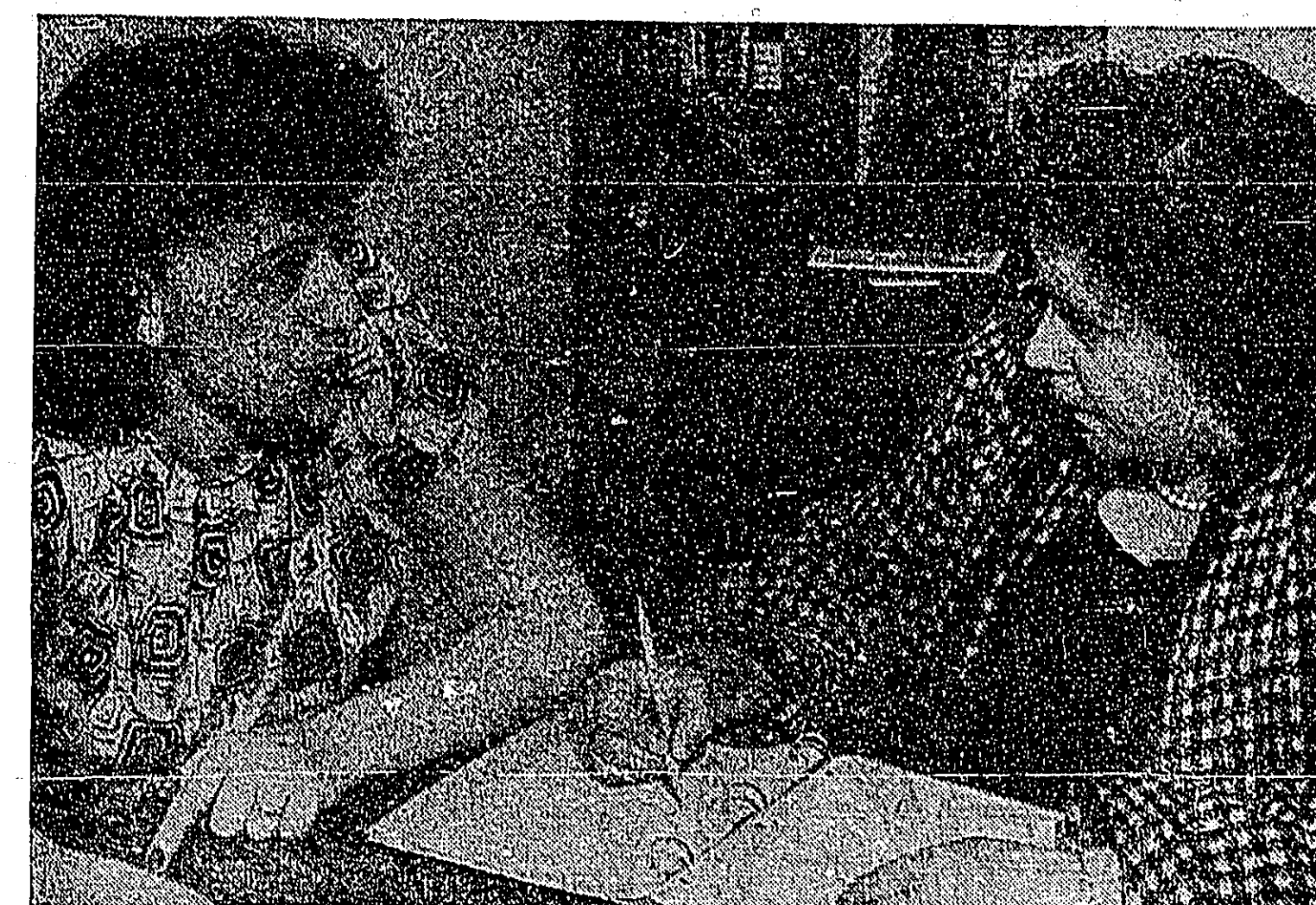
(Continued on Page 2)

Pension Figures Expected From GE Early Next Year

Statements to all workers on the Additional Pension Plan, showing the amount held for them in the plan, will be issued to them by the company early in 1947, the management advised Vice-president William Kelly of Local 301 recently.

Any worker wanting the information before that time may obtain it by going to Bldg. 41.

Brother Kelly took up the question because of inquiries by a number of members.



Mrs. Antoinette Daley, right, Bldg. 69 committeewoman and secretary of the 13th Ward PAC Club, makes a "get-out-the-vote" call on Mrs. Anne De Celli, left, 793 Albany St. She reminds her that it's necessary to register tomorrow or Saturday to vote in the November elections.

Quill to Speak To CIO Unions

All members of Local 301 and of other CIO unions in this section are invited to hear Michael J. Quill, international president of the Transport Workers Union, CIO, speak at the meeting of the Capital District Industrial Union Council at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 16, at 301 Hall. He will talk on wages, prices and political action.

William Mastriani, 301, Council president, has urged officers, board members and committeemen of all unions to make a special effort to attend.

Brother Quill is a City Councilman in New York.

IF YOU DON'T REGISTER THIS WEEK YOU LOSE YOUR VOTE

Albany Vote Won by UE

UE won its first election in Albany Tuesday when nine out of 14 service employes of the Underwood Corp. voted for the union in a National Labor Relations Board Election. The other five voted "no union."

The company services the Albany and Schenectady area. Fay Marvin handled the organizing campaign for UE District 3.

Tune In

Don't miss the Local 301 broadcast at 7:15 p.m. every Monday over Station WSNY.

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Union Endorses All PAC Slate

(Continued from Page 1)

Gardner; sheriff, William Sherry; City Council, Lewis Benedict, president of Local 159, Transport Workers Union; district attorney, Ernest Buhrmaster; assemblyman, Owen Begley; state senator, Thomas Fyvie, secretary-treasurer of Local 2054, United Steelworkers of America; county treasurer, Eva Green, and coroner, Morris Reid, Local 301.

Opposing the PAC report, John Saccocio read a statement which he said represented the feelings of Board Member John Boyle as well as himself. This statement charged that the PAC is "Communist controlled."

The only other person who spoke against the PAC report was Joseph Saccocio.

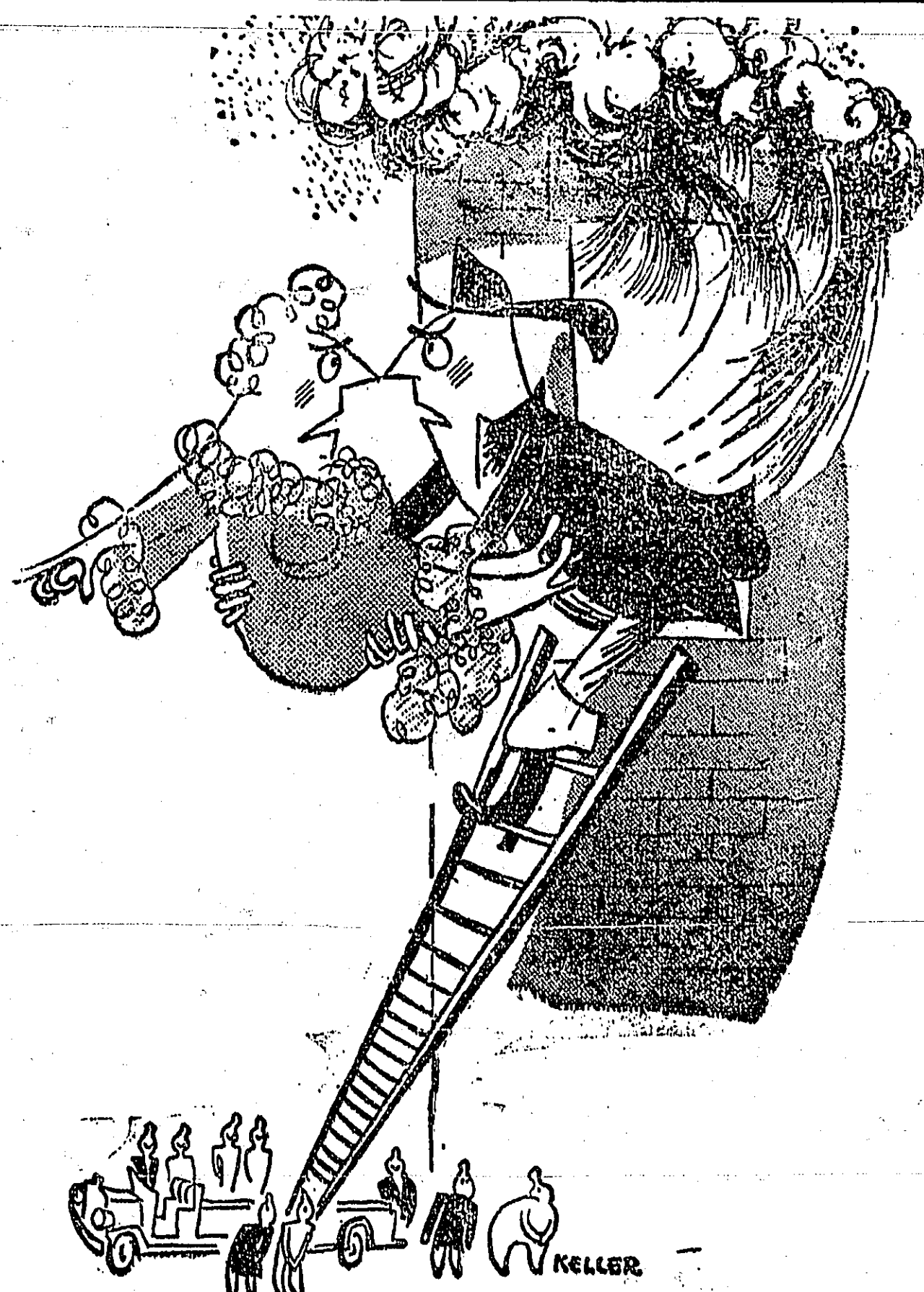
PAC Strictly Non-Partisan

Local 301 representatives on the PAC Committee took the floor to describe the careful interviewing of candidates and the non-partisan approach used. They pointed out that Amedeo Volpe, a Republican whom they considered endorsing, spurned PAC support and admitted his party planned a vicious smear campaign against CIO-PAC.

(The Republicans burst into print with display ads in Schenectady papers last week about "the Communist dominated PAC.")

Local 301 members of the Schenectady PAC Committee were Andrew Peterson, Leo Jandreau, William Mastriani, Willard Kuschel, John D. Clune and Dewey Brashear, and Rudy Ellis, representing the Capital District Industrial Union Council, CIO. They all heard the Volpe statement, along with members of Steel and Transport unions.

Ernest Herman, Local 2054, USA, has been working full-time on the PAC registration drive for the last few weeks. He is chairman of the PAC Advisory Committee.



MURRY! WE'VE GOT TO REGISTER!

Volpe Denies His Words, But Actions Betray Him

After admitting in front of the entire PAC Advisory Committee of CIO unions that he knew the Republican machine was preparing for a vicious smear campaign against PAC, Amedeo Volpe, candidate for City Council, tried to squirm out of the admission by denying his statement through the newspapers.

Then he proceeded to prove the truth of what PAC reported, by calling the PAC program "un-American." He had not even looked at the program. If he had, he would have realized the foolishness of such an attack.

The PAC, because of sentiment among many members that Volpe was pro-labor, had proposed to endorse him if he would support the PAC program.

Volpe revealed his first loyalty was to the Republican machine that speaks for Dewey, Kearney, Dunn and Cushing.

Block Defeated For Union Post

Harry Block of Philadelphia, leader of an unsuccessful fight at the international UE convention against the union leadership, was defeated last week for the presidency of UE District 1 by James Price, business agent of the large Westinghouse Local 107.

The Block faction, which tried to kill the democratic provision of the UE constitution guaranteeing equal rights to all members of the union, was repudiated by heavy votes at the Milwaukee convention and by UE locals, including Local 301.

New Committeemen

Shop committeemen sworn in at the Oct. 1 general membership and committeemen's meeting were Charles C. Hill, Bldg. 49, and Oscar Stolze, Bldg. 285.

301 Night Shift Committeemen Turn Out to Discuss Union Problems



A group of shop committeemen from the night shift at one of the series of meetings held recently at 301 headquarters to pool ideas on grievances, working conditions, wages,

prices and political action. Right foreground, left to right, Ray Flanigan, assistant to the business agent, and William Kelly, 301 vice-president and assistant to the business agent.

GE Always Ignores Facts Like These

Brief facts about wages, prices and company profits from the government report last week by John L. Steelman, U.S. Reconversion director.

Business profits—reached an all-time record of \$11,000,000 a year, after taxes.

Prices—rose more in the last three months (since death of old OPA) than in the previous 38 months.

Wages—Take-home pay dropped 6.5 per cent from Apr., 1945, to July, 1946. Real wages (what wages buy) went down to lowest point since early war years.

Did someone say it was wage increases that caused prices to go up?

\$100 for Tobacco Strike

A contribution of \$100 to the CIO strikers at the Piedmont and Winston-Salem Leaf Tobacco Companies at Winston-Salem, N. C., was voted by the special membership meeting last week. The meeting also voted to send letters of protest to the Winston-Salem police and mayor, and the governor of North Carolina, against police attacks on the strikers' picketlines.

Union Wins Strike— (AP Please Copy)

An Associated Press story in the Schenectady Gazette recently declared that a compromise settlement between the AFL Teamsters union in New York and some truck companies "broke the back" of the strike. Thereby hangs quite a story.

The idea in the story was the old one that labor had been beaten. Actually the "compromise" was one of the greatest victories ever scored by any strikers. They won a raise of 18½ cents an hour, after first getting the same pay for 40 hours that they were getting for 30 cents an hour, plus other benefits.

This was the strike in which Mayor O'Dwyer of New York called the strikers "Communist-led" because the members decided they would dictate to their officers. Mayor O'Dwyer thought the officers should control the members, and said so.

But the members won, won a tremendous victory.

And who do the newspapers and the machine politicians speak for?

REMEMBER !!
REGISTER

Meetings with GE On Craft Program To Commence Soon

Negotiations requested by Local 301 on behalf of 1,300 building tradesmen are expected to start late this week.

The crafts' proposals for wage raises and other conditions were sent to the company last week. A. C. Stevens, assistant to the GE general superintendent, said the proposals raised a number of questions which he wanted to have studied.

The building trades committeemen, forming the special committee on these negotiations, will participate in the meetings.

Nixon to Speak In Schenectady

Russ Nixon, Washington representative of UE, will be speaker at the program of the Cooperative Evening School Assemblies at 8 p.m. Oct. 23 at Nott Terrace High School.

The Schenectady Division of Adult Education, the Education Committee of Local 301 and the League of Women Voters are among the civic groups sponsoring the Assemblies.