

Union MASS MEETING - TO-NIGHT -

TUESDAY, MARCH 25th
— 7:30 P.M. —

Union Headquarters cor. ERIE BLVD.
& LIBERTY ST.

Protest Action on Wage Question
REPORTS OF DELEGATES

★ *It is important that every member on Days and Third Shift be present to determine the next step!*

SPECIAL MEETING

2nd Shift Workers

Wednesday, Mar. 26, -- 1:30

UNION HEADQUARTERS

To Hear and Act on Report of Wage Question.

ELECTRICAL UNION ...NEWS

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



Vol. 3

SCHENECTADY, N. Y.—APRIL 2nd, 1941

No. 3

5,000 G.E. Workers Attend Local No. 301 Mass Meeting!



On Tuesday evening, the Schenectady members of Local 301 made labor history. Thousands packed the streets around the Union headquarters, and unanimously told the G-E Company they wanted a 10c an hour increase; and were ready to give the Company demonstrations to that effect; these same thousands of G-E workers also unanimously turned down four of the Company's proposals on contract modifications.

During the past six months, department after department had turned the heat on their leaders for more money. The Union Officials had been trying to convince the Company that there existed a deep-seated dissatisfaction among its employees with the present wages. It is the responsibility of Union leadership to bring these dissatisfactions to the Company's attention before they break into uncontrollable actions. The Union leadership has repeatedly done so.

The company officials, however, maintained that their employees were one happy family and the dissatisfaction existed only in the minds of the Union leadership.

Never before in the history of our Local has such unity of purpose and action been demonstrated by our membership. Today, we can proudly state to those that were skeptical about our Union, that we have a unified labor union in the Schenectady Plant of the G-E Company.

Today, we do not have to convince anyone that we have a unified labor movement, the G-E workers gave the world a living proof last Tuesday evening.

The present unity must be maintained by our membership more now than ever before. In spite of all the unfair attacks on labor by the country's big business controlled press, the C.I.O. is growing mightier day by day. The American working people cannot be fooled any more by the strike hysteria, whipped up by this controlled press.

This unity now existing among us cannot be split but from the side; it is all up to us.

We have splendid leadership in the shops, and it was demonstrated by the discipline exercised by our members at the Tuesday, March 25th, Mass Meeting. In the interest of all of our members, the interest of our Defense Program and of the Country, we urge all of our members to maintain unity and discipline within our ranks at all cost. With unity we can achieve our legitimate objectives for the betterment of the lives of the American working people and to maintain the democratic institutions of our country.

Is This Un-American?

**Big Business Putting Squeeze
On Uncle Sam, TNEC
Reports**

Washington, Mar. 22.—Sensational charges that big business is in effect "blackmailing" the federal government were made today in a new study issued by the U. S. Temporary National Economic Committee.

The study, entitled "Economic Power and Political Pressures," looks into lobbying activities in Washington and pays particular interest to the business lobby.

"Speaking bluntly," the TNEC survey declares, "art government and the public are 'over a barrel' when it comes to dealing with business in time of war or other crisis.

"Business refused to work, except on terms which it dictates. It controls the natural resources, the liquid assets, the strategic position in the country's economic structure, and its technical equipment and knowledge of processes.

"The experience of the world war, now apparently being repeated, indicates that business will use this control only if it is 'paid properly'.

"In effect, this is blackmail, not too fully disguised."

During the 1940 defense crisis, the TNEC report said, business displayed an attitude similar to that of 1917—

"Profits, taxes, loans and so

Three Classes

There is an old story about a stage coach company which sold first, second and third class tickets to prospective passengers, though they all rode in the same coach.

When mystified passengers demanded to know why such class distinctions they were told "When the coach gets stuck in a muddy road or comes to a steep hill, first class passengers remain seated; second class passengers get out and walk; and third class passengers get out and push."

Despite all the present talk about everyone being in the same coach, equality of sacrifice, etc., there seem to be a lot of people who think they have first class privileges entitling them to do nothing but roll along in the luxury of huge war profits.

There are also a lot of second class columnists and other press and political kibitzers, who do nothing but toady to the first class passengers and criticize and admonish the people who are doing the work.

Labor, as usual, is in back doing all the pushing—up to its knees in the mire of low living standards, struggling up the hills of higher living costs, and keeping the coach of state on the road to wherever in the devil it is going.

forth appeared more important to business men than getting guns, tanks and airplane motors into production."

ORIGINAL TORN

... ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS ...

Published by:
UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE WORKERS
OF AMERICA, LOCAL 301
301 Liberty Street, Schenectady, N. Y.

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EDITORIAL

"Freedom of the Press" is a phrase lightly used. To speed opinions through the press is a freedom enjoyed mainly by the owners of the great daily newspapers—and the main support of these newspapers are the advertisements of big business—therefore they who pay the piper call the tune. In other words, the large newspapers of this country are big business. The average American worker, whether organized into a labor union or not, is constantly exposed before the public through the American Press, owned or controlled by his employer, as a menace to anything progressive—to national defense or to anything that may be the issue of the day.

The Local Press

In this controlled press—of which the Schenectady Union-Star and the Schenectady Gazette are an integral part—every legitimate struggle of the American worker for a decent living wage or the general betterment of his life is grossly misrepresented in the interest of the employer.

As we look over the papers today, headlines appear featuring the C.I.O. as a menace to the National Defense Program, because the workers under the banner of the C.I.O. are either asking for a decent standard of living, recognition of the right of collective bargaining, or some sort of understanding that can be embodied into a contract that will give them better job security.

Henry Ford — Law-Breaker

In the case of Henry Ford vs. the United Automobile Workers a struggle exists over the question of Union recognition. The labor board has investigated, and found Henry Ford to be violating a law of the land (Wagner Act). Do the papers feature this violation? Hardly a line in any of the country's press!

The Labor Board charges that Ford operated an extensive system of espionage in the plant and fired hundreds of his employees for union activity. In addition the labor board charged the Ford Motor Company with hiring gangs of strong-armed muscle men with criminally notorious records.

Allis-Chalmers

In the Allis-Chalmers matter, the controlled press surely does not expose the anti-labor record of this company as found by the U.S. Senate Civil Liberties Committee—namely that the Allis-Chalmers Company is among the ring leaders of the group of large industries refusing to concede collective bargaining to their employees.

The record shows that this company was one of the chief contributors to the National Metal Trades Association, and an employer organization existing chiefly for the purpose of supplying labor spies and strike breakers.

The Committee's reports on espionage show that the Allis-Chalmers Company for the years 1933 through 1936 spent \$7,317.00 for labor spies.

U. S. Senate Civil Liberties Committee passed comment on labor spies to the effect, "In the face of this attitude on the part of the management towards its employees. No system of industrial relations based on responsibility, mutual trust and observance of the law could be expected.

It is safe to say that the right of genuine collectively bargaining will never be realized in American Industries until the industrial spy is abolished."

Not only was this company a member of the National Metal Trades Ass'n, but one of its officials, William Watson, sat on the Board of Directors.

Westinghouse Company

In the case of the Westinghouse Company, whose several years of negotiations and labor board changes have been in process between this company and the Union, the issue is: Why won't the company sign an agreement with the Union on issues that they claim they are in accord with?

Even though the labor board has handed down a decision the company refuses to negotiate a national contract with the Union.

G-E Company

In the case of G-E Company, the request that the Union is making for a wage increase the company admits that they have the money and they have the business, but why should they be the first to move?

The Union presented a brief concisely outlining every possible argument, on why the company should at this time grant a wage increase.

Though the department of labor quotes higher annual earnings as a figure necessary to maintain a decent standard of living, even though the average earnings of the G-E employees are below this figure, the Company is satisfied to say no.

Do the papers and the radio criticize these concerns for not granting increases, when there is no reason for holding them up? Do the papers make a practice of criticizing employers for their

Labor Speeds Defense

In the great drive to make this country the "arsenal of democracy", the American workman is performing an especially crucial role. Behind the rumble of the Army's new tanks, the slide of the Navy's new battleships down the ways, the drone of the new big bombers sweeping across the sky, stand the skills, the energies, the patriotism of American Labor, fusing many minds, many hands, many talents to insure the success of the National Defense program.

Organized labor has cooperated in the Nation's Defense program in a manner which demonstrates that, insofar as the Defense Program is concerned, labor in this country is united in its devotion to the common cause.

This kind of cooperation is a factor which has contributed to the exceptional harmony in employer-employee relations which have marked the defense effort to date. Out of some 300 threatened disputes arising since June 1940, in which experts of the Conciliation Service of the Labor Department and of the Labor Division intervened, only a handful resulted in appreciable stoppages. And these were of short duration. Moreover, strike figures compiled by the Bureau of Labor Statistics reveal:

(1) Work stoppages due to strikes in American industry during the year 1940 accounted for an average loss of less than two hours per year per worker.

(2) This figure is put in perspective when compared with the time lost through industrial accidents. On-the-job accidents accounted for an average idleness of more than one day per worker, or upward of four times that due to strikes. And the figure for accidents does not include the tremendous loss resulting from more than 11,000 deaths.

(3) There has been a 47 percent decline in the numbers of man-days idle due to strikes during the first six months of the Defense Program over the corresponding period of 1939.

(4) The number of men involved in strikes was only about half as great during the first six months of the defense program as when the United States was actually at war 24 years ago. This is all the more significant when it is realized that total non-agricultural employment is 22 percent larger today.

A detailed study of industrial relations, made by the Bureau of Labor statistics, in all industries crucial to national defense, disclosed that man-days idle, due to strikes, accounted for less than one-fourth of one percent of the total number of man days worked.

For example: In industries making the engines and machine tools so vital to our national security, there was only one day of idleness, resulting from strikes, for each 3800 man-days of production. In other words, this means that in such industries, strikes in 1940 were responsible for one day of idleness for every six years of work.

This is a remarkable record. It is all the more remarkable in view of the fact that the period it covers has witnessed a great rise in business activity, a quickening of the entire industrial process, a vast expansion of employment, together with an increase in the stresses and strains which always go with adjustments to new conditions and new personnel—from straw-boss to president, from learner to full-fledged craftsman. American industrial history over the past 100 years shows that any such period is generally marked by an increase rather than a decrease in the number of strikes.

Chief credit for the present downward trend of strikes should go to the patriotism of organized labor and its leaders and to that vast majority of responsible industrialists who have accepted the orderly process of collective bargaining.

In this respect it is pertinent to observe that this country had to embark upon its last great task of preparedness without the help of collective agreements in the basic mass-production spheres—steel, automobiles, textiles, rubber, glass, shipyards, electrical equipment, public utilities, and others vital to the success of the defense program.

By and large, contracts between employers and representatives of organized labor did not make their appearance on a large scale in these and similar key industries until after 1939.

That these pacts are working toward the permanent establishment of more peaceful and more constructive industrial relations has been underscored recently by the renewal of many Management-Union agreements on the part of such large manufacturers as Boeing, Briggs, Chrysler, Hudson, Fairchild, Brewster, a group of steel corporations, and by many other concerns.

Market Note:

Prices of vegetables are so high that one housewife is wondering whether her family tastes gold dust instead of sand in the spinach.

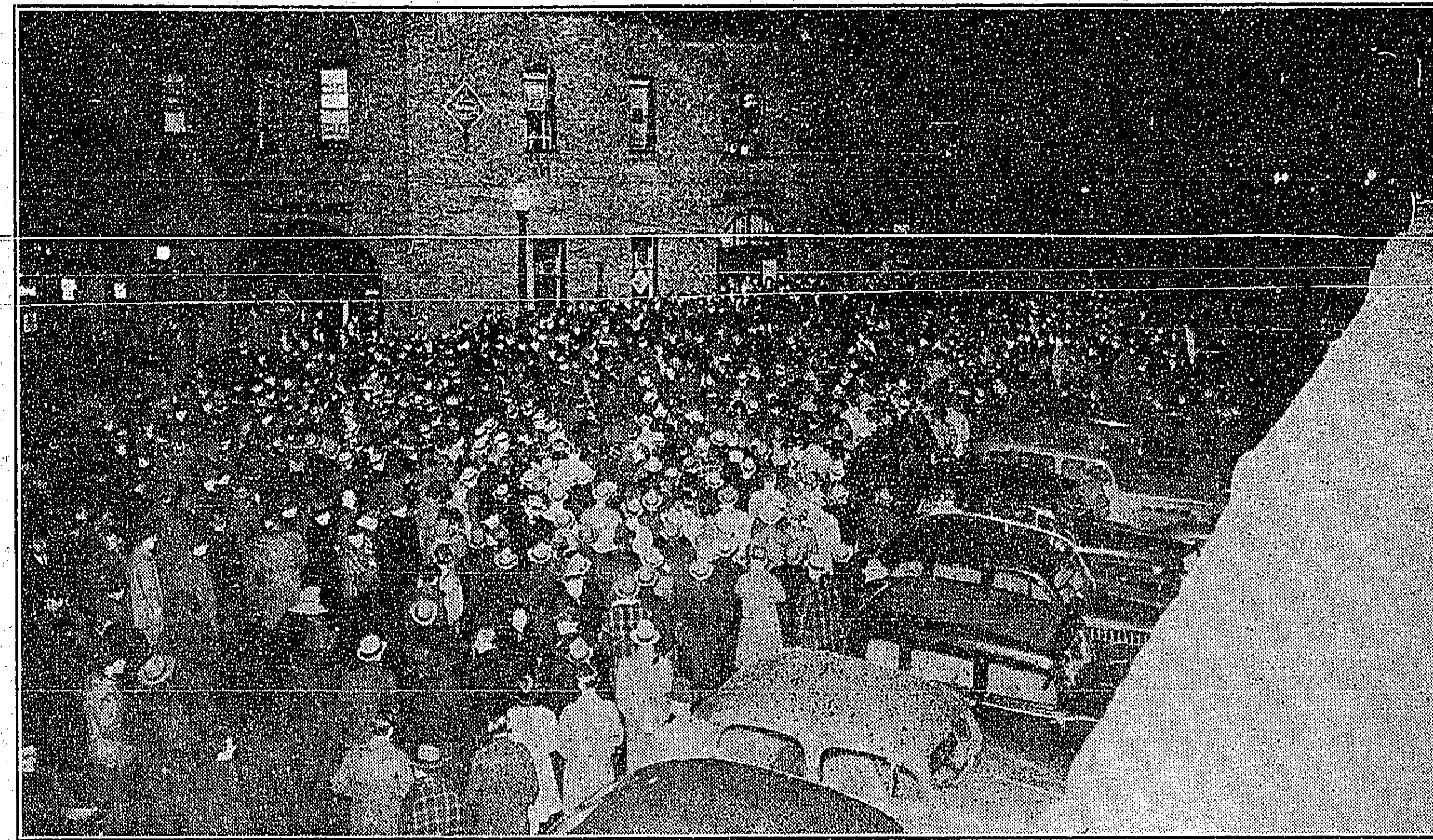
Dallas citizens, who had been reading too many hobgoblin stories in the newspapers, recently mistook a group of WPA workmen for saboteurs.

There is evidence to indicate that these men are the ones who have been throwing monkey wrenches into the WPA budget.

law violations even though the workers support the press, even though the radio turns to the workers as consumers in order that they may continue at a profit with the high-pressure advertising? When the worker has a case to present to the public for the consideration, it is terribly misrepresented.

The Locomotive Company in this city a few weeks ago granted a general increase to its employees. The Union went to the press with pride over the fact that they had negotiated a satisfactory peaceful settlement. However, the press refused to carry this story of organized labor.

The record definitely shows that the All-American right of freedom of the press has become usurped by the employers, and certainly could stand much legal investigation.



Summary of Employer Trouble Throughout U. S.

Obstinate refusal of big business employers to bargain collectively or to observe the Federal law today had precipitated a number of serious situations throughout the United States:

ALLIS-CHALMERS: Refusal of the Allis-Chalmers Mfg. Co. to accept an O.E.A. agreement accepted on March 1 by the United Auto Workers extended a lockout of 1,600 employees.

BETHLEHEM STEEL: Insistence of Bethlehem Steel Co. to maintain a company union which the NLRB ruled illegal more than a year ago forced a strike at the Bethlehem, Pa. plant, caused another one at Johnstown, Pa. Meanwhile, company efforts to stall a Labor Board decision at the Lockawana, N. Y. plant may cause another crisis there.

INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER: Refusal to recognize the CIO Farm Equipment Workers and support for an outlawed company union kept plants of the International Harvester still closed. Company efforts to import scabs and strikebreakers caused outbreaks of violence and police attacks on workers.

AMERICAN POTASH: Refusal by the British-owned American Potash & Chemical to negotiate a contract with the CIO Mine, Mill & Smelter Workers forced a strike at Tross, Cal., desert band "English colony".

GENERAL ELECTRIC: Refusal of the General Electric Co., whose profits have soared in recent months, to grant a 10 cent wage increase, led CIO Electrical Workers Union to plan one-week demonstration at all G-E plants.

COAL MINES: Appalachian coal operations still resisted United Mine Workers pay raise demands and March 21 deadline drew near with possibility that a blackout might result, through refusal of operators to accept union's offer to continue working under present conditions, with retroactive clause until new agreement is reached.

if the Congress and William Knudsen are really concerned about reducing the number of strikes they should devote themselves to an examination of the CAUSE of strikes. Strikes are only symptoms of a cause. Why not give labor a break and study causes?



ORIGINAL TORN

:- SECOND SHIFT MASS MEETING :-



Management Trouble

An Editorial From PM,
Sunday, March 30th, 1941

There has been considerable confusion over the Allis-Chalmers strike. It has been twisted around, finally, to a point where people seem to think that the workers are defying the United States government by their refusal to call off their strike.

That isn't so. The United States government didn't tell them to drop the strike—and the facts being what they are, it isn't conceivable that the government is going to tell them to do anything of the kind.

What happened is that two officials, Secretary of the Navy Knox and William S. Knudsen, head of the OPM, got together and sent telegrams to both the company and the men demanding that the defense program "not be handicapped by unnecessary strikes," and asking that operations be restarted immediately. People misunderstood this and thought that it was the United States government speaking. When the workers protested against the "ultimatum," even the authors, whose zeal for production is understandable, backed up and said it wasn't an ultimatum, but an appeal.

What also happened—last month—is that the OPM investigated the strike, proposed a settlement and the workers

agreed to the terms of the settlement. The company turned it down. And when the workers stand by their position and won't go back to work until the company agrees too, they are not defying the United States government. You don't have to look very far to see who is doing the defying—and Allis-Chalmers management can take the bow.

Maybe some of the confusion goes back to a question of simple semantics. We speak and think of labor trouble sometimes when what we really mean is capital trouble or—even more properly—management trouble. At Allis-Chalmers it's a case of management trouble, but people are talking of it—and acting, too—as if it were labor trouble.

It sounds like a small thing, but it is important. If everybody keeps it clear that there is this difference in words and meanings, pressure for settlement of strikes will be put in the right place. Clearly the burden of proof is on the central authority in any case like this to make sure that it is not management trouble before pointing the finger at labor—for any government's pointing of a finger at labor because management does not cooperate is too close to national socialism to make anyone feel easy these days.

—John P. Lewis.

Market Notes

Union musicians won \$5 increases under a new contract. For playing those corny BMI tunes, they deserve at least \$20 more.

The dispatch about the Illinois youth who objected to the brutality of war, and was killed when resisting arrest for refusal to register, is like the story of the doomed convict.

Just before entering the gas chamber, he was asked by the warden if he had a last wish.

"Yeah," the prisoner answered. "I'd like a gas mask."

Little Luther

"Father," said Little Luther, "I see that the teachers' union has surrendered its membership list to a legislative committee."

"And it's about time, too! Do you realize, my boy, that those radicals had the impertinence to appeal from the supreme court decision to the appellate division, and then to the state court of appeals? A fine way to thwart the processes of democracy!"

"You mean they should have done what the committee wanted without going to court?"

"Naturally. All of the newspapers said so."

"Then why do so many employers go to court about labor board decisions, father?"

"That is entirely different. I'll explain that to you some other time. But let me tell you, young man, this court decision is a splendid victory. The New York Herald-Tribune said, every labor-union should be compelled to publish its membership lists. The public has a right to know about these things."

"But, father, you didn't seem to think that way when the Black committee was subpoenaing telegrams sent by utility executives."

"Listen, Luther—you must understand the difference between the rights of big corporations and labor union people. There is a big difference, you must learn."

"Well, I guess my teacher knows that . . . now."

UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA

Affiliated With The Congress of Industrial Organizations

261 FIFTH AVENUE AT 29TH STREET

NEW YORK CITY

GENERAL OFFICE

MURRAY HILL 6-9850

TO THE GENERAL ELECTRIC LOCALS UER & MWA

March 28, 1941

Dear Brothers:

This is to confirm either the telephone conversation or telegram, whichever you may have received from me, with reference to the meeting with the General Electric Company scheduled for April 7th.

In the course of a conversation with Mr. Burrows on Thursday, he suggested a postponement of the scheduled meeting on the 7th to the 21st with the idea in mind that at that time the question of the ten cent an hour increase would be discussed by the Company with the Union. The idea in mind of the Company was that by the 21st it would be prepared to discuss concretely the question of a wage adjustment.

We thought it would be a good idea if it were simply a question of waiting two weeks. Mr. Burrows then stated he would inform me today (Friday). He called me and informed me that he would like to have the meeting on the 21st for the purpose indicated above.

In view of this I telephoned and telegraphed all the Locals. A large majority of the Locals agreed that it was a good idea and are holding in abeyance any action pending the negotiations of April 21st.

Fraternally yours,

JULIUS EMSPAK,

J.E.S.

General Secretary-Treasurer.

Call AMERICAN PEOPLE'S MEETING

New York City - April 5-6, 1941

To all Friends of Peace
and Liberty

Fellow Americans:

We Are in Danger.

The tragic days of 1917 and an AEF are almost here again.

Our trade unions are under attack. The right to strike is being taken away.

Our farmers are being driven from their land; their products are selling below cost. We are paying more for food.

Our rents are being increased. Our wages are being held down. Unemployment continues and our relief is being cut.

Discrimination against our Negro people is increasing. Attacks against the Jewish people are being intensified. Our non-citizens have been fingerprinted.

There are virtually no jobs for youth. Four million people are being placed under military law.

Congress continues to deny the vote to ten million American citizens. Minority parties are being rapidly suppressed.

We are being intimidated and spied upon. Our persons and our papers are being seized without warrant.

Our Constitutional rights are being taken from us.

This is how democracy was blacked out in Germany and in France, how it is being blacked out in England, and how it will be blacked out here unless labor and the people unite and act.

These things have happened to us because our statesmen and economic royalists are violating the will of the people. Men in high places are dragging us into a war three thousand miles away.

This is not a war to wipe out the evils of Hitlerism and tyranny. It is not a war to liberate the peoples of Germany or France, India or Ireland, Africa or Asia. It is not a war to defend democracy. It is a war to line the pockets of corporate interests at the expense of the peoples of the World.

The Tory bill 1776 would enable these corpo-

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rate interests to draw America more heavily into this war. It would give the President of the United States the power:—

To get us into total war against the will of the people

To substitute government by decree for constitutional government.

To disregard any law on the books

To give away our ships, our planes, our guns, our vital resources to any foreign country.

"All out" aid to the British Empire or any such warring empire means total war for the American people.

There Is a Way Out.

The drive toward fascist rule in America and total war can be stopped. Sovereignty belongs to the people. A united people's anti-war movement can save America from the horrors of war and the barbarity of fascism.

In order to:

Get out and stay out of World War II

Fight every step of war

Regain and strengthen our democracy

Defend the rights of labor

Work for a people's peace

We call upon workers from mill and mine and factory, from office and railroad and ships; upon the farmers; upon the unemployed; upon the churches; upon the Negro people, the women, the youth, the aged and all, to meet in their unions and organizations and shops and mass meetings and churches to elect and send their representatives to an American People's Meeting in the City of New York on April 5 and 6, 1941, to take the steps to mobilize the people for Peace, Liberty and the Common Welfare.

Signed:

**WORKING CONFERENCE FOR PEACE
AMERICAN PEACE MOBILIZATION**

Rev. John B. Thompson
Chairman, American Peace Mobilization

Meyer Adelman
Milwaukee County Industrial Union Council

Rev. William Anderson
Evansville, Indiana

Adelaide Bean
New York

Lewis Allen Berne
Pres., Federation of Architects, Engineers,
Chemists and Technicians

Herbert Biberman
California

Samuel M. Blinken
American Labor Party, New York City

Bridgeport Industrial Union Council

Marian Briggs
Administrative Secretary, A. P. M.

E. H. Chrum
Farmers Union, South Dakota

Clinton Clark
Louisiana Farmers' Union

Rev. Albert Ruckner Coe
Oak Park, Ill.

Charles J. Coe
Director, Farm Research Bureau, Inc.

Eugene P. Connelly
Chairman, American Labor Party, N. Y. County

V. J. Conner
Editor, Southern News Almanac

Joseph Curran
Pres., National Maritime Union

John P. Davis
National Negro Congress

Hugh De Lacey
Washington Commonwealth

Leonard Detweiler
YMCA

Malcolm Cotton Dobbs
League of Young Southerners

SIGNERS OF THE CALL (Continued)

Theodore Dreiser, Vice Chairman, APM

Charles Egeley
Minnesota Farmers Union

Elmer Fehlhaber
Vice President, Ohio CIO Council

Frederick V. Field
Executive Secretary, A. P. M.

Abram Flaxer
Pres., State, County & Municipal Workers

Vincent Fraga
Cigar Workers Intl. Union, Tampa, Fla.

Samuel Freedman
Executive Secretary, United Jewish Youth

Rev. Edward S. Frey
Lenoire, Pa.

Manuel Garcia
Cigar Workers Intl. Union, Tampa, Fla.

Greater New York Industrial Council

Rev. Armand Guerrero
Chicago, Ill.

Gerald Harris, Sr.
Alabama Farmers Educational & Cooperative Union

William Harrison
Editor, Boston Chronicle, Mass.

Aline Davis Hayes
New York

Donald Henderson
Pres., United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers of America

Rev. Charles J. Hupp
Cleveland, Ohio

J. F. Jurich
Pres., Intl. Union of Fishermen and Allied Workers

Rev. Owen A. Knox
Chairman, Natl. Fed. Constitutional Liberties

Julius Klyman
Vice-Pres., American Newspaper Guild

Howard Lee
Southern Conference on Human Welfare

Herman Long
Southern Negro Youth Congress

Hon. Grace Makepeace
Townsend National Recovery Plan, Ohio

Rep. Vito Marcantonio, Vice Chairman, APM

George Marshall
New York

Frank McGee
League of Young Southerners

Norman McKibben
Pres., Workers Alliance

Rev. L. F. Merrell
Methodist Church, Gayton, Mich.

Rev. James McKnight
Chicago, Illinois

Jack McMichael, Vice Chairman, APM
Chairman, American Youth Congress

Lewis Merrill
Pres., United Office & Prof. Workers of America

Rabbi Moses Miller
Chairman, Jewish Peoples Committee

Rev. Walter Mitchell
Episcopal Bishop of Arizona

George F. Murphy
Natl. Assn. Advancement Colored People

Frederic N. Myers
General Organizer, Natl. Maritime Union

National Maritime Union

Dr. Walter Neff
New York

Harvey O'Connor
Chicago, Illinois

Rev. Einar Oftedal
Charleston, West Virginia

O. M. Orto
Pres., Intl. Woodworkers of America

Rev. Stephen Peadody
San Jose, California

Rev. Dr. Carl Polson
Chattanooga, Tenn.

Mary Pond
American Newspaper Guild Auxiliary

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