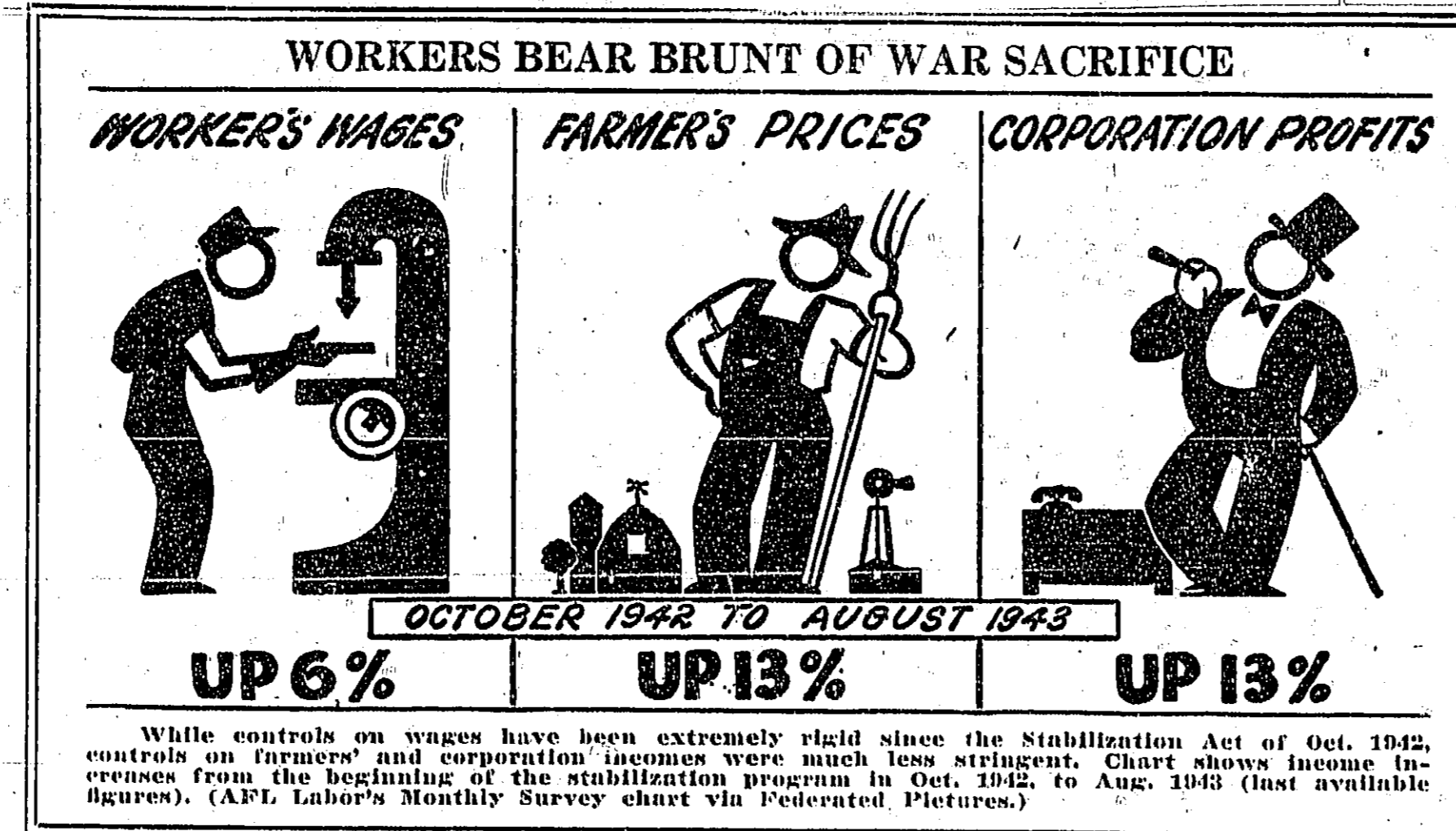




## Union Demands 17¢ Hour Increase



Edward Wallingford, President of Local 301, announced a 17c per hour wage increase demand through the U.E.-G.E. conference board.

The demand was made on December 20th in New York City.

Mr. Wallingford's official announcement follows:

"A demand for a general 17-cent-an-hour wage increase and a monthly adjustable bonus based on the cost of living was voted unanimously by representatives of some 45 General Electric Co. plants at a meeting of the U.E.-G.E. Locals Conference Board held in New York, Saturday and Sunday.

"The demand was presented to the company the following day, December 20, in the presence of some 70 delegates to the GE Conference Board, at a meeting between Company and Union representatives in the Pennsylvania Hotel.

"On this occasion of the presentation of the demand, the company representatives expressed their unwillingness to negotiate with the UE any amount for a general wage increase for joint presentation to the War Labor Board.

### Cite Price Squeeze

"Representatives of the Union strongly urged upon the company the urgency of the demand and the need of General Electric employees for a wage adjustment to make up to them in some measure for the squeeze that has been placed upon them by stationary wage rates and rising prices. Union negotiators pointed out to the company that the workers have patriotically maintained production under the handicap of what has amounted to a wage cut, and strongly urged upon the firm the necessity of joining with the Union in its attempt to correct this condition by making a joint application to the War Labor Board.

"In the best interest of its employees and of war production, the company should agree with the Union upon the amount of a general wage increase, and both together should take the matter before the appropriate Government agency, the Union held, pointing out that refusal to cooperate in this matter is taking advantage of the patriotism of the membership.

"It is expected that negotiations with the company on the wage question will be continued.

### Spokesmen Elected

"The elected spokesmen for the Union in the meeting with the company were: President Albert J. Fitzgerald, Edward Wallingford of Schenectady, Alfred Coulthard of Lynn, Frank Fazekas of Bridgeport, Jeff Lowman of Syracuse, James Casey of Pittsburgh, and Intl. Vice-President Leo Jandreau of Schenectady and the National Office.

### Discuss Contract Changes

"During the two day conference that preceded the meeting with company representatives, the GE Conference Board, in addition to agreeing upon the demand for a 17-cent wage increase and cost of living bonus, consistent with CIO and UE policy and paralleling recent demands of UE Westinghouse locals, discussed and adopted a number of proposals for changes in the National U.E.-G.E. contract, which will be submitted to the locals for ratification before presentation to the company.

"Included among the subjects discussed in this connection were: Insurance, maintenance of membership, equal pay for equal work, wage rates, holidays, piece rates, vacations, transfers, continuity of service, increasing and decreasing forces and a number of other important questions."

## Toolroom Workers Disgusted At G. E. Company's Reprehensible Attitude

Toolmakers and toolroom workers of Local 301 met at the CIO Headquarters Tuesday, December 28th and adopted a resolution condemning the General Electric Company for its reprehensible attitude towards the toolroom workers wage question.

WLB Hearing Officer, Mr. Thomas A. Knowlton, issued the following recommendation relative to the toolmakers' case in stating in brief that the present toolroom wage brackets of the Employer be maintained until they may hereafter be raised or extended by the Board's establishment of sound and tested going rates for Schenectady."

The toolmakers present rates range from \$1.12½ per hour to \$1.39½ per hour with a few receiving \$1.44 as a preferential rate.

The toolmakers are asking that the present rate classification be narrowed down to three as follows: \$1.40, \$1.50 and \$1.60 per hour.

The committee that drew up the resolution consisted of Felix Pelchat, Vincent Maloney, R. R. Anderson, Robert French, Albert Colucci, Andrew Smith, H. A. Hearn, Chris Herbeck, Seymour Schreiter, Treasurer of Local 301; and S. M. Vottis, Financial Secretary of Local 301, UERMWA.

There are approximately 800 toolroom workers employed in the Schenectady plant of the General Electric plant.

### Resolution Adopted by Local 301 Toolworkers

WHEREAS, we the toolroom employees in the Schenectady plant of the General Electric Company, have been negotiating a wage increase with the Company and the War Labor Board for over a year. During these negotiations we have exercised extreme patience in view of a sincere desire not to in anyway hamper the war effort to bring our country a speedy victory over our enemies.

### Rise in Cost of Living

We feel our demands have been just, in the face of the general increase in the cost of living which amounted to 85 percent since January 1st, 1941.

Output of work and output has been increased in order to keep the necessary tools in the hands of the incentive workers whose production has tremendously increased as evidenced by their present earnings.

### Over a Year of Fruitless Negotiations

After more than a year of fruitless negotiations and patient waiting the toolroom workers have become deeply dissatisfied with their present deplorable situation, and deeply dissatisfied with the reprehensible attitude of the General Electric Company which has not made an honest attempt to solve this problem; and furthermore feel that a greater delay in a favorable answer by the W. L. B. will bring about a general demoralization of these employees and will have a serious repercussion upon the production of war material.

### Dissatisfaction Registered

THEREFORE, be it resolved that we register our deep dissatisfaction and disappointment with the General Electric Company which has not made a sincere and honest attempt to solve this problem and with the Hearing Officer's Report; and that we petition the W. L. B. to make a favorable and speedy decision on our just requests, in the best interests of the welfare of our country.

RESOLVED, that we send copies to the General Electric Company's management, our national officers negotiating the case, and to the regional WLB.

RESOLVED, that this resolution be given the widest publicity.

### U. S. Corporations Headed for \$25 Billion Profits for 1944

NEW YORK — (FP) — While corporation lobbyists are shedding tears all over Washington about the sad plight of business, Labor Research Assn. predicts that 1944 profits will total close to \$25 billion, highest in the country's history.

Even after taxes are deducted, stockholders will pocket 130 percent more than they did in 1939, which was tops up to then. Even Poor's Investment Advisory Service admits that nobody's headed for the poorhouse. Here's what it says:

"Wartime earnings are holding up better than was thought possible a year ago. Moreover, most companies are doing much better than their published reports indicate. Nearly all are setting up large reserves out of their wartime profits."

ORIGINAL TORN

QUESTION BOX

Send Your Union Questions c/o S. M. VOTTIS, Editing Committee 361 Liberty St. Schenectady, N. Y.

A postal card was received at the headquarters asking the following question: WILL THE MEMBERSHIP IN THE UNION FORCE ME TO GO ON STRIKE?

ANSWERS BY EDITORS

Any discussion on strikes at this time is out of order. Our Union, Local 301 together with the CIO has solemnly pledged that there must not be any strike or stoppage of work for the duration of the war.

"That the CIO hereby reaffirms its solemn pledge without any qualifications or conditions, that for the duration of the war there must not be any strike or stoppage of work. Each member and each leader of organized labor must make it his responsibility to discharge with scrupulous care this sacred obligation. Any leader of organized labor who deliberately flouts this obligation plays into the hands of the enemies of our nation."

"We must recognize that for the duration of the war, issues in dispute between labor and management must be adjusted through the peaceful means of collective bargaining, mediation or through disposition by the National War Labor Board."

"Further, we must recognize that to assure the prosecution of a war program that will prevent special groups from exploiting labor or benefiting from the sacrifices of others, organized labor has the task of mobilizing the people on the legislative and political fronts behind a win-the-war program designed to meet the basic economic problems arising out of the war and to protect the interests of the common people."

"However, to answer the question, any strike action taken by our Union would have to be discussed and voted upon by the membership of the Union. You as a member would have an opportunity to discuss and vote on this question."

POST WAR PLANNING By Charles B. Campbell

How many of our members are thinking of the problems, that will confront us after the war is over? Already many of our large corporations have their plans all cut, and pieced together, for the New World order.

I wonder how many of them have asked Labor Leaders to sit in with them to help build and plan this new world, or even to ask for ideas? Very few if any.

We are told the war must be won on the principal of the "Four Freedoms." But who are the "Four Freedoms" for?

If the large corporations have the stage all set, are they going to build the Autos, the Liberty Ships, run the Railroads, sweep the city streets, etc? Is it not strange that the workers who really do make these useful things are never consulted as to their likes or dislikes of a new world order? But if you just take another look at these planners of the new tomorrow, you



Charles B. Campbell

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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Editing Committee ED. WALLINGFORD EDWARD HAZAN WM. HODGES S. M. VOTTIS

NAM's Anti-Labor Million-Dollar Propaganda Drive

Master plans, for a giant political campaign to kill the last remnant of the New Deal at the 1944 polls, remove curbs on corporation profits, free monopolies, destroy labor legislation and seize leadership of the nation for big business, were adopted by the National Association of Manufacturers at the final session of its 48th convention in New York City, December 10.

In the darkened grand ballroom of the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, 4,000 industry bigshots listened in rapt attention as a team of radio announcers proclaimed the huge propaganda drive which will blanket the nation's press, radio, churches, theaters and schools with the N.A.M.'s message—the message that only its brand of free enterprise can give prosperity to postwar America.

Millions of NAM dollars will be poured into the campaign, which will be directed by the National Industrial Information Committee, the NAM's "voice of the American people." NIIC spokesmen told their NAM masters in New York.

"People in the mass are unconcerned about details. They tend to think in blurs. They are moved primarily by simple, emotional ideas. NIIC will capitalize upon this fact with an aggressive program designed to inspire into public favor." That program is:

- 1. Big business must "educate" its 11 million stockholders. ("These owners of business must be aroused—educated and organized—they are a potential force as large and as great as organized labor," Chairman J. Cheever Cowdin of Universal Pictures told the convention.)
2. Employees must be "encouraged to cooperate." A corps of trained speakers will tour the nation's factories giving 30-minute inspirational rallies on factory time and factory location.
3. NIIC will "seek to enlist the personal interest" of newspaper and publishers and editors, radio commentators,

movie producers, writers and lecturers.

- 1. NIIC will buy advertising in the daily press, distribute special press features for "grass-roots weekly papers."
2. "NIIC's technique of bringing together manufacturers and other opinion-molders for a frank exchange of viewpoints will be greatly extended in 1944." Groups will be organized to cooperate with education, churches, home and agriculture, with emphasis on "the local communities in which plants operate." No committee was set up to cooperate with organized labor.

"Our mission is to make your economic philosophy so popular that adherence to it will prove a political advantage to the majority of congressmen," NIIC spokesmen declared. Early in the 3-day convention listeners were told that "the best friend big business has today is congress." Unfortunately, the NIIC pointed out, congress, "no matter how sound," cannot go too far "unless it is backed by public opinion."

The nation's big business brought the convention to a close with a magnificent banquet where liquor (despite rumored shortages) flowed freely, the food cost \$10 a plate, and a plucky note of optimism reigned. Well-fed and happy, the NAM applauded uproariously as Chairman Alfred P. Sloan of General Motors said:

"Out of the war will develop an opportunity that will never repeat itself—to capitalize in our own self-interest. Is it not as essential to win the peace, in an economic sense, as it is to win the war, in a military sense? I am sure American business leadership over the country believes it is, and will accept the challenge. Our business leadership must become economic statesmanship. With a master plan, we accept the challenge—now or never!"

will find that they have added a 5th Freedom, — Freedom of Enterprise. But is it?

Mr. Eric Johnston, head of the United States Chamber of Commerce has been more honest and open about the New Tomorrow. He calls it Capitalism. So we find that "5th Freedom," is the same old bowl of soup with a new label on it, "New World." Since the Industrial Revolution of England, what has Capitalism given to the common man? Depressions, Unemployment for the many, power and untold wealth for the few. Uncontrolled Capitalism as a philosophy has outlined its usefulness.

I saw an electric razor three years ago that could sell at one dollar, but that razor is not on the market today, and may never be. Is this "Freedom of Enterprise"? This is a free enterprise of waste. And free enterprise is keeping many other useful patents off the market—because it cannot solve the full production and full employment problem. Is this the Freedom of Enterprise we want? Is it Freedom? Is this the real merit system, in which these Corporations—the new tomorrowists, buy up a man's idea and bury it and the genius along with it. The real name for this 5th Freedom is Ugly Monopoly. Is this the New World the thousands of our Union Brothers are 'over there' shedding their blood for? If so, then may God forgive us for having any part in it.

The common people have waited too long for somebody to make this new world for them. They have yet to realize that only they can make it. The Book of Books tells us that "The Earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof the World, and they that dwell therein" (Ps. 24-1).

Is this the way you feel it should be? Then read again the Christmas Greeting in our last issue of the Electrical Union News and set your mind, and your actions on that goal. It will lead us to the New World — the world of the common man — your world and my world.

Buy More Bonds and Stamps

Blood for the Armed Forces



Enlist through Your Union As a Red Cross Blood Donor

Ask Five Million Pints of Blood For the U. S. Army and Navy

Washington, D. C.—With Army and Navy requests for 5,000,000 additional pints of blood to be collected for the armed forces during the coming year, Chairman Norman H. Davis of the American Red Cross called upon organizations including labor unions to furnish "at least one regular blood donor for every star in their service flag."

Expressing the "earnest wish that no American fighting man shall fail to return for lack of blood," the Surgeons General of the Army and Navy in a letter to Mr. Davis asked that the new quota be set, bringing to more than 10,000,000 pints the total amount requested since the inception of the project three years ago.

BUILDING 46—Sadie Iovinella

Why I think there should be a general wage increase. There are powerful forces within the community who are bitterly opposed to a general wage increase.

Their pet argument is that a general increase would necessarily bring about a rise in prices which would inevitably lead to inflation.

These anti-win-the-war forces entrenched in Congress, who are spokesmen for big business have consistently opposed President Roosevelt's stabilization program, but have put a ceiling on wages through the enactment of the "Little Steel" Formula. At the same time they have fought against a ceiling on wages in the higher income brackets.

The cost of living has risen approximately 35 percent since January 1, 1941, while the basic wage rate has been frozen at 15 percent above the figure of the date. Thus the workers have taken a 20 percent cut in pay.

The greatest desire of these people is to provoke the workers to such lengths that they will abandon their no-strike pledge.

This would be a blow directed not only at our President and the administration, but would harm the entire country as a whole. As working people we understand more than any other group the necessity of winning this war as quickly as possible.

We were perfectly willing and anxious that the stabilization program be put into effect immediately including the stabilization of wages.

Labor fought consistently for a roll back of prices to the 1941 level, an adequate subsidy program, ceiling prices on commodities, and a just tax program that would tax those best able to pay.

Big business has sabotaged the carrying out of this effective program, with the result that labor has to come out for a general wage increase.

As a representative of a group of workers and interested in the welfare of the workers as a whole, I feel that a general increase in pay is necessary not only to offset the rise in the cost of living, but to maintain the morale of the workers. The morale of the workers on the home front is equally important as that of the boys on the fighting front.

BUILDING 60—Fred Matern

The committeemen of Turbine Department especially Building 60 extend a Happy New Year to all Local 301 members.

Sixty-seven women workers in the Turbine Department in Building 60 are now filling men's jobs. Four hundred and twenty-six men joined the armed services during 1943.

In spite of this large turn out the Turbine Department has maintained its shipping schedule due to the splendid cooperation of the committeemen with the supervision.

Mrs. Ruth Wass, one of our excellent crane operators reports with pride that her husband, Frank Wass who is with the 377th Parachute Field Artillery just made his 16th jump somewhere in England.

Frank Kelsey, East Gallery, son of Sergeant Major Donald Kelsey, is coming home on leave for 15 days. He will be here when this story goes to press.

Sergeant Kelsey is stationed at Camp Horoze, Texas.

Building 60 has set the record for the entire General Electric Company, for blood donors for the year 1943.

The committee of Local 301 in the Turbine Department are all geared up and ready to go for the 4th Victory Bond Drive.

The Turbine Credit Union, Building 60, report that they will have their annual meeting on Saturday, January 22 at the CIO hall, 301 Liberty Street. There will be moving pictures from 7:30 until 9. A business meeting from 9 to 10 P. M. After this there will be square and round dancing for the rest of the evening. Roy Fredericks will act as the caller with Peter Rata playing his accordion for music. There will be refreshments served for all. No admission. Please take note and all attend.

TIN SMITH DEPT. 52—By L. Frederick

Ann McKenon is spending a lot of time on Albany Street these days. We wonder why. Harriet Nye got stranded in Vermont over Christmas. What a place to be in on a Holiday. The shortage of candy in the candy machines is a good break for Frank Nappi. He has a good excuse for not paying off a bet he lost and it was only two bars. Walt Crawford came in looking like an Eskimo the other day. It must be cold up around those hills of Elnora. Marion Parker is back after a recent illness, which adds more scenery to our Stock Room. Bill Hudson tried commuting to work by Dog Sled the other day, but he didn't get here until 11 o'clock. Bill says never again. Jim Cramer's son is home on leave from the Army. He now has two stripes. We wonder what Lee Hutta got from one of the welders for a Christmas present. The new girl in the Department is Josephine Laf-tus. We wonder why Ben Barney's face got so red when his wife came into the shop to get his pay check the other day. The annual Christmas party was held in the Democratic Hall in Rotterdam. A good time was had by all.

Claude Francis has returned after a recent illness. Steve Mady must have a new radio. He has some up to the minute news items for the boys every morning. John Barnum said he had the best Christmas in years. Santa Claus brought his son home on a short leave from the U. S. forces. Jim Bryson said the bus service is good up his way. He only waited two hours the other morning when it was slickery. We hear Ralph Russett has chickens for sale. John Kaczor is wearing a big smile. He was lucky enough to get a couple of quarts of whiskey for the Holidays. Lillian Dennis and Pete Gentile wish to thank the employees of this Department, who contributed toward their Christmas present, which was a token of appreciation for good work and cooperation they gave this Department throughout the year.

The question, why I think there should be a general wage increase, is a little off the beam. It isn't actually a wage increase, we are seeking. What we want is a wage adjustment to make up for the cut in real wages we have sustained through the rise in the cost of living. The cost of living increased 85 per cent since January 1, 1941. Our basic pay has been frozen at 15 percent above the rates of January 1, 1941. We now want a wage adjustment to make up the 20 percent cut in real wages that has been handed us during the past two years.

BUILDING 11—Fred Pacelli

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We hold these truths to be self evident—that all men are created equal. These are the outstanding words forming our democracy. In Building 12, there is posted the names of drivers from out of town who desire riders. To me it seemed a very fine thing to do, until I found out about a colored girl, working here, who needed rides to and from work. She applied at Building 12, and received several offers until the prospective drivers, (real patriotic Americans) found out she was colored, then suddenly their cars were put up for the winter, or they sold their cars, or they were filled up.

Well, many of us have sold our cars, or put them up for the winter and plenty of us are carrying a full load. BUT—those who were so, so sorry because of various reasons, still have their names on that board. Of course, those names cannot be mentioned here, but those to whom this applies have reason to be very "proud" of themselves. It may be well to remember Dorie Miller, colored chef in our navy, who served with great distinction and only three weeks ago gave his life for what we call democracy. If you are going to be Americans, be real Americans!

BUILDING 52—Bill Geier

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BUILDING 46—Frank Emspak

Why I think there should be a general wage increase.

It is an unfortunate fact that the people's demands for a sound and integrated economic stabilization program have not been made effective. Special interests and pressures have operated particularly in the halls of Congress to prevent effective steps on each of the important aspects of such a program. The results thus far have created serious dangers of disunity within the nation and a broad weakening on the home front.

On the one hand, wages have been subjected to serve limitations; on the other hand, Congress has refused to enact a tax bill calculated to curb war profits and to call upon the corporations and those of high incomes to make their proper contribution to the cost of war and has sabotaged the Administration's agricultural program.

Congress has taken every opportunity to impede and prevent effective action to control prices and even today is threatening to bar the use of funds essential for subsidies to assure some measure of price control. The roll-back of prices has not been fulfilled.

Excessive prices and profits, coupled with freezing of wages, has created the conditions for inflation and has resulted in severe strains upon the food and clothing budgets of the workers, with consequent threats to their efficiency in war.

BUILDING 81—William Mastriani

Yours truly wishes to extend a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year to every employee in Building 81. You know the old proverb, "Better late than never." Who is the certain assistant general foreman who was caught under the mistletoe on Friday, December 24th? Is my face red, Herm? Congratulations are in order to our scrappy committeeman in the tool room, 2nd shift, for being picked ward captain, for the U. E.'s political action committee. If I know Chuck Horwedel, he sure will do the job. Also, congratulations to Virginia Guido our woman representative in the drill press section for the women on the 2nd shift. Jack Grant committeeman for the engravers and stamping machines was victorious in getting back vouchers for the group of girls on the stamping machines. Nice going, Jack. In a recent copy of the Works News where the company spoke about absenteeism, yours truly is not fully in accord with that article. The Company points out where the worker is always absent for personal reasons, but it does not even take the blame for causing absenteeism. I would like to mention a few reasons, such as:

- 1. Lack of work.
2. Bad working conditions (ventilation).
3. Lack of co-operation (from supervision) especially on getting work vouchers causing much needless waste of time running back and forth to payroll department.

The sudden cut back in Transmitter is something that has long been rumored and has got every committeeman busy these days. I can say and be quoted that the Union will do everything possible in having the people affected by the cut back transferred to other jobs within the plant.

Well boys we sure are going to miss Bro. Ralph Catroppa who has been transferred to Building 255. We hope you like it Ralph and make sure to contact and report your transfer to your committeeman. Yours truly wishes to thank his committeemen on the 2nd shift for the beautiful gift they gave him. Congratulations to Si Friedlander and Pat Vottis for their most inspiring articles they had in the last Electrical Union News.

BUY MORE WAR BONDS

ORIGINAL TORN