

# 14 Million Americans Lose Rights

On December 24, 1952, the day before Christmas, a new law went into effect which destroys the very meaning of this holiday—"Peace on Earth, Good Will To men."

This law, the McCarran-Walter Act, establishes in our land 14 million Second Class Americans—the men and women who have come to our country from foreign shores. They must now live in constant fear of deportation.

So harmful and un-American is this law that it has been opposed by every major labor organization, including the UE, the AFL and the CIO, all types of religious organizations of Protestant, Catholic and Jewish faith, as well as by Negro organizations, nationality groups and veterans' organizations.

## TRUMAN VETO

President Truman, in his veto message, said of the McCarran-Walter Act:

"It violates the great political doctrines of the Declaration of Independence that all men are created equal.

"This bill would make it even more difficult to enter our country . . . admission to our citizenship would be more difficult; expulsion from our citizenship would be made easier . . . rights of native born, first generation Americans would be limited . . ."

## HOW IT OPERATES

Here are some of the provisions of the law which rip to shreds the Bill of Rights for the foreign born:

**Registration**—All non-citizens, 14 years old and over must register and be fingerprinted, and must carry with them at all times a certificate of alien registration setting them apart from all other Americans. Before the end of January, they must furnish the attorney-general their current address, and during the year, upon change of address, they must notify the attorney-general of such change within 10 days.

Failure to follow any of the above provisions subjects the non-citizens to heavy fines, jail sentences and even deportation.

**Denaturalization and Deportation**—Under this law, foreign born who are citizens are placed under a sort of parole. Their citizenship can be revoked on vague grounds of "concealment" of facts and even of thoughts, or "willful misrepresentation," with one man, the Attorney-General, given wide power to take citizenship away. Citizenship can also be revoked for contempt of Congress, membership in any organization which may be characterized as "subversive," etc. Here's what the National CIO

Convention said about this section of the law on Dec. 1, 1952:

"The McCarran-Walter Act makes second class citizens out of all naturalized citizens by subjecting them to denaturalization on various grounds . . .

"The new legislation also greatly expands the grounds for deportation for aliens who are residents here but have not yet become naturalized. Many of these new grounds for deportation are, contrary to every principle of justice, made retroactive so that persons can now be deported for conduct which was perfectly legal when undertaken."

## "INFERIOR" PEOPLE

The law brands as "inferior" the people from such countries as Italy, Spain, Poland, as well as all Catholics and Jews and Negroes from Africa and the West Indies. This is done by placing severe restrictions on the immigration of all of these people to our shores.

In the words of the Most Reverend Richard J. Cushing, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Boston, "The McCarran-Walter Act . . . openly and avowedly was designed to virtually exclude people from Southeastern and Eastern Europe and can not be defended without recourse to the discredited and un-Christian tenets of racism."

## ANTI-LABOR

The McCarran-Walter Act is an openly anti-labor law. Here in Schenectady, as well as in almost every other community in the United States, many of the most active and militant trade unionists are men and women who were born in other lands. The law is designed to place an axe over the heads of these people, and to discourage them from playing leading roles in their unions.

This act is also designed to be used against foreign-born labor leaders who have devoted their lives in America to the defense of the wages and working conditions



of their fellow workers. Under the McCarran-Walter Act, the Attorney-General has already moved to take away the citizenship of one such labor leader, UE Director of Organization James Matles.

## ACT FOR REPEAL

It is the belief of our union, UE, and of Local 301 that all Americans, native born and foreign born alike, must act to bring about repeal of this un-American law.

In our shops, in our fraternal organizations, in our churches and in our neighborhoods, we must broadcast the dangers of this law. We must make our Senators and Congressmen know that we urgently want them to work for repeal of the McCarran-Walter Act.

## OPPOSITION GROUPS

In the fight for repeal of McCarran-Walter, UE is by no means alone. Here is a partial list of or-

ganizations which have spoken out against the measure:

CIO, AFL, United Automobile Workers (CIO), International Association of Machinists (AFL), International Ladies Garment Workers Union (AFL), Amalgamated Clothing Workers (CIO), the Italian-American Labor Council.

National Council of Churches of Christ, National Catholic Welfare Association, the Synagogue Council of America, National Lutheran Council, Universalist Church of America, Cleveland Baptist Association.

Order of the Sons of Italy in America, American Jewish Congress, Italo-American Immigration Commission, Czechoslovak National Council, Puerto Rican Spanish Organizations, Chinese American Citizens National Association, Hungarian American Clubs, Ukrainian American Congress, Polish Immigration Committee, American Fund for Czechoslovak Refugees, American National Committee to Aid Homeless Armenians, United Lithuanian Relief Fund of America.

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, American Bar Association, National Science Foundation, American Civil Liberties Union, and the YWCA.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

# ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

Vol. 11 — No. 4

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

Friday, January 23, 1953



## Membership Votes Circulation of Petitions Hitting McCarran-Walter Immigration Act

Responding to the rising anger throughout the Schenectady works, the UE Local 301 membership meeting voted Monday to circulate petitions condemning the vicious McCarran-Walter immigration law. The proposal to circulate petitions was made after an extensive dis-

Wausau, Wis.—Locked out Marathon Electric workers last week were celebrating one of the most important victories they have scored in their 11-month-old struggle for their union. UE Local 1113 announced that the Wisconsin Industrial Commissioner has ruled that the workers were entitled to unemployment insurance pay which had been denied them throughout the long, bitter lockout. The order applies only to night shift workers, and others who were not actually on the job when the lockout occurred. However, UE attorneys expressed confidence that the decision gives the union new ammunition with which to fight for desperately-needed jobless pay for all of the workers. The state award provides many workers with as much as \$800.

Washington—The U. S. coal industry chalked up one of the highest productivity records in its history in 1952, but working miners paid a staggering price—546 lives lost in mine accidents.

Buffalo — Nine UE locals in Western New York have notified the regional office of the National Labor Relations Board that they are bitterly opposed to the illegal affidavits which the NLRB is trying to force UE national leaders to sign. The UE unions were joined by Local 537 of the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers.

Philadelphia — Striking CIO transport workers voted last Saturday to end a strike begun earlier in the week. The secret vote gave 2 to 1 approval to a contract which the union had previously rejected. The pact provides for gradual institution of the 40-hour week, and for substantial wage increases.

Toronto—Wage increases of 7c to 14c an hour have been won by workers of the International Resistance Co. The boosts were a part of a new contract negotiated by UE Local 514.

New York—A new 2-year pact provides an average 5c hourly wage increase for 16,000 members of the CIO textile workers employed by the American Viscose Corp.

measure when it first came before him, declared that the immigration law "violates the great political doctrines of the Declaration of Independence."

The McCarran-Walter Act is openly anti-labor. It can be used to attack both labor leaders and rank-and-filers, and to hold a constant threat of deportation over the heads of militant workers. There already have been incidents of such intimidation reported to the union. The attempted denaturalization and deportation proceedings against UE Director of Organization Jim Matles are made possible by the McCarran Act.

Ever since the local notified its membership last week the the union office stood ready to help members and their families with any problems arising out of the McCarran-Walter law, there has been a constant stream of calls from workers.

One of the most frequent questions concerned the address cards which all aliens must file by the end of January. These cards can be obtained by non-citizens at any post office, and must be returned to these post offices. Only non-citizens have to comply with this provision.

The union also voted to act against the bill by wiring President Eisenhower, Attorney General Brownell, Senators Lehman and Ives and Rep. Kearney.

## Council Tomorrow

The UE District 3 Council, which groups together 35,000 workers in upstate New York, meets in the Schenectady union hall tomorrow, starting at 10 a.m.

## Urge Use of Some Back Pay to Help Strikers

Almost all Local 301 members will receive retroactive paychecks today.

These checks are being paid because UE is a fighting union, and because General Electric, realizing our union's militancy, was willing to offer a decent contract rather than risk a head-on clash.

But other companies took another position last year, and as a result more than 40,000 UE members were involved in long strikes. There can be no doubt that it was the gallant struggle of these UE men and women on the picket lines which made the successful UE-GE negotiations possible.

While workers in Schenectady are receiving back pay checks today, their union brothers and sisters are striving to clean up back debts. They are depending on us to help, and it is important that we do so. Today when the back pay is handed out, set aside at least a couple of dollars for the UE strike fund.



PLEDGING LOYALTY. UE Local 301 officers and executive board members stood up before the membership on Monday and took their oaths of office, pledging loyalty to their union and a continuing fight to improve working and living conditions for the men and women who elected them.



## UE ON THE JOB!

Thousands of grievances are handled by UE Local 301 each year at all levels from the steward up to final appeal in New York City. To keep members posted, we shall each week list some of the grievances that have not been settled at the steward-foreman level and have been referred to the executive board-management level.

**Bldg. 10C:** Group of assemblers on job 7028E28 were told by the foreman that the job, which is 80% completed, would be converted to piece work and that a series of studies would be started immediately. The workers feel that the remainder of this job should stay on day work, and the union demands that this be done.

**Bldg. 11:** Group of connectors protest the losses in earnings which have resulted from inefficient scheduling and planning of work. The union demands a management investigation to correct this situation.

Connectors' group protests additions made to their group despite lack of work situation resulting in losses of earnings. The union demands reduction of forces unless the group can be assured of an adequate work load.

**Bldg. 17:** Alfred Reichert was given a week off without pay on Oct. 15. When he returned to work, his classification was changed from A to B toolmaker, with his rate reduced from \$2.14 to \$1.97. This is completely unjust and the union demands restoration of the A classification and rate retroactive to October.

Despite an agreement that workers on overtime in shifts following their regular shifts would not be issued turbine jobs, a 2nd shift operator was issued a turbine job on 3rd shift, Dec. 18. The union demands that the agreement be adhered to by supervision.

**Bldg. 18:** The motor assemblers working on incentive under Foreman Wright have lost considerable time over the past 6 months due to lack of work. The union therefore demands an immediate reduction of forces.

**Bldg. 24:** Second shift group under Foreman J. Malik protests the unequal distribution of overtime. On Jan. 3, 1st shift was instructed to work while the 2nd shift was eliminated in violation of past practices. The union demands an end to this type of discrimination.

**Bldg. 29:** William Thatcher demands retroactive restoration of his loss of earnings resulting from inadequate price of 39¢ per 100 on reconditioning of mica tape cans. His demand is in accordance with contract article VI-5-g. This operation is in the process of conversion from day work to piece work, and therefore the day work rate should be maintained until a fair price is established.

**Bldg. 40:** In the past year, the stacking group has lost considerable time because of inefficiency in the production department. Bldg. 40 supervision has been telling the stackers that they do not receive enough punchings while in 17, people are being sent home because of lack of work. The union demands correction of this situation.

**Bldg. 46:** Michael Bazilik is classified as a duplicator machine operator. His timing rate is 92¢,

but his skills and the type of work he is performing merit a \$1.06 T.R. The union demands a 3-step increase for this worker.

Shift job 9729928 consisted of 19 pieces with a \$5.42 price for turning operations. The job, done by Donald Chevalier, was completed and passed inspection. When the job reached the next operation, defects were discovered, and Chevalier was informed that he would not be paid. The union demands that the operator be paid since his job passed inspection and the defects were not his responsibility.

Allen E. Townsend demands payment of 1½ hours change-of-shift premium under the following circumstances: On Nov. 19, he was working on the 5th floor of Bldg. 46 home at midnight and return at 7 a.m. to do the final levelling of his horizontal boring mill. Supervision did this because it was felt that Townsend should be there to determine whether the machine was ready for operation. The change in shift was strictly for the convenience of supervision, and the union demands payment of the proper premium.

For many months, the women working on the 5th floor of Bldg. 46 have been protesting the inadequate wash room facilities. They are forced to use rooms either on the 2nd floor or at the opposite end of the building. These rooms are also used by men, making for an even more overcrowded situation. The union demands that the company immediately indicate what steps it will take to correct this situation and to meet both human and legal standards.

**Bldg. 52:** Leonard Gardner went on vacation in May, 1949. He became ill while vacationing and so notified the company. His illness was verified by medical reports up until the time he reported back to work in Nov., 1949. He was told that there was no work for him then, and was not reengaged until Aug. 21, 1951. The union demands full restoration of service credit to Jun., 1941 when he was first employed by GE.

**Bldg. 60:** Sam N. Lezzi is classified as an A tinsmith. He feels that he is assigned all complicated layout and development jobs while other A workers are receiving inferior jobs. The union demands equal distribution of best work among top A men in group.

Fred W. Wilds is classified as a C assembler and is receiving the job rate. He has been promised an upgrade by supervision. In October, he was transferred from 60 to a depth control job in 46. This is B work. However, after doing the job for one month and giving normal performance, he asked for upgrading, and instead was moved off the job allegedly for lack of work. The union believes that this worker is being discriminated against, and demands that he be classified to B.

Group of 3rd shift employees feel that they are suffering because of the time at which their paychecks are handed out. Sometimes

checks are either not received, or they are short, and these shortages can not be corrected. The union demands that either the time of handing out the paychecks be changed or that they be distributed on Thursday.

It has always been the practice for welders to melt out lead joints. This work is now being assigned to steamfitters. The union demands that the work be restored to the welders.

Leaders of 1st and 2nd shift test A&O, who are assigned to instructing lower rated workers, protest the practice of turning over some of their responsibilities and duties to student engineers. The union demands that this practice be stopped.

**Bldg. 66:** Fifteen workers were brought in on Jan. 3, but absolutely no porter service was provided, creating a major safety hazard. The union demands that management see to it that such a situation is not allowed to recur.

**Bldg. 69:** Theodore J. Tardie was hired and is being paid as a common laborer. His work is actually that of a material handler. The union demands he be reclassified to material handler with proper rate adjustment.

**Bldg. 73:** The practice in the protesting light sheet metal group has always been to issue individual vouchers on each operation. Now all operations are being tabulated on one sheet, with one price covering all operations. This is a violation of contract and the union demands that it be stopped.

**Bldg. 73A:** Anthony Pallutti was hired as an assembler last March. Under the contract, operators in his classification are entitled to a one-step increase in the 8th month. Pallutti received retroactive adjustment only to November, and not to October. He is entitled to the extra retroactivity and the union demands that he be given it.

Charles Grabicki is classified as a leader, with the workers in his group earning \$1.85. He is getting only one step above that or \$1.91, rather than the two steps above job rate (\$1.97) to which he is entitled under the contract article VI-7. The union demands that he be given the higher rate.

Emile Gariepy was reclassified from B to A assembler on Dec. 15, but he received no rate adjustment. The union demands a one-step adjustment to \$1.73½ to which he is entitled.

**Bldg. 285:** Punch press group under Foreman Lawrence protesting their regular line of work farmed out even though they could properly handle it. The union demands that the practice be stopped.

E. Lesa demands reclassification to A floor assembler. He is entitled to this on the basis of experience, ability and performance.

**Bldg. 97:** Group working on dismantling operations object to Foreman Van Dyke's taking their work and giving it to another group of burners. The union demands an end to this practice.

**Bldg. 105:** There is an opening for a production follower in this group as a result of a pending transfer. However, supervision has informed Lawrence J. Dugas and James D. Waddell that the job will now be considered to have the lower classification of factory accumulator. This job has had the higher classification for several years and, since there are no proposed changes in duties and functions, the union demands that the opening be filled at the same classification and rate.

Marie Girard is a piece worker who can not make satisfactory earnings on a formica seal glass job. For 6 weeks now, she has been paid \$1.22 make-up rate. The union demands that the price on the job be adjusted to enable the worker to make out, and that Foreman Godell be ordered to stop harassing this worker. The foreman's tactics are among the chief reasons for this worker's inability to make out.

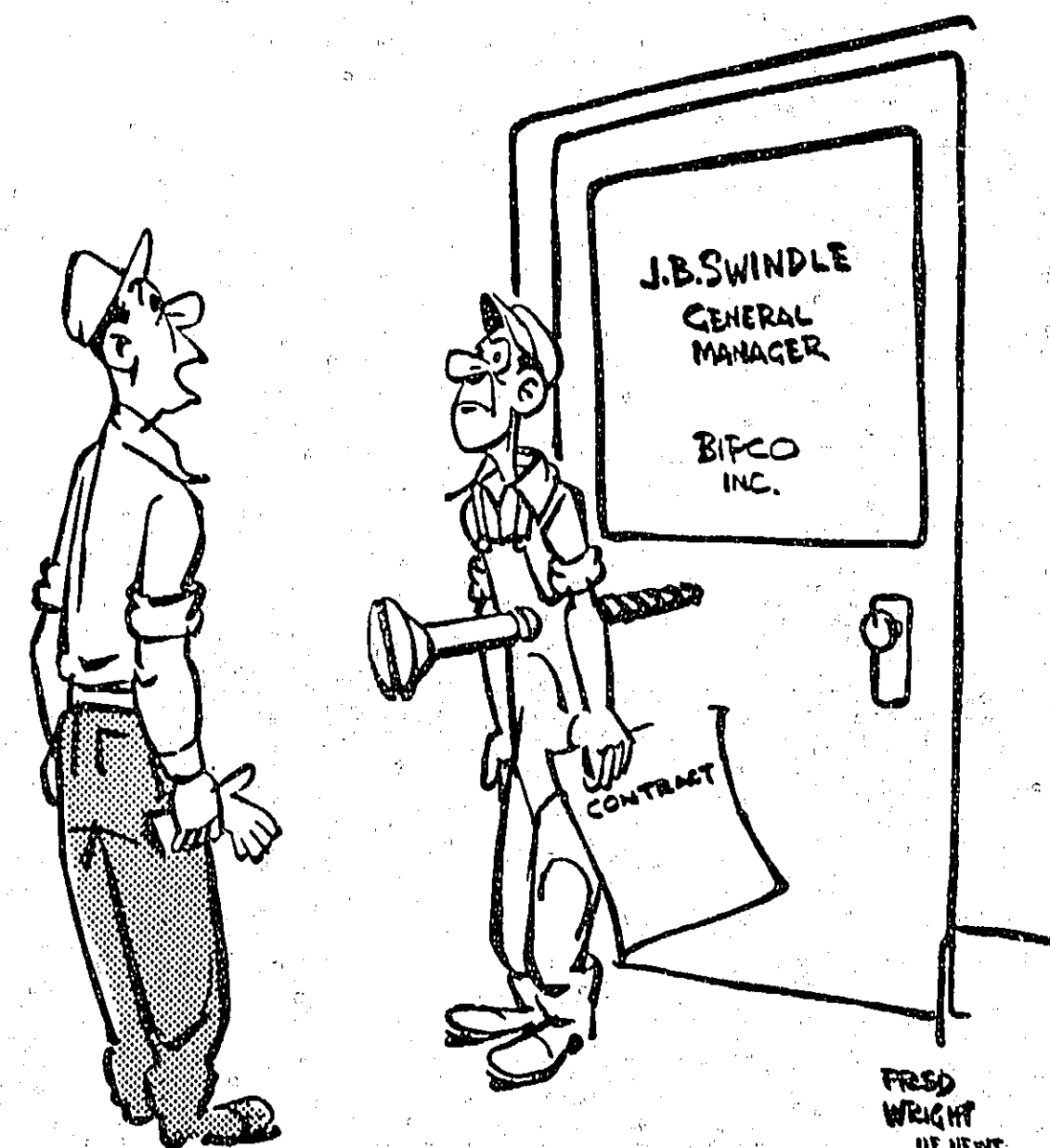
Foreman Cipperly is taking A experimental work and giving it to C and D operators to perform. The union demands that this practice be stopped and that supervision makes sure that all A work is done by A operators.

**Bldg. 273:** Richard Ettinger and Herbert Kochis are classified with a job rate of \$1.64. The union has not received information required under contract article VI-2. The complainants feel that the work they are performing entitles them to a \$1.91 A.E.R., and the union demands that they be given a job rate 3 steps below the A.E.R.

In a meeting early in December, supervision agreed that H. Gray could use high speed tools when carbonyl tools were not available, and that he would be paid the difference in such cases. Foreman Olson now refuses to abide by the agreement, denying that it was ever made. The union demands payment as agreed.

Shop Stewards Kozan, Noone and Figler have been asked by their group to protest the hazardous working conditions resulting from the presence of fumes given off by the enamelling furnace in A Bay, Section 1. Despite supervision claims that these fumes are not harmful, there have been a number of cases of irritated eyes, noses and throats. This condition is correctable, and the union demands immediate management action in this regard.

**Bldg. 285:** Jack Hagle is classified as a B machinist, with a \$1.91 rate. His work is strictly A, and the union demands that he be reclassified with a proper rate adjustment.



DIDN'T MAKE OUT SO GOOD, DID YOU?

## Adopt Plan to Add Assistant To Improve Grievance Setup

A proposal to streamline the UE Local 301 grievance machinery by adding one assistant business agent, and then making each of the assistants specifically responsible for one-third of the bargaining unit, was approved unanimously by the membership in Monday's meeting.

The proposal was made by Business Agent Leo Jandreau. Jandreau stated his belief that the new setup would provide for more efficient handling of grievances, since it would enable the responsible assistant to become thoroughly familiar with the section of the works in his jurisdiction. It would also enable the shop stewards and executive board members to know exactly where to go when they had a grievance.

This would eliminate confusion now arising out of the tendency of many stewards to call him on every case, Jandreau said. He added that the change in procedure would enable him to devote more time to legislative work and other key union activities.

Jandreau explained that the new machinery would give each of the assistants more than 5,000 workers and 200 stewards to service. The present breakdown of the works by division is now in the process of being figured out. When this is done, the question of who should join the local staff will be dealt with.

At the present time, Fred Sheehan and Serafin Pita are the two assistant business agents working with Jandreau.

## Jobless Pay Ruling Hits Rates of Older Workers

A shocking two-fold ruling threatening the unemployment insurance rights of all workers, particularly those at or near retirement age, has been revealed by UE Local 301 Attorney Leon Novak.

### GE Policy Violates Pact Starting Rates

Local 301 is waging an all-out fight against a consistent management policy of violating the contract clause that experienced workers start on a job at a wage no lower than two steps below the job rate.

There have been dozens of grievance cases involving these violations, and the union has decided that certain of them should be taken up at the top management-national union level in New York. Typical is the case of a welder who completed welding school in only two weeks, indicating his unusual aptitude for the job. However, management has refused to give him his proper starting rate, making it clear that it did not agree with the contract article VI-a-3.

The union is making it equally clear that management's agreement or disagreement is unimportant since both the union and the company are bound by the contract which representatives of both have signed.

## Legislators Back 3 UE Bills On Injury and Job Insurance

Three UE-backed bills to improve New York workmen's compensation and unemployment insurance laws have been introduced in the Albany legislature by 3 different legislators.

The lawmakers agreed to sponsor the bills after discussions with UE local leaders and with the union's New York legislative representative, Clifford T. McAvoy. The members of the state legislature who backed the UE measures are Sen. Stanley Bauer, Buffalo Republican; Sen. Dutton Peterson, Elmira Republican; and Assemblyman Bernard Austin, Brooklyn Democrat.

The proposals would provide payment of partial disability compensation to silicosis victims; payment of lost time for medical examinations and compensation hearings; increasing weekly benefits; and increasing awards for specific injuries. All of these were set as goals by UE New York York locals at a legislative conference in Schenectady last month.

Details of the bills will be given as soon as they are printed by the legislature. According to McAvoy, this should be done within the next week.

### OK Carver Aid

Local 301's membership voted Monday to contribute \$500 to the George Washington Carver Center in Schenectady. The appropriation to the center, which provides recreational and vocational guidance facilities for young people in the Negro community, had previously been recommended by both the executive board and stewards.

## Local Hits T-H Use in ALCO Fight

Use of a Taft-Hartley injunction to break the strike of ALCO workers in Dunkirk, N. Y., was condemned unanimously by UE Local 301's membership Monday.

The condemnation was voted after a discussion brought out that the excuse for using T-H, that the Dunkirk plant was producing vital materials, was strictly a coverup for union-busting. The Dunkirk plant's production is no more vital to defense than that of the ALCO plant in Schenectady, where no injunction has been used.

Several speakers condemned the Taft-Hartley injunction as a threat to all of labor and urged every union to support the CIO steelworkers in their current legal battle against the strike-breaking device.

The Dunkirk workers were forced out of work by company speedup policies in August, more than two months before the ALCO workers in Schenectady were locked out.