

## 301 Gets State Department Head to Reconsider 7-Week Ruling on Turbine, M & G Lay-offs

A meeting Monday between UE 301 officers and top officials of the State Department of Labor resulted in reopening of the Unemployment Insurance Division's finding that workers here laid-off following the Steamfitters' strike must wait seven weeks before being eligible for benefits.

Instead, it was agreed that the Unemployment Insurance Division would conduct an informal fact-finding investigation as to the real reason for the lay-offs. UE 301 contended that for most of the men laid-off, the strike was not the real reason, but only a convenient excuse for GE to move up its annual shutdown.

The fact-finding was to have been done with representatives of UE 301 and the General Electric Company. But GE refused to meet. As a result, a fact-finding meeting was scheduled to be held here yesterday, with the state division and the union present.

GE's Excuse Not to Meet  
In refusing to meet, GE hid behind two thin excuses, namely that in its lay-off notices it had already stated its "position" that the strike was the reason, and that UE was not yet formally certified by the NLRB.

The meeting Monday was with Edward A. Corsi, industrial commissioner and head of the State Labor Department, M. O. Loysen, director of the unemployment insurance division, and Gerald Heckler, Albany district head of the division. Heckler and the general counsel to the division were to meet UE representatives in yesterday's fact-finding session.

The union was represented Monday by William J. Kelly, president, Joseph A. Mangino, vice-president, John P. Green, recording secretary, Henry Kaminski, treasurer, and Marshall Perlin, counsel. Leo Jandreau was at a negotiating committee meeting in New York.

Three Previous Conferences  
Before Monday's meeting, union representatives had met once with the Schenectady office of unemployment division, and twice with state officials of the division.

The division had ruled that the laid-off Turbine and Motor and Generator workers must wait seven weeks under the law. Corsi agreed Monday that this ruling was not final, and would be reconsidered through the fact-finding.

The 301 representatives pointed out that most of the laid-off workers had plenty of work to do, but that the company used the strike as an excuse for moving up the annual shutdown, and laid thousands off to suit its own production plans.

Kelly also told Corsi that the Division's seven-week ruling was an encouragement to strikes, because if people were forced to go without benefits, they might well feel that they might just as well set up picket lines for their own contract demands.

## Toolmakers Press Run-off Drive

The UE committee representation of the various tool rooms is pressing its campaign for a big UE 301 majority in the expected toolmakers' run-off election with the International Association of Machinists.

The NLRB has held up any decision on whether or not a run-off is necessary, and when, because of the phony protest by the IUE-CIO against the UE victories here and in Erie. The latest word was that the NLRB was still "investigating" the protests.

The toolmakers' campaign for UE has been spurred by the small concession made by the company in this week's one-step raise in job rates. The toolmakers recognize that it resulted from joint pressure of the principal crafts on the company through UE 301.

## Urgent Call for Blood

Blood donors are needed urgently for the wife of Paul Hacko, Bldg. 273, who is seriously ill at Nathan Littauer Hospital in Gloversville. She has received many transfusions. In addition to replacing the blood already given, there is a specific need for "O Positive" type blood for Mrs. Hacko. Donations can be made either at the hospital in Gloversville or at Amsterdam City Hospital. Transportation arrangements will be made for any volunteers who call the union office.

## Membership to Act On Reinstatement Plan

An executive board recommendation on enrollment of new members and reinstatement of delinquent members will come before the membership meeting next week (after midnight Monday and 7:30 p.m. Tuesday).

The recommendation provides that:

The members who withheld payment when dues collection by stewards started, because they were waiting for the outcome of the election, will be required to pay dues beginning with April. All members who dropped out or became delinquent at any other time also will be required to pay dues beginning with April 1950.

At the discretion of shop stewards, the back dues could be paid up in monthly instalments of \$1.50.

Applicants who never belonged to UE may join without payment of initiation fee up to August 1. Veterans who have not worked more than 90 days since return from military duty will continue to be exempt from the initiation fee.

The board already has recommended that persons expelled by the membership for IUE activity be barred from reinstatement.

The recommendations on reinstatement were made by a committee consisting of Board Members Joseph Kelly, chairman, Harold Simpson, secretary, Walter Kniffen, William Christman, Ted Wheeler, and Dewey Brashear.

An organizing drive to unite all Schenectady GE workers behind the contract demands is called for by the board recommendations.

Since the NLRB vote there has been a considerable increase in dues payments, starting with April, and a rush of May payments by members who had paid for April.

## Attention Turbine, Motor And Generator Workers

Any member on temporary lay-off who has been involved in a workmen's compensation case may have certain rights as the result of the lay-off, namely:

A worker with an open case, with partial disability;

Or a worker whose case has been closed without a lump sum award, and who has a permanent partial disability,

should call at the union office. He may be entitled to some payment during the lay-off.

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## GE Attacks Seniority and Piece Work Guarantees

### 301 Protests GE Disability Plan

UE 301 officers were scheduled to meet yesterday with A. C. Stevens, assistant to the works manager, to present the membership's protests against the company's disability benefit plan, to take effect July 1 under the New York State Disability Benefits Law.

The demand that the plan be changed was voted unanimously by both shift meetings (Monday and Tuesday nights), after considerable discussion. Many speakers reported shop sentiment was strongly against the plan and against proposed changes in Mutual Benefit.

#### Objectionable Limitations

Most serious objection is the fact that under the plan a worker with an injury or illness connected with his work could collect Workmen's Compensation but not disability pay. Up to now, under Mutual Benefit, such a worker could collect Workmen's Compensation and also MBA disability pay of \$26 a week up to 18 weeks.

Another serious objection is that combined payments by most workers for both the new plan and the proposed MBA set-up covering employee and dependents will total \$1.30 a week to MBA and company, as against \$1.20 to MBA up to now.

#### \$30 a Week—Maybe!

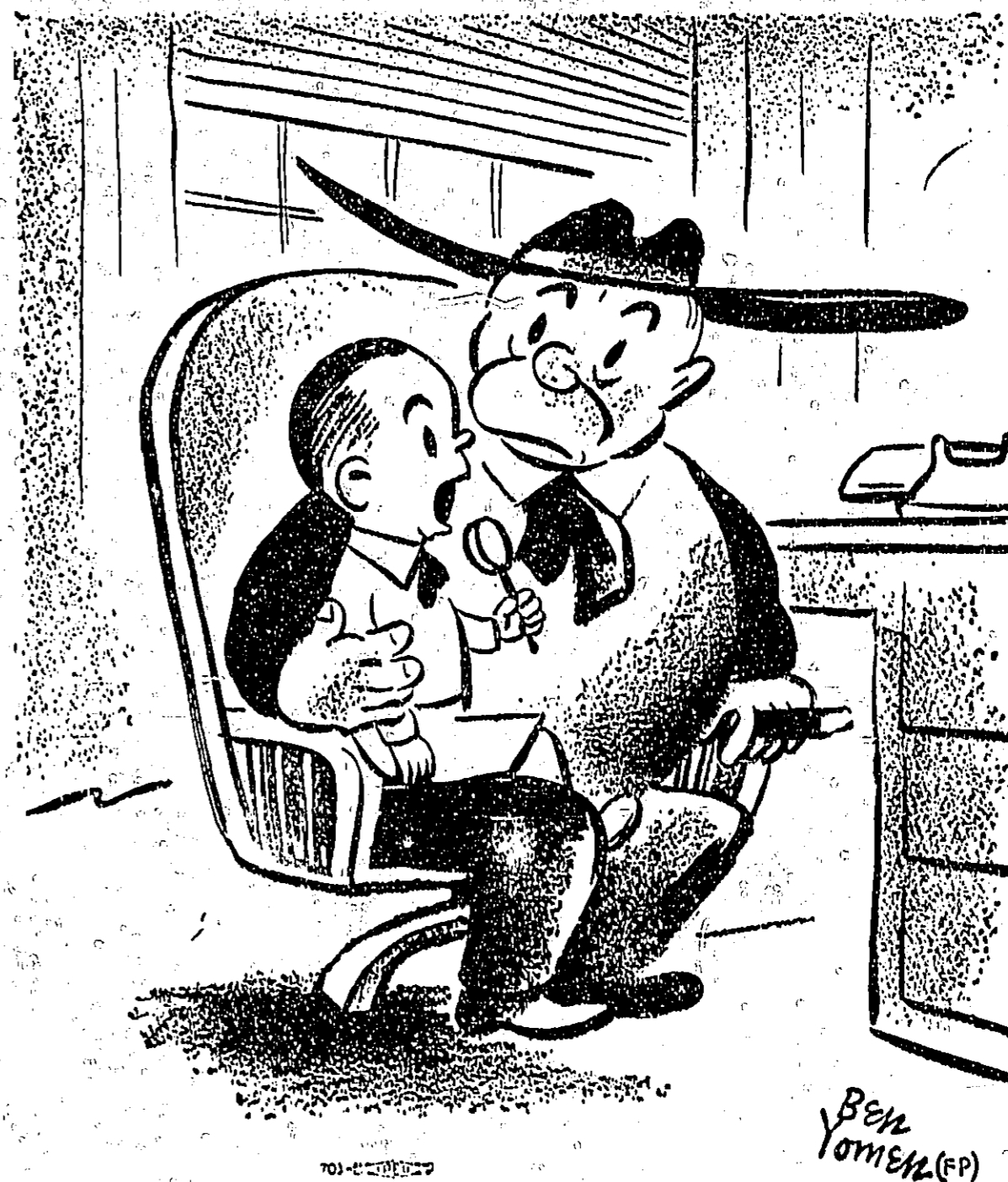
For ordinary sickness and accident not caused by the worker's job, the amount of disability benefits under the company's plan goes to a top of \$30, for a 26-week period, and most workers would receive the top. Under MBA the amount was \$26 for 18 weeks.

However, the amount of the weekly payment under the new plan might be cut by as much as 50 percent in fact, for a doctor's certificate, if the company insists on the weekly certificate which it can demand under the law. This was one of the issues to be discussed yesterday.

The company's new plan will be handled through the Metropolitan (Continued on page two)

CONGRESSMAN DRIPP

BY YOMEN



"If you are a representative of the people, why don't you represent them?"

## How GE Moves to Break Steamfitters' Strike;—It's Something for Toolmakers to Think About

Direct steps to break the steamfitters' strike were taken by the company this week, through new arrangements in the Turbine Division. The company this week began calling back many laid-off Turbine workers.

The strike thus becomes a tragic object lesson in the dangers and futility of craft union action by one small group separately from the rest of the plant workers.

The AFL Steamfitters' Local 128 has ignored so far UE 301's invitation last week to make a joint fight on craft rates. This was the fourth time in two years that UE 301 made the offer.

Few steamfitters continue on the picketlines. Many steamfitters are working elsewhere. Some are reported to be working on construction jobs declared unfair by the

## Asks Changes To Weaken UE Contract

The General Electric Company wants to weaken the seniority and piece work guarantees of the contract as the price of reinstating the contract, before it even makes an offer on economic issues.

This was reported this week by Business Agent Leo Jandreau, member of the national negotiating committee. He also reported that the company was obviously trying to take advantage of the IUE-CIO split by playing off one union against another. George Pfeif, head management negotiator, said last week he wanted to delay stating GE's position on wages, hours, pensions, etc., because he wanted to announce it at the same time to all 20 unions now in GE.

#### Action by 301 Meeting

In the light of Jandreau's report, the UE 301 membership meeting unanimously voted to demand full immediate reinstatement of the contract, and furthermore to ask the national negotiating to ask unions in GE, including the IUE-CIO, not to accept anything less

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steamfitters' strike would have been broken long ago, just like other craft strikes in past years. UE members will, of course continue to refuse to do any steamfitters' work.

For 12 years the Steamfitters won gains regularly through UE negotiations, while keeping their separate union and dues. Their last craft raise was the 10 cents won by UE for them and the electricians.

The 5½-cent raise offered the Steamfitters by GE two weeks ago was a general craft raise offered by the company in plants all over the country, not because of the strike, but as the result of the steady pressure for three years by UE, led by UE 301.

