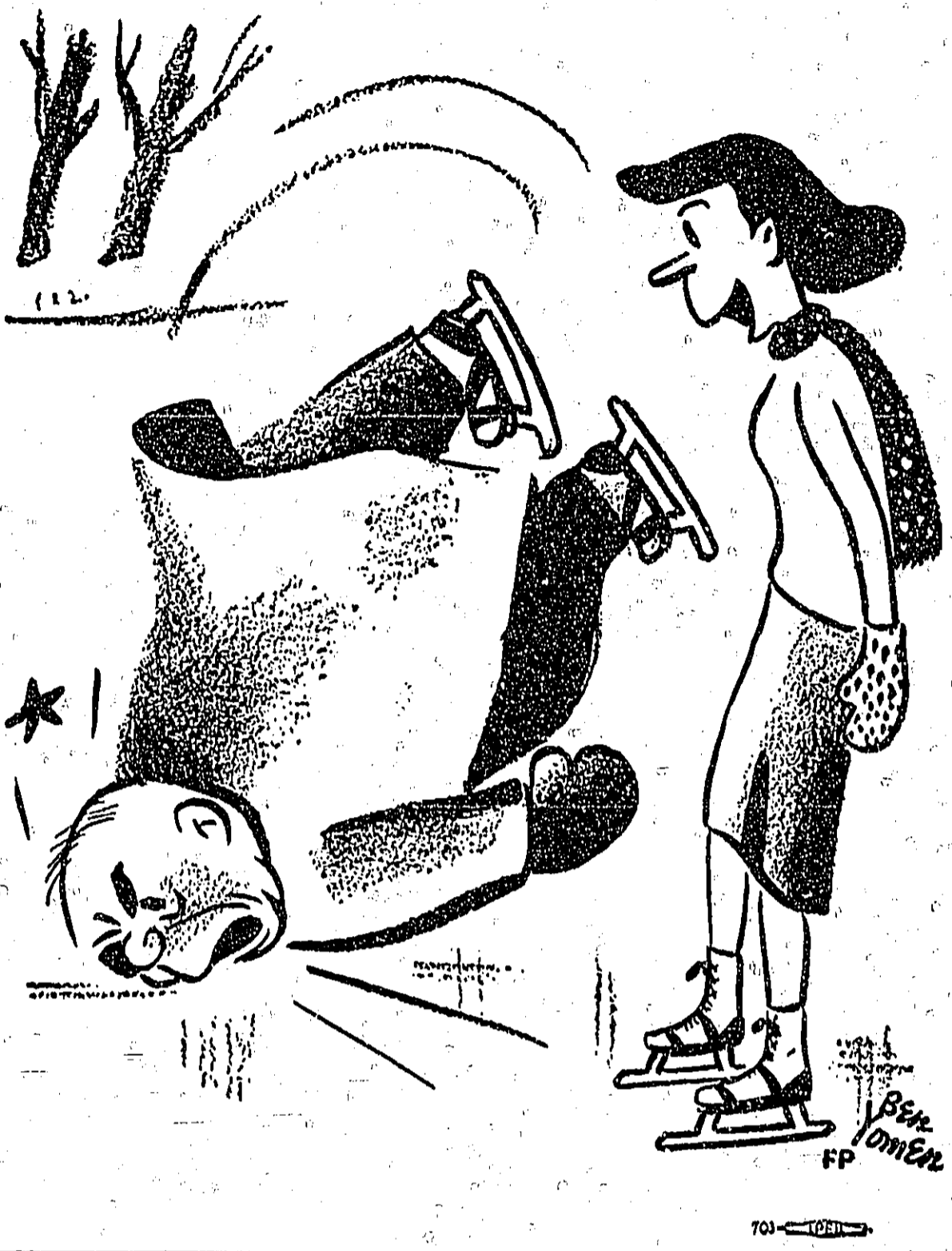


CONGRESSMAN DRIPP

By YOMEN



"Couldn't you arrange to have prices do that?"

Cost of Living Up 20% Since 1950 Wage Freeze

The cost of living has shot up more than 20 percent since the wage freeze base of January 1950, according to studies by the UE research staff made public by UE General President, Albert J. Fitzgerald.

UE's cost of living index for October, 1951 stands at 276.1 as compared with the 188.9 shown on the employer-controlled cost of living index of the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The government's index, used as the wage freeze ceiling, omits all taxes and many important cost of living items.

Fitzgerald called attention to

the UE's food cost index for October which shows that food now costs more than three times as much as it did before World War II.

"The facts submitted by UE," Fitzgerald declared, "show again that the wage freeze formula, by linking wages to the phony BLS index, is designed to cut the living standards of American labor in a program of guns instead of butter."

The UE president said that the UE index will be issued every three months.

5-Point Plan

(Continued from Page 1)

Workers, the Copper Union, the rank and file of the Steel Union and others. As a result, conditions for a successful wage struggle are rapidly improving.

A report on the national wage meetings will be given the membership.

Union Wins \$34,000 For Injured GE Workers

In the last 6 weeks injured workers, who are members of UE, received over \$34,000 in cash awards in Compensation Court. They were represented in court by Leon Novak, UE attorney.

Patsy Campione, a chipper in Building 273, received a cash settlement of \$2784.00 because after working nine years in the noisy atmosphere of his work his hearing was impaired.

Dorothy Spencer, employed in Building 53 as a porter, received

\$3904 for an injury to her wrist.

Twelve workers received awards for scars on their faces resulting from accidents.

Eight workers received sums ranging between \$1000 to \$2000. Two workers received over \$2000 each. One worker received over \$3000 and one received \$5000. The rest received sums ranging up to \$1000.

Altogether, the UE's attorney appeared in court with over 400 injured UE members during the last 2 months.

UNION HELPS SAVE ALBANY MAN'S LIFE

Governor Persons of Alabama has dropped extradition proceedings against Wesley Mallory of Albany who was wanted by the state of Alabama to finish a 50-year sentence for the alleged theft of \$50. Mallory, the father of three children, had already served 11 years of the Jim Crow sentence.

The UE 301 membership meeting of November 5 had instructed the union's Fair Employment Practices Committee to look into the case. Both the committee and the union's Executive Board promptly urged that cards be sent to Governor Dewey protesting Mallory's extradition to Alabama where he might have faced death on a chain gang.

All concerned are to be congratulated for saving this Negro worker's life and for keeping Southern lynch law out of the Capital District.

OPEN DRIVE FOR SECOND TV CHANNEL

A campaign for a second television channel in the Capital District area was launched by UE 301. President William J. Kelly in a letter to the Federal Communication Commission protested GE-owned WRGB's monopoly of the field.

The establishment of a second television channel was recommended by a recent UE 301 membership meeting. The union's legislative committee has announced that it plans to place in circulation petitions to the FCC on the matter.

In his letter to the FCC, President Kelly said that the "highly industrialized and populated" Capital District "deserves to enjoy more than the single channel now afforded it." He urged the FCC to grant a license for an additional channel.

See Lay-offs Linked To Run-away Plants

Ford Local 600 UAW-CIO, the world's largest local union, sees 500,000 auto workers jobless by Christmas largely as a result of the rapid growth of the run-away shop. The Local claims that 350,000 auto workers are now unemployed.

In the October 27 issue of the local's publication, Ford Facts, the charge is made that "thousands of union members are laid off," and their "jobs are being sent elsewhere." The company is also accused of "contracting out construc-

tion, maintenance and tool die work."

A similar situation is developing in the General Electric chain. Run-away shops are being feverishly built up in low wage areas while the practice of contracting out work is on the increase in organized plants.

Local 600's appeal for a nationwide fight against layoffs and the run-away shop evil has been viciously assailed by UAW president, Walter Reuther, who tied the auto workers down to a 5-year contract which runs to 1955.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

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

Vol. 9 — No. 29

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

Friday, December 7, 1951

XMAS BONUS PUT TO GE

Take It From Here...

Detroit, Mich.—Local 600 tool and diemakers are conducting work stoppages in the Ford plant and refusing to train new workers in their field until the Wage Freeze Board approves their demand for a 28½ cents an hour increase.

Buffalo, N. Y.—Cyrus S. Ching, director of Federal mediation service has called IUE and Westinghouse representatives to Washington in an attempt to settle the 11-week strike over seniority. When the plant went IUE, the company abolished UE's plant-wide seniority and established 58 different seniority units. James Grey along with other IUE officers have signally failed to give any help to the 5,000 strikers.

Washington, D. C.—Strike totals for October are up over September, according to a report of the Bureau of Labor Statistics. There were 640 strikes during the month, including 440 new ones. This is 80 strikes more than last month.

Windsor, Ont.—Ford strikers, in a scene reminiscent of the Thirties, sent a "committee" into the plant to shut off all power and carry out the guards. Some 5,000 to 7,000 day shift workers went on strike when the company fired 26 workers who had helped lead recent work stoppages.

Ft. Edward—UE electricians at the GE Ft. Edward plant told the company to fly a kite when they were asked to do the work of AFL electricians who are out in support of the striking AFL teamsters.

New York City—The total of NLRB elections won by UE in 12 months is 95 wins covering 75,000 workers. UE was chosen against IUE-CIO, UAW-CIO, Steelworkers-CIO, IBEW-AFL, IAM-AFL, company unions and unorganized shops.

Negotiating Committee Makes Bonus and Cost-of-Living Proposals Which Do Not Need Approval Of Wage Board

The General Electric Company now has before it a UE proposal that it give its employees a \$40 Christmas bonus and an immediate cost of living increase, neither of which would require Wage Stabilization Board approval. Negotiations, meanwhile, would continue. The UE proposal, drawn up by the

Pay Talks Go On With Westingh'se

UE and Westinghouse are meeting today in Pittsburgh, Pa. on wage and contract issues. Before the meeting, the company increased by one-half cent its offer of raises of from four and one-half to nine and one-half cents an hour. It also agreed to three weeks vacation after 15 years.

The union however, is asking for a boost of 15 cents an hour, five cents for inequities, pension and other improvements and is authorized to call a strike if necessary.

A \$40 Christmas bonus has been added to the union's demands.

Although the IUE-CIO does not have a wage re-opener until March 15, the company has offered it the same raises in an effort to split Westinghouse workers on the wage issue. Some IUE leaders, under pressure from the UE membership and their own rank and file, have spoken out against the offer.

UE is calling upon all Westinghouse workers, regardless of union affiliation, to support its wage and other demands.

Bad Management Messed Industrial Control Jobs

Bad management was nailed at a union-management meeting of Wednesday as the cause of the rapidly deteriorating situation in Industrial Control where an estimated 1,000 are on rotation and hundreds laid off.

The meeting between top departmental brass and UE 301 Board Members in Industrial Control brought out the fact that poor management over a period of years had caused unnecessary lay-offs and hardships.

Faulty inventories, failure to plan, contract violations were cited by Board Members who recommended a 40-hour week to meet the present job emergency.

A grave charge that people with

15 and 20 years' service are being laid off while workers with 1950 and 1951 service were retained was made at the meeting and cited as a contract violation. It was also pointed out that in the past people would be brought into the department, a cut-back would follow and longer service people would be let go, also in violation of the contract.

President William Kelly who headed the union committee described the Industrial Control situation as "very grave." Members of the committee included James Cognetta, Billy Mastriani, Dewey Brashier, Sam Scott, Tony Esposito, William Garrison, Fred Pacelli and Roy Schaeffer.

UE-GE Conference Board last Sunday and submitted to the company on Tuesday, puts to a sharp test the company's sincerity in offering even a 3.58 percent an hour wage increase.

Since the bonus and the cost of living increase represent no more than a down payment on the company's offer, rejection of the proposal would indicate bad faith on the company's part.

It would prove to the 49 unions to whom GE made a similar offer and to the communities dependent on the purchasing power of GE employees that the five-to-eight cents raise was made in the hope that the Wage Stabilization Board would invalidate the company's "offer." The 3.58 percent formula has now been before the WSB for months together with 12,000 other cases.

Can Pay 3c

The wage freeze board in recent rulings has said employers may pay up to \$40 in Christmas bonuses and include price rises between September 15 and October 15 in calculating cost of living raises without asking for WSB permission. The cost of living increase reported by the BLS for this period would bring cost of living pay already approved by the wage board to 3 cents an hour in GE.

The UE Negotiating Committee therefore said, in effect, give your employees that money now together with the \$40 Christmas bonus

(Continued on Page 3)

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS
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 Schenectady GE Local 301 UE

Published by the Editorial Com.
 Ass't Recording Secretary—Frank D'Amico
 Treasurer—Henry Kaminski
 Vice-President—Joseph Mangino
 Recording Secretary—John P. Green
 President—William Kelly
 Chief Shop Steward—James Cognetta
 Business Agent—Leo Jandreau

301 LIBERTY ST. SCHENECTADY, N. Y.

WHAT WILL STEEL GET?

With the steel workers pressuring their leaders for real wage increases, the newspapers contain formulas and speculations which tend to confuse the real issues in the negotiations—the need of the steel workers for more money to save them from a drastic decline in their living standards.

There is no question that the militant rank and file movement for a real wage increase and other benefits has the Wage Stabilization Board twisting and turning for a formula which will appease the steel workers and at the same time maintain the wage freeze.

New Formula?

Specifically, the WSB may measure price rises from October 1950 instead of January 1951. This would permit a wage increase of more than 13 cents an hour since the BLS reports a 7.4 increase in that period and the average pay of steelworkers is \$1.79 exclusive of premium pay and fringe benefits.

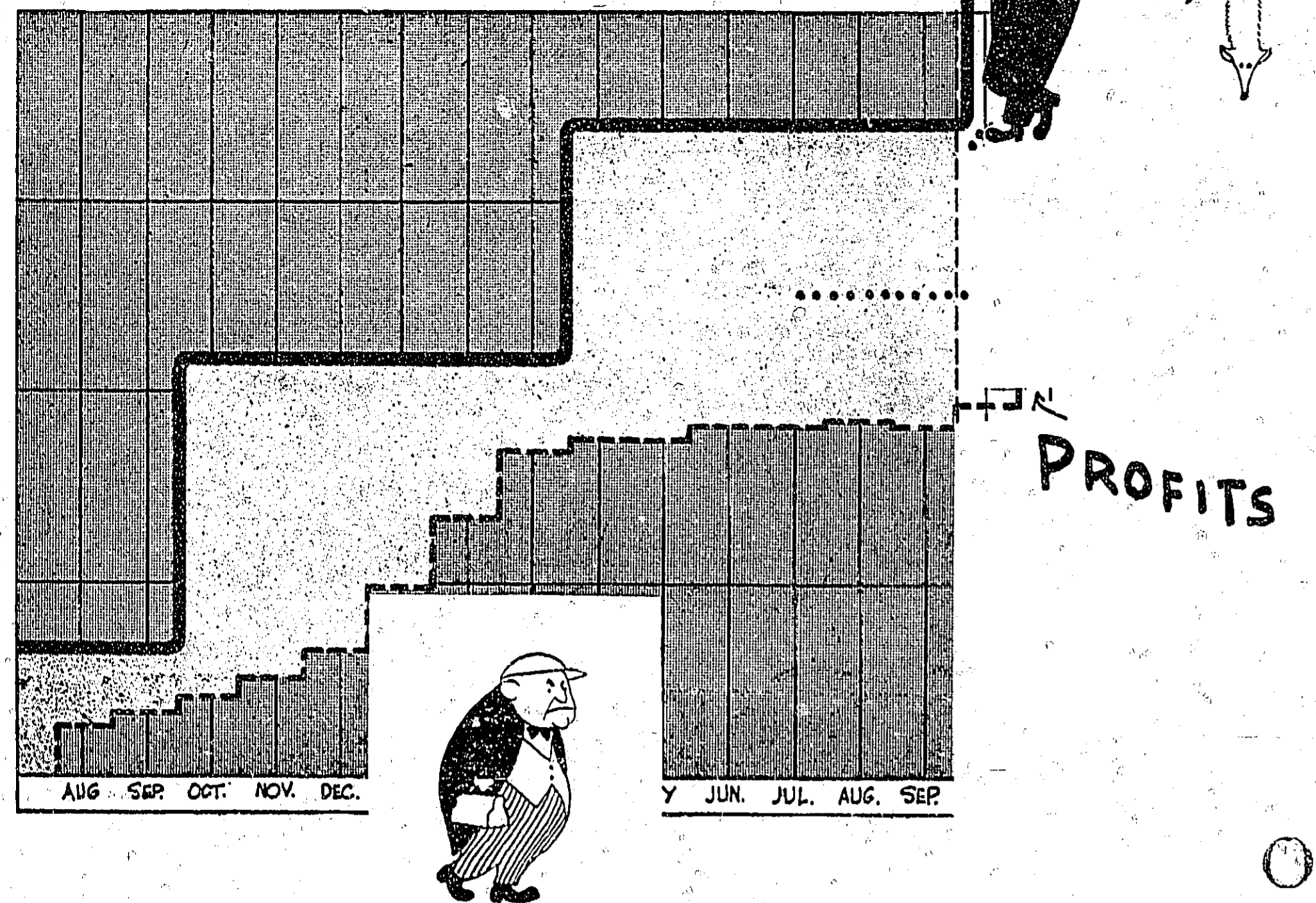
If this formula is followed and the steel union is able to negotiate other benefits, the steel workers would come out with a substantial wage settlement.

Blow to WSB?

A strict application of wage freeze regulations would limit the steel workers to six cents at this time. Therefore, anything in excess of that amount would represent a blow to the Board's power to hold down wages.

Philip Murray is in the uncomfortable position of being pledged to the wage freeze while being prodded by his membership to break the freeze. Helping the wage board to twist and turn are two CIO members of the board. A walkout of these CIO representatives accompanied by the AFL board members would strip the board of its powers the last thing CIO and AFL officialdom want to see happen.

As GE Sees It . . .



Things Are Not What They Seem Say's GE's Mr. Boulware In Ad

The above cartoon was inspired by a recent GE ad which placed wages on a peak and living costs in a valley, the idea being that wages are higher than they seem and living costs are lower than they are.

It says in the ad that costs "just naturally seem higher than they are." In other words, your pay check only seems 2 percent smaller since the new income tax went into effect. You only seem to be paying more for meat and most everything else.

We can thank Mr. Boulware, GE vice-president in charge of Employee and Plant Community Relations, for straightening us out since his name is appropriately signed to this bull.

Mr. Boulware's cheerful ad arrived at about the same time as a Federal Reserve Board bulletin which reveals that one-third of the nation's wage earners are in debt. Seventeen million workers seem to be in hock, to use the Boulware formula for prosperity.

It might be an idea to take the Boulware ad along the next time you have to make a loan. It includes a graph which shows living costs up by only 10.3 percent since Korea, while wages in that time are supposed to have risen 22 percent, counting the current

wage offer.

If this is to be believed, and Mr. Boulware is, after all, an honorable man, your wages took two jumps for each jump in the cost of living. That should convince any bank that you are a good risk, only you would have a hard time explaining how you happen to need a loan.

When he says the cost of living went up 10.3 percent, Boulware is not lying. He is telling approximately half of the truth. The actual increase in the cost of living according to UE estimates based on government figures was twice what Mr. Boulware says it was.

Omitted from the company's figures, are taxes even though they eat up about 43 cents out of each hour's pay, according to the conservative estimate of the U. S. News & World Report.

Mr. Boulware's figures on wages are even harder to understand. He says that since Korea, June 1950, GE wages went up more than 17 percent. The truth is that you have to go all the way back to January 1950 to come up with an increase of 19 cents or 13.2 percent. It seems to Mr. Boulware that we are drawing 4 percent more pay than we find on our checks!

Members To Choose Officers From Names On Six Slates

On December 13 and 14 members of UE Local 301 will choose officers for the coming year.

All but three candidates are running on a line with other candidates. There are six voting lines in all.

Candidates, according to constitutional procedure, drew lots for position on the voting machine.

Line A was drawn by Arthur Diesner who is running alone on the line for chief steward. Line B is vacant.

Line C is headed by Dewey Brashear, for vice-president, and his name is followed by Joseph Alois, for chief shop steward; Nicholas Fioritti and Julius Weisman, for trustees.

Line D is headed by John Green, for president; Joseph Kelly, for vice-president; Rudy Risland for recording secretary; Antoinette Restina for ass't recording secretary; Larry Gebo for treasurer; William Christman for Chief shop steward; Owen B. Philips for Sgt.-at-arms; Harold Simpson, Miles Moon and William McCall for trustees.

Jandreau Unopposed

Line E is headed by James Cognetta for president and is the only line on which Leo Jandreau (unopposed) is running for business agent. Other candidates on this row are Roy Schaffer for vice-president; Frank D'Amico for

ass't recording secretary; Helen Quirini for treasurer; William Mastrianni for Chief Shop Steward; Joseph Saccocio for Sgt.-at-arms; Mario Bagnato for guide; William Garrison, Joseph Witbeck and Edward LuBerda for trustees.

Marvin Rumrill is running on row F for vice-president.

Henry Kaminski is running for treasurer on row H.

John Saccocio and Michael Rakvica, chairman and secretary respectively of the election committee, today made the following important announcements:

THE POLICE WILL PERMIT DOUBLE PARKING AROUND

Progress Reported On Boosting Women's Wages

The drive to clean up wage inequities as between men and women is beginning to show results. Helen Quirini, Bldg. 81 steward, reports that the base rates of women on a panel job have been raised from 70 to 78 cents. This is still below what men receive for the same job and a continuing fight is indicated.

The union was also able to increase substantially the pay of women in Bldg. 81 who wire a panel used to detect imperfections in tin. Regarded as a highly skilled job, it paid men \$10.20 when they did it at a special price. Women were given the same job to do at \$2.25.

Management stubbornly resisted the union's demands for an upward adjustment despite the glaring inequity. However, the company has finally agreed to pay \$8.90 which considerably narrows the gap although it does not close it.

In its fight to maintain the wage differential between the sexes, management takes the arbitrary position in panel wiring for example, that a panel under 300 square inches is women's work and should be paid below the men's scale even though the work and qualifications involved may be equal.

The company is currently trying to put a women's rate of 60 cents on a spot weld job which pays men 87 cents, to cite another example. Generally, in punch press many women are doing almost the same

UNION HALL DURING THE HOURS OF VOTING.

NO ELECTIONEERING WILL BE ALLOWED INSIDE UNION HALL DURING THE VOTING PERIOD.

ELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND AUTHORIZED WATCHERS WILL SUPERVISE THE BALLOTING.

NO LOITERING.

The Election Commissioner of the City of Schenectady has assigned the chief custodian of the voting machines and an assistant to check the machines and the count.

XMAS BONUS

(Continued from Page 1)

and we'll keep talking about the rest.

This proposal, according to members of the UE Negotiating Committee, stunned company representatives. A refusal of the \$40 bonus after all the talk about a "dreary Christmas" and the wage board stand would expose GE before those in its employ and in the community as a propagandist without conscience.

Rejection of the cost of living increase would also lay GE wide open to sober charges that its offer and ultimatum of 3.58 was made not in sincerity but in trickery.

It would certainly cause many in Schenectady Works to press for a new strike vote.

The wage freeze board's ruling on cost of living increases, made in an attempt to appease nation-wide wage demands, provides that the seven-tenths of one percent rise in the BLS index between September and October may be added to the already approved 1.08 increase between March and September.

There is nothing stopping GE from granting the bonus—more than earned by the increased productivity of its employees—or the cost of living rise except greed for profits and faith in IUE-CIO disruption.

UNITED ELECTRICAL, RADIO & MACHINE WORKERS OF AMERICA, LOCAL 301

— NOTICE —

Election of Officers

In accordance with the Constitution, Article 18, Section 1, all officers of Local 301 will be elected for the year of 1952.

Voting will start

THURSDAY NOON, DECEMBER 13

Continuous Through

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 6 p.m.

at Union Hall, 301 Liberty St.

All members having paid December dues either by the check-off or in cash can vote. The above is notice to all members.

ELECTION COMMITTEE, LOCAL 301
JOHN SACCOCCIO, Chairman
MICHAEL RAKVICA, Secretary

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